

ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES PROGRAM

List of projects approved for funding in fall 2013, to be implemented in 2014.

RECIPIENT	PROJECT	AMOUNT	FOCUS
BASIN-WIDE/CROSS-BOUNDARY			
Freshwater Fisheries Society of BC: Kootenay Trout Hatchery	Our Wish for BC Fish Programs 2014	\$25,000	Provide educational programs, tours, activities and special events to students and the public about the ecosystems of BC, focusing on freshwater fisheries.
Wildsight	Beyond Recycling	\$25,000	Create and deliver environmental education programs for students in the East and West Kootenays. Lessons focus on increasing awareness and becoming empowered.
Kootenay Community Bat Project/Silverwing Ecological Consulting	Kootenay Community Bat Project: Citizen Science Roost Monitoring	\$25,000	Educate Basin residents about bats, their habits and their habitat. Inventory bat roosts around the Basin by visiting landowners on an as-requested basis. Provide outreach to local schools.
Columbia Shuswap Invasive Species Society	CSISS Building Capacity for Invasive Species Management in the Region	\$25,000	Educate the public on procedures and practices to address the priority invasive species issues in the Columbia Shuswap. Coordinate and collaborate to manage invasive species through education, prevention, inventory and treatment.
Central Kootenay Invasive Plant Committee	CKIPC Invasive Species Awareness Program	\$25,000	Offer events and workshops on invasive species, their impacts and options on how to best manage them. These programs are for residents of the Regional District of Central Kootenay, Regional District of Kootenay Boundary Areas A and B, stewardship groups, schools, communities and bordering jurisdictions.
The BC Wildlife Federation	Advancing Wetland Conservation in the West Kootenay	\$21,000	Deliver workshops to help West Kootenay communities protect and restore wetlands.
East Kootenay Invasive Plant Council	Aquatic Invasive Species Crew	\$30,000	Create four two-person groups that will travel the project area to educate the public on high-profile invasive species and various management options. This group will also manage the Mobile Boat Decontamination Station.
Selkirk College	The Biodiversity Atlas: Expanding Educational Applications	\$7,000	Continue to add species and ecosystems, update current data, improve reporting tools, provide updates to the public and create hands-on curricula for widespread use in Basin schools.

West Kootenay EcoSociety	Friends of Kootenay Lake	\$21,000	Help Kootenay Lake residents and organizations become more involved and act as stewards of the lake's water quality and fish and wildlife habitat. This project is in its third year and will focus on improving how the public is engaged in managing foreshore areas.
BC Conservation Foundation	Kootenay Region Grizzly Electric Fencing Project	\$24,860	Install low-voltage electric fences where known grizzly bear conflicts and associated bear mortalities occur. Provide education and outreach services to help residents experiencing issues with grizzly bears.
Rocky Mountain Trench Natural Resources Society	Crowns & Roots; Burns & Blades: Restoring Forests and Grasslands	\$10,000	Develop curriculum for grade seven and eight students that focuses on how local grassland and open forest systems are habitat for wildlife (including endangered species), plus how restoring these places creates benefits like reducing wildfires, producing forage, creating jobs and increasing biodiversity.
Mainstreams Environmental Society	Water Education: School, Community	\$20,000	Continue the water education programs taking place across the southeast Basin. Combine an existing program on identifying macro-invertebrates with ecological stories to create a one-hour classroom lesson. Develop and pilot a presentation on adapting to climate change.
Columbia Mountains Institute	Conference: Resource Roads Part 2	\$7,000	Convene a conference to discuss the many issues affiliated with resource roads and their impacts on the environment. The conference will accept papers and presentations regarding different management options and regimes designed to deal with the perceived concerns.
NORTHEAST BASIN			
Lake Windermere Ambassadors Society	Columbia Headwaters Watershed Protection Dialogues	\$15,000	Increase public awareness about the Columbia Headwaters watershed by offering events, workshops, guided watershed tours and other activities. Bring together a diverse group of people who will continue to raise public awareness, engage the public and work together to manage the watershed.
Golden Community Resources Society	Environmental Education in the Early Years	\$20,000	Provide an environmental education program that connects young children, parents and early childhood educators with surrounding ecosystems.

