



Kootenay Conservation Program 2014 Stewardship Tracking Report

December 19, 2014



Prepared By:

Claire de la Salle, Stewardship Coordinator

Kootenay Conservation Program

info@kootenayconservation.ca

<http://kootenayconservation.ca/>

Table of Contents

Abstract.....	3
Introduction	4
Stewardship Survey Highlights.....	5
Participating Partner Organizations.....	5
Methodology.....	6
Results and Analysis.....	6
Project Location.....	6
Habitat Types/Ecosystems.....	8
Area Affected	8
Project Type	8
Threats Targeted.....	9
Project Costs and Funding	10
Conclusion.....	12

Abstract

In the spring of 2014 the Kootenay Conservation Program's (KCP) East and West Kootenay Stewardship Committees conducted the KCP's first-ever annual stewardship tracking survey. Eleven KCP partners (20%) completed on-line surveys, reporting on 29 different land and water stewardship projects completed during fiscal year 2013-2014. The survey was designed to link directly to the goals, objectives, and success indicators of the KCP's Strategic Framework, and address priority habitats/ecosystems and identified threats. Projects reported affected 1024 hectares; over \$1.1 million was spent, provided by 31 funders. The survey provided valuable information about geographic scope and extent of stewardship projects, and the types of activities undertaken and threats targeted. Broader participation and therefore richer data is anticipated in future surveys.

