



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

South Okanagan-Similkameen Conservation Program

Newsletter

August 2010

SOSCP and Partners Environmental Planning Initiative Recognized Across the Province

After a highly successful first phase, SOSCP and local government partners will be moving ahead with a second year of an environmental planning collaboration now that all required funding is in place. This innovative approach is gaining attention from a number of other partnership initiatives focused on sustainable land and resource planning. Both the *Waterbucket.ca* website and the Communities in Transition blogspot are featuring numerous articles and interviews with individuals involved in the SOSCP “**Local Government Ecological Standards and Practices Capacity Building Initiative**”. Planners and administrators were interviewed to assess their views on the first year of this new project. Here are a few excerpts from the *Waterbucket* articles.

"What makes the South Okanagan distinctive is that several local governments have pooled our resources to share the services of an environmental planner. This has resulted in consistency and a 'made in the South Okanagan' approach to a proven planning tool,"

Tom Szalay, Chief Administrative Officer with the Town of Oliver.

"Almost 2,000 hectares of land have this permit designation which allows for careful consideration of ecological values during the development application and approval process. This is the culmination of 10 months of cooperation, learning and sharing resources."

Don DeGagne, District of Summerland Chief Administrative Officer.

"We could never have accomplished our OCP work without the support and leveraging of this partnership. The highlight of this project is my new understanding of the uniqueness, sensitivity and importance of the natural environment of the South Okanagan."

Ian McIntosh, District of Summerland, Manager of Development Services.

Read more about this initiative led by SOSCP and partners, and funded by the Real Estate Foundation of BC, Habitat Stewardship Program and South Okanagan municipalities *in Waterbucket* "[Convening for Action](#)", and in the CITinfoResource blogspot [here](#).

Bryn White
SOSCP Program Manager

News

Okanagan Basin Water Board launches new web site

Check out www.okwaterwise.ca designed for Okanagan Valley households, businesses and school groups. Chock full of facts, water-saving tips, and water news, the site is designed to increase awareness among valley residents about water issues and the fact that we all share the same water resource.

New web resource for Okanagan water research

The Okanagan Water Stewardship Council has a mandate to investigate basin-wide issues in water management and provide recommendations to the Okanagan Basin Water Board. The council has now posted recent technical and policy powerpoint presentations on a range of water management topics on this [web site](#) link sponsored by the Okanagan Basin Water Board.

Biodiversity Loss a Significant Business Risk

The July issue of the Environmental Leader online magazine reported on a survey of businesses and consumers on the loss of biodiversity. According to the survey, more than half of businesses see species loss impacting their bottom line in some countries, while about 80 percent of consumers said they would stop buying products from companies that do not take biodiversity seriously. Overall though, only 25 percent of CEOs said they considered the loss of biodiversity to be a strategic business issue. Rio Tinto, Walmart, Coca Cola and BC Hydro are some leading companies that have made commitments to reducing or eliminating their industry's impact on the environment. [Read more here.](#)

Job opportunities

OSCA

The Okanagan Similkameen Conservation Alliance is accepting resumes for people interested in contract opportunities with OSCA. Experience in conservation outreach and program planning is an asset. Send resumes to Sally Kilburg, Chair, OSCA, 113-437 Martin Street, Box 349, Penticton BC. V2A 5L1.

TLC – The Land Conservancy Stewardship Officer, Okanagan Region

Six month position from Sept. 27, 2010 to March 31, 2011 with possible extension to July. The Stewardship Officer will work with TLC's stewardship staff, landowners, and partners to plan, administer and implement landowner contact and stewardship through the SOS Stewardship Program. SALARY: \$16/hour, 32 hours/week.

Application deadline is 5 p.m. August 19th. [Check here for further details.](#)

Calendar of Events and Workshops

August 18, 2:00 p.m. “Gardening for Bees” workshop at Osoyoos Desert Centre

Learn about native bees and how to support healthy bee populations in your garden. Participants will build a bee box to take home. \$15 cost, pre-register by calling 250-495-2470.

