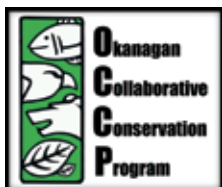




**OKANAGAN COLLABORATIVE  
CONSERVATION PROGRAM  
PROGRAM  
REPORT  
2017 – 2019**



## **OKANAGAN COLLABORATIVE CONSERVATION PROGRAM (OCCP)**

### **STATEMENT OF COOPERATION**

#### **WE BELIEVE THAT ...**

- ... biodiversity is a key component of Canada's national heritage.
- ... it is not too late to save the natural system for our children and for their children.
- ... protecting this special place is our shared responsibility.

#### **WE SEE A SPECIAL PLACE WHERE ...**

- ... the future of biodiversity is secure and the ecological integrity of the unique landscape is protected.
- ... people of all ages can enjoy the natural beauty the area has to offer.
- ... the traditional values and knowledge of the Aboriginal people of the Okanagan are honoured and applied to new challenges.

#### **WE INTEND TO ...**

- ... work together to meet common challenges for the future of the Okanagan natural system.
- ... translate our commitments into annual Action Plans.
- ... continually monitor our progress and address emerging challenges.

To view the entire Statement of Cooperation  
visit the OCCP website:

**[WWW.OKCP.CA](http://WWW.OKCP.CA)**



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## MESSAGE FROM THE PROGRAM MANAGER

2019 marks the Okanagan Collaborative Conservation Program's (OCCP) 11th year supporting collaboration for conservation. The OCCP model continues to be effective in building partnerships, sharing resources, and delivering on the Okanagan Biodiversity Conservation Strategy.

It is an exciting time for the OCCP. The Action Teams have undertaken research to protect water quality and environmental values for our large lakes, created outdoor educational programs in partnership with local teachers and school boards, and established local government land use policies to protect wildlife corridors and biodiversity. These projects are just a few of the important conservation initiatives underway, which are highlighted along with others in this report.

Looking forward in the face of climate change and biodiversity loss, it is imperative more than ever that the Okanagan Collaborative Conservation Program (OCCP) partners build upon and create new partnerships to protect our natural environment. No single organization or government has the ability to tackle climate change alone as it will affect all aspects of our communities and livelihoods. Through collaboration and multi-jurisdictional initiatives, the OCCP partners will continue to strengthen regional decision-making ensuring the health of our ecosystems is considered and the Okanagan remains an area rich in natural diversity.



Scott Boswell, Program Manager



# ABOUT OKANAGAN COLLABORATIVE CONSERVATION PROGRAM

## PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Okanagan Collaborative Conservation Program (OCCP) is a 39-member partnership that includes local, provincial, and federal governments, environmental and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), academia, and industry. The program was initiated in 2007 with a focus on providing environmental mapping, research, and information to integrate conservation with land use planning. Today, the program continues to act as a hub for information but has expanded its role to facilitate conservation projects in collaboration with the partner organizations to implement the strategic directions of the Biodiversity Conservation Strategy for the Okanagan Region.

## VISION

Ensure healthy ecosystems and habitat networks are valued and conserved by decision-makers and citizens as the basis for health, livelihoods, and sustainable communities.

## MANDATE

Facilitate conservation and stewardship efforts on public and private lands, set conservation objectives and generate the support and resources to carry out conservation program and initiatives.

OCCP also works extensively with other organizations and community members who share common goals for biodiversity conservation. The OCCP has a strong partnership with its sister organization—the South Okanagan Similkameen Conservation Program—to deliver region-wide initiatives.



## GOALS

- 1** Promote a cooperative, collaborative approach to conservation and restoration of natural areas among all levels of government, non-government and industry sector organizations, landowners, and citizens.
- 2** Identify conservation areas that can be included in a regional network of greenways, parks and protected areas across all land tenures.
- 3** Ensure that decision-makers and citizens in the central and north Okanagan have the information and tools needed to protect and enhance ecosystems, wildlife corridors, and biodiversity.



## STEERING COMMITTEE

The role of the steering committee is to guide the successful implementation of the OCCP by ensuring organizational functions, facilitating interactions and communication between members and providing strategic direction. The steering committee oversees all activity including the Action Team projects.

