



Conserving Canada's Desert Country is Good for Nature, People, and Business

South Okanagan-Similkameen Conservation Program

Newsletter

February 2010

Advocating for Nature, at Home and Abroad

The importance of nature to human survival is hard to overstate. 40 per cent of the global economy is based on natural products and processes. Nature provides human communities with elements that are fundamental to our survival on earth. Clean and safe water, food, medicine, timber, fuel, and breathable air are just a few.



Human activities all over the world are causing the progressive loss of nature at a rate far higher than the natural rate of extinction.

To fight this continuous loss, world leaders at the 6th Convention on Biological Diversity, agreed to achieve a significant reduction of the current rate of biodiversity loss at the global, regional and national levels by 2010 to “benefit all life on earth”. This target was endorsed by the World Summit on Sustainable Development.

2010 is a special year declared by the United Nations to help raise awareness of the importance of the full variety of nature all over the world.

The SOSCP partners will be celebrating this special International Year of Biodiversity on a local level, with the development of a strategy for the protection of nature. Stay tuned.

Bryn White
SOSCP Program Manager



Funding Information

James L. Baillie Student Research Award. **Application deadline for this award is February 15 2010.** Although support of undergraduate, graduate, or post-doctoral studies is not a priority of the Baillie Fund, the Fund does support one award for a graduate student conducting field studies of Canadian birds in their natural environment. The Society of Canadian Ornithologists (SCO) administers the James L. Baillie Student Research Award, worth \$1,000. The Information on how to apply to the James L. Baillie Student Award for Field Research is available on the Society of Canadian Ornithologists' website at www.sco-soc.ca/awards.html .

MEC Community Contributions. **Application deadline is March 10 and September 10 2010** for applications for Land Acquisition, Capacity Building, Research, Advocacy and Education, and Access. Urban Sustainability and Grassroots Product Donations applications are accepted anytime. Please see their website for more information: http://www.mec.ca/Main/content_text.jsp?FOLDER%3C%3Efolder_id=1408474396038943&FOLDER%3C%3EbrowsePath=1408474396038943&bmUID=1203699307979

News



Give Green Canada launches website. Are you concerned about the long-term funding of your organization? Jumpstart your fundraising in 2010 and beyond to build a solid future for your environmental organization. Help donors find you on this finally launched website.

Fighting climate change, habitat loss, pollution, and ecosystem degradation takes ongoing resources. Yet, less than two cents of every dollar donated in Canada goes to environmental groups. Give Green Canada is a new and practical resource that promotes gift planning as a solution to your long-term funding concerns. For more information check out: <http://www.givegreencanada.ca/>

Bear Aware Update. The operations of the BCCF Bear Aware Program has moved to the BCCF Kamloops office. Please contact Barb Waters, Regional Manager, in Kamloops for information regarding any component of the Bear Aware program. Please be re-assured that the BCCF Bear Aware program is still active and vibrant under the direction of Barb Waters and Joanne Siderius, Bear Aware Supervisor. RFP's will be sent out to communities in the new year for the 2010 season.

Kamloops the first “Bear Smart” Community. The Ministry of Environment, in partnership with the British Columbia Conservation Foundation and the Union of British Columbia Municipalities, is pleased to announce the City of Kamloops is B.C.’s very first ‘Bear Smart’ Community. “Kamloops stepped up to the plate by developing a community plan to reduce bear-human conflicts, installing bear-proof garbage cans, and educating people about Bear Smart practices,” said Barry Penner. “I congratulate the residents of Kamloops for their diligence and enthusiasm in working towards Bear Smart status and achieving it, and setting an example for other communities to follow.”

Sustainable Similkameen Project. The Sustainable Similkameen Project has an important milestone coming up with the unveiling of the draft Sustainable Similkameen Strategy. After many months of work together and discussion with the public, a community-based panel will unveil the draft Strategy for Similkameen residents in March.

The project aims to encourage working together for the overall benefit of the valley while at the same time celebrating the diversity of the valley. Its mission is to establish a socio-cultural, economic and environmental sustainability strategy for the Similkameen Valley that will maintain and enhance the quality of the rural and small town lifestyle. Spearheaded by the Similkameen Valley Planning Society, it offers residents from Princeton to Chopaka an opportunity to join together and plan for a Sustainable Similkameen Valley.

