



COLUMBIA BASIN  
**RDI**  
RURAL DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE

CONNECT • UNDERSTAND • MOBILIZE

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# Research Supporting Regional Development: The Case of the Columbia Basin RDI

August 13, 2013

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Selkirk College



# Agenda



The Regional Context



Columbia Basin RDI as Case Study



Pilot Projects & GIS Mapping Supporting Regional Development



Successes & Challenges

# The Kootenay Region



- ‘Stabilized’ population of approx. 160,000
- Resource-based economy
- Amenity rich
- ‘Fracturing’ geography



# Corridors for Collaboration & Analysis

|  |
|--|
| Trail & Area (Fruitvale, Warfield, Montrose, RDKB Areas A & B) |
| Rossland   |
| Castlegar & RDCK Areas I & J                                   |
| Nelson & RDCK Areas E & F                                      |
| Kaslo & RDCK Area D  |
| Salmo & RDCK Area G  |
| Slocan Valley (Slocan, Silvertown, New Denver, RDCK Area H)    |
| Nakusp and RDCK Area K   |
| <b>West Kootenay Corridor</b>                                  |

|                          |
|--------------------------|
| Grand Forks              |
| Greenwood                |
| Midway                   |
| RDKB Area C              |
| RDKB Area D              |
| RDKB Area E              |
| <b>Boundary Corridor</b> |

|  |
|--|
| Creston & RDCK Area A, B & C                 |
| Kimberley & RDEK Area E                      |
| Cranbrook & RDEK Area B & C, Indian Reserves |
| <b>South East Kootenay Corridor</b>          |

|                            |
|----------------------------|
| Fernie & RDEK Area A       |
| Elkford                    |
| Sparwood                   |
| <b>Elk Valley Corridor</b> |

|                                 |
|---------------------------------|
| Canal Flats                     |
| Invermere                       |
| Radium Hot Springs              |
| RDEK Area F                     |
| RDEK Area G                     |
| Golden & RDSC Area A            |
| <b>Columbia Valley Corridor</b> |

|                          |
|--------------------------|
| Valemount                |
| <b>Boundary Corridor</b> |
| Revelstoke & RDSC Area B |

