



### GUIDANCE FOR 2026 LOCAL CONSERVATION FUND APPLICANTS

#### General Instructions

This application guide was developed to assist applicants with preparing and submitting a project application to the Regional District of Central Kootenay Local Conservation Fund (RDCK LCF). The guide provides information on project eligibility and requirements and an overview of the application cycle and evaluation process. All questions related to the RDCK LCF application process should be directed to Kootenay Conservation Program (KCP) at [info@kootenayconservation.ca](mailto:info@kootenayconservation.ca). New project applicants are strongly encouraged to contact the KCP to discuss their project idea prior to applying.

**Applications must be submitted via email to Kootenay Conservation Program by the deadline posted on the KCP website at:** <https://kootenayconservation.ca/regional-district-of-central-kootenay/>.

#### What is the RDCK Local Conservation Fund?

In 2015, the Regional District of Central Kootenay (RDCK) adopted a bylaw through a public referendum to establish a service for the purpose of creating a Local Conservation Fund in the Kootenay Lake area in Electoral Areas A, D, and E. The financing mechanism was set to a parcel tax of \$15 per parcel per year, which is applied to all parcels (residential, industrial and commercial). The service has since been expanded to include Electoral Areas H (Slocan Valley) and F (remainder of Kootenay Lake area). The RDCK is responsible for maintaining the fund, final project approvals, grant payments and financial audits of the fund. KCP works in partnership with the RDCK to co-deliver the Local Conservation Fund service. Under a formal written agreement with the RDCK, KCP manages fund inquiries, applications, the technical review processes, and project evaluations.

The RDCK LCF supports projects that reflect local priorities, which are: conservation of wildlife and habitat, water, and aquatic ecosystems. Local government elected officials representing the conservation fund area decide which projects to support according to criteria in the Fund's [Terms of Reference](#)<sup>1</sup>, recommendations from the RDCK LCF Technical Review Committee, and their own local priorities.

More information on the RDCK LCF can be found on the KCP website at: <https://kootenayconservation.ca/regional-district-of-central-kootenay/>.

#### Who can apply?

Eligible applicants must be a registered non-profit organization, First Nation, or local government. Any private sector proposal must be sponsored by an eligible organization.

#### What types of projects are eligible for funding?

Funding may not be used to relieve any level of government of its legal or financial obligations. Projects that can demonstrate a reduction of a known threat to a biodiversity target will be given priority for RDCK LCF funding. Conservation priorities are outlined in the Fund's [Guidance Document](#)<sup>1</sup>. In general, projects that are focused on research, planning, and outreach are not considered for funding, although these activities may be considered if they are a component of an on-the-ground conservation

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<sup>1</sup> Note: The RDCK LCF Terms of Reference and Guidance Document are pending updates to include reference to Areas F and H and recognize the change of the Fund's name from Kootenay Lake LCF to RDCK LCF.



project. The focus is on private land within the service area, but projects on public (e.g., Crown) land may also be considered.

The list of mandatory fund requirements can be found in Section B of the Project Application form. Appendix 1 (page 9) of the Fund's [Terms of Reference](#) contains a list of ineligible projects, and examples of past RDCK LCF projects can be found on the KCP website at <https://kootenayconservation.ca/rdck-local-conservation-fund-projects/>.

### What are the RDCK LCF key dates?

The RDCK LCF runs on the following general annual timeline:

- End of August – Call for proposals opens
- End of October – applications due (see KCP website for specific date and time each year)
- November/December – Technical Review Committee reviews proposals and provides recommendations to the RDCK
- January – RDCK LCF Directors review proposals and Technical Review Committee recommendations
- February – RDCK Board of Directors completes final approvals for projects
- March – Proponents are notified via email
- April/May – Funding agreement documents are finalized and mailed to proponents

Reporting deadlines: Interim and final reports are typically due on or around October 1 and January 31, respectively. Reporting templates are provided by KCP on the [RDCK LCF webpage](#).

