

South Okanagan Similkameen Conservation Program

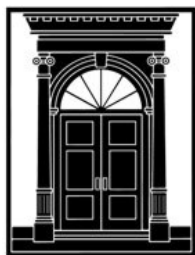


The Nature Trust of BC, Conservation Crew



2006 - 2007 Annual Report

*The core administration of the South Okanagan
Similkameen Conservation Program (SOSCP) is
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SOSCP

South Okanagan Similkameen Conservation Program

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR



On behalf of the BC Ministry of Environment, and as Chair of the SOSCP, I am pleased to provide this report for the SOSCP activities and accomplishments for the reporting period April 1, 2006 - March 31, 2007 and offer a perspective for the past 12 months as Chair.

I have appreciated having the opportunity to work with Bryn White who took over the Program Coordinator position from Rick McKelvey in November of 2006. The support that Bryn has provided to myself as Chair, the Executive and the partners has been greatly appreciated and has been critical to the SOSCP continuing its success.

SOSCP membership has doubled since the launch in 2000. We are welcoming four new partners this year including Land Trust Alliance of BC, the Forest Research Extension Partnership, the Okanagan Collaborative Conservation Program and the Regional District of the Okanagan Similkameen. We are really pleased to welcome the Regional District as they are the first local government members to sign on to the SOSCP. All of these new partners are valuable additions to the program.

Establishing connections with new partners and supporting initiatives in the Central and North Okanagan and North Central Washington help us to “think like an ecological corridor” and plan for biodiversity and conservation priorities as a region. It has been excellent to see the Okanagan Collaborative Conservation Program (OCCP) building on the successes of the SOSCP and developing a strong conservation initiative for the central and north Okanagan. The Okanagan Ecoregional Assessment undertaken by the Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC), The Nature Conservancy of Washington (TNC) and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife has also contributed to a regional biodiversity-based context and shared vision for implementing conservation efforts. This perspective broadens our understanding of biodiversity and the program's role in a landscape that is defined by ecology rather than borders or administrative boundaries.

While development pressures due to agricultural and urban expansion and the subsequent changes to the landscape have never been so great, opinion surveys show that public support for protection of the environment is high. 93% of residents feel that it is important to protect the natural ecosystems, plant and wildlife species in the South Okanagan and Similkameen in order to maintain our quality of life here. The conservation strategy laid out by the program and the partners remains a valid, necessary and relevant approach to fulfilling a “shared stewardship” model that encourages all British Columbians to deepen their engagement for the conservation and stewardship of our natural resources and landscapes. SOSCP and the principles of the program have led the way towards this model in the province for the past seven years. It is important now that SOSCP continues to remain in the forefront in the area of shared stewardship with strong continued support from the partners as we work together on our common goals and assist others in achieving sustainability.

There have been many accomplishments achieved by the partners this year as the program and partners' commitment to the objectives remains strong; please take the opportunity to read each of the team and program coordinator reports. We are pleased to highlight the collaborative work and support SOSCP was able to provide to encourage sustainable land use planning; the high quality and important outreach information that was delivered to all ages throughout our community; the active support and engagement of private land stewards; the acquisition and good management of important lands for conservation; the integration of Traditional Ecological Knowledge into our conservation strategies and activities; and finally, the continued development of science-based knowledge to guide our decision making and evaluate our progress.

One of the on-going challenges to the program is to maintain the administrative costs to keep the programs core intention of communication, cooperation and collaboration, functioning. This past year, partner contributions and the ability of the program to broaden its activities and support proved to be successful and will continue to be fundamental to the success of the program in future years. More than ever before, it is vitally important that all of our partners in the SOSCP continue to strive towards optimizing our collective abilities in achieving the highest conservation objectives in the South Okanagan and Similkameen by drawing on the expertise of each partner.

I am looking forward to working with the new Executive and continuing to support the SOSCP over the next year as Past-Chair.

Drew Carmichael - Chair, SOSCP

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PROGRAM COORDINATOR'S REPORT



Bryn White
Program Manager

In this seventh year of the SOSCP, the program and partners have continued to make significant contributions to conservation and sustainability in all program areas. Through a strong strategic program plan and detailed workplans, the six teams continue to coordinate their conservation strategies for recovery of species, habitats and the maintenance of our important ecological corridor.

Coming on as new Program Coordinator in November 2006 has been a smooth and enjoyable transition. The Executive has been an active, involved and supportive group, meeting monthly and working together on executive decisions related to human resources, policy implementation, implementation of the strategic plan, and generally overseeing the program. It has been a pleasure to have Drew Carmichael as our Chair this year, he brought an experienced and thoughtful perspective to the program and we look forward to his continuing participation as Past-Chair.

The Annual Report is a formal summary of program accomplishments for the fiscal year April 2006 - March 2007 however, we like to include advances made beyond the fiscal year for an up to date look at our progress, including to November 2007.

Highlights of the Year's Accomplishments

Partnership Building

As mentioned by our Chair, this year the partnership has again broadened to include four additional organizations or initiatives that will contribute to the overall conservation objectives in the South Okanagan and Similkameen.

The first local government to sign on to the program, the **Regional District of Okanagan Similkameen** is one of 27 regional districts in BC, created to provide local government services and political accountability to residents of unincorporated electoral areas in a region that covers approximately 11,000 km². The SOSCP partners and RDOS have collaborated on a number of initiatives to date, so we are fortunate to have them come on as formal partners.



2006 AGM

For ten years, the **Land Trust Alliance of BC** has been providing support for land trusts and conservation groups in BC, including land trusts within the SOSCP, to steward, protect and restore our natural and cultural diversity through educational, research and resource programming. The LTABC facilitates partnerships and collaboration, advocates for issues important to land trusts and builds public awareness of land trust work.

The **Forest Research Extension Partnership** has been helping people develop science and knowledge-based solutions to complex natural resource challenges by linking people to knowledge, and facilitating continuous innovation and improvement in natural resource policy and management. FORREX is a partnership initiative similar to the SOSCP and has worked collaboratively on projects with local staff including pine beetle outreach and the inclusion of indigenous knowledge and natural resource management to promote sustainable ecosystem management practices.

In our endeavour to truly maintain an ecological corridor and consider the landscape as a whole, we are pleased to announce our special working relationship with the **Okanagan Collaborative Conservation Program**, an initiative that was modeled after the SOSCP for the Central and North Okanagan.

At the last AGM, awards were presented to several individuals for their contributions to conservation in the South Okanagan-Similkameen; Shawn Black of The Land Conservancy of BC; Carl MacNaughton of The Nature Trust of BC; Richard Armstrong of the En'Owkin Centre; and Lisa Scott of the SOS Stewardship Program. Each of these individuals are dedicated conservation practitioners and each contributes to the good work of many of the SOSCP Teams.

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PROGRAM COORDINATOR'S REPORT

The SOSCP also made a connection with Interior Health as the Program Coordinator assisted with strategic planning for a number of ACT NOW projects. There are clear connections between human and environmental health and we look forward to working more closely with Interior Health in the future.

The Coordinator has been representing SOSCP on the Okanagan Basin Water Stewardship Council and as an alternate at the Stewardship Council of BC. Recently, the SOSCP was represented at the Canadian Land Trust Alliance Conference in Ottawa at the request to hear more about successful partnerships. SOSCP is consistently recognized provincially and nationally for its model of coordination, cooperation and communication.

