



HABITAT CONSERVATION  
TRUST FOUNDATION

# Quality Waters Fund

Project Number 4-444

Year 3 Project Report

Kootenay Region

## Project Summary

The Kootenay River Guardian Program included angler education, angler compliance checks and angler (Creel) surveys on 8 classified waters, contacting approximately 960 anglers in 2023-24. WCT inventory (density/abundance estimates) was conducted on 2 systems (6 indexes) 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. In-depth summary data from this program cycle was provided for an AMP review process which will inform changes to Angling Management Plans and recommendations via 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.

## Summary Funding Table

	2023-24 Approved budget	2023-24 Spending	Variance
Kootenay (8 classified watersheds)	\$103,670	\$100,020	-\$3,650
Kootenay Classified Waters	\$14,998	\$18,750	\$3,752
Kootenay Classified Waters	\$11,832	\$11,730	-\$102
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$130,500</b>	<b>\$130,500</b>	<b>\$0</b>

## Progress and Challenges in Achieving 2021-24 Project Outcomes

Challenges: Covid presented a series of challenges in the initial season of this project cycle and did impact overall angler effort and effort per demographic data. However, the most significant impact to Region 4 program delivery was the reduction to funding until year 3 of the project cycle (2023) due to reduced angler licence sales and shortfalls in budget. Overall - challenges were not significant and the program was delivered as planned.

## Capital Asset Purchase Information

N/A

## Additional Supporting Information

The Kootenay RG Program produces detailed summary reports (3 years for this project cycle) to summarize all components of the project and includes detailed data analysis, results, discussion and recommendations. We are currently finalizing the draft 3 year summary (2021-2022 to 2023-2024) which includes all information from this 3 year funding cycle (2021-2023). I will forward this report to HCTF once finalized.

## Photos

N/A