



# ANNUAL REPORT 2019



## FROM OUR BOARD CHAIR

A 30th anniversary is a significant milestone for any grassroots environmental organization. For Wildsight Invermere, it reflects community support that endures through thick and thin. That's why in September, we celebrated with a potluck that brought together 60 people. It was a smorgasbord of friendship, goodwill and a shared vision of the preciousness of this valley, these mountains, and these wetlands.

For many years, issues like the Jumbo Glacier Resort proposal challenged our collective determination to protect wild places. It wore everyone down. It certainly caused divisiveness in Invermere. But in 2019, after almost 30 years, this saga concluded with a happy ending, thanks in no small part to the tenacity of the Jumbo Creek Conservation Society. The resort proposal was declared officially dead, and in early 2020, the Ktunaxa Nation, with the support of federal and provincial governments, announced the Qat'muk Indigenous Protected and Conserved Area. Our bumper stickers are now more meaningful than ever. Jumbo Valley Wild Forever is no longer a wish, but a statement and a reminder that engaged citizens can accomplish so much.

As always, our focus at Wildsight Invermere continues to evolve, directed by the passions of our Board and our members. Spark was born out of such passion. A committee of very dedicated and energetic "doers" turned a desire to build awareness around the viability of electric vehicles and to provide an accessible low-carbon transportation option for Columbia Valley residents into reality. In July, with the support of generous sponsors and funders, we bought a Chevy Bolt and our electric car share program was set in motion.

When philosopher/poet Ralph Waldo Emerson wrote, "The creation of a thousand forests is in one acorn," I think of our Wildsight community. Together, our actions can multiply into a vast ecosystem that thrives. And that makes me very happy.

For the wild,

**Baiba Morrow,**  
Invermere Branch President



# WILD CONNECTIONS

## INSPIRE, EDUCATE, ENGAGE

With the impacts of climate change and increased recreational use of natural areas in the Columbia Valley, safeguarding a healthy ecosystem is of significant importance; education and a change of human behaviour are paramount. Our core community engagement and education program—Wild Connections—addresses these challenges from the ground up by offering hands-on events, experiences and workshop opportunities that increase participants’ understanding of environmental issues and empowers them to take action in their own lives.

### PROGRAM OUTLINE

#### Wild Ideas

- Film & Speaker Events (2)
- Annual Wild & Scenic Film Festival (1)
- Community Outreach Booths (5)

#### Wild Collaborations

- Wild Workshops (2)
- Wild Wanderings: Pop-up Hikes & Walks (2)
- Ursus & Us: Annual Bear Awareness Day (1)

#### Wild Restorations

- Community Work Bees & Clean-ups (2)

### 2019 PROGRAM STATISTICS





# SPARK

## RURAL CANADA'S FIRST ELECTRIC VEHICLE SHARE

We began our Columbia Valley Electric Vehicle Share program in 2018 to provide a low-carbon transportation option in the Columbia Valley.

We spent much of 2019 actively building partnerships, securing program sponsors, and developing the software, hardware, and booking platform required to operate our fully electric vehicle share program.

Now a year in, the program has a new name—Spark—and we are pleased to report that through generous community support, we raised \$27,310 in sponsorship funds allowing us to purchase a brand new Chevy Bolt EV. We also obtained both a permanent parking stall and a dedicated charging station for the our EV—Keep an eye to the District of Invermere municipal office parking lot, and you might catch Sparky at home!

We are preparing to launch Spark publically in Spring 2020, when community members can then use the car hourly, daily, or longer, as available. In the interim, we continue to work on completing the booking platform and GoSpark.ca website.

# OUR 2019 TEAM



Baiba Morrow  
President



Cam Gillies  
Vice-President



Adam Pickett  
Treasurer



Jessie King  
Secretary



Jillian Cochrane  
Director



Taoya Schaefer  
Director



Stef Falz  
Director



Shannon McGinty  
Educator



Mandi McRobbie  
Branch Manager

# OUR MISSION

Wildsight Invermere reaches out to visitors and locals alike to inspire action and lead the way in conserving wild spaces and improving our relationship with nature.



## OUR MEMBERS

Our members are an essential part of our team. They are people who value wilderness, wildlife and healthy communities, who believe that by taking care of the ecosystems we need and love, collectively, we can change the world. Thank you for making our work possible by your generous volunteer, in-kind, and financial contributions—we couldn't do it without you!

## FINANCIALS

Please visit our website for our complete 2019 financials.

## THANK YOU TO OUR 2019 PROGRAM FUNDERS & SUPPORTERS



Alpine Club of Canada | Banff Tea Co. | Basecamp Innovations | Bavin Glassworks | BC Hydro Grassroots Grants | Bike-It-Forward | Brandon Brown Photography  
 Brett Wilson Family Donation | Circle Health Food | Cleanline Automotive | Columbia Valley Hut Society | Columbia Valley Law Corp. | Columbia Valley Sign Artists  
 Copper City Dental | Copper Point Resort | CV Arts | Digney & Co. | Dr. Mike Baker ND | Eagle-Eye Tours | Eagle Ranch | Edible Acres | Gerry's Gelati | Hybrid Landscapes  
 Invermere Dental Clinic | Invermere Family Chiropractic | Invermere Liquorstore | Invermere Optometry Clinic | Kicking Horse Coffee | Kootenay Employment Services  
 Kootenay Mountain Culture | Kootenay River Runners | Kootenay Savings Credit Union | Kyla Jane Photography | Lake Windermere Ambassadors  
 Lambert Kipp Pharmacy | Manulife Invermere | MEC | Mortgage Alliance West | Non-Profit by Nature | Northstar GM | Om Organics | Paintbox Lodge | Patagonia Banff  
 Peak Design | Powder Highway Management Group | Purcell Integrative Health Centre | Radius Retreat | RK Heliski | Rocky Mountain School District 6  
 Rocky River Grill | Sharon Wood | Sierra Nevada Brewing | Skootin' Kootenay Tours | Talus Lodge | Taynton Bay Spirits | Tea Etc. | The Station Pub | thinkBright Homes  
 Turning Point Business Advisory Solutions | Valley Zipline Adventures | Wendy Lee's Fine Chocolates | Wild Mountain Chocolates | Winderberry | Wings Over The Rockies



625 4th Street, Box 2741 | Invermere, BC V0A 1K0 | 250.341.6898 | [invermere@wildsight.ca](mailto:invermere@wildsight.ca) | [wildsight.ca/invermere](http://wildsight.ca/invermere)