



Kootenay Lake Local Conservation Fund

Summary, February 2019

KLLCF Background

- Kootenay Lake Local Conservation Fund (KLLCF) was established in Electoral Areas A, D and E as a RDCK Service in 2014
- Residents pay \$15 per parcel per year in tax towards conservation
- This fund supports conservation of aquatic systems and water, wildlife and habitat

KLLCF Accomplishments

- ~\$337,000 invested from 2016 to 2019; Over \$349,000 in partner dollars leveraged
- Supported 23 projects that have focused on: restoration (grassland, creek and wetland); invasive plant management; species at risk recovery; land acquisition; water quality monitoring; climate conservation action and incentives for landowners

KLLCF Benefits

- Expanded Darkwoods Conservation Area for long-term conservation
- Citizen-science water quality monitoring and osprey monitoring
- Protected bat colonies that reduce agricultural and forestry pests
- Recovery of species at risk (western toad)
- Creation of wildflower meadows to promote pollinators
- Restoration of Kootenay Lake spawning habitat for Kokanee sal
- Reduction of human-wildlife conflict and protection of grizzly bears
- Increased awareness of the Shorelines Guidance Document that protects Kootenay Lake
- Fewer invasive plants and improved forage for ungulates
- Restoration activities in riparian areas that support bull trout and kokanee spawners
- Functioning wetlands, creeks, and grasslands that improve water quality
- Economic opportunities for jobs, contracts, materials and supplies



KLLCF Leadership

- Kootenay Lake RDCK Directors and their communities seen as innovative leaders
- Regional District of Okanagan Similkameen adopted Local Conservation Fund in 2016 based on the Columbia Valley and Kootenay Lake examples
- KLLCF Directors have commissioned a Guidance Document for the KLLCF to identify strategic priorities for conservation in the region. No other local conservation fund has taken this type of strategic approach.

Supporting Local Land Use Goals

The projects supported by the KLLCF have worked towards many of the values and goals outlined in the land use plans for Areas A, D and E including:

- To preserve water quality in Kootenay Lake and other identifiable lakes.
- To encourage the maintenance of Provincially identified wildlife winter range.
- Maintain high water quality of groundwater and surface water sources of domestic water supply.
- Foster an awareness of the values associated with the natural environment and conserve sensitive and significant natural features and values from negative impacts as a result of development.
- Encourage the maintenance of biodiversity, important to the biological functioning and ecological integrity of the area.
- Conserve the natural values in recognition of their importance to the local economy, residents, visitors, as a natural amenity, and for wildlife and ecological functioning.

KLLCF Contact Information

Juliet Craig, Program Manager, Kootenay Conservation Program

juliet@kootenayconservation.ca

250-352-2260