



Keeping Nature Connected

May 19, 2021



Planning for Ecosystem Connectivity



Group 3

- From Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP) (suggested corridor) - wind blow down
- Want more interface logging for fire protection
- Gaps: Low Hardness Pine (LHP) - (value?) different set of factors would rank high; more important lower elevation, Species At Risk increase, beavers...
- Looking at corridors; trail
- Heavily Logged
- Barrier: highway
- Hard - can't go back and forth; mule deer don't see it - walking on
- Highway crossing
- Fish barrier: abandoned dam
- Wild Horse Canyon: Species at Risk (SAR) sheep, goat, wild cougar, bobcat
- High Rim Trail
- Wildlife corridor - can do more research
- Different management regime - no sheep
- High elevation riparian
- Already lots of constraints on the land base
- Start with ones checked up
- Old Growth Management Area (OGMA) - wildlife species - removed etc. existing...
- Traglines - to get information BC Wildlife Federation can help observations; moose ap
- movement of SAR
 - high elevation - if no rocky terrain the sheep won't see, deer will
 - Grizzly bears (GB) need more (coordination?) wide range in species
 - Not in here - how relate to species specific

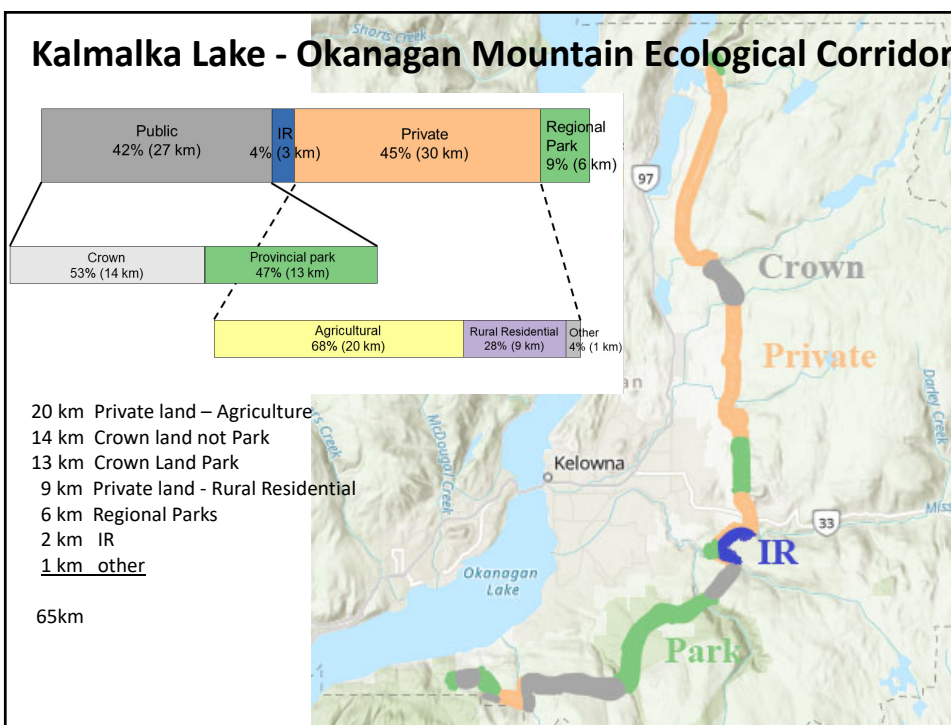
- A collaborative research project using computer modelling and mapping to predict animal movement and identify corridors.
- 20 member working group to review and ground truth the corridors, RDCO, District of Lake Country, the Province of BC – Ecosystems Branch, Agriculture and Range, ONA, Westbank First Nation, BCWF, City of Kelowna, and UBCO.

