

Realizing a Vision for Conservation Through Collaboration



Ecological Corridor Protection in the Okanagan March 13, 2019



Scott Boswell, MEDES
Program Manager
Okanagan Collaborative

The Okanagan Collaborative Conservation Program



1 of 5 Conservation Programs

40 member organization, 12 member steering committee

Program Mandate

- Assist in setting conservation objectives
- Facilitate conservation and stewardship on public and private lands
- Help secure financial resources for conservation



Our Supporters



Environment and
Climate Change Canada

Environnement et
Changement climatique Canada

van^{co}uver
foundation



The Honda logo, featuring three stylized figures in red, orange, and grey, with their arms raised in a celebratory gesture.
The Honda Foundation



Great Northern
LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION COOPERATIVE



OCCP is guided by A Biodiversity Conservation Strategy



Keeping
NATURE
in Our Future
Part 2: Volume 2

A Biodiversity
Conservation Strategy for
the Okanagan Region

Involving people in the Okanagan,
North Okanagan, South Okanagan and
Shuswap Regions

Developed by the Okanagan Regional
Biodiversity Conservation Program



The Strategy's Recommendations



- Create land use policies and regulations that integrate biodiversity conservation.
- Build on the existing networks of parks and protected areas.
- Conduct environmental research.
- Increase public awareness for environmental conservation.
- Establish new methods to finance biodiversity conservation .

Projects are completed through Action Teams



Projects include - research and planning initiatives, environmental mapping, habitat restoration, and educational and outreach.

Planning for Ecosystem Connectivity



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

Why is it important to maintain ecological connectivity in the Okanagan?



- Loss of habitat and fragmentation of existing habitat is the greatest cause of biodiversity decline
- Topography, large lakes and urban and agricultural development limit species movement
- Restoring habitats is costly and more difficult to do than conservation

Kalmalka Lake - Okanagan Mountain Ecological Corridor



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

- Supports and sustains biodiversity
- Maintains habitat connectivity throughout the valley and with Washington State
- Supports our quality of life, by providing access to clean air and water and other ecosystem services such as erosion protection, flood mitigation, biological pest control, soil generation and pollination

Ecologically functional landscapes Support our Communities



Ecosystems support:

- Range Land
- Climate Change Resiliency
- Recreational Activities
- Water Source Protection
- Forestry
- Agriculture