Long Term Program Funding

Conservation organizations and initiatives everywhere struggle with the challenge of maintaining capacity for core administration and functioning. Efforts to secure long-term funding outside the partner contributions has been centred on providing strategic and expert fee-for-services that are closely aligned with the program objectives, and diversifying support from non-traditional sources.

The Real Estate Foundation of BC continues to view the SOSCP as a valuable stewardship and conservation initiative that can support and reach out to many sectors involved in land use planning and development. Focus has returned to building the SOSCP Endowment Fund. This year, we have administratively merged the Environmental Legacy Fund and the SOSCP Endowment Fund, both held in the Community Foundation of the South Okanagan.



Tanya Lusch

The ability to generate support for the environment generally through the Legacy Fund will benefit conservation projects, while automatically supporting the cooperative and collaborative administration function of the SOSCP.

Maintaining the Partnership and Communications

This year an SOSCP monthly newsletter was initiated with news, coming events, announcements, resources and partner profiles to better communicate the activities of the partners within the program and to the community in general. Partner and program profile was strong especially in the print media, including the local and provincial newspapers, as well as lifestyle and business magazines.

The website is also undergoing development to be a more effective and useful resource. The site is now hosted by the Community Mapping Network and will feature an updated, on-line South Okanagan Similkameen Habitat Atlas that is software-free, will include species and habitat data with interpretive information that is all spatially identified and linked to a basin-wide atlas for the Okanagan. Other new features include a land use planning page with links to tools and guidelines, news, announcements, searchable project database, and links to research, resources, and partners. The Community Mapping Network, including a number of key individuals have been incredibly supportive and helpful to the SOSCP this year and are certainly doing good work providing ways for the public and other sectors to access environmental data and information. The website development will ensure that it will completely self-maintained by the program in an easy to update format. Watch for these new developments in early 2008.



Don Gayton

Implementing the Strategic Plan

The development of Species Recovery and Habitat Action Plans, Landscape Recovery Strategy, Strategic Plans, Team Workplans and other resources assist in guiding the priorities and activities of the SOSCP Teams. Internal communications and coordination of our efforts is one of the most important investments we can make towards the successful outcomes of our activities.

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PROGRAM COORDINATOR'S REPORT

The Coordinator was able to participate in the final stages of the development of the Regional Growth Strategy, including the inclusion of environmental indicators. The strategy will be a useful contribution to developing a sustainable community approach to human settlement. The SOSCP also undertook a needs assessment to explore the concept of a Sustainability Institute or Network in the South Okanagan Similkameen and how it might be structured. There is consensus for the need to pursue a concentrated sustainability initiative that includes a number of broader issues for the South Okanagan-Similkameen, is coordinated amongst a full spectrum of partners, links to basin-wide efforts, and draws on the experience and lessons of other successful models.

Work with local government has been very successful this year, with the program coordinator and partners being able to develop closer relationships and support initiatives related to land use planning in a number of communities and rural areas. The ability to provide greater technical support and capacity to local government has been welcomed and appreciated.

Although some partners are actively working with the Aboriginal Community, the SOSCP as a whole needs to increase its understanding of the community perspectives and where perhaps we can best work together on our shared interests for conservation. Jeannette Armstrong has taken time to work with the Program Coordinator to develop a framework to establish how SOSCP can get clarity and establish protocols for working with the TEK community and with Band Councils and associated organizations.

Specifically, this has been beneficial to understand the SOSCP TEK Team as a link to each community TEK Council, and to better understand the role of Traditional Ecological Knowledge or Syilx Ecological Science as it contributes to conservation and the land use planning community. Just as “science” in its Cartesian knowledge definition is applied to environmental research and management and forms the basis for projects and approaches within the program, the aim is for TEK to be on an equal footing from an “in-situ” methodological standpoint. This includes monitoring, surveys, provision of advice and information on management and biodiversity conservation. Examples of this are already taking place, but a formal framework and recognition needs to be developed to increase the recognition, integration and utility of TEK towards the SOSCP conservation strategy.



“Reconnect” Project

Evaluating Our Efforts

Evaluating our activities and outcomes helps us to determine where there needs to be increased support for conservation objectives, where and how we are being most effective, and where the strategies need to be refined or improved. A conservation assessment undertaken by members of our science team indicates that the SOSCP has achieved significant gains with over 70,000 hectares of lands in conservation or in some form of stewardship. We have surpassed habitat targets for many lower priority habitat types, but are more than half-way to reaching these objectives with approximately 13,000 hectares left to conserve or steward. These outstanding objectives will be the most difficult as land prices soar and development pressures increase. Updated mapping indicates that for some habitat types, we have lost 70-97% of what was here historically and the recent rates of loss have increased rapidly.

Important for the coming year is to continue to work with First Nations; assist and engage local governments with developing conservation strategies and mechanisms through zoning and other land use designations; engage the Agricultural Land Commission and other Ministries on shared objectives; continue to explore benefits and incentives for current and future private land stewards; restore disturbed lands; and engage private industry in our efforts for sustainable land use planning.

The need for swift, well funded actions are required across all land tenures if we are to achieve our conservation goals. I am most happy to coordinate these efforts and continue to work alongside the excellent, dedicated individuals and organizations involved in the SOSCP.

Bryn White
Program Coordinator

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SOSCP BACKGROUND



Kevin Dunn

Riparian

A combination of geography, geology and climate has combined to make the South Okanagan and Similkameen valleys a unique part of Canada. From the dry desert-like bench lands, shady cottonwood riparian woodlands along the rivers and tributaries, to upland forests and rocky terrains, the region has a rich variety of habitat types. Due to habitat diversity and the fact that these ecosystems are in such close proximity, the region supports one of the highest ratings for biodiversity in the country. Some of these species are found nowhere else in Canada or the world. For this reason, the South Okanagan Similkameen is known as Canada's "hotspot" for species richness and rarity.

Animals such as the American Badger, Burrowing Owl and Tiger Salamander are among 58 COSEWIC-listed species at risk (Federal) and **approximately 350** animals, plants, ecological communities on the British Columbia

Conservation Data Centre red and blue lists. Due to increasing human pressures within this small geographic area some species are facing local extirpation, while others have already disappeared from the region. The goal of concerned citizens throughout Canada is to ensure that the wildlife diversity of the South Okanagan Similkameen is conserved for future generations.

The Okanagan-Similkameen corridor is also integral to maintaining the biological diversity and ecological adaptation of natural environments in British Columbia. The corridor provides a vital link for plants and animals between the interior grasslands of British Columbia and the Great Basin and dry interior desert ecosystems to the south.

Program History

The South Okanagan Similkameen is a focal area for cooperative efforts to conserve biodiversity. The South Okanagan Similkameen Conservation Program (SOSCP) represents a unique effort of cooperation of local, regional, provincial and national and international organizations towards conservation of the wildlife and habitats of the South Okanagan Similkameen.

The formation of the SOSCP follows a long history of dedicated conservation activity in the region. Habitat conservation for wildlife began in the 1960's, with the securement of important wildlife lands and the later formation of provincial parks and ecological reserves. The movement towards ecological sustainability continued as many local groups formed, specializing in various aspects of conservation.