**Aaron Deans** | Executive Director,  
Allan Brooks Nature Centre Society

**Angela Cormano** | RPFBio, Fortis BC

**Alyson Skinner** | Executive Director,  
Okanagan Similkameen Stewardship Society

**Brian Arquilla** | Principal Consultant  
and Senior Ecologist, Mountain Pacific  
Environmental Consultants Ltd.

**Danika Dudzik** | Environmental Planner,  
Regional District of Central Okanagan

**Glenn Mandziuk** | President and Chief Executive  
Officer Thompson Okanagan Tourism Association

**Jamie Leathem** | Ecosystems Biologist, Ministry  
of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

**Jing Nui** | Environmental Planning  
Assistant, City of Vernon

**Keith Pinkoski** | Parks Manager,  
Regional District of North Okanagan

**Laurie Cordell** | Manager, Long Range  
Planning and Sustainability, City of Vernon

**Paul Dupuis** | Planner, District of Lake Country

## PARTNERS

Allan Brooks Nature Centre

Armstrong Wetland Association

Bishop Wild Bird Sanctuary

BC Ministry of Environment

Central Okanagan Land Trust

Central Okanagan Naturalists Club

Central Okanagan Regional Parks

City of Kelowna

City of Vernon

City of West Kelowna

Community Mapping Network

Department of Fisheries  
and Oceans Canada

District of Lake Country

District of Coldstream

District of Peachland

Ducks Unlimited of Canada

Environment and Climate  
Change Canada

Fresh Outlook Foundation

Friends of Kalamalka  
Lake Provincial Park

Grasslands Conservation Council

Institute of Biodiversity  
Resiliency and Environmental  
Services – UBC Okanagan

Land Trust Alliance of  
British Columbia

Okanagan Basin Water Board

Okanagan College

Okanagan Similkameen  
Stewardship Society

Okanagan Xeriscape Association

North Okanagan Parks  
& Natural Area Trust

North Okanagan Naturalists Club

Regional District of the  
Central Okanagan

Regional District of the  
North Okanagan

Sciences Opportunities for Kids

Society for the Protection  
of Kalamalka Lake

Southern Interior Land Trust

Sustainable Environmental  
Network Society

The Land Conservancy of BC

The Nature Conservancy  
of Canada, BC Region

Thompson Okanagan  
Tourism Association

Village of Lumby

Vernon in Transition

## OCCP TEAM

The OCCP Team coordinates and facilitates conservation projects and programs for the partners. The Team works with partners to identify emerging priorities and projects, ensures appropriate stakeholders are involved in conservation projects, conferences and initiatives, and helps secure funding to implement the projects.



