



Yarrow  
*Achillea millefolium*

Kinnikinick  
*Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*



Idaho Fescue  
*Festuca idahoensis*



Bluebunch Wheatgrass  
*Pseudoregenaria spicata*



Junegrass  
*Koeleria macrantha*



Rough Fescue  
*Festuca campestris*



Old Man's Whiskers  
*Geum triflorum*



Oregon Grape  
*Mahonia aquifolium*

# KOOTENAY GALLERY HABITAT RESTORATION PROJECT



### WHY A NATIVE GRASSLAND IN THE WEST KOOTENAY?

It is difficult to know for sure what the ecosystems around Selkirk College and the Kootenay Gallery may have looked like a few hundred years before European settlement. Undoubtedly, First Nations used this area extensively and have inhabited the land around the gallery.

From an ecological perspective, the land around here is in the "drier" part of the Interior Cedar Hemlock zone. The terrace development in this area is dominated by ancient river gravels deposited several thousand years ago after the last major glacial advance. The sandy and gravelly soil combined with a slightly dry climate may have allowed the development of Ponderosa pine forests with interspersed grassland "pockets" along these terraces. It is this type of forest/grassland pocket ecosystem that the restoration around the Kootenay Gallery will attempt to emulate.

### THE RESTORATION PLAN

The plan for restoration was developed as a student group project in 2008 through the Integrated Environmental Planning technology program. Students came up with the idea of restoring the landscape by creating grassland islands that would be planted with native vegetation. Twenty-two 4m diameter islands were excavated to remove undesirable vegetation. Each island was backfilled with screened top soil and then planted with native grass and herb plugs.

Native species used in the planting included: bluebunch wheatgrass (*Pseudoroegneria spicata*), june grass (*Koeleria macrantha*), rough fescue (*Festuca campestris*), Old man's whiskers (*Geum triflorum*), Yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*), kinnikinnick (*Arctostaphylos uva ursi*), and Oregon-grape (*Mahonia aquifolium*). In addition, ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*) seedlings were planted in between the islands to emulate an open forest-grassland ecosystem.

Over the first season, each island will be watered to ensure that the native plants become established. Once established, it is anticipated that the grassland islands will begin to grow outward and coalesce into a larger grassland ecosystem with scattered Ponderosa pine.

Derek Marcoux, Selkirk College



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