**Note:** Land acquisition or covenant proposals may be submitted at any time during the year provided there is sufficient time for the Technical Review Committee and the RDCK to review proposals.

### How are proposals evaluated?

All RDCK LCF proposals are reviewed by a Technical Review Committee to ensure they receive a sound technical review based on a fair assessment of proposal merit and project effectiveness. Proposal ranking guidelines and Technical Evaluation Criteria can be found in Appendix 2 of the Fund's [Terms of Reference](#). The Technical Review Committee makes recommendations based on these criteria to the RDCK for their consideration in final funding approval. The Technical Review Committee may request additional information or clarification from the project proponent prior to making their final recommendation to the RDCK.

### Other Frequently Asked Questions

#### 1. Can we apply for more than one project?

Yes, an organization can submit more than one proposal per funding year. KCP strongly encourages proponents writing a new project proposal to contact the KCP Local Conservation Fund Manager to discuss their idea.

#### 2. How much of our project will the RDCK LCF fund?

The RDCK LCF does not have a minimum requirement for matched funding. However, Technical Evaluation Criteria (provided in Appendix 2 of the Fund's [Terms of Reference](#)) includes points for



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cost effectiveness and cost sharing.

### 3. What is the maximum amount of funding we can apply for?

There is no maximum amount of funding that an organization can apply for. However, “typical” amounts of funding provided for past RDCK LCF projects can be reviewed on the KCP website at: <https://kootenayconservation.ca/regional-district-of-central-kootenay/>.

### 4. Are letters of support required?

No, letters of support are not required for the RDCK LCF. However, Technical Evaluation Criteria includes if the project involves other agencies or organizations. Project partners can be listed in Section C and may be contacted to confirm their role in this project.

### 5. How is the funding administered?

The RDCK will prepare funding agreements between the successful proponent and the RDCK. Upon receipt of the signed agreement, the first payment of 80% of the approved funding will be released. The final 20% payment will be issued upon receipt and approval of the final project report.

## Completing the Application

All applicants should review the Fund’s [Terms of Reference](#) and [Guidance Document](#) before applying. Applicants must ensure they have the most up-to-date versions of RDCK LCF application forms which are available on the KCP website when the funding application period is open: <https://kootenayconservation.ca/regional-district-of-central-kootenay/>.

All applications must include:

1. Completed *RDCK LCF-Project-Application-Form* (fillable PDF available on KCP website)
2. Completed *RDCK LCF-Project-Application-Form-Section-C* or *RDCK LCF-SECUREMENT-Project-Application-Form-Section-C* (Word templates available on KCP website)
3. Completed *RDCK LCF-Section-D-Budget-Template* (Excel template available on KCP website)

Note that these documents can be submitted singly or combined as a single PDF application. **However, please ensure the budget template is submitted in Excel format separately.**

Reminders:

- All projects must meet the mandatory requirements provided in the Project Application Form.
- Project Outline (Section C) **must not exceed** the maximum page limit.
- Total Budget and Total RDCK LCF Portion in the budget template must match the Total Funding Requested and Total Project Budget provided in Section A of the Project Application form.
- KCP strongly encourages proponents writing a new project proposal to contact KCP to discuss project ideas.
- Applications must be submitted to KCP prior to the application deadline. Email applications to [info@kootenayconservation.ca](mailto:info@kootenayconservation.ca).



### PART 1: Project Application (PDF Form)

#### SECTION A – GENERAL INFORMATION

All questions must be answered.

