



Bowker Creek Salmon Recovery – Oak Bay Tree Planting



COASTAL DOUGLAS-FIR
& ASSOCIATED ECOSYSTEMS
CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP

CRD Local Conservation Fund

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Purpose of this Presentation

To indicate support for the proposed CRDs
Biodiversity and Stewardship Service.

To share information about Local
Conservation Funds.

To encourage the Environmental Services
Committee to ask staff to investigate the
potential of a CRD Local Conservation
Fund.





What is the CDFCP?

Promotes the conservation and stewardship of the coastal Douglas-fir forest and its associated ecosystems.

- <1% old-growth CDFmm forest remains.
- 49% of its original extent is permanently converted.
- 80% on private lands.
- 11% of CDFmm is protected in conservation areas.
- CDFmm is home to the highest number of species and ecosystems at risk in BC.





What is a Local Conservation Fund?

A Local Conservation Fund could be funded in a similar manner to the Parks Land Acquisition Fund with a small parcel tax.

Its focus would be on protecting natural assets on **private land** to ensure climate resilience and adaptation and increasing biodiversity conservation.

Four Regional Districts in BC have established Local Conservation Funds, but CRD could be the first on the south-west coast of BC.



Habitat Acquisition Trust secure 23 hectares forested land in Highlands photo by Todd Carnahan



How is a Local Conservation Fund administered?

A Local Conservation Fund would pool funds from all local governments in the CRD to tackle issues that go beyond jurisdiction boundaries – watershed management, climate change, biodiversity etc.

CRD already plays a facilitation role to the types of projects that could be eligible;

- Esquimalt Lagoon Stewardship Initiative
- Gorge Waterway Initiative
- Bowker Creek Urban Watershed Renewal Initiative

Application –
NGO / First
Nation



Review by
Technical
Committee



Approval by
Elected
Officials



Esquimalt Lagoon Stewardship Initiative pilot dune habitat restoration

What are the drivers for a CRD Local Conservation Fund?



Transition Salt Spring Maxwell Creek climate adaptation project.

District of Saanich Citizen Business Survey 2022 identified that *residents considered environmental protection and enhancement (68%) to be one of their top three financial priorities.*

Victoria Foundation Vital Signs graded Greater Victoria as good but some improvements could be made in relation to Environmental Sustainability.

City of Victoria Official Community Plan 2023 indicates a policy
To provide incentives to protect riparian, marine shoreline and terrestrial environmentally sensitive areas.

District of Saanich Official Community Plan 2008 includes a policy
To provide incentives to protect riparian or environmentally significant areas.

Esquimalt Climate Action Plan 2022
Encourage community stewardship within natural areas.
Increase the number of trees planted on private property.

Sidney Official Community Plan 2022
Establishment of covenants on private lands for the purpose of environmental conservation.



Freshwater Fisheries Society of BC Craigflower Creek population assessment of cutthroat trout

Priority 3b Biodiversity and Natural Assets



Projects could include:

- Restoring wetlands, forests and streams outside of parks.
- Funding for conservation covenant surveys on private land.
- Restoring fish and wildlife habitat.
- Conserving natural areas for people to enjoy.
- Increase the number of wetlands to provide habitat for migrating birds.
- Create habitat connectivity across private land for bats, birds and amphibians.
- Invasive weed control.



