



# Sustainable Funding for Watershed Health: Governance and NonProfits

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# Watershed stewardship requires networked and partnered effort in decision-making and funding

- Watershed stewardship requires significant investment in a public, or common good
- Given the regulatory failures of the last two decades, and the increasing conflicts and pressures on watersheds, we need to seek innovative frameworks that bring new partners and allow new forms of collaboration to the task of watershed stewardship.
- Watershed stewardship and water protection agendas can be – and are being – combined with quality of life, utility and infrastructure, and public health and safety
- These value-based partnerships can support the kind of investment and effort that are required to secure healthy and sufficient water for all purposes



# Outline


- Public goods: disinvestment and underinvestment, and lack of faith in government involvement
- Environmental protection: are we getting enough?
- The importance of the nonprofit sector in representing non-cash values
- Sustainable funding and non-profit stewardship groups: policy and the third sector
- What is sustainable funding?
  - watershed restoration
  - watershed function

# Watersheds and their functions are typically treated as a public good

- Public good: a good 'owned by everyone' where if any one individual gains unequal benefit or suffers unequal harm, there is no recourse


Who pays?	How much?	Benefit of stewardship
Public (province)	Reducing \$\$	Small and/or not attributed to watershed
Resource sector	Significant	Low, past shareholder horizon
Community watershed	Varies	High, human health and safety
Local government	Increasing \$\$	High, tax base, revenues
Downstream resident	Typically very little	Diffuse, value-dependent, location-dependent





# Public investments in watershed stewardship

- Water is regulated
  - As a resource (drinking water, hydroelectric water)
  - As a pollution sink (effluent limits to streams)
  - In some cases as an environmental value
    - Water Sustainability Act will set criteria, protect habitats
- BUT most regulatory protections reduced or abandoned & not yet restored
  - Federal protected waters, federal fisheries enforcement
  - Provincial monitoring reductions
  - BC provincial regulatory approach that requires management by objective not fully implemented
- Direct public investments in water regulation are reduced




# Watershed Stewardship: are we getting enough?

- Economists do not typically like public goods, because they do not promote 'socially efficient' decision making
  - Under-investment in watershed stewardship
  - Over-investment in ways to privately capture the otherwise 'public' good
    - Over investment in resource development
    - Some of costs of development eg to watersheds or water quality are borne by public not developer
- We lack ways to **choose** to protect watersheds through 'a market'



# Watershed health

- Freshwater quality, quantity and ecological health are not being sustained
- Indicators:
  - Fish health and abundance lower over time
  - Nutrient and pollution levels higher over time
  - Hydroelectric development impacts ... some unmeasured, but the associated impacts continue to worsen as reductions to biodiversity take place




# Watershed Stewardship Policy and NonProfits

- Public sector investments are reduced
- Private sector cost pressure is downward
- Public/private resource development partnerships are well established
- Third sector, or nonprofits
  - Identify water stewardship priorities
  - Advocate for public support for investments and stewardship
  - Offer a lower cost stewardship alternative to private or public sector stewardship
- Create a 'choice' – via market, donation, or other mechanism, through which we can invest in watersheds



# How are non-profit groups funded ?

- Donations (individual, social values)
  - Grants
    - Government (through traditional policy)
    - Private foundations (informal governance)
    - Industry sector groups (informal governance)
  - Fee for service / social enterprise
  - How do non-profit groups develop and maintain sustainable and secure funding to address long term monitoring, restoration projects, and achieve goals?
- 



# Grant funded organizations

- The granting process is where nonprofits interact with formal and informal governance ... where priorities are set by others
- Issues and pitfalls:
- Grant funding: priorities of granting organizations, may not be same as local priorities
- Seldom fund projects of more than 1 year duration
- High demand / high levels of competition
- Grantors may seek to distribute funds over a region more than reach performance goals
- Increasingly, need more than one grant at a time



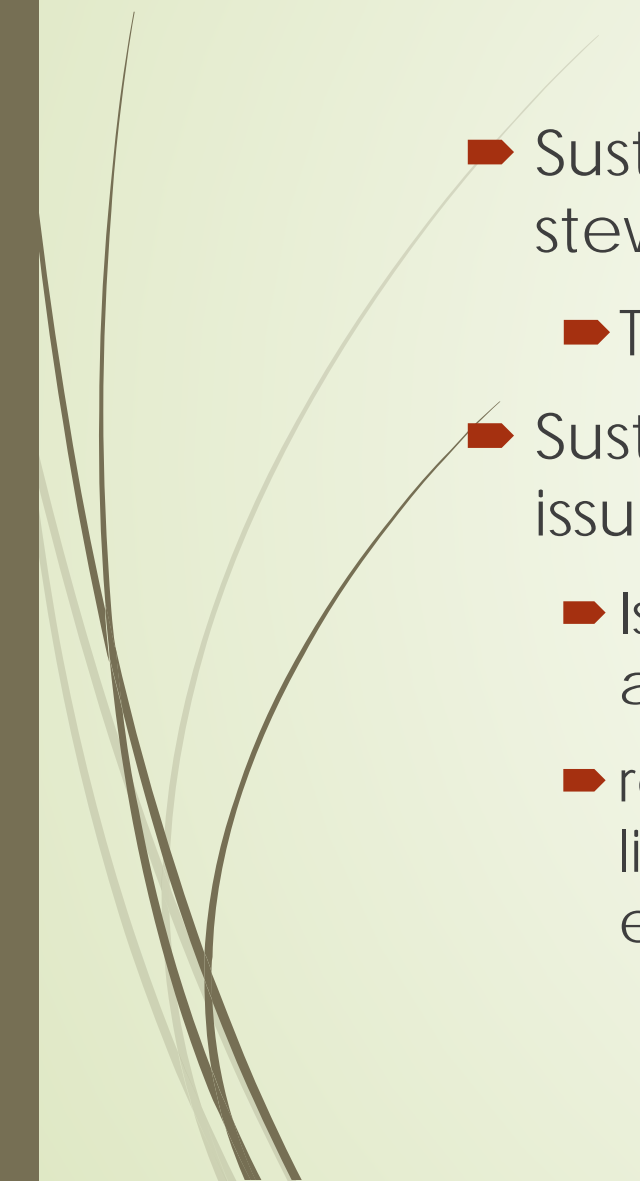


# What funding is needed for good watershed stewardship?

- Watershed assessment, values identification, 'mapping' - involvement
- Identifying conflicts between proposed values and or uses - involvement
- Research necessary in risk, mitigation, support for biodiversity
- Set **priorities** and gain agreement with all parties and partners
- Invest in restoration, source protection, use mitigations, and/or
- Fund watershed reserves where necessary

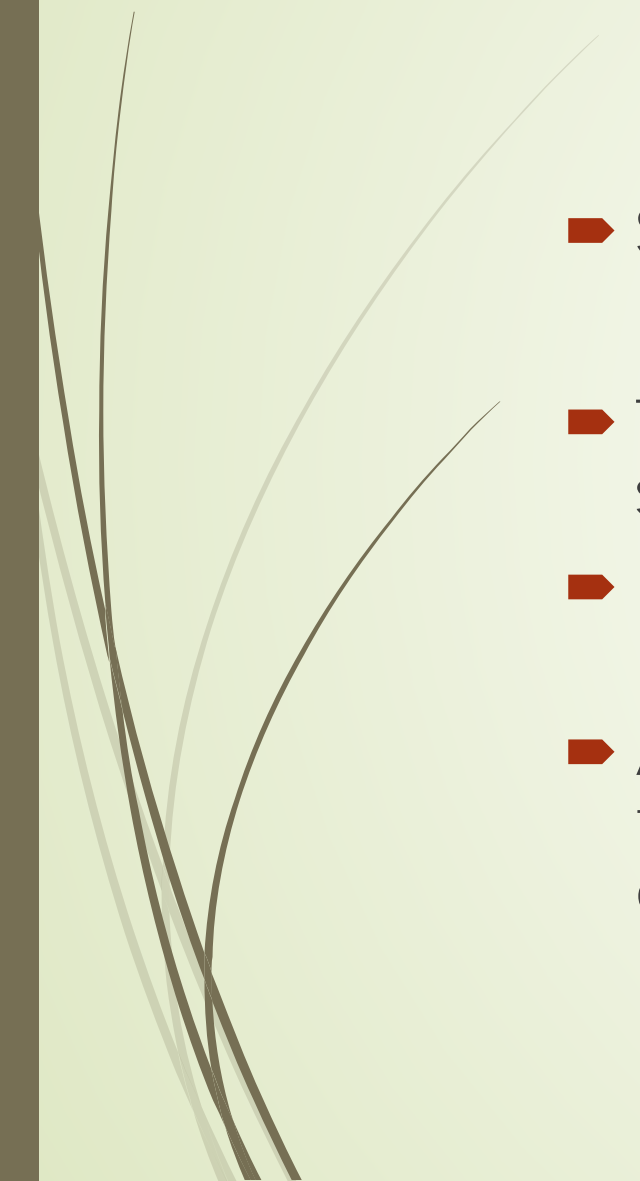


# Defining 'sustainable funding'


- Sustainable funding would support the goals of watershed stewardship over a time frame that reflected goals
    - Ten year minimum investment (Reeve, 2005)
  - Sustainable funding would be investment in watershed issues at a level that
    - Is adequate to ensure that the quality, quantity, flow of water and health of watersheds does not degrade over time
    - reflects the value and contribution of watersheds to quality of life, human health and safety, and property value and the environment
- 



