



# Kootenay Conservation Program 2015/2016 Stewardship Survey Report

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## Introduction

The Kootenay Conservation Program's (KCP) East and West Kootenay Stewardship Committees completed a stewardship survey to create a web-based Stewardship Map. Twenty KCP partners completed on-line surveys, reporting on 114 different projects conducted during fiscal year 2015-2016 (April 1, 2015 to March 31, 2016). It is expected that 3 additional organizations will provide data in April 2016 including the Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program and should increase the number of stewardship projects substantially. The survey included stewardship activities across the KCP service area on both private and public land, including water-related stewardship activities.

The Stewardship Survey addresses the following KCP Stewardship Framework goals:

- 1) Strengthen engagement, collaboration, communication, education and accountability within, and outside of, the partnership; and
- 2) Increase the amount of stewardship activities taking place on private lands.

Members of the Stewardship Committees identified four main areas of interest on which to collect stewardship metrics in 2013/2014:

1. Habitat/ecosystem types and area affected;
2. Outreach/education;
3. Project funding; and
4. Strategic planning.

The initial 2015/2016 Stewardship Survey included all of these matrices but there was a very low response rate (4 partner organizations). To elicit a better response to the survey it was shortened to include only the habitat/ecosystem type matrix.

## Methodology

Questions asked in the 2013/2014 stewardship tracking survey were primarily determined based on the success indicators linked to the objectives identified in the KCP Stewardship Framework. These survey questions were altered slightly in the initial 2015/2016 survey. As the initial response rate was low, the survey was then adapted to address only the Stewardship Mapping requirements (organization name, project name, project description, habitat/ecosystem type and project type). Survey participants were

permitted to assign up to three project types and up to three habitat types. Limiting the number of criteria assignable provided greater descriptive clarity for each project.

KCP staff drafted the survey, using the online platform SurveyMonkey.com, with input from both West and East Stewardship Committees. In 2013/2014 The Ministry of Forest Lands and Natural Resource Operations and the Lake Windermere Ambassadors volunteered to test the survey and provide feedback on improvements. A link to the survey was sent out to 55 KCP partners via email. Where needed, KCP staff provided one-on-one support to partners to assist them with filling out the survey.

The Stewardship Map was created by a web designer on the KCP website. The map will be made available to the public once the Stewardship Committees have reviewed it.

## Results

### Participating Partner Organizations

1. Blue Lake Forest Education Society
2. Central Kootenay Invasive Species Society
3. Columbia Valley Greenways Trail Alliance
4. Columbia Basin Environmental Education Network
5. East Kootenay Invasive Plant Council
6. Eastshore Freshwater Habitat Society
7. Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program
8. Groundswell Network Society
9. Jakob Dulisse Consulting
10. Kootenay Centre for Forestry Alternatives
11. Kootenay Community Bat Project
12. Kootenay Native Plant Society
13. Kutenai Nature Investigations Ltd.
14. Lake Windermere Rod and Gun Club
15. Nature Conservancy of Canada
16. Regional District of East Kootenay
17. Salmo Watershed Streamkeepers Society
18. VAST Resource Solutions Inc.

19. Trail Wildlife Association

20. Wildsight

### Project Location

The stewardship projects are distributed throughout the KCP Service Area. The survey had a 36% response rate so it is difficult to conclude gaps in stewardship activities. It is also important to consider not all the partner organizations had projects in 2015/2016. With additional data from FWCP in April 2016 the distribution of projects is likely to be more representative of overall activities since FWCP is a main funder for many of our partners.

