



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

## South Okanagan-Similkameen Conservation Program

# Newsletter

May 2010

### *One Valley, One Water*



The Okanagan Basin Water Board's Okanagan Water Supply and Demand Project has been looking at current and future supply and demand in the Okanagan through assessment of natural and managed water flows, patterns of water use and impacts of future population growth, climate change, land use and the environment. Phase 2 has just concluded, complete with an Okanagan water budget. The results show a need for more careful management and choices on development, the future of agriculture, and environmental protection.

Although the results of the various scenarios and models within Phase 2 do not point to a sudden, dramatic decline in water availability, the risks of water shortages for human use and environmental needs are increasing. The Phase 2 report also points out that it is possible to compensate for many of the consequences through land-use planning, careful water management, and by reducing demand.

#### **Key findings:**

- Okanagan residents use significantly more (over twice as much) domestic water than the average British Columbian.
- 86% of our human water use is for outdoor purposes and 24% of that is dedicated to domestic outdoor use (lawns and gardens).
- 67% of the water used in the Okanagan Basin is derived from surface sources (lakes and streams), and 22% is derived from groundwater (which is currently unlicensed).
- 80% of incoming precipitation is lost due to evaporation from the soil, the surface of lakes and other reservoirs, and through uptake from plants.
- With three consecutive years of drought, it will become more difficult to maintain current Okanagan Lake levels and adequate stream-flows in the Okanagan River downstream of Penticton.

**Bryn White,**  
**SOSCP Program Manager**

## Funding Information

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### The Rebuilding Nature Grant Program



The Home Depot Canada Foundation and Evergreen are pleased to offer the *Rebuilding Nature Grant Program* to support environmental stewardship projects in communities across Canada. The *Rebuilding Nature Grant Program* will provide community groups with grants of \$1,000, \$3,000 or \$12,000 – plus \$2,000 in The Home Depot gift cards – to cover the costs of tools and equipment, native plants and trees, and other expenses. **Applications must be received May 21, 2010.** [Download the application and guide](#)

### Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation

Public Conservation Assistance Fund grants are made to projects that focus on restoration of fish and wildlife habitat. Projects must involve a major component of volunteer labour. Grants range from \$2500 - \$10,000. **Submissions due May 15.** Download application forms at [www.hctf.ca](http://www.hctf.ca) or contact [hctf@hctf.ca](mailto:hctf@hctf.ca)

### May 20, 7:30 - 9:00 a.m. Breakfast Serial: *Helping Non-Profits Navigate Their Funding Options*

A breakfast meeting of a Real Estate Foundation panel of seven local funders will inform grant seekers about sources of funding available and grant makers' funding priorities. Panel from The Real Estate Foundation, Central City Foundation, The Law Foundation, Koerner Foundation, TELUS Vancouver Community Board, Vancity and Vancouver Foundation. **RSVP by May 14, 2010 to [rsvp@refbc.com](mailto:rsvp@refbc.com).**

### Vancouver Foundation

Grants and Community Initiatives Program: Environment supports a broad range of environmental projects. **Letters of intent are due by July 23**, and if letter is accepted, grant applications are due September 15, 2010. For the goals and more information [go here](#):

**MEC Community Contributions.** **Application deadline is 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](#):

### The Funders' Table

This is a new social networking site that provides an on-line platform to connect charities with private, corporate and government funders, and allows funders to collaborate on project evaluations on-line. The goals are to bridge relationships among non-profit groups, philanthropic organizations, government and corporate funders and using Web 2.0 functions, help community groups work collaboratively with these organizations and agencies. <http://www.funderstable.com/>

## **June 7 - 9, UBC Vancouver, Institute For Strategic Funding Development**

A CFRE accredited Course on Strategic Grant Proposal Writing. The purpose of the course is to demystify the grant writing process. [www.isfdonline.com](http://www.isfdonline.com) 1 877 414-8991

## **News**

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### **Okanagan Basin Water Board: Okanagan Supply & Demand Project Phase 2 Report Published**

