



Kootenay Conservation Program (KCP)

2021-22 Final Report

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Photo credit: Marc Andre Beaucher

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Executive Summary

Kootenay Conservation Program (KCP) and the Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program (FWCP) are partners in delivering a healthy environment for residents and communities of the East and West Kootenay. KCP and FWCP have a common understanding that fish and wildlife populations thrive in ecosystems that are functioning and sustainable. Similar to the FWCP, KCP supports partners in maintaining and improving the integrity and productivity of ecosystems and habitats. Through our collaborative relationship, priority conservation lands are secured, landowners' knowledge of how to care for their land is improved, overall conservation efforts are coordinated, and access to additional financial and technical resources are increased.

KCP contributes to the FWCP goals of the *Upland and Dryland Action Plan* and *Riparian and Wetlands Action Plan*. Specifically, KCP identifies opportunities to secure priority upland/dryland habitats in the Kootenays. As well, we identify threats to habitat connectivity and support opportunities, including but not limited to land securement, in order to secure and steward lands with high conservation values for upland, dryland, wetland and riparian areas.

KCP continues to coordinate communication between land trust organizations in the region. During this period, KCP completed three property evaluations with restricted FWCP funding and also supported three property appraisal reports. In the 2021-22 year, FWCP contributed to the purchase of one conservation property: the Columbia Wetlands – Hoodoos property (via The Nature Trust of BC).

In 2021/22, KCP continued to coordinate the Environment and Climate Change Canada - Canada Nature Fund grant for Kootenay Connect, a four-year project that aims to enhance, restore, and manage important valley bottom habitats to support the recovery of 31 listed species at risk such as American Badger, Grizzly Bear, Little Brown Myotis, Western Screech-owl, Lewis's Woodpecker, Williamson's Sapsucker, Bobolink, and Northern Leopard Frog, and 35 species of special concern.

In 2021/22, KCP continued to operate during the pandemic by hosting its regular events online including East and West Kootenay Stewardship Committee meetings and annual Fall Gathering. In January 2022, KCP hosted its seventh Conservation Action Forum for the South Country area, co-hosted by the Yaqit ʔa-knuqʔi 'it First Nation (Tobacco Plains Indian Band). This Conservation Action Forum approach brought together a broad range of partners to work collaboratively towards conservation. In addition, KCP continued to enhance and promote the Stewardship Solutions Toolkit and delivered our first ever Conservation Ambassador Training series.

KCP continues to engage a wide range of stakeholders through a variety of tours, partner events, and presentations. We provided a valuable professional development and networking

experience for our partners at our annual Fall Gathering on the theme of *Partnerships in Conservation*, where we showcased examples of Indigenous-led restoration and conservation projects. We continue to utilize our website, Facebook page, YouTube channel, and monthly eNews, which is distributed to over 1,300 recipients, as well as host our annual four-part Winter Webinar series (this year co-hosted with the Columbia Basin Trust with support from FWCP).

KCP continues to administer and deliver the Columbia Valley Local Conservation Fund (CVLCF) in partnership with the Regional District of East Kootenay (RDEK) and the Kootenay Lake Local Conservation Fund (KLLCF) in partnership with the Regional District of Central Kootenay (RDCK) which in combination awarded almost \$167,000 to stewardship projects in 2021. KCP is also actively exploring expansion of Local Conservation Funds in the Kootenays to further build financial capacity of partner organizations.

In 2021/22, KCP welcomed 1 new partner: Wildsight-Revelstoke branch.

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1. Introduction

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

Kootenay Conservation Program (KCP) and the Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program (FWCP) are partners in delivering a healthy environment for residents and communities of the East and West Kootenays. KCP and FWCP have a common understanding that fish and wildlife populations thrive in ecosystems that are functioning and sustainable. Similar to the FWCP, KCP supports partners in maintaining and improving the integrity and productivity of ecosystems and habitats. Through our collaborative relationships, priority conservation lands are secured, landowner's knowledge of how to care for their land is improved, overall conservation efforts are coordinated, and access to additional financial and technical resources are increased.

KCP works towards the FWCP goals of the *Upland and Dryland Action Plan* and *Riparian and Wetlands Action Plan*. Specifically, KCP identifies opportunities to secure priority upland/dryland habitats in the Kootenays. As well, we identify threats to habitat connectivity and support opportunities, including but not limited to land securement, in order to conserve and steward lands with high conservation values for upland, dryland, wetland and riparian areas.

