



Regional District of Central Kootenay
CRESTON VALLEY SERVICES COMMITTEE
Open Meeting Agenda

Date: Thursday, October 5, 2023
Time: 9:00 am
Location: Hybrid Model - In-person and Remote

Directors will have the opportunity to participate in the meeting electronically. Proceedings are open to the public.

Pages

1. WEBEX REMOTE MEETING INFO

To promote openness, transparency and provide accessibility to the public we provide the ability to attend all RDCK meetings in-person or remote (hybrid model).

Meeting Time:

9:00 a.m. MST

Join by Video:

<https://nelsonho.webex.com/nelsonho/j.php?MTID=mc9e4b676503e96371733d670841163f3>

Join by Phone:

1-844-426-4405 Canada Toll Free
+1-604-449-3026 Canada Toll (Vancouver)

Meeting Number (access code): 2771 992 4824

Meeting Password: R65NgE58fFC

In-Person Location: Creston & District Community Complex - Creston Erickson Room,, 312 19th Avenue North, Creston, BC

2. CALL TO ORDER

Chair DeBoon called the meeting to order at [Time] a.m.

3. TRADITIONAL LANDS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT

We acknowledge and respect the indigenous peoples within whose traditional lands we are meeting today.

4. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

RECOMMENDATION:
The agenda for the October 5, 2023 Creston Valley Services Committee meeting be adopted as circulated.

5. RECEIPT OF MINUTES 5 - 11
The September 7, 2023 Creston Valley Services Committee minutes, have been received.

6. DELEGATE

6.1 Letter Of Support - Francophone School In Creston 12 - 13
Monique Arès and Marie-Hélène Chang, representing a group of francophone parents, will present on their request for a letter of support to open a francophone school in Creston.

The Memorandum, re: Fact Sheet - Francophone School Creston, has been received for information.

6.2 Creston Valley Tourism Society 14 - 50
Jesse Willicome, Creston Valley Tourism Society Executive Director, will present on results from the 2023 marketing activities and is requesting Service 108 funding for their 2024 marketing plan.

The Creston Valley Tourism Society 2023 Budget and One Year Tactical Plan has been received for information.

The Creston Valley Tourism Society PowerPoint presentation has been received.

7. NEW BUSINESS

7.1 Letter of Support - Goat Mountain Bike Trails Project

RECOMMENDATION:
That it be recommended to the Board:

That the Board send a letter of support to Creston Community Forest for Goat Mountain Bike Trails Project.

7.2 Creston Valley Tourism Society - Economic Trust of the Southern Interior (ETSI) Grant Application

The Committee will have a discussion regarding the Creston Valley Tourism Society's request for a letter of support for their Economic Trust of the Southern Interior (ETSI) grant application.

7.3 Creston Valley Economic Development Discussion
The Committee will have a discussion regarding Creston Valley economic development.

7.4 Creston Education Centre - Lease Agreement 51 - 73
The Committee Report dated September 26, 2023 from Craig Stanley, Regional Manager – Operations and Asset Management, re: Creston Education Centre Lease Terms, has been received.

RECOMMENDATION:

That it be recommended to the Board:

That the RDCK Board to renew the lease for the Creston Education Centre for five years commencing on November 1, 2023 and ending on October 31, 2028 and further that the costs be allocated to Creston and District Community Facilities, Recreation and Leisure Services Area Service - S224 - and General Administration – S100.

7.5 For Information: Traditional Use Study 74 - 119
The Ktunaxa RDCK Traditional Use Study (TUS) Summary Report will be provided to the Board for the October 19, 2023 Board meeting with the following recommendation that was passed at the May 4, 2023 Creston Valley Services Committee meeting.

That the Ktunaxa RDCK Traditional Use Study (TUS) Summary Report dated April 2023 be received by the Board.

8. STAFF REPORTS

8.1 Emergency Services - Third Quarter Report 120 - 121
The Committee Report dated September 22, 2023 from Jon Jackson, Emergency Program Coordinator, re: Emergency Program Report: 3rd Quarter 2023, has been received.

8.2 Creston & District Community Complex Programming Update 122 - 128
The Committee Report dated September 28, 2023 from Tia Wayling, Regional Programming Manager, re: Creston & District Community Complex Programming Update, has been received.

9. PUBLIC TIME

The Chair will call for questions from the public and members of the media at _____ a.m.

10. NEXT MEETING

The next Creston Valley Services Committee meeting is scheduled for November 2, 2023 at 9:00 a.m.

11. ADJOURNMENT

129 - 132

RECOMMENDATION:

The [Name of Commission] meeting be adjourned at [Time].



Regional District of Central Kootenay
CRESTON VALLEY SERVICES COMMITTEE
Open Meeting Minutes

Thursday, September 7, 2023

9:00 a.m. MST

Hybrid Model - In-person and Remote

Creston & District Community Complex – Creston Erickson Room

312 19th Avenue North, Creston, BC

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Chair A. DeBoon

Committee Member G. Jackman

Committee Member K. Vandenberghe

Committee Member R. Tierney

Town of Creston – In-person

Electoral Area A – In-person

Electoral Area C – In-person

Electoral Area B – In-person

STAFF PRESENT

S. Horn

J. Chirico

C. Stanley

Chief Administrative Officer – RDCK

General Manager of Community Services - RDCK

Regional Manager – Operations and Asset Management –

Creston and District Community Complex - RDCK

Regional Manager - Recreation & Client Services – RDCK

Research Analyst – RDCK

Bylaw Supervisor - RDCK

Meeting Coordinator – RDCK

Chief Administrative Officer – Creston

T. Davison

T. Dool

J. Dupuis

C. Hopkyns

M. Moore

GUESTS PRESENT

S. Itkonen

Library Director – Creston Valley Public Library

4 out of 4 voting Commission/Committee members were present – quorum was met.

1. WEBEX REMOTE MEETING INFO

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Meeting Time:

9:00 a.m. MST

Join by Video:<https://nelsonho.webex.com/nelsonho/j.php?MTID=ma076d1a8b71c028807310876e66a348e>**Join by Phone:**

1-844-426-4405 Canada Toll Free

+1-604-449-3026 Canada Toll (Vancouver)

Meeting Number (access code): 2773 592 9441**Meeting Password:** uQMCuzpD693**In-Person Location:** Creston & District Community Complex - Creston Room, 312 19th Avenue North, Creston, BC**2. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair DeBoon called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

3. TRADITIONAL LANDS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT

We acknowledge and respect the indigenous peoples within whose traditional lands we are meeting today.

4. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved and seconded,

And Resolved:

The agenda for the September 7, 2023 Creston Valley Services Committee meeting be adopted with the inclusion of Public Time after Item 6.3 Creston & District Historical & Museum Society before circulation.

Carried**5. RECEIPT OF MINUTES**

The August 3, 2023 Creston Valley Services Committee minutes, have been received.

6. DELEGATES**6.1 Annual Creston Valley Blossom Festival**

Jennifer Huscroft, Annual Creston Valley Blossom Festival President, provided an update to the Committee regarding their request for the use of the Creston & District Community Complex parking lot for the 2024 festival. She addressed concerns brought forward at the August Creston Valley Services Committee meeting regarding parking and fire lane access, sharing a map of the of the Creston & District Community Complex (CDCC) parking lot, addressing these concerns.

Joe Chirico, General Manager of Community Services, shared the parking is a concern, with other events taking place during the dates of the Blossom Festival, such as the School District No. 8 Pow Wow event. Joe recommends the group meet with staff, the Town of Creston and School District No. 8 to work out if the events can co-exist.

Jennifer answered the Committee's questions.

DIRECTION TO STAFF: Staff will set up a meeting with the Annual Creston Valley Blossom Festival, Town of Creston and School District No. 8 to work with groups to see if the events can co-exist.

6.2 Creston Community Forest Corporation

Jerry Bauer, Board of Directors of the Creston Community Forest Corporation, provided a PowerPoint presentation to the Committee regarding the mountain bike trail project on Goat Mountain. Mr. Bauer shared the following:

- A suitability study was done to assess the suitability of mountain biking on Goat Mountain.
- The “whys” for this project:
- The conceptual designs for trails on Goat Mountain, which will be 40 kms of trails. He shared the cost estimates for the project was \$1.6 million, done in three phases. The Creston Community Forest has already set aside a reserve fund of \$100,000 for this project and will be looking for additional funding support.
- The community engagement process
- The key points to consider
 - The current trail system (10 trails, 35 km) managed by the Creston Community Forest in partnership with Recreation Sites and Trail BC is well maintained.
 - The Creston area is underserved for both hiking and mountain bike trails when compared to other communities in the Kootenays.
 - There is strong public support for this project.

Mr. Bauer shared next steps for the project and answered the Committee's questions.

6.3 Creston & District Historical & Museum Society

Stuart Horn, RDCK Chief Administrative Officer, provided a review on the funding relationship the RDCK has with societies/organizations. He shared that the RDCK has a contribution service to fund organizations, which are collected through taxation. The RDCK has an agreement to provide funds to an organization forming a service in the area. Stuart clarified that the RDCK has no control of society operations.

The Creston & District Historical & Museum Society Board members Luke Kurata, Doug Smith, Paul Dort and Brenda Draper were present. Mr. Kurata spoke on behalf of the board members, sharing their concerns with the Creston & District Historical & Museum Society Board.

He provided an overview regarding the Gallery, Library, Art Gallery and Museum (GLAM). He sharing that during the pandemic, these services took a major hit to their funding and the museum is struggling to maintain operating costs. He identified the board was trying to maintain long-term preservation of the capital assets of the society and programs. Mr. Kurata indicated there are concerns regarding the museum's operations and that a full operational audit be completed.

Committee member Jackman shared the Committee always look at financials of organization and the best way to be clear on funding is for the museum to make it public on their website.

Public Time

The majority of the public's questions regarding the Creston & District Historical & Museum Society could not be answered by the Creston Valley Services Committee and they were encouraged to ask the questions at the Museum Board meeting on Monday, September 11, 2023.

7. NEW BUSINESS

7.1 Creston Valley Public Library

The Reports dated June, July & August 2023 from Saara Itkonen, Library Director, re: Creston Valley Public Library (CVPL) Operations Report, Library Usage Report and Finance Report, have been received for information.

Saara Itkonen, Library Director, provided an update to the Committee regarding the Creston Valley Public Library. She shared that the summer reading program was a success. Saara reviewed the financials and the budget.

Saara answered the committee's questions.

7.2 Lister Community Cemetery

Director Tierney led a discussion regarding the Lister Community Cemetery annual RDCK grant funding for the maintenance and operation. He reminded the Committee that the funding was paused due to financial reports not being submitted. Director Tierney met with the group.. He shared the grounds are well maintained and the group has ensured him that going forward they would provide financial reporting. Director Tierney would like to reinstate the funding to the Lister Community Cemetery for 2024.

The Committee had a discussion regarding Lister Community Cemetery and reviewed funding with staff.

STAFF DIRECTION: That staff report back to the CVSC as part of the 2024 budget process to provide direction on what would be required to reinstate the grant funding to Lister

and Crawford Bay cemeteries, including the release of prior years amounts being held in reserve.

7.3 Traditional Use Study Next Steps

The Committee had a discussion regarding the Traditional Use Study next steps and the future of Martel Beach. The Committee would like to continue discussion and education on the Traditional Use Study.

STAFF DIRECTION: That staff write a request the Kootenay Lake Partnership to consider integrating the Traditional Use Study with the update of Cultural Values Study.

STAFF DIRECTION: That staff reach out to Ministry of Transportation to get their response/interest on Martel Beach regarding blocking trail access.

STAFF DIRECTION: That staff request a workshop/session with the Traditional Use Study authors, the Ktunaxa Nation and Yaqaan Nukiy, to educate the Committee to better understand the Traditional Use Study.

8. STAFF REPORTS

8.1 Creston Tour of Lights

Tom Dool, RDCK Research Analyst, shared that the contractor for the Creston Tour of Lights reached out to see if the RDCK is interested in participating in the tour again. This tour uses public transit to tour the Christmas lights through the community.

Tom answered the Committee's questions.

Tom will bring back a budget to the Committee prior to December.

8.2 Creston Valley Transit 3 Year Transit Expansion Memorandum of Understanding

The Committee Report dated August 31, 2023 from Tom Dool, RDCK Research Analyst, re: Creston Valley Transit 3 Year Transit Expansion Memorandum of Understanding, has been received.

Tom Dool, Research Analyst, provided an overview to the Committee regarding the Creston Valley Transit Three Year Transit Expansion Plan Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The MOU is with BC Transit for the purpose of confirming transit service expansion plans for 2024/25 and to approve transit expansion priorities for the subsequent two years. He shared that improving custom and on-demand transit services is a commitment to providing access to public transit to high barrier populations within the Creston Valley Transit Service Area. This improvement is meant to address the transit needs of seniors and those with mobility challenges.

Tom answered the Committee's questions.

Moved and seconded,
And Resolved that it be recommended to the Board:

That the Board authorize the Corporate Officer to sign the Creston Valley Transit 3 Year Transit Expansion Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with BC Transit for the purpose of confirming transit service expansion plans for 2024/25 and to approve transit expansion priorities for the subsequent two years; and further that the costs associated with MOU be included the 5 Year Financial Plan.

Carried

9. PUBLIC TIME

The Chair will call for questions from the public and members of the media at 11:35 a.m.
Public asked two questions:

1. A member of the public inquired about economic development related to S107 & 108. Staff confirmed the item will be discussed at the October Creston Valley Services Committee meeting.
2. A member of the public inquired about funding models the RDCK/Committee would consider using to reviewing funding of organizations. Staff shared that RDCK is currently reviewing the policy around funding.

Director Vandenberghe put forward the following motion for the Creston Valley Community Services Committee.

Moved and seconded,
And Resolved:

That the Creston Valley Services Committee supports John Chisamore's as the RDCK appointment to the Creston Valley Community Forest Board.

Carried

10. NEXT MEETING

The next Creston Valley Services Committee meeting is scheduled for October 5, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. MST.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Moved and seconded,
And Resolved:

The Creston Valley Services Committee meeting be adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

Carried

Digitally approved

Arnold DeBoon, Chair

Fact sheet – Francophone School Creston

What is a francophone school and how does it differ from French immersion?

The Conseil Scolaire Francophone (CSF) is a public-school board following the BC curriculum with certified teachers. CSF has its own school district (No. 93), which consists of 47 schools in BC. It is funded in the same way as any other school district in BC, by the Ministry of Education. The only language spoken at francophone schools is French, including parent-teacher correspondence. This provides the francophone environment children need to embrace their culture and heritage.

The French immersion program in Canyon is from Grade 5 to 7, and instruction is delivered in a combination of both French and English.

What are the eligibility criteria?

As per Section 23 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms and BC's School Act, Canadian citizens living in BC the right to have their children educated in a Francophone education program as long as:

- their first language learned and still understood is French; or
- they received their primary school instruction in Canada in French (not including French immersion); or
- their children have received or are receiving primary or secondary school instruction in Canada in French (not including French immersion)

<https://www.csf.bc.ca/en/inscription/processus-et-conditions-dadmission/>

What is the francophone community like in the Creston Valley and beyond?

According to census data, between 2016 and 2021, the general population in the Creston Valley grew by 5.07% and the francophone population grew by 9.52%!

Schools in the Kootenays: Kimberley, Rossland, Nelson, Fernie, Golden all have CSF schools. It is noteworthy that Kimberley opened their school in 2021 with 7 students and this year they have 13 enrolled. Golden started with 14 in 2019 and are now at 55 this year.

How many children and which grade?

In our first year of operation, we would offer from kindergarten to grade 3. In subsequent years more grades would be added as the kids get older. To be viable, there needs to be enough students for a school to start.

At this point, potential for the first year is 6 students in 2025, 9 in 2026, 10 in 2027 and 12 in 2028/29.

What are the benefits of having a francophone school in Creston?

Benefits a francophone school would bring to the Valley include:

- French-speaking federal employees (eg. RCMP, CBSA) would be more likely to select Creston with the opportunity of their children attending a francophone school.
- Francophone families looking to relocate into more affordable communities will be able to consider Creston as an option.
- Create bonding opportunities for the existing francophone community in Creston.
- Connection with the towns around us. For instance, since discussions of opening a francophone school in Creston began, the AFKO (Association Francophone des Kootenays Ouest) has discussed co-organizing francophone events and helping to bring the Creston francophone community together.
- Boost the economy of the valley. For example, a group of francophones from Nelson came for a day trip to visit Red Bird winery in July.

Where would the francophone school be located?

CSF will come and visit before making a final decision. In our proposal, we will make suggestions for the the South Creston School. More than happy to hear suggestions from you!

Contact:

Projet.csf.creston@gmail.com

Visit our facebook page: Ecole Francophone Creston BC



More resources: visit CSF website (<https://www.csf.bc.ca/en/>) and participate in the zoom information session with CSF on October 12 at 7pm. Email us to register.

**** As Presented to the CVTS****Section 3: Budget for One-Year Tactical Plan**

Revenues (MRDT and Non-	Revised Budget
Unrestricted)	\$ 175,004.33
General MRDT (net of admin fees)	\$ 70,000.00
MRDT from online accommodation platforms (OAP)	\$ 2,000.00
Local government contribution	\$ 22,000.00
Stakeholder contributions (i.e. membership dues)	
Estimated Co-op funding (e.g. CTO; DMO-led projects)	\$ 38,950.00
Grants - Federal	
Grants - Provincial	
Grants/Fee for Service - Municipal	
Retail Sales	\$ 18,000.00
Interest	\$ 360.00
Other: Contribution by Creston Community Forest for Hiking Map	\$ 1,500.00
Total Revenues (Excluding Carry Forward)	\$ 152,810.00
Expenses (MRDT and Non-MRDT)	Budget \$
Marketing	
Marketing staff – wage and benefits	
Media advertising and production (Google Ads, Social Media Ads, Ad design, etc.)	\$ 12,000.00
Website - hosting, development, maintenance	\$ 4,000.00
Social media	\$ 15,000.00
Consumer shows, events	
Collateral production and distribution	\$ 34,000.00
Travel media relations	
Travel trade	\$ 4,000.00
Consumer focused asset development (written content, video, photography)	\$ 18,000.00
Other: Branded merch, Provincial, Regional and Local Co-op Marketing Partnerships (BC Ale, Selkirk Loop, Creston Libations Tour)	\$ 6,000.00
Subtotal	\$ 93,000.00

Destination & Product Experience Management	
Destination and product experience management staff – wage and benefits	
Industry development and training	
Product experience enhancement and training	
Research and evaluation	\$ 3,000.00
Other (please describe)	
Subtotal	\$ 3,000.00
Visitor Services	
Visitor Services Wages and Benefits	
Expenses	
Other (please describe)	
Subtotal	\$ -
Meetings, Conventions, Events & Sport	
Staff – wages and benefits	
Meetings, conventions, conferences, events, sport, etc.	
Subtotal	\$ -
Administration	
Management and staff unrelated to program implementation - wages and benefits	\$ 51,408.00
Finance staff – wages and benefits	
Human Resources staff – wages and benefits	
Board of Directors costs	\$ 1,600.00
Information technology costs – workstation related costs (i.e. computers, telephone, support, networks)	\$ 1,000.00
Office lease/rent	
General office expenses	\$ 2,000.00
Subtotal	\$ 56,008.00
Affordable Housing (if applicable)	
OAP Revenue	
General MRDT Revenue	
Subtotal	\$ -
Other	
All other wages and benefits not included above (please describe)	

Other activities not included above: bank fees, post office box fees, Membership fees, and other operating expenses	\$ 750.00
Subtotal	\$ 750.00
Total Expenses	\$ 152,758.00
Total Revenue Less Total Expenses (Surplus or Deficit)	\$ 52.00
Estimated Carry Forward (Previous Year Carry Forward plus Surplus or Deficit)	\$ 175,056.33

Appendix 2.3 One-Year Tactical Plan

One-Year Tactical Plan - 2023

Designated Recipient: Creston Valley Tourism Society

Designated Accommodation Area: Town of Creston, RDCK Electoral Area B, RDCK Electoral Area C

Date Submitted: November 30th, 2022,

MRDT Repeal Date: June 2025

Five Year Period: 2020-2025

Section 1: Overview and Update to Five-year Strategic Business Plan	
Heading	Description
Strategic Direction	<p>Vision:</p> <p>Our vision is that the Creston Valley will be transformed into an outstanding destination in BC through compelling marketing that attracts visitors to the area, provides a remarkable experience, and promotes sustainable tourism growth</p> <p>Mandate:</p> <p>To promote the Creston Valley & Area as an outstanding tourism destination in BC.</p> <p>Mission:</p> <p>Creston Tourism Society will:</p> <p>Work collaboratively with our community partners to provide strategic marketing that will attract more visitors to our area year-round (MARKETING);</p> <p>Support remarkable visitor experiences that will celebrate our natural and cultural history and provide broad benefits to all members of the community (EXPERIENCES);</p> <p>Provide industry leadership and create awareness within our community regarding the value of tourism (LEADERSHIP).</p> <p>Goals:</p> <p>To Increase “Heads in Beds” at accommodations in the Creston Valley area To support the economic development of the Creston Valley area’s tourism sector</p>

Key Learnings and Conclusions

Local Tourism Market Analysis

Based on data from Symphony Tourism Research's Creston Valley Mobilescapes Report commissioned by CVTS, visitorship to the Creston Area from across Canada dropped an approximate 11% from 2019 to 2021, primarily as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. Not included in this report US visitorship, which has historically made up an estimated 10% of total visitors to the area, would have also been almost completely negligible during this period.

However, due to pent up domestic travel demand It appears Canadian visitorship in 2022 will have bounced back to near pre-pandemic levels, which we hope to verify through a Mobilsecapes Report for 2022. While NW US traffic will continue to be below average for 2022, the removal of Covid-19 vaccination requirements for international arrivals in October has already led to a notable increase of US visitors in the final months of 2022. Therefore, overall 2022 visitorship to the Creston Valley area saw strong recovery that mirror provincial and national trends and offers positive indicators looking forward.

2022 Priorities

With its operations setup, staff hired, funds budgeted and marketing tactics planned to launch the Creston Valley Tourism Society finally entered the year in full operations in 2022, which had been hampered since it's establishment at the beginning of the pandemic. Therefore, the priorities for CVTS heading into 2022 were:

Organizational Development – to build up the capacity and leadership of the CVTS Board of Directors in 2022 to provide strategic leadership and oversight of the staff's execution of it's first full marketing plan approved in 2021.

Comprehensive Tourism Marketing – To lead all tourism marketing for the Creston Valley area in 2022, including the maintenance of previous marketing activities and taking on new tactics like the publication of the Visitor Guide from local government, publication of a Food & Farm map and launching a new website.

Collaboration & Industry Leadership – to regularly connect with local tourism industry to provide information, opportunities, and raise awareness of CVTS's activities with stakeholders while also participating in a number of local, regional and provincial marketing opportunities and other industry initiatives.

Collection of Data - To begin the collection of data from marketing channels like Social Media, website, and online ads as well visitor data collected through the Creston Valley Visitor Centre, and other tourism industry partners such as Symphony Tourism Research.

2022 Challenges

While 2022 saw impressive recovery from the impacts of the covid-19 pandemic, a number of significant and unexpected challenges also arose that affected the Creston Valley Tourism Society's plans and operations for the year, namely:

Revenue & Funding Instability – CVTS had to adapt it's plans in response to an unexpected claw back of over deposited MRDT funds by the Ministry of Finance, leading to a 7 month period without deposits, which significantly affected the projected 2022 budget.

The Residual Covid 19 Affect - Continued to have to address potential visitor uncertainty about public health orders & advisories, the ongoing impacts of vaccine requirements on US travel and the lingering effects of product & labour shortages on operations at many local businesses and attractions.

Inflation & Unexpected Cost Increases – Had to scale back marketing activities in response to significant increases in material costs like paper costs and Shipping & distribution in later 2021 and early 2022.

Operational Growing Pains – Had some hiccups in operations with staff having struggled to accurately budget for some new marketing tactics and struggling with development and implementation of the website and visitors’ guides.

2022 Accomplishments

Despite these challenges the Creston Valley Tourism Society was able to quickly pivot and adapt to the circumstances and was successful in moving forward on a number of it’s priorities in 2022, including:

Successful Marketing Plan Implementation – While maintaining existing marketing activities CVTS was able to expand the scale of it’s marketing in 2022 and fully executive it’s marketing plan.

Establishing Data Collection - Began the collection of data from marketing channels like Social Media, website, and online ads as well as other tourism industry partners such as Symphony Tourism Research.

Collaboration & Industry Leadership - Regularly communicated with local stakeholders via a Quarterly E-Newsletter while participating in a number of local, regional and provincial industry partnerships and marketing collaborations like the Creston Libations Tour and BC Ale Trail.

Strong Financial Management – Despite the challenges of financial instability caused by the claw-back of MRDT revenues for 7 months in 2022, unexpected cost increases and underbudgeting for some expenses in 2022, CVTS still procured ongoing funding contributions from local partners, exceeded revenues for ad sales and managed to keep it’s reserves steady.

Organizational Effectiveness – The Board of Directors of the society took an active and engaged leadership role which enabled staff to effectively implement the marketing plan and respond quickly to challenges and opportunities.

Analysis of Tourism Sector in 2023

Looking ahead we see many signs pointing to another year of near pre-pandemic visitorship to the Creston Valley area from all markets in 2023 should conditions not change. This forecast is due to a number of near-term favourable market factors like the removal of vaccine requirements for international travel to Canada, a very favourable US dollar exchange rate, the easing of pandemic labour shortages affecting business operations, etc.