Scott Boswell  
Program Manager



Tanis Gieselman  
Project Coordinator



Brittany Lange  
Project Coordinator

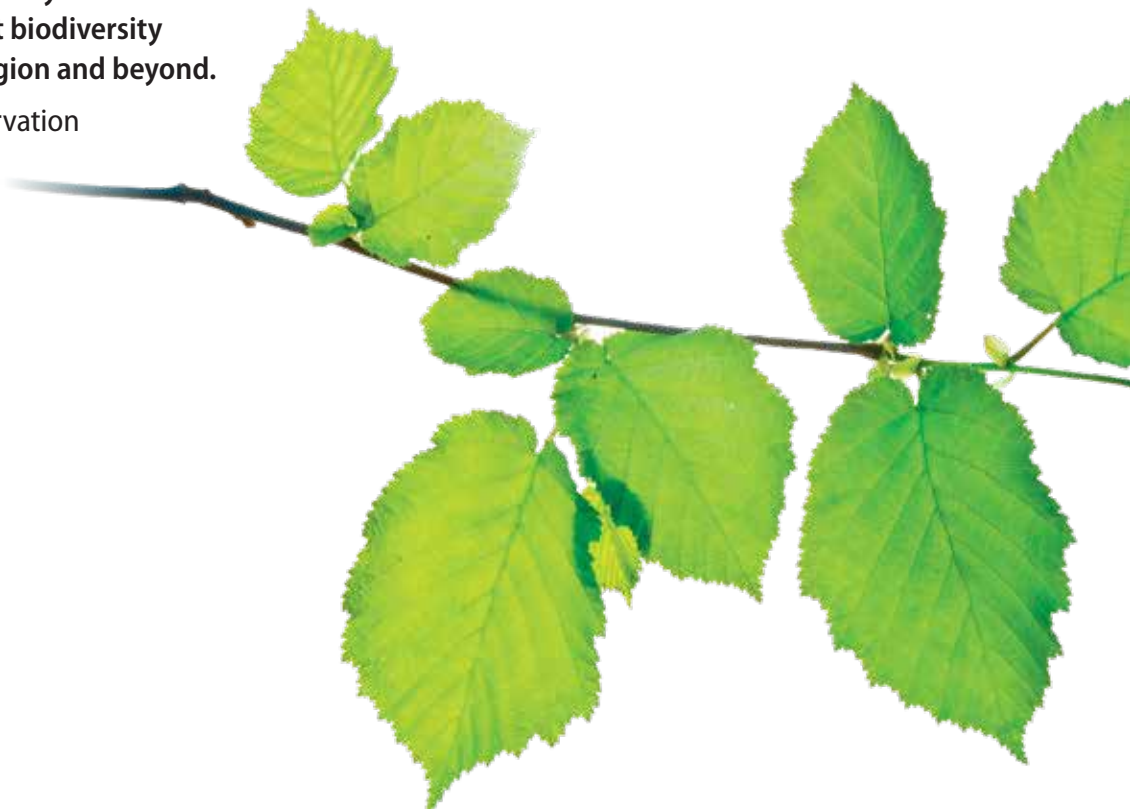


Shayne Meechan  
Communication Coordinator

**Through the Team's efforts the OCCP helps increase the capacity of the partners to implement biodiversity conservation in the region and beyond.**

The Team shares conservation information through:

- presentations
- newsletters
- blogs
- social media
- workshops and
- one-on-one meetings with the partners.





# ACTION TEAM PROJECTS

All OCCP projects are developed and led by Action Teams. The Action Teams are made up of representatives from partner organizations. Projects are selected based on criteria that includes how the project's objectives support the mandates of the partner organizations and the Biodiversity Conservation Strategy, the scope of the project and its impact and outcomes, the availability of financial resources and champions to lead the project.

## OCCP PARTNER PROJECTS FOCUS ON FOUR KEY AREAS

### 1 PROVIDE BASELINE INFORMATION FOR CONSERVATION AND LAND USE PLANNING

- Ecosystem Corridor Research and Mapping
- Foreshore Inventory and Mapping for Okanagan Lake
- Boat Impact Study for Kalamalka and Wood Lake

### 2 INTEGRATE CONSERVATION MEASURES INTO LAND USE POLICY, REGULATIONS, AND INITIATIVES

- Environmental Development Permit Area and Corridor Mapping – District of Lake Country Official Community Plan
- Review and recommend best practices for mitigating the environmental impacts from motorized boating

### 3 DESIGN AND IMPLEMENT CONSERVATION OUTREACH AND ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

- Okanagan Lakeshore Living outreach program
- Demonstration restoration site at Bertram Creek Regional Park
- Ecosystem Connectivity outreach – presentations to local governments, community, and university students
- Travelling gallery exhibit *How Do We Get from Here to There* habitat connectivity and biodiversity protection
- Curriculum development and environmental educational lesson plan for grades K-7

### 4 BUILD THE CAPACITY AND FINANCIAL MECHANISMS TO SUPPORT CONSERVATION

- Facilitating the establishment of the North Okanagan Conservation Fund
- Leveraging OCCP Partner financial contributions to increase the capacity for carrying out partner projects and programs



## FOCUS AREA 1

### PROVIDE BASELINE INFORMATION FOR CONSERVATION AND LAND USE PLANNING

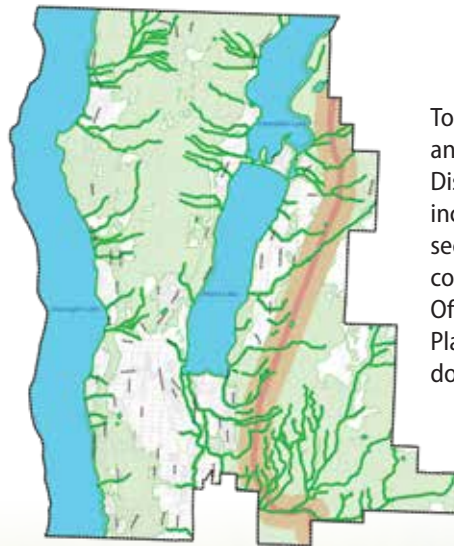
#### ECOSYSTEM CONNECTIVITY IN THE OKANAGAN

This multi-year initiative has brought together local and provincial governments, conservation organizations, industry, and First Nations to identify and implement actions to protect a major ecological wildlife corridor in the Central Okanagan.

