



## Regional District of Central Kootenay Local Conservation Fund:

### Approved Projects: 2016 – 2024



Photos (clockwise from top left): Gillian Sanders, Living Lakes Canada, Wildlife Conservation Society Canada, Valerie Huff

# 2024

**Enhancing Bat Habitat and Monitoring Populations in the West Kootenay - \$22,856 to Wildlife Conservation Society Canada** to create, assess, and monitor natural and artificial tree roost structures in the Slocan Valley and North Kootenay Lake areas, identify priority areas for new tree roost enhancements in the Slocan Valley, understand species-specific trends in distribution and relative abundance, and fill critical knowledge gaps for migratory bat species.

**Creation and Protection of Anthropogenic Bat Habitat in the RDCK Region - \$18,095 to Okanagan Nation Alliance** to create a new bat condo in the Slocan Valley, monitor newly created and known condos, update the map of all known roosts to inform disease surveillance, monitoring, and conservation plans, and provide landowner support, outreach and education.

**Crooked Horn Farm Phase 2 - \$20,000 to the BC Wildlife Federation** to restore at least 0.25 ha of wetland, riparian, and floodplain habitat at Crooked Horn Farm in Winlaw by constructing a minimum of two ponds and widening ditches, which will create channel habitats and improve existing wetlands to improve enhance habitat and improve flood mitigation.

**Grizzly Bear Coexistence Solutions – \$13,800 to the Lardeau Valley Opportunity LINKS Society** to assist private landowners with reducing grizzly bear conflicts through a 50% cost share with residents for electric fencing equipment to protect their livestock and/or crops from bears and providing outreach and education opportunities in the area.

**Kootenay BroomBusters - A Community Led Pulling Together Program - \$9,317 to the Central Kootenay Invasive Species Society** to establish a long-term model for community led invasive plant removal or “pulling events” to help address the spread of invasive species in the Central Kootenay with an initial focus on Scotch broom.

**North Slocan Bull Trout Conservation Project - \$13,500 to the Slocan Lake Stewardship Society** to protect endangered bull trout in the North Slocan from further population declines through the assessment and development of a management plan to support their recovery through defined conservation actions.

**Slocan Valley Pollinator Highway Project: Phase 1 - \$18,000 to the Elk Root Conservation Farm Society** to create a pollinator Highway in the Slocan Valley, through the establishment of native plants, to support pollinator habitat connectivity for environmental conservation and emphasize the importance of bringing community groups together to achieve common goals.

**Snk'mip Marsh Sanctuary Habitat Enhancement and Invasive Plant Management - \$14,400 to the Valhalla Foundation for Ecology** to reduce the threat of terrestrial and aquatic invasive plant species to the ecosystem functions and microhabitats of species at risk including Coeur d'Alene Salamander and Western Painted Turtle and conduct other habitat creation and enhancement activities.

## 2023

**Bat Roost Habitat Monitoring in the Kootenay Lake Region - \$20,441 to Wildlife Conservation Society Canada** to enhance and monitor roosting options for bats, identify seasonal migration/movements of bats, map all known roost locations to inform disease surveillance, and continue to provide bat conservation outreach to landowners.

**Expansion of Harrop Wetland Restoration - \$14,662 to Friends of Kootenay Lake Stewardship Society** to restore and protect 0.3 ha of degraded wetland habitat in Sunshine Bay Regional Park by restoring two small wetland basins, combating invasive reed canary grass monoculture, and installing habitat features for amphibians, reptiles and birds.

**Grizzly Bear Coexistence Solutions - 11,500 to Lardeau Valley Opportunity LINKS Society** to assist private landowners with reducing grizzly bear conflicts through a 50% cost share with residents for electric fencing equipment to protect their livestock and/or crops from bears.

**Habitat Restoration for Beavers along the Duncan Lardeau River Floodplains - \$10,000 to BC Conservation Foundation** to restore healthy, self-sustaining beaver populations along both the Lardeau and lower Duncan Rivers by encouraging improved habitat conditions through a broad range of integrated approaches.

**Kootenay Watershed Science - \$7,773 to Living Lakes Canada** to collect hydrometric, snow, and lake health and function data that will enable and inform land-use response in the face of climate change to better conserve and restore ecosystems, support sustainable community development, and prepare for increased hazards.