However, market headwinds like inflation, the risk of recession, the potential for a Covid-19 resurgence and geo-political events in Europe & Asia are likely to slow the pace of tourism recovery and thus stall a return to pre-pandemic levels of visitorship. Therefore in 2023 we are projecting an estimated 5-7% increase in visitorship and tourism related revenues to the Creston Valley area in and a more modest increase in

	<p>hotel occupancy of 3-4%.</p> <p>As a result of our work in 2022 and in response to the projections for 2023, the Creston Valley Tourism Society is focused on the following priorities for 2023:</p> <p><u>Building Up Marketing</u> – CVTS will continue to maintain and refine marketing tactics from 2022, while launching some new marketing tactics such as acquiring video content and hosting familiarization tours for media and social media influencers.</p> <p><u>Refining Data Collection</u> – Staff will continue to refine current data collection from marketing activities while looking for further opportunities to get valuable information on visitor data to guide successful future marketing.</p> <p><u>Enhancing Collaboration & Industry Leadership</u> – Will continue to communicate regularly with our growing contact list of local tourism stakeholders while engaging in local, regional and provincial industry initiative and marketing collaborations that align with CVTS's priorities.</p> <p><u>Strengthening Organization</u> – Will further focus on strengthening the leadership role of the board of directors and the capacity of staff while ensuring the financial security of the organization to allow it to continue the successful implementation of its marketing plans.</p> <p>Summary Paralleling provincial and national trends visitorship to the Creston Valley area saw strong recovery, which in turn drove demand for local products and experiences and had positive economic benefits for the sector. Looking ahead to 2023 we feel strongly that this recovery will continue and that the Creston Valley Tourism Society is prepared and excited for the opportunity to support the recovery and continued growth of the tourism sector in the Creston Valley area in the coming year and beyond.</p>
Strategies	<p>Creston Valley Tourism Society's five-year strategic priorities are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Brand & DMO Development 2. Marketing 3. Data Collection 4. Collaboration
Overall Goals and Objectives	<p>As laid out in its Five Year business Plan from 2019 the Creston Valley Tourism Society's strategic goals & objectives included the following:</p> <p><u>1. Brand & DMO Development</u></p> <p>Goal: <i>To develop the Creston Tourism Society organization and brand to ensure key strategies identified in the Five-year Business Plan are met.</i></p> <p>Objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Hire DMO Coordinator 3. Develop strong and recognizable brand 4. Develop reporting structures to key stakeholders

	<p><u>2. Marketing</u></p> <p>Goal: <i>To Increase visitations to the Creston Valley and area, specifically long-term (2+ days) and shoulder season stays</i></p> <p>Objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Create a comprehensive five-year marketing plan 2. Deliver marketing plan <p>Goal: <i>To develop progressive and measurable social media, paper marketing, and promotional material that will enhance interest in tourism in the Creston Valley</i></p> <p>Objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review current products 2. Develop and distribute new products <p><u>3. Data Collection</u></p> <p>Goal: <i>To develop and implement data collection tools for marketing</i></p> <p>Objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop understanding of market options for data collection 2. Implement data collection tools as driver for marketing strategies <p><u>4. Collaboration</u></p> <p>Goal: <i>To collaborate with local DMOs on regional marketing initiatives to grow opportunities and overnight stays</i></p> <p>Objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To educate and learn from established local DMOs (i.e. KRT, DBC) 2. To identify and include joint marketing opportunities and initiatives in marketing plan <p>Goal: <i>To work with Kootenay-Rockies Tourism and Destination BC to ensure consistency and fluidity of branding and marketing</i></p> <p>Objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To participate in monthly meetings/direct connections with KRT/DBC 2. To participate in KRT/DBC and tourism industry-related events and initiatives
<p>Target Markets</p>	<p>1. <u>Demographic Markets</u> Target demographic markets of the Creston Valley and area are typically:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 55+ Baby Boomers couples and singles without children, and • Gen X & Millennial Young families with children <p>2. <u>Geographic Markets</u> Based on market research and data the Creston Valley's primary target markets are:</p>

- **British Columbia** (Particularly the Lower Mainland, Okanagan and other Kootenay communities)
- **Alberta** (Calgary, Lethbridge, Reed Deer, Edmonton)
- **Northwestern USA** (Northeast Washington, Idaho Panhandle, Northwest Montana)

3. Psychographic Markets

Based on Creston Valley assets and current tourism knowledge, our psychographic focus will be on the following EQ types:

- **Authentic Experiencer – Seek and Find. Experience like a local.**
The exceptional food, arts/cultural, events, and welcoming citizens of the Creston Valley provide extensive opportunities for travelers to experience life as a local.
- **Free Spirited – Open-minded to explore and experiment.**
The Creston Valley bodes hiking, biking, and water opportunities for Free spirits, with exceptional back country adventures on the Kootenay Pass and surrounding mountains.
- **Gentle Explorer – Discover close to home and enjoy simple comforts.**
The Creston Valley’s warm climate, adaptive walking trails, wineries, extensive food/refreshment options, unique and inviting accommodations, fruit stands, and accessible shopping areas bode well with all gentle travelers.

4. Target Length of Stay

CVTS would like to see average length of stay increase from the average 2.3 nights to the regional average of 3.2 nights.

Section 2: One-Year Tactical Plan with Performance Measures

1. Marketing - Media advertising and production

A. Tactics:

- Advertising in key regional tourism print publications (International Selkirk Loop, West Kootenay Go & Do)
- Advertising online via Search engine and Website Display Ads to key geographic and demographic markets
- Advertising online via Paid Social Media Ads to key geographic and demographic markets

B. Implementation Plan:

Short Description: To purchase advertising online and in print publications to reach target audiences to promote the Creston Valley area as a unique tourism destination.

Rationale:

- To develop progressive and measurable online social media, paper marketing, and promotional material that will enhance interest in tourism in the Creston Valley
- To Increase visitations to the Creston Valley and area, specifically long-term (2+ days) and shoulder season stays

Quantifiable Objectives:

- To motivate guide & map users to visit featured local businesses and attractions
- To drive traffic to Explore Creston Valley social media pages for visitors to learn about area
- To drive traffic to Explore Creston Valley website for visitors to learn about the area and plan trip
- To motivate website users to clickthrough to websites of local accommodators and directly book their stay

Action Steps:

- Book ads in key regional print publications for Spring, Summer, Fall & Winter of 2023 (International Selkirk Loop, WK Go & Do)
- Purchase online search engine advertising with Google, Bing, etc.
- Purchase online display ads on key websites popular with Key geographic and demographic markets
- Purchase social media ads on Facebook, Instagram

Potential Partnerships: Key community stakeholders, tourism industry, provincial DMOs, KRT, DBC

Resources: KRT, DBC, TIABC, North American and International Tourism Materials

Sources of Funding: MRDT, DBC Co-op Marketing Partnership Funding, Local Government Partners

Timeframe: January – December 2023

Budget: \$10,000.00

C. Performance Measures:

Outputs:

- 3 ads purchased in regional print publications
- 2-3 Google Ad Campaigns
- 2-3 Social Media Ad Campaigns
- 25,000 views of social media ads
- 100,000 views of search & display ads
- 1,000 Clicks from social media ads
- 2,500 clicks to website from Google Ads (search ads, display ads, etc.)

Outcome:

- Increase visitor volumes
- Increase nights & visitor spending
- Increase visitor revenues
- Increase average length of stay
- Increase accommodation revenues
- Increase number of new tourism-related businesses

2. Marketing - Website

A. Tactics:

- Maintain & Enhance Explore Creston Valley website as the go-to website for consumers to learn about the area and plan a trip as well as for local businesses to post events, new services, etc.

B. Implementation Plan:

Short Description: To maintain and enhance Explore Creston Valley website (www.explorecrestonvalley.com) to act as the go-to website for prospective visitors.

Rationale:

- To develop progressive and measurable social media, paper marketing, and promotional material that will enhance interest in tourism in the Creston Valley
- To Increase visitations to the Creston Valley and area, specifically long-term (2+ days) and shoulder season stays

Quantifiable Objectives:

- To drive traffic to Explore Creston Valley website for visitors to learn about the area and plan a trip
- To drive traffic to partner organizations and business' websites and social media
- To motivate website users to clickthrough to websites of local accommodators and directly book their stay

Action Steps:

- Maintain Explore Creston Valley website (www.explorecrestonvalley.com)
- Make small modifications and changes to enhance the website's usability and functionality
- Continue to promote website via link on all other forms of advertising as go-to for information for visitors
- Continue to promote website to local businesses and stakeholders; encourage them to use events calendar to promote their events

Potential Partnerships: Key community stakeholders, tourism industry, provincial DMOs, KRT, DBC

Resources: KRT, DBC, TIABC, North American and International Tourism Materials

Sources of Funding: MRDT, DBC Co-op Marketing Partnership Funding, Local Government Partners

Timeframe: Ongoing

Budget: \$2,000.00

C. Performance Measures:

Outputs:

- 20,000+ unique visits to the website
- 2 Minute Average Time on Website
- 100 visitor inquiries via chat function
- 1,000 outgoing Clicks through referrals from website to businesses and accommodator websites
- 200 submissions to Event Calendar by local businesses
-

Outcome:

- Increase visitor volumes
- Increase nights & visitor spending
- Increase visitor revenues
- Increase average length of stay
- Increase accommodation revenues
- Increase number of new tourism-related businesses

3. **Marketing – Social Media**

A. **Tactics:**

- To manage Explore Creston Valley Facebook & Instagram pages, posting & resharing of content by followers and users with our audience and other social media users.

B. **Implementation Plan:**

Short Description: To use Explore Creston Valley Facebook & Instagram to inspire followers with ideas of things to do, places to eat, shop or stay, drive followers/prospective visitors to our website or local partners' websites, and then plan and book a trip.

Rationale:

- To develop progressive and measurable social media, paper marketing, and promotional material that will enhance interest in tourism in the Creston Valley
- To Increase visitations to the Creston Valley and area, specifically long-term (2+ days) and shoulder season stays

Quantifiable Objectives:

- To drive traffic to partner organizations and business' social media pages and websites
- To drive traffic to and get referral traffic from Kootenay Rockies Tourism & Destination BC's social media pages
- To motivate users and followers to visit our website to learn more about the area and book a trip
- To motivate website users/prospective visitors to clickthrough to websites of local accommodators and directly book their stay

Action Steps:

- To contract social media marketing coordinator for 2023
- To continue consistent and seasonally appropriate content on Explore Creston Valley Facebook & Instagram pages
- To encourage the use of the #explorecrestonvalley by local business and organizations and then re-share content
- To encourage the use of the #explorecrestonvalley by followers and then re-share their content
- To reshare our social media content with KRT & DBC's audiences using their #kootsrock & #discoverbc hashtags

Potential Partnerships: Key community stakeholders, tourism industry, provincial DMOs, KRT, DBC

Resources: KRT, DBC, TIABC, North American and International Tourism Materials

Sources of Funding: MRDT, DBC Co-op Marketing Partnership Funding, Local Government Partners

Timeframe: Ongoing

Budget: \$12,000.00

C. **Performance Measures:**

Outputs:

- 192 posts/stories on each social media page
- 2,000 Click Throughs to website from social media pages
- 250 Uses of the #explorecrestonvalley by followers
- 250 Uses of the #explorecrestonvalley by local businesses and organizations
- 5 Reshares of social media content by KRT & DBC
- 10,000 total followers on social media

Outcome:

- Increase visitor volumes
- Increase nights & visitor spending
- Increase visitor revenues
- Increase average length of stay
- Increase accommodation revenues
- Increase number of new tourism-related businesses

4. **Marketing - Collateral Production and Distribution**

A. **Tactics:**

- To update, print and distribute 2022-2023 Explore CV Visitor's Guide
- To update, print and distribute Explore CV Food & Farm Tour Map & Collateral
- To update, print and distribute Explore CV Hiking Map

B. **Implementation Plan:**

Short Description: To design, print and distribute print collateral pieces such as a Visitors' Guide, Food & Farm Tour Map, and Hiking Map to inspire visitors elsewhere in the province to come for a visit and for those already here to stay longer.

Rationale:

- To develop progressive and measurable social media, paper marketing, and promotional material that will enhance interest in tourism in the Creston Valley
- To Increase visitations to the Creston Valley and area, specifically long-term (2+ days) and shoulder season stays

Quantifiable Objectives:

- To motivate consumers to pick up print materials to learn more about the area and book a trip
- To motivate guide & map users to visit featured local businesses and attractions
- To drive traffic to Explore Creston Valley website for visitors to learn about the area and plan trip
- To motivate guide readers to visit websites or call local accommodators and directly book their stay

Action Steps:

- Send out Ad Sheets to local business contact list calling for ad bookings for Guide & Food & Farm Tour Map at beginning of December 2022
- Finalize ads for Guide and Food & Farm Tour Map by end of January 2022
- Begin draft design and content for Food & Farm Tour Map by end of January 2023
- Begin draft design and content for Visitors' Guide by end of January 2023
- Finalize drafts of Guide & Food & Farm Tour Map by end February 2023
- Update Hiking Map with new content by February 2023
- Order printing and shipping of Guide & Food, Hiking Map, and Farm Tour Map by March 2023
- Distribute print collateral locally throughout April 2022
- Ship print guides to airports, along Highway 3 corridor, and to Visitor Centres regionally and provincially by May 2022
- Continue local distribution of print collateral quarterly or as needed throughout 2022

Potential Partnerships: Key community stakeholders, tourism industry, provincial DMOs, KRT, DBC

Resources: KRT, DBC, TIABC, North American and International Tourism Materials

Sources of Funding: MRDT, DBC Co-op Marketing Partnership Funding, Local Government Partners

Timeframe: January 2023- December 2023

Budget: \$34,000.00

C. **Performance Measures:**

Outputs:

- 25+ Businesses listed in Food & Farm Map
- 36+ ads in the Visitors' Guide
- Printing & distribution of 3,000 Food & Farm Maps, 3,000 Hiking Maps and 12,000 Visitors Guides to 100+ locations locally
- Distribution of 2,000 Visitors' Guides along Highway 3 Corridor via ABBC Brochures
- Racking of 1,000 visitors' Guides to Rockies International Airport & West Kootenay Regional Airport
- Distribution of 3,000 Visitor Guides to 40+ provincial Visitors' Centres

Outcome:

- Increase visitor volumes
- Increase nights & visitor spending
- Increase visitor revenues
- Increase average length of stay
- Increase accommodation revenues
- Increase number of new tourism-related businesses

5. Marketing - Consumer Focused Asset Development

A. Tactics:

- To contract photographer to get photo content for use in future tourism marketing activities
- To contract videographer to capture b-roll video content for use in future tourism marketing activities
- To contract content writer to write blog posts for Explore Creston Valley Website

B. Implementation Plan:

Short Description: To contract qualified photographers, videographers and writers to get brand aligned photo, video and written content for use on the Explore Creston Valley Website, in print collateral, for print and online ads, social media marketing, etc.

Rationale:

- To develop progressive and measurable social media, paper marketing, and promotional material that will enhance interest in tourism in the Creston Valley
- To Increase visitations to the Creston Valley and area, specifically long-term (2+ days) and shoulder season stays

Quantifiable Objectives:

-
- To acquire new photo & video content for marketing activities
- To purchase new written content to feature on website blog
- To inspire consumers to pick up print materials to learn more about the area and book a trip
- To inspire consumers to visit featured local businesses and attractions
- To inspire consumers to click throughs from online sources and ads to website for visitors to plan trip
- To motivate website users to clickthrough to websites of local accommodators and directly book their stay

Action Steps:

- To contract photographer March 2023
- To contract videographer in March 2023
- To contract blog writer in March 2022
- Work with photographer to identify high priority photo shoot list in April 2023
- Work with videographer to identify high priority photo shoot list in April 2023
- Work with content writer to identify high priority blog post list in April 2023
- Photographer & Videographer to coordinate and execute shoots throughout 2023
- Blog Writer to publish regular posts throughout 2023
- Photographer to deliver photo content to CVTS staff for storage and use

Potential Partnerships: Key community stakeholders, tourism industry, provincial DMOs, KRT, DBC

Resources: KRT, DBC, TIABC, North American and International Tourism Materials

Sources of Funding: MRDT, DBC Co-op Marketing Partnership Funding, Local Government Partners

Timeframe: January 2023- December 2023

Budget: \$15,000.00

C. Performance Measures:

Outputs:

- Photographer to provide CVTS with 50 photos from 10 photoshoots
- Videographer to provide CVTS with 25 B-Roll videoclips from 10 videoshoots
- Content writer to provide 12 blog posts to be published monthly throughout 2023

Outcome:

- Increase visitor volumes
- Increase nights & visitor spending
- Increase visitor revenues
- Increase average length of stay
- Increase accommodation revenues
- Increase number of new tourism-related businesses

6. Marketing – Media Relations

A. Tactics:

- To sponsor a familiarization tour of the Creston Valley area with traditional media (print or broadcast media) and/or Online Content Creators (bloggers or social media influencers)

B. Implementation Plan:

Short Description: To sponsor traditional media and/or Online Content Creators with aligned audiences/followers to come do a familiarization tour of the Creston area in 2023 and then create articles, news segments, blogs, vlogs or social media content about their experience.

Rationale:

- To develop progressive and measurable social media, paper marketing, and promotional material that will enhance interest in tourism in the Creston Valley
- To Increase visitations to the Creston Valley and area, specifically long-term (2+ days) and shoulder season stays

Quantifiable Objectives:

- To familiarize traditional media and online content creators with the unique tourism experiences of the Creston Valley area
- To then use the content generated by participating traditional media or online content creators to reach their audiences or followers
- To inspire consumers to visit local businesses and attractions featured in content
- To inspire these audiences or followers to visit website to learn more about the area and plan a trip
- To motivate website users to clickthrough to websites of local accommodators and directly book their stay

Action Steps:

- To work with Kootenay Rockies Tourism & Destination BC to identify potential media to work with and identify media sponsorship funding opportunities
- To reach out to identified media or content creators to invite to invite to submit a media proposal or plan for sponsorship of familiarization tour of the Creston Valley area
- To contract interested media and content creators to do familiarization tour
- to work with contracted media and content creators to draft a schedule & itinerary and liase with participating local businesses or organizations
- To host & coordinate familiarization tour with media or content creators in Summer or Fall 2023
- To receive and review draft content created by media or content creators for feedback before final publication

Potential Partnerships: Key community stakeholders, tourism industry, provincial DMOs, KRT, DBC

Resources: KRT, DBC, TIABC, North American and International Tourism Materials

Sources of Funding: MRDT, DBC Co-op Marketing Partnership Funding, Local Government Partners

Timeframe: January 2023- December 2023

Budget: \$4,000.00

C. Performance Measures:

Outputs:

- 1-2 media or online content creators publish articles, news segments, blogs, vlogs or social media content about the Creston Valley area's unique tourism experiences in 2023

Outcome:

- Increase visitor volumes
- Increase nights & visitor spending
- Increase visitor revenues
- Increase average length of stay
- Increase accommodation revenues
- Increase number of new tourism-related businesses

7. Marketing – Other

A. Tactics:

- To participate in provincial or regional co-op marketing opportunities (BC Ale Trail, etc.)
- To participate in local marketing campaigns that have alignment with tourism marketing (Creston Libations Tour)
- To purchase branded merchandise for sponsorship and prize giveaway (Stickers, Post Cards, etc.)

B. Implementation Plan:

Short Description: To pay for participation in Co-op Marketing projects like the BC Ale Trail, sponsor other local marketing initiatives like the Creston Libations Tour and purchase branded merchandise for sponsorships and giveaways (Stickers, Post Cards, etc.)

Rationale:

- To develop progressive and measurable social media, paper marketing, and promotional material that will enhance interest in tourism in the Creston Valley
- To Increase visitations to the Creston Valley and area, specifically long-term (2+ days) and shoulder season stays

Quantifiable Objectives:

- To participate in local, regional or provincial marketing opportunities with other DMO's and business partners to enhance our reach to potential consumers
- To inspire these audiences or followers to visit website to learn more about the area and plan a trip
- To inspire consumers to visit featured local businesses and attractions
- To motivate website users to clickthrough to websites of local accommodators and directly book their stay
- To develop branded merchandise for sponsorships and giveaways to visitors to visitor centre and local businesses (Stickers, Post Cards, etc.)

Action Steps:

- To buy in to provincial or regional co-op marketing opportunities that align with CVTS's marketing strategy
- To buy into local marketing campaigns that align with CVTS's marketing strategy
- To design and purchase merchandise in Spring 2023
- To distribute merchandise to Visitor Centre and other local businesses in the Creston Valley area and have available for local events as needed

Potential Partnerships: Key community stakeholders, tourism industry, provincial DMOs, KRT, DBC

Resources: KRT, DBC, TIABC, North American and International Tourism Materials

Sources of Funding: MRDT, DBC Co-op Marketing Partnership Funding, Local Government Partners

Timeframe: January 2022- December 2022

Budget: \$4,000.00

C. Performance Measures:

Outputs:

- Creston Valley featured in Regional or Provincial Co-operative campaigns (BC Ale Trail)
- 1,000 Postcards
- 250 Stickers

Outcome:

- Increase visitor volumes
- Increase nights & visitor spending
- Increase visitor revenues
- Increase average length of stay
- Increase accommodation revenues
- Increase number of new tourism-related businesses

8. Destination Development & Experience Management - Research and Evaluation

A. Tactics:

- To purchase Mobilescapes 2022 Visitor Research Report for from Symphony Tourism Research Services
- To purchase or gather any other relevant data to better understand visitors to the area and the ROI of tourism marketing

B. Implementation Plan:

Short Description: To purchase Mobilescapes 2022 Visitor Research Report for from Symphony Tourism Research Services, which provides cumulative 2022 data on the number of visitors to the Creston Valley area and origin based on the IP address of anonymous cellphone users to the area. Staff will also look for other opportunities to purchase or gather relevant data to better understand visitors to the area and ROI of our marketing.

Rationale:

- To develop and implement data collection tools for marketing
- To Increase visitations to the Creston Valley and area, specifically long-term (2+ days) and shoulder season stays

Quantifiable Objectives:

-
- To get cumulative data on number of Canadian visitors to the area in 2022
- To determine impact of Covid-19 pandemic on travel to the area
- To determine who core geographic markets are
- To determine who core demographic markets are
- To use this data to develop more effective marketing to key demographic & geographic markets in future
- To increase visitations to the Creston area and thereby increase spending at local businesses
- To increase average length of stay of visitors to the Creston area

Action Steps:

- To purchase Mobilescapes 2022 Visitor report and data from Symphony Tourism Research
- To review report and compare with data from 2019 & 2021 Mobilescapes report
- To use data from research in developing marketing plans in 20223 and future years
- To look for opportunities to purchase or gather any other relevant data to better understand visitors to the area and the ROI of tourism marketing

Potential Partnerships: KRT, DBC

Resources: KRT, DBC, TIABC, Destination Canada, North American and International Tourism Materials

Sources of Funding: MRDT, DBC Co-op Marketing Partnership Funding, Local Government Partners

Timeframe: January 2023- February 2023

Budget: \$2,000.00

C. Performance Measures:

Outputs:

- Mobilescapes 2022 Visitor Research Report

Outcome:

- Increase visitor volumes
- Increase nights & visitor spending
- Increase visitor revenues
- Increase average length of stay
- Increase accommodation revenues
- Increase number of new tourism-related businesses

2023 S108

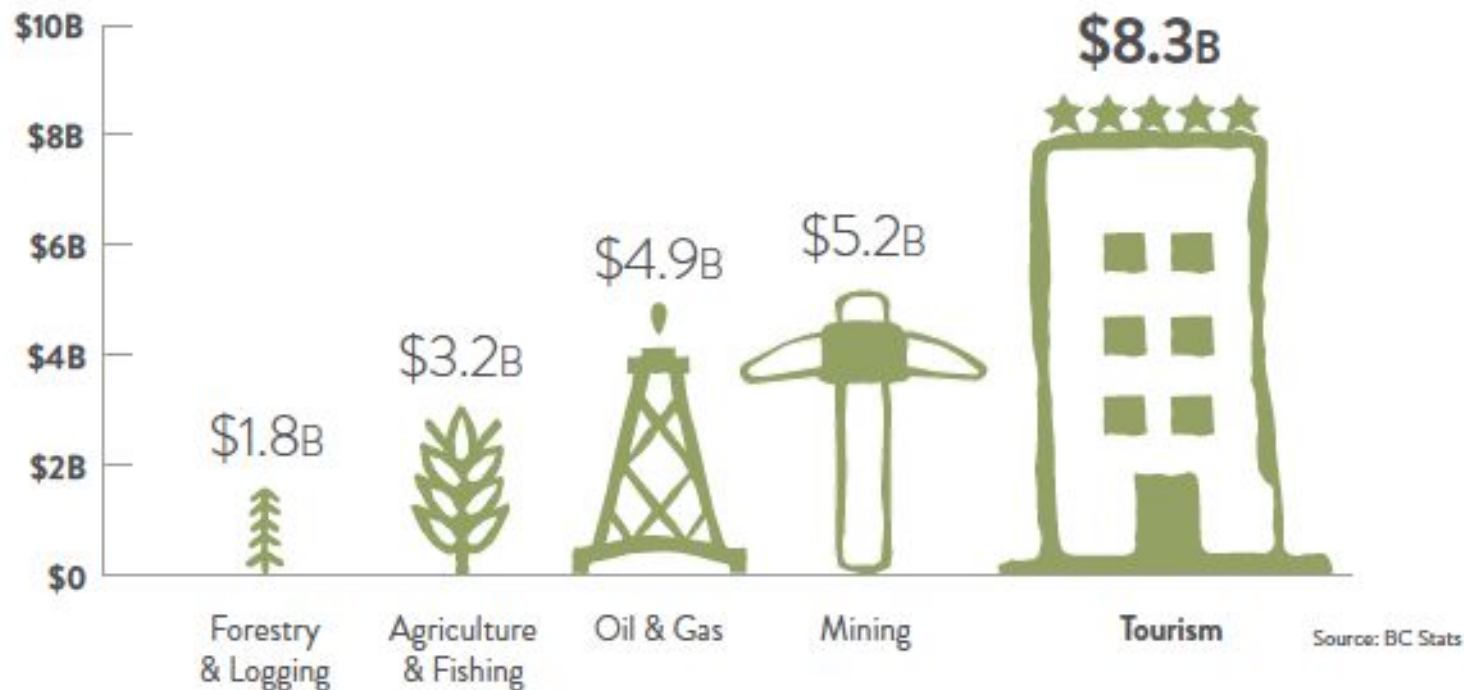
PRESENTATION



The Value Of Tourism



2018 GDP BY PRIMARY RESOURCE INDUSTRY



*Data reflects growth rates for 2017, 2018, and 2019.

Economic Spinoffs



\$69 MILLION

1,373 NEW JOBS



Tourism

\$50 MILLION

438 NEW JOBS



Mining

\$41 MILLION

326 NEW JOBS



Oil & Gas

Canadian Visitation

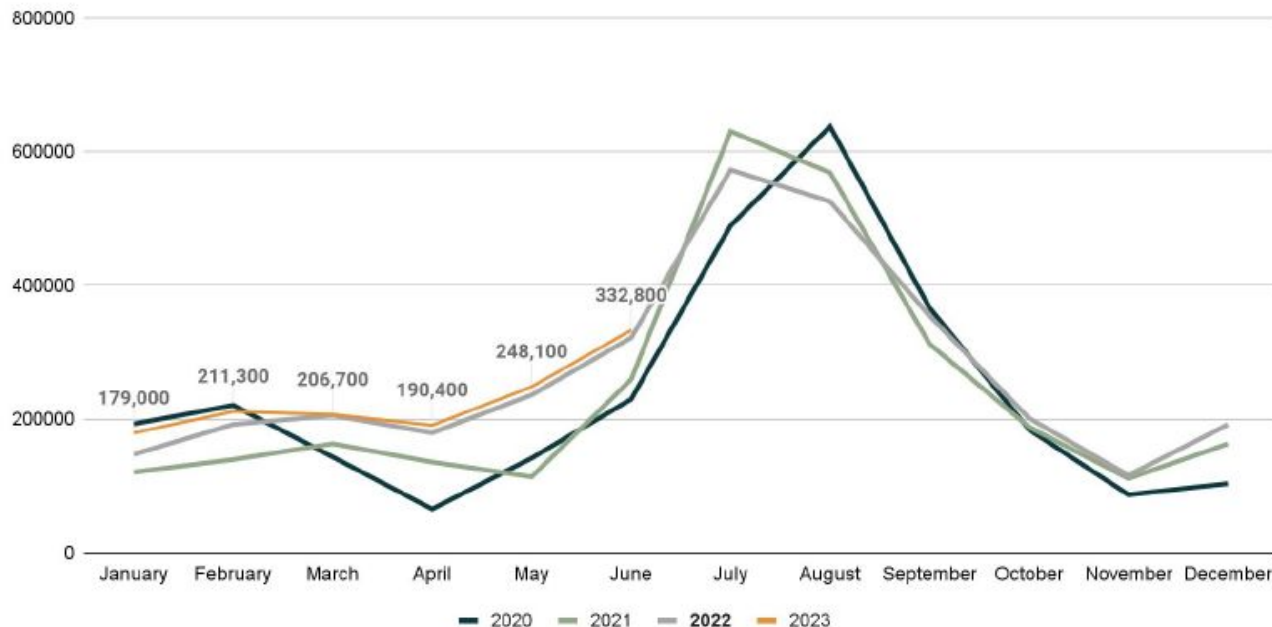
Canadian Visitors Travelling to Kootenay Rockies by Month

2023 Visitor Highlights



bcrts

- April 2023 saw a **192%** increase compared to 2020, a **41%** increase compared to 2021 and a **6%** increase compared to 2022
- May 2023 saw a **75%** increase compared to 2020, a **119%** increase compared to 2021 and a **5%** increase compared to 2022
- June 2023 saw a **45%** increase compared to 2020, a **28%** increase compared to 2021 and a **4%** increase compared to 2022



Canadian Visitation

Canadian Overnight Stays In Kootenay Rockies By Month

2023 Visitor Highlights



bcrts

- April 2023 saw a **93%** increase compared to 2020, a **32%** increase compared to 2021 and a **5%** increase compared to 2022
- May 2023 saw a **26%** increase compared to 2020, a **95%** increase compared to 2021 and a **1%** increase compared to 2022
- June 2023 saw a **9%** increase compared to 2020, a **17%** increase compared to 2021 and a **1%** increase compared to 2022



Who is CVTS?