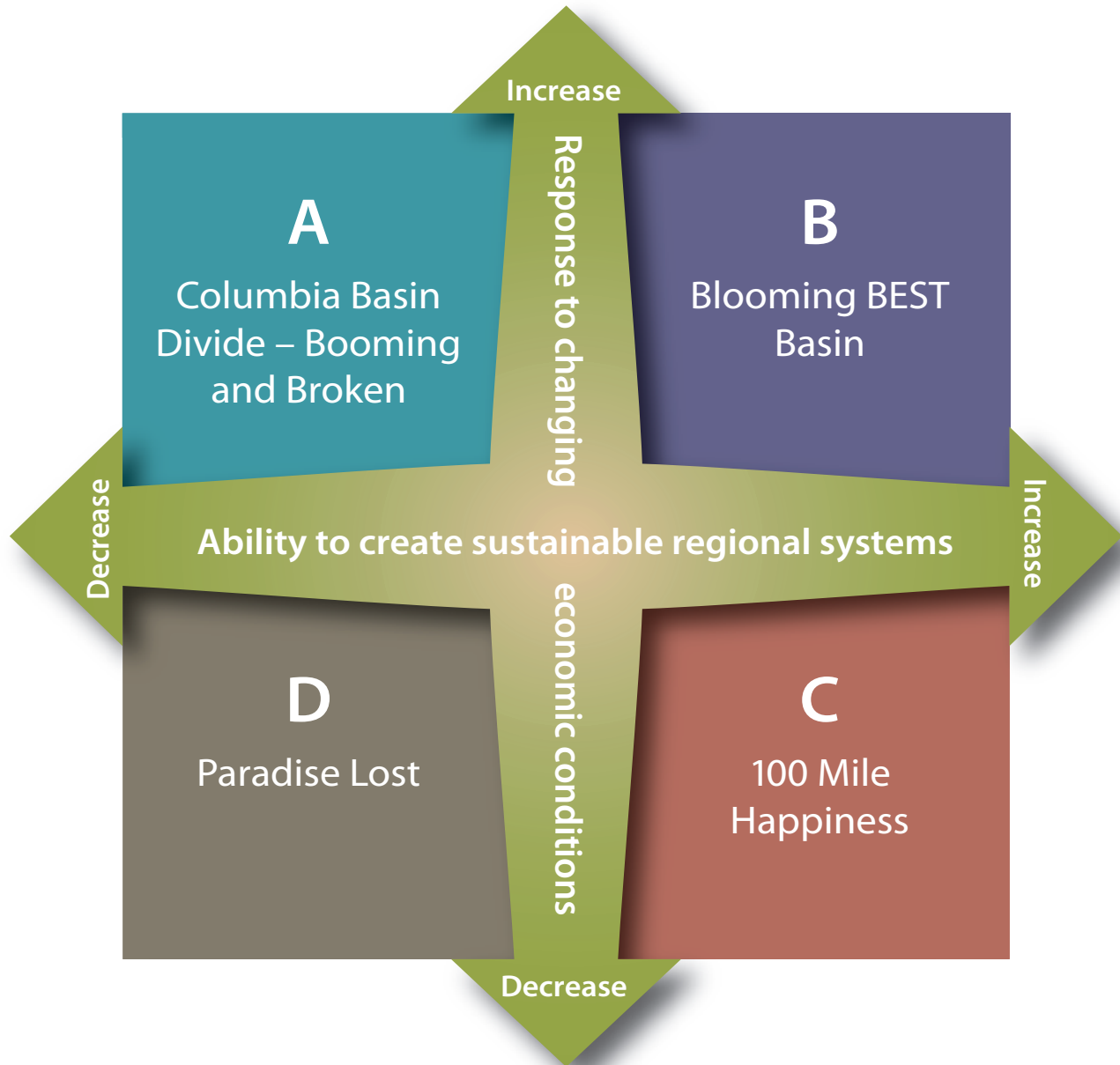
# The Kootenay Context



- Need for ‘evidence-based decision making’ support
- Communities with limited & varying capacity
- Community-based research overlaps and ‘extension’ support needs
- Increase in regional collaboration but historic challenges remain
- No university in the region



# Preferred Future Scenarios



# The Columbia Basin Trust



- Provincial crown corporation to support region impacted by Columbia River Treaty
  - Support economic, social and environmental well-being
- 
- \$321m endowment - \$276m for hydroelectric projects & \$45m for other projects
  - \$20m annually to support well-being & self-sufficiency

# Regional Innovation Chair in Rural Economic Development

- \$1.5 million in matching funds from within the West Kootenay-Boundary
- 21 BC Research Chairs (Health-7, Technology-2, Enviro-3, Social-5, Economic-4)
- One of only 2 RICs located at a college
- Extensive affordable housing research in first 5 years (\$10m over 3 years)

Selkirk College gratefully acknowledges the generous contributions and support of the following individuals and organizations:



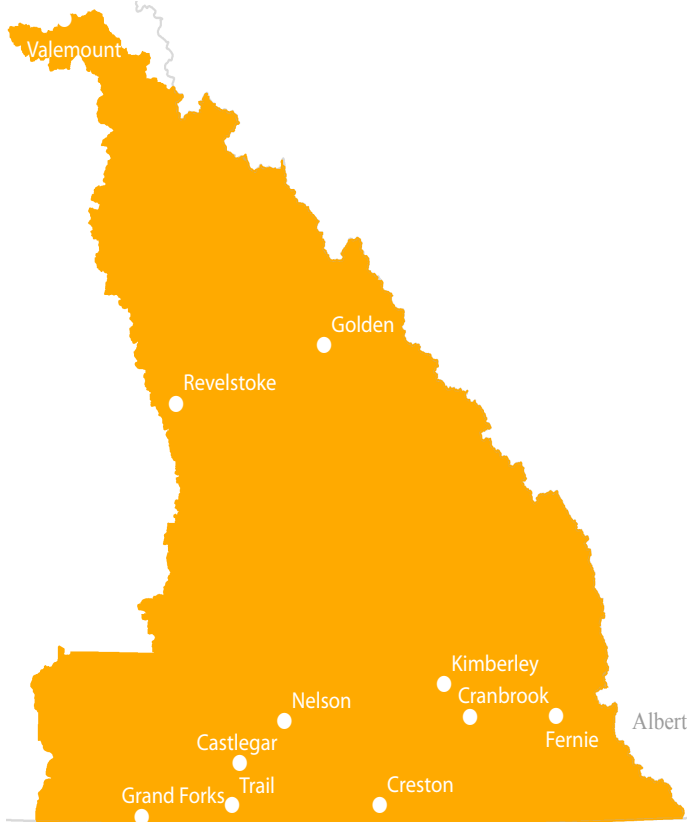
Ron Anderson

Christian Schadendorf





# Columbia Basin Rural Development Institute



- **Multi-year partnership** to support informed decision-making
- The **only college-based, 'rural-placed' RDI** in Canada
- **Regional** catchment area, well-positioned as a regional rural research incubator
- Understanding **rural revitalization in sustainability terms**
- **Regional approach**, addressing identified regional & sub-regional needs



# RDI Goals



**SUPPORTING INFORMED DECISION-MAKING  
THROUGH RELEVANT & TIMELY RESEARCH**

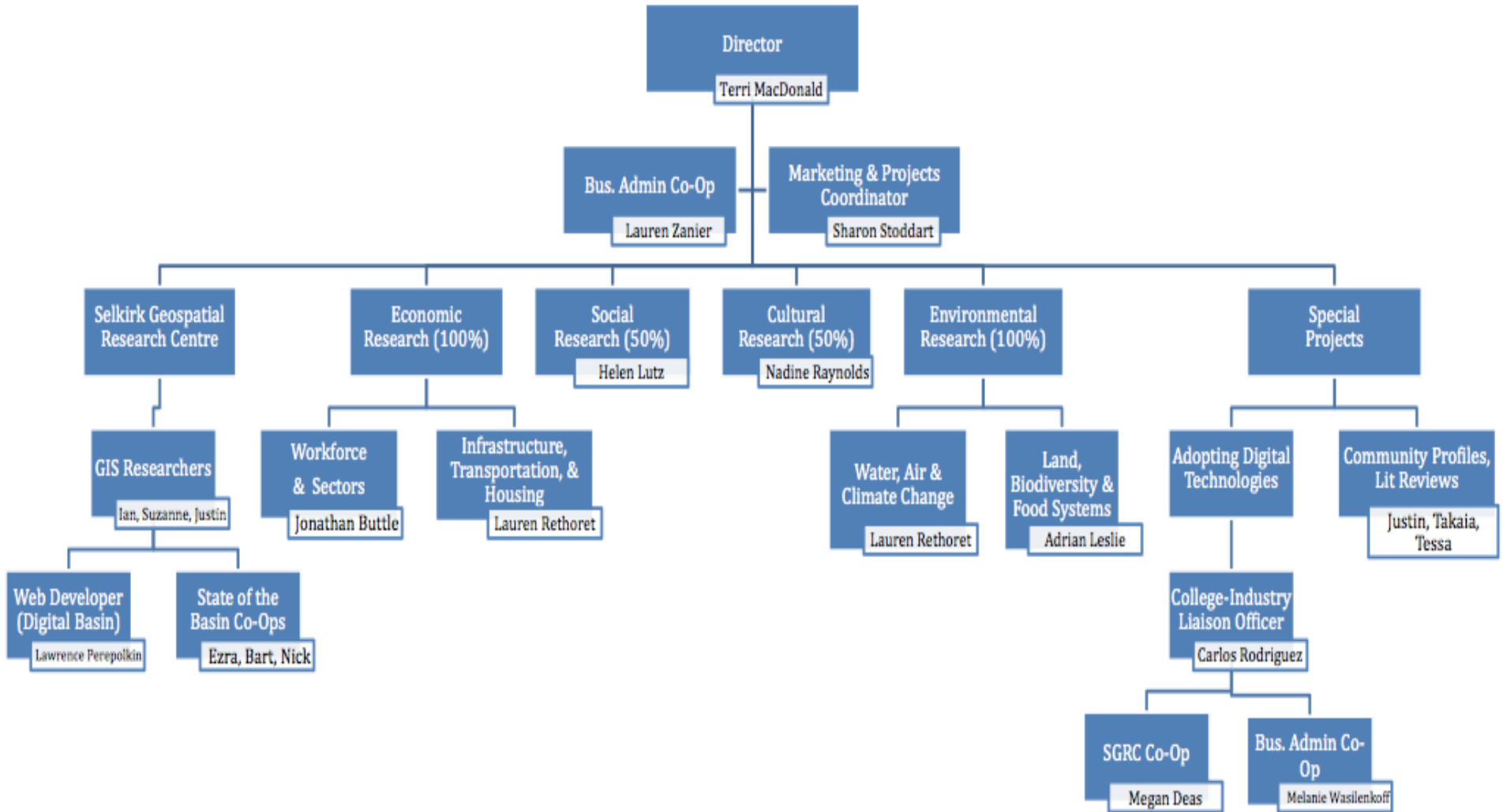
**PROMOTING INNOVATION & BEST  
PRACTICE TOOLS**



