



Number: 400-02-20
REGIONAL DISTRICT OF CENTRAL KOOTENAY
**Local Conservation Fund
Policy Manual**

Chapter: Development and Community Sustainability Services

Section: Local Conservation Fund Service

Subject: Local Conservation Fund Policy

Board 182/26

Established April 16, 2026

Revised

Resolution:

Date:

Date:

POLICY:

1. PURPOSE:

The purpose of this Policy is to provide direction for how the Regional District of Central Kootenay Local Conservation Fund (LCF) is applied in practice. This Policy guides staff, the Technical Review Committee (TRC), the Local Conservation Fund Committee (LCFC), and the RDCK Board in identifying, considering, and recommending conservation projects by setting out the conservation themes and priorities that inform funding decisions under the LCF.

This Policy is intended to support consistent and transparent application of the LCF across the Service Area.

2. SCOPE:

This Policy applies to all projects considered, recommended, or approved for funding through the LCF.

3. DEFINITIONS:

For the purposes of this Policy:

- **Local Conservation Fund (LCF)** means the service and associated funding program, established by the Regional District of Central Kootenay Local Conservation Fund Service Establishment Bylaw No. 2420, 2014.
- **Service Area** means the Local Conservation Fund Service Area.
- **Technical Review Committee (TRC)** means an advisory body comprised of individuals with expertise in conservation-related fields appointed by the Board for the specific purpose of evaluating the technical merits of grant applications and recommending projects for funding.
- **Local Conservation Fund Committee (LCFC)** means the standing committee of the RDCK Board, established under Local Conservation Fund Committee Bylaw No. 2975, responsible for reviewing proposed projects put forward by the Technical Review Committee (TRC) and making recommendations to the RDCK Board.



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4. POLICY STATEMENT:

This section establishes the policy direction used to guide the selection of projects for funding through the LCF. The themes, and targets set out below provide the basis on which project proposals are reviewed and assessed by staff, the TRC, and the LCFC, and inform recommendations made to the RDCK Board.

4.1 Themes

The LCF supports conservation projects that align with one or more of the following themes. These themes establish the primary conservation focus areas used to guide the selection of projects for funding through the LCF.

- **Aquatic systems**, including the protection and enhancement of water-based ecosystems;
- **Water conservation**, including sustainable management and use of water resources;
- **Wildlife and habitat conservation**, including the protection, restoration, and connectivity of terrestrial and aquatic habitats.

These themes provide direction for identifying and assessing projects considered for funding through the LCF.

4.2 Targets

Within the Themes set out above, the LCF prioritizes projects that contribute to the conservation, protection, or enhancement of the biodiversity targets listed below. These targets form part of the criteria used to assess and select projects for funding through the LCF.

Conservation priorities for the LCF are informed by *the RDCK Kootenay Lake Local Conservation Fund Guidance Document*, recognizing that conservation priorities and ecological conditions may vary across participating Electoral Areas.

The biodiversity targets are:

- **Habitat connectivity**, including the maintenance and restoration of ecological linkages;
 - **Hydro-riparian systems**, including large, medium, and small watercourses;
 - **Wetlands**;
 - **Fish habitat**;
 - **Old-growth Moist Interior Cedar–Hemlock (ICHmw) forests**;
 - **Dry Interior Cedar–Hemlock forests**, including ICHxw and ICHdw variants;
 - **Cottonwood-dominated floodplain ecosystems**;
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- **Brushlands and grasslands;**
- **Shrub- and herb-dominated floodplain ecosystems;**
- **Species at Risk;** and
- **Karst features,** including hot and cold springs.

4.3 Governance

The governance of the Fund is structured to support clear accountability and informed decision-making.

- The RDCK Board is responsible for approving projects funded through the LCF.
- The LCFC reviews project proposals and provides recommendations to the RDCK Board in accordance with this Policy.
- The TRC provides technical advice in an advisory capacity to inform the review of project proposals.
- Administrative roles and procedural requirements related to the implementation of the LCF, including project intake, review processes, and reporting, are addressed through separate procedures and applicable bylaws, including the *Local Conservation Fund Committee Bylaw No. 2420, 2014*.

5. RELATED LEGISLATION:

- *Local Government Act (LGA)*
- *Regional District of Central Kootenay Local Conservation Fund Service Establishment Bylaw No. 2420, 2014*
- *Local Conservation Fund Committee Bylaw No. 2975, 2025*

6. SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:

- Regional District of Central Kootenay. (2018). *Kootenay Lake Local Conservation Fund Guidance Document*. Nelson, BC.
 - Regional District of Central Kootenay. *Local Conservation Fund Procedure*. Nelson, BC
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