# Example: Donations for conservation

- Solicit donations to fund protection and conservation
  - Typically works best for 'charismatic' environments and species with aesthetic or cultural appeal
  - Examples include Jumbo, Valhalla Wilderness, Great Bear Rainforest
  - An organization provides a way for a contributor to pay to express their preference for protection or conservation
- 

	Value	Who shares this value?	Market for value	Mechanism: How do groups get \$\$
	Protection / aesthetic / spiritual	Environmentalists'	Donation opportunity to share in advocacy	Grants, volunteer
	Water quality / aquatic health	Drinkers, fisherfolk, scientists	Volunteer opportunity, donation, engagement	Grants, volunteer
	Quality of life	Residents	Vote for tax	Grants
	Drinking water	Water users	Lower treatment cost, protect quality & property value	Tax/fee, contract, service grant
	Fish and wildlife	Hunters, fisherfolk, people that like biodiversity	Fish and wildlife user fees, volunteer, licenses	Fish and wildlife grants
	Safety from flood / fire	Citizens/ Improvement District / Local or Provincial Government / Insurers	Health and safety, property value, lower insurance cost (avoided costs)	Tax or toll, agreement
	Recreational use	Ecotourism, Chambers of Commerce, accomms	Higher value experience	User fee, tax or toll, contribution or tip



# New approaches to funding watershed stewardship

- 1. **Utilities** are paying for forestry/grazing best practices in upstream watersheds to lower costs in drinking water, water treatment and flood control
- 2. **Local governments**
  - 'green infrastructure' investments in forests, riparian areas, wetlands to slow runoff, clean water, and even treat water
    - Sometimes called ecosystem services
  - 'eco-asset' accounting for natural capital role in producing 'income' for quality of life, economic development, and property values
- 4. **Stewardship groups** are organizing 'payments for ecosystem services' between donors or beneficiaries of conservation program
- 5. **Private corporations** are partnering with foundations to purchase 'water offsets' to protect and restore watersheds



# Future directions

- Practical examples in watershed partnering
  - Working with local governments as partners, contractors, and on values engagement
  - Grantor to non-profit relationship building
  - Reduce organizational cost of granting
- 
- Create high quality, high trust and low cost opportunities to bring more dollars on shared interests





“Creating Sustainable Funding for Ecosystems  
and Watersheds” Webinar  
Nov. 2017

# Local Conservation Fund: A Unique Partnership in Canadian Conservation

**Juliet Craig**  
Program Manager,  
Kootenay Conservation  
Program

Photo: Dr. James Thorsell

# Introduction

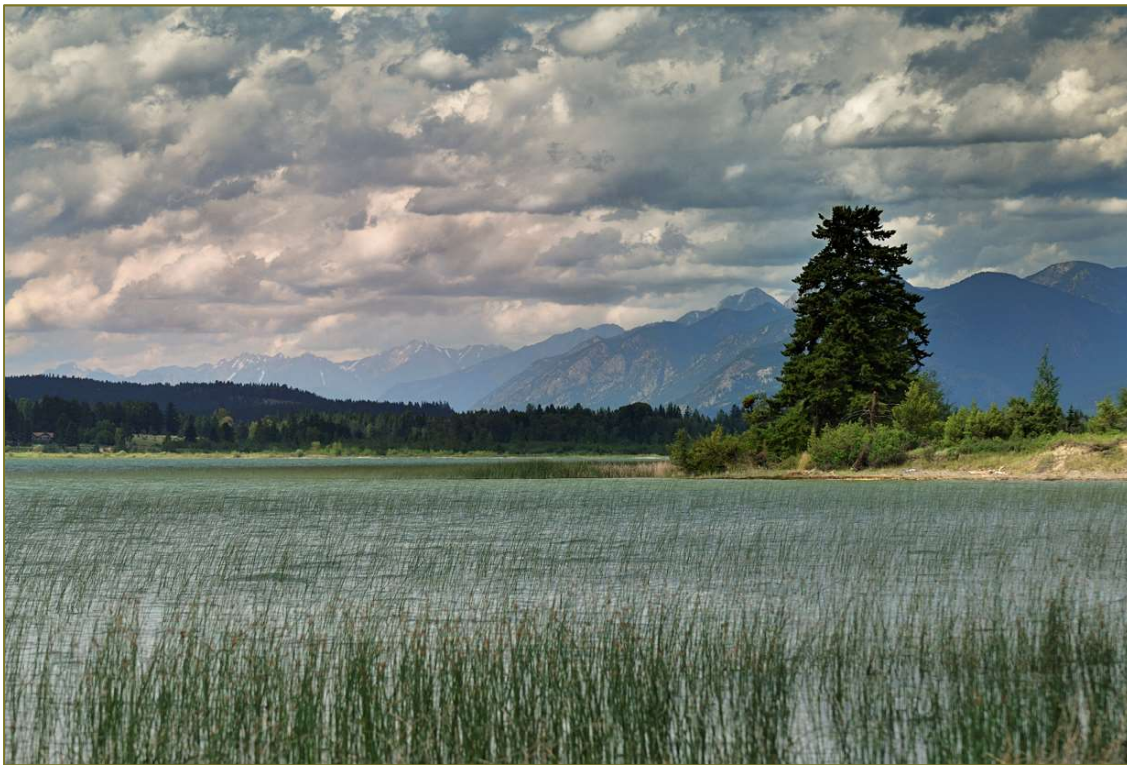


Photo: Nature Conservancy  
of Canada

- What is Local Conservation Fund?
- Why and how was it established?
- How does it work?
- What has been accomplished
- Model for other regions