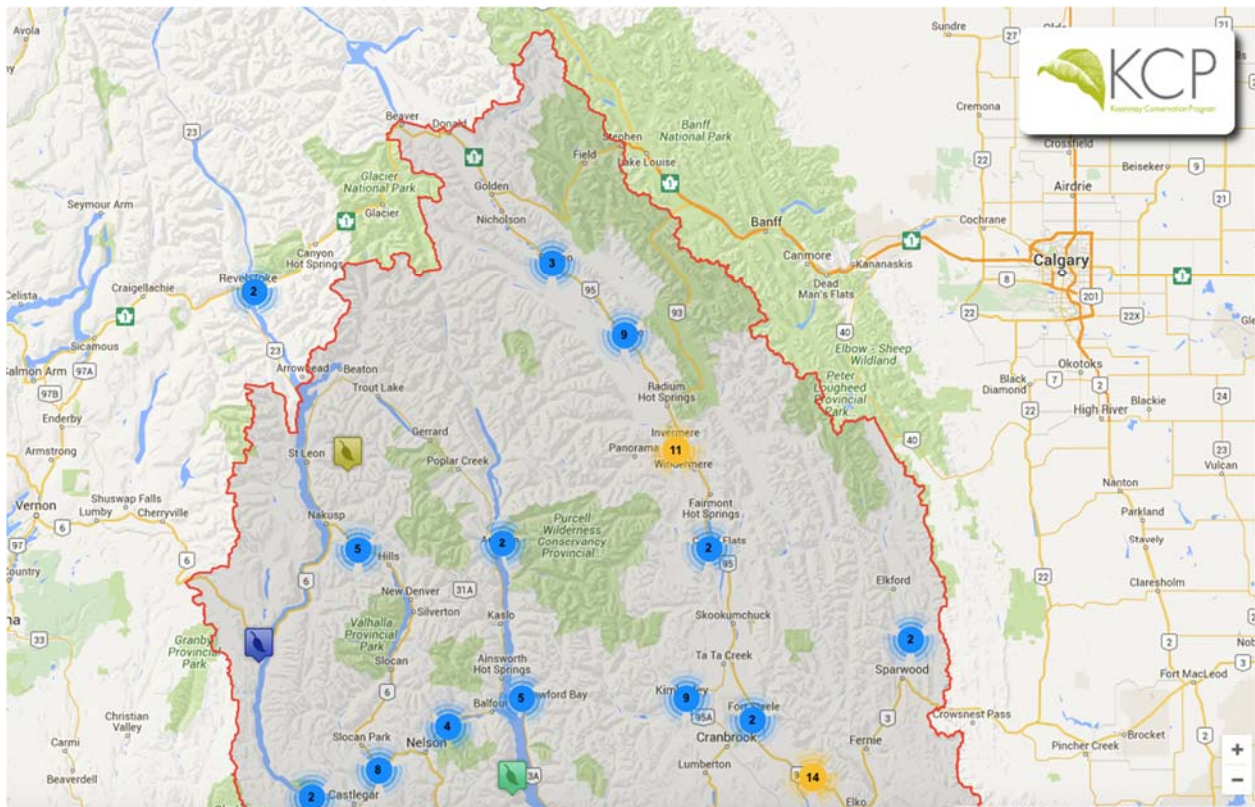


Figure 1: Locations of 2015-2016 KCP partner stewardship projects reported in the 2016 survey

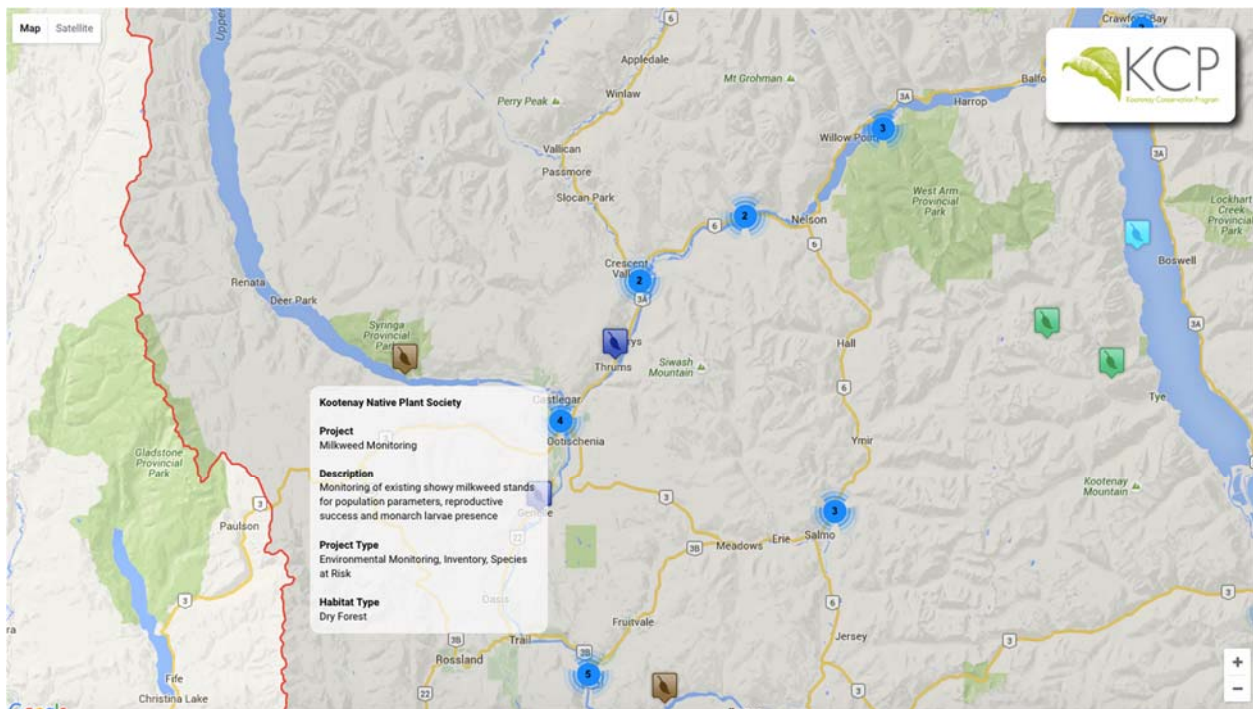


Figure 2: Example of a project from the 2015-2016 Stewardship Map, Kootenay Native Plant Society Milkweed Monitoring Project

### Habitat Types/Ecosystems

The habitat types/ecosystems selected for the Stewardship Survey were identified in the KCP Stewardship Framework as priority areas for stewardship effort. Survey participants were permitted to assign each project a maximum of three habitat types/ecosystems. Figure 3 shows the most common habitat type/ecosystem targeted for stewardship activities was lake/river/stream (50%), followed by wetlands (32%) and dry forest (32%).