The results of Phase 2, which examined 15 different growth and climate change scenarios, show a need for more careful management and choices on development, the future of agriculture, and environmental protection. Overall, the results of the scenarios do not point to a sudden, dramatic decline in water availability. Risks of water shortages for human use and environmental needs are increasing, but it is possible to compensate for many of the consequences through land-use planning, careful water management, and by reducing demand. [Read more](#)

### **Canada Wildlife Service Breeding Bird Surveys**

Skilled birders are needed to run Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) routes across Canada. Volunteers must have excellent 'birding by ear' skills, a reliable vehicle, and be able to survey their route in June or early July for several years. Contact Dick Cannings [dcannings@birdscanada.org](mailto:dcannings@birdscanada.org)

**Nature Conservancy of Canada Spring Issue of The Ark** is has articles on ranching and grassland conservation in BC, the new Land Information System, Clark's Nutcracker & more! Donors who contribute \$20 or more receive 3 issues per year. [Check it out here.](#)

### **Telus Supports Nature Conservancy of Canada with Green Initiative**

Telus is launching a program to encourage customers to go to paperless billing. Until September 26, Telus will give \$2 to NCC for every customer who converts and you'll be entered in a draw for \$1000 to go towards an NCC project of your choice. BC's project is the Darkwoods project. [Go paperless on this link...](#)

### **"Champions of Conservation" Film Series**

OASIS TV is launching a series of shorts called Champions of Conservation, showcasing people in each province. In B.C. The series focuses on Dick Loomer, the caretaker of Swishwash Island on the Coast, and Darren Dempsey of Frolek Ranch. You can view the first feature of the series by following [on this link...](#)

### **Tax Incentives for Conservation**

Visit Environment Canada's website at <http://www.cws-scf.ec.gc.ca/egp-pde/>. The site has excellent information on the Ecological Gifts Program and a number of publications you can download, including one called Donation and Income Tax Scenarios.

## **Osoyoos Lake Receives Notice of Drought Year Operation**

The U.S. National Weather Service's forecast for volume of flow in the Similkameen River meets the criteria for a drought-year declaration for Osoyoos Lake as specified in Conditions of the International Joint Commission. Between April and October 31, the State of Washington is required to maintain Osoyoos Lake at a level between 910.5 to 913.0 feet. This drought declaration will be rescinded if hydrologic conditions change.

## **Support Okanagan Accommodation Hosts that are Conservation Partners**

The following Bed & Breakfast homes and guest houses are also Conservation Partners with The Land Conservancy (TLC). These are places to stay where you are surrounded by nature and owned by people who are responsible stewards of their unique habitats:

High Chaparral Guest House	O'Reilly Organic Farm and B&B
Mountain Springs Nature Retreat	Ciliegia Villa, Osoyoos
Bighorn Ridge Guest House	God's Mountain Estate

The High Chaparral Guest House is [featured here on TLC's web site](#)

## **Fishing for kids --**

The Regional District and local fishing clubs "Go Fish" events:

April 24 – Mission Creek Regional Park, Kelowna (10am to 3pm)

April 25 – Shannon Lake Regional Park, Westbank (10am to 3pm)

Kids are allowed two fish each. Hot dogs and drinks are provided. Rods and bait are also available for those who don't have their own. This is a great way to spend the day with the family, teach the kids how to fish and have some fun! For more information contact [tara.white@gov.bc.ca](mailto:tara.white@gov.bc.ca)

## **Partner Profile; Osoyoos Desert Society**

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Founded in 1991, this non-profit society seeks to conserve the biologically rich and diverse habitats of British Columbia's southern interior. Through conservation, education, and habitat restoration the

Society strives to generate public knowledge and active concern for the fragile antelope-brush ecosystem. In 1998 the Desert Society opened the Osoyoos Desert Centre, an interpretive centre with hands-on exhibits and 1.5 km of elevated wooden boardwalk.

**Sunday May 16<sup>th</sup> Spring Garden Party:** Celebrate the opening of the Desert Society's new native plant demonstration garden with an afternoon of tea and scones, a ribbon cutting, plant tours, a showing of John Salsnek's artwork, and a silly hat contest. Pre-registration requested. \$5 per person in advance; \$6 at the door. Please contact the [Desert Centre](#) for registration.