1. **Application Date:** Enter the date on which the application is submitted. Applications must be received before 4:30 pm PT on the date of deadline (see KCP website for specific date each year).
2. **Project Title:** Select a title that concisely identifies the project – try for 5 words or less. If this is a multi-year project, please use the same title as the previous year.
3. **Proponent:** Identify the legal name of the eligible proponent that will enter into a legal funding agreement with the RDCK (must be a registered non-profit organization, First Nation, or local government). Include who will lead this project and be the main contact. The proponent email address is where all correspondence, including notification of approval status, agreement information and other project details will be sent. Include Organization Registration Number.
4. **Partner:** If there is a partner organization involved in delivering the project, identify them here. Partner organizations are not required to be a registered non-profit organization, First Nation, or local government, but include Organization Registration Number if applicable. The partner contact will receive copies of emails regarding project approval and reporting.
5. **Total Funding Requested:** Indicate the total cash amount being requested from the RDCK LCF.
6. **Total Project Budget:** Identify the total cost estimated for the completion of the project including cash and in-kind contributions from all project partners.
7. **Will this project proceed without RDCK LCF funding?** Select Yes or No.
8. **Multi-Year Projects:** Please indicate if the project is anticipated to extend over multiple years, and if so, indicate for how long and if support would be requested for the duration of this project.

#### SECTION B – MANDATORY CRITERIA

All projects must meet the following requirements to be considered for funding under this program. All questions must be answered. If the answer is “no” to any question, the project will not be considered further.

1. **In which electoral areas will your project occur?**

The project must occur within one or more of the listed electoral areas. Select all areas in which the project occurs. RDCK LCF funding cannot be spent outside of these areas. If in doubt, check the map provided on the [RDCK website](#):

- RDCK Electoral Area A
- RDCK Electoral Area D
- RDCK Electoral Area E
- RDCK Electoral Area F
- RDCK Electoral Area H



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- 2. Project Location (e.g., RDCK area, watershed, direction from major centre, etc.):**  
Briefly describe the project location, for example: Meadow Creek between Duncan Lake and Kootenay Lake; Wynndel - southeast Electoral Area A; 2km west of Kaslo.
- 3. Project addresses one of the Direct Conservation Action priorities in the Fund's [Guidance Document](#) (see Table 5 on page 52).**  
Select Yes or No. Ensure your project addresses at least one of the listed Direct Conservation Actions identified in Table 5 of the Fund's Guidance Document.
- 4. Project meets the basic requirements for an eligible activity.**  
Select Yes or No. See Appendix 1 (page 9) of the Fund's [Terms of Reference](#) for a list of ineligible projects. Projects that can demonstrate a reduction of a known threat to a biodiversity target will be given priority. The focus is on private land, but projects on public (e.g., Crown) land will also be considered.
- 5. Proponent is a registered non-profit organization, First Nation, or local government.**  
Select Yes or No. The funding agreement will be between the RDCK and the eligible legal entity, although a partner organization or individual can apply and undertake a project if they partner with an eligible organization.
- 6. Proponent or partner is prepared to make a presentation on the outcomes of their work and submit a written report on an annual basis.**  
Select Yes or No. Interim and Final Reporting templates will be provided by KCP. Successful proponents will be required to report on project deliverables and results (including measurable outcomes), how the project reduces known threats to biodiversity targets and addresses one of the Direct Conservation Action priorities identified in the Fund's [Guidance Document](#) (see Table 5 on page 52), and project effectiveness. KCP and/or local governments occasionally host events where RDCK LCF are featured and may provide opportunities for presentations.
- 7. Proponent or partner is willing to make a short (1-2 minute) "selfie" video about their project using a smart phone or other device OR has already submitted a project video in a previous year.**  
Select Yes or No. Fund applicants that have previously submitted a video are not required to submit a new video for the same project but are welcomed to do so if they have the time and capacity. Example videos can be found featured on the [KCP YouTube Channel](#) in the RDCK Local Conservation Fund playlist.

### PART B: Project Outline (Word Template)

#### SECTION C – PROJECT OUTLINE

Please download and complete the Word template provided on the RDCK LCF webpage on the Kootenay Conservation Program website: <https://kootenayconservation.ca/regional-district-of-central-kootenay/>. All questions must be answered. Suggested word counts are provided.