Over the past decade, KCP has helped partners conserve over 242,000 hectares of land and invest millions into conservation projects across the Kootenays. World-class conservation efforts include Darkwoods, Pine Butte Ranch, Wycliffe Wildlife Corridor, Lot 48, Hoodoo-Hofert, The Frog Bear Project and The Big Ranch. 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.

Although valued habitats occur throughout the East and West Kootenays, the valley bottoms have the richest diversity and possess the greatest 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 that conserve and enhance these lands within the East and West Kootenays.

2. Goals and Objectives

The vision of KCP is to have landscapes in the East and West Kootenays that sustain naturally functioning ecosystems that can in turn support economic and social well-being. We envision vibrant communities that demonstrate the principles of environmental stewardship for future generations. This vision relates directly to the Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program's vision of ensuring that fish and wildlife populations thrive in watersheds that are functioning and sustainable.

KCP is a partnership of over 80 conservation, industry, government and agricultural organizations involved in conserving natural areas for Kootenay communities. The KCP partnership coordinates and facilitates acquisitions and stewardship projects on private land. In addition, we work to build the organizational capacity and serve as a network for our partner organizations

KCP aims to achieve the following:

- 1) Increase the effectiveness, collaboration and coordination of private land **securement**;
- 2) Increase the effectiveness and coordination of **stewardship** activities taking place on private lands;
- 3) Build and provide technical, financial and internal **capacity** for KCP and partner organizations to undertake securement and stewardship activities; and,
- 4) Strengthen the **network** of conservation organizations through communications to achieve efficiencies, synergies and ultimately greater effectiveness.

3. Study Area

The KCP Service Area extends across the Kootenays including the RDCK, RDEK, Area A of the CSRD and Areas A and B of the RDKB (Figure 1). KCP also maintains connections with regional, national and international conservation collaborations.