For more information on this great initiative please visit the following website:
<http://www.rdos.bc.ca/index.php?id=659> or – join us for two sessions to view the draft strategy:

March 17, 2010 (7:00 - 8:30 PM) Location: Riverside Centre, Princeton

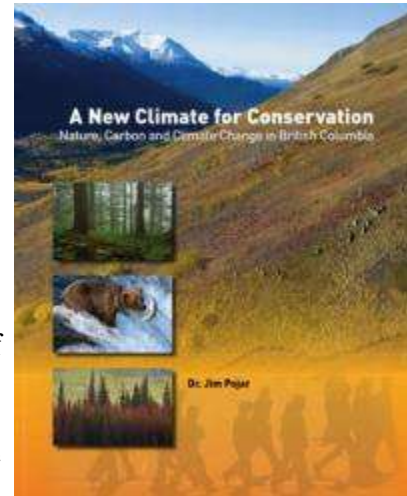
March 20, 2010 (7:00 - 8:30 PM) Location: Village Office, Keremeos

Groundwater Bylaws Toolkit Is Now Available. The tool is an appendix to the Green Bylaws Toolkit (www.greenbylaws.ca), and was developed by the OBWB and partners to help local governments protect the quality and quantity of groundwater within their own geographic and legislative jurisdictions. This includes monitoring groundwater quality and quantity, protecting aquifers, and maximizing water recharge instead of surface runoff. The Toolkit presents the basic principles of groundwater science, outlines the jurisdiction for managing groundwater, and provides practical land use management tools for local government to protect groundwater. It clearly explains each tool, and provides sample policy and bylaw language that can be tailored to each unique area. It also provides case studies that highlight the best practices in groundwater protection already in use by local governments in BC. For more details:
http://www.obwb.ca/groundwater_bylaws_toolkit/

Okanagan College Speaker’s Series – Winter 2010. Monday evenings at 7pm in the Lecture Theatre Penticton campus, Okanagan College. It is free and open to the public. For more information contact the College at 492-4305 or speakersseries@okanagan.bc.ca

Just Released: A New Climate for Conservation - Nature, Carbon and Climate Change in British Columbia by Jim Pojar.

This report reviews the scientific and technical literature on climate change and biodiversity in British Columbia. It examines the scientific rationale behind the need for conserving natural ecosystems as a critical component of a climate action plan in four key areas: sequestering carbon, avoiding emissions, managing resilience and maximizing stocks and flows of ecosystem services. The report recommends an interconnected climate conservation network encompassing at least 50 percent of BC's land base to be managed for these values, noting that the integration of 'nature and climate' strategies will require a new way of structuring our laws and land tenure system. <http://wcel.org/resources/publication/new-climate-conservation-nature-carbon-and-climate-change-british-columbia-ful>



Webinar Series: Managing Human-Wildlife Conflicts in Increasingly Human-Dominated Landscapes. The frequency and intensity of human-wildlife conflicts are escalating, resulting in increasing injuries to humans and wildlife, damage to property and forests, and management challenges. In this webinar series, experts will discuss how landscape modifications and predator-prey dynamics affect human-wildlife interactions, and suggest management practices that will promote the sustainable coexistence of viable wildlife populations and human communities in BC. To see the schedule of webinars: <http://www.forrex.org/news/event.asp?pkey=406>

Call for Presentations and Posters: Columbia Mountains Institute of Applied Ecology hosting Human Dimensions of Natural Resource Management October 6-7th 2010 in Revelstoke BC. Submissions are due before May 31, 2010.

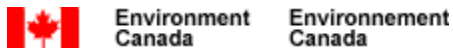
Integrating data from the natural sciences with information about social values and human behaviours increases the effectiveness of natural resource management. Natural resource practitioners are accustomed to integrating biological and other natural science and technical factors into their decision-making. At this conference, they will learn how addressing human dimensions can make their decisions more robust and their plans more likely to be implemented successfully. Through 1.5 days of presentations, a poster session, and opportunities for informal dialogue, this conference will strengthen the ability of managers and practitioners to incorporate human dimensions into the many aspects of natural resource management. A conference summary will be available on the CMI website after the event. More information about this conference is at:

<http://www.cmiae.org/> and see attachment. Please read our submission guidelines at: <http://www.cmiae.org/submission-guidelines.php>.