**Total Page Limit:** Section C must be kept to **8 pages or less**, using the Word template provided and size 11 font. Note that if Section C is longer, additional pages will not be included in the Technical Review Committee proposal review. Word counts for each question are provided as a suggestion. Project budget and maps are not included in the page count.

**For Securement proposals only:** use the securement-specific project application form, which includes questions on site background and direction for future use and management of the proposed acquisition.

**1. Project description and rationale: Why is this project important for conservation and how will it benefit the RDCK Local Conservation Fund service area? (~500 words)**

Clearly and concisely describe the project, why it is important for conservation, and how it will benefit the RDCK LCF service area. Please include if the project builds on conservation measures from relevant Official Community Plans or other government initiatives. The framework for the Technical Evaluation Criteria include if there is a clearly demonstrated ability for the results of the project to reduce an identified threat to a biodiversity target and if the project addresses one or more of the Direct Conservation Action priorities listed in the Fund's [Guidance Document](#). Facts, statistics, and/or references to other related projects that support the need for the project can be included where appropriate. See the Fund's [Terms of Reference](#) and the [IUCN Threats Classification Scheme Version 3.2](#) for more information.

**2. Project goal and objectives: (~1,000 words)**

**a. What is the primary goal of your project (ultimate impact or outcome)?**

Clearly and concisely describe the project goal.

**b. List its objectives (concrete and measurable steps required to reach your goal) and expected outcomes (intended results, including measurable outcomes such as such as hectares of habitat restored, number of roost sites identified, hectares of land secured, etc.). Include the proposed techniques and methods that will be applied to achieve your objectives, and how benefits to conservation and project success will be measured and achieved.**

Clearly and concisely list the project's objectives (precise, concrete, and measurable steps required to achieve the goal) and outcomes (intended results or deliverables). Using bullets or organizing this information into a numbered list can be a helpful way to clearly outline these items. Include information on project methods and how benefits to conservation and project success will be measured and achieved. Technical Evaluation Criteria includes whether there is an evaluation of project benefit or other measurables or indicators identified in the proposal. Include on-the-ground measurable outcomes where possible such as hectares of habitat restored, number of roost sites protected, hectares of land secured, etc.

**3. Briefly describe the challenges you may face in completing the project, and how you will overcome these challenges. (~300 words; List in bullet form)**

In bullet form, clearly and concisely describe the challenges that may be faced in completing the project. Technical Evaluation Criteria includes a demonstration of how the project will be able to overcome these challenges.



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4. **Which Direct Conservation Action priority or priorities indicated in the Fund's Guidance Document does your project address? Briefly describe how your project will effectively address them. (See the Summary Table of Conservation Action Priorities based on the Fund's [Guidance Document](#); ~300 words; List in bullet form)**

Review Table 5 (page 52) in the Fund's Guidance Document and list which Direct Conservation Actions that your project addresses. Include all Direct Conservation Actions that apply. Briefly describe how your project will address them.

5. **Does this project build on an existing project? If yes, please explain and briefly include relevant project accomplishments to date. (~200 words)**

Briefly describe if the proposed project builds on an existing project and include a list of project accomplishments to date.

6. **Who will be primarily responsible for delivering the project and what are their qualifications? (~300 words; List in bullet form)**

Include the experience and credentials of the primary project contact and key team members. Technical Evaluation Criteria includes whether fund applicants have the capacity to deliver the project.

7. **Who will you be partnering with on this project and what are their roles (including partners providing funding)? Note that these organizations may be contacted to confirm their role in this project. (~300 words; List in bullet form)**

Technical Evaluation Criteria includes ranking the project on its potential to involve other agencies and leverage funds from other sources.