## **Calendar of Events and Workshops**

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**May 3, 7:00 p.m.**

**Summerland Green Drinks at Zias Stonehouse**

Keynote speaker is Julie McGuire, Climate Change Coordinator/Planner with the District of Summerland. Julie has a Master's Degree in Urban Planning with a focus on Climate Change and Energy Efficiency. Julie is working on the Summerland's Climate Action Plan and Carbon Neutral Summerland Plan.

**May 11<sup>th</sup>**

**Penticton Green Drinks, Wheat Grass Cafe at Wholefoods at 1770 Main Street 5-7 pm.**

**May 4**

**Osoyoos Desert Centre Restoration Work Party, Osoyoos BC**

Held from 10 am until noon. Time will be spent on removing invasive weeds and replanting native grasses, flowers, and shrubs in some damaged areas at the Desert Centre. Please bring work gloves and shovels, if you have them.

**May 6, 4 – 7 p.m.**

**District of Summerland Open House, Summerland Curling Rink.** The public has an opportunity have input into the the proposed OCP amendment concerning environmentally sensitive development permit areas and the Climate Action Plan for Summerland. For more information on the Climate Action Plan, contact Julie McGuire, 250-404-4049 [jcmcquire@summerland.ca](mailto:jcmcquire@summerland.ca). For more information on the Environmentally Sensitive Permit Area, contact Anna Milner, [annacmilner@gmail.com](mailto:annacmilner@gmail.com)

**May 11, Penticton** (May 18, 28 and June 8, various other locations).

**Grasslands Monitoring Manual for BC: A Tool for Ranchers.**

Maintaining healthy grass from year to year while dealing with fluctuating climatic conditions and shifting operational needs can be challenging. The Grassland Monitoring Manual For British Columbia: A Tool For Ranchers is a useful way to measure change on grasslands, whether they are on Crown or private lands. This manual provides a strong systematic approach for recording what is happening on their grassland both the changes they currently see on the land base and the changes they might expect based on their management practices. [Link to the manual and workshop registration.](#)

**May 12, Selkirk College, Castlegar**

**Columbia Mountain Institute Conference and AGM** Every year CMI members get together to provide updates on their projects (research, field trials, new initiatives in south-eastern British Columbia) and catch up on each other's news. It's an informal atmosphere and non-CMI members and post-secondary students are welcome.

[Registration information](#)

**May 13, Castlegar: Online GIS for citizen science and stewardship workshop**

The Columbia Mountains Institute & Selkirk College host a one day workshop. Topics include an overview of the power of maps in society; the use of GIS in participatory decision making; a guided tour and demonstrations of Kootenay web-based mapping resources; and how to generate maps using readily available tools such as iMAP BC. By the end of the day, participants will have learned how to use online GIS mapping

resources to learn about an area of interest, and how to make their own customized maps. For more information: [For more details...](#)

### ***May 18***

#### **Osoyoos Desert Centre Restoration Work Party, Osoyoos BC**

Held from 10 am until noon. Time will be spent on removing invasive weeds and replanting native grasses, flowers, and shrubs in some damaged areas at the Desert Centre. Please bring work gloves and shovels, if you have them.

### ***May 19-22, SFU Burnaby. Environmental Education & Communication***

**Conference.** Cultural diversity is often talked about in educational circles, and it is assumed that great benefits are to be gained by educators through careful attention to the range of perspectives that the world has to offer. [Registration details](#)

### ***May 20 - 24***

#### **13<sup>th</sup> Annual Meadowlark Festival, Okanagan BC**

Organized by the Okanagan Similkameen Conservation Alliance, the Festival offers over 80 environmental tours and events held under the open sky, which will take people from Canada's unique desert to the alpine meadows high above the Okanagan Lake.