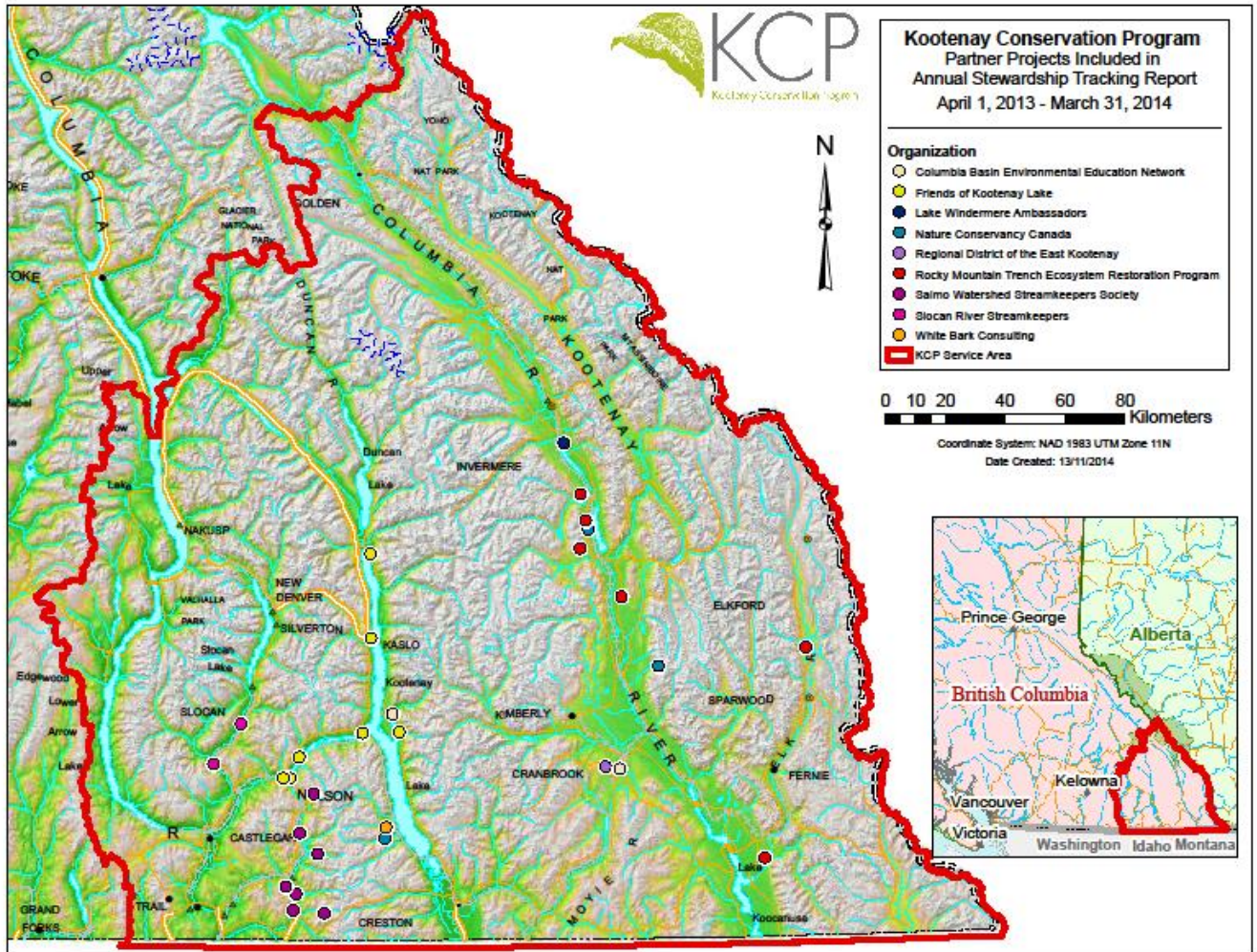


Figure 1: Location of 2013-2014 KCP partner stewardship projects reported in 2014 survey

Stewardship Committee members were interested in knowing how much stewardship is occurring in each Regional District area, in order to help identify potential service gaps. As seen in Table 1 below, a much higher percentage of the 29 reported stewardship projects took place in the Regional Districts of Central Kootenay and East Kootenay, potentially indicating service gaps in the Columbia Shuswap Regional District and Regional District of Kootenay Boundary.

Table 1 –Stewardship projects located by Regional District by reported KCP partner stewardship projects

Columbia Shuswap Regional District	8%
Regional District of Kootenay Boundary	8%
Regional District of East Kootenay	35%
Regional District of Central Kootenay	49%

Habitat Types/Ecosystems

As noted above, survey participants were permitted to assign each project a maximum of three habitat types/ecosystems. These same habitat types/ecosystems are identified in the KCP Stewardship Framework as priority areas for stewardship effort. Figure 2 shows the most common habitat type/ecosystem targeted for stewardship activities was lake/stream (43%), followed by cottonwood/riparian (16%).

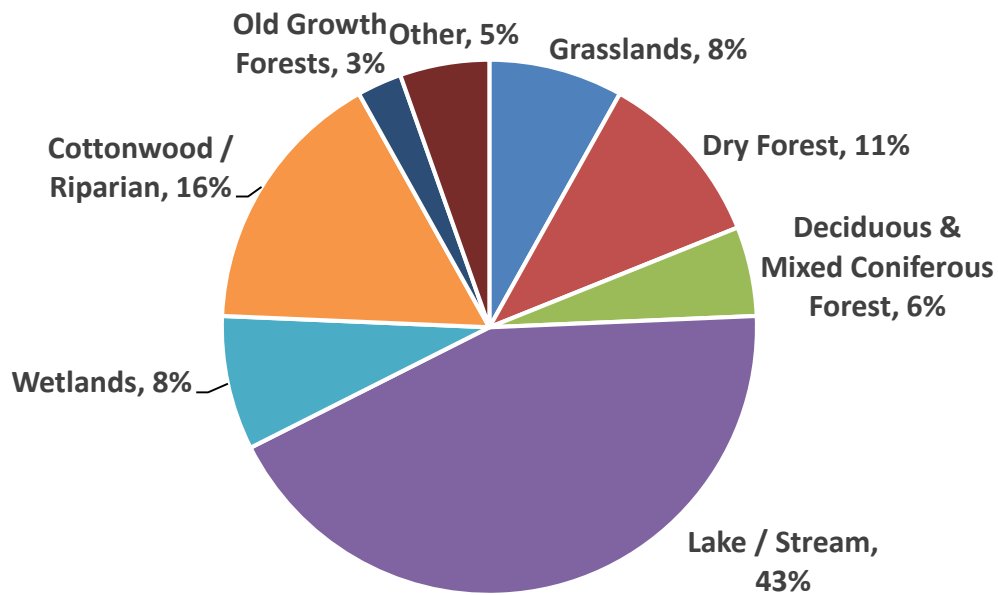


Figure 2 – Habitat types/ecosystems affected by reported KCP partner stewardship projects

Area Affected

A total of 1024 hectares was affected by the reported 2013-2014 stewardship projects. Thirty-three of these were aquatic/riparian hectares and included restoration activities such as shoreline restoration and cattle exclusion from wetland areas. The other 991 hectares were terrestrial; project activities included restoration, invasive weed control, and road deactivation.

Project Type

Determining the types of stewardship activities occurring in the region can illustrate where we are collectively focusing our stewardship resources. This in turn may help to identify gaps, and guide the targeting of future stewardship effort. The list of project types was developed by partners to capture all projects categorized as “stewardship.” Both education/outreach and leadership development were

included, as partners determined that these two project types, although not typically described as “stewardship activities”, are an essential component of effective land and water stewardship. Survey participants were permitted to assign each project up to three project types. Table 2 shows that the most common stewardship activity was education/outreach at 19%, with water and ecosystem restoration/enhancement/remediation tied for second at 13%. No projects were reported as including GIS, landscape connectivity or policy/regulation aspects, even though although these project types have been identified as important by the Stewardship Committees.

