



Friends of Kootenay Lake

Stewardship Society

5th Annual Kootenay Lake Summit Notes

Date: November 4th, 2017

Time: 9:30am – 3:30pm

Location: Wynndel Community Centre, 5113 Wynndel Rd., Wynndel BC

Note Taker: Laura Stewart

Opening Speech

Avery DeBoer Smith, FOKLSS

- Thank funders and donors
- Recognize unceded territory
- Housekeeping
- Agenda
- Annual membership info

An Update on Kootenay Lake

Avery DeBoer-Smith, FOKLSS

- Earth day beach clean up
 - Removing styrofoam from Kokanee Creek Provincial Park
- Summer student
 - Help with outreach education
- Summer outreach success
- Summer photo contest #ilovekootenaylake
- Osprey nest monitoring year 2
 - Citizen scientists
- New friends
 - Tadpole at Harrop Proctor wetland
 - Toadlets and froglets this year
- Future outlook
 - First strategic plan
 - New wetland project
 - New intern – Nina
 - New hats – local Nelson company
 - Special thanks
- Water data hub
 - Upcoming event

Regional Park in Crawford Bay

Mike Jeffery

- Introduction and history of speaker
- Area owned by Kokanee Springs
 - Up for sale this year
 - Sale would mean loss of access, trails, beach and other environmental amenities
- Crawford Bay approached the Regional District on the issue
- The area is the only wetland in the West Arm
- Community wants area to be a Regional Park
- Video:
 - Explains area in question
 - Wildlife in the area and importance of land
 - Best potential for habitat restoration
 - Volunteer maintained
 - Solution: RDCK buys and creates a park
 - Opportunity to make a difference
- Questions:
 - Asking price: 3.7 million
 - Position of CBT: In negotiation

KLLCF Funding Opportunities

**Juliet Craig, Kootenay
Conservation Program**

- Introduction
 - Who is KCP?
- Maintain grizzly bear corridor
- Species at risk on private land and conservation
- 2008 local conservation fund created
 - Electoral areas A and F
- Active for 2 years in area A, D and E
- South Okanagan has also created a fund
- Administration
 - Assists the community with theme related projects that need funding
- 10 projects have been supported (2016-2017)
 - Osprey monitoring program – RDCK funded
 - Darkwoods habitat restoration
 - Grizzly bear co-existence
 - Western toad highway mitigation

- Bat conservation on private land
- Water quality monitoring
- Shorelines guidance document extension
- Economic benefits
 - Community members benefit
- Expand fund
 1. Feasibility research
 2. Public opinion polling
 3. Coalition building
 4. Public support
 5. Campaign
- Questions:
 - If undersubscribed, would there be an opportunity to extend submission deadline?
 - Directors would have to meet.

Kootenay Lake Kokanee and Other Fish 2017 Update

Matt Neufeild and Jeff Burrows, BC Fish and Wildlife

- Outline
- Local Kokanee: the basics
 - Information and history of kokanee fish
 - Keystone species
- Spawners
 - 2014 – Lowest dip
 - 2015 – Collapse
 - Age 1-3 survival is the problem
- Main lake kokanee key recovery actions
 - Supplementation of kokanee eyed eggs/fry
 - Ensure lake conditions support survival
 - Sport fishing regulations support recovery
 - Kokanee spawner triggers
- Gerrard rainbow trout
 - Kokanee predator
 - Driver of kokanee survival decline
- Bulltrout
 - Predator but do not rely on kokanee
 - 2017 increase – concern, consume kokanee
- Recovery white sturgeon and burbot

- International habitat and recovery partnership
- White sturgeon – federally listed as endangered
- Burbot
 - Conservation agreement signed (past)
 - Hatchery program from Moyie (present)
- Kootenay white sturgeon
 - SARA listed
 - Declining trend
 - Recovery
 - Hatchery juveniles
 - Addressing recruitment
 - Habitat construction
 - Spawn near Bonners Ferry
 - Libby flows – double peak in spring spawn
- Questions
 - Correlation between Libby and Kokanee decline?
 - Yes, but other factors as well
 - Will rainbows suffer?
 - They rely on other prey as well
 - What are you learning about IHN disease?
 - There is no leading hypothesis in decline in kokanee
 - Restoration considered in south arm?
 - Planted eyed eggs in lower reaches of Boulder Creek
 - Gravel could be improved in Crawford Creek
 - Have there been studies on the affects of agriculture?
 - No, not with fisheries
 - Are there programs that follow the down and up trends?
 - No, there are good annual programs in place
 - Has overall temperature increased?
 - Depends on thermocline, wind, mixing etc.