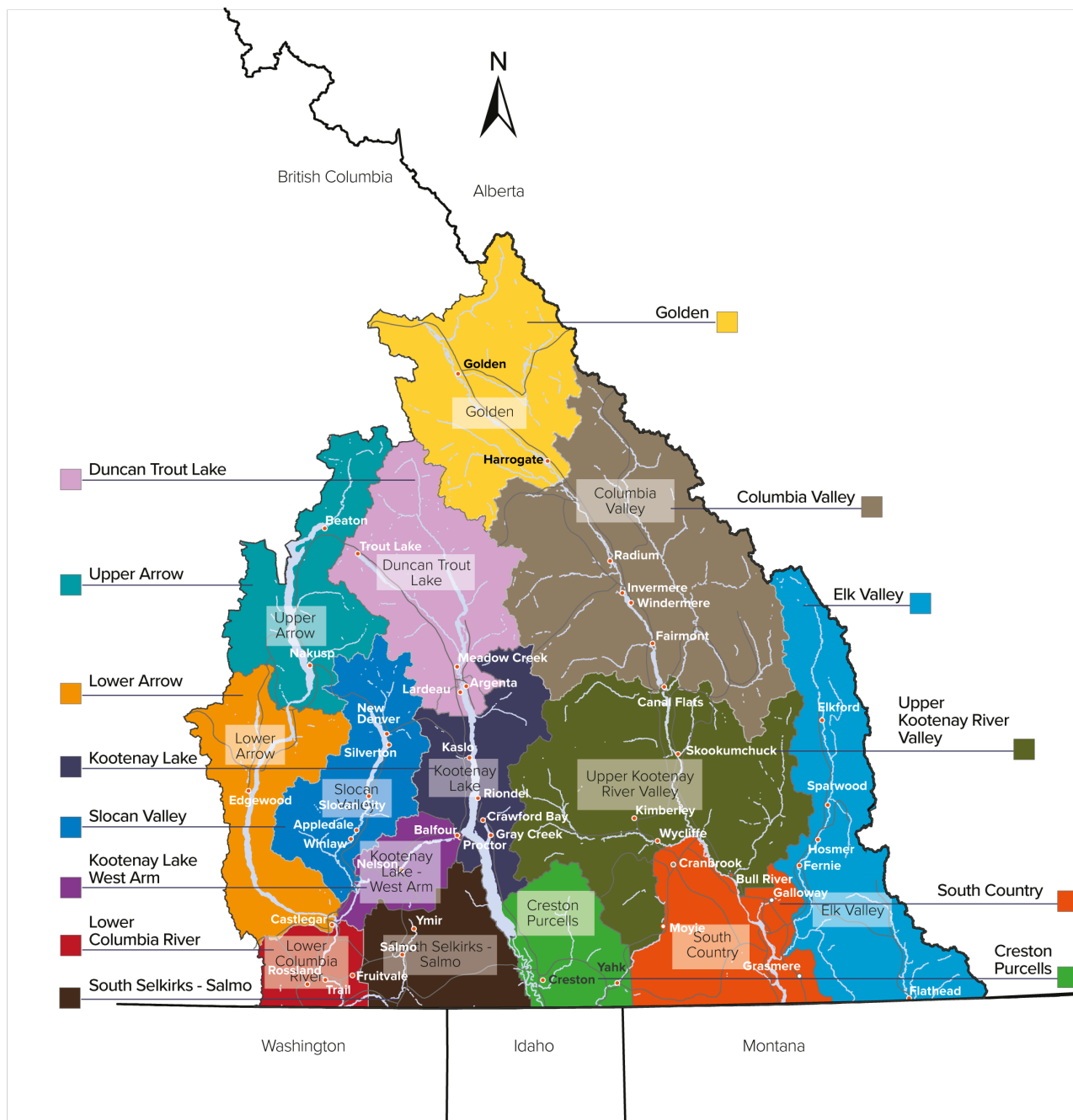


Figure 1: Map of KCP Service Area including the 14 Conservation Neighbourhoods.

4. Methods

Partnership and participation in KCP is open to any organization that aligns with, and signs off on, our Governance and Participation Charter¹. Four KCP committees guide the organization (Figure 2). The Board provides general guidance and strategic oversight of KCP operations, initiatives and priorities. The Securement Committee leads the prioritization process for securement projects and further coordinates communication amongst all of the land trust organizations working in both the East and West Kootenays. Both the East and West Kootenay Stewardship Committees are composed of partner organizations interested in and/or involved in private land stewardship. Collectively, they assist individual partners in engaging communities, landowners, businesses and individuals in voluntary private land stewardship.

¹ In an effort to reduce barriers to KCP participation, First Nations partners are not required to sign off on the KCP Governance and Participation Charter.