Osoyoos Desert Center Winter Lecture Series. This February and March the Osoyoos Desert Society will once again be hosting its popular Winter Lecture Series. The 2010 program focuses on water and land sustainability issues in the South Okanagan, and some of the steps being taken to conserve these vital natural resources. Lecture presentations take place in the mini theatre at the Osoyoos Secondary School (5800 – 115 Street). The first presentation, on February 13th, begins at 2:00 PM; the Tuesday evening presentations on February 23, March 9 and March 23 begin at 7:00 PM. Everyone is welcome to attend. Admission is by donation and proceeds support the conservation and education efforts of the Osoyoos Desert Society. For more information, contact the Osoyoos Desert Society at 250-495-2470 or call toll free at 1-877-899-0897. See below under Calendar of Events and Workshops for more details regarding the presentations.

Partner Profile

Environment Canada - Canadian Wildlife Service



Environment Canada's mandate is to conserve and enhance the quality of the natural environment, including water, air and soil quality; to conserve Canada's renewable resources including migratory birds and other non-domestic flora and fauna; to conserve and protect Canada's water resources; to enforce the rules made by the Canada-U.S. International Joint Commission related to boundary waters; and to coordinate environmental policies and programs for the federal government. The Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS), a part of Environment Canada, is responsible for the conservation of migratory birds, species at risk and biodiversity. The Canadian Wildlife Service, Pacific and Yukon Region is one of the key partners in the SOSCP and has contributed to the development of the program, its planning and coordination, and to its science base and in providing scientific expertise on projects. In addition, the Government of Canada has contributed substantial funding to all SOSCP Teams for Stewardship efforts related to the conservation and protection of species at risk under the Habitat Stewardship Program - a component of the Federal Governments strategy on species at risk.

Contact: Barry Smith, Regional Director
Website: <http://www.pyr.ec.gc.ca/en/wildlife/>

Calendar of Events and Workshops

February 13

Osoyoos Desert Centre Winter Lecture Series: Okanagan River Restoration Initiative. Join Lee McFadyen, the Public Relations Coordinator at 2:00 pm. Insights on why the Okanagan River is so valuable, and details about the goals and benefits of the restoration project will be shared.

February 23

Osoyoos Desert Centre Winter Lecture Series: What Do We Know About Groundwater in the South Okanagan? Join hydrogeologist Jim Hendry at 7:00 pm as he will review recent research regarding the source, age and quality of our local groundwater. Current contamination issues will be discussed, as well as best management practices for the future. Since joining the Department of Geological Sciences at the University of Saskatchewan in 1995, Jim has led an internationally recognized research group that studies the migration of contaminants in the subsurface of the earth.

February 28

Lords of Nature Film Wolves and cougars, once driven to the edge of existence, are finding their way back -- from the Yellowstone plateau to the canyons of Zion, from the farm country of northern Minnesota to the rugged open range of the West. **LORDS OF NATURE: Life in a Land of Great Predators** tells the story of science now discovering the great carnivores as revitalizing forces of nature, and a society now learning tolerance for the beasts they had once banished. This is a documentary and education campaign about the vital ecological role large predators play in restoring the health of America's wild ecosystems.

7:00 pm at MBody123 Eckhardt St.

March 1(Penticton) & March 2 (Kelowna)

Managing our Parks and Trails for Trees, Wildlife and People Workshop.

Monday, March 1 - Penticton - Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen Office

Tuesday, March 2 - Kelowna - Regional District Central Okanagan Office

Time: 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM (one hour lunch break, please bring a bag lunch)

March 9

Osoyoos Desert Centre Winter Lecture Series: Sustainable Land – From the Perspective of a Geotechnical Engineer. Join engineer Nigel Skermer at 7:00 pm as he outlines the bedrock and soils geology of the Okanagan Valley and takes a closer look at soil and rock stability issues in the region.

