



# KCP

Kootenay Conservation Program



## 2015 - 2016 Annual Report



# From the Chair

The 2015-16 year was a productive one for the Kootenay Conservation Program (KCP). We realized ongoing improvements in areas of governance, land stewardship and local conservation fund development and delivery.

Some of the specific achievements included:

- Hosting a webinar series on the theme of Large Landscape Conservation
- Successful hosting of a Fall Gathering & AGM including a field trip into the Flathead Valley.
- Another successful year of administration and delivery of the Columbia Valley Local Conservation Fund (CVLCF) with over \$145,000 being disbursed to 10 high impact conservation projects.
- Field tour for Local Area Directors and members of the CVLCF Technical Review Committee.
- Establishment of the Kootenay Lake Local Conservation Fund with KCP coordinating the establishment of a Technical Review Committee and the issuing of the fund's first "Call for Proposals".
- Completion of the KCP Relationship Mapping Project and first version of the Stewardship Mapping Tool.
- Continued coordination of land securement amongst land trust organizations in the region.

We would like to express thanks to our ongoing and new funding partners, for without their support the KCP would not exist. Also, a note of special thanks to the Nature Trust of British Columbia for their willingness to continue as the fiscal sponsor of the KCP, another contribution critical to the ongoing and successful operation of the KCP.

We too appreciate the diversity and participation of the partners in the ongoing activities of the KCP and for the program's dedicated staff who work tirelessly to ensure that the KCP remains our 'Way of Life' Insurance for the Kootenays. This year was a time of change with KCP contractors and we wish Dave Hillary all the best in his future endeavors and welcome Juliet Craig as the new KCP Program Manager.

Derek Petersen

Chair, Kootenay Conservation Program



## DEREK PETERSEN

Derek Petersen is the Chair of the Kootenay Conservation Program (KCP) Executive Committee. Derek currently coordinates the Ecological Integrity Monitoring Program for Banff, Yoho and Kootenay National Parks. Derek's 30 year career with Parks Canada has spanned responsibilities ranging from integrated land use planning, to social science, to conservation biology and has included postings across Canada. Derek has a Master of Science, an undergraduate degree in Environmental Studies and Economics and a diploma in Renewable Resources Technology. Derek splits his personal time between the East and West Kootenays.





# In Recognition



The KCP extends its gratitude to **Dave Hillary** who was the Program Manager for the Kootenay Conservation Program (KCP) from 2011 to 2016 and was previously Chairperson of the East Kootenay Conservation Program (EKCP). We have seen a number of significant issues advance under Dave's leadership including the successful implementation of the Columbia Valley Local Conservation Fund, the successful launch of the Kootenay Lake Local Conservation Fund, the expansion of the KCP program into the West Kootenays and the advancement of securement and stewardship opportunities throughout the Kootenays. We can all be proud of the achievements that these initiatives have made to private land conservation in the Kootenays.



The KCP would like to recognize **Adrienne Shaw** for her work as KCP's Stewardship Coordinator over the past year. During her time with the KCP, Adrienne was devoted to using the best resources available and innovative solutions to help partners work together on stewardship activities throughout the Kootenay region. She advanced several projects, including Stewardship Mapping, Stewardship Tracking, and the Stewardship Framework. Through her work, she concluded that increasing our knowledge of the partnership's collective stewardship effort will help to protect clean water and steward the land to allow for healthy, functioning ecosystems across the Kootenay region. We wish Adrienne the best as she leaves to spend more time with her growing family!



The KCP would like to take this time to remember **Kelly Diamond** who recently passed away from cancer. Kelly was the KCP's Administration and Communications Coordinator until she was diagnosed this year. Kelly came to the KCP late in 2015 after becoming a mother and brought with her a diversity of strengths in the conservation and environmental field. While her time was short with the KCP, she had a wonderful impact on our organization, and contributed strongly to conservation in the Kootenays in a variety of roles. We extend our deepest condolences to Kelly's family and her many friends and colleagues. We know many will dearly miss her warm heart and adventurous spirit.



*The KCP partnership seeks to cooperatively conserve and steward landscapes that sustain naturally functioning ecosystems. We envision vibrant communities that demonstrate the principles of environmental stewardship that can in turn support economic and social well-being.*

The Kootenay region of southeastern British Columbia is a unique landscape of global ecological significance. The East and West Kootenay still function as a natural ecosystem with a full complement of ungulates and carnivores and are home to a variety of both common and rare or endangered plants, wildlife and fish species.

However, development pressures throughout the region continue, leading to significant and irrevocable loss of wildlife habitat and the loss of other natural capital including clean water, clean air, food production, timber production, and carbon storage and sequestration. Valued habitats occur throughout the East and West Kootenay, but the valley bottoms have the richest diversity of habitats and biodiversity values. Many of these important habitats are located on private land. There remains a viable opportunity to conduct private land securement and stewardship activities in the East and West Kootenay that conserves and enhances these lands.