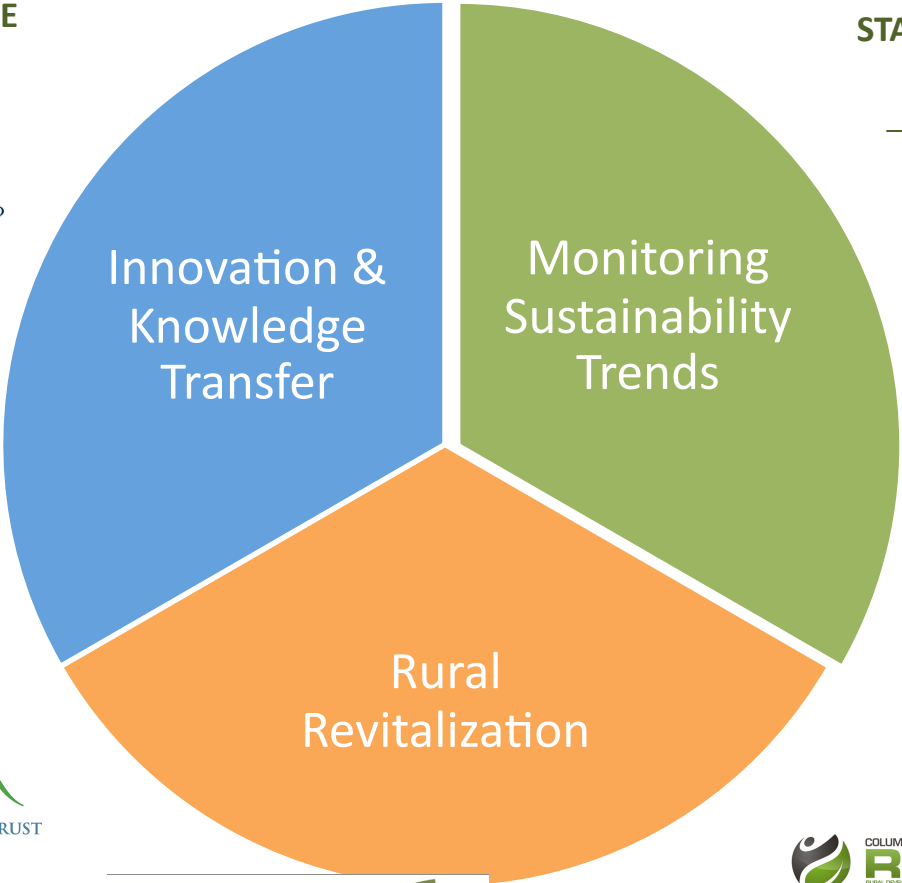
**MOBILIZING KNOWLEDGE TO  
SUPPORT RURAL REVITALIZATION**



# RDI Team



# Research Snap Shot



**RURAL COMMUNITY SERVICE  
LEARNING PARTNERSHIP**



**STATE OF THE BASIN & RDI  
WEBSITE**



**ATTRACTING YOUNG  
ADULTS TO RURAL  
REGIONS KBM PROJECT**



**STATE OF THE  
ENVIRONMENT: PILOTING  
BEST PRACTICES & DIGITAL  
TECHNOLOGIES**



**SME ADOPTION OF DIGITAL  
TECHNOLOGIES PROJECT**



**GEOSPATIAL  
EMPLOYMENT LANDS  
INVENTORY PROJECT**



**MANUFACTURING & TECHNOLOGY  
SECTOR DEVELOPMENT**



**BUSINESS RETENTION &  
EXPANSION REGIONAL PILOT**

= RDI led initiative



**PRODUCTIVITY INITIATIVE**





## The RDI Regional Business Retention & Expansion Pilot Project: The Need & Opportunity

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- Region-wide priority resulting in applied research regional 3 year pilot
- Community-driven, economic development ‘capacity inclusive’ & regional partnership framework (communities supporting each other)
- ‘Process’ support to communities based on best practices
- Research support to off-set implementation costs and offer standard of analysis and reporting
- Ties to provincial efforts via regional license to the BC Business Counts program (EDABC)
- Regional and sub-regional level and sector specific analysis