On July 2, 2000, 19 government and non-government organizations formed SOSCP when they signed a Statement of Cooperation which outlined principles for partnering together in a mutual effort of cooperation. In 7 years the program has grown to include 41 Partner organizations. By working together, sharing information and resources, the Partners believe they can achieve more than they could alone. This type of partnership between Government and non-government organizations is setting a model for conservations in other areas.

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SOSCP BACKGROUND

The purpose of the SOSCP is to coordinate conservation efforts to maintain the rich biodiversity of the area, including species at risk, and a viable ecological corridor between the deserts of the south and the grasslands to the north.

The Partners developed a 20 year strategic plan with a vision for SOSCP. The vision is: “A healthy environment that sustains the diversity of indigenous plants and animals while “enriching peoples lives”. This vision reflects the desire for both environmental and economic sustainability.

In order to achieve the objectives of the program, specific goals were established for conservation of the five broad habitat types that occur in the area: riparian-wetlands; grassland/shrub-steppe; rocky terrain; coniferous forests; and lakes/rivers and streams. The specific habitat goals were established in the SOSCP Prospectus report. A strategic plan was developed to guide strategies and work plans to achieve the habitat conservation goals.

The SOSCP program has six strategies, each with a team of Partners to develop and implement the work plans.

SOSCP Teams:

Science

Applying scientific knowledge

Outreach

Involving the community in conservation

Stewardship

Voluntary caring for the land

Traditional Ecological Knowledge

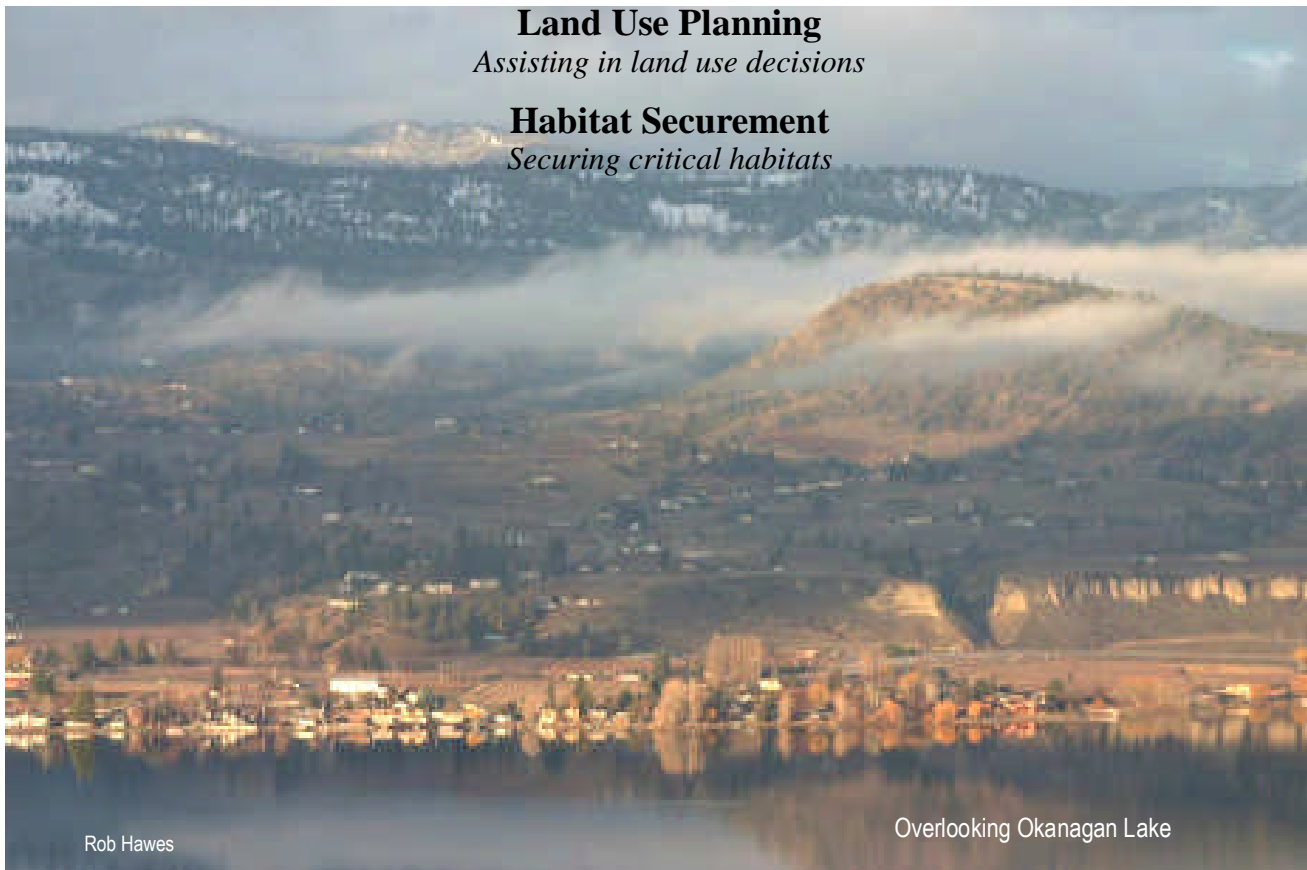
Applying first nations' knowledge and ecological heritage

Land Use Planning

Assisting in land use decisions

Habitat Securement

Securing critical habitats



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SOSCP BACKGROUND



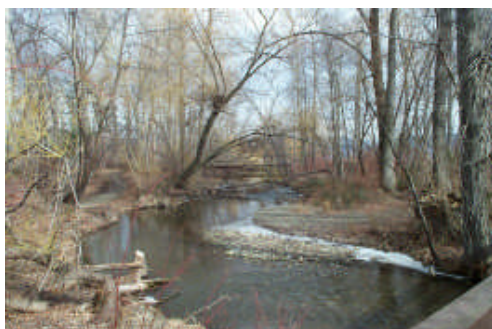
Grassland & Shrub-Steppe



Wetland Riparia
Turtles Wetland



Rugged Terrain
Skaha Bluffs



Rivers & Streams

Focus On Habitat

Many SOSCP efforts focus on habitats that are important to a variety of species at risk and associated wildlife. There are five main habitat types in the South Okanagan Similkameen that are of special importance to species at risk. Together these five habitat types, often occurring in close proximity in the narrow valleys, leads to the richness of the species which occur in the area.

Grassland and Shrub-Steppe

Home too many rare and endangered species, including Badgers, Sage Thrashers and the rare Behr's Hairstreak Butterfly, these habitats are extremely sensitive. Being an extension of the American deserts to the south, these grasslands are corridors for the migration of desert-adapted wildlife. With sandy soils and dry climate, these habitats are prone to damaged and the healing process is slow. Losses of the historic range of some of these habitats are over 70%. Conservation goals are to maintain corridor connectivity and to increase awareness and smart practices in these areas.

Wetland and Riparian

This moist habitat is the most biologically productive. Providing shelter and food for animals such as the Western Screech Owl, the Yellow Breasted Chat and the Great Basin Spadefoot, wetland/riparian areas are the most imperiled in the South Okanagan Similkameen. Approximately 85% of the historical riparian habitats in this region have been lost and less than 15 % of our natural wetlands remain.

Coniferous Forests

Defined by large and stately conifers such as Ponderosa Pine, Douglas Fir and Western Larch, these forests have often evolved with and been maintained by fire. Veteran trees provide habitat for White Headed Woodpeckers and a variety of other cavity-nesting animals. Habitat restoration in these areas often entails forest thinning and prescribed fire.

