



BACKGROUND

ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES PROGRAM: LIST OF 2010/11 PROJECTS FUNDED

BASIN-WIDE

Bird Studies Canada - BC Breeding Bird Atlas-Columbia Basin Region (\$15,000) – This project is associated with the [BC Breeding Bird Atlas initiative](#) (2008-2012). Within the Columbia Basin region, a trained group of 200 skilled volunteers are systematically surveying the distribution and abundance of all breeding bird species and their habitats. This project is significantly advancing local and regional conservation planning, addressing issues including species at risk, critical habitat conservation, appropriate industrial development, refining dam mitigation measures and best practices in natural resource management.

Columbia Basin Environmental Education Network (CBEEN) - Wild Voices for Kids (\$20,000) - [The Columbia Basin Environmental Education Network](#) has received funding to continue developing the [Wild Voices for Kids](#) program. Wild Voices for Kids (WVFK) is an environmental and heritage education program for grades K-12 that provides free, curriculum-linked presentations and field trips to schools throughout the Columbia Basin.

Selkirk College - The Biodiversity Atlas and the UN Year of Biodiversity (\$20,000) - Selkirk College, in Castlegar, will complete several new data layers, provide outreach opportunities, and promote and demonstrate the usefulness of the [Biodiversity Atlas](#) website as a location where Basin residents can become actively involved in citizen science.

SOUTHWEST BASIN

Blueberry Creek Community School (BCCS) Council - BCCS Berry and Butterflies Garden Tour (\$4,837) – The [Blueberry Creek Community School](#) Council will teach environmental awareness and accountability through an engaging, healthy community-based initiative in the Castlegar area.

Salmo Watershed Streamkeepers Society - Watershed Radio (\$5,000) - Funding is being provided to the [Salmo Streamkeepers Society](#) to develop a pilot radio ad program that will provide a variety of messages regarding ecosystem conservation and restoration in the Salmo area.

EcoSense Interpretive - Kokanee Salmon School Program (\$5,000) - [EcoSense Interpretive \(through Nancie Dohan\)](#) will deliver the Kokanee Salmon School Program that educates West Kootenay youth and residents about the life cycle of the Kokanee salmon, the importance of ecosystem conservation and restoration, and the Kokanee as a keystone species. This program has educated over 30,000 people, with CBT help, for the past ten years.

Silver City Trap and Skeet Club - Reforest Area Defoliated by Western Birch Kill (\$5,000) - The [Silver City Trap and Skeet Club](#) of Castlegar has received funding to complete ecosystem restoration by planting native local trees and shrubs. The intent is to rehabilitate an area on their property that has been subject to birch die off due to biological and environmental issues.

Friends of Sunshine Bay - Sunshine Bay Environmental Inventory and Management Plan (\$6,000) - The Friends of Sunshine Bay received funding to complete an environmental inventory and develop a management plan for the Sunshine Bay Regional Park. This area is located on the east side of Kootenay Lake and serves the residents of Harrop-Procter. The results will specifically enable decisions regarding the extent of and location of human use, any recovery interventions necessary, as well as a basis for future interpretive and educational material aimed at informing residents about the values of riparian areas.

West Kootenay Native Plant Study Group - Grow Wild Native Plants for West Kootenay Gardens (\$10,000) – The West Kootenay Native Plant Study Group has received conditional approval for funding to develop an educational project focused on helping residents think about becoming locally bio-diverse, reducing environmental impacts and improving water conservation practices.

Central Kootenay Invasive Plant Committee - Youth Pulling Together (\$13,200) - [The Central Kootenay Invasive Plant Committee](#) received funding to engage youth (ages 9 to 11) from schools, youth groups and clubs in learning about invasive plants and their impacts, and to promote youth involvement in restoration by hand-pulling invasive plants in their schoolyard or a local community site. The project includes development of curriculum-based teaching kits on invasive plants to be distributed throughout the West Kootenay, visits by an outreach specialist to deliver a fun, hands-on learning program on invasive plants, and a hand-pulling event for classrooms and other youth groups.

Seepanee Ecological Consulting and Jakob Dulisse Consulting - Survival and Dispersal of Juvenile Western Screech Owls (\$20,000) - Seepanee Ecological Consulting and other partners received funding to monitor breeding success of the endangered Western Screech Owl in and around Creston and Castlegar. Data collected will be used to provide regional and provincial management guidelines and help with education and stewardship.