**Protecting Indigenous Cultural Values and Fish and Wildlife Habitat on Kootenay Lake - \$10,000 to Ktunaxa Nation Council** to update and improve the existing Kootenay Lake Shoreline Guidance Document to aid long-term planning for all levels of government and protect Indigenous cultural values as well as high-value fish and wildlife habitats.

## 2022

**Bat Roost Habitat Enhancement in the Kootenay Lake Area - \$13,000 to Wildlife Conservation Society Canada** to enhance roosting options for bats, survey and monitor bat populations, and continue to provide bat conservation outreach to landowners.

**Community Monitoring and Removal of Aquatic Invasive Species - \$9,000 to Central Kootenay Invasive Species Society** to engage lakefront landowners and citizens in Areas A, D and E of the Regional District of Central Kootenay to contribute to both the removal of invasive riparian plants and the monitoring of invasive aquatic species.

**Fish/Bear Lakes Western Toad Mortality Mitigation Implementation Along Highway 31A - \$4,000 to Valhalla Wilderness Society** to enhance the survivability of both adult toads and toadlets at the mountain pass of Fish & Bear Lakes wildlife corridor along Highway 31A in the face of increased motorized use of the highway and the threat of climate change.

**Grizzly Bear Coexistence Solutions - \$9,000 to Friends of the Lardeau River** to assist private landowners with reducing grizzly bear conflicts through a 50% cost share with residents for electric fencing equipment to protect their livestock and/or crops from bears.

**Habitat Restoration for Beavers along the Duncan Lardeau River Floodplains - \$11,500 to BC Conservation Foundation** to restore healthy, self-sustaining beaver populations along both the Lardeau and lower Duncan Rivers by encouraging improved habitat conditions through a broad range of integrated approaches.

**Harrop Wetland Enhancement Project - \$13,000 to Friends of Kootenay Lake Stewardship Society** to improve wetland habitat and reduce mortality of western toad tadpoles that are affected by insufficient water levels and climate stress in Sunshine Bay Regional Park, and conduct community outreach to raise awareness around the project.

**Kootenay Watershed Science - \$7,500 to Living Lakes Canada** to collect hydrometric, snow, and lake health and function data that will enable and inform land-use response in the face of climate change to better conserve and restore ecosystems, support sustainable community development, and prepare for increased hazards.

## 2021

**Fish/Bear Lakes Western Toad Mortality Mitigation Implementation Along Highway 31A - \$6,000 to Valhalla Wilderness Society** to enhance the survivability of both adult toads and toadlets at the mountain pass of Fish & Bear Lakes wildlife corridor along Highway 31A in the face of increased motorized use of the highway and the threat of climate change.

**Grizzly Bear Coexistence Solutions - \$11,000 to Friends of the Lardeau River** to assist private landowners with reducing grizzly bear conflicts through a 50% cost share with residents for electric fencing equipment to protect their livestock and/or crops from bears.

**Habitat Restoration for Beavers along the Duncan Lardeau River Floodplains - \$5,000 to BC Conservation Foundation** to encourage a healthy population of beavers to re-establish along both the Lardeau and lower Duncan Rivers by encouraging improved habitat conditions.

**Harrop Wetland Restoration Monitoring and Assessment Project - \$10,000 to Friends of Kootenay Lake Stewardship Society** to address declining critical habitat for western toad, blue heron, western painted turtle, and other at-risk species that depend on ephemeral wetlands along the West Arm of Kootenay Lake, while ensuring the wetland sustains essential habitat values in a changing climate.

**Landowners and Citizen Scientists as Allies in Local Bat Conservation: Direct Action Preparing for White-Nose Syndrome - \$14,000 to Wildlife Conservation Society Canada** to continue to engage landowners and help them protect their bat colonies through a variety of actions, ranging from disease surveillance and ensuring safe bat boxes are in place to testing and applying a prophylaxis treatment that has been developed.

**Land Securement for Conservation Purposes at Cottonwood Lake - Cottonwood Lake Preservation Society, a project of RDCK - \$10,000 to the Cottonwood Lake Preservation Society** to acquire the land that surrounds Cottonwood Lake that is slated to be clear-cut.