Rugged Terrain

Rock outcrops, cliffs and jumbled talus slopes provide shade and shelter for many plants and animals. Snake dens, bat roosts, bird nests and Bighorn Sheep lambing areas are frequently located in these rocky habitats.

Lakes, Rivers and Streams

Lakes, rivers, and streams are ecosystems that contain many diverse plant and animal species necessary both economically, and to sustain healthy freshwater systems. Impacts such as land development, water withdrawals, dams for flood control, channel straightening and dyking, and removal of streamside vegetation within the Okanagan Basin have negatively affected fish production and have significantly altered the amount of quality habitat for fish and other species historically found in these ecosystems.

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2006-2007 AWARD RECIPIENTS



DICK CANNINGS

Dick is a consulting biologist, accomplished author and avid birder. He serves as Chair of the Birds Sub-Committees for COSEWIC and has written many of the current recovery strategies and status reports. He continues to provide advice on species at risk listings and recovery. Dick is a long-standing resident and both he and his family have had a special connection with the Okanagan. He was one of the founding members of OSCA and continues to be a stalwart supporter of the Meadowlark Festival, spotlight on species events and monitoring projects such as the bird banding station at Vaseux Lake. Dick also contributed to much of the groundwork for the SOSCP as laid out in the South Okanagan Conservation Strategy and the Habitat Atlas. The SOSCP is appreciative of Dick's ready willingness to promote and publicize conservation efforts in the South Okanagan Similkameen.



GEOFF SCUDDER

Dr. Scudder is a renowned entomologist, served as head of the University of British Columbia's Department of Zoology for 15 years, was president of the Entomological Society of Canada and the Canadian Society of Zoologists. Geoff's commitment and drive has been incredibly influential to many in the conservation community and he has played a key role in the acquisition of a number of conservation properties in the South Okanagan. Through his retirement, Geoff continues to provide vision and supply scientific information and advice to public conservation groups and government. He was a founding member of the Osoyoos Desert Society and served as a director of The Nature Trust. He is also a member of the BC Conservation Lands Forum- Conservation Planning Tools Committee. Geoff's meaningful contributions and influence have been recognized in the naming of the Geoff Scudder South Okanagan Grasslands Research Field Station at the TNT Vaseux Lake habitat securement property.

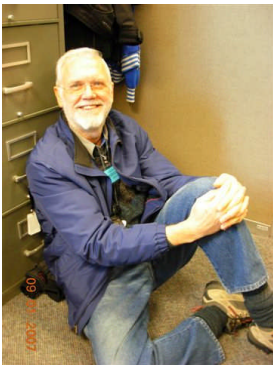


EVA DURANCE

Eva is a long time member of the local and BC Naturalists associations and is a dedicated volunteer. Her volunteer work over the years includes acting warden of the Mahoney Lake Ecological Reserve, leader of Meadowlark outings, volunteer contributor to the conservation and maintenance of the Max Lake wetlands near Penticton and monitor of local bird populations through Bird counts and surveys. She is a tireless advocate of native plants and xeriscaping through talks at Seedy Saturdays, newspaper columns, Meadowlark tours, continuing education courses at Okanagan College and through her own private landscape design company. She served on the Heritage Rivers Board, assisted CWS with wetland restoration at the north end of Vaseux Lake and provides interpretive guided walks at Cathedral Lakes Provincial Park. Eva never hesitates to give her entire support in efforts to conserve or restore special areas and is respected for her knowledge and passion for the environment.

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2006-2007 AWARD RECIPIENTS



BOB LINCOLN

Bob is the former Wildlife Section Head at the Ministry of Environment. He was a founding member of the South Okanagan Critical Areas Program (SOCAP) Steering Committee and the South Okanagan Conservation Strategy (SOCS), which were the precursors to the current South Okanagan Similkameen Conservation Program. Bob was instrumental in the creation of both of these important initiatives and has been a stalwart supporter of the SOSCP. Bob continues his commitment to volunteering for conservation causes and promoting the value of our diverse area through advocating for protected areas, talks, tours and photography.



PAM KRANNITZ

Dr. Pam Krannitz is a Senior Research Biologist with the Canadian Wildlife Service. She holds a PhD from Queens University and her research interests are varied. As a dedicated member of the Science Team, Pam has written the recovery strategies for both the White-headed Woodpecker and Sage Thrasher as well as conducted other long-term demographic research on sage brush grassland birds. She has coordinated the research on antelope- brush ecosystems including the plants, insects, birds, small mammals and grazing impacts, a very large and important undertaking. In addition, she has researched the responses of vegetation to fire and is a member of the rare plants resource action group.



TED LEA

Ted is a Vegetation Ecologist with the Ecosystems Branch of the BC Ministry of Environment. His main work involves recovery planning for plant species at risk and currently sits as Chair of the Southern Interior Plants at Risk Recovery Group. He has been involved in terrestrial eco-system mapping in the province for over 30 years and is renowned for the kinds of mapping and analysis that are extremely helpful for establishing the status of landscapes and ecosystems in British Columbia. Ted's efforts and contributions have been instrumental in many ways to the SOSCP both technically and organizationally. He has also been extremely helpful with securing funding options for our program.

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2006-2007 AWARD RECIPIENTS



CHRISTINE BISHOP

Christine Bishop is a Research Scientist with Environment Canada, and adjunct professor with University of British Columbia, and University of Guelph. The focus of her research is the cumulative impacts of anthropogenic stressors on reptiles, amphibians and birds. Her current research efforts involve the population biology of the yellow-breasted chat (endangered; COSEWIC) in the south Okanagan valley; the population biology of the Oregon Spotted frog (endangered; COSEWIC) and the management of western rattlesnake (endangered; COSEWIC) populations. Christine has worked with many First Nations communities and has broadened her research to include the application of TEK to recovery efforts. She is also a strong advocate for community outreach and environmental education.



CHRIS BULL

Chris Bull is currently a consulting biologist with a long distinguished career in Provincial Fisheries Program including former Fisheries Section Head with the BC Ministry of Environment. Chris was highly respected during his tenure with government and was known as an excellent supervisor to all the staff who worked for him over the years. Bull's fisheries expertise, project management and partnership-building skills are highly sought after through his local consulting company and he is a key player in the success of the Okanagan River Restoration Initiative as Project Coordinator. His contributions to the river project planning, design, outreach, and funding securement have been a significant reason for its early and continued success.

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TRADITIONAL ECOLOGICAL KNOWLEDGE

The goal of the TEK team is to develop an integrated approach in utilizing Traditional Ecological Knowledge to foster and enhance the habitat recovery strategy of SOSCP. TEK Team members include: Chair-Jeannette Armstrong; Outreach-Judy Brock; Science-Orville Dyer; The Land Conservancy-Alyson Skinner ; Land Use Planning-Robert Hawes; The Nature Trust-Carl MacNaughton; Traditional Knowledge Keepers-Richard Armstrong/Penticton, Ron Hall/Nk'mip and Lillian Gottfriedson/Similkameen.



