



Environmental Focus Renewed

The Trust's new Environment Strategic Plan is now completed and will guide the Trust's water and environment initiatives from 2014 to 2019. It sets goals in five areas...[full story](#)



Tell Us How You Get Moving

How do you increase your heart rate through physical movement? What types of activities do you do? What is being delivered well? What could be improved upon? Let us know by participating in the Active Basin survey...[full story](#)



Registration Now Open

The future of the Columbia River is the focus of a conference that will take place Oct. 21 to 23, 2014, hosted by the Trust and the Northwest Power and Conservation Council...[full story](#)

Opportunities

April 17

Deadline

Summer Student Positions

April 22

Deadline

*Request for Proposals: Creston
Valley Wildlife Management Area
Action Plan and Stakeholder
Engagement*

April 22

Castlegar

Earth Day Celebrations

April 22 to June 24

Various locations

Me Inc. Workshops

[Go to events page >](#)



How Does the Trust Invest?

[Read Our Overview](#)

Community Initiatives and Affected Areas Programs

Right now, your community may be deciding which projects will receive these funds. But what are these programs and how is the funding distributed to your community?

[Learn More](#)

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Trust Environmental Focus Renewed

Wednesday, April 02, 2014

Five-year plan shaped by input from Basin residents

The Trust's new Environment Strategic Plan is now completed and will guide the Trust's water and environment initiatives from 2014 to 2019. It sets goals in five areas: water, ecosystems, climate change, environmental education, and helping to strengthen organizations that focus on the environment.

The plan is now available online at cbt.org/environmentplan.

To shape the plan, the Trust connected with Basin residents in 2013 through workshops, meetings and an online survey. Environmental experts and a range of organizations also provided their input.

"I would like to extend my gratitude to the many people who contributed to this plan," said Neil Muth, Trust president and CEO. "It will guide significant contributions to preserving our region's natural environment, for the benefit of Basin ecosystems, species and residents alike."

The Trust's role in achieving plan objectives includes providing resources and funding, bringing people together around key issues, providing information, and supporting collaboration on environmental initiatives or projects.



Active Basin

Tell us how you get moving—and you could win \$500 to donate!

How do you increase your heart rate through physical movement? What types of activities do you do? What is being delivered well? What could be improved upon?

Let us know by participating in the **Active Basin survey**. The deadline to participate is **Friday, April 25, at 5 p.m. PT/6 p.m. MT**.

This survey will help in understanding the needs of the sport and physical activity sector in the Basin so that a sport and physical activity strategy can be developed for the region.

The goal is to support this sector by building capacity, encouraging collaboration and creating more opportunities for Basin residents to get moving!

Complete this 10-minute survey now—you'll be eligible to win \$500 to donate to a Basin-based sports and physical activity non-profit organization of your choice.

This survey is supported by Columbia Basin Trust and **ViaSport**.



RELATED LINKS

[LINK Canadian Sport for Life](#)

Registration Now Open

Tuesday, April 08, 2014

International conference will explore future of the Columbia River

The future of the Columbia River is the focus of an international conference that will take place in Spokane on October 21 to 23, 2014, hosted by the Trust and the **Northwest Power and Conservation Council**. Registration is now open at www.columbiabasin-2014conference.org.

The conference, "Learning From Our Past to Shape Our Future," will provide attendees from both sides of the border with unique learning and discussion opportunities about the history and future of the river, including topics such as hydropower, fish and wildlife, the Columbia River Treaty, and First Nations and Tribal interests.

This is the fourth conference to be co-convened by the Trust and the Council since the late 1990s and will be co-chaired by two former chairs of the respective organizations: Garry Merkel of Kimberley, BC, and Larry Cassidy of Vancouver, Washington.

"What are the issues that affect the Columbia River Basin and its communities? The risks? The opportunities? The conference will bring together people from varying backgrounds, from both sides of the border, to discuss topics like these," said Merkel. "It's an ideal venue that will help us all become better stewards of the river and its resources."

