

Shortlist KVRI Timeline

2024

- **Kootenai River Basin Adjudication:** Engagement of the community in a dialogue about potentially initiating water rights. The role of adjudication in establishing the priority of water rights, which are considered property rights. Compelling data presented illustrated the increasing demand for water rights, referencing the significant number of waters right filings and permits issued since 2019.
- **Re-license the City's Hydro Electric Dam:** The City has worked with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) and the engagement of HDR, a consulting firm, to aid in compliance and re-licensing efforts.
- **Ambush Rock Restoration:** A historically and environmentally significant site near the Kootenai River was restored and renovated.
- **Bear Smart Communities:** a community-led and community-wide effort aimed at preventing human-bear conflicts. Formation of a Bear Smart Committee: This committee is crucial for steering the community efforts and should represent a broad spectrum of community members including local government officials, educators, and waste managers. Essential steps include Community Assessment, Developing a Community Plan, Implementation of the Plan, and Monitoring and Evaluation.
- **Bear Spray Recycling Program:** Initiated in Boundary County, Idaho by KTOI's Fish and Wildlife Department, its significance was emphasized due to the environmental hazards posed by discarded bear spray canisters.
- **Carcass Removal Program:** A joint effort involving local Fish and Game authorities and OSC to pick up livestock carcasses from landscapes to prevent attracting bears to homesites.
- **Watercraft Inspection Station:** A Watercraft station was installed in Bonners Ferry this water season to help combat invasive species in Idaho.
- **Invasive Species in Idaho's Water:** A program established in 2008 under the Idaho Invasive Act, provided a legal authority basis for the watercraft inspections. The current biggest concern is handling the infestation of the primary species known as quagga mussels and zebra mussels.
- **Katkee Fuels Project:** Focus on fuel reduction in the county to mitigate wildfire risks including components of the non-commercial work like setting and managing nature fuels, as well as commercial timber sale components aimed at reducing fire fuels.
- **Functional Wildlife Underpass:** A collaborative project with Idaho Fish & Game (IDFG) and the Idaho Department of Transportation (IDT) to transform a 300-foot span bridge over Deep Creek to include defensive fencing extending about a half-mile on either side of the underpass, with plans to expand this fencing to better funnel animals towards the crossing and enhance safety.
- **McArthur Lake Archeology Investigation:** This project aims to understand the cultural components of the area, particularly around McArthur Lake.

2023

- **Idaho National Forest 5-10 year Plan:** The U.S. Forest Service has developed a comprehensive 5-10 year management plan for the Idaho National Forest, which will be implemented from north to south. This plan will focus on the management of vegetation, timber suitability, and wildlife conservation to ensure the long-term health and sustainability of the forest ecosystem.
- **History of KVRI:** Shared by contributors and founders and one main issue that brought everyone together was the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) of the lower Kootenai watershed. Wetland/Riparian Sub-committee, Grizzly Bear Sub-committee, Wildlife Auto Collision Sub-Committee, Forestry Sub-Committee were all worked on by this group. KVRI is a unique and nationally recognized community approach to addressing resources in the area.
- **Aquaculture Conservation:** To conserve and recover endangered fish population and release strategies.

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2023 (continued)

- **Good Neighbor Authority Act:** Updated to allow tribes and counties to retain receipts from conservation projects on federal land.
- **Selenium Contamination:** Contaminated water from the Elk River mines is going to continue flowing downstream, making it inevitable that it will affect the lower ecosystem.

2022

- **Over Snow Vehicle (OSV) Travel Management Plan:** US Forest Service follows a rule requiring designated specific trails and areas for OSV use.
- **Grizzly Bear Delisting:** Petitions filed by Montana, Wyoming, and Idaho. Within 12 months, a review of status is conducted to determine to move forward with a proposed listing.
- **WUI & Bog Creek:** Support projects through Wildfire Urban Interface (WUI) and Bog Creek work expected to finish in 2022.

2021

- **US Fish & Wildlife Service:** Idaho Panhandle for Fish and Wildlife Program use of funds towards Grizzly Bear conflict reduction and work with private landowners to provide technical and financial assistance for restoring and enhancing wildlife habitat on their land.
- **CFLR Project:** US Forest Service prepares annual report. Included volume harvested of 2,600 log truck loads moved along our roads and treating fuels during COVID-19 year. Reducing fuels significantly impacts reduction of smoke in air and subsequent fire suppression costs.
- **Great American Outdoor Act:** Signed into law for aggressive steps to address deferred maintenance of recreation and trail infrastructure for the enjoyment of current and future generations.