The foundation of the KCP partnership is a common approach to land conservation through coordinated securement, stewardship and capacity building efforts. We will endeavor, where possible, to use the social capital of the partnership to achieve the vision of the KCP. The partnership is strengthened when all partners operate in a collaborative spirit that includes the opportunity to:

- Increase the level of sustainable securement and stewardship on private lands as guided by the KCP Securement Committee and Stewardship Committee(s);
- Build and provide capacity (financial and technical resources) for KCP partner organizations to undertake securement and stewardship activities;
- Strengthen engagement, collaboration, communication, education and accountability within, and outside of, the partnership.





# Executive Committee

**Derek Petersen** - Parks Canada



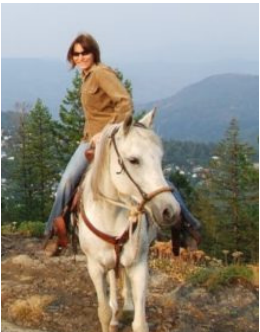
Derek currently coordinates the Ecological Integrity Monitoring Program for Banff, Yoho and Kootenay National Parks. He has a Master of Science and an undergraduate degree in Environmental Studies. Derek splits his personal time between the East and West Kootenays.

**Rob Neil** - The Nature Trust of British Columbia



Rob is the Kootenay Conservation Land Manager for The Nature Trust of British Columbia. He brings extensive experience in the areas of Forest Ecosystems, Regional Habitat Conservation, Fisheries and Planning.

**Jennifer Vogel** - Columbia Shuswap Invasive Species Society



Jennifer is a Professional Agrologist and the Executive Director of the Central Kootenay Invasive Species Society. Jennifer has a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science, and has spent her career working in the field of stewardship and invasive species management.

**Dave White** - East Kootenay Wildlife Association



Dave is past president of both the East Kootenay Wildlife Association and the BC Wildlife Federation, as well as past chair of the East Kootenay Conservation Program. He is a keen angler, hunter, and back-country horseman.

**Adrian Leslie** - Nature Conservancy of Canada



Adrian is a Registered Professional Biologist with experience working in both terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems from low elevation floodplains to high elevation forests throughout the Columbia Basin.

**Ian Parnell** - Canadian Wildlife Service



Ian is Head of the Protected Areas Unit for the Canadian Wildlife Service's Pacific Region. Ian has also been a Species at Risk Biologist and most recently, the Head of the region's Landscape Assessment and Planning Unit.



## Securement

Over the past decade, the KCP has helped partners in their work to conserve over 250,000 hectares of land and invest \$150 million into conservation projects across the Kootenays. World-class conservation efforts include Darkwoods, the Flathead Agreement, Tembec Lands, Pine Butte Ranch, Wycliffe Wildlife Corridor, Columbia Lake Lot 48, Hoodoo-Hofert and The Big Ranch.

In 2015-16, the KCP continued to coordinate communication between the land trusts in the region. The KCP received 18 land securement referrals from with KCP partner organizations or directly from interested landowners. This year, the KCP undertook four property evaluations and updated our securement rankings accordingly. Based on the dedication and hard work of our partners, the Windermere West and The Land Conservancy - Kootenay Lands projects were completed this year.



Windermere West Grasslands



Windermere West Wetlands





# Stewardship

The KCP continued with its focus on stewardship guided by the KCP Stewardship Framework. The KCP brought together a broad range of stewardship groups from the Kootenays at the fall Stewardship Committee meeting.

The KCP's Stewardship Tracking Report was completed for the 2015-16 fiscal year and the Stewardship Map was updated with 2015 project activities. The KCP completed its Conservation Network Map which visually displays the social network through a relationship map that can help us understand what the collaboration looks like spatially.



Northern Leopard Frog Reintroduction Project



Lake Enid Restoration Project - Photo credit: Pat Morrow



# Bursary Program

With Columbia Basin Trust's support, the KCP Professional Development Bursary Program was established in 2014 to support staff and volunteers of KCP partner organizations in attending professional development activities. Four grants were made this year for professional development activities including:

- Joint Partner Wildlife Conference: Common Resources, Challenges and Solutions
- Canadian Water Summit
- Art of Hosting Water Dialogues

After supporting 12 applicants in the past two years, the KCP Bursary Fund is now fully expended.