The project completed research in partnership with the Complex Environmental Systems Lab at UBC Okanagan, the RDCO, and OCCP. This Action Team identified the protection of a 65 km by 1 km corridor between Okanagan Mountain Provincial Park and Kalamalka Lake Provincial Park as a priority for the region. OCCP coordinated a leadership team and a 20-member advisory team to develop land use guidelines and stewardship activities for protecting the corridor across public and private lands.

The teams worked with the District of Lake Country staff to develop Natural Environmental Development Permit Areas Guidelines and Corridor Mapping that were incorporated into their new Official Community Plan.

This project also connects with the cross-border ecological corridor project that stretches from Yellowstone National Park to the Yukon. Phase two of the project involves the teams working with various governments and landowners to develop actions and enhance protection measures for corridors across the Central Okanagan and adjoining areas.



To protect grasslands and species-at-risk, the District of Lake Country incorporates a 16 km section of the wildlife corridor into their 2018 Official Community Plan (Map15, OCP document).



## ECOLOGICAL CORRIDORS

Ecological corridors are the interconnected networks of habitat and migration corridors that sustain all life. Maintaining ecosystem connectivity is essential for species survival, movement, and genetic diversity, as well as for the ecosystem functions, which support essential food, air, and water systems for people. In the Okanagan, we are facing our final opportunity to keep connectivity in the low elevation ecosystems, which are the most important for biodiversity and most threatened. The fast rate of development in the Okanagan is fragmenting the low elevation areas bit by bit, limiting the remaining pathways for wildlife movement.

## FORESHORE INVENTORY MAPPING

Foreshore Inventory Mapping (FIM) is a scientific method that measures the level of disturbance of natural areas from development along the foreshore, or shoreline, of a lake. This process provides a baseline inventory of land use shore type and existing riparian conditions that allows planners and resource

managers to monitor changes over time, adapt regulations and implement best practices in shoreline management.

The Aquatic Habitat Index (AHI) is the second step in this mapping process that incorporates fisheries data to rank the relative fisheries value of a shoreline or stream. FIM and AHI are important environmental planning tools used in land use policies, regulations, and standards for the protection of aquatic and riparian habitat. OCCP facilitated the Action Teams and secured the financial resources to complete the 2009 and 2016 FIM inventories and mapping for Okanagan Lake.

The 2016 Okanagan Foreshore Inventory Mapping Report identified that **59% of the 290 km shoreline around Okanagan Lake has been developed. At the current rate of development the remaining natural areas will be lost or significantly altered within a generation or two.** Conserving natural areas around the lake helps protect our drinking water, provides habitat for wildlife including rare and endangered species, and offers aesthetic, recreational, and tourism values.



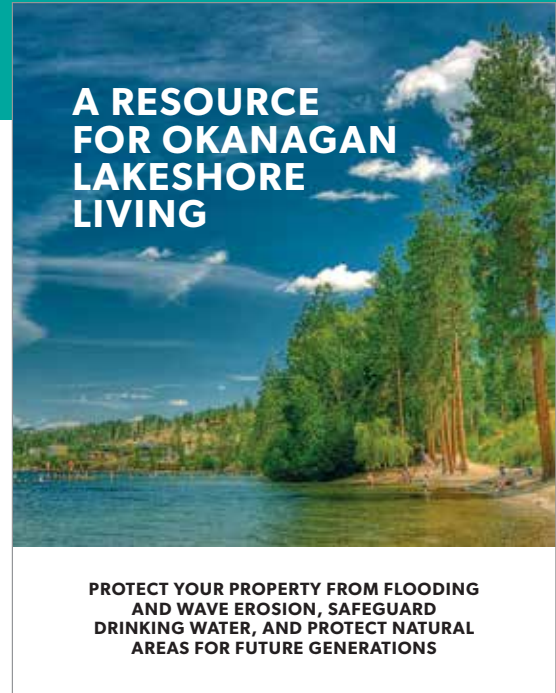
# FOCUS AREA 1

CONTINUED

## IMPLEMENTING THE FIM REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

To increase the public's awareness of the importance of protecting and restoring shoreline ecosystems and to showcase how shorelines can be restored, OCCP and its partners developed an environmental and outreach program, including: **outreach to lakeshore landowners** *A Resource for Lakeshore Living brochure*, which was mailed to 2800 landowners around the lake. An online version of the resource was created: [www.lakeshore-living.okcp.ca](http://www.lakeshore-living.okcp.ca). This resource focused on best management practices to protect water quality, mitigate the effects of flooding and erosion, and maintain habitat connectivity for wildlife and climate change resilience.

