



Kootenay Lake DPA Review Feedback Form

This form is intended to provide residents in the Regional District of Central Kootenay (RDCK) an opportunity to provide feedback for the Kootenay Lake Development Permit Area Review Project.

The Review Project has been underway since 2020, and in that time RDCK staff have been busy working to answer the question:

How can we ensure we are effectively caring for Kootenay Lake's shoreline as development activities take place?

To help guide development activities along most of Kootenay Lake's shoreline, the RDCK utilizes Environmental Development Permit Areas (EDPAs). The intention of the Kootenay Lake EDPA is to protect important "**riparian areas**" surrounding the Lake in order to reduce the impacts of development on the Lake. EDPAs are one of the most common and practical tools available to local governments, like the RDCK, to help protect the natural environment. As such, it is crucial to ensure that Kootenay Lake's EDPA reflects the commonly shared values that we all have for the Lake.

We want to hear from **YOU** on how well your values for Kootenay Lake are reflected by the "key themes" and EDPA "Objectives" listed below. The feedback received will be used to inform any proposed changes to the current EDPAs by the RDCK Board of Directors.

Sharing any other thoughts you may have on development along Kootenay Lake's shoreline or the Review Project is encouraged, and space can be found at the end of this form to provide that feedback.

Completed forms can be submitted to the RDCK Planning Department:

- Through e-mail to plandept@rdck.bc.ca
- In person at the RDCK's Lakeside Drive office in Nelson (address below)
- By mail to:

**Box 590
202 Lakeside Drive
Nelson, BC V1L 5R4**

If you would like to learn more about the Kootenay Lake Development Permit Area Review Project before filling out the feedback form, please visit the project webpage for more information: rdck.ca/KootenayLakeDPA. You can also contact the Planning Department by phone at (250) 352-6665 or by e-mail plandept@rdck.bc.ca.

Thank you for participating in the Review!

EDPA OBJECTIVES

Since the beginning of the Kootenay Lake Development Permit Area Review in 2020, RDCK staff have been evaluating public and stakeholder input to identify a set of key themes that represent the commonly shared values for Kootenay Lake. These key themes have been used to draft the “Objectives” for a revised Kootenay Lake EDPA.

Objectives are a fundamental part of an EDPA that are used to identify its purpose. They demonstrate why the EDPA is important and what it is trying to preserve or protect.

The table below lists the key themes and corresponding Objectives that have been drafted for a revised EDPA that could apply to Kootenay Lake as well as other riparian areas.

KEY THEME	DRAFT OBJECTIVE
Natural Environment	To protect and restore riparian areas in order to enhance the function of their adjacent ecosystems, watercourses, and natural features.
Fish & Wildlife Habitat	To protect biodiversity and ensure landscape connectivity between watercourses and upland riparian areas.
Water Quality	To protect water quality and prevent pollution and contamination of watercourses through the preservation and enhancement of riparian areas.
Human Interaction with Riparian Areas	To ensure activities within riparian areas are undertaken in a way that is sensitive to the natural environment and encourages shoreline stewardship.

Do you think the Objectives listed in the table above accurately reflect **what you value most about Kootenay Lake?**

Yes

No – If no, why not?

Comments (optional)

GUIDELINES FOR DEVELOPMENT

Guidelines refer to the guiding principles for development that are used to achieve the objectives laid out in an EDPA. Not all guidelines will be relevant to every proposal. Proposals are examined based on the specific characteristics of that site. Five key areas have been identified for EDPA guidelines to focus on:

1. [Requirement for a Report from a Qualified Environmental Professional \(QEP\)](#)

Riparian Assessment Reports are currently required in the RDCK when development activities are proposed in an EDPA. These Reports are crucial in understanding what habitat values exist on a property and how to mitigate negative impacts to riparian areas.

2. [The location of new lots, buildings, and structures](#)

Guidelines for the location of new lots, buildings, and structures are typically concerned with eliminating or otherwise minimizing the amount of disturbance to the riparian areas surrounding Kootenay Lake.

3. [Protection of important fish and wildlife habitat features](#)

Important habitat features are identified by a QEP for the lands affected by the proposed development activity. Recommendations for avoidance or mitigation options are included in the Riparian Assessment Report.

4. [Identifying and designating an appropriate setback from a watercourse](#)

Based on the QEP's assessment, a minimum setback is recommended. Development activities must adhere to that setback in order to eliminate or reduce impacts to important habitat features and the watercourse.

5. [Storm water and hazard management](#)

Site alterations that may increase storm water runoff or hazard potential (like steep slopes) are considered and avoided to prevent creating conditions that result in a higher likelihood of erosion and/or sedimentation.

EXEMPTIONS FROM THE EDPA

Exemptions refer to specific instances or activities where a Development Permit should not be required. They are intended to provide flexibility and cut down on the duplication of efforts between regulatory authorities (like the RDCK and the Province). Six key areas have been identified for EDPA exemptions to focus on:

1. [Development activities that do not result in disturbance of a riparian area](#)

These typically include things like renovations or additions partially within the EDPA, where a covenant is registered to protect sensitive areas, or having a QEP confirm that the area of disturbance falls outside of the riparian area.

2. ['Minor' works, such as small additions to existing structures or gardening/yard maintenance](#)

Development activity that is minor and would not result in any impact to the riparian area or involve machinery (for example an excavator) to complete the work. Minor works would be further defined in the EDPA.

3. [Activities permitted under an approval from the Provincial or Federal governments](#)

This would include authorizations that have already mitigated potential impacts above the natural boundary.

4. [Subdivisions that can accommodate future development entirely outside of the EDPA](#)

Subdivision exemptions could be used in specific cases where development activities for a new lot's creation are accommodated outside of the EDPA, recognizing that building on the lot may trigger the EDPA in the future.

5. [Emergency works under specific circumstances and with notice to the RDCK](#)

This would cover activities like vegetation removal under the recommendations of a FireSmart Assessment, hazard tree pruning/removal, or emergency response efforts from government agencies to name just a few.

6. [Agricultural activities consistent with Provincial best management practices & legislation](#)

Exemptions of this nature would apply to agricultural activities that strictly comply with Provincial guidance on undertaking the activity in a way that has negligible impacts on adjacent riparian areas.

The EDPA "Objectives" will ultimately shape what kinds of "Guidelines" and "Exemptions" are recommended. If you have any other feedback you would like to provide on the Objectives or any thoughts on the key areas that the Guidelines or Exemptions could focus on, please let us know in the space provided below!

Thank you for taking the time to fill out the Kootenay Lake DPA Feedback Form!

The Regional District of Central Kootenay will not collect, use or disclose personal information using this feedback form. The feedback form is voluntary and a response is encouraged but not required.

Regional District of Central Kootenay Planning Department
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