Aug. 30 – Sept. 1 BC Water Symposium

Sponsored by the Ministry of Environment and partners, the objectives of the symposium are to discuss emerging issues in water science, to develop new collaborative relationships and to work together to create a BC Water Strategy. For more information consult the [BC Water Symposium web site](#). (Event will occur concurrently in Prince George, Kelowna and Victoria.)

Sept. 13 - 14 Ecological Approaches to Invasive Plant Management, Revelstoke

Taught by David Polster, the course will investigate vegetation management systems designed to work with natural successional processes. The first day is a classroom session, and the second is a field day with the participants evaluating sites. This is an intensive, content-heavy course.

September 15-16 Soil Bioengineering, Revelstoke

Instructor David Polster will focus on soil bioengineering techniques and options involved in restoration and reclamation of damaged ecosystems using a combination of structural materials, vegetative cuttings and other specialized techniques. Soil bioengineering is an applied science that uses live plant materials to perform an engineering function such as slope stabilization, soil erosion control, or seepage control.

September 14, 7:30 p.m. “For the Love of the Land” concert, Kamloops

Join Valdy, Tiller’s Folly and Hank Cramer at Sagebrush Theatre for a concert and charity auction to benefit the Nature Conservancy of Canada. [More ticket and event details.](#)

September 25 Dominion Radio Astrophysical Observatory Open House

10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Tour the White Lake facility, see demonstrations and participate in hands-on activities for the whole family. Environmental NGOs wishing to put up displays about their organizations must contact Olwen Gendall at DRAO olwen.gendall@nrc.gc.ca.

Oct. 28 – 29th “From Rain to Resource: Managing Stormwater in a Changing Climate”

BC Water & Waste Association (BCWWA) and Okanagan Basin Water Board (OBWB) joint conference and tradeshow on innovative developments in rainwater management in Kelowna. Seminars featured on Day 1, and breakout sessions and a panel on Day 2. Visit <http://www.bcwwa.org/seminars/RtoR.htm> for further details.

November 15 – 18 Building SustainAble Communities, Kelowna

Hosted by the Fresh Outlook Foundation, this year’s conference themes are:

- Championing Change: a sustainability planning forum
- Pollution Prevention and mitigation
- Green economic Development
- Community Sustainability

[2010 conference details.](#)

Upcoming Funding deadlines

August 31 **HCTF Public Conservation Assistance Fund**

\$2500 - \$10,000 grants available to organizations and individuals carrying out a conservation project. Due to the low number of submissions this year, the PCAF Committee is calling for a second round of PCAF applications for fish and wildlife conservation projects, see [application form](#).

September 10 **Mountain Equipment Coop Community Contributions**

For applications about 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](#).

September 15 **Bullitt Foundation**

The Foundation now concentrates on innovative sustainable development issues including ecosystem services and planning, and civic engagement. Letters of inquiries received on or before September 15 will be considered for the November 1 proposal deadline. Since inquiries are submitted electronically, these are firm deadlines. Consult the <http://bullitt.org/> for details.

November 1 **Wildlife Habitat Canada**

WHC offers grants supporting habitat conservation, restoration and enhancement of wetlands and waterfowl habitat. [Further details](#).

November 1 **EcoAction Community Funding Program**

Environment Canada program encouraging action focused projects that will protect, rehabilitate or enhance the natural environment and address either clear air, clean water, climate change or improving natural habitat. [Details here](#).

November 2 **HCTF Enhancement Projects**

The Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation supports projects that focus on freshwater fish, native wildlife species and their habitats; have the potential to achieve a significant conservation outcome; and maintain or enhance opportunities for fishing, hunting, trapping, wildlife viewing and associated outdoor recreational activities.

[Application details](#).

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

South Okanagan Similkameen Conservation Program
102 Industrial Place
Penticton, British Columbia
V2A 7C8

soscp2@gov.bc.ca

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



Bryn White SOSCP Program Coordinator

Penticton BC
Tel: (250) 490-8225
Email: bryn.white@gov.bc.ca
Website: www.soscp.org