Habitat Connectivity

Habitat Connectivity describes the degree to which different habitats (or ecosystem types) are connected at a landscape scale. The model was not specific to a particular species. The goal was to identify portions of the landscape offering a higher opportunity for wildlife movement at a regional scale.

Following parameters were used to model connectivity corridors:

- Elevation – Lower elevations (i.e., the valley) receive higher scores.
- Terrain ruggedness – Terrain with less variability receive higher scores.
- Urban areas – Urban areas and roads (areas with a maximum conservation ranking of 3) were excluded from the analysis as they were considered unsuitable for wildlife movement.
- Human developments – Developed areas and roads (areas with a maximum conservation ranking of 2) were excluded from the analysis as they were considered unsuitable for wildlife movement.
- Water bodies – Water bodies and wetlands (areas with a maximum conservation ranking of 3) were excluded from the analysis as they were considered unsuitable for wildlife movement.
- Permanent streams – Streams with a high conservation score were included in the analysis as they were considered suitable for wildlife movement.
- Seasonal wetlands – Seasonal wetlands were included in the analysis as they were considered suitable for wildlife movement.

The model was run at a 30-meter grid cell resolution. The output is a connectivity score for each grid cell, ranging from 0 to 100, with higher scores indicating greater connectivity.

The map shows the habitat connectivity scores across the South Okanagan-Similkameen region. The legend on the right side of the map explains the symbols and colors used to represent different types of connectivity and habitat characteristics.