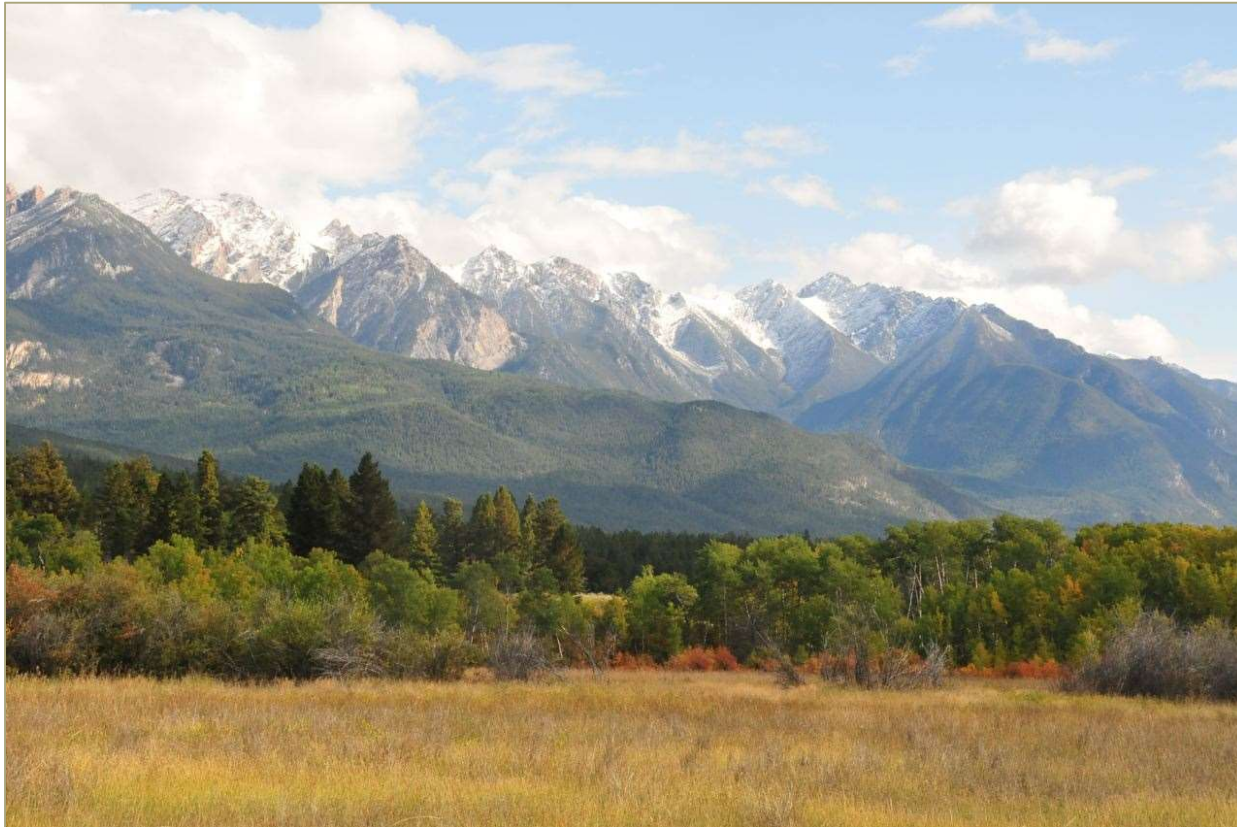
# What is Local Conservation Fund?



Photo: Lyle



## Why established?



✓ Value quality of life

Photo: Larry Halverson



## Why established?



- ✓ Important habitats like dry forests, grasslands, and riparian ecosystems
- ✓ 6.7 % of Kootenays is private land
- ✓ Private land contains this % of the BCG in the Kootenays:
  - ✓ 24% dry moist Interior Douglas Fir
  - ✓ 25% dry hot Ponderosa Pine







THE FROG BEAR CONSERVATION CORRIDOR

Welcome to a place of safe passage.



Map: Michael Proctor and Nature Conservancy Canada

## Species at Risk on Private Land Conservation



- ✓ 6.7 % of Kootenays is private land
- ✓ SAR occurrences on private land\*:
  - ✓ Central Kootenay >71%
  - ✓ East Kootenay > 89%

Photo: Internet

\* From Ministry of Environment report in prep  
(based on 2015 data)





*Conserving natural areas for Kootenay communities*

# Why established?



*To **coordinate and facilitate** conservation efforts on private land, and to **generate the support and resources** needed to maintain this effort*



# Needs for Private Land Conservation



Photo: Richard Klafki





# How established?





## Feasibility Assessment

- Is it Realistic?
- Is it Acceptable?
- Is it Possible?
- Do you have the commitment of partners and collaborators?

## Step #1 Feasibility Research







## Step #2 Public Opinion Polling

### How to assess your most valuable assets:

- Quantitative Research – Telephone Polling
- Qualitative Research – Focus Groups
- Local Values and Priorities are Critical to success





## Who is best positioned to be the proponent?

- Who needs to be involved?
- What do you want your partners to do?
- Who are your allies and opponents?

## Step #3 Coalition Building





## Step #4 Public support

### Referendum or Alternate Approval process

- Working with Local Government – the roles of Board and Staff
- Timing







## Step #5 The Campaign

- Public Opinion Leaders
- Campaign Cabinet – Engaging Volunteers
- The Message – What do you want people to support
- Elected Officials
- Voter Contact







# Columbia Valley Local Conservation Fund



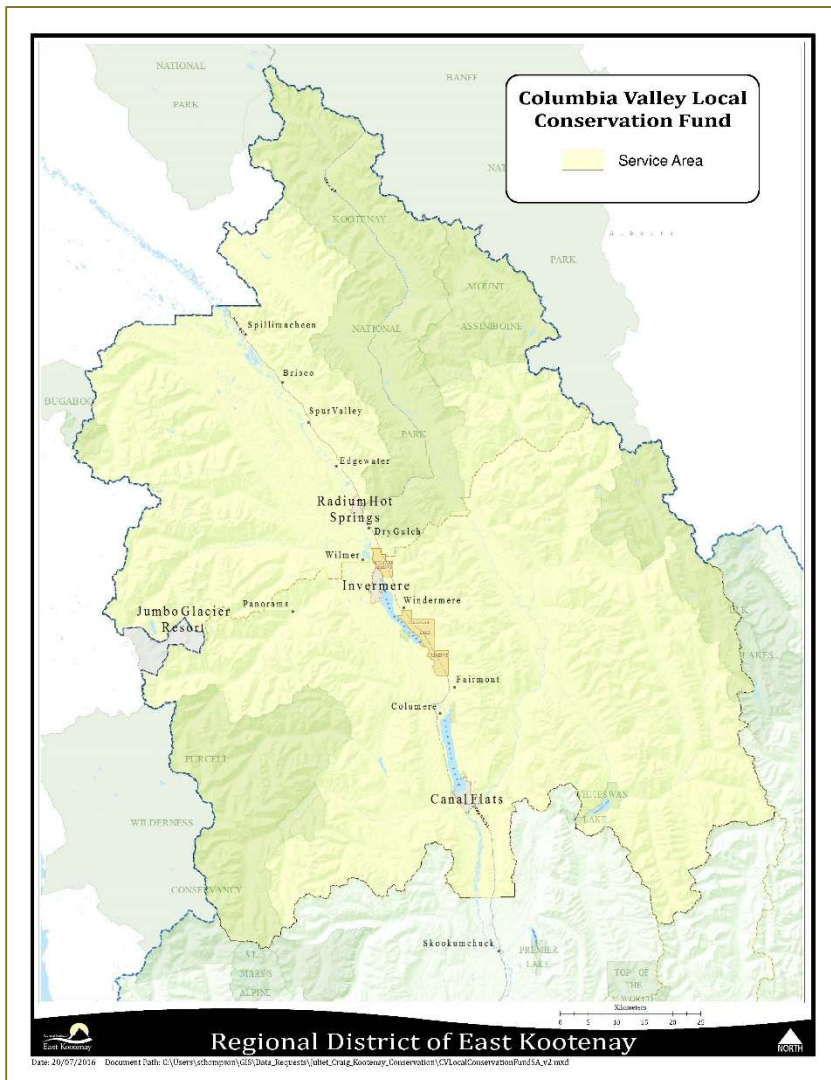
On November 15<sup>th</sup> 2008

**VOTE YES**  
to the  
**LOCAL  
CONSERVATION  
FUND**

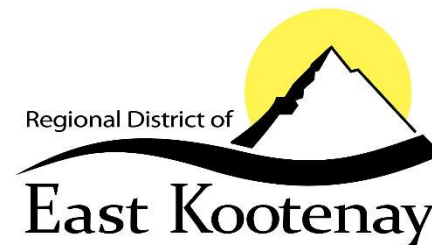




# Columbia Valley Local Conservation Fund



- Columbia Valley (RDEK)
  - Electoral Areas F & G
  - Invermere, Radium Hot Springs, Canal Flats
  - \$20/parcel/year
  - ~ \$230,000 available for allocation

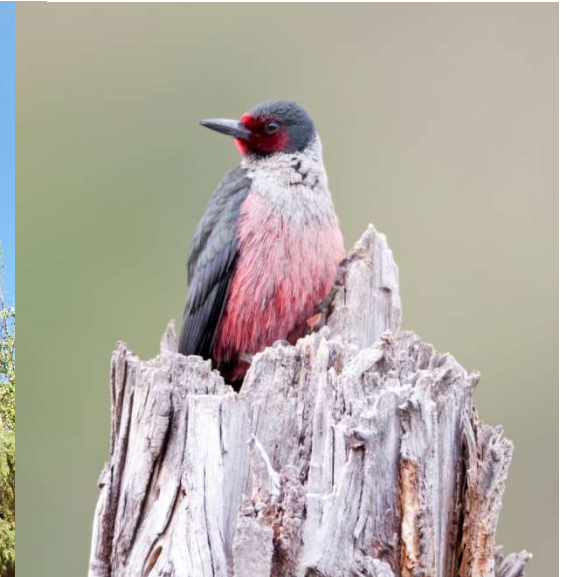






- Protection of our quality of life
- Conservation & restoration of fish and wildlife habitat
- Conservation of watersheds
- Conservation of open space & farm land
- **Based on Local Values and Priorities!**

