2026 Fall Gathering and Annual General Meeting

"Passing the Torch: Lessons for the Next Chapter of Restoration and Stewardship" DRAFT AGENDA

October 15 & 16, 2026

Prestige Lakeside Resort, Nelson, BC

About the Fall Gathering

The Kootenay Conservation Program Fall Gathering serves as one of the primary opportunities to connect and reconnect KCP partners from across the region. In collaboration with Selkirk College, this year's event will be focused on the theme of *"Passing the Torch: Lessons for the Next Chapter of Restoration and Stewardship".* This year's Fall Gathering is designed to honour the legacy and capture the extensive knowledge of senior restoration and stewardship professionals in the region. As many of these experts approach retirement, this series provides a timely platform for intergenerational knowledge exchange — ensuring that decades of applied research, field experience, and collaborative learning are effectively transferred to the next generation. Presenters will reflect on key lessons from their careers in conservation, emphasizing important insights that can and should inform future conservation and restoration efforts.

About the Annual General Meeting

We will take advantage of this opportunity to also have a short (~1 hour) Annual General Meeting for KCP partners.

About Kootenay Conservation Program

Kootenay Conservation Program (KCP) is a broad partnership of more than 95 land and water conservation and stewardship groups, First Nations, other government agencies, agricultural producers, and educational institutions working throughout the East and West Kootenays. KCP's vision is to have connected habitats and landscapes in the Kootenays that sustain biodiversity and naturally functioning ecosystems that, in turn, support community well-being. The partnership seeks to cooperatively conserve the biological diversity and naturally functioning ecosystems of the region through land conservation and stewardship while sharing knowledge and expertise, building financial support, and promoting collaboration. The KCP service area is in the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territories of the Ktunaxa, Secwépemc, Sinixt, and Syilx Okanagan peoples who have stewarded this land, water and all living things since time

immemorial, and whose values and cultures continue to inspire and guide stewardship of this region.

KCP BOARD

Derek Petersen – Parks Canada (Chair)
Ian Adams – Rocky Mountain Naturalists
Dr. Suzanne Bayley – Columbia Wetlands Stewardship Partners
Chris Bosman – The Nature Trust of BC
Dave DeRosa (Interim) – Okanagan Nation Alliance
Rick Hoar – East Kootenay Wildlife Association
Adrian Leslie – Nature Conservancy of Canada
Braydi Rice – Shuswap Band
Ivy Whitehorne – Environment and Climate Change Canada, Canadian Wildlife Service

KCP TEAM

Juliet Craig – Program Director
Megan Jamison – Communications Coordinator
Erin Bates – Program Assistant

GUEST SPEAKERS

Norm Allard – Yaqan Nukiy
James Baxter – Sinixt Confederacy
Dr. Suzanne Bayley – Columbia Wetlands Stewardship Partners
Alyssia Dobie – Okanagan Nation Alliance
Laurie Frankcom – Central Kootenay Invasive Species Society
Doris Hausleitner – Selkirk College
Lindy Lin – Okanagan Nation Alliance
Marcy Mahr – Kootenay Connect (formerly with KCP)
Gerry Nellestijn - Salmo Watershed Streamkeepers
Greg Utzig – Kutenai Nature Investigations
Patrick Zubick – Okanagan Nation Alliance (TBC)

PROGRAM SUPPORTERS AND SPONSORS

Columbia Basin trust
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FWCP Fish & Wildlife COMPENSATION PROGRAM
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Regional District of East Kootenay

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"Passing the Torch: Lessons for the Next Chapter of Conservation Practitioners"

Thursday, October 15, 2026

Prestige Lakeside Resort, Nelson, BC

9 - 10 am	**KCP Annual General Meeting** (open to everyone)
10:15 – 10:30 am	**Arrive and register**
10:30 to 10:40	**Welcome remarks and setting the stage:** Derek Petersen - KCP Board Chair
10:40 to 10:50 am	**Mix and Mingle Introductions** Networking opportunity for Selkirk College students and KCP Partners
10:50 to 11 am	**Collective Impact of KCP** Juliet Craig - KCP Program Director
11:00 to 12 pm	**Lessons Learned in Conservation in the Kootenays** *Goal of session: To share lessons learned and provide a road map for future conservation initiatives in the Kootenays (15 mins each)* ● Cultural values in restoration and stewardship (Norm Allard, Yaqan Nukiy) ● Kootenay Connect Priority Places: What we learned and the conservation impact we've made (Marcy Mahr, Kootenay Connect; formerly KCP) ● Conservation Priorities by Biogeoclimatic Zones (Greg Utzig Kutenai Nature Investigations) Followed by Q&A session
12 – 12:45 pm	**Lunch & Group Photo**
1:00 to 1:40 pm	**Lessons Learned in Conservation in the Kootenays cont…** *Goal of session: To share lessons learned in restoration to consider for future projects (15 mins each)* ● Stream and riparian restoration (Gerry Nellestijn, Salmo Watershed Streamkeepers) ● Wetland restoration (Suzanne Bayley, Columbia Wetlands Stewardship Partners) ● What early career stewardship practitioners need to know (Doris Hausleitner, Selkirk College) ● Followed by Q&A session
1:40 to 1:50 pm	**Looking to the Future: Voices of the Youth** *Goal of session: To share top 5 conservation priorities from a student perspective (Selkirk Student perspective) (5 @ 2 min each)*

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2:00 to 3:00 pm	**Conservation Café Part I** *Goal of Session: Facilitated session to explore conservation priorities.*
3:00 to 3:15 pm	**Break**
3:00 to 4 pm	**Conservation Café Part II** *Goal of Session: Facilitated session to explore conservation priorities.*
4 to 4:10 pm	A Photographic Journey of Kootenay Connect Priority Places
4:10 to 4:30 pm	**KCP Conservation Leadership Awards**
4:30 to 5:30 pm	**Happy Hour (Complimentary Appies and Cash Bar)**

Friday, October 16, 2026

Field Tour (must have pre-registered; space limited)
Bag lunch provided at Millenium Park

8:30 am	**Meet outside Prestige Lakeside Resort** • Wear weather-appropriate clothing and clean, weed-seed-free footwear for walking • Bring your own water bottle • Be prepared to carpool
8:45 - 9:30 am	**Drive to Waterloo Eddy Regional Park**
9:30 – 11:45 am	**Waterloo Eddy** Learn more about restoration of Waterloo Eddy Regional Park, including: • Upland dry forest and riparian restoration (Lindy Lin and Alyssia Dobie, Okanagan Nation Alliance) • Culturally significant plant species (TBD) • Waterloo Eddy Park management (TBD RDCK) • Invasive plant control (Laurie Frankcom, CKISS).
11:45 to 1:00 pm	**Lunch at Millenium Park (TBD)**
1:00 - 1:15 pm	**Drive to Genelle or Norns Creek Fan (10 min drive)**
1:15 – 2:45 pm	**Norns Creek Fan** Learn about the salmon reintroduction initiative including: • Chinook salmon reintroduction (James Baxter, Sinixt Confederacy) • Sockeye salmon reintroduction (Patrick Zubick, Okanagan Nation Alliance, TBC)
2:45 - 3:30 pm	**Wrap up and return to Prestige Lakeside Resort (45 min drive)**
3:30 pm	**Adjourn – Prestige Lakeside Resort**

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