**Bertram Creek Regional Park Demonstration Restoration Site:** This project restored the shoreline along Okanagan Lake and developed interpretative signs promoting best practices in shoreline restoration.



**A RESOURCE FOR OKANAGAN LAKESHORE LIVING**

**PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY FROM FLOODING AND WAVE EROSION, SAFEGUARD DRINKING WATER, AND PROTECT NATURAL AREAS FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS**

*Kokanee Ways*, a 3D interactive display has been and will continue to be hosted at community facilities. The display uses interactive gaming technology to show the challenges Kokanee salmon encounter when travelling to spawn in Mission Creek. This project was developed in partnership with the UBC Okanagan Centre of Culture and Technology.



## KALAMALKA AND WOOD LAKE BOAT IMPACT STUDY RECOMMENDATIONS

Growth in the Okanagan region and increased boating activity generated a need for a comprehensive and scientific analysis for the potential impacts of motorized boating on water quality and environmental values. With this in mind, the Districts of Lake Country and Coldstream, RDNO, RDCO, Okanagan Similkameen Invasive Species Society and OCCP collaborated to undertake a study to investigate the potential threats. **The report's findings identified the lake bottom sediment contains bacteria, heavy metals, pesticide residues, and hydrocarbons.** When sediments are re-suspended by boat engine propulsion they can drift to the drinking water intakes. The report also identified large waves from boats are damaging shoreline property through erosion, swamping floating bird nests, and destroying Kokanee salmon spawning habitat. Local governments are considering mitigating negative impacts with the following recommendations:

### Recommendations:

- Recreational use should occur in locations that reduce risk to drinking water intakes and the environment
- Designate power boat corridors away from shoreline
- Designate low wake zones
- Develop spill safeguards and response plans
- Inform the public on the importance of our lakes

## WATCH YOUR WAVES

HELP PROTECT OUR DRINKING WATER AND SHORELINE



### DID YOU KNOW?

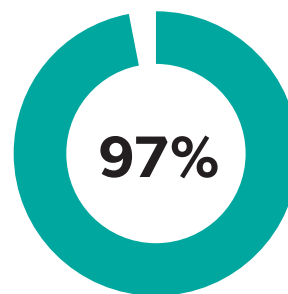
- A 100 horsepower boat engine can disturb the lake bottom to a depth of 5.5 m.
- Our lake bottom sediment contains bacteria, heavy metals, pesticide residues, and hydrocarbons. When these sediments are disturbed they can drift to our drinking water intakes.
- Boat motors are running cleaner and cleaner but they still add hydrocarbons to the lake which can make their way into our drinking water.
- A wave that is 25 cm in height has five times more erosion power than a 12 cm wave. A 62 cm high wave is 30 times more powerful than a 12 cm wave.
- Large waves damage property, swamp floating bird nests, and erode the shoreline which can cause sediment to cover and destroy spawning areas for Kokanee salmon.
- The chemicals present in fuel can react with sunlight to become very toxic to aquatic life.

### WITH A FEW SIMPLE STEPS WE ALL CAN PROTECT OUR DRINKING WATER AND SHORELINES:

- Use the recreational boating zones as identified on the back of this card.
- Keep your boat wake under 12 cm when travelling within 150m of the shore.
- If you are not towing, please trim your boat to reduce your wake.
- Keep your engine well tuned and re-fuel on land.



The racks cards are distributed to boaters by BC Conservation Officers and RCMP Auxiliary.



OCCP surveyed 270 community members. There was overwhelming 97% support for the reports recommendations.

## FOCUS AREA 2

### INTEGRATE CONSERVATION MEASURES INTO LAND USE POLICY, REGULATIONS, AND INITIATIVES

#### NATIVE SEED CONSERVATION INITIATIVE

Many of the neighbourhoods in the Okanagan are nestled amongst endangered grassland and wetland ecosystems, which are important ecological networks of habitat and migration corridors for many species. In working with local housing developers, OCCP has identified key conservation areas and species at risk that need protection. Work is underway in the Wilden neighbourhood

to maximize biodiversity conservation in an urban setting. OCCP will continue to engage in opportunities for sustainable development as the community expands. In Wilden, the priority has been to protect nesting areas and natural wetlands, which are important habitat for painted turtles. Additionally, a priority is salvaging native plant species from areas that will be developed to include in future landscape designs for the area.