# Local Conservation Fund Themes







# Kootenay Lake Local Conservation Fund

Vote **YES** to clean water, wildlife & open space

We live in one of the most amazing places on earth. Want to help keep it that way? Then simply vote **YES** to the Kootenay Lake Local Conservation Fund on November 15.

kootenay lake local conservation fund

vote **YES**

©2014 STEVE SHORT

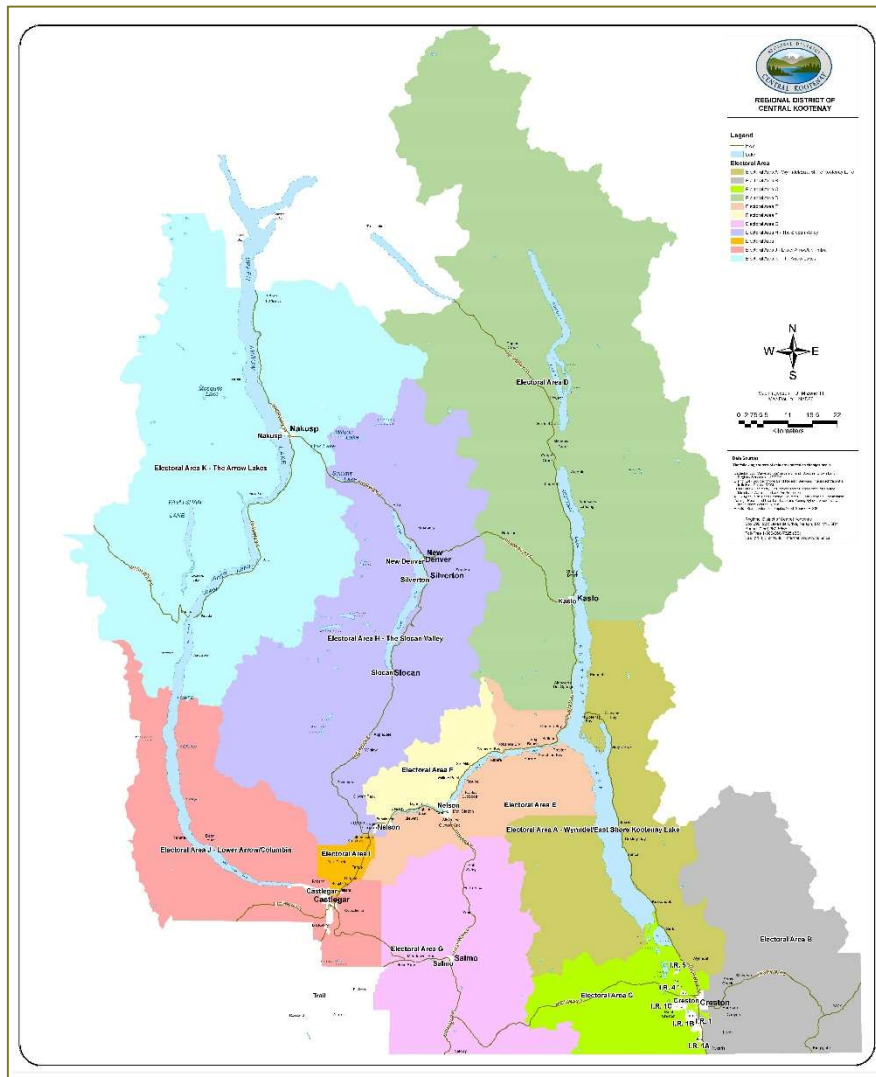


November 15, 2014





# Kootenay Lake Local Conservation Fund

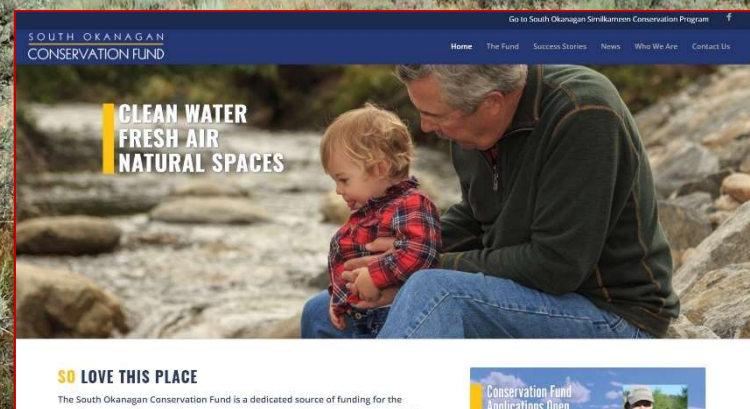
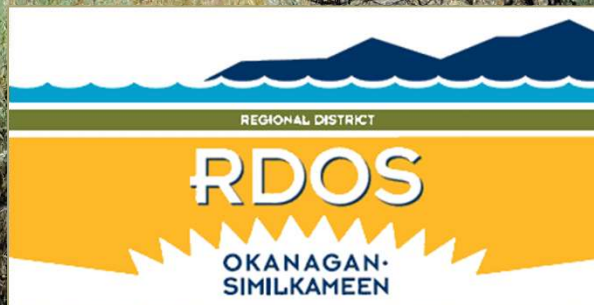


- Kootenay Lake (RDCK)
  - Electoral Areas A, D & E
  - \$15/parcel/year
  - ~ \$130,000 available for allocation





# South Okanagan Conservation Fund







# Innovative Leadership

“demonstrate **innovation, leadership and collaboration** in sustainable land use in BC”

Real Estate Foundation of BC



Photo: Larry Halverson

## REGIONAL DISTRICT OF EAST KOOTENAY BYLAW NO. 2083

### A bylaw to establish a Local Conservation Fund Service

WHEREAS the Board of the Regional District of East Kootenay wishes to establish a service for the purpose of establishing a Local Conservation Fund in the Columbia Valley by collecting up to \$20 per parcel of land annually

1. This Bylaw may be cited as “Regional District of East Kootenay – Local Conservation Fund Service Bylaw No. 2083, 2008
2. The Regional Board hereby establishes a service for the purpose of establishing a Local Conservation Fund in the Columbia Valley.