Trafalgar Middle School PAC - Naturalization of Trafalgar School Grounds (\$20,000) - The Trafalgar Middle School Parents Advisory Council has received funding to put in a natural landscape design for Trafalgar Middle School in Nelson. This design has been created to support students as they connect with and learn about nature.

NORTHWEST BASIN

Illecillewaet Greenbelt Society - Illecillewaet Greenbelt Plant Restoration Project (\$5,000) - The Illecillewaet Greenbelt Society received funding to assist in riparian restoration by planting native shrubs and trees in a wetlands area along the Illecillewaet River, within the city limits of Revelstoke.

Feeding Families, Not Bears - Feeding Families, Not Bears (\$5,000) - Feeding Families, Not Bears, an organization in the North Kootenay Lake area (Kaslo, Meadow Creek, Lardeau), has received funding to provide information and education on co-existing with wildlife in the region. The intent is to develop stewardship around the local food resources and improve the community's connection to the local food economy.

The Nature Trust of BC - Lake Ranch Invasive Plant Management (\$5,000) - [The Nature Trust of BC \(TNT\)](#) received funding to do ecosystem stewardship and conservation work in the Duncan/Lardeau Conservation Lands Complex, as per the established Management Plan for the property.

Columbia Mountains Institute of Applied Ecology - Environmental Conferences (\$13,700) - [The Columbia Mountain Institute for Applied Ecology](#) will host two environmental conferences: *Human Dimensions in Natural Resource Management* in Revelstoke in October 2010 and *Carbon Management in the Ecosystems of British Columbia* in the spring of 2011. Events will include presentations, a poster session and opportunities for informal dialogue.

Friends of Mount Revelstoke and Glacier - Junior Naturalist Program and Educational Project Coordinator (\$15,000) - [The Friends of Mount Revelstoke and Glacier](#) received funding to deliver a Junior Naturalist Program in the Revelstoke area. The program gives children and youth a chance to connect to the natural environment around the City of Revelstoke.

Arrow and Slovan Lakes Community Services - Community Fruit Harvesting Project (New Denver and Nakusp Area H) (\$15,418) - [Arrow and Slovan Lakes Community Services](#) will hire coordinators to link fruit tree owners with volunteer pickers to harvest usable fruit, as well as remove windfall and damaged fruit from properties.

Mirkwood Ecological Consultants Ltd. - Slovan River Side Channel Restoration (\$17,000) - Mirkwood Consultants and a number of partners including The Nature Trust of BC, Ministry of Environment and the Federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans received funding to work on side channel rehabilitation that will improve spawning areas for local rainbow trout, and ensure stabilization of banks and the removal of impediments to fish passage.

Mountain Caribou Education Program - Mountain Caribou Education Program (\$18,000) - The Mountain Caribou Education Program received funding to deliver an education program about mountain caribou to schools and other interested groups in the Basin. Mountain caribou is an endangered species the Columbia Basin and are declining at 4 per cent annually.

Slocan Lake Stewardship Society - Slocan Lake Water Quality Monitoring (\$19,000) - [The Slocan Lake Stewardship Society](#) has received funding to continue the 2008 Slocan Lake Water Sampling Program. Results will be published and presented to the local community and data will be provided to local, provincial and national governments for integration into government and other agency databases, and for use in the development of a lake management plan.

Friends of the Lardeau River - Lardeau River Watershed Profile (\$20,000) - The Friends of the Lardeau River will develop a watershed profile of the Lardeau River. A watershed profile is a basic tool for a planning framework to integrate fish and wildlife assessment and management activities into land-use planning.

SOUTHEAST BASIN

Grasslands Conservation Council of BC - East Kootenay Ecological Area Assessment (\$20,000) - [The Grasslands Council of Canada](#) has received funded to develop an ecological area assessment (EAA) for the East Kootenays that will select conservation and development areas to best retain the interactions of wildlife and ecosystems in the larger landscapes.

St. Mary Valley Rural Residents Association - Stewardship Skills for St. Mary Valley Streamkeepers (\$4,150) - The St. Mary Valley Streamkeepers is an organization concerned with the health of St. Mary's Lake situated southwest of Kimberley. The group is looking to build capacity in the area by taking the provincially recognized Stream Keepers course.

Rocky Mountain Trench Natural Resources Society - Community Heating Project Development Education (\$4,999) – [The Rocky Mountain Trench Natural Resources Society](#)'s aim is to educate Basin residents about the potential benefits of biomass energy use. The society will be holding two public meetings to educate residents of the potential benefits and applications of this energy source.