**North Kootenay Lake Water Monitoring Project - \$7,500 to Living Lakes Canada** to collect scale-appropriate climate data that will enable and inform land-use response in the face of climate change to better conserve and restore ecosystems, support sustainable community development, and prepare for increased hazards.

**Wildflowers for Pollinators: Building Communities, Year 3 - \$7,500 to Kootenay Native Plant Society** to enhance and restore the ecosystem process of pollination by facilitating the enhancement of meadow habitat to sustain the diversity of native pollinators, including at-risk bumble bees and butterflies and the native plants with which they co-evolved, in the Kootenay Lake area.



## 2020

**Beavers along the Lardeau and Duncan River floodplains: a Population Survey and Habitat Assessment - \$6,000 to BC Conservation Foundation** to collect the information needed to begin beaver restoration in the Duncan-Lardeau River Valley.

**Evaluating Bat Boxes as a Mitigation for White-Nose Syndrome - \$15,000 to Wildlife Conservation Society Canada** to help landowners protect their bat colonies through a variety of actions, ranging from disease surveillance and ensuring safe bat boxes are in place to testing and applying a prophylaxis treatment that has been developed.

**Fish/Bear Lake Western Toad Ecology and Hwy 31A Mortality Mitigation Study - \$5,000 to Valhalla Wilderness Society** to enhance the survivability of both adult toads and toadlets at the mountain pass of Fish & Bear Lakes wildlife corridor along Highway 31A in the face of increased motorized use of the highway and the threat of climate change.

**Grizzly Bear Coexistence Solutions - \$12,000 to Friends of the Lardeau River** to assist private landowners with reducing grizzly bear conflicts through a 50% cost share with residents for electric fencing equipment to protect their livestock and/or crops from bears.

**Knotweed Removal on Private Lands - \$10,000 to Central Kootenay Invasive Species Society** to work towards the eradication of knotweed from Areas A, D, and E of the RDCK and increasing awareness of the impacts of invasive plants with local landowners.

**North Kootenay Lake Water Monitoring Project - \$12,000 to North Kootenay Lake Water Monitoring Project** to collect scale-appropriate climate data that will enable and informed land-use response in the face of climate change to better conserve and restore ecosystems, support sustainable community development, and prepare for increased hazards.

**Wildflowers for Pollinators: A Citizen-Science Meadowscape Initiative - \$5,000 to Kootenay Native Plant Society** to enhance and restore the ecosystem process of pollination by facilitating the enhancement of meadow habitat to sustain the diversity of native pollinators, including at-risk bumble bees and butterflies and the native plants with which they co-evolved, in the Kootenay Lake area.

## 2019

**Evaluating Bat Boxes as a Mitigation for White-Nose Syndrome - \$10,000 to Wildlife Conservation Society Canada** to prepare the Kootenay Lake region for the arrival of White-Nose Syndrome (WNS), a disease that decimates bat populations, such that the impact of this disease can be minimized.

**Fish/Bear Lake Western Toad Ecology and Hwy 31A Mortality Mitigation Study - \$8,000 to Valhalla Wilderness Society** to enhance the survivability of both adult toads and toadlets at the mountain pass of Fish & Bear Lakes wildlife corridor along Highway 31A in the face of increased motorized use of the highway and the threat of climate change.

**Grizzly Bear Coexistence Solutions - \$12,000 to Friends of the Lardeau River** to assist private landowners with reducing grizzly bear conflicts through a 50% cost share with residents for electric fencing equipment to protect their livestock and/or crops from bears.

**Next Creek Property Acquisition - \$93,000 to the Nature Conservancy of Canada** towards the purchase of the last missing piece in a vast conservation landscape puzzle of inland temperate rainforest that extends over 1,100 km<sup>2</sup>.

**North Kootenay Lake Water Monitoring Project - \$20,000 to North Kootenay Lake Water Monitoring Project** to collect scale-appropriate climate data that will enable and informed land-use response in the face of climate change to better conserve and restore ecosystems, support sustainable community development, and prepare for increased hazards.

**Western Painted Turtle Conservation - \$5,750 to the BC Conservation Foundation** to develop conservation actions for the blue-listed western painted turtle in order to enhance populations in the Kootenay Lake region.