Groundswell Network Society	Applied Sustainable Living	\$20,000	Provide courses, programs and events to residents, kindergarten to grade 12 students, and visitors to Groundswell's Invermere-based facility. Topics will include plants and food, water and waste, energy and transportation, and community development.
St Mary's Valley Rural Residents Association	Wetlands Keepers Workshop	\$4,580	Hold a workshop developed by the BC Wildlife Federation to educate residents and others on the existence and importance of wetlands in the St. Mary Valley, plus train them in mapping skills.
NORTHWEST BASIN			
Birchdale Ecological	Grizzly Bear Conflict Management Project	\$10,760	Conduct research that will impact the management and conservation of grizzly bears. This research will help conservation officers manage problem grizzly bears in non-lethal ways.
Jakob Dulisse Consulting	Assessment of Western Toad Mortality on Highway 6 at Summit Lake	\$20,000	Continue to assess how, when and where Western Toads die at Summit Lake. The goal is to design permanent structures to address the problem, such as fencing, off-site parking areas and highway underpasses.
Slocan Lake Stewardship Society	Creating a Culture of Stewardship	\$15,000	Improve a system of engaging volunteers in the Slocan Lake watershed in order to build capacity and increase commitment. The intention is to increase the number of informed and committed residents and visitors who will value the Slocan Lake ecosystem.
Slocan Valley Heritage Trail Society	Slocan Western Screech Owl Habitat Protection and Interpretation Project	\$13,000	Create an Owl Walk with interpretive signage that will lead visitors, school groups and residents on an informative and enjoyable walk through Western Screech Owl habitat while educating them on the owl and its habitat.
Slocan Solutions Society	Slocan Watershed Assessment and Monitoring Program, Phase 2	\$20,000	Monitor the Slocan watershed to assess flora and fauna species and identify the numerous wetlands and riparian habitats and where they are located. Train technicians and volunteers so they can monitor the wetlands in future years.
Slocan Solutions Society	River Otter Diet Analysis, Habitat Selection and Interaction With Rainbow Trout Population	\$15,000	Examine what habitats river otters choose along the shorelines of the Slocan River, and gather information about how they interact with their prey. Educate the public by posting results on social media sites.
Mirkwood Ecological Consultants Ltd	Slocan River Aquatic Habitat Inventory Mapping	\$8,000	Complete the final two sections of the Aquatic Habitat Inventory database. This project began in 2011.

BC Interior Forestry Museum and Discovery Centre	Forest Engagement Program for Children and Youth	\$5,000	Develop a pilot program that will educate local students on their forest surroundings. Students will have a forest plot assigned to them that they will follow, observe, experiment with and learn from each year. This year the pilot will focus on developing a module for an elementary grade.
SOUTHEAST BASIN			
Creston Valley Wildlife Management Area	Wetland Education and Awareness Program	\$24,558	Hire three seasonal wetland naturalists to deliver educational programs and activities.
Masse Environmental Consultants, Care of Lower Kootenay Band	Goat River South Channel Restoration Project	\$12,270	Install fencing to stop cattle from entering the riparian area along the lower two kilometres of Goat River South Channel. This is the first step in restoring the area to a functioning aquatic/riparian ecosystem.
Isabel Ohanjanian	Monitoring a Reintroduced Population of Northern Leopard Frogs	\$25,000	Determine if breeding was successful and gather information on size, growth rates, dispersal patterns and rates of survival of this endangered species.
College of the Rockies: Creston Campus	Know & Grow Community Permaculture Project	\$10,000	Teach and demonstrate how to produce food using permaculture techniques. Cultivate knowledge, skills, networks and confidence. This project will take place in a community garden located on the College of the Rockies Creston Valley Campus.
Wildsight Kimberley Cranbrook	Cranbrook Composts	\$15,000	Educate grade seven students about composting so they can understand the benefits. Students will be challenged to share their knowledge with other kindergarten to grade seven students, their parents and the community.
The British Columbia Conservation Foundation	South Rockies Grizzly Bear Project	\$15,000	Have user groups like hikers and backcountry horsemen collect grizzly bear hair at identified rub trees and bait sites. Take and analyze the DNA of the samples and use the data to create a multi-year database. Report the results to backcountry user groups every winter.
Freshwater Fisheries Society of BC	Norbury Creek Fish Habitat Restoration	\$5,000	Work with local landowners to develop a restoration plan for Norbury Creek, with measures and priorities that will restore upstream fish passage.
Rocky Mountain Trench Natural Resources Society	North Waldo Grassland Ecosystem Restoration Post-treatment Effectiveness Monitoring	\$10,000	Monitor how grassland ecosystems have been restored through treatments completed in the North Waldo Grazing Unit in 2007 and 2008.

SOUTHWEST BASIN			
West Kootenay EcoSociety	Kokanee Visitor Centre 2014	\$10,500	Offer programs to visitors and residents to increase nature appreciation, develop a stewardship ethic and increase awareness of regional and First Nations history in the area.
Seepanee Ecological Consulting/ Grylloblatta Ecological Consulting	Abundance and Movement of Wolverine in the Kootenay Region (Central Selkirk)	\$25,000	Take non-invasive genetic samples from wolverines in the central Selkirk region. Use this information to determine how many wolverines there are, how they are connected and whether or not they can be harvested sustainably.
Kootenay Native Plant Society	Native Plants for Native Pollinators: Phase 2	\$20,000	Establish and enhance pollinator-friendly backyard and schoolyard habitats. Through school-based programs and public outreach activities, children and other residents will learn the importance of native pollinators and practical steps they can take to make their environment more pollinator-friendly.
Treebear Native Plants & Ecological Services	Waterfront Improvements: Selkirk College Field School 2013	\$6,000	Have students from Selkirk College's Integrated Environmental Planning Program plant locally sourced native riparian vegetation and add structures designed to stabilize and help restore the ecological integrity of a section of Kootenay Lake shoreline. This will be done in partnership with the City of Nelson.