



Environment Projects Benefit Basin

The Trust approved funding for 49 environment projects in the 2016 Environment Grants intakes. These projects address one or more of the Trust's four environment goals: Ecosystems, Climate, Water, and Environmental Education...[full story](#)



Kootenay Business Magazine Profiles Trust CEO

Johnny Strilaeff, former Vice-President and Chief Operating Officer of Columbia Basin Trust, said that in his new role as President and CEO, he will rely on his experience as a Basin resident and on his work experience



College of the Rockies to Get New Trades Training Facility

Local students and employers will soon be able to benefit from a new trades training facility at College of the Rockies. The facility is being built thanks to \$10 million from the federal and provincial...[full story](#)

with the Trust...[full story](#)

Events and Deadlines

January 31 & February 1, 7, & 8

East Kootenays

Koocanusa Recreation Management Open Houses

Deadline: Various Dates

Basin-Wide

Community Initiatives and Affected Areas Program

February 2 & 3

Cranbrook

Trust Board of Directors Meeting

Deadline: February 6

Basin-Wide

Request for Expressions of Interest for ISPs

Deadline: February 15

Basin-Wide

Recreation Infrastructure Grants

February 16

Basin-Wide

Summer Works Program Applications Available

Deadline: March 3 & 17

Basin-Wide

Columbia Kootenay Cultural Alliance Arts, Culture and Heritage Grants

Go to events page.



CKCA Arts, Culture and Heritage Grants Available

[Learn more](#)

Seeking Business Owners' Input

The Trust is undertaking a regional shipping and logistics analysis to assess regional shipping infrastructure and services and explore options for improvement. *What does that mean for you?* We are reaching out to businesses that use or provide services to ship goods within or in...[full story](#)

[Take the Survey](#)

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Environment Projects Benefit Basin

News: January 26, 2017

\$1.07 million in funding approved in 2016

The Trust approved funding for 49 environment projects in the 2016 Environment Grants intakes. These projects address one or more of the Trust's four environment goals: Ecosystems, Climate, Water, and Environmental Education.


See the full lists of projects funded:

- [Environment Grants – Fall 2016](#)
- [Environment Grants – Spring 2016](#)

[Click here](#) for more information about our Environment Grants.

Environment Grants 2016

Columbia Basin trust

\$ 1.07  MILLION
in project funding

49  PROJECTS

4 FOCUS AREAS

Many of the projects address more than one of the focus areas.

25

PROJECTS THAT IMPROVE ECOSYSTEM HEALTH

14+ species of concern, from bats to grizzly bears (and many others).



18

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION PROJECTS



4

WATER STEWARDSHIP PROJECTS



2

CLIMATE ACTION PROJECTS



College of the Rockies to Get New Trades Training Facility

News: January 10, 2017



Local students and employers will soon be able to benefit from a new trades training facility at College of the Rockies. The facility is being built thanks to \$10 million from the federal and provincial governments, the college itself and the Trust.

“Through this partnership, students will be better able to achieve their career goals locally, while our region’s employers will have a greater opportunity to hire the skilled tradespeople they need,” said Johnny Strilaeff, Trust President and Chief Executive Officer. “We’re pleased to support this project that will help improve the Columbia Basin’s post-secondary options, develop our workforce and strengthen our economy.”

The new facility will increase capacity in the electrical, millwright and heavy-duty equipment technician programs by 43 full-time-equivalent spaces, to a total of 325 full-time-equivalent spaces. It will include a 1,800 square-metre energy-efficient building, designed to LEED Gold standards. There will also be a 3,400 square-metre yard and an engine lab for the heavy-duty equipment mechanic and technician programs and the automotive-service technician program.

The project is being funded by:

- \$4.2 million from the Government of Canada
- \$3.8 million from the Province of BC
- \$1 million from the college
- \$1 million from the Trust.

The project will create approximately 35 direct and 21 indirect jobs, and should be complete in spring 2018.

ENVIRONMENT GRANTS

List of projects approved for funding in the fall 2016 intake.