**Wildflowers for Pollinators: A Citizen-Science Meadowscape Initiative - \$11,696 to Kootenay Native Plant Society** to enhance and restore the ecosystem process of pollination by facilitating the enhancement of meadow habitat to sustain the diversity of native pollinators, including at-risk bumble bees and butterflies and the native plants with which they co-evolved, in the Kootenay Lake area.

## 2018

**Fish/Bear Lake Western Toad Ecology and Hwy 31A Mortality Mitigation Study - \$8,000 to Valhalla Wilderness Society** to enhance the survivability of both adult toads and toadlets at the mountain pass of Fish & Bear Lakes wildlife corridor along Highway 31A in the face of increased motorized use of the highway and the threat of climate change.

**Grizzly Bear Co-Existence Solutions - \$12,000 to BC Conservation Foundation and Friends of the Lardeau River** to assist private landowners with reducing grizzly bear conflicts through a 50% cost share with residents for electric fencing equipment to protect their livestock and/or crops from bears.

**Kootenay Community Bat Project - \$12,922.50 to Wildlife Conservation Society Canada and Kootenay Centre for Forestry Alternatives** to promote and conserve the variety of bat species and their associated habitats that exist in the Kootenay Lake area.

**Water Quantity Monitoring Project - \$20,000 to Kootenay Centre for Forestry Alternatives** to collect scale-appropriate climate data that will enable and informed land-use response in the face of climate change to better conserve and restore ecosystems, support sustainable community development, and prepare for increased hazards.



## 2017

**Fish/Bear Lake Western Toad Ecology and Hwy 31A Mortality Mitigation Study - \$8,000 to Valhalla Wilderness Society** to enhance the survivability of both adult toads and toadlets at the mountain pass of Fish & Bear Lakes wildlife corridor along Highway 31A in the face of increased motorized use of the highway and the threat of climate change.

**Grizzly Bear Co-Existence Solutions - \$9,080 to BC Conservation Foundation and Friends of the Lardeau River** to assist private landowners with reducing grizzly bear conflicts through a 50% cost share with residents for electric fencing equipment to protect their livestock and/or crops from bears.

**Kootenay Community Bat Project - \$16,025 to Wildlife Conservation Society Canada and Kootenay Centre for Forestry Alternatives** to promote and conserve the variety of bat species and their associated habitats that exist in the Kootenay Lake area.

**Kootenay Lake Osprey Nest Monitoring - \$8,024 to Friends of Kootenay Lake** to increase information on the status of breeding ospreys on Kootenay Lake and to develop a dedicated team of volunteers with the knowledge and equipment required to conduct long-term monitoring of breeding ospreys.

**Kootenay Lake Shoreline Guidance Document Outreach - \$4,000 to Kootenay Lake Partnership** to direct shoreline development in a manner that will protect and restore the ecological, archaeological, and cultural values of the foreshore of Kootenay Lake.

**Water Quantity Monitoring Project - \$20,000 to Kootenay Centre for Forestry Alternatives** to undertake water quantity monitoring to inform land use planning decisions in preparation for climate change.

## 2016

**Darkwoods Ecosystem Restoration at Tye - \$14,650 to Nature Conservancy of Canada** to restore the most heavily impacted and degraded habitat at the Tye town site by implementing an integrated pest management strategy, introducing biocontrol agents to deal with invasive weed species, and planting native shrubs and trees.

**Fish/Bear Lake Western Toad Ecology and Hwy 31A Mortality Mitigation Study - \$7,500 to Valhalla Wilderness Society** to enhance the survivability of both adult toads and toadlets at the mountain pass of Fish & Bear Lakes wildlife corridor along Highway 31A in the face of increased motorized use of the highway and the threat of climate change.

**Kootenay Community Bat Project - \$15,000 to Wildlife Conservation Society Canada and Kootenay Centre for Forestry Alternatives** to promote and conserve the variety of bat species and their associated habitats that exist in the Kootenay Lake area.

**Kootenay Lake Osprey Nest Monitoring - \$6,370 to Friends of Kootenay Lake** to increase information on the status of breeding ospreys on Kootenay Lake and to develop a dedicated team of volunteers with the knowledge and equipment required to conduct long-term monitoring of breeding ospreys.