

**South Okanagan Foreshore Inventory Mapping
Progress Report**

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Prepared for:

**Okanagan Basin Water Board
Water Conservation and Quality Initiative Grant Program**

Prepared By:

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Background on the Organization:

The Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen (RDOS) was incorporated on March 4, 1966 and 2006 marked it's 40th anniversary. In British Columbia, Regional Districts serve three important roles; they:

- are regional bodies responsible for providing important regional services and undertaking key activities for the greater Regional area including solid waste management, land use planning, water and sewer utilities, 911, fire protection, recreation and regulatory services;
- provide the political and administrative frameworks necessary for member municipalities and electoral areas to collaborate in the provision of regional and sub-regional services, and;
- are the local governments for their (unincorporated) electoral areas. Regional Boards are composed of elected municipal and rural area directors. At present, the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen (RDOS) Board is comprised of eighteen directors. Ten municipal directors and eight rural area directors.

The planning department within the RDOS Development Services works in the public interest by preparing plans and policies to guide development, balance the needs of the community with economic, social and environmental considerations to protect the unique character of the area and quality of life for existing and future generations of the Okanagan Similkameen.

The RDOS' service area is approximately 10,400 square kilometers and serves just under 80,000 people.

Project Description:

The primary objective of the South Okanagan Lake Foreshore Inventory Mapping is to create a comprehensive baseline of the current land use and environmental status of the shoreline. This project was completed for shorelines in RD Central Okanagan, Peachland, Summerland and Penticton in addition to the RDOS.

The Foreshore inventory mapping (FIM) and report will illustrate habitat data inventories and recommendations for all of the jurisdictions involved in the project. This will establish a base line inventory of current conditions in regard to land use, shoreline type, riparian conditions and anthropogenic alterations that will be used to maintain and improve future water conservation, shoreline, and near shore habitat quality.

In addition to collaboration with the local governments there was significant assistance with staff and equipment from Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) and Ministry of Environment (MOE) (Ecosystems, Parks and Conservation Officer Service). The project is being completed in accordance with the north Okanagan FIM project being led by the Okanagan Collaborative Conservation Program.

Present Achievements:

- Contract award to Ecoscape Environmental Ltd in May/June of 2009
- Field work was completed in June and July of 2009 in collaboration with DFO, MOE and CORD
- A workshop was held in August to ensure that this year's FIM projects throughout the basin will have consistency in format and reporting and to determine future use of the products

Time Line of Remainder of Project:

The final report, data base and video are expected by the end of 2009.

Obstacles Encountered:

There were significant boat problems resulting from the video work where the boat was required to travel very close to shore. The time lines were also adapted for weather. As this was an experienced crew, very few problems were encountered.

Feedback on the application process:

The process works very well.