- **Mimika Coleman (Chair)** - Creston Hotel & Jimmy's Pub
- **Carla Ahern (Vice-Chair)** - Kootenay Columbia Discovery Centre
- **Mel Joy (Treasurer)** - Fly in the Fibre & Columbia Brewery
- **Kevin Wilson (Director)** - Public Vinyl & Modern Alchemy
- **Remi Cardinal (Director)** - Red Bird Winery
- **Tammy Bessant (Director)** - Yahk Soap & Candle Company
- **Tanya Wall (Director)** - Savour & Co. Kitchen
- **Kelly Vandenberghe (Director)** - RDCK Electoral Area C
- **Amy Maddess (Advisory Director)** - CV Visitor Centre



What is our Mission?

1. *Work with our community partners to provide strategic marketing that will attract more visitors to our area year-round; (**MARKETING**)*
2. *Support remarkable visitor experiences that will celebrate our natural environment and culture to provide broad benefits to all members of the community; (**EXPERIENCES**)*
3. *Provide tourism leadership through collaboration with industry partners and creating awareness within our community regarding the value of tourism. (**LEADERSHIP**)*



What are our Goals?

Primary Goal: *To Increase “Heads in Beds” at accommodations in the Creston Valley area*

Secondary Goal: *To support the economic development of the Creston Valley area’s tourism sector*



What Are We Doing?



Marketing



- **18,000 Visitors Guides, 3,000 Food & Farm Maps, 3,000 Hiking Maps** designed, published and distributed
- **Maintain Official Visitors Website** @ www.explorecrestonvalley.com
- **Ran online ads** geo-targeting BC, AB, WA, ID, & MT
- Participated in **International Selkirk Loop, & BC Ale Trail**
- **Social Media Marketing** to 8,000 followers on FB & IG @[explorecrestonvalley](https://www.instagram.com/explorecrestonvalley)
- **12 new inspirational travel blog stories** on website by local writer
- **10 photo & videoshoots** by local photographer/videographer



Research & Analysis

KEY FINDINGS



2019

Total Estimated Canadian Visitors:
86,600*

2021

Total Estimated Canadian Visitors:
77,200*

Category	BC Visitors 2019	BC Visitors 2021	AB Visitors 2019	AB Visitors 2021
Estimated Visitor Volume and %	• 35,100 or 40% were from BC	• 30,300 or 49% were from BC	• 31,200 or 36% were from Alberta	• 26,200 or 34% were from Alberta
Top Visitor Origin Locations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cranbrook • Nelson • Kelowna • Trail • Canal Flats 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cranbrook • East Kootenay C. • Castlegar • Trail • Kelowna 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Calgary, AB (CY) • Edmonton, AB (CY) • Lethbridge, AB (CY) • Airdrie, AB (CY) • Medicine Hat, AB (CY) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Calgary, AB (CY) • Edmonton, AB (CY) • Lethbridge, AB (CY) • Okotoks, AB (TY) • Red Deer, AB (CY)
Top PRIZM Segments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Country & Western • Backcountry Boomers • Down to Earth • Suburban Sports • Scenic Retirement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Country & Western • Backcountry Boomers • Down to Earth • Country Traditions • Scenic Retirement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agri-Biz • Modern Suburbia • All-Terrain Families • Middle-Class Mosaic • Mid-City Mellow 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suburban Sports • Modern Suburbia • All-Terrain Families • Family Mode • New Country
Top EQ Types	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rejuvenators • Gentle Explorers • Authentic Experiences 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rejuvenators • Gentle Explorers • No Hassle Travellers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No Hassle Travellers • Free Spirits • Authentic Experiences 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No Hassle Travellers • Free Spirits • Gentle Explorers

9 | Creston Valley Mobile Visitor Analysis *Visitor counts to geofenced areas

- **Analyzing Our Marketing** - Realtime Website, Social Media, Online Ad Analytics on “online dashboard”
- **Creston Visitor Data** - Commissioned reports on annual visitor numbers to area for 2019, 2021, & 2022
- **Regional & Provincial Trends** - Review reports on visitor trends and data in Kootenays & BC



Industry Leadership



- **Support** - Letters of Support for Market Park, Hop To Vine, CVKL Signage, Kokanee Restocking, CCF Mtn. Bike Trails
- **Engagement** - Business E-Newsletter, Presenting to org's & govt; sitting on relevant committees & boards
- **Advocacy** - Town's Short Term Rentals Bylaws, CAN-USA Border Crossing Hours



Plans for 2024

- Maintain our financially sustainable operations
- Continue with our successful marketing tactics & pursue some new ones (Artisan Map, Trade Shows & Events , Media Tours)
- Support projects and initiatives that grow tourism sector
- Continue ongoing research and analysis
- **Begin engagement process with sector and development of new 5 year strategic plan for 2025 Municipal Regional District Tax Renewal**
- Open to any and all new ideas & collaborations!



Funding Request for 2024

- **Requesting \$22,000.00 contribution from S108** (same 2019, 2020, 2022)
- Combined other local funds and expected ad revenues (\$19,000), Will seek matching amount (\$41,000) **from Destination BC via their 2024-2025 Co-op Marketing Partnership Program**
- This has funded majority of our marketing activities in last 3 years
- Grant deadline is **November 30th, 2023**



Looking Ahead to 2024

Review

- Meet w/ stakeholders
- Review 2023 marketing activities & identify priorities for 2024

Planning

- Get local funding confirmed
- Get quotes & estimates
- Develop draft marketing plan & budget

Approval

- Present draft plan to CVTS Board for approval

Submission

- Submit marketing plan & budget to Destination BC's 50/50 Co-op Program
- Begin update of guide, maps, etc.

Activation

- Confirmation of DBC funding confirmed in January
- Launch 2024 marketing tactics in February



Thank You!



Questions & Answers





Committee Report

Date of Report: 09-26-2023
Date & Type of Meeting: 10-04-2023, Creston Valley Services Committee
Author: Craig Stanley, Regional Manager – Operations and Asset Management
Subject: CRESTON EDUCATION CENTRE LEASE TERMS
File: 01-0515-20
Electoral Area/Municipality Town of Creston, Areas B, C, Defined Area A and the RDCK

SECTION 1: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is make recommendation to the Creston Valley Services Committee to recommend to the RDCK Board that the lease for the Creston Education Centre, owned by the Town of Creston, be renewed for five years commencing in November 2023.

SECTION 2: BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS

In 2018, the RDCK entered into a five-year lease with the Town of Creston (the Town) to rent the gymnasium and old school rooms at the Creston Education Centre (CEC). This facility was formerly known as the South Creston Elementary School, owned by School District #8 (SD8), and was sold to the Town in 2018.

The RDCK entered into a lease with the Town in 2018 in order to provide recreation services through direct use and subletting of the gymnasium, and in order to provide additional office space for future expansion of administration.

The terms of the lease in 2018 included exclusive use of the gymnasium and sports fields, for a portion of the week and exclusive use of several offices with the option to complete leasehold improvements to meet the needs of the RDCK. The RDCK has not renovated the office spaces. In lieu of that, recreation services have occasionally used the spaces for summer camps meeting areas. Previously, the annual rent, approximately \$100,000 per year, was split 60/40 between Recreation Service S224 and a function of RDCK administration.

The draft lease for 2023 to 2028 is shown in Attachment A. The proposed rent is \$85,000 per year, a decrease of approximately \$12,000 per year. All other terms of the lease are similar to the current agreement.

The gymnasium and sports field usage and revenue is shown below:

CEC Stats	Gymnasium				Sport Fields			
	Programs		Rentals		Programs		Rentals	
	Revenue	Hours	Revenue	Hours	Revenue	Hours	Revenue	Hours
2019	\$ 6,652.00	183.3	\$ 2,722.50	352.75	\$ 980.00	40	\$ -	1503
2020	\$ 6,052.85	696.1	\$ 2,325.00	663.5	\$ -	0	\$ -	2202
2021	\$ 18,487.55	930	\$ 840.00	409.5	\$ -	0	\$ -	1827
2022	\$ 15,481.50	216.5	\$ 1,578.86	583.5	\$ -	0	\$ 204.00	32
2023	\$ 40,357.00	423.25	\$ 1,207.19	207.5	\$ -	0	\$ 280.11	42.5
total	\$ 87,030.90	2,449.15	\$ 8,673.55	2,216.75	\$ 980.00	40.00	\$ 484.11	5,606.50

It should be noted that from March 2020 to April 2022, private rentals and programming was limited due to pandemic restrictions. Also note that the sports field did not generate rental revenue prior to 2022 – they were free to use until fees and charges policy was implemented.

In 2018, there were two other tenants including SD8 (Homelinks) and Valley Community Services (the Family Place). Today there are more tenants including child-minding service providers. The table below shows comparative rents going forward for the type of business related to the space rented and the rates - as provided by Town staff.

Business Name	Area sq. ft.	Type	Service	\$/sq. ft.	Rent/yr.
Berry Patch Daycare	1000	Business	Childcare	\$ 9.60	\$ 9,600
Kootenai Community Centre Soc	1000	NFP	Childcare	\$ 12.00	\$ 12,000
Valley Community Services	2007	NFP	ECE	\$ 7.47	\$ 15,000
SD#8	7700	Govt	School	\$ 10.00	\$ 77,000
RDCK	7314	Govt	Govt	\$ 11.62	\$ 85,000

Note the RDCK rate is higher due to \$8,000 rent for the sports fields.

SECTION 3: DETAILED ANALYSIS

3.1 Financial Considerations – Cost and Resource Allocations:

Included in Financial Plan: Yes No Financial Plan Amendment: Yes No
 Debt Bylaw Required: Yes No Public/Gov't Approvals Required: Yes No

Annual rental for the CEC over the past five years and proposed for the next five years is shown below:

CEC Rental	S224	Admin	Total
2019	\$ 61,299	\$ 40,866	\$ 102,165
2020	\$ 58,380	\$ 38,920	\$ 97,300
2021	\$ 58,380	\$ 38,920	\$ 97,300
2022	\$ 58,380	\$ 38,920	\$ 97,300
2023	\$ 58,380	\$ 38,920	\$ 97,300
2024	\$ 51,000	\$ 34,000	\$ 85,000
2025	\$ 51,000	\$ 34,000	\$ 85,000
2026	\$ 51,000	\$ 34,000	\$ 85,000
2027	\$ 51,000	\$ 34,000	\$ 85,000
2028	\$ 51,000	\$ 34,000	\$ 85,000

3.2 Legislative Considerations (Applicable Policies and/or Bylaws):

N/A

3.3 Environmental Considerations

N/A

3.4 Social Considerations:

The Creston Education Centre provides community opportunities for education, child development, and family services.

The RDCK contributes to the overall benefit of the community through the delivery of direct and indirect recreation services and keeping the building operation sustainable.

3.5 Economic Considerations:

N/A

3.6 Communication Considerations:

N/A

3.7 Staffing/Departmental Workplace Considerations:

Staff operate recreation programs and administer bookings and rentals of the gymnasium and sports fields.

If the rented spaces are converted to offices, staff will undertake the leasehold improvements and the outfitting and relocation of office staff.

3.8 Board Strategic Plan/Priorities Considerations:

Managing our facilities in a sustainable manner.

Strengthening our partnerships

Excellence in service delivery

SECTION 4: OPTIONS & PROS / CONS

Option 1: Renew the lease for five years under the same terms with rent being \$85,000 per year

Pros:

- Recreation Services will continue in the gymnasium and on the sports fields.
- Long term planning for recreation service delivery can occur.
- Leasehold improvements required for office renovations will provide greater ROI than short term lease.

Cons:

- Cost recovery for recreation services is not in alignment with fees and charges. Current rates of use and fees collected do not offset rental costs.
- If the decision is made not to renovate the office space, the five-year term does not allow for reduced taxation for administration unless the Town is able to find other tenants to fill the space.

Option 2: Renew the lease for fewer than five years under the proposed terms with rent being \$85,000 per year

Pro:

- Allows for better planning for office renovation, less risk of unnecessary long-term investment

Con:

- Does not allow for long-term planning for recreation services.

Option 3: Do not renew the lease

Pro:

- Service S224 financial sustainability improves
- Rent for unimproved office spaces not required

Cons:

- Reduced opportunities for recreation service delivery – camps and sports programs less feasible
- No opportunity to expand administration to this office space.
- Potential impacts to other tenants/service providers due to lack of regional financial support to the Town to fund the facility.

SECTION 5: RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Creston Valley Services Committee recommend to the RDCK Board to renew the lease for the Creston Education Centre for five years commencing on November 1, 2023 and ending on October 31, 2028 and further that the costs be allocated to Creston and District Community Facilities, Recreation and Leisure Services Area Service - S224 - and General Administration – S100.

Respectfully Submitted,

Craig Stanley, Regional Manager – Operations and Asset Management

CONCURRENCE

Stuart Horn – Chief Administrative Officer *Digitally approved by*

Joe Chirico – General Manager of Community Services *Originally signed by*

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ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment A – Lease Agreement – Creston Education Centre

LEASE AGREEMENT

THIS LEASE dated for reference the 1st day of November, 2023 is

BETWEEN:

THE TOWN OF CRESTON, a municipality established under the *Local Government Act* and having offices at 238 10th Ave N., Creston, British Columbia, V0B 1G0

(“**Creston**”)

AND:

THE REGIONAL DISTRICT OF CENTRAL KOOTENAY, a Regional District established under the *Local Government Act* and having offices at Box 590, 202 Lakeside Drive, Nelson, British Columbia, V1L 5R4

(the “**Tenant**”)

WHEREAS:

A. Creston is the owner of the building located at

617 – 11th Avenue S., Creston, British Columbia known as the Creston Education Centre and legally described as PID: 012-131-067 LOT 2 DISTRICT LOT 526 KOOTENAY DISTRICT PLAN 4331;

B. Creston agrees to lease the Lease Area herein described to the Tenant on the terms and subject to the conditions set out herein;

NOW THEREFORE THIS AGREEMENT is evidence that in consideration of the mutual promises contained in this Lease and other good and valuable consideration paid by each of the parties to the other (the receipt and sufficiency of which each party acknowledges), the parties covenant and agree as follows:

ARTICLE 1 – DEFINITIONS AND INTERPRETATION

1.1 In this Lease, words and phrases shall be defined as follows:

- (a) “**Building**” means the Creston Education Centre located on Lot 2 as of the date of this Agreement;
- (b) “**Commencement Date**” has the meaning defined in section 2.1 of this Lease;

- (c) “**Common Areas**” means that part of Lot 2 and the Building comprising the washrooms, staff room and parking lot as shown in Schedule A;
- (d) “**Community Charter**” means the *Community Charter*, SBC 2003, c. 26, as amended or re-enacted from time to time;
- (e) “**Creston**” means the Town of Creston and where the context applies, includes its elected officials, employees, agents and contractors;
- (f) “**Creston Education Centre**” has the meaning described in paragraph B of the preamble of this Agreement;
- (g) “**Fair Market Rent**” means the rent that would be payable by a reasonably informed tenant dealing at arms’ length with Creston for the lease of the Lease Area and shared use of the Common Areas on the same terms and conditions as this Lease;
- (h) “**Gymnasium**” means that part of the Building consisting of those rooms identified as J and K in Schedule A attached to and forming part of this Lease;
- (i) “**Lease Area**” means that part of the Building comprising approximately 3,037 square feet consisting of those rooms identified as D, E and F in Schedule A attached to and forming a part of this Lease and the Gymnasium and Playing Fields;
- (j) “**Leasehold Improvement**” means any beneficial change made by the Tenant to the Leased Area;
- (k) “**Major Repair**” means any major repairs, capital costs or replacements of the Lease Area exceeding \$5,000 in value individually or \$10,000 cumulatively in any year of the Term;
- (l) “**Playing Fields**” means the playing fields located on Lot 2;
- (m) “**Rent**” has the meaning defined in section 3.1 of this Lease;
- (n) “**Renewal Term**” has the meaning defined in section 2.2 of this Lease;
- (o) “**Tenant**” means THE REGIONAL DISTRICT OF CENTRAL KOOTENAY;
- (p) “**Term**” means the period from the Commencement Date until the Termination Date as defined in section 2.1 of this Lease; and
- (q) “**Termination Date**” has the meaning defined in section 2.1 of this Lease.

- 1.2 **Interpretation** – Wherever the singular or masculine or neuter is used in this Lease, the same shall be construed as meaning the plural, the feminine or body corporate where the context so requires.
- 1.3 **References to Tenant** – Any reference to the “Tenant” includes, where the context allows, subtenants and occupants of the Tenant and employees, agents, licensees and invitees of the Tenant and all others over whom the Tenant may reasonably be expected to exercise control and any default in observing or performing the Tenant’s obligation by such person, will be deemed to be defaults of the Tenant.
- 1.4 **Captions** – The captions appearing in this Lease have been inserted for reference and as a matter of convenience and do not define, limit or enlarge the scope or meaning of this Lease.
- 1.5 **Schedules** – The following schedule is attached to and forms part of this Lease:
- (a) Schedule A – Lease Area and Common Areas
 - (b) Schedule B – Schedules, terms and conditions for use of Lease Area

ARTICLE 2 – DEMISE AND TERM

- 2.1 **Demise and Term** – Creston hereby:
- (a) demises and leases to the Tenant the Lease Area for a term of five years commencing on the Completion Date (the “**Commencement Date**”) to and including 11:59 pm on the day before the fifth anniversary of the Commencement Date or such earlier or later date as may be determined by the mutual agreement of the parties or in accordance with this Lease (the “**Termination Date**”), to have and to hold for the Term as the Tenant, and the Tenant does hereby accept the demise and lease of the Lease Area, all subject to the covenants, conditions and agreements herein contained; and
 - (b) grants the Tenant non-exclusive shared use of the Common Areas.
- 2.2 **Renewal** - If the Tenant is not in default under this Lease, the Tenant shall have the option to renew this Lease on the same terms and conditions contained herein (except for the amount of Rent payable and except for this right of renewal, which is amended accordingly) for an additional five-year term (the “**Renewal Term**”), such renewal effective on the day immediately following the Termination Date and in accordance with the following:
- (a) the option to renew this Lease under this section 2.2 must be exercised by the Tenant giving notice in writing to Creston in the manner provided herein not less than 90 days and not more than 180 days prior to the expiry of the Term;

- (b) unless provided with written notice by Creston, the Tenant shall have the option to renew this Lease for additional five-year Renewal Terms on the same terms and conditions; and
 - (c) the Rent that shall be payable for each Renewal Term shall be an amount that is equivalent to Fair Market Rent for the Lease Area and the Tenant's use of the Common Areas as of the commencement of the Renewal Term and failing agreement on the Fair Market Rent, the Fair Market Rent shall be determined as follows:
 - (i) the Fair Market Rent shall be determined by a licenced real estate appraiser in good standing in the province of British Columbia that is acceptable to both parties and which cost shall be shared by the parties; and
 - (ii) if the parties cannot agree on the appointment of an appraiser under subsection (i), nor another method for determining the Fair Market Rent, an appraiser shall be appointed in accordance with the dispute resolution provisions in section 7.9 of this Lease.
- 2.3 **Gymnasium and Playing Fields** – The Tenant covenants and agrees that it shall permit other tenants and organizations designated by Creston to use the Gymnasium and Playing Fields in accordance with the schedule and terms and conditions set out in Schedule B.
- 2.4 **Quiet Enjoyment** – Subject to this Lease, the Tenant will and may peaceably hold and enjoy the Lease Area during the Term without interruption or disturbance by Creston or any person lawfully claiming under Creston, subject only to section 2.3.

ARTICLE 3 – RENT

- 3.1 **Rent** – The Tenant shall pay to Creston the amount of \$85,000 per year during the Term to be paid in equal monthly installments commencing on the Commencement Date and thereafter, on the first (1st) day of every month during the Term subject to the terms and conditions of this Lease (the “**Rent**”).
- 3.2 **Interest on Amounts in Arrears** – The Tenant will pay to Creston, interest at a rate equal to three percent per year above the prime commercial lending rate per year charged by the Royal Bank of Canada at its main branch in Vancouver, at the start of each month, calculated and compounded monthly, upon all Rent or other expenses required to be paid under this Lease, from the due date for payment until paid. This stipulation for interest will not prejudice any other right or remedy of Creston under this Lease or at law or at equity.
- 3.3 **Lease Area Accepted “As Is”** – The Tenant accepts the Lease Area and Common Areas “as is” and acknowledges that Creston has made no representations or warranties respecting the Lease Area and Common Areas.

- 3.4 **Net Lease** – Except as otherwise provided in this Lease, it is the intention of both parties that this is a “net lease” and that all expenses, costs and payments incurred in respect of the Lease Area and any other improvement to the Lease Area or anything affecting the Lease Area shall be borne by the Tenant, in addition to the Tenant’s obligation to pay Rent and otherwise abide by the terms of this Lease and the Contract.
- 3.5 **Taxes and Fees** – The Tenant shall pay to Creston all taxes, charges, levies and other fees, including Goods and Services Tax, or any replacement tax, which may be payable in respect of this Lease.
- 3.6 **Utilities and Janitorial** – The Tenant shall pay all charges for garbage removal and janitorial, telephone service, cablevision or communication service rendered in respect of the Lease Area.

ARTICLE 4 – USE OF PREMISES

- 4.1 **Assigning and Subletting** – Except as expressly permitted in this Lease, the Tenant shall not assign this Lease in whole or in part and shall not sublet all or any part of the Lease Area without the Tenant obtaining the prior written consent of Creston in each instance with such consent not to be unreasonably withheld. In requesting Creston’s consent to an assignment, sublease, or license of the Lease Area, the Tenant must provide Creston with all information requested by Creston. The Tenant must, if required by Creston, enter into sub-leases, assignment agreements or licenses of the Lease Area on terms the required by Creston, including requirements for insurance and indemnities. No assignment by the Tenant will release the Tenant from its obligation to observe or perform the Tenant’s obligations under this Lease.
- 4.2 **Use of Lease Area** – The Tenant covenants and agrees that:
- (a) the Tenant will use the Lease Area only for the purpose of office space and administration in connection with the administrative functions of the Tenant and in relation to activities permitted by its statutory authority and relevant enactments and in accordance with the schedules, terms and conditions described in Schedule B; and
 - (b) for greater certainty, the Tenant agrees that the Lease Area and Common Areas must not be used for any other purposes unless the Tenant obtains the prior written approval of Creston.

ARTICLE 5 – TENANT’S REPRESENTATIONS AND UNDERTAKINGS

- 5.1 **Legal Status** – The Tenant warrants, represents and agrees that:

- (a) it has taken all necessary or desirable actions, steps and other proceedings to approve or authorize, validly and effectively, the entering into, and the execution, delivery and performance of this Agreement;
 - (b) the Tenant is duly incorporated and validly existing under its jurisdiction of incorporation, is in good standing under the legislation governing it, and has made all filings required under such legislation; and
 - (c) it has the power and capacity to enter into and carry out the transaction provided for in this Agreement.
- 5.2 **Construction** – The Tenant may, if the Tenant is not then in default under this Lease and with the prior written consent of Creston, undertake improvements, construction or renovations of the Lease Area. In giving its consent, Creston may impose any conditions, including, without limitation, location requirements, use restrictions, financial restrictions, insurance requirements and security obligations. The Tenant acknowledges that all Leasehold Improvements become the property of Creston upon affixation to the Lease Area, without any obligation by Creston to pay for the Leasehold Improvements. The Tenant acknowledges that all improvements to the Lease Area, past and present, are to remain affixed to the Lands.
- 5.3 **Reverter** – The Tenant acknowledges that in the event the Lease is terminated subject to sections 2.1 and 7.4, all improvements on the Lease Area, past and present, shall become the property of Creston.
- 5.4 **Permits Required** – The Tenant acknowledges that prior to undertaking any improvements, construction or renovations of the Lease Area, the Tenant must obtain a building permit and comply with all other bylaw requirements imposed by Creston on construction and development within its boundaries.
- 5.5 **Compliance with Laws** – The Tenant will at all times during the Term and any Renewal Term use and occupy the Lease Area and Common Areas in compliance with all statutes, laws, regulations and orders of any authority having jurisdiction and, without limiting the generality of the foregoing, all federal, provincial, or municipal laws or statutes or bylaws relating to environmental matters, including all the rules, regulations, policies, guidelines, criteria or the like made under or pursuant to any such laws.
- 5.6 **Zoning** – Without limiting section 5.5, the Tenant acknowledges that the Tenant must not use the Lease Area and Common Areas or permit a use in breach of Creston’s applicable zoning bylaws.
- 5.7 **No Nuisance** – The Tenant will make reasonable efforts to not, at any time during the Term or any Renewal Term, use, exercise or carry on or permit or suffer to be used, exercised or carried on, in or upon the Lease Area or Common Areas or any part thereof any noisy, noxious or offensive art, trade, business, occupation, or event and, the Tenant will not carry on, or suffer or permit to be carried on, any act, matter or thing which will or may constitute

a nuisance or an unreasonable annoyance to Creston, to any occupant of Lease Area or Common Areas and premises in the vicinity of the Lease Area or Common Areas or to the public generally.