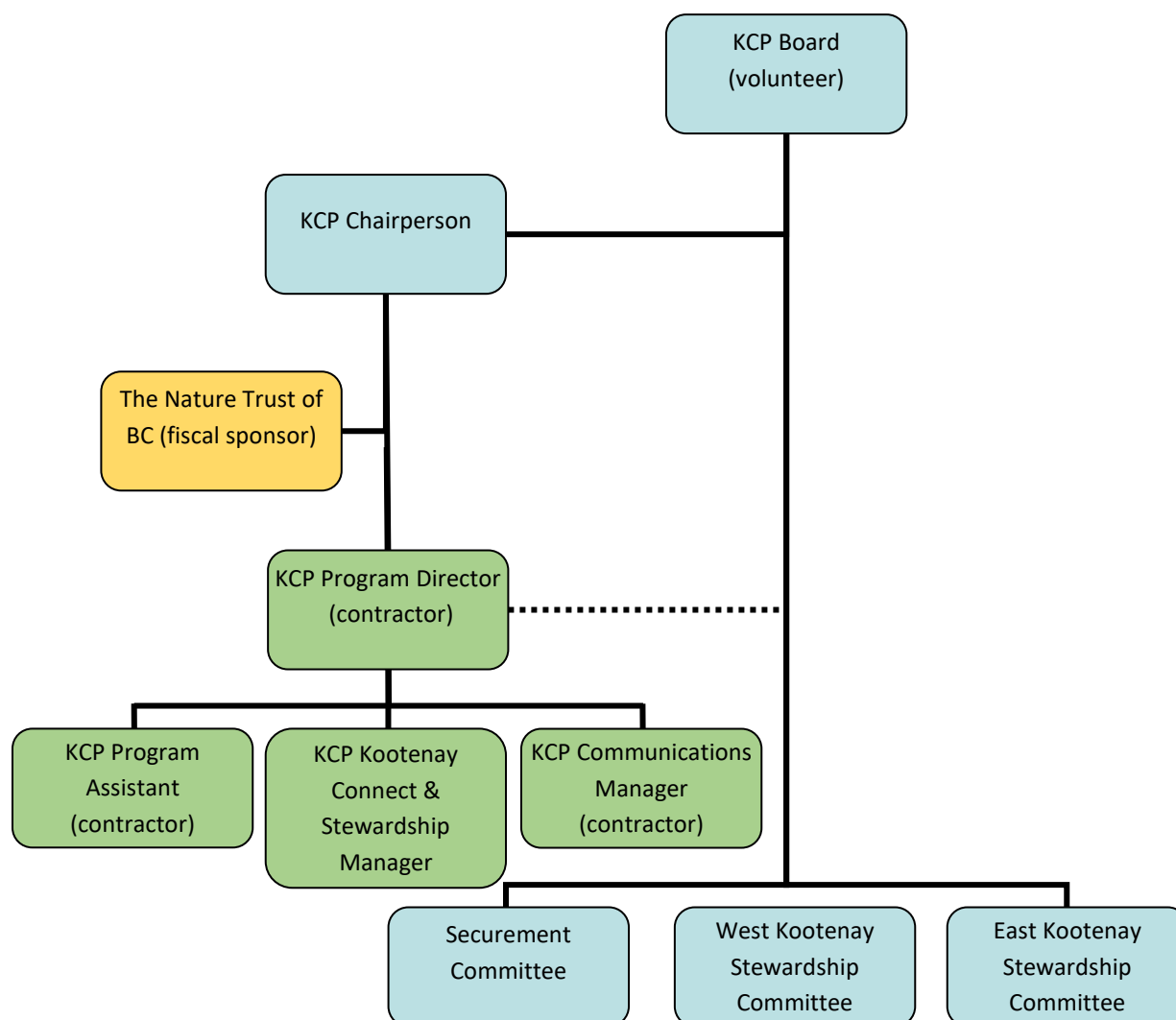


Figure 2: KCP Governance Structure.

KCP committees are supported by four part-time contract positions: Program Director, Kootenay Connect & Stewardship Manager, Communications Manager, and Program Assistant. The role of the Program Director includes organizational development, fundraising, overall program administration, coordination of securement activities, partnership building, increasing capacity building efforts and management of the local conservation funds. The role of the Kootenay Connect and Stewardship Manager is to focus on stewardship activities including setting goals and objectives for both stewardship committees and moving priority stewardship initiatives forward and to manage the Kootenay Connect project. The role of the Communications Manager is to coordinate KCP capacity building and communication functions. The role of the Program Assistant is to support the Program Director in administrative activities,

play a primary role in Local Conservation Fund administration, and support stewardship initiatives. The KCP team this year was comprised of Juliet Craig (Program Director), Marcy Mahr (Stewardship Manager), Nicole Trigg (Communications Manager), and Kendal Benesh (Program Assistant).

5. Results, Outcomes and Discussion

The 2021/22 year continued to be challenging with respect to the restrictions and impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, but KCP was again able to adapt to deliver its full program. Highlights of 2021/22 include:

- ✓ Delivering the third year of the federal Environment and Climate Change Canada Nature Fund “*Kootenay Connect*” conservation and stewardship project in four priority areas in the Kootenays: Creston Valley, Columbia Wetlands, Wycliffe Corridor, and Bonanza Corridor
- ✓ Facilitating a virtual South Country Conservation Action Forum in partnership with Yaqit ʔa·knuqʔi ‘it First Nation
- ✓ Successful hosting of a virtual Fall Gathering featuring Indigenous-lead conservation and restoration projects
- ✓ Ongoing improvement and promotion of the Stewardship Solutions Toolkit for landowner outreach materials
- ✓ Updated the KCP candidate property ranking matrix to reflect current landscape science, climate change and updated BEC zones
- ✓ Continued coordination of land securement amongst land trust organizations in the region with one property acquired through this collaborative approach
- ✓ Hosting our first ever Conservation Ambassador Training series to support peer-based learning for private land and water stewardship
- ✓ Hosting a virtual East and West Kootenay Spring Stewardship Committee meeting and a combined East and West Kootenay Fall Stewardship Committee meeting
- ✓ Hosting a webinar series on the theme of “*Building Restoration & Enhancement Projects that Make a Difference*” in partnership with the Columbia Basin Trust and support from FWCP
- ✓ Administration and delivery of the Columbia Valley Local Conservation Fund (CVLCF) with over \$95,000 being disbursed to eight conservation projects
- ✓ Administration and delivery of the Kootenay Lake Local Conservation Fund (KLLCF) with over \$71,000 awarded to eight local conservation projects

- ✓ Delivered delegations to the RDCK Board of Directors, the Villages of Kaslo, New Denver, and Silverton Major and Council regarding Local Conservation Fund expansion

The following list of activities aligns with the workplan provided to FWCP for the 2021/22 Fiscal Year and with the KCP Strategic Priorities.

