

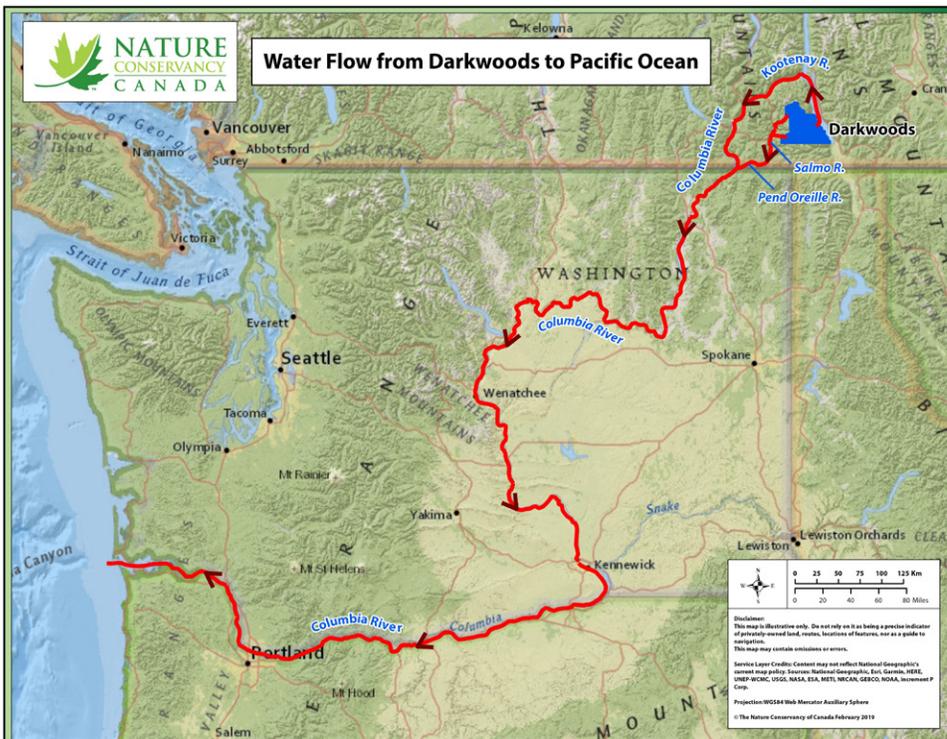
# Freshwater Conservation



Cultus Creek, Darkwoods (Bruce Kirkby)

## Fresh water matters.

Water is the basis of life. Yet only a tiny fraction of the water on Earth is fresh and renewed by the water cycle. Conserving freshwater ecosystems is essential for sustaining a healthy environment and healthy communities.



Clean and abundant fresh water is a defining feature through much of British Columbia, and particularly within the Canadian portion of the Columbia River Basin. At the same time, water resources and aquatic ecosystems in this region are changing as a consequence of land use and climate change.

The Darkwoods Conservation Area protects a significant source of fresh water for the Columbia Basin in British Columbia. The forests and wetlands filter and renew the water as it flows from river to stream to lake, eventually entering the Columbia River system and travelling all the way to the Pacific Ocean.

