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Kootenay Conservation Program &
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British Columbia Chapter



Our Future Together



Kootenay Connect: Ecological Corridors in the Kootenays

with

Dr. Michael Proctor, Kootenay Connect,
Trans-border Grizzly Bear Project

June 10th 2020, Zoom

1:30 to 2:30 pm PT / 2:30 to 3:30 pm MT

REGISTER HERE: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_UAH1-7SuRziypMb2nPwuOw

Kootenay Connect is a regional conservation initiative designed to enhance, restore, recognize, and establish landscape level Ecological Corridors focused on riparian-wetland complexes and the wildlife that use them. These complexes are our area's biodiversity hotspots, climate refugia, and arenas for connecting mountainous upland habitats across our human-dominated valley bottoms in the Kootenay region of southeast BC. They encompass both public and private lands. It was patterned after work in the Creston Valley Wildlife Management Area that identified and conserved connectivity corridors that benefited both grizzly bears and the threatened northern leopard frog – now referred to as the Frog-Bear Conservation Area. We've expanded this concept to include 12 similar corridors across the Kootenays, and are currently funded for 3 years by the Columbia Basin Fish Wildlife Compensation Program and a recent 4 year \$2m Nature Fund grant from ECCC. We are bringing together local and government biologists, regional planners, First Nations, private landowners, community stewardship groups and more to apply scientifically-driven community conservation work.

Dr. Michael Proctor is an independent research scientist that runs the Trans-border Grizzly Bear Project in southeast BC. He has been a conservation-relevant researcher since 1995 who uses genetic analyses and GPS telemetry to study landscape genetics, fragmentation, connectivity, meta-population ecology, habitat use, population dynamics, ecological and food modeling, wildlife-conflict, and publishes his work in peer-reviewed journals. He also works to implement workable conservation solutions to threatened populations. He is the deputy-chair for the IUCN Bear Specialist Group (BSG), the co-chair for the IUCN BSG Asian Brown Bear Expert Team, the past vice-president of the International Bear Association, a member of the IUCN Connectivity Conservation Specialist Group, and a former boat builder, music instrument builder, and timber framer that dabbles as a bluegrass guitar flat picker and piano player. He works internationally on several research and conservation projects and lives on the shores of Kootenay Lake in Kaslo, BC where he is happily self-isolating. His latest endeavor was to initiate Kootenay Connect, evolving from large carnivore connectivity into the broader Ecological Corridors centered on riparian-wetland complexes.