- 5.8 **Liens and Judgments** – The Tenant will not permit any liens, judgments or other charges to be registered against the Lands except those charges permitted in writing by Creston. Unless otherwise agreed in writing, if any lien, judgment or other charge is registered, the Tenant will obtain its discharge within 30 days of the said registration.
- 5.9 **Filing Notice of Interest** – Throughout the Term, Creston is entitled to file a Notice of Interest pursuant to the *Builders Lien Act, SBC 1997, c. 45* as amended or re-enacted, in the appropriate Land Title Office against title to the Lands.
- 5.10 **Repairs and Maintenance** – Except for Major Repairs, throughout the Term:
- (a) at its own expense, the Tenant shall repair and maintain and keep the Leasehold Improvements in a state of good repair as a prudent owner would do;
 - (b) the Tenant acknowledges that no trees shall be cut except with the written approval of Creston;
 - (c) Creston will not be obliged to repair, maintain, replace or alter the Leasehold Improvements during the Term or to supply any services or utilities thereto:
 - (i) unless required due to the acts, omissions or negligence of Creston or other leaseholders or as determined necessary by Creston; or
 - (ii) save and except for such services and utilities as Creston may be required to provide strictly in its capacity as a municipality and not in its capacity as a landlord;
 - (d) subject to section 5.11, the Tenant hereby assumes the full and sole responsibility of the condition, operation, maintenance, repair, replacement and management of the Leasehold Improvements during the Term; and
 - (e) all repairs will be in all respects to a standard equal to or greater the original work and material in the improvements, and will meet the lawful requirement of all statutory authorities.
- 5.11 **Repair According to Notice** – Without restricting the generality of section 5.10, the Tenant will do all repairs and maintenance that it is obliged to do pursuant to section 5.10 promptly upon notice from Creston. If the Tenant does not perform all repairs and maintenance promptly upon notice from Creston, Creston reserves the right to enter the Lease Area to restore the Leasehold Improvements back to the state of good repair. The Tenant will pay to Creston, on demand, Creston's cost of so doing.

- 5.12 **Public Safety** – The Tenant shall take all reasonable precautions to ensure that safety of person using the Lease Area and Common Areas.
- 5.13 **Waste** – The Tenant will not commit, suffer, or permit any wilful or voluntary waste, spoil or destruction of the Lease Area.
- 5.14 **Right to Inspect** – The Tenant shall permit Creston to enter the Lease Area at all reasonable times to determine if the Tenant is complying with all its promises under this Lease.
- 5.15 **Workers Compensation** – If required by law, the Tenant will, at its cost, carry and pay for full workers’ compensation coverage in respect of all workers, employees and other persons engaged in any work or service, non-payment of which would create a lien claim on the Lease Area or the leasehold interest.
- 5.16 **Environmental Contamination** – Creston will provide the Tenant will full disclosure of any environmental issues it becomes aware of with respect to the Building during the Term of this Agreement. The Tenant will at all times and in all respects comply with and abide by the requirements of all applicable Federal, Provincial or Municipal statutes, bylaws, regulations, orders and guidelines, which deal with environmental protection and safety and any contaminant, pollutant, dangerous substance, liquid waste, industrial waste, hauled liquid waste, and hazardous material or hazardous substance. Without limiting the foregoing, the Tenant will comply with the following provisions:
- (a) the Tenant will comply with any and all duties, obligations or liabilities under any relevant law in respect of the Lease Area and Common Areas, including but not limited to any costs, expenses or liabilities for any remedial action for any pollution of the Lease Area caused by the Tenant during the Term;
 - (b) the Tenant must provide Creston with immediate notice of any condition on the Lease Area or that may result in any fines, penalties, orders, proceedings, investigations, litigation or enforcement proceedings, made or threatened by any third parties or governmental agencies upon becoming aware of such condition; and
 - (c) the Tenant must provide Creston with immediate notice in writing, upon the Tenant becoming aware of any contamination of the Lease Area.
- 5.17 **Amendment to Articles or Bylaws** – The Tenant will provide Creston with not less than 30 days written notice of any planned amendment to the Tenant’s articles or bylaws and its status as a corporation under the *Business Corporations Act*.

ARTICLE 6 – INSURANCE AND INDEMNITY

- 6.1 **Insurance** – The parties agree as follows:

- (a) Creston shall be responsible for and pay for all fire and other property damage insurance in respect of the Building;
- (b) subject to subsection (a), the Tenant is responsible for insuring the Lease Area and the contents of them and all other improvements, including fixtures, appurtenances, contents, equipment, installations and electrical distribution system, based upon full insurable values, with “all risks” coverage on the replacement cost basis, flood and earthquake endorsements, and a maximum deductible of \$1,000 for any one loss;
- (c) without limiting the Tenant’s obligations and liabilities under this lease, the Tenant shall obtain, at its own expense, and keep in force a policy of comprehensive/commercial general liability insurance providing coverage against claims for personal injury, death, or property damage or loss upon, in, or about Lot 2 and the Building, and arising out of or connected with the activities of the Tenant and of subtenants carried on within the Premises, or the use and occupancy of the Lease Area and Common Areas or any part thereof by the Tenant or by any subtenants, in an amount of not less than \$5,000,000 per occurrence for bodily injury (including death), and property damage subject to a maximum deductible of \$1,000 for any one loss, and with endorsements for personal injury, voluntary medical payment to a limit of \$1,000 for each person, and \$10,000 for each accident for any one occurrence with no deductible, blanket contractual, products and completed operations and cross liability with limits not less than \$5,000,000 for any one loss or damage, subject to maximum deductible of \$1,000;
- (d) on or before the Commencement Date and at other times upon demand by Creston, the Tenant shall deliver to Creston certified copies of the policies of insurance required to be maintained by the Tenant under this Lease;
- (e) Creston may, from time to time, notify the Tenant of Creston’s desire to change the amount of insurance required by this Lease and upon receiving such notification from Creston, the Tenant will:
 - (i) within 30 days of receiving such a notice, cause the amounts to be changed and deliver to Creston a letter from its insurer certifying the change in the amount of insurance; or
 - (ii) alternatively, within 30 days of receiving such notice, advise Creston in writing that it objects to a change in the insurance required and the reasons for its objection and upon such objection, the parties shall use their best efforts to resolve the issue(s) underlying the objection;
- (f) the Tenant shall ensure that all policies of insurance pursuant to this Lease are:
 - (i) placed with insurers licensed in British Columbia;

- (ii) are written in the name of the Tenant and Creston with loss payable to them as their respective interests may appear;
 - (iii) contain a cross liability clause and a waiver of subrogation clause in favour of Creston;
 - (iv) primary and does not require the sharing of any loss by any insurer that insures Creston;
 - (v) contain a clause to the effect that any release from liability entered into by Creston prior to any loss shall not affect the right of Tenant or Creston to recover; and
 - (vi) endorsed to provide Creston with 30 days advance notice in writing of cancellation or material change;
- (g) all policies may provide that the amount payable in the event of any loss will be reduced by a deductible, in an amount to which Creston consents. Consent, non-consent, and/or authorized consent of Creston will not constitute an agreement by Creston to participate in the financial undertaking of the Tenant to satisfy any deductible payable. The Tenant will be solely responsible for any and all insurance deductible;
- (h) if the Tenant at any time fails to maintain any insurance it is required to maintain, then Creston may obtain and maintain such insurance in such amounts and with such deductible amounts and for such periods of time as Creston reasonably deems advisable. The Tenant will pay to Creston, on demand, Creston's cost of so doing; and
- (i) any disputes between the parties with respect to insurance under this section 6.1 shall be resolved by application of the dispute resolution provisions under section 7.9.

6.2 **Release** – The Tenant hereby releases Creston and its elected officials, officers, employees, agents and others of Creston, from and against all demands and claims which the Tenant may have, now or in the future, in relation to this Lease, the Lease Area or the Tenant's use or occupancy of the Lease Area and Common Areas or any of the perils against which the Tenant shall have insured or pursuant to the terms of this Lease is obligated to insure.

6.3 **Tenant's Indemnity** – Save and except for the negligence of Creston, its employees and contractors, the Tenant will and hereby does indemnify and save harmless Creston and its elected officials, officers, employees, agents and others of Creston from any and all liabilities, damages, costs, claims, suits or actions whatsoever in connection with or arising from:

- (a) any breach of any obligation set forth in this Lease to be observed or performed by the Tenant;
- (b) any of the perils against which the Tenant shall have insured or pursuant to the terms of this Lease is obligated to insure;
- (c) any act, omission, or negligence of the Tenant, its members, officers, directors, employees, agents, contractors, subtenants, licensees, invitees or others for whom it is responsible;
- (d) any damage to property occasioned by the Tenant's use and occupation of the Lease Area and Common Areas or any injury to person or persons, including death, resulting at any time from the Tenant's use and occupation of the Lease Area and Common Areas; or
- (e) the granting of the Lease herein.

6.4 **Creston's Indemnity** – Save and except for the negligence of the Tenant, its employees and contractors, Creston will and hereby does indemnify and save harmless the Tenant and its elected officials, officers, employees, agents and others of the Tenant from any and all liabilities, damages, costs, claims, suits or actions whatsoever in connection with or arising from:

- (b) any breach of any obligation set forth in this Lease to be observed or performed by Creston;
- (b) any of the perils against which Creston shall have insured or pursuant to the terms of this Lease is obligated to insure;
- (e) any act, omission, or negligence of Creston, its members, officers, directors, employees, agents, contractors, subtenants, licensees, invitees or others for whom it is responsible;
- (f) any damage to property occasioned by Creston's use and occupation of the Lease Area and Common Areas or any injury to person or persons, including death, resulting at any time from Creston's use and occupation of the Lease Area and Common Areas; or
- (e) the granting of the Lease herein.

6.5 **Survival of Indemnity and Release** – The indemnities and release contained in this Lease will survive the expiration or earlier termination of the Term.

ARTICLE 7 – DEFAULT AND DISPUTE RESOLUTION

- 7.1 **Notice of Default** – If the Tenant defaults in the payment of any money payable under this Lease or fails to observe, comply with or perform any of its covenants, conditions, agreements or obligation under this Lease, Creston may deliver to the Tenant a notice of default (in the manner required herein for giving notices) stipulating that the default must be rectified or cured within 30 days of the notice if the default is non-payment of Rent and within 60 days of the notice for other defaults, but less or no notice is required to be given by Creston in emergency or urgent circumstances, as determined by Creston in its sole discretion, acting reasonably, or where the Tenant has failed to keep the Lease Area insured or where the Lease Area remains vacant or unoccupied or not used for the purposes herein permitted for 30 consecutive days or more.
- 7.2 **Creston’s Right to Perform** – If the Tenant fails to rectify or cure a default within the time and in the manner specified in section 7.1 and if the default is one that can be rectified or cured by Creston, Creston may, without further notice to the Tenant, take all steps considered in its sole discretion necessary to rectify or cure the default and all costs of doing so, including the cost of retaining professional advisors, shall be payable immediately by the Tenant as additional Rent. Nothing in this Lease obligates Creston to rectify or cure any default of the Tenant but should Creston choose to do so, Creston shall not be liable to the Tenant for any act or omission in the course of rectifying or curing or attempting to rectify or cure any default.
- 7.3 **Distress** – If the Rent payable by the Tenant under this Agreement is in arrears, Creston or a person authorized in writing by Creston may enter upon the Lease Area and seize and goods or chattels and may sell the same.
- 7.4 **Provisos** – Provided always and it is hereby agreed that Creston may, without further notice to the Tenant, terminate this Lease and re-enter and take possession of the Lease Area if:
- (a) the Rent or any other amount due to Creston hereunder is unpaid for 30 days after notice pursuant to section 7.1; or
 - (b) the Tenant fails to observe, comply with or perform any of its covenants, agreements or obligations herein and the failure is not rectified or cured by the Tenant within the time specified in section 7.1.

The Tenant will make no claim for compensation, in damages or otherwise, upon the lawful termination of this Lease under this section. If Creston terminates this Lease, Creston retains the right to proceed at law against the Tenant for all of the Rent and other loss or damage and costs.

- 7.5 **Costs** – If the Tenant defaults on this Lease, the Tenant will pay to Creston Creston’s full costs including legal costs arising from the default, whether before action or otherwise and, at the option of Creston, upon a solicitor and client basis.

- 7.6 **Remedies Cumulative** – Creston’s remedies in this Lease are cumulative and are in addition to any remedies of Creston at law or in equity.
- 7.7 **Dissolution** – If an order is made, a resolution passed or a petition filed for the liquidation or winding up of the Tenant or of a receiver or receiver-manager is appointed to administer or carry on the Tenant’s business or if the Tenant fails to maintain itself in good standing as a corporation under the *Business Corporations Act*, as a society under the *Societies Act* or other enabling legislation as applicable, then at the option of Creston, the Rent and all outstanding levies and charges shall become immediately due and payable and this Lease shall immediately become forfeited and void and Creston may re-enter and take possession of the Lease Area.
- 7.8 **Bankruptcy** – If this Lease is at any time seized or taken in execution or in attachment by any creditor of the Tenant, or if the Tenant should become insolvent or make any assignment for the benefit of creditors, or commit an act which entitles a person to take action under the *Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act* (Canada) or a bankrupt petition is filed or presented against the Tenant or the Tenant consents to the filing of the petition or a decree is entered by a court of competent jurisdiction adjudging the Tenant to be bankrupt under any law relating to bankruptcy and insolvency, then at the option of Creston, the Rent and all outstanding levies and charges shall become immediately due and payable and this Lease shall immediately become forfeited and void and Creston may re-enter and take possession of the Tenant.
- 7.9 **Dispute Resolution** – If the parties to this Lease are unable to agree on the interpretation or application of any provision in the Agreement, or are unable to resolve any other issue relating to this Lease, the parties agree to the following process in the order it is set out:
- (a) The party initiating the process will send written notice to the other party;
 - (b) The parties will promptly, diligently and in good faith take all reasonable measures to negotiate an acceptable resolution to the disagreement or dispute;
 - (c) If the parties are unable to negotiate a resolution within 30 days of the date the written notice was sent advising of the dispute, the parties may request the assistance of a skilled mediator agreed to by the parties within 30 days written notice of a request to appoint a mediator by any party, failing which the mediator will be appointed by the B.C. International Commercial Arbitration Centre (“BCICAC”), and unless the parties agree otherwise, this mediation will follow BCICAC rules and will terminate 30 days after the appointment of the mediator.
- 7.10 **Cost Sharing for Mediator Process** – Unless otherwise agreed by the parties or ordered by an arbitrator, each party will pay an equal share of the costs for the mediator process.

ARTICLE 8 – GENERAL

8.1 **Notice** – Any notice, document or communication required or permitted to be given hereunder shall be in writing and shall be deemed to be satisfactory if and deemed to have occurred when:

- (a) Sent by facsimile transmission or when delivered by hand, on the date of receipt;
or
- (b) Mailed by prepaid registered mail, on the date received or on the fifth day after receipt of mailing by any Canada post office, whichever is earlier,

PROVIDED the notice is sent to the party at the address and facsimile number provided herein or to whatever other address or facsimile number Creston and Tenant may from time to time advise by written notice. If normal mail service is interrupted by strike, slowdown, force majeure or other cause, then the party sending the notice, document or communication shall fax or deliver such notice, document or communication in order to ensure its prompt receipt.

8.2 **Holding Over** – If the Tenant should hold over after the expiration of the Term and Creston should accept rent, the new tenancy thereby created shall be a tenancy from month to month and not a tenancy from year to year, and shall be subject to the covenants and conditions herein contained so far as the same are applicable to a tenancy from month to month with Rent payable in an amount equal to 110% of the Rent payable at the expiration of the Term or Renewal Term, as the case may be.

8.3 **Legal Costs** – Each of Creston and the Tenant is responsible for its own legal costs in relation to the preparation and negotiation of this Lease.

8.4 **Own Cost** – The Tenant shall perform all of its obligations, covenants and agreements under this Lease solely at its own cost.

8.5 **Law to the Contrary** – Subject to section 8.2, this Lease shall enure to the benefit of and be binding on the parties notwithstanding any rule of law or equity to the contrary.

8.6 **Severance** – If a court of competent jurisdiction holds any portion of this Lease invalid, the invalid portion shall be severed and the decision that it is invalid shall not affect the validity of the remainder of this Lease.

8.7 **Governing Law** – This Lease shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the Province of British Columbia.

8.8 **No Waiver** – Waiver by Creston of any default by the Tenant shall not be deemed to be a waiver of any subsequent default. A waiver is effective only if it is in writing.

- 8.9 **References** – Every reference to each party is deemed to include the heirs, executors, administrators, successors, directors, employees, members, servants, agents, officers, and invitees of such party where the context so permits or requires,
- 8.10 **Amendment** – The Lease may not be modified or amended except by an instrument in writing signed by Creston and the Tenant.
- 8.11 **Remedies Not Exclusive** – No remedy conferred upon or reserved to Creston is exclusive of any other remedy herein or provided by law, but all such remedies shall be cumulative and may be exercised in any order or concurrently.
- 8.12 **No Joint Venture** – Nothing in this Lease shall constitute the Tenant as the agent, joint venture or partner of Creston or give the Tenant any authority or power to bind Creston in any way.
- 8.13 **Charges on Title** – The Tenant shall abide and observe all requirements and restrictions on the title to Lot 2 registered prior to the Commencement Date.
- 8.14 **Other Disposition** – Creston reserves the right to grant rights of way, easements, covenants and other dispositions of the Lease Area or any part of it in a manner consistent with this Lease and the Tenant shall execute any such document if requested by Creston. Creston shall make reasonable efforts to ensure that the activities of the Tenant are not impeded as a result of any grant under this section 8.14. For greater certainty, but without limiting the generality of the foregoing, a right of way, easement, covenant or other disposition is not inconsistent with this Lease if it does not charge the Lease Area.
- 8.15 **Powers Preserved** – Nothing in this Lease affects the right of Creston to exercise its power within its jurisdiction.
- 8.16 **Authority** – The Tenant represents and warrants to Creston that it has full authority to enter into this Lease and to carry out the actions contemplated herein, that all resolutions and other preconditions to validity have been validly adopted, and that those signing this Lease on its behalf are authorized to bind the Tenant by their signatures.
- 8.17 **Entire Lease** – The provisions herein contained constitute the entire agreement between the parties and supersede all previous communications, representations, warranties, covenants and agreements whether verbal or written between the parties with respect to the subject matter hereof.
- 8.18 **Time of Essence** – Time is of the essence of this Lease.
- 8.19 **Further Assurances** – The parties shall execute and do all such further deeds, acts, things and assurances as may be reasonably required to carry out the intent of this Lease.

- 8.20 **Covenants and Conditions** – All of the provisions of this Lease shall be deemed and construed to be conditions as well as covenants as though the words specifically expressing or importing covenants and conditions were used in each separate section.
- 8.21 **No Abatement** – The Tenant is not entitled to any abatement, reduction, or deduction from the Rent.
- 8.22 **Estoppel Certificate** – The Tenant will, upon request, execute and deliver a certificate certifying the current status of this Lease.
- 8.23 **Registration** – This Lease is not in registerable form; however, the parties may by mutual consent register a copy of the Lease in the Land Title Office and subject to their mutual agreement, shall execute all necessary actions to effect registration at the cost of the Tenant.
- 8.24 **Enurement** – This Lease shall enure to the benefit of and be binding upon the parties hereto and their respective successors.
- 8.25 **No Derogation** – Nothing contained or implied in this Lease will impair or affect Creston’s rights and powers in the exercise of its functions pursuant to the *Community Charter* or any other enactment, and all such powers and right may be fully exercised in relation to the Lease Area as if this Lease had not been entered into between the Tenant and Creston. The Tenant acknowledges that fulfillment of the condition precedent set out in this Lease may require that the Council of Creston adopt bylaws or issue permits and that the passage of said resolutions or adoption of said bylaws or issuance of said permits by the Council of Creston are within its sole absolute discretion which is not any manner subject to the provisions hereof.
- 8.26 **Creston’s Conditions** – This Lease and Creston’s obligations hereunder shall be subject to the approval of Creston’s municipal council and Creston’s compliance with all requirements under the *Community Charter* or any other enactment.

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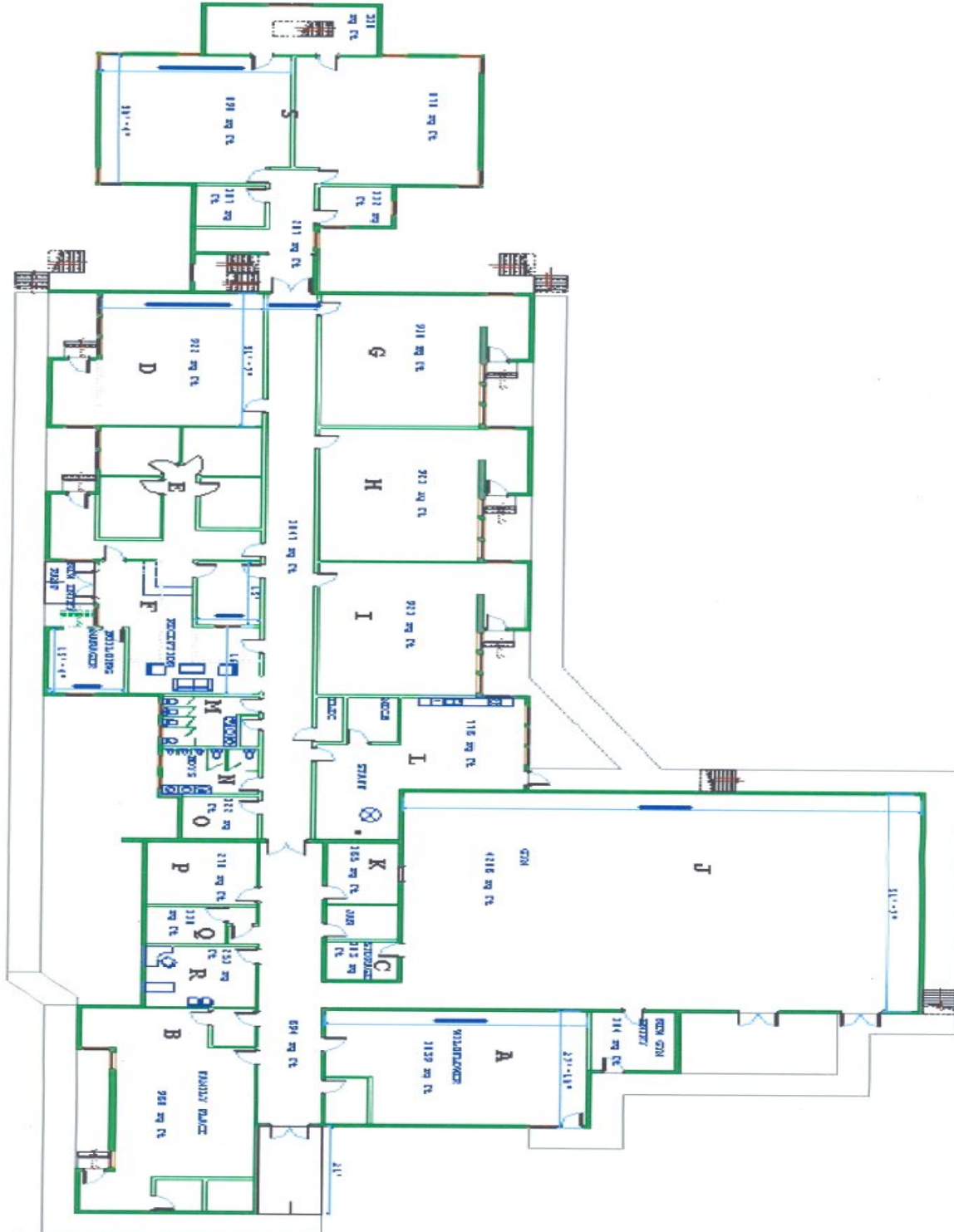
As evidence of their agreement to be bound by the above terms, Creston and the Tenant each have executed this Lease on the respective dates written below:

TOWN OF CRESTON)
by its authorized signatories:)
)
)
)
_____)
Name:)
)
)
_____)
Name:)
)
)
_____)
Date)
)

THE REGIONAL DISTRICT OF)
CENTRAL KOOTENAY)
by its authorized signatories:)
)
)
_____)
Name:)
)
)
_____)
Name:)
)
)
_____)
Date)
)

SCHEDULE A

LEASE AREA AND COMMON AREAS



SCHEDULE B
SCHEDULES, TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR USE OF LEASE AREA

During the Term:

1. Unless otherwise agreed by the Tenant, the Tenant shall have exclusive use of the Gymnasium and Playing Fields, except for the following times:
 - (a) Valley Community Services Society shall have exclusive use of the Gymnasium every Tuesday from 8:30 am until 12:00 pm; and
 - (b) the Board of Education of School District No. 8 (Kootenay Lake) (the “**School District**”) shall have exclusive use of the Gymnasium during the Term on Wednesday mornings from 8:30 a.m. until 12:00 noon and on Fridays from 8:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. when school is in session;
 - (c) during the Term, the School District shall have exclusive use of the Playing Fields whenever weather permits in the Spring from March through June and in the Fall from September through October.
2. Creston shall be responsible for maintenance of the Playing Fields and Gymnasium.



MT. RYKERT, "BLUEPRINT FOR THE STURGEON NOSE CANOE" - ROBIN LOUIE. PHOTO: SAMMY KENT

KTUNAXA RDCK TUS SUMMARY REPORT (APRIL 2023)

FOR REGIONAL DISTRICT OF CENTRAL KOOTENAY'S (RDCK), FIVE PROPOSED REGIONAL PARKS NEAR CRESTON, BC



KTUNAXA RDCK TUS SUMMARY REPORT (April 2023) For Regional District of Central Kootenay's (RDCK), Five Proposed Regional Parks near Creston, BC

April 13, 2023

Prepared and authored by:

Sammy Kent (BSc, A.Ag) with staff from Reciprocity Research Inc., with the Ktunaxa Nation Council.

On behalf of:

Ktunaxa Nation Council (KNC) & Yaqan Nu?kiy (Lower Kootenay Band)

Submitted to:

Caitlin Phillips & Jaime Vienneau
Lands and Resources Sector, Ktunaxa Nation Council

Acknowledgements:

This report is dedicated to the memory of Robert Louie Sr. whose contributions we have relied on for this report. Thanks, and acknowledgements go to Ktunaxa Citizens, Elders, knowledge holders, land users and staff who contributed including Robert Williams, Alfred Joseph, Robin Louie, Jesse Thomas, Cisco Luke-Jimmy, Lance Thomas, Jared Cayenne, Jayden Francis, Curtis Wullum, Caitlin Phillips, Jaime Vienneau, & Sebastien Martinez. And those who have contributed through past work: Wayne Louie, Isabel Louie, Annie Capillo, Chris Luke Sr, Chad Luke, Pete Williams, and Robert Louie. This report could not have been completed without their support and expert knowledge. Additional support was provided by staff at Reciprocity Research Inc.

Disclaimer:

The information contained in this report is based on research conducted by KNC with Reciprocity Research Inc. It reflects the understanding of the lead authors and is not intended to be a complete depiction of the dynamic and living system of use and knowledge maintained by Ktunaxa Nation citizens. It may be updated, refined, or changed as new information becomes available. All mapped information is based on field visits and interviews with Ktunaxa Nation Knowledge Holders conducted within constraints of time, budget and scope. Base map data originate from the National Topographic System and Natural Resources Canada. The information contained herein should not be construed as to define, limit, or otherwise constrain the Aboriginal rights of the Ktunaxa Nation or any other First Nations or Aboriginal peoples.

