



## Local Conservation Funds

### What is a Local Conservation Fund (LCF)?

A Local Conservation Fund is a local government service funded by a tax that would provide Capital Regional District (CRD) with a consistent supply of funding to incentivise and support private landowners with the protection of natural assets, which will provide the community with climate resilience and adaptation and support an increase in Biodiversity.

Four Regional Districts in BC have established a Local Conservation Fund, but the CRD would be the first to do so on the south west coast;

- Columbia Valley Local Conservation Fund
- Kootenay Lake Local Conservation Fund
- South Okanagan Conservation Fund
- North Okanagan Conservation Fund

### Why should Capital Regional District establish a Local Conservation Fund?

Capital Regional District (CRD) is currently reviewing a staff proposal for a Biodiversity and Stewardship Service that will pull together services currently delivered on private land such as invasive weed control. The CDFCP encourages the Board to ask staff to investigate the potential to extend this service with a Local Conservation Fund to be able to meet three of the Board priorities;

- 3b - Explore options for a regional approach to biodiversity and the protection of ecological assets.
- 3c - Increase resilience, community and adaptation planning to address climate related risks and disasters.
- 4b - Collaborate with First Nations to build and strengthen new processes for respectful, reciprocal government-to-government decision making and service delivery that uplift Indigenous self-determination.

### What types of projects to Local Conservation Funds support?

LCFs are dedicated to conservation and ensure that funding addresses local priority issues. Residents see tangible results at the local level including:

- Protecting wetlands, forests and streams (incentive / materials).
- Tree replacement following heat related die back.
- Tree planting to increase carbon storage.
- Restoring fish and wildlife habitat.
- Conserving natural areas for people to enjoy.

### For Further Information:

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