Patsy Kruger

TEK: En'owkin

A key objective of the TEK team of the SOSCP is to develop a strategic conservation support system which incorporates Traditional Ecological Knowledge in a meaningful and respectful way into the conservation work of the members of SOSCP. The TEK Team of SOSCP relies on the advice and input from South Okanagan/Similkameen TEK Advisory Committee (SOS TEK) members which is made up of band members, who are knowledgeable about the environment as active harvesters and hunters on all parts of the Okanagan Territory, off reserve.

The TEK Team members of SOSCP strategize to include TEK in the work involved in protection, stewardship, recovery, restoration, or land use planning by environmental agencies and organizations.

TEK members provided advice in planning OSCA Meadowlark Festival and engaged in a variety of Outreach activities designed to provide the public with a TEK view on conservation work within the SOSCP strategy area. The TEK input was to explain TEK values, significance of species needs to a variety of environmental groups and programs. This is also being done through variety of direct inputs in projects such as the "Reconnecting Green Spaces Project" in partnership with O.S.C.A. which brings Aboriginal students together with non-Aboriginal students together. This project focuses on planting Indigenous TEK values plants intended on increasing habitat for SAR. Plants such as sage, antelope brush, rabbit brush, water birch, willow,

Saskatoon berry, elderberry, Oregon grapes and black cottonwood are planted into selected sites to increase habitat for SAR. The activity sites include: Osoyoos Golf and Country Club, Shuttleworth Creek near OK Falls, Kobau Community Park near Cawston and the Locatee Lands. The goal of this project is to engage Band schools and TEK advisors in monitoring and survey projects, for a variety of species as a part of spotlight on species project also. Children in grades 4-6 from Outma Sqilxw School engaged in Indigenous seed collection, propagation and planting methods.

The TEK coordinator and TEK biologist engaged a variety of mini projects utilizing TEK to identify, monitor and observe SAR i.e. Gopher Snake, Spade-Foot Toad, Burrowing Owl, Tiger Salamander, Badger, Western Screech Owl, Yellow Breasted Chat to TLC, TNT and their biologists in their stewardship and conservation



Patsy Kruger

TEK: En'owkin

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TRADITIONAL ECOLOGICAL KNOWLEDGE



TEK: En'owkin

TEK methods for Noxious weed eradication using the Locatee Lands project as a model for Burdock, English Ivy, Russian Olive, Orange Berry Mountain Ash, Knapweed, Yellow Toadflax eradication methods was also documented for other organizations to utilize as a model.

SOS TEK Committees continued to be actively involved in the White Lake Steering Committee, Kennedy Property Steering Committee and the Vaseux Bighorn NWA Management team, as well as the Okanagan Nation Alliance Natural Resources Committee.

The En'owkin Centre hosts TEK capacity building within the South Okanagan/Similkameen as an outcome of its mandate to perpetuate and recover Okanagan cultural practices. The SOS TEK committees also provides advice to the South Okanagan/Similkameen bands and the Okanagan Nation Alliance in any capacity they require for referrals and assessments on proposed development; Mapping traditional use areas; development of TEK Management Plans and the provision of TEK Terms of Reference, as an active component of the South Okanagan Similkameen Syilx Environmental Committee (SOSSEC).

Currently Lillian Gottfriedson is engaged as the TEK technician/coordinator assisting in the coordination of the meetings of the TEK advisory councils in liaison with the Band Council and community members and Richard Armstrong provides TEK biologist advice.

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STEWARDSHIP

The SOSCP Stewardship Team works in partnership with landowners, land managers, and interested community groups to promote and enhance the stewardship of land and water habitats, with emphasis on those habitats needed by species at risk. This is done by providing them with information, advice, technical support, moral support, and by helping them access resources to complete stewardship projects. The promotion of habitat protection measures such as conservation covenants, stewardship agreements, land donations, and acquisitions, along with habitat improvement projects, remains a focus of our stewardship work.

Through careful planning and cooperation, members of the SOSCP Stewardship Team are working strategically to deliver stewardship through a variety of methods and approaches. These include, but are not limited to, direct one-on-one landowner contact, community stewardship initiatives, habitat improvement projects, land management workshops, working with interested landowners on stewardship agreements, with the goal of protecting properties through conservation covenants, land acquisitions, and donations. All landowners who work with members of the Stewardship Team do this on a volunteer basis.

In 2006-2007, a number of SOSCP partners were actively engaged in the delivery of stewardship and related projects. These partners include: TLC The Land Conservancy of BC (Chair of the SOSCP Stewardship Team), The Nature Trust of BC, the SOS Stewardship Program, Ducks Unlimited Canada, Federation of BC Nature, and the South Okanagan-Similkameen Invasive Plant Society.

Bio Release



Lisa Scott

Targeted one-on-one landowner contact is the front line for stewardship delivery, and is a tool used in supporting landowners who are interested in responsible habitat stewardship. These projects are targeted, based on priority habitat mapping and known species at risk locations. Landowner contact projects work with and advise landowners about important habitat on their properties, encouraging them to take on habitat improvement projects and to work towards further protection of these special places. The following landowner contact projects are working with landowners to help support the stewardship of key habitats and the recovery of species at risk:

Riparian Rewards - continuing project targeting owners of key riparian habitats, particularly those supporting or with highly suitable habitat for Western Screech Owl and Yellow-breasted Chats.

Grasslands/Action for Antelope Brush continuing project targeting owners with antelope-brush habitat on their properties, as well as a focus on landowners with large open grasslands.

Coniferous Forests continuing project targeting owners of Ponderosa Pine habitat suitable for White-headed Woodpeckers that currently has over 50 landowners participating. In 2006-2007, landowners were encouraged to also report sightings of Lewis' Woodpecker and Williamson's Sapsucker.

SOSCP

STEWARDSHIP

Stewardship for California Bighorn Sheep continuing project targeting the owners of key large properties with important habitat for California Bighorn Sheep and associated species at risk (such as snakes and bats). In 2006-2007 a focus of the project was raising awareness of the California Bighorn Sheep transfer project. This project is working to facilitate habitat protection and where conservation is not possible, promote habitat sensitive development options.

Conservation Partners Program continuing project designed to recognize agricultural landowners who have protected over 225 hectares of habitat; landowners use the Conservation Partners label as a marketing tool. Each Conservation Partner has signed an agreement, promising to conserve specified features on their properties.

Riparian Fencing Project - The Riparian Rehabilitation project was initiated seven years ago to conserve and recover important riparian ecosystems for Species at Risk in the South Okanagan - Lower Similkameen. Riparian ecosystems are severely threatened in this area with only 10% of it remaining.

Delivery of the Riparian Rehabilitation project is provided by The Nature Trust of BC. The primary funder for this project is the Habitat Stewardship Program with additional support from TNT, other conservation organizations, various levels of government agencies including First Nations, and local landowners participating in the projects. Each year 20 to 30 hectares are targeted for rehabilitation. One of the most common means to protect riparian habitats is through fencing, although other strategies are often used as well.

TLC recently participated in a large project that involved the creation of riparian pastures that could be carefully grazed through rotation. Part of this particular project was installing a water development that would draw the livestock away from the creek. Although not unique, this is one of the most innovative livestock management projects in the interior of the province. The Endangered Yellow-breasted Chat and Western Screech-owl have

already made use of this site.