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1. INTRODUCTION

Yaqan Nuʔkiy (Lower Kootenay Band - LKB) and Ktunaxa Nation Council (KNC) have been approached by the Regional District of Central Kootenay (RDCK) to produce a TUS report and guiding recommendations on the proposed establishment of five regional parks on the South Arm of Kootenay Lake and near to Creston, BC. Reciprocity Research Inc. (Reciprocity) was contracted to support on the review and documentation of a Ktunaxa-led review of the five proposed RDCK Regional Park sites (the Project) - Reciprocity is providing this Traditional Use Study (TUS) Summary Report on behalf of Yaqan Nuʔkiy, and the Ktunaxa Nation Council. The report provides a summary of key concerns and findings from the work including recommendations for each of the five proposed parks: Goat River South, West Creston Ferry Landing, Martell Beach, Crawford Creek, and Powerline Beach @ Walker's Landing (owned by Teck Metals Ltd). The field surveys took place from October 12-14th, 2022. There were 9 participants and included Ktunaxa Nation Council (KNC) staff, members, Ktunaxa elders and Knowledge Holders, environmental professionals, archaeologists, and anthropologists. The review was done to the best of our ability given the constraints of time, resources, and health limitations of Elders'. The concerns being raised below have been raised and informed by Ktunaxa Citizens and Yaqan Nuʔkiy and KNC Staff, the summary of concerns and recommendations is presented in a discreet list found in Section 4.

The focus of this TUS Summary Report is to identify Ktunaxa cultural values within the proposed park locations and in adjacent areas that could be reasonably impacted by increased public pressure. Field work for this Project included recording of current ecological conditions and brief place-based interviews with Ktunaxa knowledge holders at sites of ecological and cultural importance. Aerial and conventional video footage was collected during the site visits and included interviews with Ktunaxa citizens and staff who provided context for the proposed project. Through respectful and continued involvement of key Ktunaxa elders, knowledge holders and staff, this work may support ongoing negotiations and establishing mitigations between Yaqan Nuʔkiy, KNC and RDCK.

The field survey component of this work was led by KNC staff, Ktunaxa citizens, and staff of Reciprocity Research. The objective of the field survey was to look closely at the proposed park locations to identify concerns and Ktunaxa cultural and ecological interests at each proposed park location. We note that while the RDCK may view archaeology as an important value for study during their review of the proposed parks, Yaqan Nuʔkiy, KNC and Ktunaxa knowledge holders view archaeology as important both throughout the past, present, and into the future. The presence and persistence of culturally important sites from the past preserves the cultural integrity of the landscape and supports knowledge transfer and a sense of place for Ktunaxa Citizens now and into the future. Therefore, preservation of, and careful assessment of potential culturally important sites is

integral for a complete understanding of Ktunaxa traditional use and knowledge of the areas surrounding the proposed parks. Should RDCK proceed with the development of any of the proposed parks, it should engage Yaqaan Nu?kiy and KNC Archaeology staff to complete additional studies of the proposed *park impact zones*¹.

1.1 GOALS OF THIS REPORT

For this TUS summary report, the focus will be to provide a reasonable review of Ktunaxa knowledge and use and the potential for impacts from the establishment of the proposed RDCK regional parks. We will hope to provide recommendations for management of the proposed parks, and highlight opportunities for collaborative management and stewardship of the parks. Our review includes a review of existing TUS documents from past projects, documentation of the project sites and adjacent areas from a Ktunaxa perspective, and identification of key Ktunaxa places, practices, and species or resources that may be influenced, including impacts and opportunities, by recreational development in the five proposed areas.

As defined in the Scope of Work (SoW) provided to KNC on June 16, 2022, the objectives of Reciprocity Research in supporting this Traditional Use Study are as follows:

- Review existing documents including: findings of KNC TUS (maps, interviews, etc.), archival review completed by KNC Staff, and other research undertaken by KNC and consultants;
- Work with KNC GIS staff to adapt and update existing field methods and survey forms (including On-territory TUS interviews, TEK field surveys, and data management) (based on feedback from Call to Gather results);
- Support a ½ day in-class and ½ day on-territory training and field planning session with KNC staff, Ktunaxa community staff and Ktunaxa knowledge holders;
- Support up to 5 brief, in-person family focus groups with Yaqaan Nu?kiy families to review existing information and document cultural and ecological importance of the project areas;
- Support 1 day of field visits to key sites in the area of Creston and Crawford Bay;
- Write a non-confidential Ktunaxa TUS summary report on the results of the field study, potential impacts on Ktunaxa rights and interests, and recommended mitigations (this report).

¹ *Park Impact Zone*: encompasses an area of impact (ie. pressure of public presence) - this zone should include a reasonable study area that includes the proposed park itself and a 1 km buffer surrounding the park boundary.

- Filming and editing of a short (up to 5 minute) informative video of proposed park and the field surveys.

The primary goals of the October 2022 field survey were:

- for KNC staff and knowledge holders to visit the five proposed park locations presented by RDCK and to act as ‘eyes and ears’ to collect observations and recordings for the Ktunaxa Nation & members who were unable to visit the site, consent form for data collection provided below (Appendix A & B),
- to better understand the Project location, the realized impacts on the ground of the project, and to identify Ktunaxa values at risk;
- to support internal KNC capacity development for on-territory field data collection including use of Survey123 (Appendix B) for a PDF of the forms developed for this work, and field safety (Appendix C); and
- to facilitate identification of potential future Ktunaxa-led studies that may be needed or that may support future projects related to this work.

The five areas proposed by RDCK for regional parks²:

- Powerline Beach at Walkers Landing (owned by Teck Metals Inc.);
- Crawford Bay Regional Park;
- Goat River;
- Martell Beach; and
- West Creston Ferry Landing (WCFL).

1.2 PROPOSED PROJECT

The Regional District of Central Kootenay (RDCK) is proposing the establishment or expansion of five regional parks in the area of Creston, BC and on the South Arm of Kootenay Lake, referred to here as the Project or the proposed park sites.

The Project is encompassed by ʔaʔpu ʔamakʔis (Wolverine’s land), a district within ʔamakʔis Ktunaxa. Within this district is kuqni or Kootenay Lake, Creston, BC and the surrounding areas known as the Kootenay Lake Valley, Yaqaan Nuʔkiy, or areas on “the Flats”, the historic floodplain of the Kootenay River and home of the Lower Kootenay (Ktunaxa from Yaqaan Nuʔkiy). This region is rich in archaeological potential, and deep cultural history, culturally important places and Ktunaxa names cover most of the valley. Many of the current and Ktunaxa interactions with Kootenay Lake have been previously documented as part of the Kootenay Cultural Conservation Values work and the development of the Kootenay Shoreline Guidance Document. The region includes important travel

² See Section 2.2 for Ktunaxa place names for each region that surrounds the proposed parks.

routes, placenames, cultural and spiritual sites, and habitat and subsistence areas for both culturally important and at-risk plant and animals species. By road the closest existing Ktunaxa community is Yaqaḡ Nuʔkiy (Lower Kootenay Band).

The Project will result in additional disturbance and public pressure on rare lake and river front access areas through the Kootenay Lake and Creston valleys, Ktunaxa citizens have already been alienated from much of Kootenay Lake and access to the shoreline is increasingly difficult. The region holds significance for Ktunaxa as a central hub for Ktunaxa use, travel, habitation, subsistence and cultural and spiritual connection. Both valleys are also important corridors and habitat for culturally important (and threatened) wildlife including but not limited to Kławła (Grizzly bear), kiḡaḡi (elk), niḡnapku (moose), & naxni (caribou), Kokanee, (quḡtiḡ) Rainbow trout, tuhuḡ (Bull trout), wiyaḡ (Sturgeon), ʔaḡuḡam (Burbot), matiḡ (Whitefish), and more. The valleys of Kootenay Lake and Creston also hold increasingly rare harvesting sites for culturally important plants (food & medicine), and minerals used for cultural art and ceremony.

The area includes steep and moderate slopes with a mix of open forest, densely-forested gullies and lower slopes draining to open grasslands, wetlands, estuary and forested riparian areas along the Kootenay River, Goat River, Crawford Creek, Kootenay Lake and other important habitat areas through the valleys. The Project area is ecologically diverse and provides regionally important vegetation, wildlife and habitat diversity. This TUS summary is intended to address information needs for Ktunaxa decision-makers, as well as those of the RDCK and will include a summary of findings from field-based surveys related to Ktunaxa values, use and interests, with consideration of key Ktunaxa values. The location of the proposed parks in relation to ʔamakʔis Ktunaxa, Kootenay Lake and the town of Creston is shown in Figure 1 below.

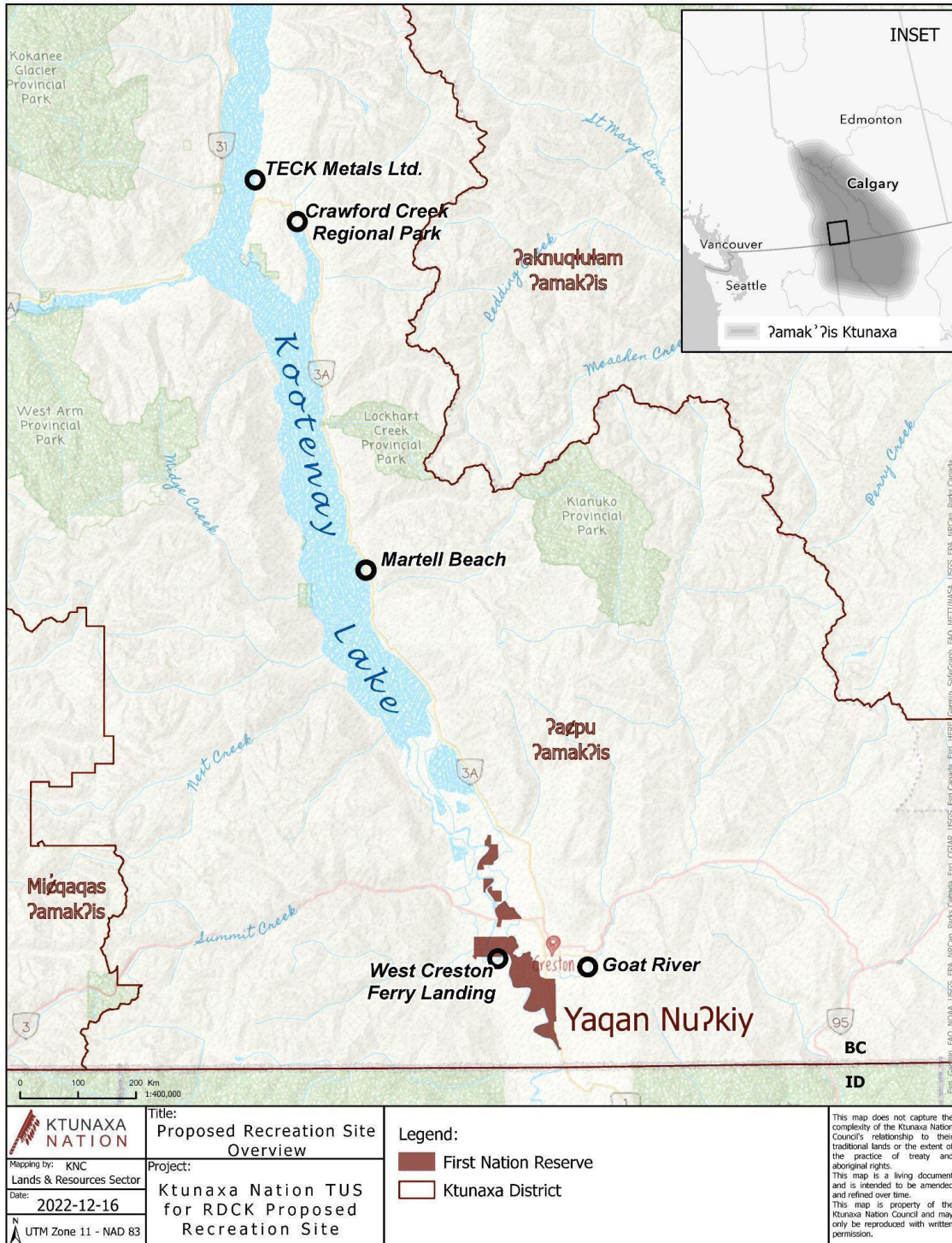


Figure 1. South Arm of Kootenay Lake & Creston, BC - Five proposed regional parks being reviewed with the Regional District of Central Kootenay (RDCK); all of the proposed parks occur within ?amak?is Ktunaxa. Yaqan Nu?kiy (Lower Kootenay Band) is the central Ktunaxa community connected to this part of the territory, known as ?a?pu ?amak?is (Wolverine's land) (Map by Sebastian Martinez, KNC).

2. METHODS

2.1 DESKTOP REVIEW

To guide the field site visits at the proposed parks, Reciprocity Research conducted a desktop review of RDCK project information, existing ecological information, topographic maps, maps of forestry road networks, google earth satellite images, and Ktunaxa use and occupancy mapping. The Kootenay Lake Shoreline Guidance Document (KLP, 2020), was relied on for determining past research on Ktunaxa use and concerns on Kootenay Lake. Table 1, below is the ranking guide used in the relevant results sections below. Using this information, a basemap was developed and integrated with Google Earth and the ArcGIS Online Suite of tools for use in the field. Previous projects completed in the region were reviewed to provide ecological and cultural context, primary data collected from previous studies was reviewed for context to this project. While some important and relevant information was pulled from past studies, it is important to note that this is not a complete documentation of all Ktunaxa use (see more in limitations below, section 2.4).

Table 1: Summary of the key considerations, relative risk rank, and associated map colour for interpretation in this guidance document.

Consideration	Rank	Map Colour
Aquatic Habitat Index	Very Low	Grey
	Low	Blue
	Moderate	Yellow
	High	Orange
	Very High	Red
Ktunaxa Cultural Values	Standard Engagement	Grey
	Enhanced Engagement	Purple
		Brown
Archeological Potential	N/A	Yellow
		Orange
		Red

Table 1. The above table is taken from the Kootenay Lake Partnership’s Shoreline Guidance Document (2020). This table was used alongside the virtual map to determine the potential impacts of park development on Ktunaxa rights and interest.

2.2 SITE SELECTION & NAMES

Planning for the site visits was discussed in a series of meetings with Ktunaxa elders, staff and knowledge holders through the fall of 2022, a presentation to the Elders Lands Advisory Working Group in early October, a community Call To Gather meeting was held in mid-October, and a presentation to Chief and Council was made in Late October. Through these discussions, a number of priority concerns related to Ktunaxa stewardship were identified including:

- Importance of valleys, movement corridors for wildlife (eg. Grizzly bear), and waterways including kokanee, sturgeon, & bull trout.
- Impacts to culturally important plants and rare habitat features;
- Sensitive ecosystems including rare aquatic shoreline habitat on Kootenay lake and in Creston.
- Culturally important areas including areas with high archaeological potential;
- Cultural use, hunting areas and trails; and
- Importance of Kootenay lake, and Creston Valleys to past, current and future Ktunaxa use.

Through a review of archival transcriptions of interviews with Ktunaxa knowledge holders, and a review of the Ktunaxa placenames database, Ktunaxa names were determined for the cultural regions surrounding each of the proposed park sites. Ktunaxa knowledge is living and growing, the following names are not intended to be permanent names for the parks but refer to the region around each proposed park and may change through further research and engagement with Ktunaxa knowledge holders.

- Kyanukxu ʔa·kinmituk (Goat River South)
- Kayaqaniskuwal (West Creston Ferry Landing)
- ʔsanca (Martell Beach)
- Kwataqʔnuk (Crawford Creek Regional Park)
- Sina ʔaknuxuʔnuk (Powerline Beach - Teck Metals Ltd)

2.3 ʔAMAKʔIS KTUNAXA SITE VISITS

Based on information provided through the planning meetings, a field-based review of the proposed park sites was determined to be necessary and selected for a staff and knowledge holder field visit. Prior to the field survey, an initial full-day of office-based map review was complete with Ktunaxa knowledge holders. Following this planning session, a training session was held with the field crew on October 12, 2022, the session was focussed on giving KNC staff the tools to complete on-territory interviews and data collection. The field visits included Ktunaxa Knowledge Holders, KNC staff, and Reciprocity staff and took place on October 13th & 14th, 2022. Once the field crew was on the ground, with highly experienced Ktunaxa land users and KNC staff, it

became evident there were some areas of high priority that may need special consideration and negotiation with RDCK (recommendations are found in Section 4). On-territory video interviews were completed with Ktunaxa Knowledge Holders to produce an informative video that has been shared with KNC staff and Ktunaxa Citizens.

The field crew was able to survey a portion of each of the proposed park sites, unfortunately, due to the scale of each site the surveys were restricted to easily accessible areas. Prior to development of the parks KNC and Yaqaan Nu?kiy should be engaged to support additional archaeological and ecological studies specific to construction impacts.

2.4 LIMITATIONS OF FIELD SURVEY RESULTS AND STUDY FINDINGS

- A living and breathing document: Traditional Knowledge is always growing and changing, this document and related RDCK park management should allow for flexibility and accommodation of potential future report amendments. The findings and recommendations herein should be considered as draft until final approval from KNC and Yaqaan Nu?kiy leadership.
- Due to Covid-19, timing in relation to other projects, and personal commitments for Ktunaxa knowledge holders, some key knowledge holders were unavailable for this work. Work is ongoing to conduct additional interviews, at which time amendments or revisions may be made to this report.
- Due to time and budget constraints, the field crew was not able to thoroughly survey the entirety of the proposed parks, the findings of this report should not be interpreted as final or all encompassing. This report should be used to help guide future negotiations and co-management planning arrangements between RDCK, KNC, and Yaqaan Nu?kiy.
- Because of the uncertainty of archaeological findings within the proposed park areas, RDCK should continue to work with KNC and Yaqaan Nu?kiy to conduct follow-up archaeology assessments for specific construction activities, and a more thorough surficial materials survey for proposed park sites that are selected for designation as a Regional Park.

3. RESULTS

3.1 ʔA·KNUSTI TRAINING WORKSHOPS

On October 12, 2022 a land-based training workshop was held with KNC ʔa·knusti staff and knowledge holders who would be attending the following field site visits. A presentation was made of the Project area with visual map aids outlining all five proposed park locations. Training in the workshop included safety information, risk awareness, on-territory TUS interview methods, and data collection using ESRI's Survey123 software on phone/tablet devices. Workshop participants all tested the forms used for data collection and conducted mock on-territory interviews with other participants to test the method and to become comfortable with the recording technology. Participants also provided consent for audio and video documentation for the entirety of the class and following field visits (October 12-14, 2022)

3.2 SITE VISITS & TUS REVIEW

Results of both individual visits to the proposed park locations, and the related review of previously recorded TUS data are provided in the following five subsections, each proposed park is identified with mapped data, photos, and a summary of TUS findings.

The proposed parks were visited on the following schedule:

- October 12, 2022: Goat River South
- October 13, 2022: Powerline Beach, Crawford Creek, Martell Beach
- October 14, 2022: West Creston Ferry Landing

Not captured by the individual TUS research of the proposed parks is the context of Kootenay Lake, Creston, and the region's connection to Ktunaxa Culture and history of use. The landforms surrounding Kootenay Lake tell stories that connect Ktunaxa citizens to important places, stories, and environmental features that have supported Ktunaxa since time immemorial. From the Ktunaxa creation story is the creature naq̓muqcin, who on travelling through ʔamakʔis Ktunaxa created the lakes, rivers, and mountains.

The region hosts a diversity of Ktunaxa use sites that have only been partially documented through limited TUS reports and the work related to the Kootenay Shoreline Guidance Document. Documented use includes: important place names, petroglyphs, village sites, harvesting sites for culturally important minerals, ancient fishing sites, subsistence harvesting areas (fish, eggs, roots, bulbs, mountain goat, deer, berries, mushrooms), campsites, and travel routes both on land and by water. It is important to note current uses are already impacted by development on Kootenay lake, loss of use include wild rice, abundant kokanee, and shoreline accessibility.

3.2.1 KYANUKXU ʔA·KINMITUK (GOAT RIVER SOUTH)

General site description:

The Goat River is a publicly accessible recreation site that includes a gravel pit, dyke, and river access 3 km up Goat River South Road. The recreation area is approximately 21 hectares, provides 600m of water frontage, and is currently owned by BC Transportation and Financing Authority. A gravel road provides access to the area past a gate with private property on either side, and old roads provide vehicle parking and foot access to the dyke and river foreshore. There are numerous trails including old road beds. Past gravel mining has disturbed the area and shallow pits and material stockpiles remain, while the low lying gravel pit floods seasonally. Vegetation is patchy with regenerating areas of shrubs, deciduous trees, and black cottonwood, however there are known nesting sites and habitat for screech owl. The Goat River beach has limited potential and the river point bars with cobble rock, though potential remains for day use sites with picnic areas, a small trail system, a gate, signage and toilets.

Summary of TUS Values within 5km:

The Goat River and the surrounding habitat (Figure 3 below) holds both ecological and cultural value for Ktunaxa Citizens, sensitive and rare riparian and aquatic habitat (including for at-risk Kokanee salmon), mature stands of cottonwood and cedar, and harvesting areas for culturally important plants. Ktunaxa knowledge holders expressed a desire to reconnect with this land and this place as they have not had access to this important area of their territory that holds important cultural ecological features. Within 2km exist important habitation sites, including the homes of Ktunaxa Citizens, as well, documented subsistence and habitat features, archaeological sites, and an old Ktunaxa village site. Within 5km Ktunaxa Citizens have reported 7 cultural sites, 17 environmental features, 10 habitation sites, 46 subsistence sites, and 3 transportation routes.

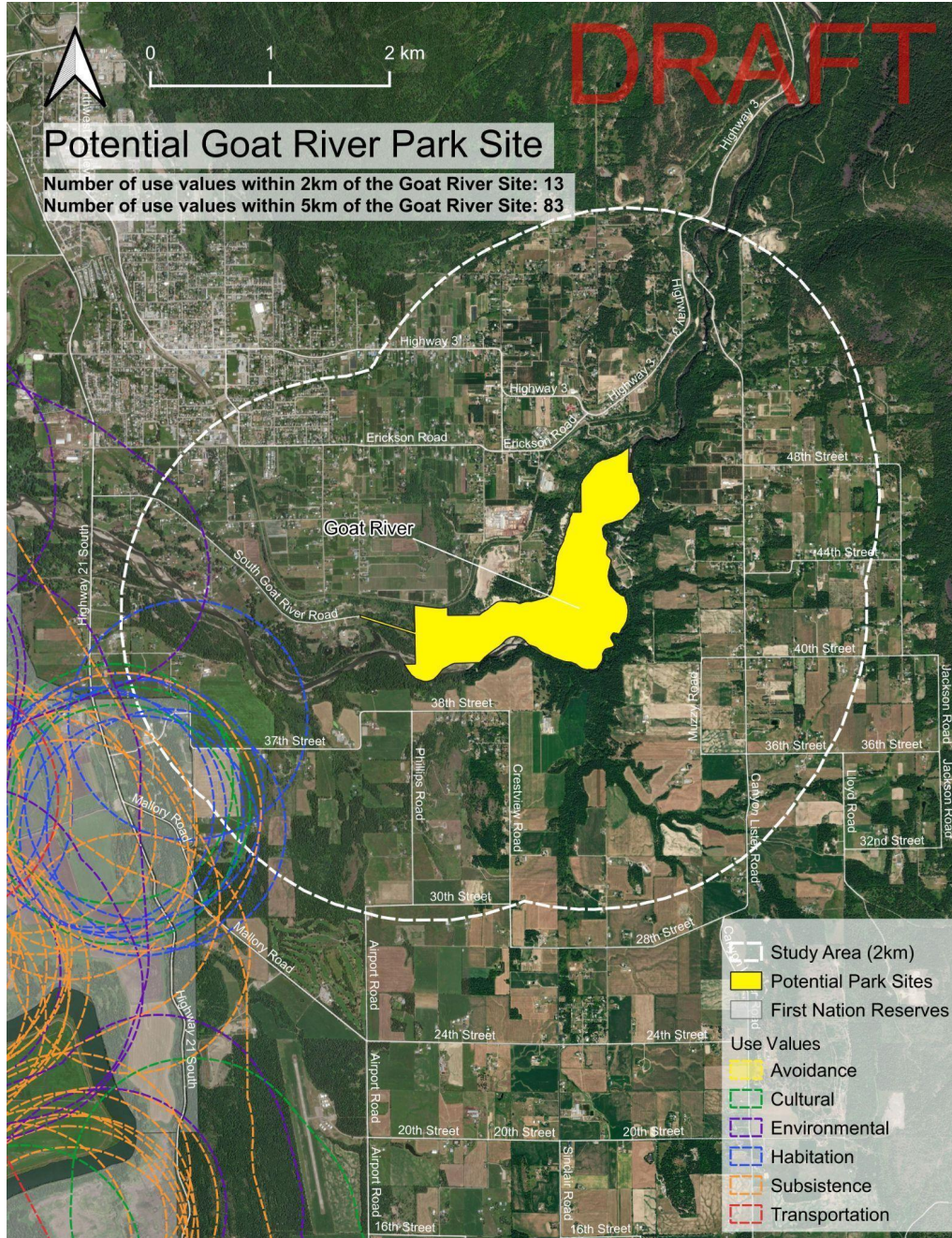


Figure 3. Goat River South, Proposed Park: Downstream of the Goat River Dam (built c.1930), this proposed park is adjacent to private lands and is currently held by the BC Ministry of Transportation. Yaqan Nuʔkiy and KNC hope to manage this proposed park collaboratively with RDCK to promote Ktunaxa use in the area. Reciprocity Research Visited this site with Yaqan Nuʔkiy and Ktunaxa knowledge holders on October 12, 2022.

Site-specific observations and summary of data collection:

Field surveys of the Goat River South proposed park took place on October 12, 2022. Ktunaxa knowledge holders and KNC staff were excited to visit this area as it is near high-value and culturally important mapped places but has been largely inaccessible for generations due to land privatization. The field team raised concerns regarding cumulative impacts to many ecological and cultural values in this area, including dwindling kokanee populations, legacy impacts from the Goat River Dam, and the importance of protecting wild spaces such as this as wildlife refuge and movement corridors. Increased public pressure will have impacts on ecosystem connectivity and Ktunaxa sense of place when practising rights. Mitigations for these impacts may come in supporting Yaqaan Nu?kiy in reconnecting Ktunaxa citizens with this place, and may include development of co-management strategies for Kokanee populations, harvest, management, and teaching spaces for culturally important plants and trees, and educational trails, events, and spaces for sharing traditional knowledge.

Habitat:

Habitat features included mature culturally important trees, including old standing wildlife trees, and living Kanuᓄmaquᓄaqpi?k (Cottonwood, *Populus sp.*), and ᓄiᓄnaᓄ (Western redcedar, *Thuja plicata*). Browse, antler rub sites, refuge and winter bedding areas were found for kiᓄᓄaᓄᓄi (elk), niᓄnapku (moose), and ᓄupqa (deer), as well sina (beaver) forage and nesting signs were present.