**9. This bylaw shall expire on December 31, 2018**





# How LCF functions

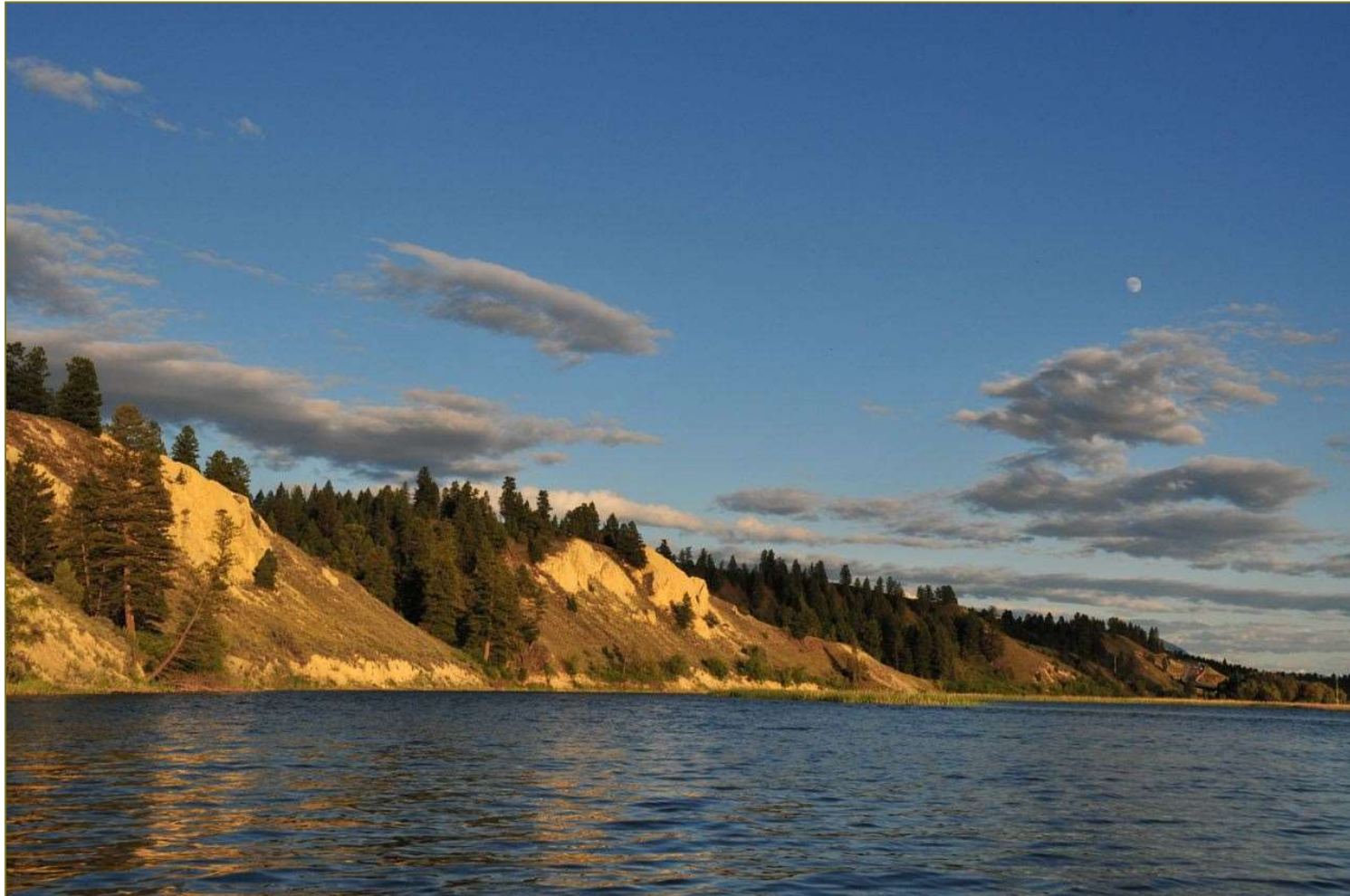


Photo: Larry Halverson



# How LCF functions (KCP's role)







# Local Conservation Fund Administration



## Kootenay Lake Local Conservation Fund Request for Proposals

The Kootenay Conservation Program (KCP) and Regional District of Central Kootenay (RDCK) are seeking proposals for projects that will benefit conservation in the rural areas around Kootenay Lake, specifically electoral areas A, D, and E within the RDCK.

The purpose of the Fund is to provide local financial support for important projects that will contribute to the conservation of our valuable natural areas. Kootenay Lake Local Conservation Fund (KLLCF) funding is available for conservation projects that result in the reduction to a known threat to biodiversity. The themes for the Fund are water conservation, wildlife and habitat conservation, and open space conservation.

Projects that are technically sound and effective, and provide value for money through partnerships with other funders will be given priority. Proponents must be a registered not-for-profit organization, First Nations band or local government. Unqualified groups or organizations may partner with a qualified organization. A Technical Review Committee will review project proposals and make recommendations to the RDCK for final funding approval.

To apply for funding, go to [www.kootenayconservation.ca](http://www.kootenayconservation.ca) and click on the Kootenay Lake Local Conservation Fund tab. Review the Terms of Reference, paying particular attention to Section 8 – Fund Design and then apply using the application form provided.

The closing date for project submissions is 4:30 pm PDT October 31, 2016.

Project proposals must be delivered by email to [info@kootenayconservation.ca](mailto:info@kootenayconservation.ca).







# Local Conservation Fund Media





What has been  
accomplished?



Photo: Dave Hillary

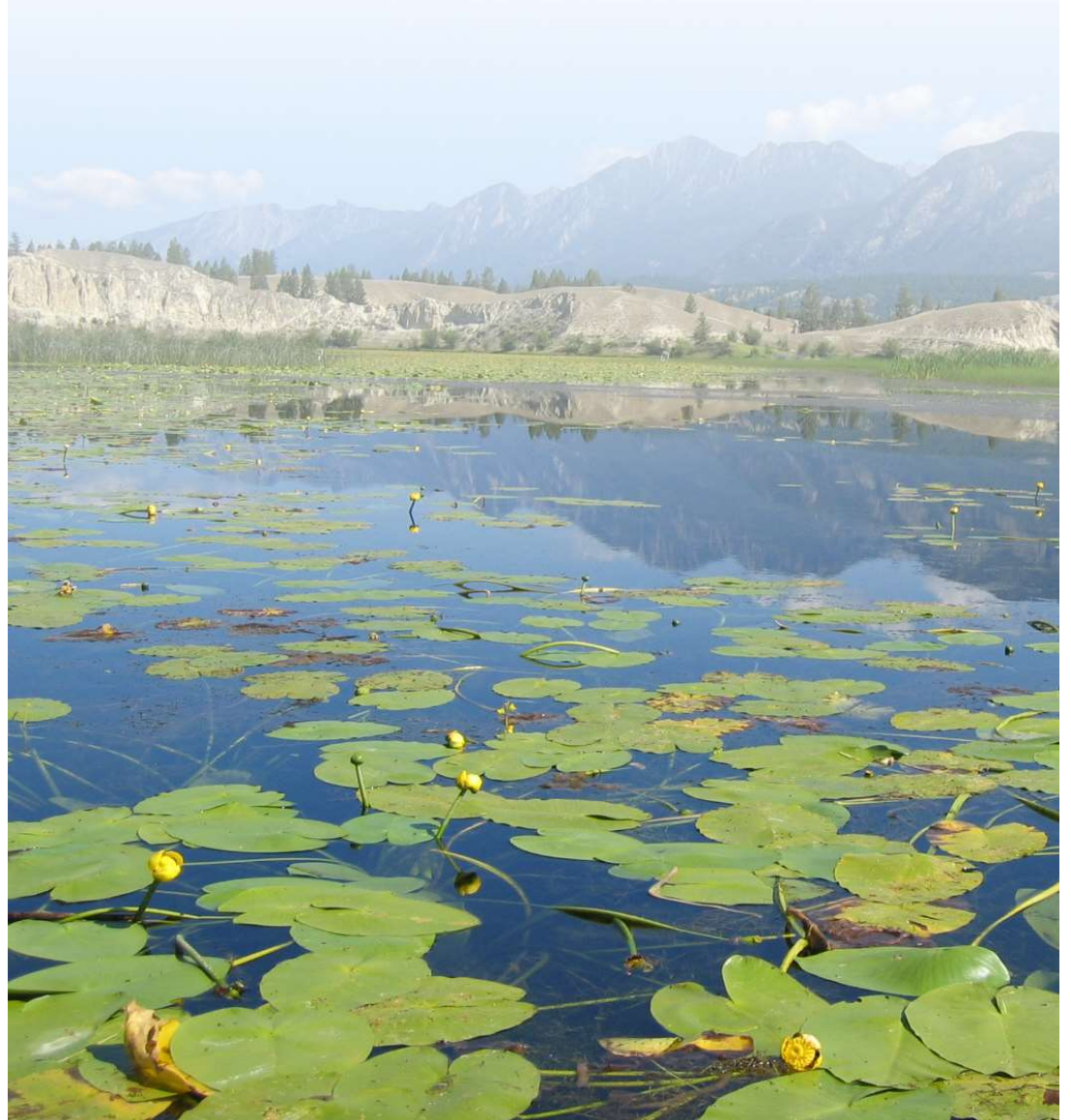




# Columbia Valley Local Conservation Fund

- 9-year Granting History
- 60 Projects Supported between 2010-2017
- Over \$1,600,000 pledged or granted by RDEK
- Wide Diversity of Projects and Initiatives Supported

Photo: Jim Thorsell







- 2-year Granting History
- 10 Projects Supported between 2016-2017
- Over \$108,000 granted by RDCK