Wildlife Tree Stewardship Program - WiTS is a voluntary program to identify and monitor the nesting activity of selected bird species in wildlife trees. The program was first established on Vancouver Island through the Federation of BC Naturalists. In 2006, WiTS expanded to the OkanaganSimilkameen (OS) region and was modified to accommodate the regional differences in priority species and habitats. WiTS-OS focuses on five bird species at risk, including three primary cavity nesters: Lewis's Woodpecker, Williamson's Sapsucker and White-headed Woodpecker; and two secondary cavity nesters: Western Screech-owl and Flammulated Owl. The 2006-07 fiscal year was a planning and preparatory year for WiTS-OS. Key activities completed included: production of a brochure and a portable table-top display; development of five fact sheets,



Lisa Scott

Weed Field Day

SOSCP

STEWARDSHIP

Invasive Plant Management & Coordination Key objectives of the invasive plant program were to continue to ensure effective delivery of operational control programs and encourage implementation of prevention strategies by all stakeholders. Program emphasis this year was on the Coordinated Puncturevine Project, the international Cross Borders Project, and conducting bio-agent releases for hound's-tongue, purple loosestrife, spotted and diffuse knapweed. As part of general education and awareness activities, the portable display board and extension materials were set up at various community events throughout the year. Community presentations, school “bully plant” presentations, press releases and a field day helped to raise awareness of the detrimental impacts of invasive plants on humans, wildlife, livestock and natural ecosystems and to increase the level of understanding of how humans contribute to the spread and establishment of weeds. Landowners were also provided with direct assistance with invasive plant identification and technical advice on control options.

Puddles for Peepers - South Okanagan landowners with wetland habitat were contacted to discuss habitat importance, function, sensitivity, and retention. Stewardship activities were encouraged in partnership with TLC SOS Stewardship Program, Peepers Project, and the long-term Amphibian Monitoring Project. Monitoring findings from the previous year, permission to access for monitoring in the current year, and habitat enhancement opportunities were discussed. Thirty-nine of the 51 landowners participated in amphibian surveys to determine species diversity, relative abundance and breeding success. Six landowners participated in restoration activities, and eight additional landowners were approached for restoration activities in the upcoming year.

Community Stewardship In some cases, the most effective way to attain conservation goals may be to work with a group of landowners through a community based stewardship project, where local landowners guide and direct stewardship activities in their neighbourhoods. The purpose of these community stewardship initiatives is to help communities take ownership of habitat and species conservation in their backyards. In 2006-2007, nine Community Stewardship Events were held and attended by approximately 350 participants.

Max Lake Planting Crew
restoring habitat



Alyson Skinner

SOSCP

SCIENCE

The SOSCP Science Team is exploring some new directions for integrating science into the Program. After careful consideration and discussion, the Science Team will be organizing itself into more of a "Science Network" with members participating in areas of interest that include: an annual science symposium, a science communications network, species and habitats at risk recovery planning, and species/ecosystems research, and other involvement as the need arises. The Science Network will continue to be committed to providing scientific information for planning, priority setting, implementing conservation actions, and assisting with evaluation. The major difference is that guidance will be offered by individual network members as appropriate with respect to the expertise and time availability of people within the network, rather than coordinated through a specific "Team" of people. The Program Coordinator Bryn White is a good contact for SOSCP members with ideas or requests for scientific information.

During the last year, members of the Science Team / Network have been active in a variety of ways:

The First Annual South Okanagan Similkameen Environmental Issues, Research and Education Forum was held in Naramata April 16/17th, 2007. This forum was the first of a possible annual or biannual event that will both provide better understanding of environmental issues and solutions, and bring environmental practitioners together for discussion, debate and cooperation.

Two new Graduate Programs are now available at UBC Okanagan, the Biology Graduate Program and the Environmental Sciences Graduate Program. Both programs offer thesis-based MSc and PhD degrees (see web.ubc.ca/okanagan/biophgeo/graduate.html and web.ubc.ca/okanagan/gradstudies/advising/envscience.html, respectively). Several of the new graduate students have research projects that will be conducted in the Okanagan. Research connections between government, academia and conservation practitioners continue through the UBC Okanagan Species at Risk and Habitat Studies Centre (SARAHS: web.ubc.ca/okanagan/ikbarberschool/research/sarabs.html)

Some on-going research projects at UBC Okanagan include work by Dr. Emily Herdman on Nuttall's cottontails, a species of special concern, with data being collected on their distribution, abundance, habitat use, and movements. Katy White, a MSc student, is currently writing up her thesis on Great Basin gophersnakes, a Threatened species; she is comparing movements and habitat use between several sites near Vaseux Lake and the Vernon Army Camp. Both Emily and Katy are working with Dr. Karen Hodges. Dr. Sylvie Desjardins is continuing her work on invertebrates at risk both in the Okanagan and Similkameen Valleys.



Science Team, UBCO

SOSCP

SCIENCE



Science Team, UBCO

Okanagan College (OC) has continued to lead a partnership initiative for South Okanagan Species at Risk Recovery Planning. The BC Ministry of Environment, Canadian Wildlife Service and Okanagan College support a full time coordinator position to assist with recovery and action planning for 58 COSEWIC species at risk that occur throughout the Southern Interior. The role of that position is to support the lead agencies responsible for recovery planning, and integrate recovery requirements into the activities of the SOSCP Teams and other organizations or initiatives with shared biodiversity conservation objectives. OC has also been actively hosting a “Speaker's Series” highlighting environmental, sustainability and science topics of academic and public interest. Dr. Howard Richardson of the Biology Department is exploring the application of the RAMAS GIS software program for species recovery planning, particularly the Behr's Hairstreak butterfly, designated as Threatened. The software is designed to predict the probable fate of populations and gives, overall and for each sub-population, average and upper and lower limits to population size. It can show which populations or habitat patches are most vulnerable and which most durable.

The Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) continued to conduct active habitat and species research on the ground in the South Okanagan including amphibian toxicology and impacts due to invasive species, Brewer's sparrow and sage thrasher breeding biology, land use and climate impact studies, as well as habitat research for Williamson's sapsucker and Lewis' woodpecker in concert with Partners in Flight. Nk'Mip Desert Cultural Centre continued to advance research in partnership with CWS on rattlesnakes using telemetry and management solutions for snakes in settings where there is agricultural and urban development.

Cottontail Rabbit



The BC Ministry of Environment (MoE) conducted inventory for species at risk on crown lands through the BC Conservation Corps Program, developed an assessment for fire risk/prescribed burn priorities and has established a draft standard for “stocking/and restoring” frequent fire interval ecosystems. Further, BC Ministry of Environment vegetation ecologist, Ted Lea has continued to update and broaden the historical biophysical mapping for the South Okanagan to include the Okanagan Basin. This information has been invaluable to communicate the scale and location of habitat loss and identify important priorities for remaining or restorable habitat from a landscape perspective. Under the SOSCP Science Team, MoE biologist Orville Dyer and other SOSCP Team contributors have used the historic mapping products to initiate a conservation assessment for the SOSCP.