## The RDI Regional BRE Pilot Project: Our Regional, Community-Driven Model

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- Structured, survey driven interviews by EDPs, service providers and / or paid researchers (data focused but not compromising building of relationships)
- Rigorous research protocol and analysis to allow for trust and confidence in BRE results
- Collaborative regional model, community-based implementation encouraging sharing of lessons learned and cross-referrals
- Evolving model based on ongoing feedback from BRE partners & regional BRE advisory group



## The RDI Regional BRE Pilot Project: Progress Update

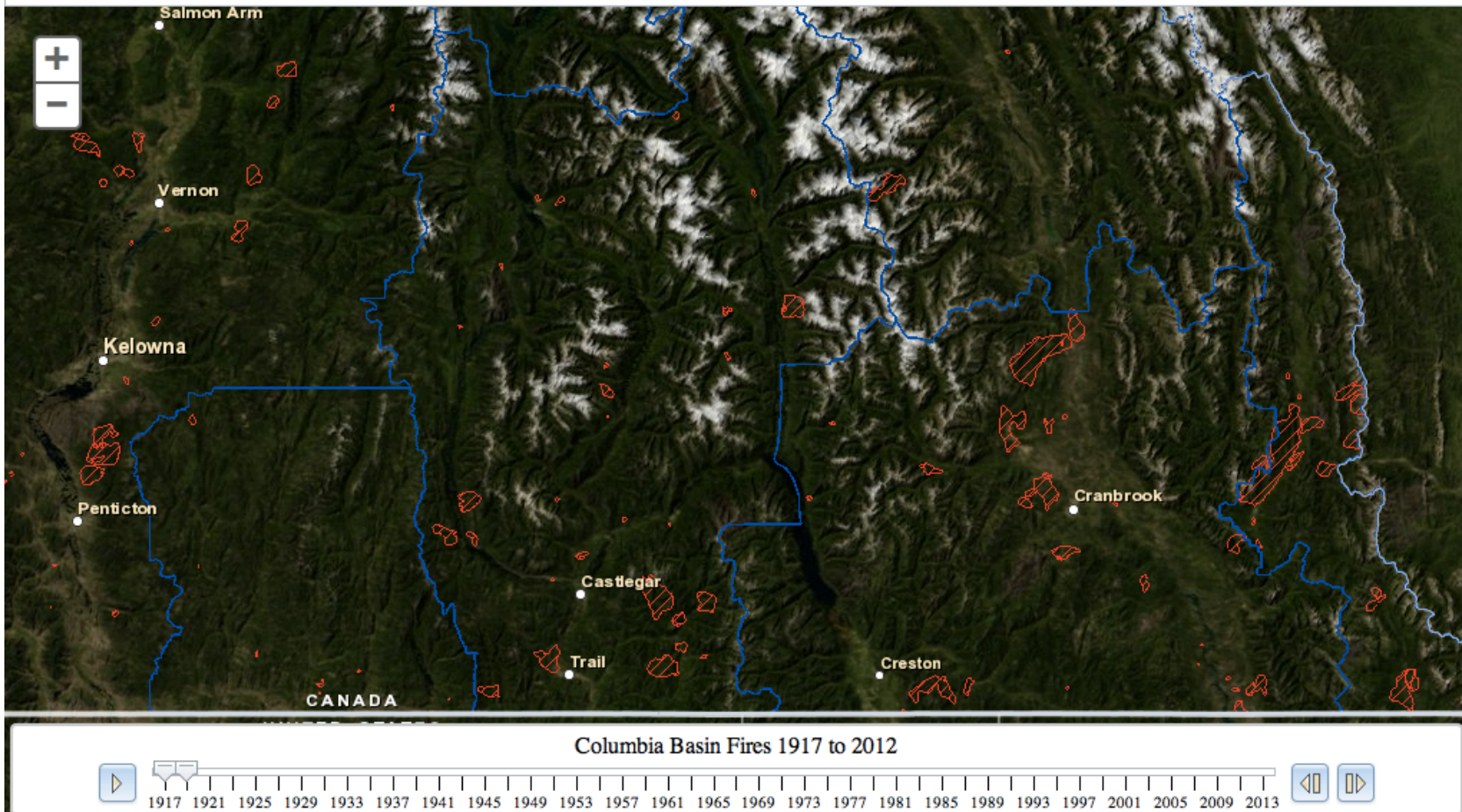
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- Data collection complete with first 4 pilots (Boundary, Lower Columbia, KAST / KRIC, Nakusp) with 472 businesses surveyed to date, including:
  - 59 Boundary businesses
  - 147 Lower Columbia businesses
  - 82 Manufacturing & 97 Technology businesses in MATS data set
  - Nakusp 46 businesses
- Training delivered to 41 participants via 3 pilot training workshops
- 5 pilots will be supported in 2013 (Slocan Valley, Kimberley, Sparwood, Golden, Nakusp)
- Boundary, Lower Columbia & MATS reports released May 2013
- Focus groups with businesses may follow to validate & further inform findings and recommendations