5.1 Securement

Securement Committee Coordination

KCP assists with identifying opportunities to secure priority habitats in a number of ways. We coordinate the Securement Committee comprised of The Nature Trust of BC (NTBC), the Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC), the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (MFLNRORD), Ducks Unlimited (DU), the Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program (FWCP), and Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC). This Committee has been extremely successful in ensuring dialogue, coordination, and prioritization of securement properties in the region. In 2021/22, KCP facilitated five Securement Committee meetings. We updated both the East Kootenay and West Kootenay Securement lists and received eight securement referrals from KCP partner organizations, or directly from interested landowners.

Property Evaluations

The KCP also acts as a "one window" approach to land securement. Landowners contact the KCP to discuss securement opportunities for their property. In addition, any funding proposals for securement to the FWCP are reviewed and recommended by the Securement Committee. KCP also plays an important role in providing an independent evaluation of candidate properties for securement based on biological and administrative criteria (e.g., landscape connectivity, Ungulate Winter Range, species and habitats at risk, urgency of acquisition, etc.). The properties are then added to the database to determine their priority/rank in the region. The ranking number is used as part of the evaluation of funders as well as among the Securement Committee to identify securement priorities. In the 2021/22 year, KCP updated our ranking criteria by integrating the latest science of climate change and landscape connectivity, so candidate properties are assessed within a larger ecological context.

The FWCP Restricted Funds support property appraisals and evaluations for securement. These appraisals determine fair market value for a property and are used to guide acquisition costs or the "cost" of a covenant on the property. Funds are also used to evaluate properties to determine their relative rank in the Kootenays so that shared priorities are defined. For the current year, we have completed three property evaluations with restricted FWCP funding and supported three property appraisal reports.

2021/22 Property Acquisitions

Based on the dedication and hard work of local land trusts, one valuable conservation property was acquired this year by the Nature Trust of BC – Hoodoos Columbia Wetlands.

5.2 Stewardship

The KCP continued with its focus on stewardship priorities including: increasing collaboration and coordination between partners, facilitating neighbourhood conservation planning to identify conservation targets and high priority actions, foster a landscape approach to conserve biodiversity, wildlife corridors and ecological connectivity, promoting a coordinated approach to landowner outreach for conservation, and supporting local governments to incorporate and apply conservation principles into local land use planning.

Neighbourhood Conservation Action Forum

In January 2022, KCP hosted its seventh Conservation Action Forum focused on the South Country Conservation Neighbourhood in partnership with Yaq̓it ʔa-knuq̓i 'it First Nation (Tobacco Plains Indian Band). Given the continued health advisories, this Forum was hosted virtually. The Forum was attended by 25 people representing 16 organizations and brought together researchers, land managers, stewardship organizations, government representatives, First Nations, and other partners to identify conservation action priorities for their region. The Forum included speed presentations by researchers focused on key recommendations for conservation in the region. The Forums also included break-out sessions to identify priority actions under themes deemed most relevant and conducive to action by forum participants. More information can be found on the KCP website:

<https://kootenayconservation.ca/conservation-action-forums/>.

KCP is pleased to report that of the 37 Priority Actions identified across the first six KCP Conservation Action Forums (excluding the most recent South Country Forum), 36 were either completed or were actively being pursued as of December 31, 2021 – 97%!

Stewardship Solutions Toolkit

KCP moved forward with our coordinated landowner outreach initiative focused on the Stewardship Solutions Toolkit. The Stewardship Solutions Toolkit serves as a central hub for this information and features Kootenay-based resources for that address stewardship issues on private land. This toolkit is designed for stewardship practitioners, local government planners and other service providers as well as a one-stop shop for private landowners interested in stewardship options for their property. The Stewardship Solution Toolkit can be found on the KCP website: <https://kootenayconservation.ca/stewardship-solutions/>.

Promoting the Stewardship Solutions Toolkit was again hampered in 2021/22 because of the pandemic, but efforts focused on enhancing the online platform with partner organization videos and ensuring all program and partner information were up to date. We provided two presentations on the “Stewardship Solutions Toolkit” to the Regional District of Central Kootenay and the Kootenay Boundary Farm Advisors. KCP completed a thorough review of all Stewardship Solutions and updated both the website information and PDF versions. KCP also supported video development with partner organizations and hosts the videos on our Youtube channel. Partner organizations have appreciated this venue to create digital media to share since face-to-face contact has been limited.

This year, the Stewardship Solutions Toolkit website was accessed by over 867 people over 1,353 sessions, resulting in 3,340 page views.