That's what they call them, natural cellars, ...I know that along here right down to the lake, Kootenay Lake, they utilized the cottonwood. You see how thick it is? They would line that up and store their food in it. Winter supply in those areas. That's how smart our people were.

Y04, Individual Interview, April 20, 2016

Observations include:

- Knowledge Holders identified this area as important to biological diversity, Ktunaxa stewardship and to the practice of Ktunaxa culture and rights.
- Ktunaxa Knowledge Holders observed a number of trails used by ungulates, including elk, moose, and predators to travel through the region away from people.

3.2.2 KAYAQANISKUWAL (WEST CRESTON FERRY LANDING)

General Site Description:

The West Creston Ferry Landing (WCFL) is used informally for access to the Kootenay River, and is located 5.3km west of Creston at the end of Kootenay River Road. Owned and managed by the Creston Dyking District (CDD, the area is approximately 2.4 hectares and offers 250m of water frontage. A gravel road leads to the foreshore, concrete boat ramp and picnic area, all of which can be accessed by vehicle and foot. The beach is a combination of sandy beach and rocky shoreline, and vegetation consists of regenerating shrubs and deciduous trees. Previously a provincial cable ferry site, the area was cleaned up with gravel and picnic tables added by the CV Trails Society, and has since been informally used as a park and for water access. The CDD has not given approval for work to be undertaken, and future work has been tabled until land tenure is sorted out. CDD is interested in a land tenure agreement with the RDCK if the site is developed as a regional park.

The complex legacy of land privatization, development, infrastructure, and boundary establishment with the United States of America have resulted in a fractured history of impact, loss, and displacement for Ktunaxa.

...everytime I mention the Lower Kootenays, it wasn't only the Creston area, it was Creston and Bonner's Ferry. We were one Lower Kootenays before they put the 49th parallel in. They got caught across the line, we were up here. So we were one tribe, the Lower Kootenays. I always include Bonner's Ferry, because we were one. And then when they put that line in, some of us got caught down there.

Y01, Individual Interview, August 19, 2016

The impacts of colonial history are still present today where members describe the immense changes to the lands around Creston and the Kootenay River Flats. These changes include: the use of a Ktunaxa canoe launching and safe crossing point on the Kootenay River, eventually becoming the West Creston Ferry Landing; dyking of the Kootenay River leading to an elimination of flooding on the flats, and a decrease in the habitat and species composition resulting in declines or losses of subsistence species such as kokanee, sturgeon, ducks, and wild rice.

When I was a kid, there was two times a year you could literally sit out here on the flats and watch the sky turn black with ducks, that's why we use nets to catch them, we can't do that anymore.

Robin Louie, On-Territory Interview, October 14, 2022

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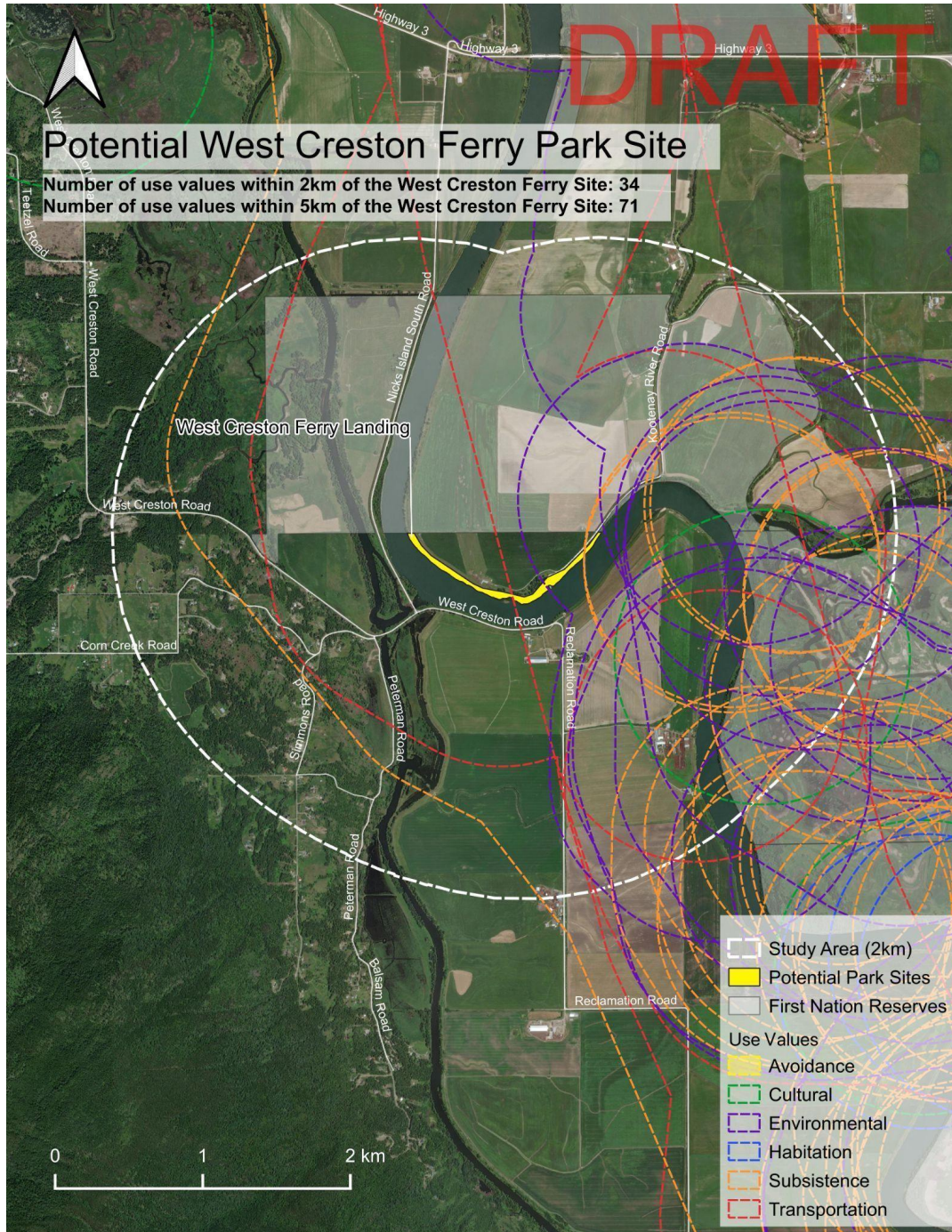


Figure 4. Kayaqaniskuwal - West Creston Ferry Landing (Proposed Park Site): This historic ferry crossing location was historically the main road crossing for the crow's nest highway. Prior to European settlement and the advent of major vehicle transportation routes, this crossing was an area of safe flow and current that was a manageable crossing by canoe or raft for Ktunaxa citizens. This site was visited by the KNC Field Crew with Reciprocity Research on October 14th, 2022.

Summary of TUS Values within 5km:

Kayaqaniskuwal (WCFL) (Figure 4, above) is an area of layered historical and modern use, this location holds significant historical cultural value for Ktunaxa citizens, and the surrounding ecosystem provides a vital movement corridor and refuge area for sensitive and at-risk species (including grizzly bears and various species of migratory birds). Due to the history of dyking and industrial use, Ktunaxa citizens have lost the ability to practice their rights in this location, the impacts have resulted in permanent changes to local species composition and habitat type. Within 2km are reported subsistence and habitat features, cultural use areas, and an important water transportation route. Within 5km Ktunaxa Citizens have reported 6 cultural sites, 15 environmental features, 10 habitation sites, 37 subsistence sites, and 3 transportation routes.

Site-specific observations and summary of data collection:

Field surveys at Kayaqaniskuwal, the WCFL proposed park, took place on October 14, 2022. Ktunaxa knowledge holders and KNC staff were excited to visit this area as it is a historic culturally important place, once used for crossing the Kootenay River in traditional Ktunaxa sturgeon-nosed canoes. Participants were dismayed by the current condition of the site, there was a lot of littering and pollution at this site from parties and the public boat launch. It was also apparent that very large bonfire type fires were regular as the fire ring was over-flowing with ash and burn materials (Figure 5 below). The field team raised concerns regarding impacts to ecological and cultural values in this area, including dwindling kokanee & sturgeon populations and the importance of protecting movement corridors for at-risk species like Grizzly bears. Increased public pressure will have impacts on ecosystem connectivity and Ktunaxa sense of place when practising rights. Mitigations for these impacts may come in supporting the reconnection of Ktunaxa citizens with this place.

Habitat:

Habitat features included mature culturally important trees, including old standing wildlife trees, and living Kanuṣmaquṣaqpiṣk (Cottonwood, *Populus sp.*), and other culturally important plants (eg. snowberry and poplar).

Observations include:

- Knowledge Holders identified this area as important to biological diversity, Ktunaxa stewardship and to the practice of Ktunaxa culture and rights.
- Swallows and woodpeckers were observed on nearby trees
- Ktunaxa Knowledge Holders observed a number of culturally important plants, including snowberry, rosehips, poplar, and cottonwood.
- Invasive species were identified (ie. Tansy)



Figure 5. Fire ring and park infrastructure at the West Creston Ferry Landing site. Lack of maintenance at the site evident as garbage, and ash build-up in the fire ring becoming a problem.

3.2.3 ?SANCA (MARTELL BEACH)

Martell Beach, also known as Sanca Beach, is a public access beach located 2.2km north of Sanca Creek on Highway 3A. It is currently owned by the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MOTI) as a portion of the highway right of way. The beach is approximately 2.25 hectares and provides approximately 400m of sandy and rocky water frontage. Gravel roads lead to the foreshore and parking areas, which can be accessed by both vehicle and foot. Martell/Sanca Beach is a popular location on the South Arm for both vehicle and boat access to the foreshore. There is existing access to the lake and uplands, and potential for tables, toilets, and viewpoints. MOTI and the Trails Society are pursuing development of a boat launch at this beach.

Kootenay Lake Shoreline Inventory Map Results:

- Archaeological Potential: Yellow (Moderate)
- Ktunaxa Cultural Values - Enhanced Engagement Required
- Aquatic Habitat Index: Very High
- Other Habitat features include Riparian Habitat and Sparse Emergent Vegetation

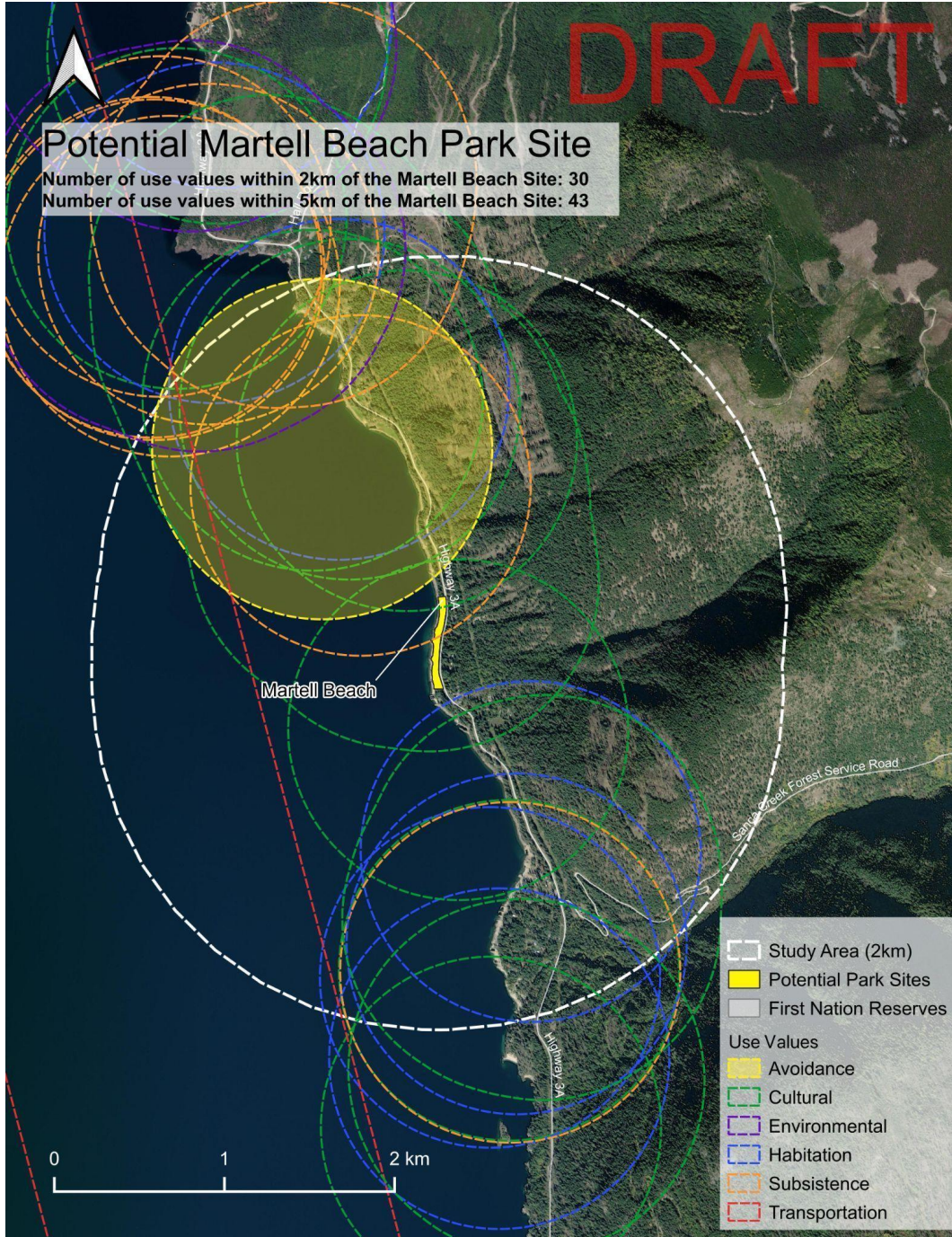


Figure 6. ʔsanca (Martell Beach, Existing Temporary Park Infrastructure): The existing park development here has been undertaken without the support of Yaqaṇ Nuʔkiy and KNC. Ktunaxa knowledge holders provided direction that this area should not be used as a park and should be protected as a lakeside movement corridor for wildlife (including Grizzly bears).

Summary of TUS Values within 5km:

The ʔsanca (Martell Beach), (Figure 6 above) proposed park is an area of intensive Ktunaxa use this location holds significant historical cultural value for Ktunaxa citizens, and the surrounding ecosystem provides a vital movement corridor and refuge area for sensitive and at-risk species (including grizzly bears and various species of fish). Ktunaxa citizens have reported cultural features including nearby pictographs, camping areas, trails, story and teaching places connected to the Ktunaxa creation story, and a historic battle location. Some impacts to use include restricted access to the best fishing spots. Viewpoints from Martell Beach include a view to landmark feature that represents k#aw#a (Grizzly bear), and it is believe this area holds a special connection and importance for Grizzly bear movement. Within 2km are reported subsistence, habitation, and cultural use areas, environmental features, and an important water route. Within 5km Ktunaxa Citizens have reported 14 cultural sites, 3 environmental features, 8 habitation sites, 11 subsistence sites, an important water route and two avoidance areas where Ktunaxa use has been impacted.

I was there and I got some arrowheads and we got war clubs, we got a lot going back to the great fight. That's the Sanca Creek and that's the road here... according to my grandmother, Sanca Creek goes into Kootenay Lake and that's where Star Blanket got ambushed.

Y14, Individual Interview, April 20, 2016

The history of active use, and layers of cultural complexity that include battles, artefacts, placenames, and passing on of stories and knowledge related to this place connects the cultural significance to the ecological importance.

*We'll accept the peace, you know, the peace and we will, no promises but we will end the fight there and we will accept the name *Sanca.*

Y14, Individual Interview, April 20, 2016

*The name Sanca came from a Ktunaxa word - ʔsanca - that was anglicised by Father De Smet to acknowledge the end of the bloodshed at Sanca. The term is loosely translated to bad, bad deed, or bad person (Y14, 2016).

The cultural significance of ʔsanca (Martell Beach) is reinforced by the proximity and occurrence of other Ktunaxa place names that connect the cultural landscape. This places and the cultural history and knowledge tied to these places is sacred and confidential. These places near Martell beach include generally:

- Island at ʔsanka (Sanca Creek) - "spear sticking out"
- ʔanaq#muqcin – place where naq#muqcin made whirlpools and was last seen.
- ʔakʔok#i – antler creek
- Quskanuk – "where the lake comes to the edge" – Fish spawning habitat
- ʔawiçkunuk – area by the glass house near Boswell, sacred area with pictographs and a registered archaeological site.

Site-specific observations and summary of data collection:

This place [Martell Beach]... not a lot of people know, so the locals actually come here instead of going to other busy beaches... I could see if the other locals who use it like I do would get kind of upset if it got too overpopulated, cause we don't have many of those [accessible beaches like Martell Beach] anymore on this lake.

Cisco Luke-Jimmy, On-territory Interview, October 13, 2022

Field surveys with Elders, knowledge holders, and staff at the Martell Beach proposed park, took place on October 13, 2022. The Ktunaxa field crew connected with this area right upon arrival and were all drawn in different directions. The participants were able to get a good sense of the site, the current impacts, and the risk of increased pressure. As a culturally important place, participants were not pleased with the recent changes and relocation of boulders to create a boat ramp. As much of the recreational infrastructure at this site was temporary, participants believed this site would be a good option for reducing amenities for the public and controlling the amount of visitors. The field team raised concerns regarding impacts to cultural and ecological values in this area, highlighting in particular the importance of protecting movement corridors for at-risk species like Grizzly bears and protecting spaces for cultural connection and peaceful enjoyment. Increased public pressure will have impacts on ecosystem connectivity and Ktunaxa sense of place when practising rights. Mitigations for these impacts may come in supporting the reconnection of Ktunaxa citizens with this place.

Habitat:

Habitat features included mature culturally important trees, and other culturally important plants (eg. snowberry and rosehips). Knowledge holders also shared the importance of the area for fishing and described important fish waterways along the shoreline through this area.

Observations include:

- Knowledge Holders identified this area as important to biological diversity, Ktunaxa stewardship and to the practice of Ktunaxa culture and rights.
- Grizzly bear tracks and scat were observed throughout the beach area.
- Ktunaxa Knowledge Holders observed a number of culturally important plants, including snowberry, and rosehips).

3.2.4 KWATAQNUK (CRAWFORD CREEK REGIONAL PARK)

Crawford Creek Regional Park is a 71 hectare park currently owned by the Regional District of Central Kootenay and located on the south side of Highway 3A near the Crawford Creek Bridge. The park consists of 28 fee simple lots. The park provides access to 1300m of water frontage and 18 hectares of foreshore (not in the park), including sandy beach areas. The park is accessed by a gravel road leading to parking areas, and vehicle and foot access to foreshore areas. There is a loop trail network within the park and additional trail access off of Peters Rd. In addition to recreational trails, the park contains an old airport runway and a wetland complex that extends across a floodplain between Beaver Creek and Crawford Creek. The floodplain is known habitat for beaver, river otter, mink, muskrat, elk, deer, moose, coyote, grizzly black bear, and cougar. There are areas of cedar and hemlock forests and deciduous riparian forest with cottonwood. The park serves to protect the Crawford Bay floodplain as a natural reservoir during natural, seasonal flooding events.

Kootenay Lake Shoreline Inventory Map Results:

- Archaeological Potential: Red (Very High)
- Ktunaxa Cultural Values - Enhanced Engagement Required
- Aquatic Habitat Index: Red (Very High)
- Other Habitat features include Riparian habitat, Submergent Vegetation, Emergent Vegetation, Emergent and Overhanging Vegetation, and Sparse Emergent Vegetation

During site visits with Ktunaxa knowledge holders to Crawford Creek, it was apparent how public use and pressures at regional parks results in alienation of Ktunaxa citizens from public parks. As well, increased infrastructure and accommodations for general public can create a feeling of discomfort and shift in perception of cultural safety. This change in Ktunaxa comfort in a particular place leads to a resulting loss of use and impact to the practice of culture and rights. With limited access to Kootenay Lake, Ktunaxa citizens hope to hold on to the few remaining special places with shoreline access.

[Crawford Creek Area] It's got good potential for a park... if the Nation [KNC] is thinking about helping RDCK they need to think of what they're going to get back from it. We keep giving lands away and we don't get nothing back, if they want a park here then they'll give us a park someplace else.

Robert Williams, On-territory Interview, October 13, 2022

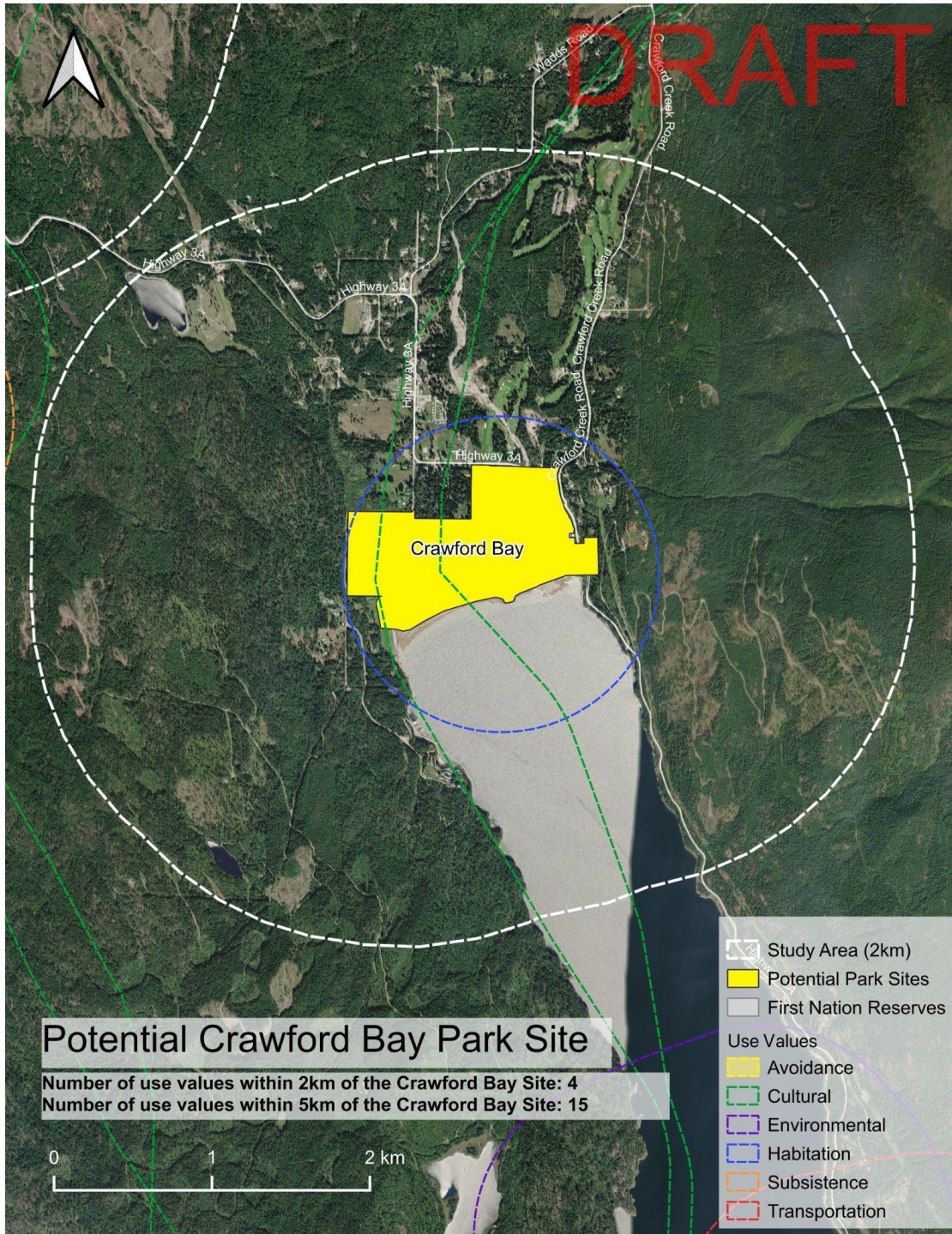


Figure 7. Kwataq̓nuk (Crawford Creek Regional Park) Visited by the KNC Field Crew on October 13, 2022. This existing Regional Park is a good candidate for increased park stewardship and infrastructure. Yaqan Nuʔkiy and KNC have interests in supporting sensitive habitat for at-risk species and connecting citizens to this culturally important place.

Summary of TUS Values within 5km:

Kwataq̓nuk (Crawford Creek Regional Park, Figure 7 above) is an area of layered Ktunaxa and settler historical and modern use, this location holds significant historical cultural value for Ktunaxa citizens. The location of the park was historically used by Ktunaxa citizens as a fishing camp where members would harvest Kokanee from Crawford Creek. There are existing opportunities for harvesting other culturally important fish, birds and game from the wetlands and the surrounding habitat. The slow moving shallow waters also provide essential spawning habitat for fish (including kokanee and sturgeon). Nearby culturally important trails, water routes, teaching areas, a spiritual places detail an undeniable affinity to this place that is shared among Ktunaxa citizens. Due to the history of settlement and agriculture by the Crawford family and preceding settler groups, Ktunaxa citizens' ability to practice their rights in this location has been impacted. The impacts have resulted in permanent changes to local species composition, health, and changes to habitat type. Within 2km are reported subsistence and habitat features, cultural use areas. Within 5km Ktunaxa Citizens have reported 6 cultural sites, 1 environmental feature, 2 habitation sites, 2 subsistence sites, and 3 transportation routes.

That Crawford Bay... That's where they get their white pine to build their canoe and they camped they pick huckleberries and they hunt. There's a lot of hunting, good hunting there like elk, and deer and that white pine to make your canoe and they say that they don't like that place much because there's a lot of grizzly bear.

Isabel Louie, Interview, April 01, 2003

Once a Ktunaxa habitation site, the history of use in this area including important travel corridors and subsistence plants and wildlife species indicate this site was heavily used prior to European settlement in the region. Ktunaxa citizens have noted that the area was a “hot spot” for berries (Wayne Louie, Individual Interview, 2001), as well as an important place for hunting and harvesting materials to build canoes.

Site-specific observations and summary of data collection:

Field surveys at Kwataq̓nuk (Crawford Creek Regional Park) took place on October 13, 2022. Ktunaxa knowledge holders and KNC staff mapped important habitat features and wildlife sign was found throughout the park and beach areas. One Ktunaxa knowledge holder and archaeologist, Robert Williams, discovered what could have been a hand tool on the beach; the item was documented by KNC staff (see Figure 8 below). The field crew acknowledge that the location has seen many iterations of development, from early settlement by the Crawford family, to agriculture, an airport, a proposed resort, and most-recently the Crawford Creek Regional Park. Participants noted this site

would benefit from additional investment and support from RDCK to maintain both park infrastructure and important habitat features. The field team raised concerns regarding cumulative impacts to many ecological and cultural values in this area, including dwindling kokanee & sturgeon populations, the overwhelming presence of invasive species and legacy impacts from nearby agriculture and a golf course. Previous use by Ktunaxa citizens in both the regional park and neighbouring provincial park lands included a tipi camp, future co-management of the park should include support for Ktunaxa to consider hosting cultural gatherings and knowledge sharing opportunities.