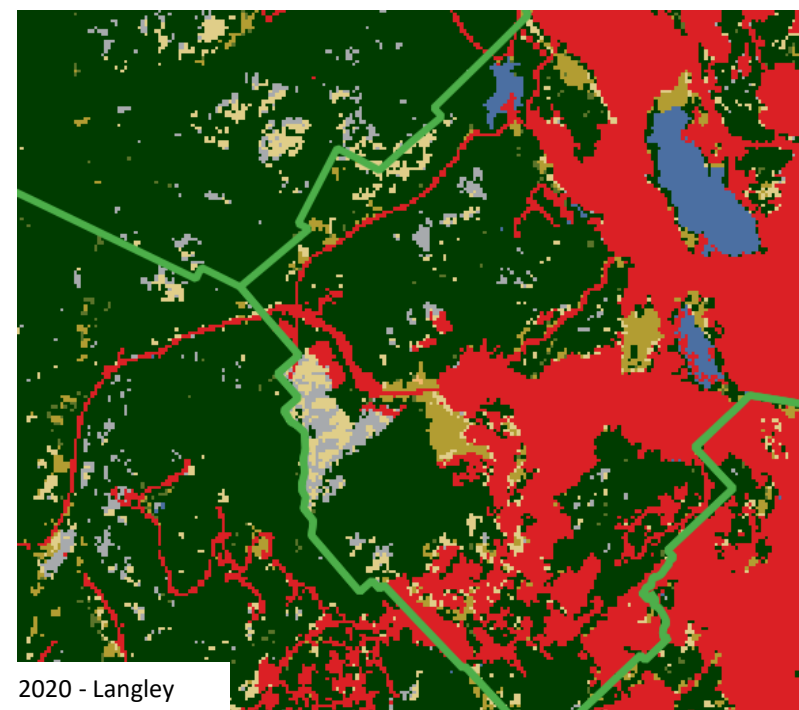
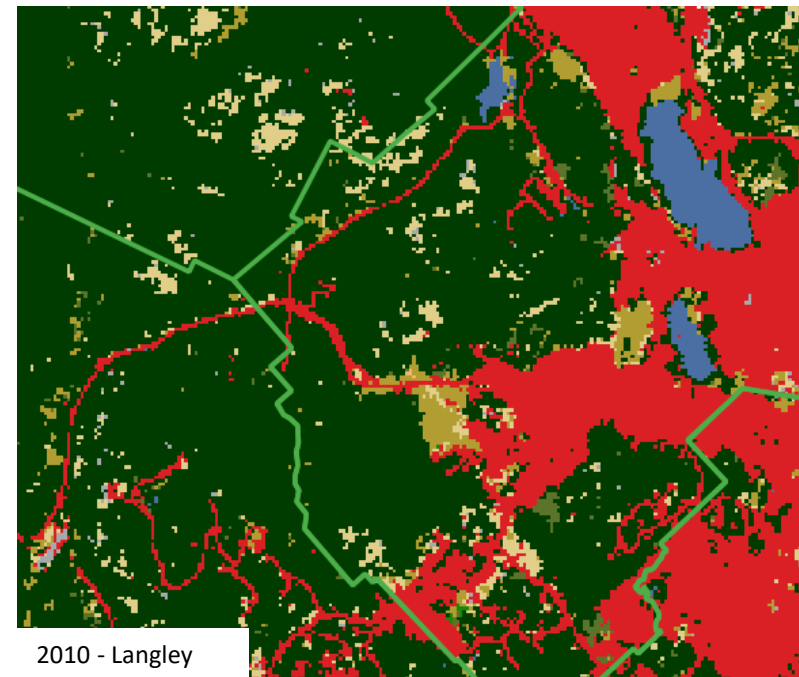
Priority 3c Resilience to Climate Risk

CRD Climate Action Strategy

Goal 5 -Protect, conserve and manage ecosystem health and nature's capacity to store carbon and adapt to climate change.

Projects could include:

- Native tree replacement following heat / drought related die back.
- Native tree planting to increase carbon storage.
- Protection freshwater and coastal wetlands that store carbon and can reduce the impact of storm surges.
- Incentives to agricultural landholders to increase wetlands to encourage resilience during drought.
- Wildfire risk reduction – thinning.





Okanagan Nation Alliance River Restoration Workshop

Priority 4b: Collaborate with First Nations



Local Conservation Funds and First Nations

Kootenay Lake Local Conservation Fund

- Protecting indigenous cultural values and fish wildlife habitat - Ktunaxa Nation Council and Kootenay Lake Partnership
- Kootenay Lake Shore Guidance Document - Ktunaxa Nation Council and Kootenay Lake Partnership
- Wetland restoration and environmental training for indigenous youth – Shuswap Band and BC Wildlife Federation

South Okanagan Local Conservation Fund

- Okanagan River restoration project – Okanagan Nation Alliance
- Two representatives of the Okanagan Nation Alliance are part of the Technical Advisory Committee

North Okanagan Local Conservation Fund

- North-Sylix interpretative signs for the Okanagan Rail Trail



The Benefits of Local Conservation Fund?

- Provides a consistent source of funding for natural climate adaptation and the protection of natural assets.
- Provides leverage to pull in external funds – **1:4** ratio.
- Funds are spent on projects the local community prioritize.
- Funds are spent locally supporting local businesses.
- The Funds can support First Nations projects and priorities.
- First Nations could be part of the Technical Committee reviewing projects for Board Approval.



Habitat Acquisition Trust and Songhees invasive weed removal



Request to the CRD Environment Services Committee

CDFCP encourages the Environmental Services Committee to ask staff to investigate the potential of a CRD Local Conservation Fund to meet three of the Boards priorities.



Thank you for your time and consideration.
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