

Summary

**SUMMARY FUNDING TABLE**

	<b>2020-21 Budget</b>	<b>2020-21 Spending</b>	<b>Variance</b>
<b>Kootenay (8 classified watersheds)</b>	\$103,670	\$96,603	-\$7,067
<b>Kootenay Classified Waters</b>	\$15,190	\$14,191	-\$999
<b>Kootenay Classified Waters</b>	\$13,640	\$12,375	-\$1,265
<b>Provincial Classified Waters (Year 2 Addition)</b>	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$147,500</b>	<b>\$138,169</b>	<b>-\$9,331</b>

**General Project Summary**

The Kootenay River Guardian Program included angler education, angler compliance checks and angler (Creel) surveys on 8 classified waters. WCT inventory (density/abundance estimates) was conducted on 4 systems and BT inventory (primarily redd counts) were conducted on >25 indexes in 7 systems. Habitat evaluations were conducted in both WCT and BT systems where inventory projects were completed. Angling management plans were finalized and recommendations were implemented from the Kootenay Angling Management Plan Review process. This is an ongoing consultative process to continually adapt and improve management on classified waters. Finally, RG’s presented data to stakeholder clubs/groups, peers, etc. to educate public and promote both the benefits of the program and long term management objectives for species viability and angler opportunity. All of these components played a vital part in informing proactive management decisions with the goal of balancing diverse and sustained quality angler opportunities with long term conservation of wild stock wct and bt fisheries.

**Progress and Challenges in Achieving 2018-2021 Project Outcomes**

Challenges: Covid presented a series of challenges in the last half of this project cycle; however, these challenges were more related to River Guardian and public safety policies around delivery (i.e. public interaction/angler checks, multiple RGs working together on a project, etc.). There is a perception that Covid restrictions affected angler use and therefore delivery of the Kootenay RG Program but this was not the case. While non-resident alien (primarily US) angler numbers were heavily impacted, non-resident canadian and resident BC angler numbers increased in regional classified fisheries and effort/use was significant in all classified watersheds. Progress: All components identified in the objectives/category tables were completed as identified in part 2 of the reporting details. This includes completion of all activities and objectives for the 3 year program (2018-2020).

**Additional Supporting Information**

The Kootenay RG Program produces 5-year summary reports to summarize all components of the project and includes detailed data analysis, results, discussion and recommendations. We are currently finalizing the draft 5 year summary (2016-2020) which includes all information from this 3 year funding cycle (2018-2020). I will forward this report for reference once finalized.