



January 17th, 2020

Backgrounder: Funders
Central Purcell Mountains Indigenous Protected and Conserved Area

Total funding for this project is approximately \$21 million, with \$16.1 million from the Government of Canada and \$5 million from the Wyss Foundation, Wilburforce Foundation, Patagonia, Donner Canadian Foundation and Columbia Basin Trust.

Wyss Foundation

The Wyss Foundation is a private, charitable organization dedicated to supporting innovative, lasting solutions that improve lives, empower communities, and strengthen connections to the land. In 2018, the foundation launched the Wyss Campaign for Nature, a 10-year, \$1 billion commitment by Hansjörg Wyss – the Wyss Foundation’s founder and chairman – to help protect at least 30 percent of the planet by 2030.

Over the past two decades, the Wyss Foundation has invested over \$600 million to help conservation partners, indigenous peoples, and local communities permanently protect over 50 million acres of land and 1.75 million square kilometers of ocean.

“The Wyss Foundation’s support for the Ktunaxa Nation and its efforts to secure permanent protection for Qat’muk is part of its long-term commitment to support indigenous-led and locally-supported efforts that protect culturally, historically, and ecologically significant lands and waters across the planet. With wildlife and natural places rapidly vanishing, we must all do far more to ensure that places like Qat’muk are protected for all time.” – Molly McUsic, President, Wyss Foundation

Media Contact: Greg Zimmerman, greg@wysscampaing.org, 847.848.2881

Wilburforce Foundation

The Wilburforce Foundation empowers conservation leaders to protect the irreplaceable lands, waters, and wildlife of western North America. They are a private philanthropic organization that supports land, water and wildlife conservation efforts in Western North America. Rose Letwin is the founder, president, and sole funder of Wilburforce Foundation. At the heart of Rose’s philanthropy is a long-term commitment to sustaining wild places for the betterment of wildlife and communities for generations to come.

One of the priority areas in which the Foundation focuses resources is the Inland Temperate Rainforest (ITR) in the US and Canada. The Foundation aims to maintain the ecological integrity of the Inland Temperate Rainforest region by seeding priority place-based restoration and protection efforts, supporting difficult conservation conversations through increased outreach and engagement, and providing conservation partners with the best science for protecting and restoring wildlife corridors and linkages.

“The Wilburforce Foundation is honoured to support the on-going efforts of the Ktunaxa Nation in the development of a Ktunaxa Indigenous Protected and Conserved Area. Long-term support of scientific research and wildland advocacy made clear to the Foundation that Jumbo Valley is a vital wildlife corridor as well as critical grizzly bear habitat. The region hosts hundreds of species at risk, important headwaters and invaluable old growth.” – Paul Beaudet, Executive Director, Wilburforce Foundation

Media Contact: Paul Beaudet, paul@wilburforce.org, 206.632.2325

Patagonia

We’re in business to save our home planet. Founded by Yvon Chouinard in 1973, Patagonia is an outdoor apparel company based in Ventura, California. A Certified B-Corporation, the company is recognized internationally for its commitment to product quality and environmental activism—and its contributions of more than \$110 million in grants and in-kind donations to date.

“Patagonia is honored to support the Ktunaxa Nation in their efforts to protect the Qat’muk from the proposed development of the Jumbo Glacier Resort. Today’s important step towards an Indigenous Protected and Conserved Area will preserve Ktunaxa cultural, biodiversity and ecosystem values for generations to come. The Ktunaxa Nation has been fighting for protection of this wild and spiritual place in the central Purcells for nearly three decades, and our company and community are proud to stand with them.” – Rose Marcario, CEO, Patagonia

Media Contact: Corley Kenna, corley.kenna@patagonia.com, 202.320.3921

Donner Canadian Foundation

The Donner Canadian Foundation is a family foundation that supports a wide variety of initiatives, including Indigenous-led environmental stewardship. In our work, we aspire to uphold the core values of trust, patience, respect, honesty, clarity, understanding, communication, transparency, flexibility, and reciprocity.

“Today’s gathering is the next step in a long journey, which the Donner Canadian Foundation is honoured to join as a supporter of the Ktunaxa Nation Council’s partnership with the Nature Conservancy of Canada. We are grateful for the Ktunaxa people’s leadership in the long-term protection and stewardship of Qat’muk and its cultural and ecological treasures.” – Helen McLean, Executive Director, Donner Canadian Foundation

Media Contact: Helen McLean, mclean@donner.ca, 416.920.6400

Columbia Basin Trust

Columbia Basin Trust was formed in 1995 to support the efforts of the people of the Canadian Columbia Basin to create a legacy of social, economic and environmental well-being and to achieve greater self-sufficiency for present and future generations.

“The Qat’muk Indigenous Protected and Conserved Area is critically important to the Columbia Basin’s ecological and cultural integrity,” says Johnny Strilaeff, President and CEO for Columbia Basin Trust. “We are honoured to support the Ktunaxa Nation in their generation-long work to protect and conserve this area for current and future generations.” – Johnny Strilaeff, President and CEO, Columbia Basin Trust

Media Contact: Kathleen Hart, khart@ourtrust.org 1.800.505.8998