

## **Twenty Years of Doing Good – Chip Corsi**

From humble roots one score years ago  
In Boundary County, Idaho  
A new approach to getting stuff done was issued forth  
By the civic-minded leaders in Idaho's North

The Kootenai Tribe of Idaho, Bonners Ferry, and Boundary County  
Determined civil discourse was the better path to managing Nature's bounty  
So they formed the Kootenai Valley Resource Initiative  
And turned it in to a model community-based collaborative

A forum where folks from different stripes  
Could sit down with neighbors to discuss hopes and wishes for bears and fishes,  
and maybe the occasional gripe  
Here we haven't broken that much bread, but we've broken more than a few cakes  
It's those sorts of things for which good communication makes

Discussions about how to best manage wetlands and woods  
How to best steward the resources and still produce goods  
How to give the folks who live, work, and play here  
Reasons for optimism with each coming year

They rolled up their sleeves from the very beginning  
With leadership from the likes of Perry, Aiken, Kerby, and Dinning  
And a host of others from with their respective intuition  
Who for big challenges could bring solutions to fruition

Engage with agencies, engage with their reps  
To show big things can come when you take those first steps  
So what's KVRI accomplished now that it has turned twenty?  
In a word: "Plenty"

Wetlands restored, logs to the mills  
Sturgeon and burbot in the river, and bears in the hills  
Access for folks who want to enjoy these resources  
Better protection from flooding where the Kootenai courses

Solutions for keeping deer and elk on the hills  
And not on the road or your vehicle's grille  
And for Kootenai Valley villages, ranches, and farms  
Bear conflict management to protect them from harm

These are some of the things KVRI has tended to  
But like any good stewards they can and will find more to do  
And we know they'll do good because as you look around the room at every face  
You see good people with a sense of place

And yes, over the years, some of those faces have changed  
But the commitment has not in this home on the range  
Which is why I am sure they'll keep doing more  
My money's on KVRI celebrating another score  
Am I concerned about changing faces? – not very  
After multiple mayors and tribal chairs, and landing Rhonda to replace Patty Perry  
And while it's probably imprudent to never say never  
I'm optimistic folks like Sandy and Wattenbarger will be there forever

But more to the point – when good people assemble with good intentions  
And work with each other this much is worth mention  
You can take care of nature while you are harvesting wood  
And be optimistic about: Twenty more years of doing good

But - if Dan asks me again about mosquito suppression  
If we contemplate doing another wetland redemption  
I'll remind him of what I told him back around 2003  
We took off the bag limit, no license required, go swat all you want, you can do it  
for free!