



Kootenay Boundary Branch

President's Report

Kootenay Boundary Branch AGM, 20 October 2022

We respectfully acknowledge that we live, work and play on the traditional and unceded territories of the Ktunaxa, Sinixt, Syilx Okanagan and Secwépemc peoples. We also take this time to pay respect to the Métis peoples and ancestors who have touched this space. This acknowledgement is one small step towards reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples throughout Canada.

Greetings to BCIA Kootenay Boundary Branch registrants!

The year was full of wild events again – starting with the flooding in November 2021 that impacted communities, transportation corridors and agricultural areas; then another winter wave of pandemic impacts; global events disrupting supply chains; and finally, an opening up of more in-person events and opportunities starting this spring. The work on indigenous truth and reconciliation continues, and it's great to see the requirement for training as BCIA members and more professional development opportunities on this topic.

Our executive team started the year with a survey to members to help guide professional development events, and I'm very impressed with the work of the executive team as we started hosting in person events again this season. We also worked to connect members to professional development opportunities outside of the BCIA that are relevant to members, such as webinars hosted by groups such as the Kootenay Conservation Program, Columbia Mountains Institute (climate disruption series in particular), and more. The region is full of incredible organizations and learning opportunities to tap into as Agrologists!

I am very grateful for the support of the entire Branch executive team this year. The team was a respectful, caring and professional group, and it was fun getting to know everyone through the year. I even managed to have a baby in the midst of my term as president and the team helped support me through my tired moments! And finally, thank you to all the incredible agrologists in the Kootenay Boundary Branch for the opportunity to learn more about the amazing work you do. It is an honour to be your colleague.

Robyn Hooper, 2022 Branch president

2022 Articling Report

Kootenay Boundary Branch AGM, 20 October 2022

The Kootenay-Boundary Branch currently has 4 Articling Technical Agrologists (A.T.Ag.) and 9 Articling Agrologists (A.Ag.s) and 2 student members in the Kootenay Branch. This goes along with a total of 117 members, 90 of which are Professional Agrologists, and the remainder being retired or on leave.

The Kootenay Boundary Branch looks forward to continuing to support our new Articling Agrologists and Articling Technical Agrologists while providing mentorship opportunities for professionally designated members.

Sincerely,

Shawna LaRade, Articling Coordinator

2022 Professional Development Report

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Professional development (PD) for the Kootenay Boundary Branch (KBB) in 2022 consisted of multiple field tours and in-person events. With the easing of COVID-19 restrictions, it was clear that members were interested in some in-person/ field opportunities. As such, professional development for this year consisted of 1 webinar, and 5 in-person field trips/ events in both Nelson & Cranbrook.

To inform professional development opportunities, a PD Survey was launched (based on a survey from 2016) to determine interests and PD needs from the KBB membership. From the survey, topics that were of highest interest included (those that were the focus for PD opportunities this year have been bolded):

- **Natural Resource and Forest Management**
- **Plant Science**
- Reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples
- Wetland and Riparian Regulations
- Environmental Regulations
- **Rangeland Conservation Planning**
- Climate Change

For future PD events, PD coordinators will continue to refer back to the survey to schedule PD opportunities that are in-line with these topics. It has been suggested that the survey be re-launched every 3-5 years to gauge current membership interest.

Webinars & Online Professional Development

Areas of Practice Webinar – J.P. Elson

At this webinar, BCIA president J.P. Elson provided an update on preparations for reserved practice and the new areas of practice for the profession of Agrology and the BC Institute of Agrologists. J.P. connected this to the Professional Governance Act and any policy/ legislation related to the topic.

Additional Opportunities

Based on the number of available and relevant webinars in 2022 from other groups/ institutions, only one webinar was offered by the Kootenay Boundary BCIA PD group in 2022. The PD coordinator group ensured to notify members of available opportunities that were relevant to the field of agrology including:

- Columbia Mountains Institute CRED Talks on Climate Disruption: <https://cmiae.org/event/cred-talks-columbia-region-ecological-discussions/>
- Kootenay Conservation Program webinar series on Ecosystem Restoration and a variety of other topics: <https://kootenayconservation.ca/winter-webinar-series/>
- Yellowstone to Yukon webinars on Indigenous Perspectives and Ethical Space: <https://y2y.net/blog/entering-ethical-space-land-based-reconciliation-in-the-kootenay-columbia/>

- Wildsight webinar on Yaqaan Nukiy Floodplain Restoration: <https://wildsight.ca/2020/11/25/yaqaan-nukiy-wetland-and-floodplain-restoration/>
- Kootenay Boundary Farm Advisors Program for webinars on farming: <https://kbfa.ca/category/events/>

These webinars had a large attendance from the KB BCIA membership in 2022.

