

Kootenay Lake Forest Landscape Plan — How to Make Your Survey Answers Count

The survey itself takes less than 10 minutes. Open until Aug 22, 2026 (4 pm PT).

1. The key thing is only TWO boxes record your words:

Most of the survey is **rating buttons and ranking arrows only** — there is no comment box on the value-rating questions (Q4/5) or the two ranking questions (Q6, Q8). The *only* places your own words are recorded are the two open-text fields, each capped at 500 characters:

- **Q7** — “forest values *not included* in the previous questions — how would you rate them?” **Use this to name what the value list leaves out and to qualify the values it bundles badly.**
- **Q9** — “other *challenges* not included in the previous question — how would you rank it?” **Use this for the process objections and the cumulative-impact / old-growth points below.**

Tip: draft your Q7 and Q9 text *before* you start (500 characters each — roughly 80–90 words). The ratings take two minutes; your words are where the real direction will come from.

2. Be aware of the leading questions (rate / rank with your eyes open):

Several items fuse a *value you hold* with a *logging-based method you may reject*. You can’t qualify using a button — so rate/rank deliberately, then explain yourself in Q7 or Q9.

- **“Climate Change Resilience”** is defined on the form as “assisted species migration, stand density management, drought tolerant species.” A high rating can be read as endorsing logging of vulnerable old forest (e.g. Interior Cedar–Hemlock) and replacing it with plantations. If you want threatened old and primary forest *preserved*, say so in Q7.
- **“Sustainable forest economy” / “Forest economic stability or long-term timber supply”** (Q6 bundles economic stability and timber supply into one rankable item). If your support is conditional on practices changing — not clearcutting high-value forest for mass timber construction for example — a blunt rating won’t show it. State the condition in Q7.
- **The ranking format itself (Q6, Q8)** can’t capture “deeply concerned about climate, therefore preserve threatened forest rather than log it.” If the framing forces you to make a false choice, name that in Q9 and ask the “What We Heard” report to record how many respondents rejected the *framing*, not the values.

3. The bigger asks — consider listing your bigger asks in Q9 if you have room – this is a list of ours:

- **Clear objectives, not weasel words:** demand measurable, enforced targets with public reporting — not “can / may / where feasible” language or decade-out promises. High ecological value primary and old growth forests need protection now.
- **Fix zoning:** current Biodiversity Emphasis Option zoning (~10% high / 45% intermediate / 45% low) is skewed toward extraction. Update it on current ecological/cultural values and climate risk; prioritise intact watersheds, rare ecosystems and critical habitat.
- **Retain old & mature forest by ecosystem:** map, fully retain and legally protect remaining primary/old growth before operational planning; buffer and connect it to parks/OGMAs. Make Old Growth Deferral Areas permanent — no new incursions while FLPs are underway.
- **Make connectivity a legal requirement:** corridors for wildlife movement and gene flow are currently only a “conceptual” objective. Complete the mapping and legalize the corridors as an enduring requirement.

Worth knowing:

By the Ministry’s own page, this is the “pre-planning / value-assessment” stage, and an earlier interest window ran Nov 2025–Feb 2026 — the public is being asked which values matter after much of the groundwork is built. A reported internal Ministry memo states District Managers are “not required to consider” public input, even as staff are told to point the public to engagement forums. Material timber-supply changes flow through the Chief Forester’s Allowable Annual Cut determination — not this survey. **None of that is a reason to stay silent.**

THE MAIN THING IS – TAKE THE SURVEY! engage.gov.bc.ca/govtogetherbc/engagement/kootenay-lake-flp

...AND CONSIDER EMAILING YOUR COMPLETE THOUGHTS TO: forestlandscapeplanning@gov.bc.ca

Save What’s Left Conservation Society