Table 2 – Project types by reported KCP partner stewardship projects

Project Type	Percentage of Total Projects
Education/Outreach	19%
Ecosystem Restoration/Enhancement /Remediation	13%
Water	13%
Citizen Science	10%
Fish/Wildlife Conservation	10%
Environmental Monitoring	8%
Invasive Species Control	5%
Landowner Outreach	5%
Species-at-Risk	5%
Leadership Development	5%
Inventory	3%
Land Management	3%
Planning	2%
Research	2%
GIS	0%
Landscape Connectivity	0%
Policy/Regulation	0%

Threats Targeted

Survey participants were permitted to assign each project as addressing up to three threats, using the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) threats classification system. As per Figure 3, both natural system modifications and human intrusion and disturbance were targeted the most at 24%, with agriculture and aquaculture targeted the least at 2%. A total of eight threats were identified as being addressed. It is interesting that although many partners (e.g. Columbia Basin Trust) have identified climate change resiliency as a strategic priority, only 10% of stewardship projects reported focusing on this threat, potentially indicating a need for more partner education on what types of stewardship actions help increase ecosystem resiliency.

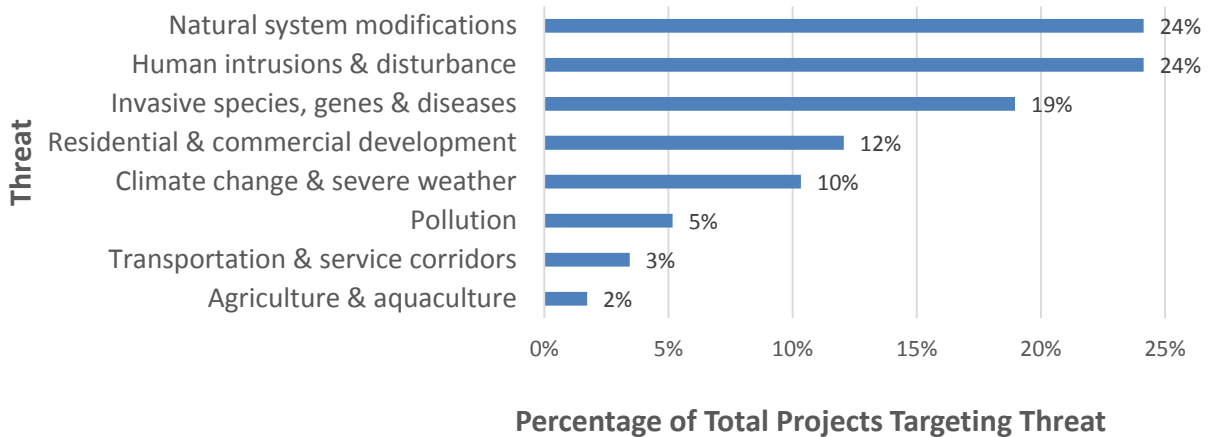


Figure 3 - International Union for Conservation of Nature threats targeted by reported KCP partner stewardship projects

Project Costs and Funding

Effective stewardship requires adequate financial resources, and a lack of sufficient funding is often a key constraint for stewardship groups. Through the stewardship tracking survey we were able to determine existing sources of fiscal support for stewardship in the KCP Service Area, providing partners with a better understanding of potential sources for future funding. Figure 4 shows that a large diversity of funders support stewardship projects in the KCP Service Area, with a total of \$840,930 in direct funding being provided by over 31 funders. Some projects had multiple funders. The average project cost was \$38,000. In addition, it was important to track in-kind contributions, to reflect the importance of the time and/or resources donated by many organizations and individuals. The total in-kind contribution reported was \$279,238. The combination of cash and in-kind contributions spent on stewardship activities by the twelve participating organizations totalled \$1,120,168.