## **OKANAGAN LAKE PROTECTION STRATEGY (PHASE 1 )**

### **PHASE 1 STRATEGY**

- Address cumulative impact of shoreline and upland development
- Identify effective multi-jurisdictional polices, bylaws, regulations, and processes to enhance shoreline and upland management
- Identify common and consistent approaches in shoreline and upland management

The aim of this project is to identify policies, regulations, and processes to enhance shoreline management for water source and natural areas protection for Okanagan Lake. The project created a working group of professionals who will explore best practices in environmental and land use planning, and will develop recommendations for effective multi-jurisdictional shoreline and upland management. This collaborative initiative between OCCP, SOSCP, Okanagan Nation Alliance, and local governments will develop strategies to protect the environmental, cultural and economic values of Okanagan Lake.



# FOCUS AREA 2

CONTINUED

## BERTRAM CREEK REGIONAL PARK DEMONSTRATION RESTORATION

OCCP supported on-the ground habitat restoration and developed interpretive signs for Bertram Creek Regional Park. The park shoreline was severely eroded by the flooding of Okanagan Lake in 2017 and 2018. This demonstration project allows the public to see how they could enhance their own shoreline properties using natural flood avoidance measures and native plants.



The interpretive signs promote key information on site including: best practices in shoreline restoration, Kokanee spawning area protection, and native plantings.

**A RESOURCE FOR OKANAGAN LAKESHORE LIVING**

### AQUATIC ECOSYSTEM

Protected by Provincial Government

**Aquatic areas include the water and all living things within it.**

**How healthy aquatic areas benefit you:**

- Water supports life. The lake provides drinking water, water for our crops and supports our recreational activities.
- Water helps regulate climate because it can absorb vast amounts of heat energy.
- Sunlight penetrates only a short distance in aquatic areas. Clear water in shallow areas promotes the highest diversity of native plants and animals.

**BEST PRACTICES**

- ✓ Minimize boat wakes near the shore to avoid erosion and damage to fish habitat.
- ✓ Return to shore with everything you brought out with you.
- ✓ Invasive zebra and quagga mussels are a huge threat to your investment and enjoyment of your property. If you use any type of watercraft or water recreation equipment make sure to Clean, Drain, Dry all gear.

Learn more at [www.DontMoveAMussel.ca](http://www.DontMoveAMussel.ca).

**CASE STUDY IN LAKESHORE REHABILITATION**

### KOKANEE HABITAT ENHANCEMENT

- Kokanee salmon are land-locked Sockeye salmon that spend their entire lives in fresh water. It is believed the Kokanee were trapped in Okanagan Lake about 10,000 years ago, at the end of the last ice age. There are two populations of Kokanee that live in Okanagan Lake, stream spawners and lakeshore spawners. Stream spawners are the larger of the two (1-2 kgs).
- Prior to 1970, there were over one million Kokanee in Okanagan Lake. However, drastic declines resulting from habitat loss, food competition from invasive species (the mysis shrimp) and over-fishing led to a closure of the Kokanee fishery in 1995.

- In response to the decline, the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change launched a recovery program aimed at rebuilding the population. Recovery action focused on improving water management, protecting and restoring spawning habitat, and improving rearing conditions in the lake by harvesting *mysis* shrimp. The success of the recovery actions lead to the Kokanee fishery reopening in 2012.
- The shore spawners in Okanagan Lake spawn from mid-October to early November and prefer to lay eggs in the cracks between large and small angled rocks with little sand.
- Bertram Creek Regional Park protects important spawning grounds, where over 1000 Kokanee spawn each year. In 2011 the Regional District Central Okanagan Parks enhanced the spawning grounds by removing an old decaying dock, a retaining wall and adding rocks to the spawning area.

