

Kootenai River Valley Cooperative Habitat Restoration Project

The Kootenai Tribe of Idaho, in collaboration with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), established a Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative (CCPI) for the Kootenai River Valley in 2011. The Kootenai River Valley CCPI is designed to engage agricultural producers in ecosystem restoration efforts within a 55-mile long reach of the Kootenai River in Idaho. The project area includes the

Agricultural lands in the Kootenai Valley provide an important economic base for the community; however, historical conversion of more than 50,000 acres of floodplain

to agricultural fields also resulted in loss of riparian and wetland plant and animal species, and related functions that normally support a healthy ecosystem.

The Kootenai Tribe is implementing a large-scale ecosystem restoration program in the Kootenai River. This program, the Kootenai River Habitat Restoration Program includes in-stream and floodplain restoration actions. The Kootenai River Valley CCPI project compliments the program by leveraging funding to extend restoration actions to the upland agricultural portions of the valley. Together the two programs

will help restore and enhance habitat conditions for fish and wildlife species in the Kootenai River watershed, including the endangered Kootenai River white sturgeon. Both programs emphasize activities that maximize local benefits to the community while also restoring and enhancing fish and wildlife habitat.

The Kootenai River Valley CCPI will bring approximately \$1.6 million in Federal funds to the local community over five-years (2011 - 2015). The Tribe will bring another approximately \$13 million in non-federal match via the partner Kootenai River Habitat



May 2012 Farm Tour of Kootenai River Habitat Restoration Program project site and site of 2011 Kootenai River Valley Cooperative Habitat Restoration Project.

Restoration Program.

Through the program, agricultural producers can receive a 75% cost share for installing conservation practices that will help restore the

natural floodplain functions and upland conditions that support a healthy ecosystem. The Tribe and NRCS developed a suite of criteria for selecting and ranking applications for the Kootenai River

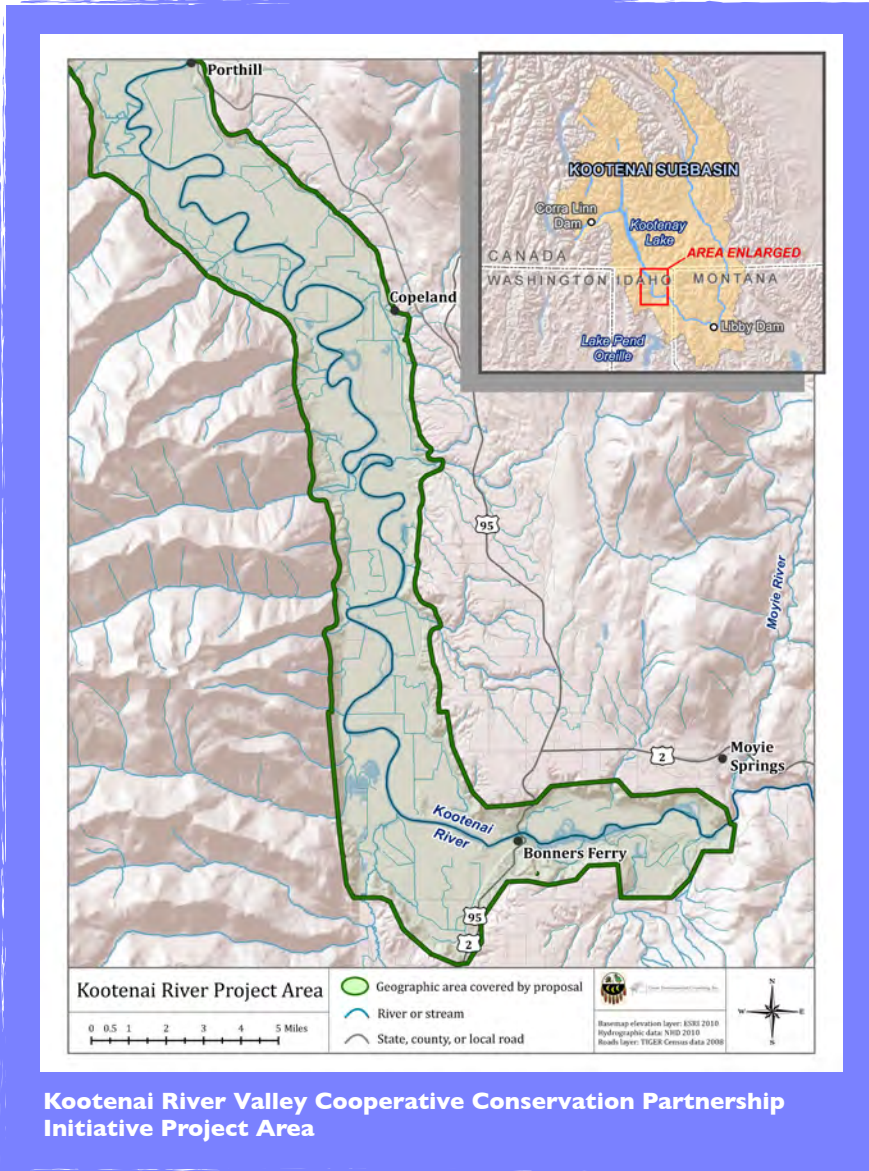
Valley CCPI project. The Kootenai River Valley CCPI project actions include bank restoration, riparian planting, grazing management practices and upland wildlife habitat enhancements that will significantly contribute to the overall success of ecosystem-based restoration in the Kootenai River subbasin.

The agricultural producer response to date has far exceeded initial expectations. Five producers signed contracts for the program in 2011, eight contracts were developed in 2012, and six producers have signed up for 2013.

The NRCS and Tribe will continue to coordinate efforts to maximize the benefits from the Kootenai River Valley CCPI program and the Kootenai River Habitat Restoration Program.



Kootenai Tribe of Idaho



Kootenai River Valley Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative Project Area



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