Photo: Pat Morrow

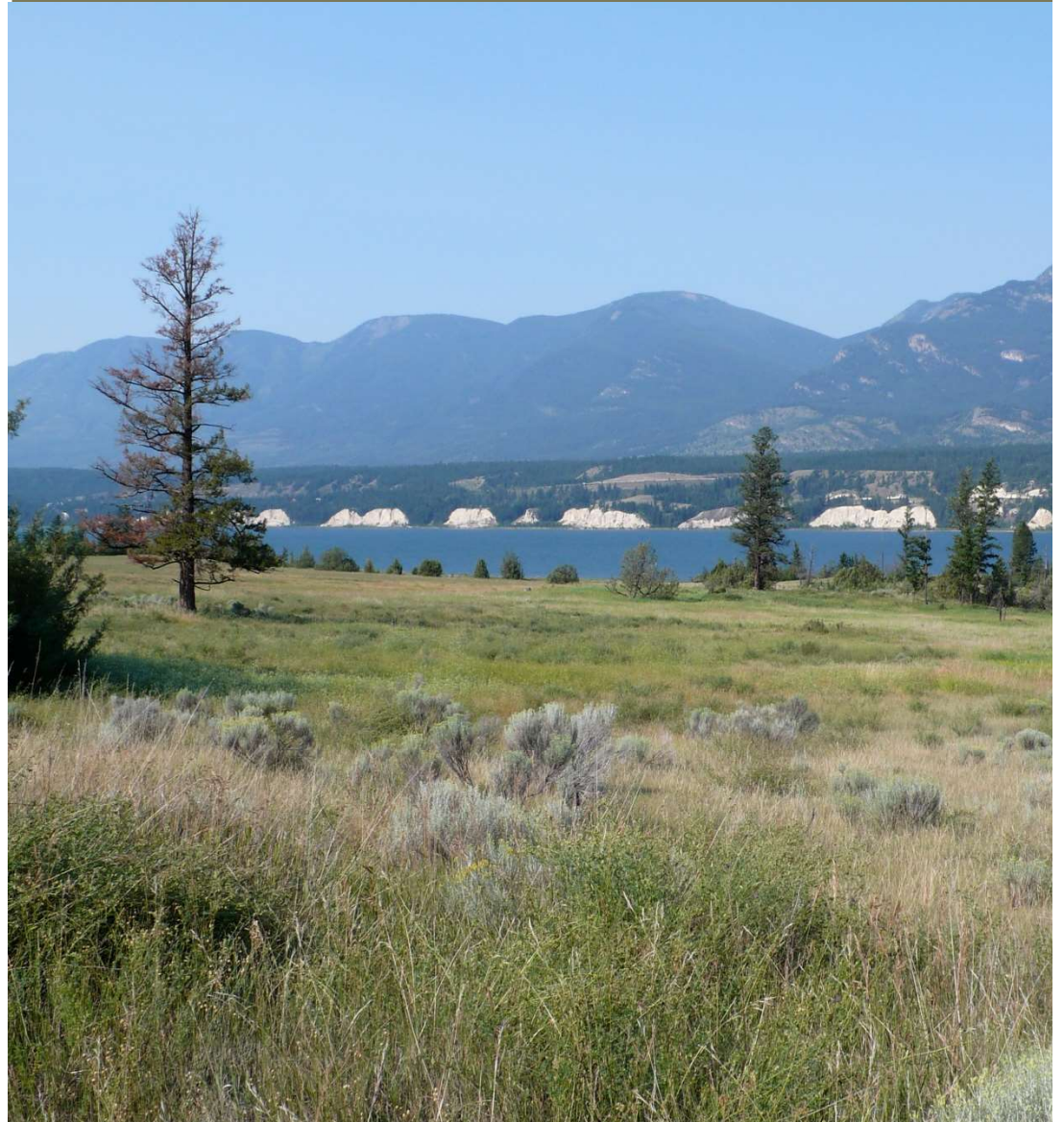
# Kootenay Lake Local Conservation Fund





- Nature Conservancy Canada and The Nature Trust of BC
- Acquiring properties fee simple for conservation or covenants

# Property Acquisition







# Ecosystem Restoration

- Grassland/Open Forest Restoration
- Urban/Wildland Interface Protection







# Habitat Restoration

- Lake Windermere Rod and Gun Club
- Stream restoration for fish habitat



Photo: Ben Mitchell-Banks



# Wetland stewardship



- Wildsight Invermere
- Boardwalk over wetland



Photo: Pat Morrow (top); KCP (right)





# Species at Risk stewardship

- Northern Leopard Frogs;  
Bats; Grizzly Bears; Western  
Toads; Osprey



Photos: Jakob Dulisse; Penny Ohanjanian

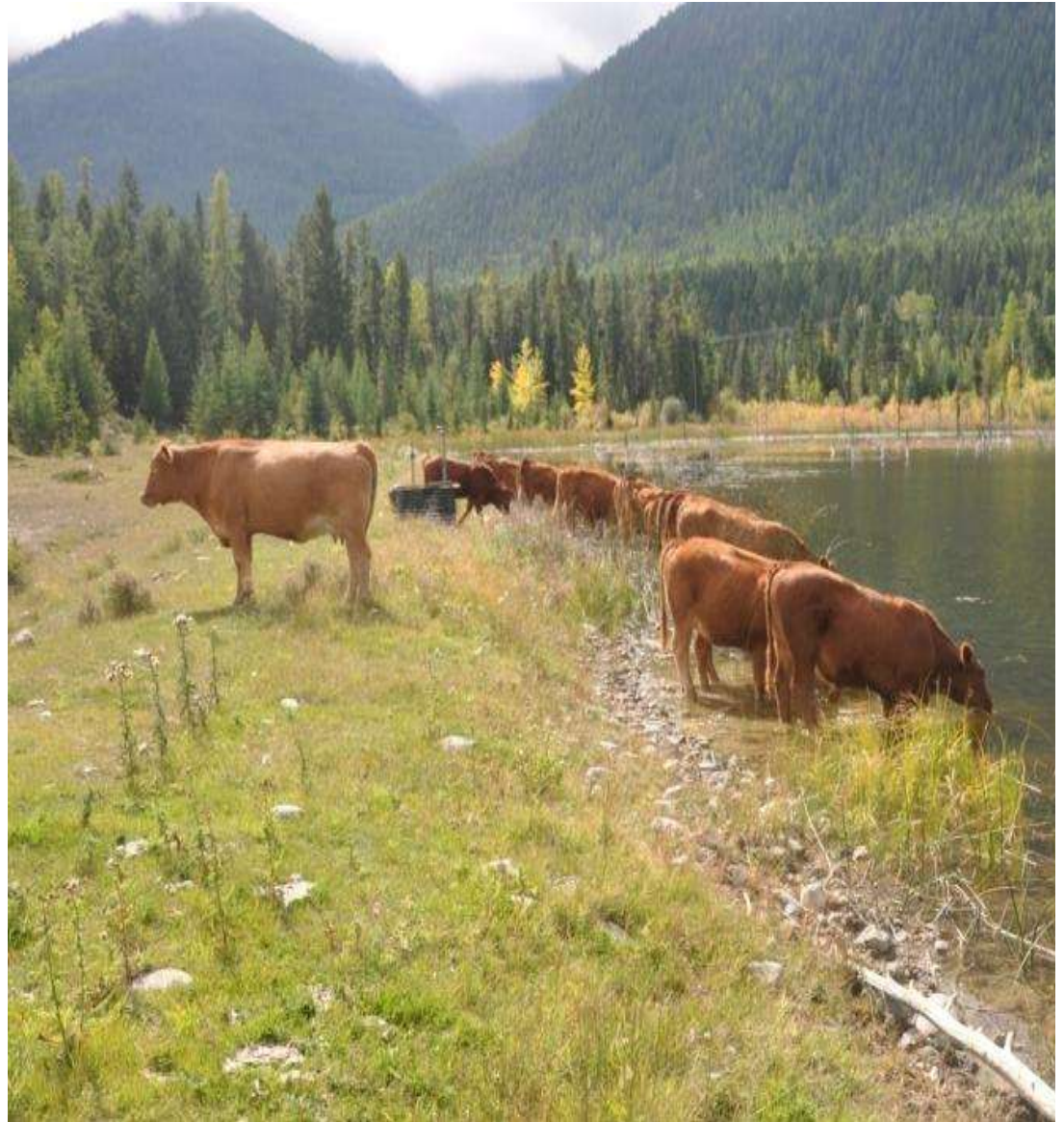




# Ecological Goods and Services Project

- Windermere and District Farmers Institute
- Pilot Project – Provincial Expansion
- Change In Management Practices
- Payment For Services

