

# OVERVIEW

## CBT ENVIRONMENT PROGRAM



*CBT recognizes that a healthy environment is important for all social and economic activities in the Columbia Basin.*

### WORKING ON ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

CBT is building its Environment Program based on previous studies of biological and educational priorities and gaps in environmental action in the Basin, as well as engaging residents about environmental values and concerns. Extensive public and partner review and input have served to improve CBT's Environment Strategy throughout its development.

#### Environmental Vision

CBT will work towards a long-term vision for the future of the Basin, supporting the residents to ensure:

- A healthy environment creates a foundation for well-being; and
- There is commitment to long-term and enduring stewardship of the Basin's natural assets and sufficient ability to take action to meet environmental challenges.

#### Guiding Principles

Core values and organizational guiding principles direct CBT's overall approach to its work. In the Environmental Strategic Plan there are ten guiding principles that provide further definition and direction for actions CBT will undertake to implement this plan. To read these principles, visit [www.cbt.org/environment](http://www.cbt.org/environment).

#### Environmental Goals 2009-2012

CBT's goals over the next four years.

- Strengthen Basin-wide ability to meet environmental challenges;
- Encourage education and awareness for all generations about Basin ecosystems and associated human interactions;
- Support positive environmental action within the Basin, leading where appropriate; and
- Promote an understanding of organizational activities which reduce environmental impacts in the Basin.

To read more about planned activities and desired outcomes of each goal, read CBT's Environmental Strategic Plan at [www.cbt.org/environment](http://www.cbt.org/environment).

## COMMITMENT TO THE ENVIRONMENT

Basin residents expressed the importance of the environment to CBT early in its formation. CBT continues to work with its Environmental Advisory Committee in this area. CBT has the following ongoing environment focussed programs and initiatives:

### Environmental Initiatives Program (EIP)

CBT's Environmental Initiatives Program (EIP) provides support to community-initiated and supported environmental projects that aim to reduce the impacts humans have on local and regional ecosystems.

- **EIP Granting** – Funding for environmental projects in the Basin which address or aim to reduce the impacts humans have on ecosystems in the Basin through education, stewardship, conservation and/or restoration.
- **Stewardship Advisors** – Support personnel who assist and encourage proponents by offering technical assistance during project development and implementation, sharing information and best practices to promote stewardship and fostering collaboration between groups, communities and regulatory agencies.

### Environmental Education

CBT supports two major environmental education programs across the Columbia Basin.

- **Education in the Wild Program** – CBT is a founding and continuing supporter of a school-based, ecosystem awareness program that supports teachers to deliver hands-on, outdoor learning opportunities for students.
- **Columbia Basin Environmental Education Network** – CBT initially facilitated and continues to support the evolution of this umbrella network, which fosters environmental education initiatives, stewardship and sustainability in the Basin through a diverse membership of environmental educators and organizations. To learn more about CBEEN visit [www.cbeen.org](http://www.cbeen.org).

### Land Conservation Strategy

Through consultation with Basin residents and the development of the Columbia Basin Management Plan, CBT has committed to long-term and enduring stewardship of the Basin's natural resources. CBT's land conservation and related initiatives strive to achieve a balance between conservation and economic development in order to sustain the way of life and natural surroundings which currently exist.

- **Land Conservation Initiative** – Provides funding toward community-supported, multi-stakeholder land conservation efforts, which will assist in maintaining a range of community values on lands in the Basin.
- **East Kootenay Conservation Program** – CBT supports this partnership to promote habitat and ecosystem management for conservation land, while balancing social and economic needs.

*CBT supports projects we know are making a difference in Basin communities.*

*We are your community partner in environmental stewardship.*

#### PHOTOS

*Page one header:*

**A beautiful Basin skyline.**

*Page one left:*

**An Education in the Wild program in action.**

*Below:*

**An Elk in the wild. One of the many wildlife species in the Basin.**