Field-based/ In-Person Professional Development

Grassland and Rangeland Enhancement Symposium

June 9th, 2022

Fort Steele, BC

Hosts: The East Kootenay Invasive Species Council (EKISC), Bayer Crop Science, and the Grassland and Rangeland Enhancement Program (GREP)

This Grassland and Rangeland Enhancement Symposium focused on grassland restoration and invasive species management in the East Kootenays. The symposium included poster presentations and networking from participants such as Nupqu, AgSafe, Bayer Crop Science, and the Grassland Conservation Council of BC.

Presenters included:

- Kelly Cooley (CoolPro Solutions Environmental Consulting) – Invasive Species: Understanding the Past, Knowing our Goals Now, and Planning for the Future
- Megan Evans (AB Invasive Species Council) – Alberta Invasive Species Council and the Alberta Certified Weed Free Forage Program
- Val Miller (BC Invasive Plant Specialist, Ministry of Forests) – Biological Control of Invasive Plant Species
- Megan Coverdale (Bayer Crop Science) – Ranching’s Turning Point: The Newest Technologies Restoring Rangeland and Maximizing Performance
- Hanna McIntyre (Range Agrologist, BC Ministry of Forests) – The Peckham’s Ecosystem Restoration and Seeding Refurbishment Project
- Karen Raven (Grassland Conservation Council of BC) – Building Resilience to Grassland Threats Through Stewardship, Partnerships, and Collaboration

Peckham’s Ecosystem Restoration and Seeding Refurbishment Project Field Tour

June 29th, 2022

Horseshoe Lake near Fort Steele, BC

Hosts: Kootenay Boundary Farm Advisors

Members who attended this field day were able to see the results of a project in the East Kootenays to restore rangeland for livestock grazing at the Peckham's Range Unit near Fort Steele. In the 1960s and

1980s, the 100ha range unit was converted from native pasture to domestic grass species and is an important area for grazing ungulates and livestock, as well as a high-use recreation site. However, the area has experienced a decline in range productivity for grazing due to a variety of large-scale invasive plant infestations and management challenges. In an attempt to restore the site's grazing potential and manage weeds, the Ministry of Forests has invested in significant range improvement strategies over the last two years. At this field day members heard from Hanna McIntyre with the Ministry of Forests who will share the history of the area, restoration strategies, seeding techniques, and participants will view the project results. Local rancher Tony Pighin showed how grazing management with livestock has been incorporated into the site's restoration plan. The East Kootenay Invasive Species Council (EKISC) showed the results of the invasive plant management treatments and future plans for the site.

Tour of No. 6 Coffee and Torchlight Brewing

May 26th, 2022

Nelson, BC

On this tour, members learned about coffee growing, sourcing and roasting at No. 6 Coffee and beer micro brewing at Torchlight Brewing. No. 6 Coffee is a boutique coffee roasting business in Nelson. They source ethically traded beans from around the world directly from small farms and coops. They described how the various growing conditions and brewing techniques can influence flavour. The tour then moved to Torchlight Brewing, a micro-brewery in Nelson. The tour included a description of each of the stages of brewing beer including malting and the influence it has on the colour and taste of the product, mashing grains, filtering and boiling, fermenting and bottling.

Tour of Rosebud Cannabis Farms

June 24th, 2022

Salmo, BC

On this tour, members learned about the cannabis growing industry including growing techniques, cannabis genetics, composting and soil zones. Rosebud Cannabis Farm is leading edge in developing and implementing sustainable regenerative farming. The provided a tour of these farming techniques from natural water collection and utilization, mulching with products from the farm, no use of herbicides or pesticides, and a focus on building soil.

Kootenay Boundary Branch Professional Development Coordinators:

Juliet Craig, P.Ag.

Hanna McIntyre, P.Ag.

Kenzie Lightburn, A.T.Ag.

Maureen Nadeau, P.Ag.