8. **Using the table below, provide an outline (Project Workplan) detailing the activities and deliverables through to completion of the final report. Include dates where possible and add more rows if required.**

Clearly and concisely outline the activities required for successful project delivery. Each step should be detailed on its own row, and include the activity, associated deliverables, and anticipated date of completion. Successful proponents will be required to report on the project activities related to this outline. If the proposed project is the first of a multi-year approach, you may add future years' activities to the workplan for context (but note that applications are required each year and funding is determined annually).

Example Project Workplan:

Activity	Deliverables	Timeline
Project planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Hire project coordinator</li><li>Develop annual work plan</li></ul>	April 2026
Site selection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Develop site selection criteria and site candidate list for restoration with Steering Committee</li></ul>	May 2026
Landowner outreach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Engage riparian area landowners to discuss restoration activities and confirm access and participation with 3 landowners</li></ul>	May 2026



Site assessment and restoration design	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hire qualified consultant</li> <li>Delineate riparian zones and restoration areas</li> <li>Design restoration prescriptions for 3 sites</li> </ul>	May 2026
Plant selection / procurement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Create site-specific plant list</li> <li>Order plants from nursery</li> </ul>	May 2026
Invasive plant removal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Engage and recruit &gt; 5 volunteers for invasive plant removal</li> <li>Schedule and conduct invasive plant removal at 3 sites, manually treating at least 0.25 ha of invasive plants</li> </ul>	June 2026
Prescription construction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Complete restoration construction at 3 riparian areas (1 ha total)</li> </ul>	June 2026
Riparian vegetation planting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recruit &gt; 5 volunteers for planting at riparian sites</li> <li>Plant at least 100 live stakes</li> </ul>	July 2026
Bird habitat enhancement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Build and install 4 duck nesting boxes</li> </ul>	July 2026
Education event	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Deliver at least 1 education event on importance of riparian areas</li> </ul>	July 2026
Site monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monitor and collect data on success of invasive plant removal and vegetation recovery at 3 sites</li> <li>Target: 80% success for invasive plant removal and vegetation recovery</li> </ul>	August 2026
Project evaluation and reporting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evaluate final restoration status based on monitoring data</li> <li>Write and submit final report to project partners and KCP</li> </ul>	September 2026 – January 2027

**9. How will the public be made aware of the project and the RDCK LCF's contribution? Please include ideas on where you would like to present the outcome of your project. (~200 words; List in bullet form)**

The Technical Evaluation Criteria includes whether there is a clearly described extension component of the project (e.g., communicating results to the community, resource managers, workshops, reports, presentations, etc.).

**10. If you have applied to the RDCK LCF for this project before, explain how you have addressed previous TRC comments and feedback in this proposal. (~ 500 words)**

Technical Review Committee comments are provided to fund applicants in notification letters. Please address all Technical Review Committee comments (list in bullet form). Contact the KCP Local Conservation Fund Manager if you require a copy of Technical Review Committee comments from the previous year.

**11. Please attach a project area map (including legend) and/or photographs.**

If a map or photographs are required to understand the scope of your project, please attach a 1-page area map or photographs.





### PART 3: Budget (Excel Template)

#### Section D – PROJECT BUDGET

Include a full project budget using the budget excel template provided on the [RDCK LCF webpage on the KCP website](#). Please note:

- The Technical Evaluation Criteria in the Fund's [Terms of Reference](#) includes assessment of value for the funding being requested, cost benefits of the project, if the project budget is realistic, and the value of leveraged funds from other agencies and organizations.
- The Total Budget and Total RDCK LCF Portion in the budget template must match the Total Funding Requested and Total Project Budget in Section A of the project application form.
- Please include hourly or day rates for all staff and contractors, and cost per unit for materials, supplies, lab services, etc.
- Please use current Canada Revenue Agency [reasonable per-kilometre allowance](#) to calculate mileage costs and [standard per diem rates](#).
- Do not make changes to the Excel template (e.g., do not delete or add columns) and ensure the budget template is submitted in Excel format.