The conference will bring together experts and interested stakeholders representing state, provincial, federal, Tribal and First Nations governments; electric utilities; environmental groups; and citizen groups from both countries to:

- provide a transboundary forum to share information and build understanding on topics such as ecosystem management, international water governance, climate change, and energy
- provide updates and a forum for discussion on important transboundary issues such as the Columbia River Treaty review process
- provide information and updates on efforts to restore and conserve salmon in the upper Columbia
- identify opportunities to support ongoing transboundary communication and collaboration.

"We ask a lot from this river: hydropower, irrigation, inland navigation, flood control, recreation and, at the same time, environmental conditions that support fish and wildlife, including threatened and endangered species," Cassidy said. "With the Northwest population growing, with the United States and Canada rethinking the future of the Columbia River Treaty, and with demands on the river increasing for fish benefits, this is a good time to look back at what the river has done for us and then think about what we want the river to do in the future. Anyone with an interest in the future of the river should attend this conference."

A planning team composed of approximately 40 people from the United States and British Columbia is helping the Trust and Council shape the conference agenda. The planning team membership represents a broad range of Columbia River interests.

The Council is an agency of the states of Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington, which share the majority of the Columbia River Basin in the United States. Under the *Northwest Power Act* of 1980, the Council is responsible for assuring the Northwest region an adequate, efficient, economical, and reliable power supply while protecting, mitigating, and enhancing fish and wildlife affected by hydropower dams in the Columbia River Basin.



How We Invest

OVERVIEW



Brilliant Dam and Brilliant Expansion.



The grand opening of Invermere's Columbia Garden Village expansion.

We invest our money carefully so we can keep delivering benefits to the Basin.

Investing on Your Behalf

In 1995, the Province of British Columbia endowed Columbia Basin Trust with \$321 million: \$276 million to invest in regional hydroelectric projects, and \$45 million to invest otherwise. Since then, we have been carefully investing this money in order to deliver long-term benefits to the residents of the Columbia Basin.

Why we invest

We invest in order to generate a predictable, sustainable and appreciating income stream. We use this money to deliver benefits in the Basin and fund our corporate operating expenses, now and into the future.

How we manage our investments

Our *Statement of Investment Policies and Procedures* governs how we manage our investments. It includes seven beliefs:

- We believe that future generations should benefit from the same level of support as current ones. That's why we invest and spend in a way that considers the potential effects of inflation.
- Our priority is to invest in the Basin. This is a small region, however, so we also invest some of our money in market securities.
- We choose investments that adhere to high ethical and environmental standards and display strong corporate

governance. These types of investments also perform well and are profitable.

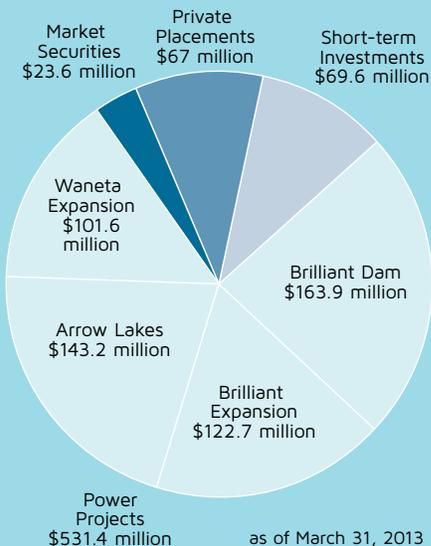
- We are a prudent investor and make sure that the potential returns we receive reflect the amount of risk we assume.
- We recognize that managing risk is just as important as generating returns.
- Though we invest much of our money in power projects, we try to invest in a variety of opportunities.
- We value partnerships and, when possible, invest in co-operation with other organizations.



Members of the public learn about the Waneta Expansion Project at an open house.



Valemount's Yellowhead Helicopters purchased new helicopters thanks to Trust support.