# Geospatial Mapping & Partnership with Selkirk Geospatial Research Institute: Fire History

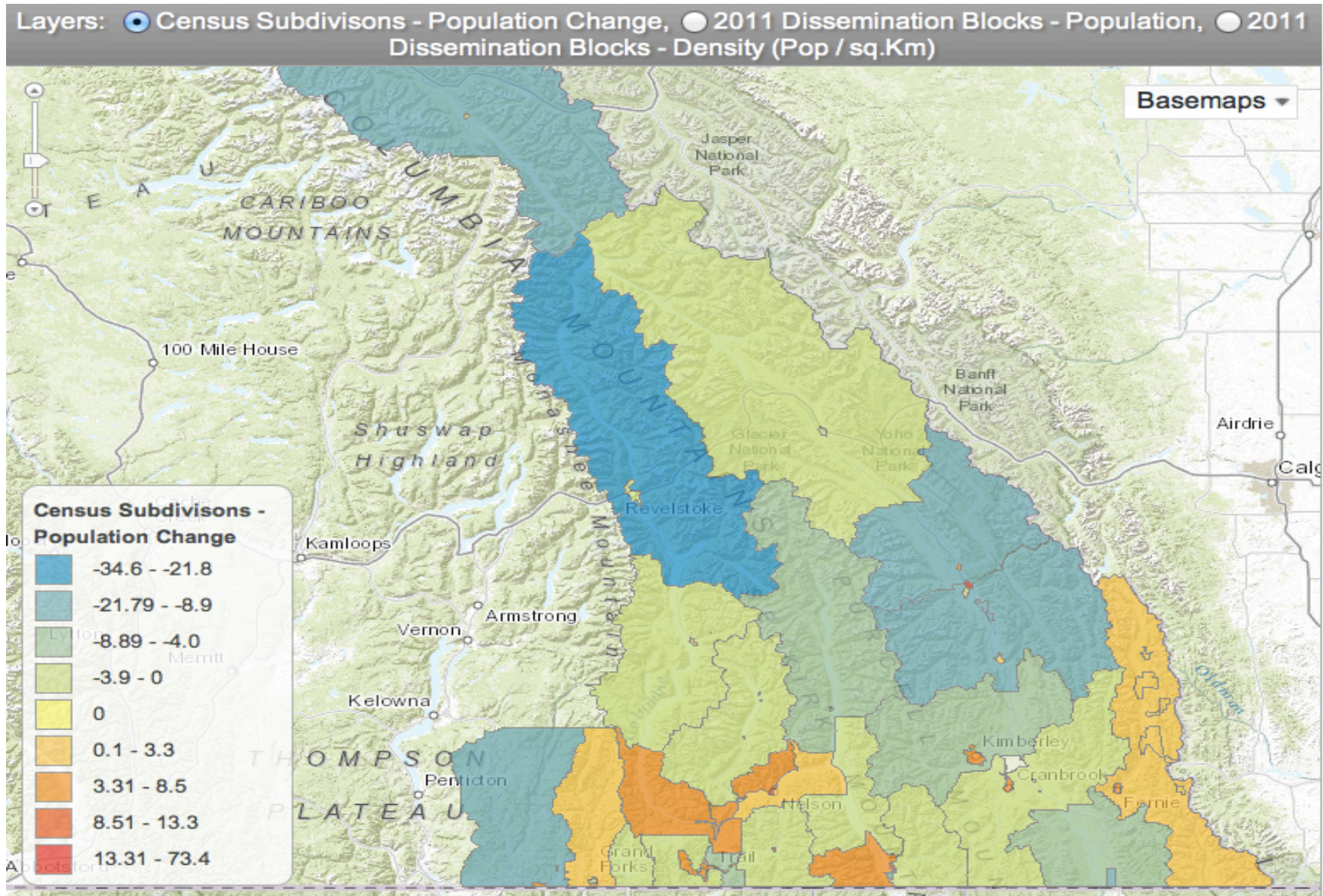
## ▼ Columbia Basin Fire History 1917-2012