Conservation Ambassador Training

KCP planned and delivered a Conservation Ambassador Training (CAT) Program in the Spring of 2021 to build and share knowledge of these ‘Stewardship Solutions’ in the Kootenays. Through this virtual learning opportunity, KCP delivered training modules that provided interested individuals or organizations with the key information, messages, and source materials they need to effectively communicate with private landowners on how they can be better stewards for fish, wildlife, and their habitats (<https://kootenayconservation.ca/conservation-ambassador-training/>). The three-part training series included the following topics:

- *Stewarding for Plant and Insect Biodiversity* with Valerie Huff (Native Bee Society of BC) and Brenda Beckwith (Kootenay Native Plant Society)
- *Stewarding for Bird Nesting and Roosting Habitat* with Janice Arndt (Kootenay Bank Swallow Survey) and Verena Shaw (Columbia Valley Swallow Project)
- *Stewarding for Water and Wet Habitats During Climate Change* with Georgia Peck (Living Lakes Canada) and Camille LeBlanc (Friends of Kootenay Lake Stewardship Society)

Participants included representatives from First Nations, stewardship groups, and provincial and local governments. On average, survey respondents were at least somewhat familiar with only 69% of Toolkit services before attending CAT, compared to 82% after attending. Prior to CAT, 69% of survey respondents said they had not referred the Toolkit to landowners as part of their outreach work. After attending CAT, 100% of survey respondents said they will refer the Stewardship Solutions Toolkit as part of their outreach work.

Kootenay Connect

In 2019, KCP was awarded an Environment and Climate Change Canada - Canada Nature Fund grant for Kootenay Connect, a four year project that aims to enhance, restore, and manage

important valley bottom habitats to support the recovery of 31 federally-listed species at risk, such as American Badger, Grizzly Bear, Little Brown Myotis, Western Screech-owl, Lewis's Woodpecker, Williamson's Sapsucker, Bobolink, and Northern Leopard Frog, and 35 species of special concern, such as, Great Blue Heron, Mountain Goat, Western Toad, Kokanee and many others. The goal of Kootenay Connect is to sustain biodiversity across local landscapes by improving habitat connectivity within and between valley bottoms and mountain ranges to sustain exceptional places of biodiversity. This project stems from the report that KCP supported in 2020 (*Kootenay Connect: Riparian Wildlife Corridors for Climate Change*, Proctor and Mahr 2020) that identified a dozen key areas within the Kootenays that are critical for wildlife movement corridors and for conserving vulnerable and at-risk species into the future.

In 2021/22, KCP successfully administered Year 3 of this project. The Canada Nature Fund grant focuses on four priority places: Bonanza Biodiversity Corridor (north of New Denver), Creston Valley, Wycliffe Wildlife Corridor (north of Cranbrook), and the Columbia Valley Wetlands totaling 10,000km². Over 27 KCP Partners including stewardship groups, land trusts, science and technical consultants, and recovery teams are actively working together to enhance and restore habitat for species at risk in these four biodiversity hotspots in the Kootenays. Restoration and enhancement efforts target improving and protecting a broad spectrum of habitat types such as native grasslands, rich wetlands, cottonwood riparian areas, and mature cedar-hemlock forests that support species at risk. The Kootenay Connect project focuses on the important linkage between these habitats that is critical for maintaining healthy functioning ecosystems and biodiversity. This year 23 subprojects were undertaken including a species at risk inventory, wetland community mapping and classification, and hydrologic monitoring of the Columbia Wetlands; northern leopard frog habitat restoration and habitat connectivity assessment in the Creston Valley; invasive plant management, grassland assessment, and species at risk habitat enhancement in Wycliffe Corridor; and riparian and wetland restoration, beaver study, and comprehensive biodiversity inventory and mapping in the Bonanza Corridor. Details on the Kootenay Connect project can be found on the KCP website:

<https://kootenayconservation.ca/kootenay-connect/>.

Support Local Governments to Incorporate Conservation Principles

KCP continues to develop meaningful relationships with elected officials and staff at local government offices in the region. KCP continues to work on three priority areas identified at the Local Government Forum (2019) which includes: voluntary approaches to Stewardship (via Stewardship Solutions), regulatory approaches to stewardship (via Kootenay Connect), and expanding the Local Conservation Fund. Please see these sections of the report for more details.

5.3 Capacity Building and Serving as a Network

KCP Fall Gathering

The KCP annual Fall Gathering & AGM serves as one of the primary opportunities to connect and re-connect KCP partners from across the region. Given the restrictions of the pandemic, we delivered the event remotely this year with a Virtual Fall Gathering and AGM. Over 90 individuals from 65 organizations registered for the 2021 Fall Gathering on the theme of “*Partnerships in Conservation*”. Speakers included Norm Allard with the Yaqan Nukiy (Lower Kootenay Band), Wayne Choquette (independent consultant), Dave DeRosa with the Okanagan Nation Alliance, Job Bisset (independent consultant working with the Shuswap Band), and Emily Pejic with the Society for Ecological Restoration.