Indigenous cultural tours, canoe trips, guided walks, bird watching tours, geology and history tours, art exhibits, hands-on presentations on astronomy, nature photography, green buildings and more, are all designed to be fun and informative for people of all ages and abilities. For more information: <http://www.meadowlarkfestival.bc.ca/>

#### **Support bird conservation with a Meadowlark Festival bird-a-thon pledge.**

"Chafing for Chickadees", the team of Tanya Luszcz, Ruth Joy, Kirk Safford, and Francis Iredale, will be saddling up Sunday, May 23rd to count as many bird species as they can in a 24-hour period. All the money raised will go to the Vaseux Lake Bird Migration Station (via Bird Studies Canada and the Okanagan Similkameen Conservation Alliance). [Pledge by visiting this link](#)

### ***May 29, Kelowna***

**The Nature Trust fundraising event, Earth Wind Fire 2010**, a food and wine event benefiting TNT's land conservation work in the Okanagan. [Registration information](#)

### ***May 31 – June 6, Kamloops***

#### **BC Wildlife Federation 2010 Wetlands Institute training.**

The training includes six days of field work and dialogue with experts to learn wetland construction, restoration, and stewardship skills. Activities include practice in wetland design, wetland mapping, amphibian identification, and actual involvement in wetland construction. Applications are now being accepted and are due by May 15.

[For more details...](#)

## ***June 5, Penticton***

### **JCI Discovery Challenge - urban adventure race benefitting OSCA**

Fundraising event for the Okanagan Similkameen Conservation Alliance. Teams are required to raise a minimum of \$200 to qualify. Teams of two complete challenges based on skills, knowledge, logic, and endurance at checkpoints throughout the city. Travel must be on foot or public transit. [More details](#)

## **Job opportunity**

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### **Stewardship Officer, The Land Conservancy of BC, Penticton office**

TLC is looking for someone to take over a position for a nine month maternity leave, July 2 – March 31 (with possible extension). The position involves working on the South Okanagan Similkameen Stewardship Program and related initiatives including landowner contact, stewardship program development, implementing outreach, and providing administrative support. Email resumes to [ASkinner@conservancy.bc.ca](mailto:ASkinner@conservancy.bc.ca). Deadline is 9:00 a.m. Monday, May 10.

## **Publications**

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### **The Economics of Endangered species, in Annual Review of Resource Economics Vol. 1, Oct 2009. By Rovert Innes et al.**

Because habitat conversion is the greatest threat to species, this article focuses on economic incentives for private land users to protect habitat. Habitat protection policies that fail to account for private incentives often have unintended negative consequences.

[Journal link](#)

### **Towards a duty of care for biodiversity**

"Habitat loss has been identified as the major cause of biodiversity decline. In this article we suggest that a statutory duty of care would complement the current mix of policy options for biodiversity conservation. Drawing on international literature and key informant interviews we have developed a framework for implementing a duty of care for biodiversity at the regional scale. Core elements of the framework include desired outcomes for biodiversity, supported by current recommended practices. The focus on outcomes provides opportunities for the development of innovative management practices." [Link to paper](#)

### **FORREX Series 26 - Cumulative Impacts of Natural Resource Development on Ecosystems and Wildlife: An Annotated Bibliography for British Columbia**

Natural resource activities at different spatial and temporal scales have cumulative effects on ecosystems and biodiversity that are not yet thoroughly understood. This bibliography draws on multiple disciplines to provide a critical view of impacts relevant to BC's ecosystems and wildlife. It illustrates the diversity of cumulative effects approaches, the breath of potential impacts, and the complexity of interactions within a shared land base.

[For more details](#)

## Public Opportunities

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### BC Water Act Modernization

The BC Ministry of Environment is currently working to modernize the BC Water Act as part of the Living Water Smart program. To find out more about this process and provide your inputs, please visit the Living Water Smart Blog.

<http://blog.gov.bc.ca/livingwatersmart>

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

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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

South Okanagan Similkameen Conservation Program

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*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](mailto: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](mailto:soscp2@gov.bc.ca).*

## Donation Information

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**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](mailto:info@cfso.net)

Website: [www.cfso.net](http://www.cfso.net)



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