



Area D Community Planning

COMMUNITY CONTEXT: NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

What Do We Know About Ecosystems in Area D?

- Area D has a rich natural heritage and a diversity of habitats and wildlife. Significant natural assets include forest, valley and riparian habitats. However, the area has a history of resource development, dams and settlement, and today there are many unprotected sensitive ecosystems with existing habitat facing fragmentation.
- The Kootenay Lake Shoreline Guidance Document is a comprehensive Sensitive Habitat Inventory Mapping project that involved an inventory and assessment of ecological, archaeological and Ktunaxa cultural values along the shoreline of Kootenay Lake.
- The Kootenay Conservation Program has identified the Duncan River Valley as a high value wildlife corridor that supports rare and critical habitat for species at risk.
- Community grassroots groups have identified North Duncan Lake and the Argenta-Johnsons Landing Face as important areas for protecting.



In the Planning Toolkit

Zoning can help protect sensitive ecosystems on private land by creating environmental reserve zones permitting limited low impact land uses and large lot sizes.



Other tools such as Environmental Protection Development Permit Areas (EPDPAs) can be used where lands are within the boundary of an Official Community Plan. EPDPAs are areas where development activity must follow certain guidelines to ensure it will not negatively impact the natural environment, including sensitive ecosystems and biodiversity.

Area D's Official Community Plan has an EPDA for protecting riparian areas. Guidelines include requiring Qualified Professional recommendations and oversight.



Help Shape the Future of Area D

Take the Survey | Attend an Event | Subscribe for Updates

<https://engage.rdck.ca/projects/area-d-planning/>