Webinar Series

KCP offers a webinar series each year to facilitate sharing of technical resources among partners and others so that local conservation activities consider the best available information and practices. The webinar series in 2022 was hosted by the Kootenay Conservation Program and Columbia Basin Trust with support from the FWCP under the theme of “*Building Restoration & Enhancement Projects that Make a Difference*.” The four-part webinar series included:

- *Ecosystem Restoration Project Plan Development* with Adrian Leslie (Nature Conservancy of Canada)
- *Building Climate Resiliency into your Terrestrial Restoration Project* with Sonja Seher (ᑭᐱᑭᐱ Community), Jessie Grossman (Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Initiative) and Casey McCormack (Idaho Department of Fish and Game)
- *Building Climate Resiliency into your Aquatic Restoration Project* with Julia Shewan (Creston Valley Wildlife Management Area) and Dr. Suzanne Bayley (Columbia Wetlands Stewardship Partners)
- Effectiveness Monitoring for Ecosystem Restoration Projects with Dr. Michael Miller (LGL Limited) and Marc Trudeau (Rocky Mountain Trench Natural Resources Society)

These webinars were recorded and are all available at:

<https://kootenayconservation.ca/winter-webinar-series/>

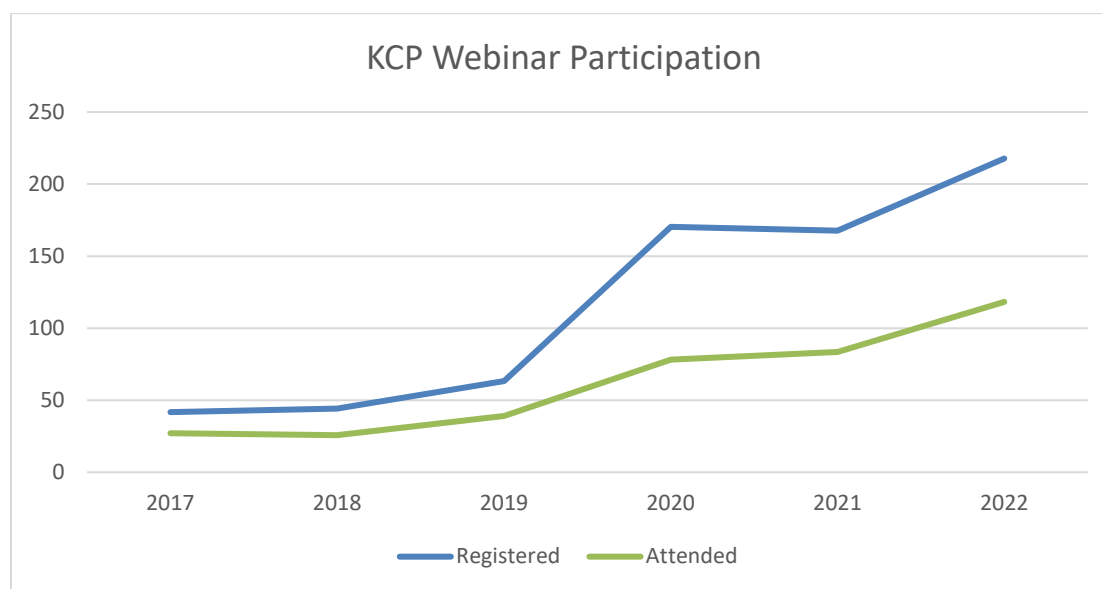


Figure 3: Average number of participants registered and attending KCP Winter Webinar series from 2017 to 2022.

Columbia Valley Local Conservation Fund

In 2008, 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 \$2.5 million in dozens of securement and stewardship projects which address local priorities including ecosystem restoration, invasive species control and lake stewardship. This critical funding has helped leverage almost \$22.5 million in conservation investments in the local area.

In 2021, the CVLCF funding was awarded to eight stewardship projects that together received over \$95,000: riparian area enhancement on farms, water monitoring on Columbia Lake and Lake Windermere, forest restoration, project development for restoration on Windermere Creek, the Columbia Valley Swallow Project, conservation of biodiversity in the Columbia Wetlands and invasive plant control. More information on CVLCF projects can be found here: <https://kootenayconservation.ca/columbia-valley-local-conservation-fund-projects/>.