Photo: Dave Zehnder







- Control of high priority invasive species
- Neighbourhood Invasive Plant Program (NIPP)
- Protect range, agriculture and ecosystems

# Invasive Plant Management

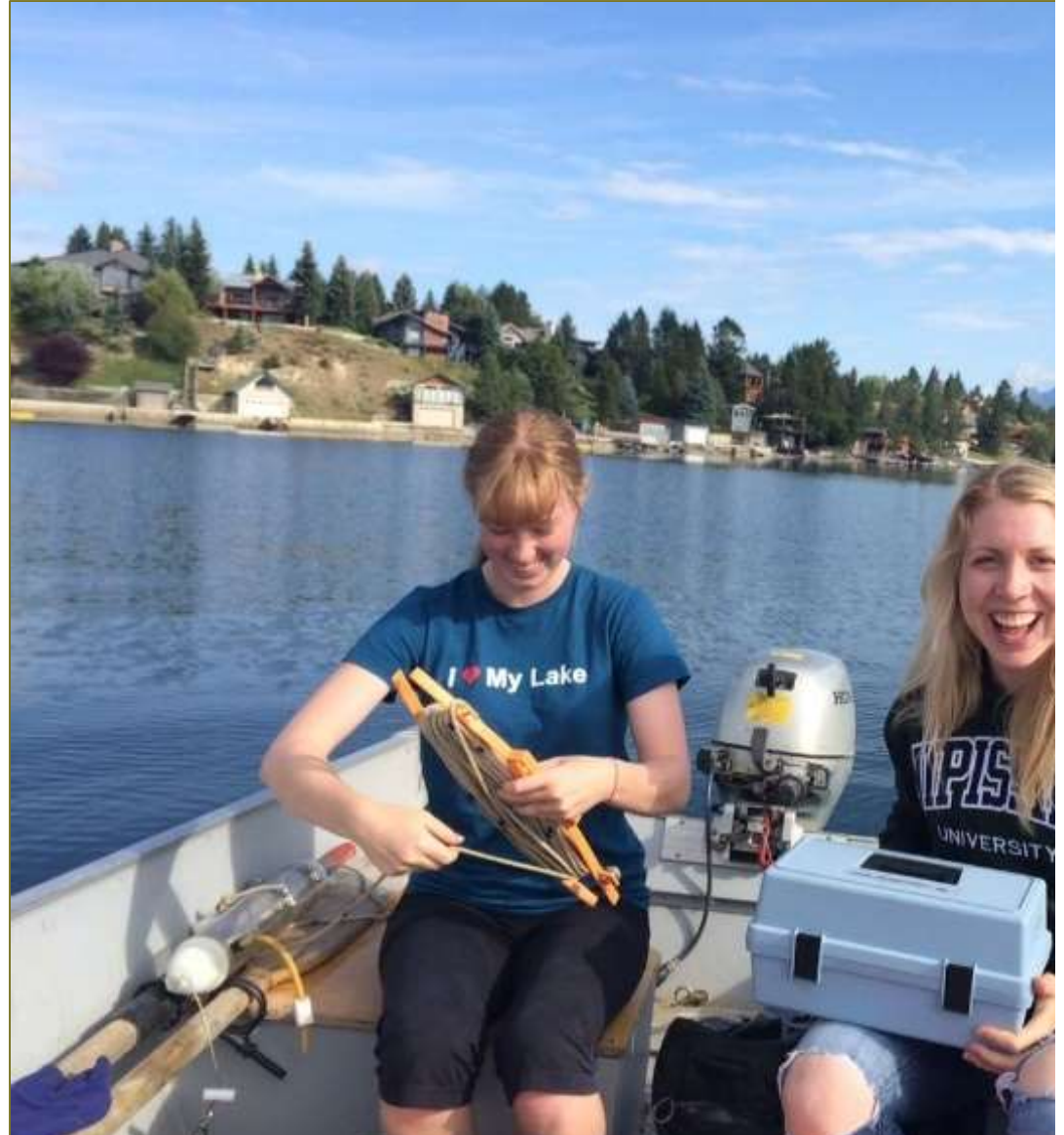




- Lake Windermere Ambassadors; Columbia Lake Stewardship Society; North Kootenay Water Monitoring Project
- Early detection of water management issues
- Community engagement in water quality and quantity monitoring

Photo: Lindsay Proctor

# Water Quality Monitoring

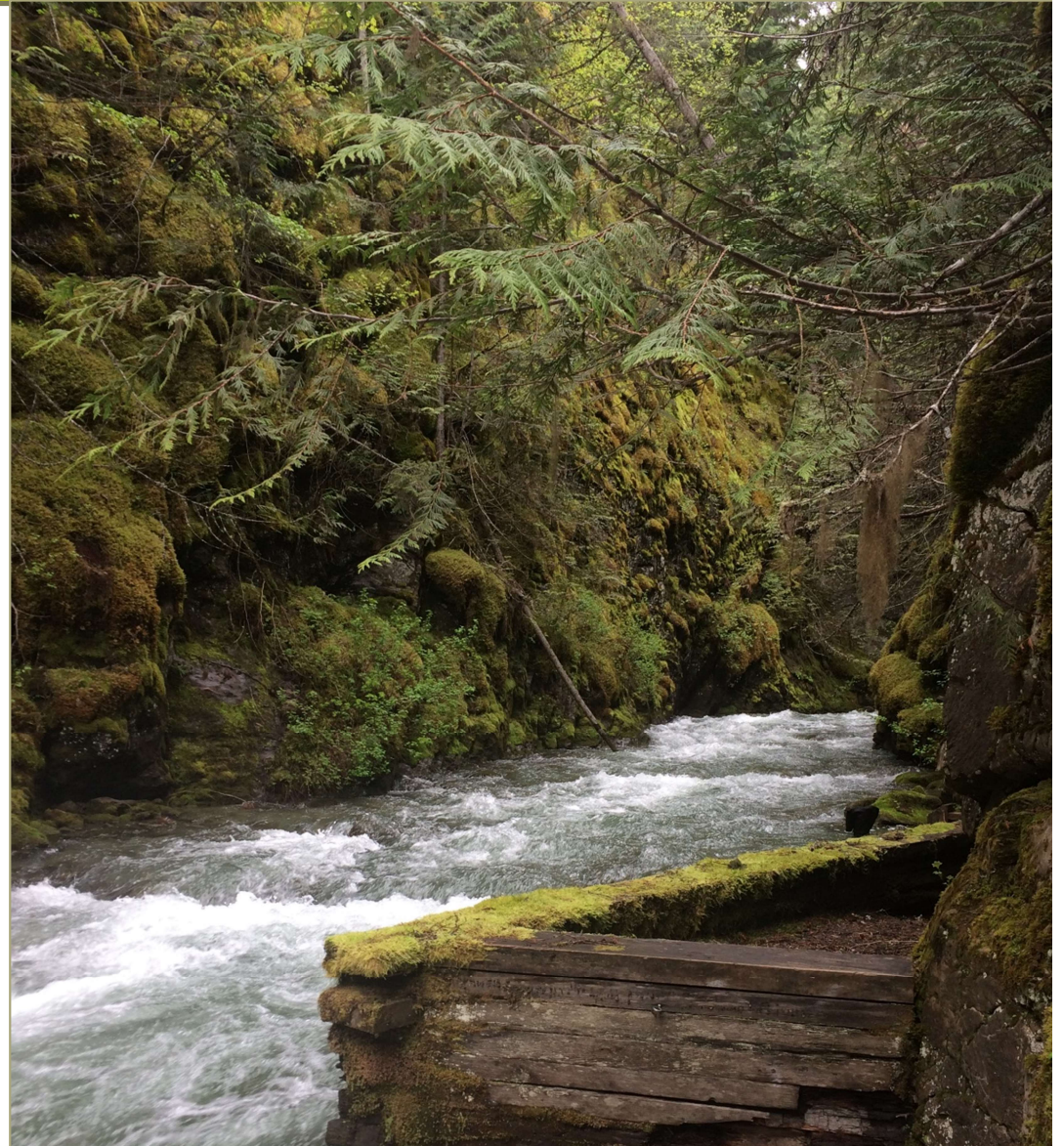




# Cumulative Impacts

- Each project on its own is small, but there is a cumulative effect that has a large impact on conservation

