

Kettle River Watershed Management Plan

The Kettle River Starts Here

Kettle River Watershed Riparian Working Group

Draft Terms of Reference (November 21, 2012)

Purpose

This Terms of Reference outlines the roles and responsibilities of the proposed Riparian Working Group for the Kettle River Watershed Management Plan. Please refer to the Terms of Reference and other key documents on our website for further information on the KRWMP.¹

Context

Riparian areas and wetlands are known to be critical components of our watershed, providing extensive wildlife habitat and water quality and hydrological benefits. However, many residents in the Boundary are concerned about the state of riparian ecosystems, and have provided first-hand observations about riparian degradation due to shoreline development, range management, recreation, agriculture, and other activities.

Furthermore, the Phase I State of the Watershed Report (Summit Environmental, 2012) noted that there is little published information on the condition of riparian areas or wetlands. This lack of knowledge impedes our ability to effectively plan for riparian area management, protection and restoration on a watershed scale. Therefore, the Phase I Report recommended that the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) organize a riparian working group to review findings from previous studies² and determine where further field work is needed to 1) assess riparian function in relation to aquatic habitat and water quality, and 2) set priorities for conservation and restoration.

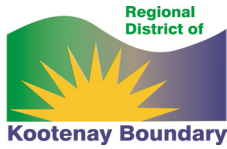
Roles & Objectives

The primary role of the Riparian Working Group will be to provide balanced, scientifically sound and relevant information and advice for the Stakeholder Advisory Group and Project Coordinator in support of the KRWMP and related initiatives. Through discussions with members of the Stakeholder Advisory Group, we have drafted the following three objectives with nine tasks to support the KRWMP and ongoing knowledge development and stewardship.

1. Improve knowledge of riparian conditions and functions in the Kettle River watershed
 - Assess state of knowledge on riparian areas & wetlands.
 - Identify existing or planned studies with information to contribute
 - Scope & find funding potential studies to be carried out by various agencies
2. Support the development of science-based riparian recommendations in the KRWMP
 - Identify needs & scope for riparian policies, by-laws and local government actions

¹ <http://kettleriver.ca/2012/04/creating-a-plan/>

² Major studies to date include: Foreshore Inventory at Christina Lake; Riparian Cottonwood Habitat (CWS/Granby Wilderness Society);...



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- Liaise with Regional District to advise on incorporating riparian policies and regulations in planning documents
 - Liaise with Government of British Columbia and other parties about laws, regulations, practices and policies relating to riparian areas
3. Support ongoing riparian stewardship and education
- Site selection, coordination & leveraging funding for restoration and implementation of beneficial management practices
 - Support for education initiatives & landowner outreach
 - Monitoring of stewardship and restoration initiatives

Composition

The RWG will be composed of 6-8 individuals with specific knowledge of riparian management and conditions in the Kettle River watershed. Group members, as well as resource people, will be drawn from government agencies, stewardship groups, industry, agriculture, and municipal sectors through consultation with the Stakeholder Advisory Group. The Chair of the Working Group will be a member of the Stakeholder Advisory Group as appointed by the KRWMP Steering Committee. The Project Coordinator will provide support and project management.

Timeline & location

The RWG will commence meetings in December, 2012 and meet at least 6 times during Phase II of the KRWMP, or as needed. Meetings will generally be held in Grand Forks, or in other locations as appropriate.

The Working Group will develop and approve a work plan with deliverables in support of their objectives by January, 2013.