SOSCP

OUTREACH



Eco-Management Event

The goal of the SOSCP Outreach Team is to foster increased conservation awareness within the communities of the South Okanagan-Similkameen region. The SOSCP Outreach Team is led by the Okanagan-Similkameen Conservation Alliance (OSCA) in partnership with many other members of the SOSCP. This past year has seen many initiatives, activities and events designed to encourage residents and visitors to become more involved and committed to conserving the South Okanagan-Similkameen's fragile ecosystems. The following summarizes the Outreach Team's activities and events over the past year:

Eco-management Workshops

This is the fourth year that *Eco-management Workshops* engaged target industry and community planning audiences to encourage the adoption of land use practices to protect species and habitats at risk. Work included agricultural and wine industry workshops in Oliver and Cawston where OSCA partnered with The Land Conservancy and staff from Pacific Agri-foods Research Centre. Focus groups and workplace interviews with three utility companies and three municipal public works departments gathered information on the awareness of best-management practices for species at risk and barriers to adopting these practices. Lastly a workshop and interviews with rural area Advisory Planning Committee members focused on assistance in evaluating species and habitat information in development proposals on sensitive lands.

Agriculture Environment Partnership Initiative

AEPI supported OSCA in managing the program: *Snake Management and Awareness in Agricultural Settings*. It was the third year for the program conducting workshops for vineyard managers and crews in the South Okanagan. Twelve farm properties were involved in Oliver, Okanagan Falls and Naramata. Fourteen individuals working at these properties were trained as snake response individuals. As well, two additional people were trained to respond to rattlesnake emergency situations on agricultural lands.

Snake Smart posters and identification cards were reprinted and distributed, and produced for the first time in French and Spanish. This will result in improved communication with French-Canadian and Mexican farm-workers. This material was also made available to Okanagan College Viticulture Program. The program was promoted through newspaper feature articles as well as a display at the BC Wine Institute Convention in Penticton.

EcoStudies

The EcoStudies programs have been designed to tie into the Integrated Resource Packages, or curriculum guidelines for teachers, that are set forth by the BC Ministry of Education. We continue to use these packages to develop and facilitate programming that offers environmental education of our local species & spaces while meeting curriculum mandates. We introduced a number of new programs this year such as, *Rivers Deep and Mountains High*, *Waterworld*, *Drumming the Land*, *Trees: Keep Your Wits about You*, *Raptor Rap*, *Go Batty!* and *Spring Has Sprung*. During the fall and winter of 2006/07, 34 "in class" ECOstudies Programs were delivered. The EcoStudies educators include Jim Shaver, Sherri Klein, Laure Neish, Shauna Sprules, Thomas Tumbach, Richard Armstrong, Janelle Parchomchuk, Kevin Dunn, Jacquie Likins, Lisa Scott, Beth Cavers, Tanya Luszcz and Brianne Rand.



Children Planting, "Reconnect" at the Locatee Lands

SOSCP

OUTREACH



Kenn Oldfield from Tinhorn Creek Winery in Oliver discusses his snake fence with participants at March 19th Eco-Management Workshop, "Farms and Vineyards: a natural partnership".

Our *Reconnect Project* has also been popular. This project is a partnership between OSCA and the En'owkin Center. In the fall, students visited one of four restoration sites throughout the Okanagan Similkameen. Here they learned about habitat & species and "reconnected spaces" via native plant restoration. They also learned about cultural reconnection as the program offered a Traditional Ecological Knowledge and Western science point of view.

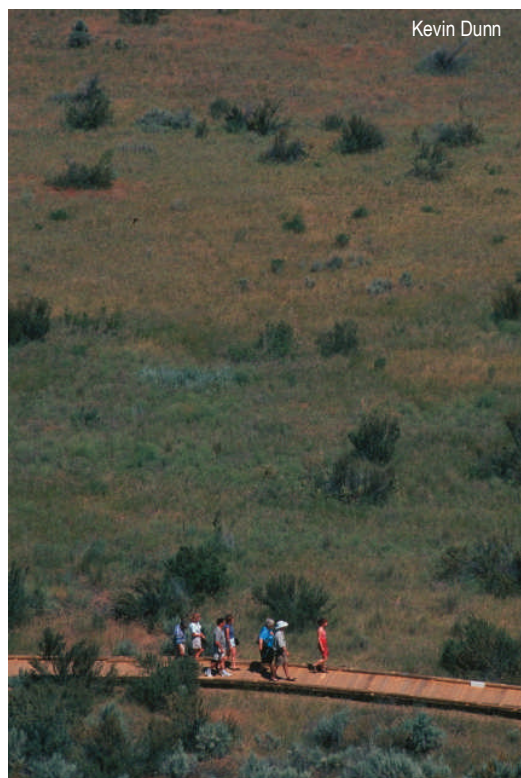
In addition, OSCA has partnered with the SOS Bear Smart Project and delivered programs to classes throughout the South Okanagan Similkameen. We also offered *Project Webfoot* programs at Vaseux Lake to students from grades 3 to 5. This wetland habitat program is delivered and administered through OSCA and funded by Ducks Unlimited. Also, the classes that participated in the fall Reconnect Project returned to their sites to conduct spring monitoring sessions.

Current program development includes applying for funding to various organizations including TD Friends of the Environment, BCIT, BC Lottery Corp. We have reapplied for funding for the *Reconnect Project* as well. EcoStudies maintains ongoing partnerships with the RDOS, Ducks Unlimited and the En'owkin Center. New partnerships were formed with the Penticton Museum and Archives, SOS Bear Smart Project and WiTS. EcoStudies received many accolades over the school year from teachers, students, BC Ministry of Education and BC Ministry of Recreation.

Meadowlark Festival 2006

The 9th annual festival was celebrated from May 18th to May 22nd, 2006. A total of 79 field events were hosted throughout the South Okanagan Similkameen offering a variety of different topics ranging from birds to geology to grassland plants to salamanders and from cultural history to rattlesnakes. The field trips were designed to promote the rare and diverse ecosystems of the Okanagan and Similkameen valleys. They included information on species, habitats, ecology, conservation and sustainability. All events continued to be popular with high percentages of participation. Some new events that were popular included "Walking Historical Trails" with Randy Manuel hosted at Nature Springs Mountain Retreat in Marron Valley, "Cottonwoods Birding Tour" with Richard Armstrong and Michael Bezener at the Locatee Lands and "Wings on their Fingers" with Tanya Luszcz at Vaseux Lake.

The festival artist and keynote speaker was Lex Hedley whose "Meadowlark Fledglings" artwork was a very nice addition to the brochure and merchandise. The Banquet was also a tribute to Harold Baumbrough to recognize his long standing achievement in environmental education. In addition, the festival offered many arts and cultural events such as "Nature In Music", "Avian Artistry Workshop", "Reading the Land" and the "Aboriginal Heritage Tour". The festival continues to highlight the work of the SOSCP partners, other conservation partners and many businesses and organizations throughout the valley.



Osoyoos Desert Tour

SOSCP

OUTREACH

Spotlight on Species

This program focused on a variety of wetland, grassland, rocky terrain and riparian habitats containing multiple species like the Tiger Salamander, Night Snake, Behr's Hairstreak Butterfly, Great Basin Spadefoot Toad, Yellow-breasted Chat, Pallid Bat, Badger, Burrowing Owl, Rattlesnake and Painted Turtle. Activities involved, creating displays at high traffic commercial outlets and presenting to targeted publics in critical occupational sectors and areas. These events focused communications on the role of healthy habitat management habitat for species at risk and included a golf course managers workshop, agriculture supply store booths & presentations, Environmental Awareness Day program on the Osoyoos Indian Reserve, Home Builders conventions and Adopt-a-trail Riparian event. A dedicated event was delivered for 80 people on the impact of Mountain Pine beetle and felling of old snag trees on White-headed woodpecker habitat. The grassland diorama at the Penticton Museum was also completed and has become a major educational component of the museum's natural history gallery.

