

Land Use Biologist

(Contract, Full-Time)

The South Okanagan Similkameen region covers an area over 10,000 km² and is renowned for its unique landscapes and biodiversity, including a significant concentration of ecosystems and species that are rare, and at risk in Canada.

The South Okanagan Similkameen Conservation Program (SOSCP) is seeking a dynamic and skilled professional to help local government partners advance their ecological goals and encourage biodiversity conservation practices in the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen.

Reporting to the South Okanagan-Similkameen Conservation Program (SOSCP) Manager, and working closely with senior municipal/regional planning staff, this unique advisory and technical contract position is responsible for environmental review, policy, and technical land use assistance, ensuring that plans, policies and projects reflect an integrated approach for biodiversity and improved environmental conservation practices on behalf of the municipalities/regional district.

This position involves a variety of planning and technical activities and/or projects including; developing and/or interpreting mapping, assisting with the development and implementation of environmental bylaws and other regulatory or policy processes, undertaking a biological review of development applications and environmental assessments, field work and high-level environmental assessments where required, assisting with strategic responses and approaches, implementation plans, policies and procedures relating to environmental issues, as well as technical, regulatory and administrative advice and assistance, as required.

The main objectives of this contracted position are:

- Assist SOSCP with the implementation of the Biodiversity Conservation Strategy including support to, and engagement of, key local government decision makers, stakeholder groups and public.
- Work with SOSCP local government partners to establish, improve or implement Environmentally Sensitive and Watercourse Development Permit Areas (ESDP and WDPs) and accompanying bylaw provisions, language, policies, guidelines, including Terms of Reference and/or Development Procedures bylaws.
- Recommend land use and environmental policy development for long range and special planning projects such as Official Community Plans, zoning bylaws, regional growth strategies, neighbourhood and sector plans.
- Review and evaluate development applications, environmental assessments and other referrals in accordance with bylaws, policies and regulations and provide ongoing monitoring for compliance.

- Provides environmental screening, field environmental assessments for small lots, and on-site monitoring of development permit provisions.
- Liaise with developers and public regarding the protection of environmentally sensitive areas and land use policy and direction.
- Develop reports on development applications and specific assignments.
- Advise staff and public of matters relating to land use and environmental conservation and integrity.
- Deliver outreach and extension to local government public works, parks and engineering departments to increase knowledge, awareness and skills related to planning and managing for ecological values including biological, technical and regulatory advice.
- Work with senior and local governments to enhance local park strategies, including stewardship agreements and management plans for parks, trails and right of ways to conserve ecological values.
- Assist SOSCP Program Manager with environmental advice, mapping and technical information where required.
- Assist the SOSCP Program Manager with the administration aspects of this contract including reporting and grant writing.

Qualifications:

- Post-Secondary degree in biological sciences (including terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems, conservation biology, fish and wildlife management and biodiversity) Natural Resources Management, Environmental Planning, or equivalent combination of education, experience and training.
- 3 to 5 years of increasingly responsible professional environmental management experience.
- Valid BC Driver's Licence – Class 5.
- Registered as Professional Biologist (RPBio) in B.C. with the College of Applied Biology, or eligible to become a Professional Biologist within 6 months.
- Experience in a professional biological capacity including: development or review of development proposals, subdivisions, development permits, and environmental assessments.
- Experience with geospatial analysis and environmental data using Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and thorough working knowledge of species and ecosystems databases.
- Thorough knowledge of South Okanagan Similkameen terrestrial and aquatic species and ecosystems.
- Detailed knowledge of municipal, provincial and federal environmental regulations, reporting requirements, standards and codes of practice.

- Thorough knowledge and understanding of the planning and land use legislation applicable to Municipal and other local governments in British Columbia.
- Strong interpersonal and communication skills with a commitment to teamwork and customer service.
- Strong presentation and public speaking abilities, with experience and/or training in facilitation methods.
- Ability to work with minimal supervision.
- Knowledge of MS Office and related software, general office equipment.
- Excellent written and oral communication skills
- Ability to analyze data, prepare written correspondence and reports, prepare and make presentations to staff, the public, and elected officials.

[Full contract description here.](#)

This is a full time contracted position to March 31, 2020; contract fees are commensurate with qualifications and experience.

Qualified applicants may submit a detailed resume, with cover letter, by Monday August 12th, 2019 at 4:00 p.m., to:

“SOSCP Land Use Biologist” C/O South Okanagan Similkameen Conservation Program (SOSCP) 102 Industrial Place, Penticton BC V2A 7C8, or E-mail (Word or PDF format only) bryn.white@gov.bc.ca