Kalmalka Lake - Okanagan Mountain Ecological Corridor



The Vision for the the corridor initiative is to ensure an ecologically functional and resilient Okanagan landscape that:

- Supports and sustains biodiversity
- Supports our quality of life, by providing access to clean air, water and other ecosystem services
- Maintains habitat connectivity throughout the valley and with Washington State,
- Uses the best available science, Traditional Ecological knowledge and cross jurisdictional collaboration

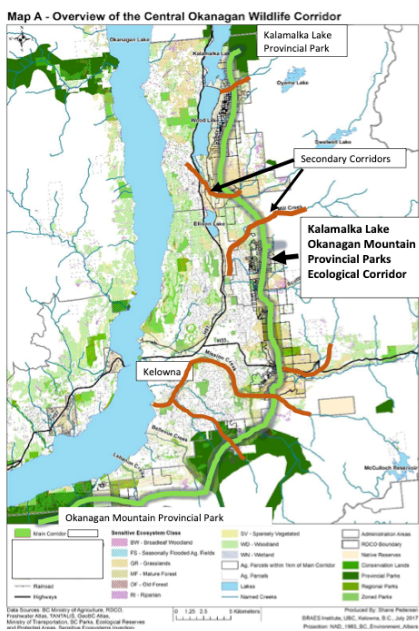








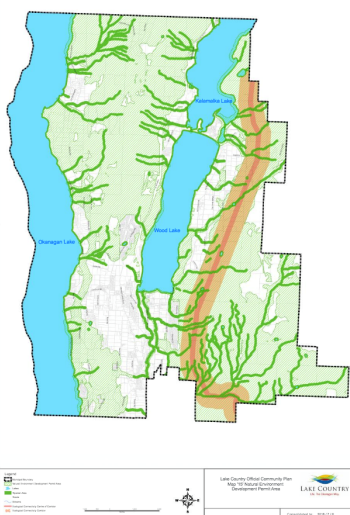
Partners Protecting the Corridor



- RDCO Parks and Westbank First Nation Black Mountain Park.
- Central Okanagan Land Trust
- Friends of Black Mountain, South Slopes, and Kalamalka Lake
- Okanagan Similkameen Stewardship Society -- covenants to protect private lands
- Environmental Farm Planning
- Mission Creek Restoration Initiative
- District of Lake Country and City of Kelowna - government protection measures

Protecting the Corridor with Local Government Tools

15 Natural Environment Development Permit Area



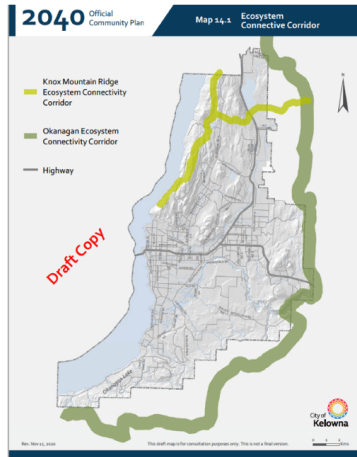
District of Lake Country

- Official Community Plan Update
 - Natural Environment Development Permit Area and Guidelines
 - Fencing not to impede wildlife
 - Wildlife crossing structures for roads
- Increase riparian setbacks
- Soil and Tree removal bylaws
- Conservation Covenants

Other tools

- Ecological gifts – Federal Tax Incentive
- Outreach and education

Protecting the Corridor with Local Government Tools

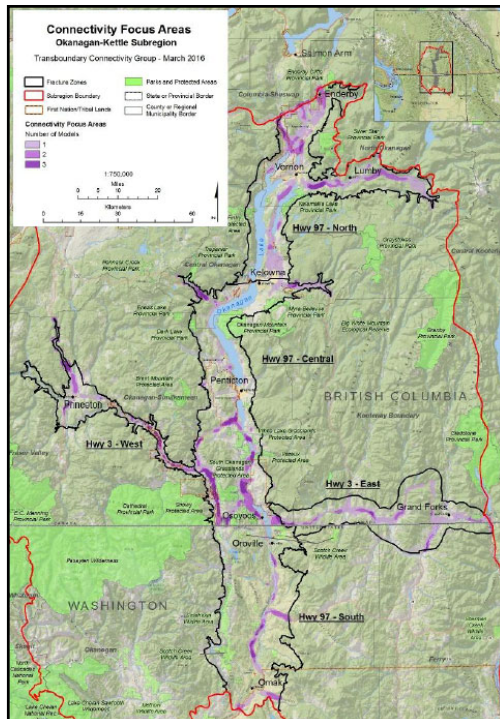


Source: City of Kelowna Official Community Plan

City of Kelowna

The City of Kelowna is following suit, as it released its draft 2040 OCP in January 2021, which included the Okanagan Mountain to Kalamalka Lake Provincial Park Ecosystem Connectivity Corridor, as well as secondary Knox Mountain Ridge Ecosystem Connectivity Corridor both of which are designated under the Natural Environment DPA.