Kootenay Lake Local Conservation Fund

The Kootenay Lake Local Conservation Fund (KLLCF) was established in 2014, and since then, has invested almost \$470,000 in local securement and stewardship projects and has leveraged nearly \$20,000,000 which includes two securement acquisitions. In 2021, the Kootenay Lake Local Conservation Fund (KLLCF) funding was awarded to eight projects that together received \$71,000 including grizzly bear conflict reduction, ecosystem pollination, toad mortality mitigation, water monitoring, wetland restoration, beaver habitat restoration, bat

conservation, and land securement at Cottonwood Lake. More information on KLLCF projects can be found here: <https://kootenayconservation.ca/kootenay-lake-local-conservation-fund-projects/>.

Local Conservation Fund Expansion

Since the establishment of the CVLCF and KLLCF, two more Local Conservation Funds have been established in BC in the Okanagan region and the concept continues to spread. Local governments are recognizing the opportunity not only to invest in locally important conservation and community sustainability projects, but also leverage additional funding for these priorities in their communities. KCP began meeting with local government elected officials, staff, and community groups to share market research results from 2018 which indicated constituent support for expanding the Local Conservation Funds to other service areas in the Kootenays.

The plan for 2020 was to continue delegations to local governments about the potential of expanding the Local Conservation Fund service. However, due to the pandemic, the political climate for actively promoting LCF expansion was not suitable. Instead, efforts were placed on raising awareness about the current LCFs and their success.

Expansion efforts were reinitiated in 2021/22, and KCP provided delegations to the RDCK Board of Directors, the Villages of Kaslo, New Denver and Silvertown Mayor and Council. As of spring 2022, RDCK Electoral Areas F and H are planning on going to referendum and Electoral Areas C and G are planning on moving forward with the Alternative Approval Process. If the public assent process passes, there is the potential for these four new electoral areas to join the Kootenay Lake Local Conservation Fund service. Once new electoral areas join this service, it will be an exciting achievement and bring further financial capacity to local conservation organizations.

5.4 Serving as a Network

Network News

KCP continued to maintain and optimize our website and monthly newsletter: the KCP eNews. Our eNews, which underwent a major redesign in late 2020, is now distributed to over 1,300 recipients across the region. Our monthly Faces & Places feature continues to have high uptake and offers the opportunity for KCP Partners to showcase their current projects and innovations — not only in our eNews, but on our website and Facebook page as well as in local news outlets that receive “Faces & Places” as a KCP media release. The KCP Facebook page, which has grown from last year to over 860 followers (up from 565, a 53% increase in the last year), is an effective channel for promoting KCP partners’ events and initiatives to a Kootenay-wide online audience.

Celebrating Conservation Leadership

KCP awarded the annual Conservation Leadership Award as part of our annual Fall Gathering and AGM. This award showcases some of the outstanding work being done in conservation in our region. The recipients of the 2021 Conservation Leadership Award were Valerie Huff and Richard Hoar. For more information on their outstanding work, see the KCP website:

<https://kootenayconservation.ca/leadership-awards/>.

6. Recommendations

KCP plays an important and valuable role in the coordination and facilitation of private land conservation. Recommendations for 2022/23 include:

- 1) Continue both base and restricted funding for KCP's activities;
- 2) Continue to apply the Conservation Action Forum model to other areas of the region;
- 3) Continue to develop a coordinated approach to landowner outreach in the region;
- 4) Continue to build focus on ecosystem connectivity;
- 5) Continue to support Local Conservation Fund expansion; and,
- 6) Continue to engage existing and potential partners.

7. Acknowledgements

Kootenay Conservation Program would like to acknowledge the support of the following organizations in the successful delivery of the 2021/22 Work Plan.

- Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program on behalf of its program partners BC Hydro, the Province of B.C., Fisheries and Oceans Canada, First Nations and public stakeholders
- Columbia Basin Trust
- Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation
- Environment and Climate Change Canada
- Regional District of East Kootenay
- Regional District of Central Kootenay
- Nature Conservancy of Canada
- The Nature Trust of British Columbia
- Parks Canada

8. Confirmation of FWCP Recognition

FWCP's support continues to be recognized in a number of ways (Figures 4 and 5), including:

- 1) As a feature supporter on KCP's website: www.kootenayconservation.ca
- 2) In our brochures and on our display stand
- 3) In our Annual Report
- 4) On our 'Supporters' slide for presentations



Figure 4: FWCP logo featured on the posters for the South Country Conservation Action Forum (left), Conservation Ambassador Training (middle), and annual Fall Gathering (right).



Figure 5: FWCP logo featured on the back of Partner Profiles booklet (top left), public presentations (top right), and KCP website (bottom).