



Regional District of Central Kootenay Local Conservation Fund:

Approved Projects: 2016 – 2026



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

2026

Advancing Wetland Stewardship and Restoration in the Kootenays - \$14,000 to BC Wildlife Federation to sustain and enhance wetland and riparian habitats at Crooked Horn and Halleran wetlands by maintaining ecological function of restored wetlands, promoting recovery of western painted turtles, western toads, common camas, and other native species, and supporting resilient ecosystems that provide benefits to both wildlife and local communities.

Bat Roost Enhancement and Activity Monitoring in the West Kootenay - \$24,955 to Wildlife Conservation Society Canada to create and assess artificial/modified trees for enhancement of bat roosting habitat, develop bat-friendly forestry guidance for anthropogenic roost creation, and fill knowledge gaps about bat migration and winter habitat use in the West Kootenay.

Construction and Conservation of Artificial Bat Roosts in the West Kootenay - \$15,000 to Okanagan Nation Alliance to enhance bat habitat connectivity and resilience within the Syilx Nation Eastern Territory, including the West Kootenay and RDCK Local Conservation Fund service area, by restoring and protecting artificial roosting habitats, identifying and monitoring key roost sites, and engaging landowners as active partners in long-term bat conservation.

Grizzly Bear Coexistence Solutions - \$15,000 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.

Harrop Wetlands Project 2026 - \$13,000 to Friends of Kootenay Lake Stewardship Society to restore and sustain the ecological functions of the Harrop Wetland by improving biodiversity, hydrological resilience, and community stewardship, in alignment with Indigenous knowledge and science-based restoration practices.

Kootenay Nature for Neighbourhoods Program - \$14,624 to the Central Kootenay Invasive Species Society to empower landowners with the knowledge, skills, and tools to identify, manage, and prevent the spread of invasive plants through accessible training, community science, and hands-on learning opportunities, foster neighbourhood-based stewardship and social connection and reduce invasive plant cover on private lands.

Planning for the Future: Watershed Security in a Changing Climate - \$10,000 to the West Kootenay Watershed Collaborative Society to demonstrate how climate change and forest disturbance will affect watershed stability and health, thereby reducing risk to human and wildlife populations, and create complete Nature Directed Stewardship Plans for Laird and Redfish Creeks.

Slocan Valley Pollinator Highway Project: Phase 1, Year 3 - \$18,393 to the Elk Root Conservation Farm Society to enhance native biodiversity of plants and pollinator species,

reduce threats to biodiversity such as transportation corridors and invasive plants, and use Phase 1 as a proof of concept to expand the project to other areas of the Slocan Valley.

Water Monitoring for Climate Resilience in the RDCK - \$15,000 to Living Lakes Canada to enhance climate resilience and water security in RDCK Electoral Areas D, E, and H by closing critical water availability data, maintain the operation of 12 long-term hydrometric and climate monitoring sites, and to successfully re-establish a water monitoring program for Winlaw and Trozzo Creeks (Electoral Area H).

2025

Enhancing Bat Habitat and Monitoring Populations in the West Kootenay - \$24,208 to Wildlife Conservation Society Canada to create and assess artificial/modified trees for enhancement of bat roosting habitat, monitor for changes in baseline species diversity and relative abundance, and fill critical knowledge gaps for migratory bat species.

Construction and Conservation of Artificial Bat Roosts in the West Kootenay - \$18,497 to Okanagan Nation Alliance to establish habitat for building-roosting bats, monitor existing bat condos, protect and secure bat habitat by supporting and educating landowners, and mobilize support for the annual BC Bat Count Initiative.

Central Kootenays Wetland Restoration - \$16,000 to the BC Wildlife Federation to conduct site enhancements at Crooked Horn Farm such as removal of invasive species, planting native species, and creating basking logs and bird nest boxes, complete site-specific monitoring, and assess up to 1.8 hectares of habitat for potential restoration in Meadow Creek.

Kootenay BroomBusters - A Community Led Pulling Together Program - \$15,730 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 Kootenay Lake Climate Resilience and Water Monitoring Project - \$12,000 to Living Lakes Canada to continue collecting long-term hydrometric and climate monitoring data in the North Kootenay Lake region as part of the Columbia Basin Water Monitoring Framework, build relationships with First Nations, engage local youth in hands-on learning experiences, and communicate with the RDCK, province, and communities to inform water management.

Slocan River Riparian Restoration 2025 - \$20,000 to Slocan River Streamkeepers to create habitat for wildlife, improve aquatic health, and restore the riparian cottonwood ecosystem along the Slocan River through planting of native shrubs and plants, protecting plantings from beavers, installing bird nest boxes, and complete site monitoring and maintenance.

Slocan Valley Pollinator Highway Project: Phase 1, Year 2 - \$18,865 to the Elk Root Conservation Farm Society to enhance native biodiversity of plants and pollinator species, reduce threats to biodiversity such as transportation corridors and invasive plants, install signage at project sites to share knowledge and inspire community engagement, and use Phase 1 as a proof of concept to expand the project to other areas of the Slocan Valley.

Wire Fence Removal to Restore Habitat Connectivity - \$14,467 to Wildsight Creston Valley to identify and remove, with residents' input, unmaintained and unwanted barbed wire from several properties that are hazardous to wildlife, blocking corridors, and where landowners are receptive to having the wire removed.

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.

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 Meadowscaoping 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 km².

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 Meadowsclaping 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.