Creston Valley Food Action Coalition - Harvest Share Program (\$4,900) – This group works with the community of Creston to educate residents about food security and wildlife attractants. The group uses volunteers to help residents harvest fruit prior to it spoiling.

BCWF-Wetlands Education Program - Sparwood Wetlandkeepers 2010 (\$5,000) - The [B.C. Wildlife Federation](#) has received funding to bring a provincially recognized Wetlandkeepers course to Sparwood. This course builds stewardship about wetland ecosystems and their importance.

The Nature Trust of BC - O'Grady Conservation Property Invasive Plant Management (\$5,000) - [The Nature Trust of BC \(TNT\)](#) received funding to do ecosystem stewardship and conservation work on the O'Grady Conservation Property, located near Bull River in the East Kootenay, as per the established Management Plan.

Tobacco Plains Indian Band - Bringing Water to the Painted Turtle (\$5,000) - The [Tobacco Plains Indian Band](#) received funding to work with a consultant to determine if a plan to divert water to a lake near Grasmere, on Band land, is viable, and will help address an issue faced by the local Western Painted Turtle, a blue-listed species in the Rocky Mountain portion of the Columbia Basin.

The East Kootenay Invasive Plant Council - Private Land Invasive Plant Assistance Program (\$6,000) - The East Kootenay Invasive Plant Committee received funding to pilot a program on dealing with invasive plants on private property. It is anticipated this program will help to create a more effective and efficient invasive plant program throughout the region.

Penny Ohanjanian Consulting Biologists - Northern Leopard Frogs (\$7,400) - Penny Ohanjanian Consulting Biologists will determine if the Northern Leopard frogs (a red-listed species) that have been reintroduced into their historic range near the Fort Steele/Bummers Flats area north of Cranbrook, have dispersed into nearby marshes and begun the process of re-establishing themselves into the ecosystem.

Clear Sky Meditation and Study Center - Grasslands Reclamation Education Initiative (\$9,080) - The [Clear Sky Meditation and Study Center](#) received funding to develop a grassland reclamation demonstration area near Bull River, east of Cranbrook. The intent is to provide an area where private landowners can learn about improving local stewardship of native grasslands and build capacity for grassland reclamation in the region.

Jim Smith Lake Community Association – Jim Smith Lake Sensitive Habitat Inventory Mapping (\$12,450) - The Jim Smith Lake Community Association received funding for a Sensitive Habitat Inventory Mapping project on Jim Smith Lake, west of Cranbrook. This is phase two of a project that will result in Foreshore Management Guidelines for the lake.

St. Mary Valley Rural Residents Association - St. Mary Lake Management Plan - Part 1 (\$13,320) - The St. Mary Valley Rural Residents Association received funding to achieve the first stage of the St. Mary Lake Management Plan by completing a Foreshore Inventory Mapping Project.

Mainstreams Environmental Society - Water Education Where it Counts (\$13,898) - The Mainstreams Environmental Society received funding for a water education program in the East Kootenay. This three-part program consists of an interactive stream trailer, field-based creek science and a stewardship report on the outcomes of the 2005 Kinsmen Park Restoration. This program will serve as a reference for other water education programs.

Hawkins Creek Stewardship Committee - Hawkins/Moyie Fish Inventory (\$14,780) - The Hawkins Creek Stewardship Committee received funding to expand on its work of investigating the distribution and rate of hybridization between native westslope cutthroat trout and non-native introduced rainbow trout in the greater Moyie River Watershed. The investigation will also be expanded to include bull trout as well as non-salmonids, to reflect a whole-ecosystem approach to restoration.

Wildsight-Elk Valley Branch - Elk River Alliance (ERA) (\$15,000) - The Elk River Alliance (ERA) will develop recommendations that intend to coordinate access to information about the Elk River watershed, restore and enhance aquatic ecosystems, increase community water literacy, promote participation in sustainable water planning and development and promote the principles of water smart conservation strategies in communities.

Laing Farms - Laing Farms Sand Creek Restoration (\$17,550) - Laing Farms received funding to build in-stream structures along Sand Creek, near Jaffray, which will assist in protecting the stream banks from erosion, increase channel sediment conveyance and restore fish habitat for the indigenous fish of Sand Creek (particularly for the provincial Blue Listed, Westslope Cutthroat trout and Bull trout).