Habitat:

Habitat features included mature culturally important trees, including old standing wildlife trees, and living Kanuṡmaquṡaqpiṡk (Cottonwood, *Populus sp.*) and ṡiṡnat (Western redcedar, *Thuja plicata*). With two creeks entering opposite ends of the park and flooding two low-lying riparian habitat areas with mixed anthropogenic, forest, and shrub areas between the creeks. There are important browse and refuge areas for wildlife, including kiṡṡaṡṡi (elk), niṡnapku (moose), ṡupqa (deer), kṡawṡa (Grizzly bear), sina (beaver), kaṡkin (wolf), and ṡaqawxaṡ (river otter). Estuary, lake shore, creeks, and riparian areas provide important habitat for culturally important fish (kokanee, sturgeon, bull trout, rainbow trout, and whitefish) and other aquatic species.

Observations include:

- Knowledge Holders identified this area as important to biological diversity, Ktunaxa stewardship and to the practice of Ktunaxa culture and rights.
- Ktunaxa Knowledge Holders observed a number of trails used by ungulates, including elk, moose, and predators to travel through the region away from people.

Figure 8 (right). Possible hand tool found on the Crawford Creek beach area by Robert Williams & Jesse Thomas (October 13, 2022). Additional Archaeological surveys should be supported by RDCK prior to proceeding with regional park development at Crawford Creek.



3.2.5 SINA ʔAKNUXUʔNUK (POWERLINE BEACH - TECK METALS LTD)

Site Description:

Powerline Beach is a rare sandy beach location near Walker's Landing on Kootenay Lake's East shore. This site is made up of two distinct properties, making up approximately 16 acres, owned by Teck Metals Ltd (Teck). The property is locally known as Powerline Beach as it is the crossing point for the main electricity transmission line that connects the West and East sides of Kootenay Lake. An informal recreation area exists here with public using the beach area and evidence of recent fires, camping, and pollution. Teck agrees that the unauthorized public use of the property is an issue for the local environment and public safety, Teck is working with RDCK on a long term lease of this property to establish a new Regional Park. The park provides access to rare water frontage on Kootenay Lake that includes sandy beach areas. The park is accessed by Walkers Landing Rd, approximately 650m from the junction with the Riondel Rd. (near Kootenay Bay, BC). Informal roadside parking areas provide foot access to foreshore areas from a main trail. There are braided shoreline trails that connect unregulated campsites and fire rings. In addition to trails, beaches and camping areas, the park contains artefacts of logging and historic industrial activity as well as areas of archaeological potential and cultural importance. The shoreline is known habitat and fishing areas (trout, kokanee) and harvesting areas for white pine (used in the construction of yaqsuʔmiᑦ, Ktunaxa sturgeon-nose canoe). Ktunaxa canoes on Kootenay Lake were prolific and stories recognize their cultural importance.

When they hit Kootenay Lake, we had canoe caches... there were so many sturgeon-nose canoes, they were disposable. On rivers, you'd see canoes on the other side in case some people got stranded... they had an unwritten rule, you were allowed to use them if you were stuck. If you rowed across to the other side, you left the canoes there for the next person to make it back across if he was stuck. ...whether it was Kootenay Lake, Bonner's Ferry, [Ponderay], something. We had a system, you'd never leave your brothers or sisters.

Y01, Individual Interview, August 19, 2016

Kootenay Lake Shoreline Inventory Map Results:

- Archaeological Potential: Yellow (Moderate)
- Ktunaxa Cultural Values - Enhanced Engagement Required
- Aquatic Habitat Index: Orange (High)
- Other Habitat features include Emergent Vegetation and Emergent and Overhanging Vegetation.

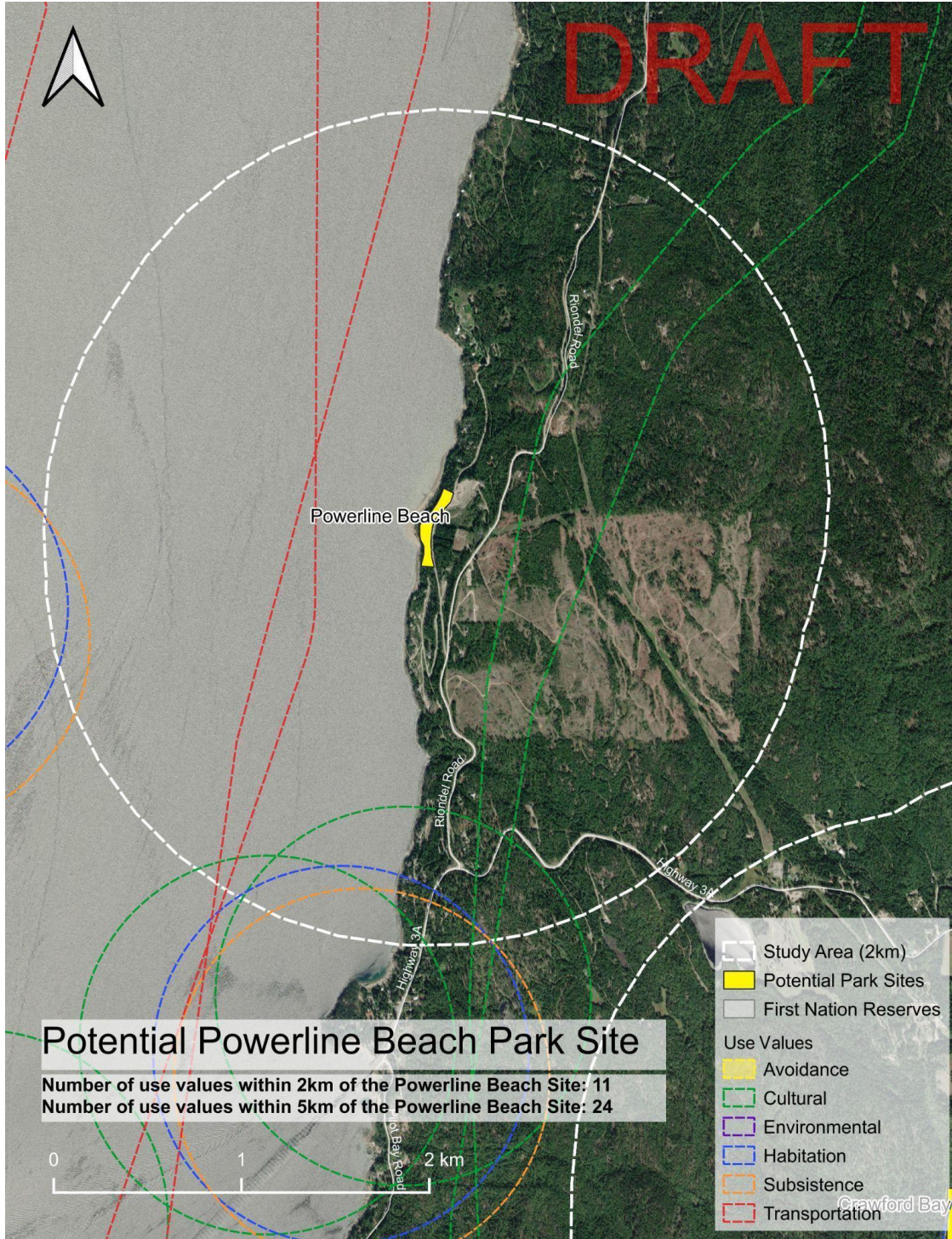


Figure 9. Ya-kił (Powerline Beach @ Walker’s Landing (owned by Teck Metals Ltd) visited by the KNC Field Crew on October 13, 2022. This property and the proposed property showed high archaeological potential. Heavy, and unregulated, current use by the general public at this site is a concern for Ktunaxa citizens.

Summary of TUS Values within 5km:

Sina ʔaknuxuʔnuk (Powerline Beach near Walker's Landing (owned by Teck Metals Ltd) is shown in Figure 9 above. This location sees current use from the general public and is in a complex location that has largely discouraged use from Ktunaxa Citizens for multiple generations. While visiting this site it was evident that this site would have historically been a very important use site for camping and refuge from storms while travelling on Kootenay Lake. The beach portion of this property is a beautiful sandy beach with a gentle slope and a point that juts out into the lake, this would offer wind and wave protection in any wind condition. This beach was likely a main crossing point for Ktunaxa Citizens hoping to reach other culturally important sites on the West side of Kootenay Lake. The Ktunaxa name selected for this site, Sina ʔaknuxuʔnuk, refers to the long ridge that parallels the Riondel road and extends from Mt.Crawford, and out along the peninsula from Crawford Bay. Some curious flat benches, fire rings, and arrangements of old stones should be reviewed further, and before any development occurs. Ktunaxa knowledge holders have indicated that this location holds high archaeological potential due to the landforms, location on Kootenay lake and ecological species composition. The Ktunaxa creation story has important linkages to this area, the legends describe how the mountains and lakes were formed by immense creatures. Subsistence fishing nearby included access to Rainbow trout, Dolly Varden, Kokanee, Suckers, and Northern Pike Minnow. Within 2km Ktunaxa citizens have reported 2 subsistence and habitation areas, 5 cultural use areas, and 2 transportation routes. Within 5km Ktunaxa Citizens have reported 13 cultural sites, 6 habitation sites, 3 subsistence sites, and 2 transportation routes.

Wayne Louie, was a well respected Ktunaxa Elder from Yaqaṇ Nuʔkiy, he contributed enormously to sharing Ktunaxa traditional knowledge and continuing cultural practices like building the yaqsuʔmiṣ “Kootenay Canoe”. In our review of archival transcripts for this project (Wayne & Isabel Louie, Project Interview, November 2001, *Lower Kootenay Traditional Use Site Report (2002)*), we found this excerpt that provides insights into the extensive use of Kootenay Lake by Ktunaxa:

Isabel said at times there was up to fifty Ktunaxa canoes scattered around the Kootenay Lake

The Kootenay Lake area was prime for white pine - wood was used for the skeleton of the Kootenay canoe. Isabel says there was a switch to canvas after contact with the settlers along the Kootenay Lake; but in her great grandfather's time birch bark was used to cover the Kootenay canoe.

Site-specific observations and summary of data collection:

Field surveys at Sina ʔaknuxuʔnuk (Powerline Beach) took place on October 13, 2022. Ktunaxa knowledge holders and KNC staff mapped important habitat features and wildlife sign was found throughout the site. Ktunaxa knowledge holders identified

culturally important plants and trees occurring at this park making it a good site for sharing knowledge and culture with Ktunaxa and the public to encourage stewardship. The field crew acknowledged that the location does experience a high amount of public traffic in summer months that could be better managed with some recreational infrastructure (eg. bear-proof trash cans, outhouses, signage). Participants noted this site would benefit from additional investment and support from RDCK to maintain both park infrastructure and important habitat features. Future co-management of the park should include support for Ktunaxa to consider hosting cultural gatherings and knowledge sharing opportunities, park development should not impede Ktunaxa from accessing this site in the future.

Habitat:

Habitat features included mature culturally important trees, including old standing wildlife trees, and living Kanuḡmaquḡaqpiḡk (Cottonwood, *Populus sp.*). With two creeks entering opposite ends of the park and flooding a low-lying riparian habitat, there are important browse and refuge areas for wildlife, including kiḡḡaḡḡi (elk), niḡnapku (moose), ḡupqa (deer), kḡawḡa (Grizzly bear), sina (beaver), kaḡkin (wolf), and ḡaqawxaḡ (river otter).

Observations include:

- Knowledge Holders identified this area as important to biological diversity, Ktunaxa stewardship and to the practice of Ktunaxa culture and rights.
- Ktunaxa Knowledge Holders observed a number of trails used by ungulates, including elk, moose, and predators to travel through the region away from people.

4. CHANGES, IMPACTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 GENERAL CHANGES AND IMPACTS

Insights on the change over time experienced throughout the study area, including recognition of impacts, and recognition of sensitive places and species were received through engagement effort with Ktunaxa citizens and staff of KNC and LKB. The engagement sessions included a call-to-gather, KNC staff meetings, Individual and Group Interviews, and on-territory site visits and interviews with Elders, knowledge holders, and staff. Some general changes and impacts within the region may be difficult to address through the management of individual and small scale regional parks. KNC and Yaqan Nuʔkiy hope that through an engaged co-management process, some of the broader impacts and issues can be addressed and considered through cumulative-impacts, and cumulative-benefits strategy within the RDCK.

General Changes:

- Loss of seasonal flooding of the Kootenay River flats have resulted in culturally important species decline and loss of harvesting areas (eg. Wild rice, ducks, sturgeon, kokanee)
- Spawning areas for fish (eg. dolly varden, burbot, sturgeon, kokanee, & bull trout)
- Kokanee decline in Kootenay Lake and Creeks (multi-trophic issues with freshwater shrimp, rainbow trout, etc.)
- Sturgeon population declines
- Increase in invasive species in park areas and risk of aquatic invasives from boat launch locations.
-

Impacts & ongoing uses:

- Accessibility and Alienation from important places on Kootenay lake and in the Creston valley, public pressures leading to lack of safety for practice of culture and rights.
- Harvesting of culturally important plants, limited areas & an increasing concern of pollution and contamination.
- Important fish bearing creeks seeing changes in seasonal flow and impacts of land use changes, need to have better inventory and control of freshwater withdrawals for agriculture and industrial uses.
- Recreational pressures in new or expanded regional parks should not impact Ktunaxa practice of culture and rights, efforts should be made to accommodate hosting of cultural activities, events, and ceremonies within the region

Wildlife Issues:

- Several culturally important and at-risk species occur in this area (including Kokanee, Sturgeon, Western Screech Owl, Grizzly Bear), KNC hopes to co-manage these regional parks in support of sensitive species and culturally important resources.

It is important to note that while the field surveys allowed some Ktunaxa Knowledge Holders and staff to visit the proposed parks, COVID-19 Pandemic restrictions, accessibility, time, and budget prevented additional elders or Knowledge Holders from participating in the site visits. As RDCK continues negotiations and development of the proposed parks with Yaqaan Nu?kiy, it will be important to include additional Ktunaxa elders and knowledge holders out on the land in this area to document the history of impacts to Ktunaxa citizens. This work should help guide co-management recommendations for restoration of important habitat features for fish, berries, trails & movement corridors, rare ecosystems and preserving the viewscales of the landforms among other cultural and ecological aspects of the area.

4.2 GENERAL CONCERNS & RECOMMENDATIONS

1. **Culturally Important Western White Pine habitat:** Western White Pine (*Pinus monticola*) has been identified within sensitive and culturally important habitat areas near the proposed parks. White pine, especially mature stands and individuals, are increasingly rare in the area. Special protections for large White Pine and opportunities for Ktunaxa use should be managed with Yaqaan Nu?kiy & KNC.
2. **Indigenous Plants, Invasive Species and Restoration:** Ktunaxa Knowledge Holders noted the abundance and diversity of culturally important plants (CIPs) at all proposed regional parks. The accessibility of these culturally important plants can sometimes be challenged by alienation of Ktunaxa from private and public lands in the region. Additional work should be supported to engage Ktunaxa-led restoration efforts to improved CIP populations and control invasive species to support ecological and culturally functional public spaces.
3. **Teaching, Cultural Use, and Alienation:** Ktunaxa elders, staff and knowledge holders noted the importance of the overall cultural landscape as contiguous throughout the Kootenay Lake and Creston Vallers. The high cultural importance and history of use has been impacted by land privatization rendering important areas inaccessible. Increased public pressure can also drive alienation of Ktunaxa citizens that may discourage or restrict the practice of culture and rights. The valleys (and the proposed parks) include largely intact areas for Ktunaxa plant and berry harvesting and hunting, as well as important access to creeks, rivers, and lakes; access to these spaces should not be impeded at any time of year for Ktunaxa citizens. RDCK should also work with Yaqaan Nu?kiy and Ktunaxa land-users to determine if planned park closures may be necessary to allow for Ktunaxa hunting, harvesting, or cultural use. Creation of culturally and

ecologically effective habitat offsets, or mitigations, may be required if the development of the proposed parks results in a net-loss of use for Ktunaxa citizens. Including working with Yaqaan Nu?kiy and KNC to identify culturally preferred offset areas, and support for Ktunaxa practice, including elder and youth knowledge sharing opportunities, and access to culturally important places, plants, animals, and ecosystems.

4. **Species at Risk: At-risk fish and fish habitat and Grizzly bear movement:** Ktunaxa Knowledge Holders identified particular concern regarding cumulative effects on wildlife, including species at risk, that may be impacted by proposed park development. Restoration of habitat and local populations is a goal of Ktunaxa citizens, Yaqaan Nu?kiy and KNC. Species and habitat of special concern include: Kokanee, Bull trout, Rainbow Trout, Sturgeon, Western Screech Owl, American Badger, Moose, Elk, and potential habitat areas for Little Brown Bat, birds, and amphibians. Standing large diameter wildlife trees in old-growth or mature forest stands, large-diameter Cottonwood, Western White Pine, and Cedar for cultural uses, and movement corridors and habitat for Grizzly bears and other mammals. Mitigations may include support for Ktunaxa guardianship and education, and creation of culturally and ecologically effective habitat offsets through protection and restoration, especially for mature forested stands, with a goal of achieving a net-positive impact (NPI) for local sensitive habitat and ecosystems.

4.3 SITE-SPECIFIC FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The following list includes site-specific findings and recommendations based on field surveys and analysis of available mapped and archival data (General Recommendations are clearly labelled):

Findings	Recommendations
<p>Kyanukxu ?a-kinmituk (Goat River South):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Proposed park is in an area of high archaeological potential due to the historic importance of Goat River, nearby Ktunaxa settlement, history of use values, and connection through the valley. 2. Valley bottom, and high-ridge trails and 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Additional archaeological testing and monitored excavation should be supported by Ktunaxa staff and Knowledge Holders during construction. 2. Preserve wildlife corridors &

<p>wildlife corridors provide important connectivity for Ktunaxa practice of rights and for wildlife movement.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Goat River drainage and surrounding area provides critical habitat for wildlife species, and contains many culturally important plant species, including those associated with valley bottom habitat (mature cedar and cottonwood). 4. Because of the rare access and proximity to Yaqaan Nu?kiy, the Goat River South proposed park provides numerous opportunities for Ktunaxa to engage in cultural practices, which may include harvest of culturally important plants, fish, and wildlife, habitat restoration, and education through development of medicine trails and teaching areas. 	<p>fish habitat to allow culturally important species to move freely throughout the proposed park.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Preserve sensitive and mature habitat features in the Goat River Valley, including careful construction of park infrastructure to avoid negative impacts to culturally important plants and species. 4. Support opportunities for Ktunaxa citizens to use the natural resources available in the proposed park and to practice traditional practices, co-management of this proposed park will be important as Ktunaxa interests in the site may evolve as citizens are able to return to this part of their territory. Consider seasonal park closures for exclusive Ktunaxa use for hunting.
<p>Kayaqaaniskuwal (WCFL):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Proposed park is in an area of high archaeological potential due to the historic importance of the river crossing, nearby Ktunaxa settlement, history of use values, and connection through the valley. 2. Valley bottom wildlife corridors provide important connectivity for Ktunaxa practice of rights and for wildlife movement (including for Grizzly bear and other at-risk species). 3. The cultural history of the site should 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Additional archaeological testing and monitored excavation should be supported by Ktunaxa staff and Knowledge Holders where infrastructure construction is planned. 2. Preserve wildlife corridors & fish habitat to allow culturally important species to move freely throughout the proposed park. 3. Support Ktunaxa citizens to

<p>be preserved by maintaining Ktunaxa connection and presence at this location.</p>	<p>create learning and knowledge sharing experiences through co-management of this site.</p>
<p>ʔsanca (Martell Beach):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Proposed park is in an area of high archaeological potential due to the historic importance of ʔsanca (also ksanca, including the beach, creek, valley and surrounding areas), nearby Ktunaxa settlement, history of use values, and connection through the valley. This site is not recommended for the establishment of a regional park. 2. Valley bottom wildlife corridors provide important connectivity for Ktunaxa practice of rights and for wildlife movement, this area is an area of high cultural, ecological and spiritual importance for Ktunaxa. 3. Ksanca drainage and surrounding area provides critical habitat for wildlife species, and contains many culturally important plant species, the valley is an important historic trail and the beach area is connected to the Ktunaxa creation story. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. This park location should be preserved for its cultural and ecological value. Existing temporary infrastructure should be removed or maintained as limited amenities. The boat ramp should be closed and restored to a natural beach with boulders replaced. 2. Preserve wildlife corridors to allow culturally important species (eg. Grizzly bear,) to move freely throughout the proposed park. 3. Preserve any sensitive and mature habitat features or movement corridors in the area of Martell Beach, including careful closure and clean-up to avoid negative impacts to culturally important plants and wildlife.
<p>Kwataqñuk (Crawford Creek Regional Park)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Proposed park is in an area of high archaeological potential due to the historic importance of Crawford Creek, nearby Ktunaxa settlement, history of use values, and connection through the region. 2. Crawford Creek and the surrounding 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Additional archaeological testing and monitored excavation should be supported by Ktunaxa staff and Knowledge Holders where infrastructure construction is planned.

<p>area provides critical habitat for wildlife species, and contains many culturally important plant species, the valley is an important historic settlement area and transportation route and the beach and wetland habitat features are culturally and ecologically important.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Preserve any sensitive and mature habitat features and movement corridors in the area of Crawford Creek, the beach, wetland, estuary and other riparian areas, including careful construction of park infrastructure to avoid negative impacts to culturally important plants and species.
<p>Sina ʔaknuxuʔnuk (Powerline Beach, Teck):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Proposed park is in an area of high archaeological potential due to the historic importance of rare gradual and protected beach on Kootenay Lake, this location is also adjacent to very important sites on the West side of Kootenay Lake and is well suited as a narrow cross point. Nearby Ktunaxa settlements, history of use values, and connection through the region link Ktunaxa to this place. 2. Because of the cultural history in this area and the presence of culturally important plants, a proposed park in this location would provide a good opportunity for interpretive education for the public. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Additional archaeological testing and monitored excavation should be supported by Ktunaxa staff and Knowledge Holders where infrastructure construction is planned. Implementation of a park here should not seasonally restrict Ktunaxa citizens from accessing the shoreline of Kootenay Lake. 2. Work with Ktunaxa knowledge holders from Yaqan Nuʔkiy to develop signage that educates the public on places and species of cultural importance for Ktunaxa citizens and why they need to be protected.

5. REFERENCES

- BGC Engineering Inc. (2020). RDCK Floodplain and Steep Creek Study (p. 177) [Flood Hazard Assessment]. Regional District of Central Kootenay. Retrieved April 13, 2023, from <https://www.rdck.ca/EN/main/services/community-planning/flood-map-study.html>
- Cisco Luke-Jimmy, (2022, October 12-14). *Field-Based Interviews regarding the RDCK Parks TUS Project*. (D. Robson & S. Kent, Interviewers) [Recorded Video and Audio]. Ktunaxa citizens and staff member.
- EcoLogic Consultants Ltd., Durand, R., & Ehlers, T. (2020). Crawford Bay Regional Park Biophysical Study (p. 81) [Biophysical Assessment]. Regional District of Central Kootenay. Retrieved April 13, 2023, from <https://www.rdck.ca/EN/main/services/recreation-parks-projects/crawford-creek-bay-regional-park-biophysical-study.html>
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- Ktunaxa Archival Transcriptions from Kootenay Cultural Conservation Values Study (2017): Y01, Individual Interview, August 19, 2016; Y04, Individual Interview, April 20, 2016; Y14, Individual Interview, April 20, 2016.
- Louie, Robert W. Ktunaxa Archival Transcriptions from Lower Kootenay Traditional Use Site Report (2002): Isabel Louie, Interview, April 01, 2003; Isabel Louie, Small Group Interview, November 2001; Wayne Louie, Small Group Interview, November 2001.
- Robin Louie, (2022, October 11-14). Office & Field-Based Interviews regarding the RDCK Parks TUS Project. (D. Robson & S. Kent, Interviewers) [Recorded Video and Audio]. Ktunaxa land user and knowledge holder.
- Robert Williams, (2022, October 12-14). Field-Based Interviews regarding the RDCK Parks TUS Project. (D. Robson & S. Kent, Interviewers) [Recorded Video and Audio]. Ktunaxa elder and staff member.

APPENDIX A: DOCUMENTATION OF INFORMED CONSENT

Ktunaxa Nation Council (KNC) Rights, Use, and Interests Study and Assessment for RDCK Regional Parks – Creston & Kootenay Lake, BC

Declaration of Informed Consent and Permission to use Information

I (name) _____, on this day _____, give permission for Reciprocity Research Inc. to interview me for the KNC Rights, Use, and Interests Study for the Regional District of Central Kootenay (RDCK) regional park planning in Creston & Kootenay Lake, BC.

I understand the study is being conducted by Yaqaan Nukiy (Lower Kootenay Band) & KNC. The purpose of this study is to document the use, rights and interests of Ktunaxa citizens in the Creston and Kootenay lake area, including areas adjacent to the 5 proposed Regional Parks: Crawford Creek, Martell Beach, Goat River, West Creston Ferry Landing, & Powerline Beach.

By signing below, I indicate my understanding that:

- (a) I give permission to have my words and responses recorded on maps, in notes and using audio and video recording equipment.
- (b) I am free to not respond to any questions that may be asked and to end the interview at any time I wish.
- (c) Yaqaan Nukiy & KNC will own and maintain intellectual property rights over all information and recordings collected through my participation and may use the information and recordings, including audio, video, or pictures, in pursuit of its claims and for defending and communicating the rights, interests, and titles of its members. This includes, but is not limited to, sharing information as part of environmental assessments and court actions.
- (d) KNC will ask permission from me or my descendants, before using my information for purposes not indicated above.

For more information, please contact Caitlin Phillips at (250) 421-7680.

I would like to have my name included in reports: yes no PIN #:

Signature of participant _____ Witness _____

Reciprocity Research Inc.

APPENDIX B: SURVEY123 FIELD FORM

The forms created for Survey123 follow an easy-to-follow format and allows you to only enter one type of observation at a time, this keeps the data clean and easy to interpret in later analysis. The screenshots below are an example of each page of the form, for confidentiality purposes the names of plants and wildlife have been excluded from this example.

This style of data collection allows Ktunaxa staff and citizens to quickly and easily collect field data that is relevant for ongoing research and mapping. Each entry requires time and date, name of respondent, and a GPS location. Photos, videos, audio files or other files can be attached to the forms for providing additional information or context.

RDCK Parks TUS - Incidental Observati...


Description content for the survey

Date

Time

Completed By:
Please type your name

Location



Type of Observation

Wildlife Sign

Culturally Important Plant

Cultural Value

Disturbance

Other

Photo
Please take a photo or upload from your gallery.

