

Date December 20, 2019
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Subject Columbia Valley Local Conservation Fund Program – 2020 Funding Recommendations

REQUEST

Project approval under the 2020 Columbia Valley Local Conservation Fund Program.

OPTIONS

1. THAT the following projects, totaling \$97,281, be approved for funding under the Columbia Valley Local Conservation Fund for 2020:
 - Lake Windermere Community Based Watershed Monitoring – \$11,296
 - Reintroducing the Northern Leopard Frog to Columbia Marshes – \$21,000
 - Columbia Valley Swallow – \$10,000
 - Columbia Valley Farmland Advantage Stewardship – \$17,985
 - Conservation of Biodiversity in the Columbia Wetlands – \$20,000
 - Groundswell Apple Rescue Program – \$2,000
 - Luxor Linkage Resiliency and Forest Restoration – \$15,000
2. THAT the following projects, totaling \$95,281, be approved for funding under the Columbia Valley Local Conservation Fund for 2020:
 - Lake Windermere Community Based Watershed Monitoring – \$11,296
 - Reintroducing the Northern Leopard Frog to Columbia Marshes – \$21,000
 - Columbia Valley Swallow – \$10,000
 - Columbia Valley Farmland Advantage Stewardship – \$17,985
 - Conservation of Biodiversity in the Columbia Wetlands – \$20,000
 - Groundswell Apple Rescue Program – \$2,000
 - CLSS Water Quality, Quantity, Education and Communication Work – \$13,000
3. THAT the following projects, totaling \$116,781, be approved for funding under the Columbia Valley Local Conservation Fund for 2020:
 - Lake Windermere Community Based Watershed Monitoring – \$11,296
 - Reintroducing the Northern Leopard Frog to Columbia Marshes – \$21,000
 - Columbia Valley Swallow – \$10,000
 - Columbia Valley Farmland Advantage Stewardship – \$17,985
 - Conservation of Biodiversity in the Columbia Wetlands – \$20,000
 - Groundswell Apple Rescue Program – \$2,000
 - Luxor Linkage Resiliency and Forest Restoration – \$15,000
 - CLSS Water Quality, Quantity, Education and Communication Work – \$13,000
 - Strategic Invasive Plant Control of Leafy Spurge – \$6,500

RECOMMENDATION

None provided.

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS

Attached is a report from the Kootenay Conservation Program outlining the Technical Review Committee's (TRC) 2020 funding recommendations under the Columbia Valley Local Conservation Fund Program. Rather than a single recommendation, the TRC has provided 3 options for the Board to consider. These options are summarized below:

1. (see Options 1 and 2 above)

- Fund the top 6 ranked projects (total of \$82,281) and fund 1 of the following projects which were tied in the technical merit score:
 - Luxor Linkage Resiliency and Forest Restoration (\$15,000); or
 - CLSS Water Quality, Quantity, Education and Communication Work (\$13,000).

2. (see Option 3 above)

- Allocate an additional \$16,781 above what was deemed available in 2020 (total of \$100,000), by reducing the contribution to the reserve fund.
- Fund all 9 recommended projects.

SPECIFIC CONSIDERATIONS

Financial

In 2019, a reserve for future projects was created to avoid the need for short term borrowing when larger proposals are funded. The draft 2020 budget includes the following allocations:

- \$100,000 – 2020 conservation projects
- \$125,791 – transfer to reserve

If there is interest in funding all 9 recommended projects, \$16,781 would need to be reallocated to projects by lowering the contribution to reserve.

Regional Sustainability Strategy

4.3.5 Environment – Partnerships

Collaborate with industry, public agencies, Columbia Basin Trust and other non-governmental organizations to advance environmental protection and enhancement programs.

Attachment