**Proposed Final Conditions – Foreshore Restoration Area**

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT [WWW.LAKESHORE-LIVING.OKCP.CA](http://WWW.LAKESHORE-LIVING.OKCP.CA)



## FOCUS AREA 3

### DESIGN AND IMPLEMENT CONSERVATION OUTREACH AND ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

#### BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION STRATEGY COMMUNICATIONS

OCCP continues to strive to reach new audiences, share resources, and identify opportunities to make an impact in local biodiversity conservation. A key part of OCCP's Biodiversity Conservation Strategy (BCS) communications involves the development and distribution of monthly eNews campaigns, blog posts, and social media content. In addition, OCCP conducts presentations reaching hundreds of people annually including elected officials, researchers, and students. OCCP communications outline resources available in the BCS, OCCP's activities, Okanagan environmental issues, and ask audiences to get involved in biodiversity conservation. OCCP continues to support the collection of resource lists for online environmental mapping tools, conservation guidebooks, and regulatory tools.

#### THE BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION STRATEGY FOR THE OKANAGAN

The current activities of OCCP are guided by The Biodiversity Conservation Strategy for the Okanagan Region. This strategy identifies why we should conserve and restore natural areas, which natural areas should be protected and restored, who can contribute, how and when conservation and enhancement of these natural areas can be achieved and the role of natural areas in protecting regional biodiversity.



A Biodiversity Conservation Strategy for the Okanagan Region (including parts of the Shuswap, North /Central/South Okanagan and Similkameen Valleys)

## FOCUS AREA 3

CONTINUED

### ENVIRONMENTAL OUTREACH & EDUCATION

#### *Right of Way and Keeping Connectivity in Our Future”* Digital Interactive Exhibits

Through collaboration with the Centre for Culture and Technology at UBC Okanagan and Border Free Bees, OCCP supported work on a digital interactive 3D installation for the Social Life of Water exhibit, hosted at the Okanagan Heritage Museum and the Penticton and Kelowna Museums.

The 3D Okanagan watershed wildlife installation showcased local conservation initiatives for species, a digital interactive exhibit highlighting issues for connectivity from the point of view of a bee, an artistic felted-hassock bee flower calendar, bee costumes, and native seeds and resources for visitors to take home and plant a bee-friendly garden.

#### *How Do We Get from Here to There*

This two-year outreach and education initiative started as a collaboration between the Allan Brooks Nature Centre, the Okanagan Similkameen Stewardship Society, and OCCP. The goal was to raise awareness about local ecosystems and the Biodiversity Conservation Strategy for the Okanagan Region and to engage community members in habitat restoration. As the project developed, many other partners joined the initiative and developed two travelling public outreach exhibits and coordinated six community stewardship events to restore natural habitat.

**Over 74,000 people in the Okanagan region saw the exhibit promoting ways to work together for “Protecting Habitat Connectivity and Promoting Stewardship”.**



OSS supports wildlife habitat stewardship through management agreements on **107** properties that includes **5262** acres of land in the Okanagan region.

### **The Allan Brooks Nature Centre Nature Trailer**

A travelling public outreach exhibit was created by retrofitting a trailer with interactive displays focused on local conservation issues and information on grasslands, wetlands, and habitat connectivity. The Nature Trailer displays continue to provide walk-through experiences of interactive activities to educate and engage the public about Okanagan ecosystems, water conservation, and habitat connectivity. The Nature Trailer visits schools and classes, and in the summer the trailer can be found at community events and festivals.

### **Community Stewardship**

The OCCP supports the Okanagan Similkameen Stewardship Society (OSS) in their work to promote voluntary conservation, stewardship, and enhancement of habitat on private lands and within the communities of the Okanagan and Similkameen.

Landowners are provided with property-specific information about wildlife, habitat, best management practices, and stewardship agreements as well as in-person site visits and technical expertise as requested.

OSS has also implemented over 50 habitat restoration and enhancement projects each year, enhancing riparian areas, grasslands and pollinator habitat. OSS has led the partnership in hosting community stewardship events over the years. These events are held throughout the region and engage with community members in restoring wetland and grassland ecosystems. Restoration events include: Brent's Grist Mill Park Pollinator Art Pasture in Kelowna, Okanagan Landing Elementary Pollinator Garden and grassland restoration in Vernon, Lumby Salmon Path, and many others.