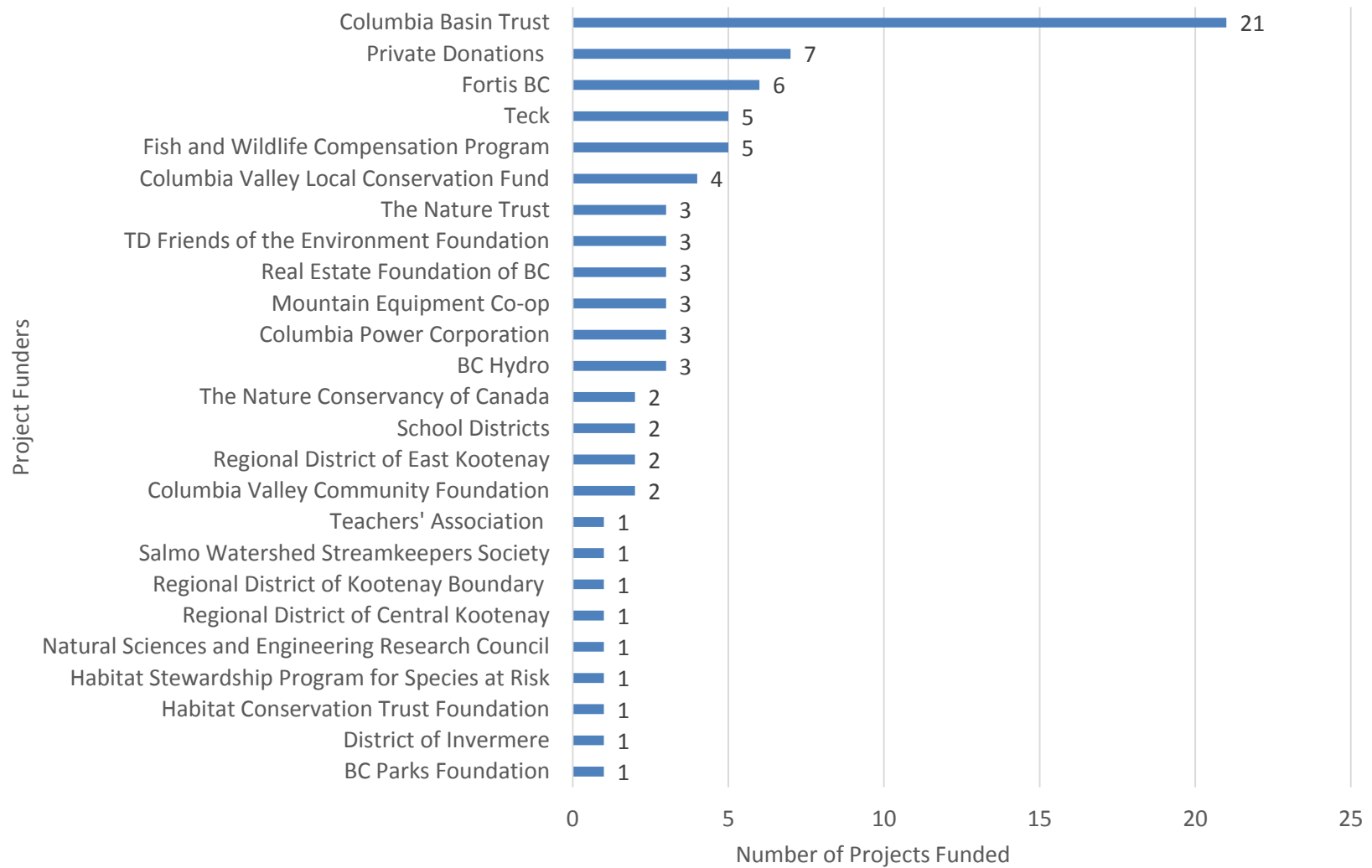


Figure 4 – Funders for reported KCP partner stewardship projects

Conclusion

The KCP would like to thank the eleven organizations that submitted their stewardship project information for the 2013-2014 Stewardship Tracking Survey. The information collected in this survey will help us determine if we are meeting our goals of strengthening engagement, collaboration, communication, education and accountability within, and outside of, the partnership and increasing the amount of stewardship activities taking place on private lands, and provide a baseline against which to track progress over time.

This year's pilot initiative gave us a valuable snapshot of a portion of our work. Projects were distributed around the Kootenays, with potential service area gaps identified for the Arrow Lakes, Trout Lake/Duncan, and Golden/Kinbasket areas. The primary project types were outreach/education, ecosystem restoration/enhancement, and water. Gaps may exist in project types, including GIS, landscape connectivity and policy/regulation. Gaps may also exist in terms of threats addressed: for example, increasing climate change resiliency has been identified as a strategic priority by KCP and its partners and funders, but only 10% of reported projects addressed this threat.

As these results included less than 20% of the KCP partnership, we can assume that total numbers of projects conducted, money spent and area affected are in reality much higher. In the future we hope to engage a higher percentage of KCP partners in the annual stewardship tracking to better quantify and more accurately reflect the scope and extent of the stewardship efforts taking place in the KCP Service Area. Tracking stewardship over time will also help to identify gaps in the service area, programs, and knowledge of priority habitats and species. 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.