2020

- **COVID-19 Impact:** Adjustments and responses to the COVID-19 pandemic, including virtual meetings and altered project timelines.
- **Wildlife Management and Monitoring:** Continuous efforts in wildlife conservation, including grizzly bear and aquatic species.

2019

- **Chronic Wasting Disease Management:** Strategies for managing and monitoring chronic wasting disease in wildlife.
- **Forestry Committee Update:** Ongoing updates and management of forestry-related projects.

2018

- **Kootenai River White Sturgeon Recovery:** Efforts towards the recovery and management of the Kootenai River White Sturgeon.
- **Shares Stewardship Initiatives:** Collaboration with various stakeholders for landscape-scale conservation.

2017

- **Conservation Easements:** Implementation and management of conservation easements for forest land.
- **Nutrient Management in Rivers:** Projects aiming to manage and optimize nutrient levels in local rivers.

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2016

- **Grizzly Bear Monitoring and Management:** Continuing efforts in grizzly bear conservation and monitoring.
- **Fisheries Management:** Initiatives to manage and sustain local fish populations, including Burbot.

2015

- **Community Engagement and Education:** Public outreach and education initiatives on environmental conservation.
- **Habitat Conservation Efforts:** Projects focusing on the preservation and enhancement of various wildlife habitats.

2014

- **Trail Development Projects:** Efforts to develop and maintain trails for recreation and conservation.
- **Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration (CFLR) Program:** Continued work on large-scale forest restoration initiatives.
- **Good Neighbor Authority Act:** A law that encourages collaboratives on between the Forest Service and other groups, like states, counties, and tribes, to work together on Forest Management projects. New legislations will allow counties and tribes to also keep money from these projects, just like the states.

2013

- **Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration:** Projects focused on the restoration of aquatic ecosystems and habitats.
- **Wildlife Collision Avoidance (WAC):** Implementation of systems to reduce wildlife-auto collisions.

2012

- **Burbot Recovery Program:** Conservation efforts for the Burbot fish species.
- **Fire Management Strategies:** Addressing forest fire risks and management strategies.

2011

- **TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Load) Projects:** Water quality improvement projects for local rivers and streams.
- **Forest Legacy Projects:** Conservation and management of forested lands.

2010

- **Kootenai River Habitat Restoration:** Ongoing efforts to restore and enhance river habitats.
- **Caribou Recovery Projects:** Initiatives aimed at boosting the local caribou population.

2009

- **Wildlife Underpass Installation:** Installation and monitoring of the wildlife underpass for safe animal crossings.
- **Forest Management Initiatives:** Various projects focusing on sustainable forestry practices.

Shortlist KVRI Timeline

2008

- **Caribou Movement Plan and Habitat Use Analysis**
- **TMDL Sub-committee:** Blue Joe Creek
- **Introduction to the Nature Conservancy Project Proposal**
- **Jan 28 to July 21:** Caribou Movement Plan Update, discussions on TMDL Sub-Committee, updates on US Forest Service projects, and Grizzly Bear Sub-Committee activities.
- **Boulder Creek Restoration Project:** Comprehensive restoration in the Boulder Creek area.
- **Grizzly Bear Conservation:** Efforts in bear monitoring and management.

2007

- **Updates on Projects:** Myrtle Creek and Two Tails
- **Discussions on TMDL:** Blue Creek
- **Formation of New Sub-Committee:** Grizzly Bear Conservation

2006

- **McArther Lake Highway 95 Project:** Progress Report
- **Smith Creek:** Management and Property Acquisition
- **Two Tails Peak:** Project updates from Bureau of Land Management (**BLM**)

2005

- **Two Tail Peak Forest Health Project:** Partnership with BLM
- **Burbot Discussion:** Strategy and Memorandum of Understanding (**MOU**)
- **Introduction of the TMDL Implementation Plan**

2004

- **Burbot Project:** Integration of the Local Knowledge
- **Myrtle Creek:** Salvage Area and collaboration with BLM
- **Wildlife Monitoring Plan:** Development for Highway Projects

2003

- **VARQ-EA Update:** Discussion on the impact of the River Flows
- **Burbot Conservation:** Strategy Development
- **Wetland and Riparian Conservation:** Strategy Formation

2002

- **Formation of KVRI** under a **Joint Powers Agreement**
- **Memorandum of Agreement:** TMDL with IDEQ, EPA, and the Kootenai Tribe
- **Overview of Idaho Panhandle and Kootenai National Forests' Forest Plan Revision**
- **Burbot Recovery:** Focusing on Strategy and EIS Process