OSS riparian restoration at Lumby Flight Park



# FOCUS AREA 3

CONTINUED

## ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION IN SCHOOLS

OCCP is working with the Okanagan Basin Water Board, school teachers, the Faculty of Education UBC Okanagan, the School Board and Wildrose Native Traditions to develop resources and materials to help teachers lead environmental lessons that support the new BC Curriculum. The lesson plans will incorporate an Okanagan perspective for

species at risk, ecosystems, and traditional knowledge. OCCP co-facilitated three Professional Development days to introduce the resources to school teachers in Penticton, Vernon and Kelowna. In addition, a guide on how to build outdoor learning spaces has been developed and provides a framework and process for schools to create outdoor learning spaces on school grounds such as wetlands, grasslands, and pollinator gardens.

Silver Hills Biodiversity Tour—Shuswap River restoration, Cherryville, BC



## FOCUS AREA 4

### BUILD THE CAPACITY AND FINANCIAL MECHANISMS TO SUPPORT CONSERVATION

#### REGIONAL DISTRICT OF THE NORTH OKANAGAN CONSERVATION FUND

2018 marked a step towards the establishment of the North Okanagan Conservation Fund. The Regional District of North Okanagan (RDNO) Board gave a first reading for a bylaw to create a Conservation Fund that will support biodiversity conservation projects in the North Okanagan. Conservation Funds are created through local government service bylaws, just as some municipalities create service bylaws to collect recycling, they can create a service bylaw to protect the environment. OCCP supported the RDNO in working towards the establishment of the North Okanagan Conservation Fund including:

- Promoting the Fund to RDNO member municipalities and community stakeholders. OCCP will also help develop the terms of reference that will provide a road map for the design and implementation of the fund.
- Coordinating the Fund, which would include public outreach regarding eligible recipients and projects, public relations, as well as coordinating a technical advisory committee that will review grant submission and make recommendations of support for the RDNO Board of Directors.

#### CONSERVATION FUNDS HELP COMMUNITIES TO:

- Protect watersheds and aquifers, ensuring clean abundant water resources
- Build networks of parks, green space, and natural corridors for both people and wildlife
- Enhance quality of life, tourism and recreation opportunities, and understanding of the natural environment
- Enhance the viability of local agriculture, food production, and other renewable resources
- Restore, enhance, and manage natural areas that provide services important to economies and communities
- Protect ecosystems to sequester carbon and meet community climate action objectives
- Partner with conservation organizations to pool financial resources and leverage significant funding from outside the community to achieve local goals



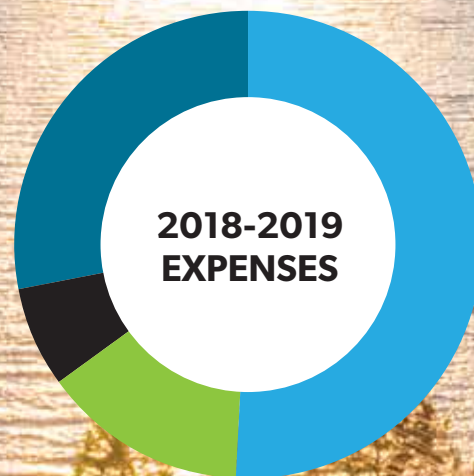
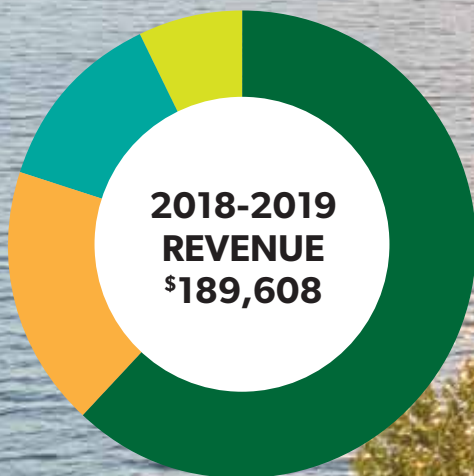
# FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

## REVENUE & EXPENSES



- Federal Grants
- Local Government
- Other OCCP Partners
- Foundations & Other Grants

- Core Operations & Management
- Administration
- Communications
- Direct Project Costs



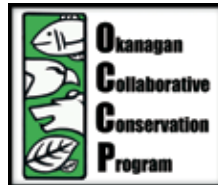
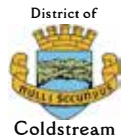


## FUNDING SUPPORTERS

OCCP would like to acknowledge and thank the following organizations for their financial support:

Funded by the Government of Canada  
Financé par le gouvernement du Canada

Canada



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Join the Okanagan Collaborative Conservation Program on Facebook