Eco-Management Tour



SOSCP

LAND USE PLANNING

The Land Use Planning Team supports the goals of the SOSCP by providing tools and technical support to local governments in land use decision-making. The team members meet three to four times each year to share ideas, expertise, information, and to help ensure that there is no duplication of resources. The team includes participation by Ducks Unlimited Canada (who chair the LUPT), the Grasslands Conservation Council, the Canadian Wildlife Service, Ministry of Environment, Okanagan-Similkameen Conservation Alliance, SOS Stewardship Program, BC Ministry of Forests, the Okanagan Similkameen Parks Society, and a representative of the Community In Transition Program of the Real Estate Foundation.

The team was active over the year, both completing and initiating several new projects. Major work undertaken by the Ecological Land Use Team members during 2006-07 includes:

Planning for Change Workshops

The Grasslands Conservation Council implemented a series of workshops to work with local governments to prevent the fragmentation of priority grasslands. The workshops bring awareness of the ecological and economic importance of grasslands, and introduce elements of the Model Green Bylaws Toolkit to help develop better local government land use policies for grasslands and other important habitats.

Developing Conservation Policies for the Regional Growth Strategy (RGS)

Team members continued to participate on the environmental advisory committee for the Regional Growth Strategy development process. The members were actively supporting the process and have provided review comments on the draft regional growth strategy document.



Alan Patton explains
Land Use Issues

SOSCP

LAND USE PLANNING

Developing and Reviewing Model Green Bylaws

The Canadian Wildlife Service, the Grasslands Conservation Council, the Ministry of Environment and Ducks Unlimited Canada have participated on the development and review of the Model Green Bylaws Toolkit report being prepared for the Wetland Stewardship Partnership. A number of drafts have been reviewed and a technical workshop was held with users of the toolkit. The LUPT members are planning to support the implementation of the toolkit to support improved land use policies. Work will include making the information available to local decision makers in the SOSCP area, providing technical expertise as well as providing some selected training workshops over the next year.

Participating in Smart Growth on the Ground

Members of the Land Use Team continued to participate in the Greater Oliver Concept Plan process that was started in 2005, and was completed in 2006. The Ducks Unlimited Canada team representative participated in the four day charrette process with nearly two dozen citizens and resource specialists, providing information on environmental values for the Concept Plan. The Concept Plan provides a long term vision for the greater Oliver area for local governments to guide planning, development and design in order to meet community goals.

Coordinating a Selkirk College Field Trip

Ducks Unlimited Canada, through the Land Use Planning Team, coordinated a field trip for 11 second year Selkirk College students and two instructors studying land use issues in the Okanagan. Allan Patton, the RDOS Director for Area C, rural Oliver, hosted the group for several hours talking about modern agriculture techniques, environmental conservation initiatives and growth management issues. The group also had an opportunity to look at several wetland and grassland conservation initiatives being undertaken by the SOSCP Partners.



Selkirk College Class

SOSCP

HABITAT SECUREMENT



Sub-lot 18, Skaha Bluffs



Sub-lot 18 Aerial Photo

The purpose of the Habitat Securement Team is to work strategically and cooperatively to secure land and interests in land, to conserve natural habitats and priority ecosystems, as well as ensuring their appropriate management.

The Habitat Securement Team is comprised of a number of agencies and organizations involved in land securement, including Ducks Unlimited Canada, The Nature Trust of British Columbia, The Nature Conservancy of Canada, The Land Conservancy, Environment Canada, Ministry of Environment, and the Okanagan Region Wildlife Heritage Fund Society.

The Habitat Securement Team has been actively working to secure critical habitat in the South Okanagan - Similkameen. There are currently over 54,000 hectares of conservation land held by partners in the South Okanagan Similkameen Conservation Programs. There are, however, many critical habitats that still require protection. One of the challenges facing Team members is the escalating cost of land in this region, due to overwhelming development pressures.

The Okanagan River Restoration Initiative has been active over the past year. The Okanagan Region Wildlife Heritage Fund Society acquired a 1 hectare parcel of land, from the Sonnenberg family, at the confluence of Park Rill Creek and the Okanagan River. This adds to lands acquired in previous years for the project.

The Land Conservancy has secured an option to purchase the Sublot 18 property at Gillies Creek, on the east side of Skaha Lake. Over 300 hectares in size, this property lies adjacent to the Skaha Bluffs climbing area, and provides habitat for a number of wildlife species and species at risk, including California Bighorn Sheep.

Habitat Securement Team member agencies are working on a number of securement projects involving key habitat in the South Okanagan Similkameen. These projects involve acquisition through purchase or donation and conservation covenants.



Sub-lot 18 Grassland

In addition to these initiatives, The Nature Conservancy of Canada and their partners completed the Okanagan Ecoregional Assessment, a cross border project wherein high priority biodiversity sites were identified, in January 2007. The Assessment was given widespread distribution to federal, provincial and local government agencies, First Nations, conservation organisations, groups and individuals so that they might use the results in their decision-making. NCC used the results of the assessment to determine two focal areas for our conservation work on the ground. One of these focal areas is the South Okanagan Similkameen. Work to develop funding sources from within the eco-region has commenced, and efforts to support others in using the Eco-regional Assessment are ongoing. NCC will become further involved in acquisition of priority habitats in partnership with SOSCP members in 2008.

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BC Conservation Foundation
 BC Lake Stewardship Society
 BC Ministry of Agriculture & Lands
 BC Ministry of Environment
 BC Ministry of Forests & Range
 BC Wildlife Federation
 BC Wildlife Federation, Okanagan Region
 Burrowing Owl Conservation Society of BC
 Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society BC Chapter
 Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada
 Destination Osoyoos
 Ducks Unlimited Canada
 En'Owkin Centre
 Environment Canada Canadian Wildlife Service
 Federation of BC Naturalists, Thompson-Okanagan Region
 Forest Research Extension Partnership
 Grasslands Conservation Council of BC
 Habitat Conservation Trust Fund
 Okanagan Collaborative Conservation Program
 Okanagan College
 Okanagan Region Wildlife Heritage Fund Society
 Okanagan Similkameen Conservation Alliance
 Okanagan Similkameen Parks Society
 Osoyoos Desert Society
 Osoyoos Indian Band
 Osoyoos Lake Water Quality Society
 Osoyoos Oxbows Restoration Society
 Pacific Salmon Foundation
 Partners in Flight
 Penticton Museum and Archives
 Regional District of the Okanagan Similkameen
 Royal BC Museum
 Southern Interior Bluebird Trail Society
 South Okanagan Rehabilitation Centre for Owls
 The Land Conservancy (TLC) of BC
 The Land Trust Alliance of BC
 The Nature Conservancy Canada
 The Nature Conservancy, Washington State
 The Nature Trust of BC
 University of British Columbia, Faculty of Land and Food Systems
 University of British Columbia Okanagan

Please visit www.soscp.org for links and information



**South Okanagan
Similkameen**
CONSERVATION PROGRAM

PROGRAMME DE CONSERVATION
du Sud de l'Okanagan
Similkameen

Coordination is a key principle of the Program

If you, or your organization, would like to support the coordinating functions of the SOSCP, please contact us:



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Conserving Canada's Desert Country