Community/Area	Organization	Project	Description	Funding Amount
ᑭᐱᑦᐱ	ᑭᐱᑦᐱ	ᑭᐱᑦᐱ Invasive Plant Goat Grazing	Remove invasive plants from approximately 300 hectares of grassland and educate community members about invasive species.	\$20,000
Basin Wide	The British Columbia Conservation Foundation	Grizzly Bear Coexistence Solutions	Improve human-grizzly bear coexistence in the Basin by delivering community-based education and providing practical solutions, such as electric-fencing for attractant management.	\$28,750
Basin Wide	Hornaday Wilderness Society	Columbia Basin Wolverine Research and Outreach	Model the population abundance of wolverines to better understand the effects of human disturbance and land management activities on wolverine density within the Columbia Basin.	\$33,000
Basin Wide	Mainstreams Environmental Society	Mainstreams Education and Stewardship	Deliver an environmental education program for both schools and the public focusing on water science, macro invertebrate ecology, and climate change adaptation.	\$45,300
Basin Wide	Wildlife Conservation Society Canada	Columbia Basin Bat Monitoring Initiative	Engage Basin residents and biologists in the conservation of bats, including documenting current species diversity, relative abundance and hibernacula locations.	\$60,000
Basin Wide	Wildsight	Beyond Recycling	Deliver a curriculum-linked environmental education program that helps grade 5 and 6 students better understand how their actions may affect the natural environment in beneficial or adverse ways.	\$60,000
Flathead Valley	Wildsight	Flathead River Biomonitoring Program	Support water quality monitoring in the Flathead River valley.	\$48,000
Canal Flats	Columbia Lake Stewardship Society	Columbia Lake Watershed Education Program	Develop and deliver a watershed education program for elementary school students in Canal Flats.	\$1,750
Castlegar	Kootenay Native Plant Society	Restoring Camas Along the Columbia River	Increase the ecological function of riparian meadow ecosystems along the Columbia River in the Castlegar area with a focus on common camas.	\$25,000

Community/Area	Organization	Project	Description	Funding Amount
Castlegar area	Wildsight	Brilliant Headpond Ecological Literature Review	Gather ecological information about the Brilliant Headpond Reservoir on the Kootenay River to help guide ecological stewardship activities.	\$2,500
Columbia River Headwaters	Lake Windermere Ambassadors Society	Columbia Headwaters Watershed Ambassadors Project	Implement water stewardship education, citizen science monitoring, and community-based ecosystem restoration projects to support watershed health in the Columbia Headwaters region.	\$30,000
Columbia Wetlands	Columbia Wetlands Stewardship Partners	Columbia Wetlands Conservation	Create a strategic framework to guide conservation efforts at the Columbia Wetlands.	\$24,000
Columbia Wetlands	The BC Wildlife Federation	Wetlands Institute 2017: East Kootenay	Host a Wetlands Institute that will both provide local residents (from Canal Flats to Golden) with knowledge and skills to complete wetland restoration and enhancement projects, and also enhance wetland habitat at a minimum of two sites.	\$33,000
Columbia Wetlands	Wildsight Golden	Columbia Wetlands Waterbird Survey	Support citizen scientists to learn about and gather data on migratory birds at the Columbia Wetlands.	\$35,000
Cranbrook	Columbia Mountains Institute of Applied Ecology	Incidental Take of Nesting Birds Forum	Host a forum that aims to improve ecological management of migratory birds in industrial environments.	\$8,900
Creston	Creston Valley Forest Corporation	Lady's Slipper Trail - Ecosystem Education	Provide information about local ecosystems, through signs and brochures, to people visiting the Lady's Slipper Interpretive Trail near Creston.	\$2,120
Creston area	Creston Valley Wildlife Management Authority Trust Fund	Wetland Education and Awareness Program	Deliver environmental education about wetland ecosystems and wildlife to a variety of audiences at the Creston Valley Wetlands.	\$32,000
Creston area	Birchdale Ecological	Grizzly Bear Conflict Management Project	Carry out research about grizzly bear activity in the Creston Valley to inform management actions that reduce human-grizzly conflicts and grizzly bear mortalities.	\$48,300
Elk Valley	Elk River Watershed Alliance	Elk River Map and Guide	Produce and share geocache sites and a map of the Elk River that promote understanding and conservation of ecological and cultural values.	\$10,000