Drop image here or select image

Wildlife Species ▼

Wildlife Observations

Grizzly bear

Wildlife Sign

<input type="checkbox"/> Direct Observation
<input type="checkbox"/> Past Use / Harvest
<input type="checkbox"/> Tracks
<input type="checkbox"/> Scat
<input type="checkbox"/> Bed
<input type="checkbox"/> Browse / Feeding
<input type="checkbox"/> Den / Lodge / Nest
<input type="checkbox"/> Other

Wildlife Density

<input type="radio"/> Track from 1 Animal
<input type="radio"/> Trail from 2-5 Individuals

Habitat Type

<input type="checkbox"/> Forest - Mature / Old Growth
<input type="checkbox"/> Forest - Young / Mixed
<input type="checkbox"/> Riparian (River, Stream)
<input type="checkbox"/> Wetland
<input type="checkbox"/> Lake / Pond
<input type="checkbox"/> Grassland
<input type="checkbox"/> Anthropogenic
<input type="checkbox"/> Other

Other Wildlife Comments

Culturally Important Plant(s) ▼

Cultural Value ▼

Cultural Value

<input type="checkbox"/> Cultural Trail
<input type="checkbox"/> Campsite
<input type="checkbox"/> Berry or Plant Harvesting
<input type="checkbox"/> Hunting
<input type="checkbox"/> Fishing
<input type="checkbox"/> Spiritual or Ceremonial site
<input type="checkbox"/> Archaeological Feature
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Culturally Modified Tree
<input type="checkbox"/> Other

Disturbance ▼

Disturbance Type

(All within ~200m / or complete a new entry for multiple disturbances over a wider area)

<input type="checkbox"/> Forestry
<input type="checkbox"/> Roads
<input type="checkbox"/> Mining
<input type="checkbox"/> Fire
<input type="checkbox"/> Pollution
<input type="checkbox"/> Invasive Plant
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other

Disturbance Notes

Additional Notes

APPENDIX C: FIELD SAFETY FORM

**Yaqaan Nukiy / KNC - RDCK TUS (2022)
TAILGATE SAFETY MEETING PLAN & REPORT**

Introduction

- Reciprocity Research is working with Yaqaan Nukiy & KNC to complete a Traditional Use and Cultural Values Study. Specifically looking at 5 proposed parks in the Creston Area, including at: Goat River, West Creston Ferry Landing, Martell Beach, Crawford Creek, and the Powerline Beach.

Incidental Observations & On-territory Interviews

- Review data collection & interview process (forms on Survey123)
- Provide overview of the forms and the key project components/locations
- Site visits are intended to visit important areas and places near the project area, as identified with the help of Yaqaan Nukiy & KNC staff and knowledge holders.

What are we doing today?

- Review Safety Plan and Sign sheet.
- Driving to identified sites.
- Using GPS (tablets/phones) to identify proposed parks, navigate.
- Conducting on-territory interviews with audio &/or video recording.
- Recording incidental observations using Survey123 (including wildlife sign, culturally important places, cultural sites, disturbance, etc.)
- End of day debrief, review concerns & recommendations from Ktunaxa Citizens.

What to expect?

- Driving up to 1 hour (highway and dirt roads), walking on unstable terrain (bring good boots).
- Bring snacks, lunch, water and extra food.
- Expect a full day of working (~9am-5pm)
- Vehicles and participants should stay together.

<i>Part III</i> HAZARDS AND SAFEGUARDS		
<i>Task</i>	<i>Hazard</i>	<i>Control Barrier</i>

<i>PART IV</i> INSPECTIONS AND EQUIPMENT CHECKLIST	
<input type="checkbox"/> First Aid Kit	<input type="checkbox"/> Axe/Saw
<input type="checkbox"/> High visibility vest	<input type="checkbox"/> Bear Spray
<input type="checkbox"/> Appropriate footwear and clothing	<input type="checkbox"/> Extra clothing / socks / gloves
<input type="checkbox"/> GPS	<input type="checkbox"/> Safety blanket(s)
<input type="checkbox"/> Maps/Compass	<input type="checkbox"/> Battery Charger
<input type="checkbox"/> Data forms and field guides	<input type="checkbox"/> Headlamps
<input type="checkbox"/> Radio	<input type="checkbox"/> Duct tape
<input type="checkbox"/> Tablets/Phones with Mapping Apps & Dioptra	<input type="checkbox"/> Matches/Lighter
<input type="checkbox"/> Vehicle inspection	<input type="checkbox"/> Tire chains
	<input type="checkbox"/> [Any other items?]

<i>PART V</i> EMERGENCY PROTOCOL
Emergency contact number for the area: _____
Nearest medical facility: Creston Valley Hospital & Health Centre , 312 15 Ave N, Creston, BC, V0B 1G0, Phone: 250-428-2286



Creston Valley Services Committee

Emergency Program Report: 3rd Quarter 2023

Report Date: September 22, 2022

Response

The RDCK Emergency Program has had three Level 1 responses to emergency incidents this period:

- RV Fire in Nelson
- RV fire in Thrums
- Hotel fire in Salmo

Attended EMCR briefings on the wildfire responses in the South East region.

Supported RDEK with preparing to receive evacuees following the St. Mary's wildfire, but this was not ultimately required.

Emergency Support Services volunteers supporting with evacuee registration and referrals as part of the wildfire response in Central Region.

Preparedness

Strategy developed and approved for the updated Neighbourhood Emergency Preparation Program ("NEPP 2.0"). This will broaden the application of the program through the use of technology to offer online videos sessions to guide the neighbourhood teams in developing and implementing their plans. Development of a new Guide document to help the teams build their neighbourhood plans. Updating the neighbourhood emergency plan template.

Planning underway to address new Provincial guidelines for responding to water scarcity incidents and assisting residents with clean air spaces during poor air quality incidents.

Attended Emergency Preparedness Committee meetings around the region to promote inter-agency communication and collaboration.

PROJECT WORK

IT upgrade for Castlegar Rec Centre

This project is now complete

IT upgrade for Creston Rec Centre

The grant application for this project has been approved.

Emergency Support Services Modernization 2023

This project will support the ESS teams with additional IT kits, training and other supplies.

Three training sessions developed for the ESS volunteers; the training courses will be held during September & October.

RDCK Emergency Management Framework, Plans & Procedures Update

Updates to the RDCK Emergency Management framework, detailed plans and procedures manual are in the review process. Attended briefings provided by the BC association of Emergency Managers and the Province of BC to learn about the upcoming changes to the Emergency Program legislation. Reviewed the white paper which was issued to communicate the highlights of the new Act, and started planning for the required changes to the RDCK Emergency Program.

Outreach & Liaison (Ongoing)

Ongoing work to connect with individuals and groups to promote the emergency programs, with increasing emphasis on individual, family and community preparedness.

Chair and facilitate Emergency Preparedness Committee meetings for Creston & Electoral Areas A,B,C and Salmo & Electoral Area G to engage community stakeholders in discussion and sharing of information pertaining to ongoing emergency preparedness activities.

Attended the Creston Valley Community Services tea on 12-Sept.

Prepared By:

Jon Jackson – Emergency Program Coordinator



Committee Report

Date of Report: September 28, 2023
Date & Type of Meeting: October 5, 2023, Creston Valley Services Committee
Author: Tia Wayling, Regional Programming Manager
Subject: CDCC PROGRAMMING UPDATE
File: 0515-20-CVSC
Electoral Area/Municipality Town of Creston and Electoral Areas A, B & C

SECTION 1: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the various program service areas within Creston & District Community Complex.

SECTION 2: BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS

2.1 Regional Programming - General

Part of the planning process for 2024 is looking at past statistics. Having a strong understanding of where programs were successful with high participation numbers provides a foundation of the types of programming that will remain constant. The programs that had less success or were inevitably cancelled due to low registrations require dissection to determine why it was unsuccessful. Programming Staff are motivated to put their time to offering successful programs with good participation, and that offer high public benefit.

Below are the program statistics for Summer (July and August) 2023 with a comparison to 2022. Staff have started comparisons from 2022 as opposed to 2019 as these are more reflective of programming changes and user trends. Since 2022, processes to track Included with Admission program participation have been consistent and reliable so we can now report on how many users attend Included with Admission programs.

2.2 Pre-Registered Programs

Summer 2022

WHOLE FACILITY	# of Programs Offered	# of Programs Run	# of Program Run Hours	# of Participants	Average % Class Fill	Revenue	Program Cancellation Rate
Preschool Arena	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Youth Arena	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Adult Arena	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL ARENA	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Preschool Aquatics	21	15	58.7	67	72%	\$3,356.25	38%
Youth Aquatics	20	6	22.6	30	97%	\$1,530.00	70%
Adult Aquatics	1	0	0	0	-	\$-	100%
TOTAL AQUATICS	42	21	81.3	97	84%	\$4,886.25	50%
Preschool Fitness	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Youth Fitness	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Adult Fitness	0	0	0	0	-	-	100%
TOTAL FITNESS	0	0	0	0	-	\$-	100%
Preschool Rec	5	5	10	71	90%	\$729.00	0%
Youth Rec	21	11	171.5	157	69%	\$15,182.50	51%
Adult Rec	-	-	-	-	-	\$-	-
TOTAL REC	26	16	181.5	228	80%	\$15,911.50	38%
TOTAL TRAIN/CERT	1	0	0	0	-	\$-	100%
TOTAL	43	21	81.3	97	80%	\$20,797.75	51%

Summer 2023

WHOLE FACILITY	# of Programs Offered	# of Programs Run	# of Program Run Hours	# of Participants	Average % Class Fill	Revenue	Program Cancellation Rate
Preschool Arena	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Youth Arena	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Adult Arena	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL ARENA	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Preschool Aquatics	15	10	33.3	33	77%	\$1,897.00	33%
Youth Aquatics	14	12	44.7	64	80%	\$3,714.00	14%
Adult Aquatics							
TOTAL AQUATICS	29	22	78	97	79%	\$5,611.00	24%
Preschool Fitness	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Youth Fitness	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Adult Fitness	2	0	0	0	0%	\$-	100%
TOTAL FITNESS	2	0	0	0	0%	\$-	100%
Preschool Rec	4	2	6	11	69%	\$430.00	50%
Youth Rec	20	13	180	263	85%	\$21,851.80	35%
Adult Rec	2	2	13.5	10	85%	\$393.00	0%
TOTAL REC	26	17	199.5	284	80%	\$22,674.80	35%
TOTAL TRAIN/CERT	5	2	46	16	67%	\$2,918.00	60%
TOTAL	62	41	323.5	397	73%	\$31,203.80	34%

Aside from Camps and Swim Lessons, summer programming is typically not as busy as other seasons. Swim lessons served equal participants from last year but camps saw a 40% increase in participation. Changes made to scheduling and program quality has made camps more reliable for parents and it has now been steadily gaining popularity.

Overall, participation is up 75% from Summer 2022 with low program cancellation rates.

2.3 Included with Admission Programs

Program Type	Summer 2022				Summer 2023			
	# of Programs	Total Program Hours	# of Partic.	# of Partic./week	# of Programs	Total Program Hours	# of Partic.	# of Partic./week
Youth Fitness	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Adult Fitness	8	117	744	93	13	110.8	744	93
TOTAL FITNESS	8	117	744	93	13	110.8	744	93
Preschool Rec	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Youth Rec	3	31	206	26	3	27.4	98	12
Adult Rec	2	20	49	6	0	0	0	0
TOTAL REC	5	51	255	32	3	27.4	98	12
TOTAL	13	168	999	125	16	138.2	842	105

Included with Admission programs are a popular choice in the summer due to its non-committal nature. Surprisingly, Fitness served equal participants, where as Skateboarding in the Youth Rec category did see a drop from last year. Plans for 2024 will include more varied opportunities for Included with Admission programming in all age demographics.

2.4 Personal Services

Service Type	Summer 2022		Summer 2023		% hours increase
	Total Hours	Revenue	Total Hours	Revenue	
Private Swim Lessons	3	\$156.00	21.7	\$1,507.52	623%
Personal Training	35	\$1,480.00	17	\$827.00	-51%
TOTAL	38	\$1,636.00	38.7	\$2,334.52	2%

In comparison to 2022, Private Swim Lessons have returned in a limited capacity but because of the lack of certified staff in Fitness, Personal Training remains low.

2.5 Admissions

Demographic	Summer 2022		Summer 2023		% increase in visits
	# of visits	Revenue	# of Visits	Revenue	
Child	163	\$-	83		
Youth	208	\$7,214.90	1543	\$5,565.72	-26%
Adult	2639	\$18,217.50	1889	\$13,553.30	-28%
Family	95	\$1,297.80	441	\$6,359.08	364%
Golden Guest	6		12		100%
TOTAL	4821	\$26,730.20	3885	\$25,478.10	-19%

Although admission visits in 2023 have been higher than pre-pandemic, visits do not seem as high as 2022. However, the 364% increase in Family visits (4+ people) shows that family units are visiting more than individual users. If the Family statistic was multiplied by 4 [people], 2023 would have an increase of 2% in individual use. Providing more opportunities for families to recreate together is an important consideration for 2024 planning.

2.6 Memberships

Pass Type	Summer 2022				Summer 2023				% increase in scans (visits)
	Memberships Purchased	# of scans (visits)	Avg Scans/ week	Revenue Total	Memberships Purchased	# of scans (visits)	Avg Scans/ week	Revenue Total	
10 PUNCH	0	287		\$0.00	200	1523		\$11,222.13	
1 MONTH	194	2094	1.3	\$10,429.65	204	2046	1.3	\$12,032.38	-2%
3 MONTH	50	1236	3.1	\$6,498.28	45	1591	4.4	\$6,164.94	29%
6 MONTH	49	1807	4.6	\$10,872.20	51	2527	6.1	\$12,584.52	40%
1 YEAR									
LAP	50				25				
GOLDEN GUEST	33	1177	5		30	1154	4.8		-2%
TOTAL	376	6601	2.2	\$27,800.13	555	8841	2.0	\$42,003.97	34%

Membership sales and use are up from 2022 primarily for 6 month membership use. Programming opportunities for members to use their pass multiple days per week is a strategy to help facilitate a more connected and active community.

2.7 Facility Rentals

Facility Space	Spring 2019			Spring 2023			% Usage Increase
	# of bookings	Total Rental Hours	Revenue	# of bookings	Total Rental Hours	Revenue	
Room Rentals	14	106.5	\$2,592.11	36	188	\$5,633.68	77%
Ice Rentals - Youth	8	7.0	\$784.62	4	4	\$296.80	-43%
Ice Rentals	3	3.5	\$254.82	5	6	\$431.82	71%
Dry Floor Rentals**	2	10.5	\$462.95	10	36	\$3,574.05	243%
Pool - Lanes	108	110.5	\$1,523.82	71	182	\$4,623.31	65%
Pool - Aquatic Centre	1	2.0	\$176.40	0	0	\$-	-100%
Leased Spaces	-	-	\$5,441.80	-	-	\$5,569.70	-
Fields/Outdoor Spaces	13	18.5	\$270.00	22	47	\$1,167.54	154%
Off-site Facilities*	44	124.0	\$1,732.29	43	138.5	\$4,452.85	12%
TOTAL	193	383	\$13,238.81	191	601.5	\$25,749.75	57%

As we emerge out of the pandemic, room rentals are slowly increasing. The Arena Dry Floor saw 2 circus events this summer and some keen community members formed adult sports groups and utilized the sports fields.

2.7 Overall Analysis/Conclusion

Overall, space utilization of facilities through programs and rentals is starting to increase. More people are visiting the facility through direct programming, community user groups, or events in the building.

SECTION 3: DETAILED ANALYSIS

3.1 Financial Considerations – Cost and Resource Allocations:

Included in Financial Plan: Yes No Financial Plan Amendment: Yes No
 Debt Bylaw Required: Yes No Public/Gov't Approvals Required: Yes No

N/A

3.2 Legislative Considerations (Applicable Policies and/or Bylaws):

N/A

3.3 Environmental Considerations

N/A

3.4 Social Considerations:

N/A

3.5 Economic Considerations:

N/A

3.6 Communication Considerations:

N/A

3.7 Staffing/Departmental Workplace Considerations:

3.8 Board Strategic Plan/Priorities Considerations:

N/A

SECTION 4: OPTIONS & PROS / CONS

N/A

SECTION 5: RECOMMENDATIONS

This report is to be received for information only.

Respectfully submitted,

Originally signed by

Tia Wayling, Regional Programming Manager

CONCURRENCE

Joe Chirico – General Manager of Recreation

Trisha Davison – Regional Manager of Recreation and Client Services

CVSC ACTION ITEMS LIST FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

#	ACTION ITEM	MEETING ORIGIN	STATUS
1.	STAFF DIRECTION: Craig Stanley, Regional Manager of Operations and Asset Management, to prepare a letter to Bob Heric, Okanagan Falls, BC, indicating that the Committee is undecided right now and that a policy would have to be put through for these type of donations.	05-Jan-2023	COMPLETED - Spoke to him in person No letter written – but he was told RDCK developing policy in the meantime
2.	STAFF DIRECTION: That the Committee discuss at the March 2, 2023 Creston Valley Services Committee meeting a recommendation to the Board outlining some direction to develop a policy around the budgeting expectations of these groups as opposed to the reporting side of things after the fact. More engagement with these groups in December or January for the upcoming year	05-Jan-2023 & 02-Feb-2023 & 02-Mar-2023 & 06-Apr-2023	(Staff direction at Jan, Feb & Mar, Apr meetings)
3.	STAFF DIRECTION: Craig Stanley, Regional Manager of Operations and Asset Management, to respond to Blossomfest organizer, Bev Caldwell. Committee suggests Bev Caldwell go back to West Coast Amusements to negotiate a shuttle service to and from Town of Creston properties such as the church, Kootenay River Secondary School, College of the Rockies and Millennium Park.	05-Jan-2023	COMPLETED
4.	STAFF DIRECTION: That the Creston Valley Services Committee direct Staff to not include in the 2023 Draft Financial Plan for Service S174 (Cemetery – Creston A, B, C) a grant contribution to the Crawford Bay Cemetery in the amount of \$1,500.00 due to the required documentation not being submitted.	02-Feb-2023	COMPLETED
5.	STAFF DIRECTION: That the Creston Valley Services Committee direct Staff to remove from the 2023 Draft Financial Plan for Service S174 (Cemetery – Creston A, B, C) the grant allotment for 2022 to the Lister Cemetery in the amount of \$3,500.00 due the required submitted documentation not being submitted	02-Feb-2023	COMPLETED
6.	STAFF DIRECTION: That the Creston Valley Services Committee direct Staff to put in a request to the Creston Valley Public Library Board to get permission for Saara Itkonen, Library Director to host a pre-budget discussion meeting in the CVPL meeting room with the Crawford Bay, Riondel and Yahk Library Boards prior to July or August 2023.	02-Feb-2023	
7.	STAFF DIRECTION: Staff be directed to include the maximum grant available from the Crawford Bay Beach and Hall – Area A S217 budget.	02-Feb-2023	COMPLETED
8.	STAFF DIRECTION: The public in attendance have requested the following: • Add a link to the PowerPoint presentation on the RDCK website underneath the Agenda for the public to review after today's Creston Valley Services Committee meeting.	02-Mar-2023	Everything has been considered.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include the PowerPoint presentation in the agenda package prior to the meeting. • Have printed copies of the PowerPoint presentation available at the meeting. • Have a separate Creston Valley Services Committee meeting next year for the Public Budget Consultation – Creston, Areas A, B & C and schedule for longer than three hours. • Improve audio visual capabilities including a bigger screen. 		
9.	STAFF DIRECTION: The Committee informed Leah Kleinhans, that we need a Service to own the signage. Leah Kleinhans, Creston Valley-Kootenay Lake Economic Action Partnership Manager, Creston WorkBC Centre, to communicate with Joe Chirico, General Manager of Community Services and come back to the Creston Valley Services Committee meeting on April 6, 2023 with a proposal.	02-Mar-2023	COMPLETED – brought back to April 6, 2023 meeting.
10.	STAFF DIRECTION: That staff create a Terms of Reference on how this service will be delivered. Sangita Sudan and Jordan Dupuis to discuss with Mike Morrison, Manager of Corporate Administration – RDCK, on how this service would be addressed.	02-Mar-2023	Pending- Staff are investigating and seeking legal advise.
11.	STAFF DIRECTION: That the Creston Valley Services Committee direct staff to contact the Creston Pet Adoption and Welfare Society (PAWS) to inquire about a kennel facility as the RCMP is lacking the personnel capacity and a kennel facility. Director Jackman informed the Committee that the Town of Creston has a contract with PAWS.	02-Mar-2023	COMPLETED – and not reported in minutes. PAWS cannot support or is equipped to kennel dangerous dogs since run by volunteers who are untrained.
12.	STAFF DIRECTION: Bring back a report on the pros and cons of the Kinderhaus Childcare Proposal – Creston and District Community Complex to the April 6, 2023, Creston Valley Services Committee meeting.	02-Mar-2023	COMPLETED – Brought back to the May 4, 2023 meeting
13.	That the Kinderhaus Childcare Proposal – Creston and District Community Complex report BE REFERRED to the May 4, 2023 Creston Valley Service Committee meeting:	06-Apr-2023	COMPLETED – Brought back to the May 4, 2023 meeting
14.	STAFF DIRECTION: That staff reach out to Sarah Moreton regarding the request for an outdoor rubber running track.	06-Apr-2023	COMPLETED Email sent Sept 26
15.	STAFF DIRECTION: Craig Stanley, Regional Manager of Operations and Asset Management, to work with Valley Community Services to try and meet the needs of their request.	04-May-2023	COMPLETED – emails - they will be involved in the next allocation cycle for the outdoor spaces in the spring time for the 2024 season. Currently no conflicts
16.	STAFF DIRECTION: That staff prioritize proposed or existing parks identified in the Ktunaxa RDCK Traditional Use Study (TUS) Summary Report dated April 2023 and come back at a later date to the Creston Valley Services Committee meeting with recommendations.	04-May-2023 & 01-Jun-2023 & 06-Jul-2023	(Staff director at May, June, July meetings) Ongoing

17.	STAFF DIRECTION: That staff connect with Henriette Schattling, Director of Henriette’s Dayhome and Kinderhaus Childcare, to see if she’s still interested in pursuing a space at the Creston & District Community Complex.	04-May-2023	COMPLETED - staff took no action - proponent moved away – also connected to items 12 and 13
18.	STAFF DIRECTION: Stuart Horn, Chief Administrative Officer – RDCK, to talk to Tom Dool, Research Analyst, about reaching out to the Hospital Boards and BC Transit with regards to transportation between Creston and Cranbrook.	04-May-2023	
19.	STAFF DIRECTION: Staff to develop mechanisms for feasibility studies for proposals for recreation requests.	04-May-2023	Ongoing -
20.	That the following recommendation BE REFERRED to a later Creston Valley Services Committee meeting: That the Ktunaxa RDCK Traditional Use Study (TUS) Summary Report dated April 2023 be received by the Board. <i>The Committee members requested to have more time to review the materials.</i>	01-Jun-2023	COMPLETED Brought back the July 6, 2023 meeting
21.	That the following recommendation BE REFERRED to a later Creston Valley Services Committee meeting: That the Board commits to further engagement with Yaqaan Nukiy and Ktunaxa Nation Council Archaeology Staff prior to proceeding with the development of any proposed parks identified in the Ktunaxa RDCK Traditional Use Study (TUS) Summary Report dated April 2023. <i>The Committee members requested to have more time to review the materials.</i>	01-Jun-2023	COMPLETE Brought back to the July 6 th , 2023 meeting.
22.	STAFF DIRECTION: Michael Moore, Chief Administrative Officer – Creston, to send an email invitation to Stuart Horn, Chief Administrative Officer – RDCK for the closed meeting of Council either on June 20 or June 27, 2023.	01-Jun-2023	COMPLETED
23.	STAFF DIRECTION: Staff to ask Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MoTI) for comment on the Traditional Use Study (TUS).	01-Jun-2023	COMPLETE provided through email with MOTI staff
24.	STAFF DIRECTION: Staff to communicate to Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MoTi) that there is a benefit to the community if they came to some resolution to keep the toilets and garbage at Martell Beach.	01-Jun-2023	Ongoing
25.	STAFF DIRECTION: Staff to create a contribution agreement with Kootenay River Secondary School where RDCK lists what the funding is for and what the expectations are for the funding. To formalize the agreement, staff to include in the agreement what the rates are that RDCK is going to charge to receive that funding. The Creston Valley Services Committee would review the contribution agreement with Kootenay River Secondary School every year.	01-Jun-2023	For the auditorium. This has not been started.
26.	STAFF DIRECTION: Moving forward, staff will request that the Creston Valley Public Library report semi-annually at the Creston Valley Services Committee meetings versus monthly.	01-Jun-2023	COMPLETED

27.	Michael Moore, Chief Administrative Officer – Creston, to create a special committee and invite the Directors from Electoral A, B and C and the new Staff Sgt. Brandon Buliziuk, Creston RCMP Commander. Michael Moore to request that Staff Sgt. Brandon Buliziuk provide a quarterly report to the Directors.	06-Jul-2023	
28.	STAFF NOTE: Stuart Horn, Chief Administrative Officer – RDCK advised that the ownership and maintenance of the signage is being handled by Kootenay Employment Services and the Committee will receive an update later in 2023.	06-Jul-2023 & 04-May-2023	Ongoing
29.	STAFF DIRECTION: Staff to send Jerry Bauer, CCF Director and head of Trails Committee, from the Creston Community Forest (Creston Valley Forest Corporation) a Commission/Committee Delegation Request Form to complete and return to the meeting coordinator to present at a future Creston Valley Services Committee meeting.	06-Jul-2023	COMPLETED
30.	Staff will implement the Committee action list once administrative support is hired.	03-Aug-2023	COMPLETED 19-Sep-2023
31.	Staff confirmed the Creston Valley Services Committee agenda will prepared through Escribe going forward.	03-Aug-2023	COMPLETED 07-Sep-2023
32.	STAFF DIRECTION: That staff propose a date for a Traditional Use Study workshop in conjunction with a site visit for the Creston Valley Services Committee.	03-Aug-2023	Ongoing
33.	DIRECTION TO STAFF: Staff will set up a meeting with the Annual Creston Valley Blossom Festival, Town of Creston and School District No. 8 to work with groups to see if the events can co-exist.	07-Sep-2023	COMPLETED - Meeting held Sept 20th – ongoing negotiations to determine feasibility – this will not come back to the Committee from staff - this is operational item
34.	STAFF DIRECTION: That staff report back to the CVSC as part of the 2024 budget process to provide direction on what would be required to reinstate the grant funding to Lister and Crawford Bay cemeteries, including the release of prior years amounts being held in reserve.	07-Sep-2023	Ongoing
35.	STAFF DIRECTION: That staff write a request the Kootenay Lake Partnership to consider integrating the Traditional Use Study with the update of Cultural Values Study.	07-Sep-2023	Ongoing – meeting held on September 21, 2023
36.	STAFF DIRECTION: That staff reach out to Ministry of Transportation to get their response/interest on Martel Beach regarding blocking trail access.	07-Sep-2023	Ongoing
37.	STAFF DIRECTION: That staff request a workshop/session with the Traditional Use Study authors, the Ktunaxa Nation and Yaqan Nukiy, to educate the Committee to better understand the Traditional Use Study.	09-Sept-2023	Ongoing
38.	Tom will bring back a Creston Tour of Lights budget to the Committee prior to December.	09-Sept-2023	