

**Tue Oct 8, 2024. Creston District Community Complex (Kootenay Room)**

- 12:30pm **Opening words with Yaqan Nukiy and welcome on behalf of the Columbia Mountains Institute of Applied Ecology (CMI)**  
Robin Louie, Yaqan Nukiy, Lower Kootenay Band Councillor; Hailey Ross, CMI Executive Director
- 12:50pm **Kootenay Connect: A regional network of ecological corridors connecting valley bottoms to mountain tops**  
Presenter: Marcy Mahr, Kootenay Connect Manager, Kootenay Conservation Program  
Co-Authors: Michael Proctor, Transborder Grizzly Bear Project
- 1:15pm **Mitigating loss of roosting habitats in the Columbia Basin – thinking outside the bat box**  
Presenter: Cori Lausen, Wildlife Society of Canada  
Co-Authors: Heather Gates, Wildlife Society of Canada; Susan Dulc, Thompson Rivers University; Susan Holroyd, Wildlife Society of Canada
- 1:30pm **Monitoring bat acoustic activity to estimate trends and migration patterns**  
Presenter: Jason Rae, Wildlife Conservation Society of Canada  
Co-Authors: Erin Low, Heather Gates, and Cori Lausen all with Wildlife Conservation Society of Canada
- 1:45pm **Camas meadows as a model: Exploring pollination networks to identify keystone plants for restoration**  
Presenter: Valerie Huff, Kootenay Native Plant Society  
Co-Authors: Rowan Rampton and Brenda Beckwith, Kootenay Native Plant Society
- 2:00pm **Examining blister rust incidence in whitebark pine: why is Banff so different?**  
Presenter: Brendan Wilson, Selkirk Innovates, Selkirk College, West Kootenay and Boundary Region  
Co-Authors: Jamie Albino, Selkirk Innovates, Selkirk College, West Kootenay and Boundary; Hilary Cameron, Parks Canada Banff Field Unit; Connor Griffith, Parks Canada Banff Field Unit
- 2:15pm **Posters and Break**
- 3:00pm **Columbia Basin Water Monitoring Framework: From peaks to creeks**  
Presenter: Paige Thurston, Living Lakes Canada

- 3:15pm **Columbia River Basin invasive northern pike suppression and monitoring**  
Presenter: Eleanor Duifhuis, Okanagan Nation Alliance
- 3:30pm **Riparian restoration effectiveness monitoring: Success on unnamed tributary**  
Presenter: Elise Urness, Ecofish Research Ltd.
- 3:45pm **A multi-sensor approach to classification of juvenile freshwater fish habitat inventory using UAVs**  
Presenter: David Greaves, Selkirk College
- 4:00pm **Bringing the salmon home – Evaluating the feasibility of sockeye salmon reintroduction to historic habitat in the Columbia River upstream of Grand Coulee Dam**  
Presenter: Patrick Zubick, Okanagan Nation Alliance and Columbia River Salmon Reintroduction Initiative  
 Co-Authors: Michael Zimmer, Okanagan Nation Alliance; Ryan Benson, Okanagan Nation Alliance; Dan Stefanovic, Okanagan Nation Alliance; Misun Kang, Ktunaxa Nation Council; Ben Meunier, Ktunaxa Nation Council; Scott Cope, Shuswap Indian Band; Will Warnock, Ministry of Water, Lands, and Resource Stewardship
- 4:15pm **Modernizing the Columbia River Treaty: How does the Kootenay River fit in?**  
Presenter: Stewart Rood, University of Lethbridge  
Co-Authors: Greg Utzig, Kutenai Nature Investigations; Ben Muenier, Ktunaxa Nation Council
- 4:45pm **Posters and Social**  
 See poster list below. Location will be determined based on weather conditions

## Posters

### **Grafting as a conservation tool in whitebark pine recovery efforts**

Presenter: Karli Graham, Geoterra

Co-Authors: Dana Charlton, TC Energy; Aaron Weaver, Geoterra; Gina Fryer, Geoterra; Randy Moody, Geoterra

### **Summary of Nakusp maternity pen work to aid in mountain caribou recovery**

Presenter: James Baxter, Sinixt Confederacy

Co-Authors: Richard Whitney, Sinixt Confederacy; Francis Swan, Arrow Lakes Caribou Society; Aaron Reid Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship

### **Working towards northern leopard frog (*Lithobates pipiens*) recovery in Creston, BC**

Presenter: Blaire Smith, Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship

### **Scouting cones by flying drones**

Presenter: Brendan Wilson, Selkirk Innovates, Selkirk College, West Kootenay and Boundary Region

Co-Authors: Jamie Albino, Alana Block and Tom Perry, all with Selkirk Innovates, Selkirk College

## **Columbia Basin Water Monitoring Framework: A coordinated monitoring network to support the tracking and understanding of climate impacts on water supply for communities and ecosystems**

Presenter: Paige Thurston, Living Lakes Canada

Co-Authors: Nicole Trigg & Kai Smith, Living Lakes Canada

### **Wed, Oct 9, 2024. Field Tour**

A fabulous collaboration with the Creston Valley Wildlife Management Area (CVWMA) – from bats to leopard frogs and much more. Meet in the parking lot of the Creston District Community Complex (CDCC) at **8:30am** for carpooling to the field site. We aim to have everyone back at the CDCC parking lot by 1:30pm.

#### **Field Tour Description:**

From the CDCC, we will drive (carpool) to CVWMA’s Duck Lake site. The field trip will commence with a tour of a number of bat roosting and maternity artificial structures and the associated research conducted by Cori Lausen, Jason Rae and their team with the Wildlife Conservation Society of Canada. This will include an opportunity to view the BrandenBark™ in action, something you will have learned about the day before! The walking distances during this portion of the field trip are very short.

Following Cori and Jason’s tour, we will move on to see a recently constructed wetland where Marc-Andre Beaucher, Devon Moore, and Marcy Mahr will discuss the northern leopard frog recovery project, American bullfrog monitoring and control, and the Kootenay Connect projects that have been implemented over a number of years. This portion of the field trip will also take us to a newly constructed channel where we can discuss habitat restoration and enhancement for Species at Risk in the Creston Valley Wildlife Management Area. This portion of the field tour will be approximately 2.6 km long (round-trip) through a flat field. If we’re lucky, there is a chance to see the rare and federally endangered leopard frogs living in this area!

#### **Preparation and what to bring:**

Dress for the weather and potentially wet ground: Warm clothing, rain gear, good footwear (rubber boots are not necessary – hiking boots will do), binoculars/cameras, hats, and sunscreen. If you haven’t pre-ordered the bagged lunches, please be sure to bring snacks/lunch. Everyone should bring water.

#### **Hosts:**

Marc-Andre Beaucher, Creston Valley Wildlife Management Area;

Devon Moore, Ministry of Water Lands and Resource Stewardship, Kootenay Bullfrog Control Program; and

Cori Lausen, Wildlife Conservation Society Canada, Director of Bat Conservation

Marcy Mahr, Kootenay Connect

*Thank you Columbia Power, Elevate Mountain Lifestyles, Masse Environmental Consultants & FortisBC for your financial support!*