March 9-12

Indigenous Earth: Praxis and Transformation.

This conference will connect an emerging and diverse range of scholars and practitioners to share theories, experiences and methods for applying indigenous knowledge to complex environmental and social realities. This conference will launch a series of research publications that propose solutions to address current environmental concerns and build bridges between Indigenous knowledge and western scientific approaches.

Register for this conference at www.epllyevents.com/indigenousearth For more information, visit www.enowkincetnre.ca or contact Ellen Simmons at ecomunity@vip.net.

March 18-20

Land Trust and Stewardship Seminar Series

Join BC's land trusts, naturalists, stewardship, conservation and land use organizations & agencies in this foremost Land Trust and Stewardship Seminar Series, hosted by the Land Trust Alliance of BC. This three day event includes site visits to protected areas, including [Skaha Bluffs](#), restored riparian areas and other Okanagan cultural sites. Plus local experts, Harold Baumbrough and Mike Sarrell, will give fascinating presentations on snakes, fire and other features of BC's incredible biodiversity. In addition to a full day workshop by renowned North American fundraiser Kim Klein, there are another 15 seminars about protecting BC's biodiversity and carbon storing forests and grasslands for healthy communities and a healthy climate. This event is open to all, plus a ride sharing connection service is available. For more information please call 250-538-0112 or email info@landtrustalliance.bc.ca. For the program and registration: "[Seminar Series 2010 Program and Registration](#)".

March 23

Osoyoos Desert Centre Winter Lecture Series: Invaders Make Bad Neighbours.

Join guest speaker Lisa Scott, Invasive Plant Program Coordinator for the Okanagan-Similkameen, as she explores the impact of invasive plants on our local habitat. Challenges - as well as success stories - will be discussed, including what individuals can do to help control the spread of invasive species.

March 22-26

World Water Week Committee Planning Splashy Affair. The Okanagan Basin Water Board is joining forces again with UBC Okanagan to organize what will be an exciting week-long salute to water. Robert Sandford, Canadian Chair of the UN International Decade "Water for Life," will be the keynote speaker. For details visit www.ubc.ca/okanagan/speakers.

April 20-21

Aboriginal Cultural Awareness for Natural Resource Managers, Revelstoke BC

This two day interactive workshop will provide participants with the practical tools for engaging Aboriginal peoples, communities, organizations, and institutions in resource management discussions and decisions. The nature of culture and the role that cultural differences can play in interpersonal interactions are examined. Our instructors are Bob and Anne Moody of Global Indigenous Services. Details and registration are at: <http://www.cmiae.org>.

Public Opportunities

Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen Calendar
<http://www.rdos.bc.ca/index.php?id=415>

Village of Keremeos Council Meeting Schedule
<http://www.keremeos.ca/Village/municipalcouncil.html>

Town of Oliver Council Meeting Schedule

<http://www.oliver.ca/siteengine/ActivePage.asp?PageID=25>

Town of Osoyoos Council Meeting Schedule

<http://www.osoyoos.ca/siteengine/activepage.asp?NewsID=19>

City of Penticton Council Meeting Schedule

<http://www.penticton.ca/city/council/meetings/default.asp>

District of Summerland Council Meeting Schedule

<http://www.summerland.ca/municipalhall/calendar.aspx>

Your Contribution

If you would like to have your conservation project listed, to submit a news item for the SOSCP Newsletter, or would like to provide feedback on this issue, we'd love to hear from you!

SOSCP Newsletter

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www.soscp.org

This e-mail has been sent as you have requested to be kept abreast of news through the South Okanagan Similkameen Conservation Program website. — If for any reason you wish to be removed from this mailing list please send an email to: soscp2@gov.bc.ca and your email address will be removed promptly from our mailing list. To update your email address please send your request to: soscp2@gov.bc.ca.

Donation Information

If you, or your organization, would like to support the coordinating function of the SOSCP, please contact one of the following



Environmental Legacy Fund

P.O. Box 24081
Penticton, BC, V2A 8L9

Tel: (250) 493-9311
Email: info@cfso.net

Website: www.cfso.net



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