Explore the Fire History of Columbia Basin and beyond in this interactive map. Click on the time slider tabs below to visualize a range of years. Pushing play will initiate an animation where you can see where fire has occurred over time. Zoom into the map and click on a fire polygon to highlight it and click again to bring up that fire's statistics.

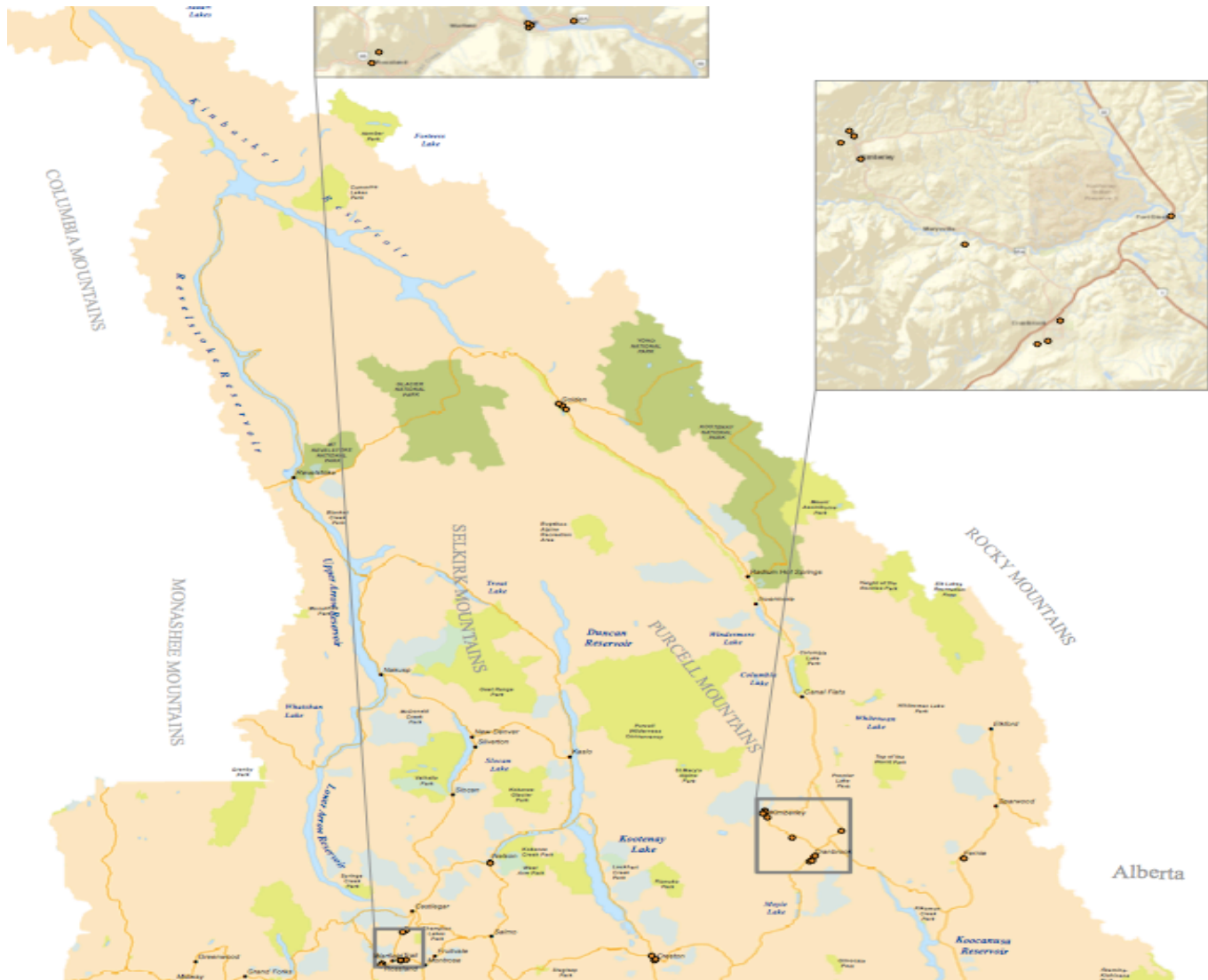




# Geospatial Mapping & Partnership with Selkirk Geospatial Research Institute: Population Change



# Geospatial Mapping & Partnership with Selkirk Geospatial Research Institute: Broadband Constraints



# Geospatial Mapping & Partnership with Selkirk Geospatial Research Institute: Lands Inventory

The screenshot displays the Columbia Basin RDI State of the Basin web application. The browser address bar shows [www.cbrdi.ca/#](http://www.cbrdi.ca/#). The navigation menu includes Data, Maps, Collaboration Spaces, Tools, Reports, and FAQ. A search bar is labeled "Search the Digital Basin...".

The main map area shows a geographical region with labels for "Lower Arrow Reservoir", "Slocan Lake", "Kootenay Lake", and "Moyie Lake". A "Trading Corridors" popup window is open, displaying the following information:

**Trading Corridors**

Name: West Kootenay Corridor  
undefined

**INFO :**

**Enabled layers:** METADATA | TABLE | REPORTS | SPECIALIZED TOOLS

**Trading Corridors**

**Summary**  
Corridors for Analysis

**Description**  
Corridors for Analysis defined by RDI.

**Credits**  
SGRC & RDI

**Use limitations**  
There are no access and use limitations for this item.

The "LAYERS" panel on the right side of the map is expanded, showing a hierarchical list of layers:

- Economic Pillar
- Environmental Pillar
  - Water
    - Quality
    - Watershed
  - Air
    - Greenhouse Gas Emissions
  - Land
    - Forest Fuel Reduction Treatments
    - Forest Health
    - Flood Zones
    - Geo Hazard Areas
  - Biodiversity
    - Caribou Habitat Areas
    - Wolverine Siting
    - Bear Attacks
- Cultural Pillar
- Social Pillar