Recipients of the KCP Professional Development Bursary Program





## Webinar Series

The KCP coordinated and delivered another 'Winter Webinar Series' under the theme of 'Large Landscape Conservation'. The four-part webinar series included:

- Collaborations in Large Landscape Initiatives Across North America and the Formation of the Practitioner's Network with Shawn Johnson, Practitioners' Network for Large Landscape Conservation
- The Great Eastern Ranges Initiative (GER) – Linking the Landscapes and Landholders of Eastern Australia - Gary Howling, Great Eastern Range's (GER) Conservation Manager
- "Y2Y" Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Initiative – Harvey Locke, Strategic Advisor to Y2Y



Presenters featured in the KCP Winter Webinar Series



# Local Conservation Fund

In 2008, the KCP was instrumental in establishing the first Local Conservation Fund in Canadian history in the Regional District of East Kootenay's Upper Columbia Valley. The Columbia Valley Local Conservation Fund (CVLCF) has now invested over \$1,500,000 in more than 50 securement and stewardship projects which address local priorities including ecosystem restoration, invasive species control and lake stewardship. This critical funding has helped leverage \$5,000,000 in conservation investments in the local area. In 2015-16, the CVLCF was awarded to 10 projects receiving \$145,000 in funding.

In June, the KCP conducted a field tour for Local Area Directors and members of the CVLCF Technical Review Committee. This tour visited three project sites where grantees spoke about their projects and answered questions. This tour allowed participants to get a better understanding of the impact of the funding, and allowed them to get clarification on a variety of aspects of these projects.



2015 Columbia Valley Local Conservation Fund Field Tour





In 2015, the Kootenay Lake Local Conservation Fund (KLLCF) was established by the Regional District of Central Kootenay in three electoral areas (Areas A, D and E). The KCP continues to work with the RDCK to deliver the Kootenay Lake Local Conservation Fund. The KLLCF will be used to support high priority projects in the Kootenay Lake area beginning in 2016.



Lake Enid Restoration Project by Wildsight-Invermere. Credit Pat Morrow.





# Annual Gathering & AGM



**LARGE LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION**

**KCP**  
Kootenay Conservation Program

**SEPT 25-26**  
FRI - SAT

**KCP FALL GATHERING AND AGM 2015**

“Large Landscape Conservation means enhancing the conservation value of all lands, helping conserve key connections between landscapes, implementing climate adaptation initiatives, and developing strategies to help nature remain resilient on a grand scale.”

Center for Large Landscape Conservation

**ST EUGENE**  
GOLF • RESORT • CASINO

Join us for a fun and informative event that brings together conservation experts in the Kootenays. We'll venture to the Flathead for a memorable field tour on Saturday.

**RSVP**

Fri Sept 25 12 pm  
to  
Sat Sept 26 4 pm

**ST EUGENE MISSION**

KCP rate \$75 (normally \$145). Book by September 4 by calling 1-866-292-2020 and reference KCP booking #200836.

**ACCOMMODATION**

**No cost to attend**

All meals included (excluding breakfast)  
Field tour on Saturday to the Flathead

Please confirm your attendance:  
[info@kootenayconservation.ca](mailto:info@kootenayconservation.ca)



**MICHAEL B. WHITFIELD**  
Executive Director  
Heart of the Rockies Initiative



**ERIN SEXTON**  
Research Scientist, Institute on Ecosystems, University of Montana



**YVETTE CONVERSE**  
Coordinator, Great Northern Landscape Conservation Cooperative



**TASHA SARGENT**  
Coordinator, Canadian Intermountain Joint Venture

**LINE UP**

The KCP Fall Gathering serves as one of the primary vehicles to connect and re-connect KCP partners from across the region.

The organizing theme for the 2015 Fall Gathering was “Large Landscape Conservation – Working at Scale”. We explored a number of initiatives and organizations working at a variety of scales in the trans-boundary region between Canada and the United States of America.

Presenters included representatives from the Heart of the Rockies Initiative (HOTR), Canadian Intermountain Joint Venture (CIJV), Great Northern Landscape Conservation Cooperative (GNLCC) and University of Montana Institute on Ecosystems.





# Conservation Leadership

The KCP awarded the annual Conservation Leadership Award as part of our Annual Gathering and AGM at St. Eugene Mission. This is an opportunity to showcase some of the outstanding work being done in conservation in our region. This year Andy Shadrack was the recipient of the 2015 Conservation Leadership Award.



Andy Shadrack has been a champion for conservation in the Kootenays for 28 years. Andy emigrated from England as an agricultural labourer in 1970 and became a student at Notre Dame University in Nelson in 1973. Here he fell in love with Kootenay Lake and met his wonderful partner, Gail Bauman. He went on to obtain an MA in Political Science at the University of Regina, returning to Kaslo with his family in 1987.

Andy has been passionately involved in politics since 1963 and taught political science at Selkirk and Okanagan University College for several years. He was an area director with the Central Kootenay Regional District from 2005-2014 where he advocated for sound land-use planning and lake stewardship. In 2014, Andy was instrumental in the establishment of the Kootenay Lake Local Conservation Fund (KLLCF). The dedication of Andy Shadrack to land conservation and stewardship is worth great celebration.



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# KCP

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For more information on the Kootenay Conservation Program please email [info@kootenayconservation.ca](mailto:info@kootenayconservation.ca) or call 1-844-775-2722.