Community/Area	Organization	Project	Description	Funding Amount
Elk Valley	The British Columbia Conservation Foundation	Understanding Grizzly-Human Conflicts	Work with Conservation Officers to radio collar grizzly bears and increase knowledge of grizzly bear movement, mortality rates, and causes of human-bear conflicts in the Elk Valley.	\$13,620
Kaslo / New Denver	Valhalla Wilderness Society	Fish-Bear Lakes Western Toad Conservation	Research, conservation, and community education at Fish and Bear lakes to help reduce western toad highway mortality.	\$25,000
Kokanee Creek Provincial Park, Kootenay Lake	West Kootenay Community EcoSociety	Kokanee Creek Nature Centre	Environmental education programming at the Kokanee Creek Nature Centre for school-aged students, community residents, and park visitors.	\$47,390
Kootenay Lake	Friends of Kootenay Lake Stewardship Society	Kootenay Lake Stewardship Project	Public education, citizen-based stewardship projects, and restoration of wetland and riparian areas in the Kootenay Lake area.	\$30,000
North Kootenay Lake	Kootenay Centre for Forestry Alternatives	North Kootenay Lake Water-Monitoring Project	Increase regional understanding of how small and medium-sized watersheds are projected to behave in a changing climate by monitoring stream hydrometric stations, snow sites, and climate stations in the North Kootenay Lake area.	\$60,000
Pass Creek, Castlegar area	Okanagan Nation Alliance	Pass Creek Riparian Planting	Restore riparian habitat along a portion of Pass Creek and provide environmental education opportunities for elementary students and the local community.	\$14,600
Revelstoke	North Columbia Environmental Society	Conservation Outreach in the North Columbia	Deliver an education program for Revelstoke residents to learn about wildlife and habitat conservation.	\$11,565
Revelstoke	Revelstoke Local Food Initiative Society	Farm To Table Environmental Education Programs	Deliver a school-based environmental education program that teaches students how the food system connects to biodiversity, ecosystem health, climate change, and water systems.	\$21,150
Rossland	Rossland Historical Museum And Archives Association	Rossland Museum Environmental Education Camps	Host environmentally focused summer day camps for children aged 7-11.	\$3,550
Rossland	Rossland Society for Environmental Action	Trail Creek Watershed – Monitoring and Stewardship	Engage local residents in learning about and stewarding the Trail Creek watershed through a variety of activities including field-based data collection.	\$10,720

Community/Area	Organization	Project	Description	Funding Amount
St. Mary Lake, Kimberley area	Thomas Resources	St. Mary River Burbot Enumeration	Collect data about spawning burbot in the lower St. Mary River and support ʔaqam community members to learn more about local burbot populations.	\$40,600
Summit Lake, Nakusp area	Jakob Dulisse Consulting	Summit Lake Western Toad Project	Reduce highway mortality of the blue-listed western toad at Summit Lake.	\$25,000
Ta Ta Creek	Rocky Mountain Trench Natural Resources Society	East Kootenay Badger Habitat Restoration	Restore and enhance critical habitat for American badger in the East Kootenay.	\$40,258
Tobacco Plains Indian Reserve	Tobacco Plains Indian Band	Grassland Restoration and Enhancement	Enhance and restore grasslands at the Tobacco Plains Indian Reserve and adjoining lands.	\$40,700
Windermere Valley	Wildsight Invermere Branch	Connecting With Nature	Connect Columbia Valley residents with their local ecosystems through an environmental education program that includes guided nature walks, wildlife workshops, and hands-on stewardship activities.	\$19,740

ENVIRONMENT GRANTS

List of projects approved for funding in the spring 2016 intake (up to \$10,000).