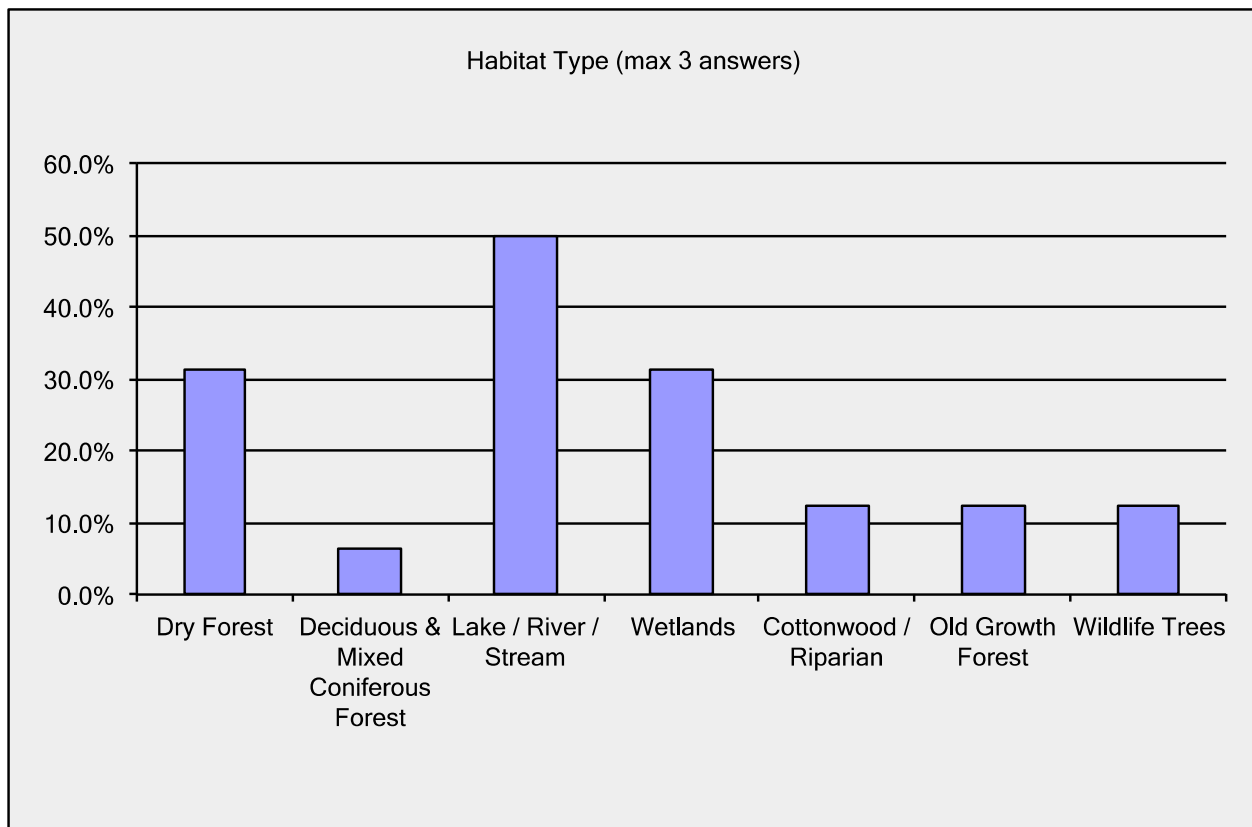


Figure 3 – Habitat/ecosystems types for the 2015/2016 KCP partner stewardship projects

### 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 in 2013/2014 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 1 shows that the most common stewardship activity was education/outreach at 50%, with 39% of projects including species at risk.

Primary Project Type (max 3 answers)	
Answer Options	Response Percent
Education/Outreach	50%
Species at Risk	39%
Fish/Wildlife Conservation	31%
Ecosystem Restoration/Enhancement /Remediation	31%
Citizen Science	31%
Land Management	27%
Aquatic	23%
Environmental Monitoring	19%
Research	15%
Inventory	15%
Climate Change	15%
Landowner Outreach	12%
Landscape Connectivity	8%
Invasive Species Control	8%
Policy/Regulation	4%
Planning	4%
GIS	4%
Leadership Development	0%

Table 1 – Percent of project types for the 2015/2016 KCP partner stewardship projects

## Conclusion

As the results included 36% of the KCP partnership, we hope to engage a higher percentage of KCP partners in future stewardship surveys. Tracking stewardship activities over time can help to reflect the extent of stewardship efforts and identify gaps throughout KCP service area. 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.