Wildsight Kimberley/Cranbrook - Water and Plant Wise Communities (\$18,000) - [Wildsight](#) received funding to deliver a water education project that will raise awareness of ways communities can conserve and restore aquatic and riparian ecosystem functioning through wise water use, adaptations to lawn and garden practices and the management of invasive plants. The intent is to focus on reducing the amount of herbicides in ecosystems.

Tobacco Plains Indian Band - Koochanusa Reservoir Winter Creel Survey (\$18,600) - The [Tobacco Plains Indian Band](#) received funding to conduct a Koochanusa Reservoir Winter Creel Survey. This project will collect, collate and provide information to the Ministry of Environment for the purposes of regulating the burbot fishery so that it is sustainable. The survey will also include recording of other fish species caught.

Friends of the Community Greenhouse - Xeriscaping and Water Conservation for the Creston Valley (\$19,125) - Friends of the Community Greenhouse in Creston will teach residential and commercial growers techniques for planting and maintaining water tolerant species and water conservation techniques. Two xeric gardens will be created.

Yaqaan Nuki Wetlands Friendship Society - Tanal Marsh Rehabilitation (\$19,250) - The Yaqaan Nuki Wetlands Friendship Society in Creston received funding to help complete restoration work on the Tanal Marsh section of the Yaqaan Nuki Wetlands. This work will help ensure the local ecosystem is maintained for the various wildlife species that depend on it.

The Nature Trust of BC - Cherry Creek/Wycliffe Ecosystem Restoration (\$19,300) - [The Nature Trust of BC](#) received funding for an eco-restoration project near Wycliffe that will take place on the Nature Trust of BC and [The Land Conservancy](#) conservation properties. The project will consist of manual slashing and piling of non-merchantable trees in order to enhance and increase wildlife habitat, open forest, open range and grassland ecosystems.

Rocky Mountain Trench Natural Resources Society - Ecosystem Restoration Treatment Follow-up (\$19,988) - [The Rocky Mountain Trench Natural Resources Society](#) received funding to carry out a grassland/open forest ecosystem restoration project in the Rocky Mountain Trench area of the East Kootenay.

Wildsight – Kimberley - Columbia Headwaters Invasive Plant Species Project (\$20,000) - [Wildsight](#) received funding to carry out a Columbia Headwaters Invasive Plant Species project in the Columbia Valley. The project will combine aquatic plant surveys with terrestrial hands-on restoration and data sharing into a provincial-wide database, and community-based education to eliminate weeds in the Columbia Headwaters.

Wildsight - Kimberley/Cranbrook - Sustainability and Clean Air (\$20,000) - [Wildsight](#) received funding to complete a Sustainability and Clean Air project focused on air quality in the Kimberley area. The project is designed to educate, encourage and support residents in making sustainable choices.

NORTHEAST BASIN

Wildsight - Golden - Responsible Recreation Pilot Project (up to \$4,500) – [Wildsight](#) is developing a program for educating residents on the responsible use of off-road vehicles in the Upper Columbia Valley.

Columbia Wetlands Stewardship Partners - Wetland Health and Leopard Frogs in the Columbia Wetlands (\$12,000) - The [Columbia Wetland Stewardship Partners](#) received funding for a project that will help determine the health of the Columbia Wetlands and the possibility of reintroducing the red-listed Northern Leopard frog.

Nature Conservancy of Canada - Wildlife Tree Creation on Thunder Hill Ranch (\$12,800) - [The Nature Conservancy of Canada](#), along with four other partners, will address the lack of trees, which serve as homes for many wildlife species including the listed Lewis' Woodpecker, on the Thunder Hill Ranch property.

Whitebark Pine Ecosystem Foundation of Canada - Limber Pine Restoration Program (\$19,000) - The Whitebark Pine Ecosystem Foundation of Canada received funding for a restoration program for the blue-listed species, Limber Pine (*Pinus flexilis*). The project will map locations of Limber Pine within the study area, identify any species at risk that may grow in association with Limber Pine and disseminate information regarding Limber Pine to a variety of interested parties.

Wildsight - Lake Windermere Project (\$20,000) - [Wildsight](#) received funding to carry out the Lake Windermere Project. This project has an emphasis on the protection and enhancement of the quality of Lake Windermere by means of inter-agency cooperation, scientific water quality monitoring, and through public education and engagement, and the development of a local Invermere group to be recognized as the Lake Windermere Ambassadors.

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