# Geospatial Mapping & Partnership with Selkirk Geospatial Research Institute: State of the Basin

**STATE OF THE BASIN**    About    Indicators ▾    Communities ▾    Reports ▾    ?

**ENVIRONMENTAL**    **ECONOMIC**    **WELL BEING**    **CULTURAL**    **SOCIAL**

- Workforce
- Economy**
- Built Infrastructure
- Transportation

**LEGEND**

- \$ Economic Indicators
- 👤 Social Indicators
- 🎨 Cultural Indicators

**STATE OF THE BASIN**

A tool to identify, monitor and report on information relating to economic, social, cultural, environmental and other community

**STATE OF THE BASIN POLL**

What is the best question to ask in the poll?

One about trees



## Challenges & Solutions

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- **Institutional constraints & limited capacity**
  - projects to advance institutional culture
- **Perceived competing interests**
  - build trust ‘by doing’ on ‘common ground’
- **Fracturing geography**
  - strategic outreach, video conferencing
- **Limited awareness & managing expectations**
  - communications plan, strategic outreach  
& build capacity ‘by doing’



## Challenges & Solutions

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- **Single funding source**
  - diversify, strategically leverage funds
- **Varying levels of rural community capacity**
  - context-driven models & direct support
- **Rapidly growing research institute**
  - build foundation based on lessons learned
- **Integrating efforts of leading partners**
  - governance & advisory groups to co-create



## Critical Ingredients

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- Purposeful & ongoing community engagement
- Responsiveness & answering ‘so what’ questions
- RDI to take a leadership role, colleges and CBT to do the same
- Manage expectations & effectively communicate impact
- Flexibility to ‘get things done’ is key & focus on ‘glass half full’
- Leverage funding & focus on building capacity



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[www.cbrdi.ca](http://www.cbrdi.ca)

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