Community/Area	Organization	Project	Description	Funding Amount
Alexander Creek	Sparwood and District Fish and Wildlife Association	Alexander Creek Stream-side Restoration	Turn a 30 meter section of Alexander Creek's deteriorated riparian zone into a functioning riparian ecosystem using bioengineering techniques and native plant vegetation. Construct an interpretive sign and kiosks.	\$9,950
Kootenay Lake	Friends of Kootenay Lake Stewardship Society	Kootenay Lake Osprey Monitoring Project	Improve information on the status of breeding ospreys on Kootenay Lake by developing and delivering a citizen-science monitoring project to help inform on-the-ground action for future years.	\$5,439
Elk Valley	Elk River Alliance	Elk Watershed Discovery Camp	Host an experiential summer day camp for youth aged 10-14 to teach a range of topics including water quality monitoring, assessing aquatic and riparian health, fish biology and conservation, and the skills required to become watershed stewards.	\$8,500
Regional District of East Kootenay	Community Energy Association	Engaging Communities in Organic Diversion	Deliver an education and outreach program that will inform East Kootenay residents on the greenhouse gas impact of solid waste and encourage residents to participate in the Regional District of East Kootenay's organics waste pilot program.	\$9,968
Slocan Valley, Castlegar, Trail and Waneta	Federation of BC Naturalists	Kootenay Bank Swallow Survey	Develop a citizen science monitoring and education program to gather baseline abundance estimates for the bank swallow, train volunteers to monitor bank swallow colonies, raise	\$2,339

Community/Area	Organization	Project	Description	Funding Amount
			awareness of declining insect-eating birds, and provide stewardship information to landowners with bank swallows nesting on their properties.	
?aqam, ?Akisq'nuk First Nation, Tobacco Plains and Lower Kootenay)	Ktunaxa Nation Council Society	Ktunaxa Environmental Education Project	Engage with four communities to plan a series of workshops on topics such as water and water quality, invasive species, environmental monitoring, species at risk, ecosystem restoration, forest health and wildlife management.	\$10,000
Elk Valley	Whitebark Pine Ecosystem Foundation of Canada	Limber Pine Ecosystem Foundation of Canada	Enhance the population of the red-listed limber pine in the Mount Broadwood region near Elko to restore limber pine populations and raise public awareness of the conservation issues surrounding whitebark and limber pine.	\$8,150
Argenta	Argenta Community Association	Little Mountain Chickadee Outdoor Program	Develop and deliver an environmental education project that offers inquiry-based learning field trips to families in the North Kootenay Lake region.	\$2,620
Creston Valley	Birchdale Ecological	Creston Valley Bear Fair	Coordinate a day-long event to educate residents (including farmers, ranchers, and recreationists) on how to safely coexist with grizzly bears in the Creston Valley. The event will include electric-fencing workshops, bear behaviour and safety presentations, and bear spray demonstrations.	\$4,750

Community/Area	Organization	Project	Description	Funding Amount
Kimberley / McGinty Lake	Meadowbrook Community Association	McGinty Lake Environmental Education Program	Develop and deliver a curriculum-based environmental education program for elementary students to learn about McGinty Lake's ecosystem.	\$7,270
Rossland	Rossland Society for Environmental Action	North Jubilee Wetland Footbridge and Signs	Build a footbridge over the North Jubilee Wetland to improve public viewing of the wetland and protect the riparian zone. Construct an interpretive sign that will educate visitors about wetland ecosystems.	\$5,800
Slocan Valley	Slocan Solutions Society	Slocan Valley Rare Species Inventory	Inventory and map the occurrences of species-at-risk and threatened ecosystems located in the Slocan Valley to guide future conservation and stewardship opportunities.	\$9,950
Invermere	District of Invermere	Storm Water Capture Pilot Project	Construct a capture area to retain storm water and enhance water quality through bio-filtration thereby reducing the amount of roadway run-off that is directed into Lake Windermere.	\$10,000
Lake Windermere	Lake Windermere Ambassadors	The Ambassadors Video Engagement Project	Create a short educational video to promote lake and watershed stewardship and raise public awareness on the effects of upland and stream activities on Lake Windermere.	\$7,000