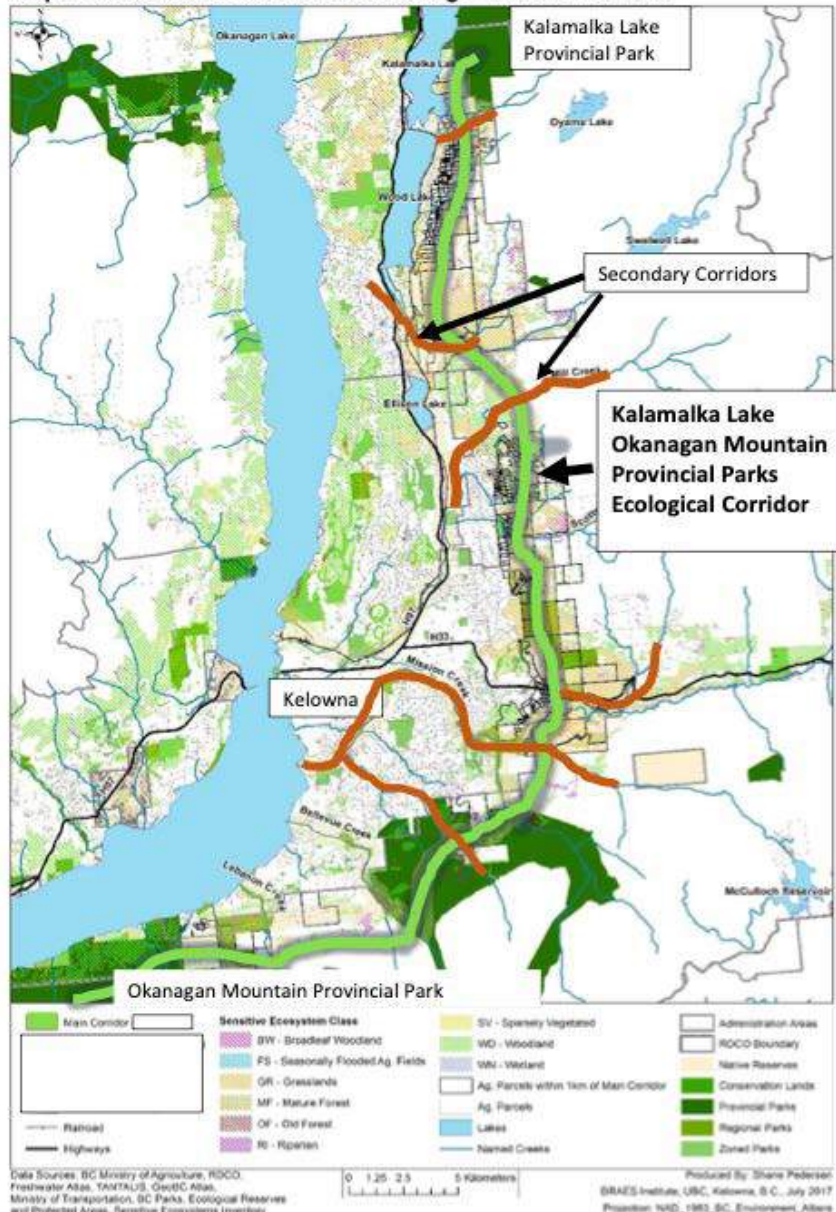






Protecting the Corridor

Map A - Overview of the Central Okanagan Wildlife Corridor



- Central Okanagan Land Trust
- RDCO Parks and Westbank First Nations management agreement
- Friends of Black Mountain wetland enhancement project.
- Okanagan Similkameen Stewardship Society Covenants to protect private lands
- Environmental Farms Plans
- Mission Creek Restoration Project

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
- Park Acquisition for biodiversity
- Increase riparian setbacks
- Soil and Tree removal bylaws
- Conservation Covenants

Other tools

- Ecological gifts – Federal Tax Incentive
- Outreach and education

Outreach to raise the awareness of the importance of the Ecosystem Connectivity

ECOSYSTEM CONNECTIVITY

Okanagan Institute for Biodiversity, Resilience and Ecosystem Services (IBRES)

Habitat patches

Undisturbed natural areas containing suitable habitat or resources for a species, or a patch, or ecological process. Core habitat patches become isolated by natural disturbance processes, such as fire, wind and flooding, and by building roads, utility corridors, and other human development. Along with corridors, habitat patches are the building blocks of ecosystem connectivity.

Corridors

Land or water features providing or made habitat patch areas. Corridors may be stepping stones of habitat patches or a path across the landscape to allow for movement between patches (e.g., wetlands, or riparian corridors, along streams).

Ecosystem services

The benefits we receive from the natural world that provide and sustain human well-being. They include food, water, timber, air quality, water resources, climate regulation, biodiversity, recreation, flood protection, and other natural goods and services. Ecosystem services include: food, water, timber, air quality, water resources, climate regulation, biodiversity, recreation, flood protection, and other natural goods and services.

Further information

IBRES contact:
1800 Okanagan Campus
8888 University Ave.
Kelowna, BC, V1Y 1V7
Tel/Fax: 250-867-4522
<http://ibres.ca>

Photo: Frank and Lee Poirer (IBRES)

12 PAGES

Keeping NATURE in Our Future

Designing and Implementing Ecosystem Connectivity in the Okanagan

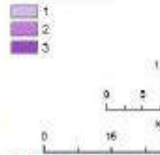
Susan Latham and Alison Peck
Okanagan Collaborative Conservation Program