The draft OCP includes a policy to discourage development or land uses that will have a negative impact on properties that intersect with the within the corridors. The draft policy is expected to be endorsed by Council later in 2021.



Working with our Partners to the North and South

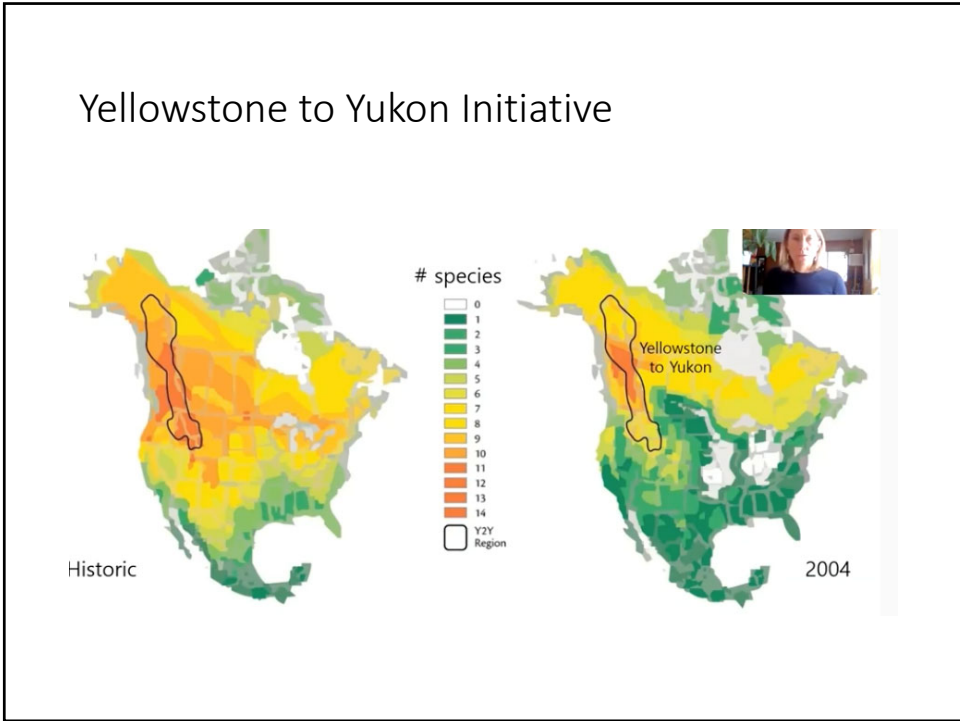
RDNO, City of Vernon, NONC

South Okanagan Similkameen Conservation Program, the RDOS and its member municipalities.

Conservation Northwest Sageland Program

Kootenay Connect

Yellowstone to Yukon Initiative

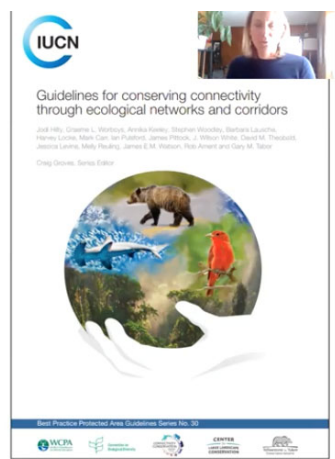


IUCN: International Union for Conservation of Nature

In 2020, we have policy clarity about *corridor conservation*

- Common definitions of corridors and ecological connectivity
- 25 global case studies with variety of approaches at different scales
- Recommends **formal recognition of corridors** to serve as critical parts of ecological networks

Ity et al. 2020





Wildlife crossings pay for themselves in 15 to 20 years.



No land management agencies in Canada or the US have been tasked with implementing corridors – nor have tools to do so (legislation/policy/regulation).



Developing the Habitat Connectivity Action Plan

Co – coordinated between OCCP and ONA

Timeline 2021 -22

April – August

- Working group meetings
 - Land use planning and policy, stewardship, land securement, education and outreach, research, working with adjacent jurisdictions

Sept - November

- Workshop(s) to review recommendations

January – February

- Draft Action Plan