Photo: Richard Klafki



# Local Government Benefits

*“Protect the **wildlife and habitat values** surrounding the plan area by supporting conservation efforts in important natural areas and wildlife corridors” - Steamboat Jubilee OCP*

*“Support the **protection, rehabilitation and enhancement** of wetland and riparian areas”. - Lake Windermere OCP*

FAIRMONT HOT SPRINGS  
OFFICIAL COMMUNITY PLAN  
BYLAW 1734, 2004  
(Adopted December 3, 2004)

*“Protect and **enhance agricultural operations**” -Fairmont Hot Springs Area OCP*

*“Property owners and occupiers are required to control and manage **noxious / invasive plants** ...” - Lake Windermere OCP*

*Retain critical **wildlife habitat, wildlife corridors and ungulate winter range**” - Toby Benches OCP*

This is a consolidated and adopted amendment combined with the consolidation is not a

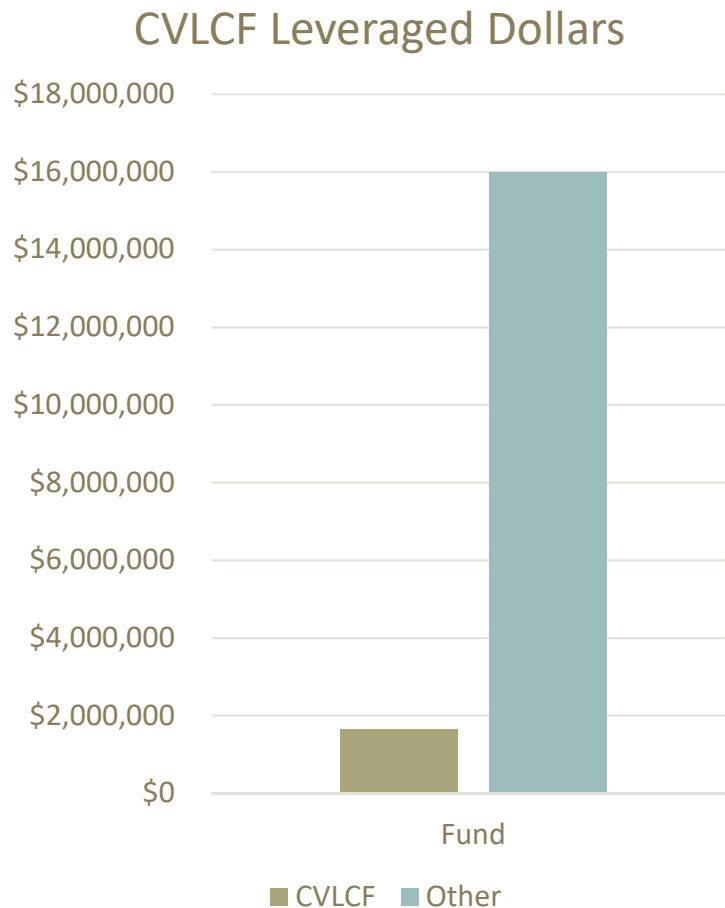


# CVLCF Investment



➤ \$1.65 million from  
2008 to 2016

# Economic Benefits



- \$10 to \$16 million in additional partner funding to these projects
- “First in” fund to demonstrate local support



# Economic Benefits

## Natural Resource Professionals

Foresters  
Agrologists  
Biologists  
NGO Coordinators

## Materials and Supplies

Culverts and pipes  
Fencing and gates  
Herbicide  
Boat rentals  
Fuel

## Other Professionals

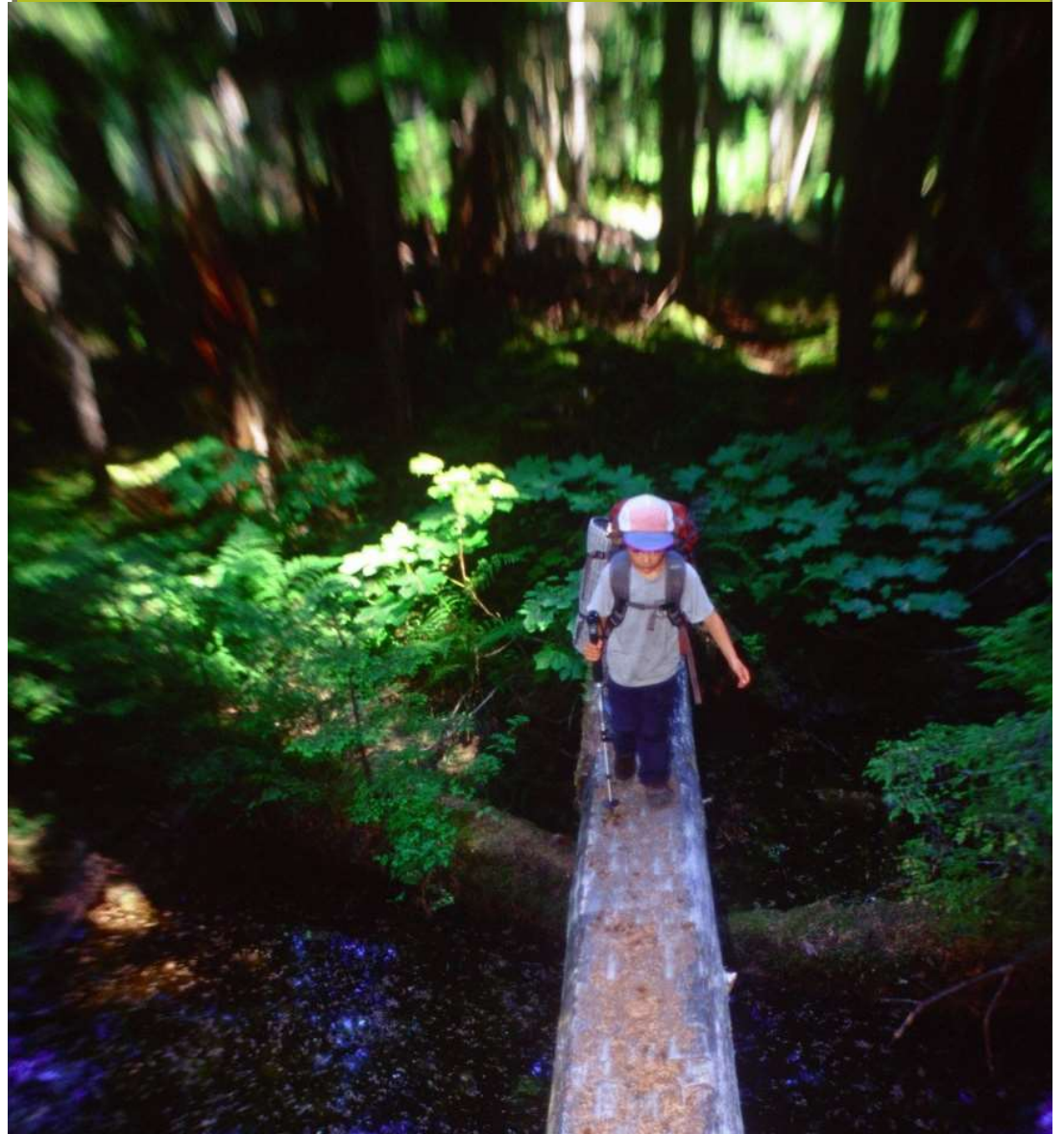
Graphic designers  
Sign printers  
Excavator drivers  
Carpenters  
Herbicide applicators  
Boat drivers  
Native plant nurseries





# Local Conservation Fund Expansion

- Exploring opportunities to expand the fund in the RDEK
- Exploring opportunities to expand the fund in the RDCK
- Helping others help themselves – other Areas interested







- Guidebook for establishing Local Conservation Fund is available online
- Guidebook is currently being updated and new edition will be available this fall
- [www.soscp.org](http://www.soscp.org)

# Local Conservation Fund Expansion

**Establishing a Regional Conservation Fund  
in British Columbia:**  
*A Guide for Local Governments and  
Community Organizations*





For more information



[www.kootenayconservation.ca](http://www.kootenayconservation.ca)

Photo: Larry Halverson





# CVLCHF – Video 2013