Connectivity Focus Areas Okanagan-Kettle Subregion

Transboundary Connectivity Group - March 2016



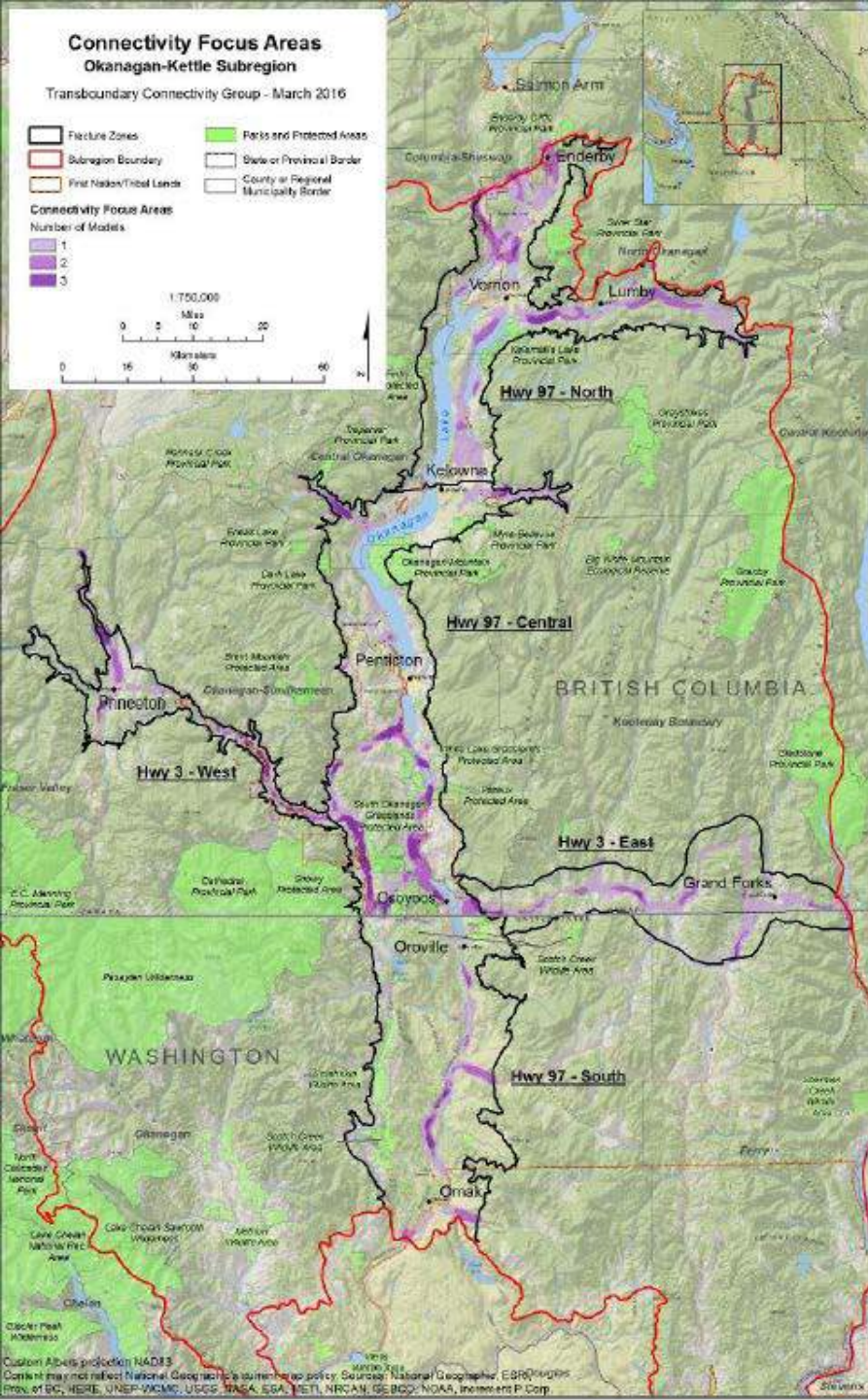
Connectivity Focus Areas
Number of Models



1:750,000

0 2 10 20 Miles

0 16 32 48 Kilometers



Work plan for 2019 and beyond

District of Lake Country

- Public outreach on the importance of the Corridor

Regional District of Central Okanagan

- Include Corridor mapping, natural development permits areas and guidelines for updating their Official Community Plans in 2020.
- Park land acquisitions
- Highway 33 underpass

South Okanagan Similkameen Conservation Program Penticton

- Include Corridor mapping, natural development permits areas and guidelines for updating their Official Community Plans in 2020.
- Promote the New National Park