# DARKWOODS | FRESH WATER

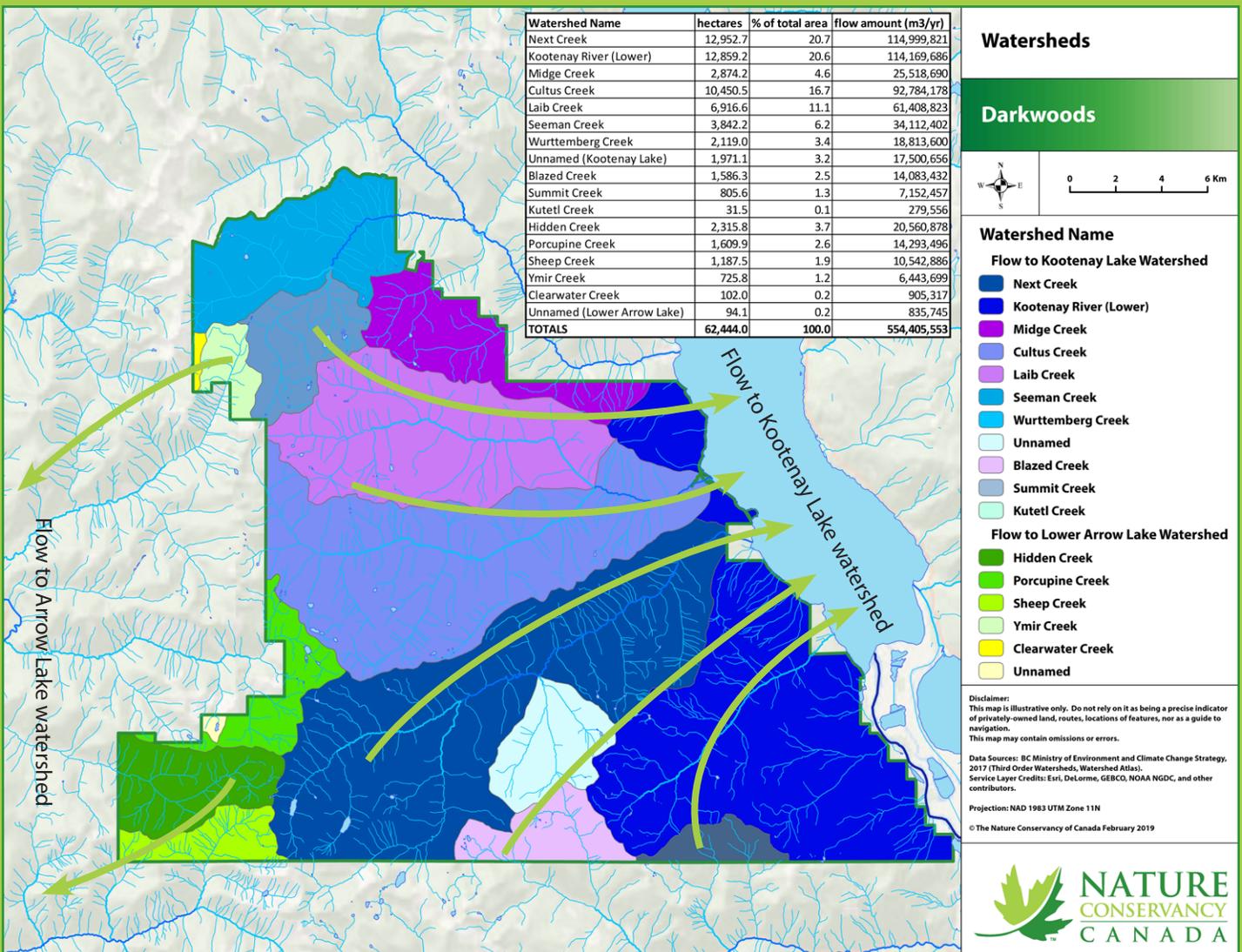
## Freshwater ecosystems on Darkwoods purify over 554 million cubic metres of water each year.

Darkwoods abounds with freshwater. Seventeen watersheds wholly or partially flow through Darkwoods. At least 139 lakes and 150 wetlands are found within the Darkwoods boundary. The internationally renowned wetlands of the Creston Valley touch Darkwoods's southern limits, and the waters of Kootenay Lake about its eastern shores.

NCC is committed to ensuring that the freshwater resources on Darkwoods are managed to provide the greatest benefit for the species and communities that depend on them.



Bull trout in Cultus Creek, Darkwoods (Bruce Kirkby)



**Rob Wilson, Director, Conservation Finance**  
 245 Eglinton Avenue East, Suite 410  
 Toronto, Ontario M4P 3J1  
 1.800.465.0029 ext. 2278  
 rob.wilson@natureconservancy.ca

**Tom Swann, Senior Director, Strategic Initiatives**  
 409 Granville Street, Suite 1250  
 Vancouver, BC V6C 1T2  
 1.888.404.8428 ext. 8202  
 tom.swann@natureconservancy.ca

NCC Charitable Registration Number: 11924 6544 RR0001