What We Invest In

To make sure our income is predictable, sustainable and growing, we invest in power projects, private placements and market securities.

Power Projects

Together with Columbia Power Corporation, we own and operate three power projects in the southwestern Basin. We are also developing a fourth project with Columbia Power and Fortis Inc.

Brilliant Dam

We bought this dam from Teck (formerly Cominco) for \$130 million and performed \$100 million in improvements to extend its life and increase its capacity. It is located approximately eight kilometres from Castlegar on the Kootenay River, and generates enough power to supply 100,000 homes.

Our investments provide income, plus often support social, economic and environmental well-being in the Basin.

Arrow Lakes Generating Station

Located 400 metres downstream from existing Hugh Keenleyside Dam on Arrow Lakes Reservoir near Castlegar, this \$300-million project makes use of water that would otherwise be spilled. It generates enough power to supply 75,000 homes.

Brilliant Expansion

Located on the east bank of the Kootenay River downstream from Brilliant Dam, this \$245-million project makes use of water that would otherwise be spilled. It generates enough power to supply 55,000 homes.

Waneta Expansion

We are partnering with Columbia Power and Fortis Inc. to develop the Waneta Expansion Project a short distance from Trail near the U.S. border. Construction started October 1, 2010, and is expected to take 4.5 years. The expansion will generate enough power to supply 65,000 homes.

Private Placements

We invest in Basin businesses, always keeping in mind the principles of a prudent investor and the balance between risk and returns.

Real Estate Investments

We have a 50 per cent ownership in eight seniors housing facilities throughout the Basin. Together, these properties offer more than 830 living suites and a range of support services. We have also invested in commercial property.

Commercial Loans and Investments

We invest directly in Basin-based businesses, including privately held corporations, non-profit agencies and social enterprises owned as non-profits.

Market Securities

Since investment opportunities are limited in such a small region, we also invest in market securities. Our portfolio is professionally managed and includes short-term deposits, equities and bonds.



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Community Initiatives and Affected Areas Programs

OVERVIEW



Funding Your Community Projects

Through the Community Initiatives and Affected Areas Programs, the Trust works in partnership with local governments and First Nations to provide funding for projects that are decided upon by the community.

Where do I apply?

Apply directly to your local government:

City of Revelstoke
1.250.837.5345
cityofrevelstoke.com

Ktunaxa Nation Council
1.250.489.2464 • ktunaxa.org

Regional District of Central Kootenay
1.800.268.7325 • 1.250.352.8170
rdck.bc.ca

Regional District of East Kootenay
1.250.489.2791 • rdek.bc.ca

Regional District of Kootenay Boundary
1.800.355.7352 • 1.250.368.9148
rdkb.com

Town of Golden
1.250.344.2271 • golden.ca

Village of Valemount
1.250.566.4435 • valemount.ca

How are the funds distributed?

The following local governments distribute the funds. Each has its own method of deciding which projects will receive the funds.

- City of Revelstoke
- Ktunaxa Nation Council
- Regional District of Central Kootenay
- Regional District of East Kootenay
- Regional District of Kootenay Boundary
- Town of Golden
- Village of Valemount

The communities that were affected the most when the Columbia River Treaty dams were built also receive funding under the Affected Areas Program. This includes communities near Arrow Lakes, Kinbasket, Duncan and Koochanusa reservoirs.

These two programs help your community meet its priorities.

What is the difference between the two programs?

All areas within the Columbia Basin receive funding under the Community Initiatives Program. There is a per capita formula that dictates how much funding each area receives.

Annual funding

Local Government	Annual Funding
City of Revelstoke	\$351,538
Ktunaxa Nation Council	\$153,908*
Regional District of Central Kootenay	\$1,292,359
Regional District of East Kootenay	\$1,041,331
Regional District of Kootenay Boundary	\$308,672*
Town of Golden	\$283,097
Village of Valemount	\$227,783

*Community Initiatives Program only