

Okanagan River and Osoyoos Lake Water Quality Assurance during Phase I of Okanagan River Restoration Initiative (ORRI)

Progress report



Authors:

Camille Rivard-Sirois, B.Sc., Okanagan Nation Alliance Fisheries Department
John B. Holdstock, Okanagan Region Wildlife Heritage Fund Society

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Genevieve Dunbar, Okanagan Basin Water Board
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Okanagan Nation Alliance
3255 C Shannon Lake Road,
Westbank, BC, V4T 1V4
Phone: (250) 707-0095
Fax: (250) 707-016



Okanagan Region Wildlife
Heritage Fund Society
1326 Scott Crescent,
Kelowna, BC, V1Z 2P7

Background on the Organization

The Okanagan Region Wildlife Heritage Fund Society was formed in January of 1988 and obtained charitable status in February of 1989. It is a Society formed and operated by volunteers.

The purpose of the Society is to promote the preservation and protection of land, forests lakes, streams and wildlife, including fish, for the benefit of all people. The primary object is to acquire or otherwise secure and protect real estate and real property for the propagation of forests, wildlife and wildlife habitat.

The Society's service area is the Okanagan Valley from Enderby to Osoyoos and east to Grand Forks and west to Princeton.

Project Description

The *Okanagan River Restoration Initiative (ORRI) - Phase I* is the re-naturalization of a section of the channelized river located 17 km upstream from Osoyoos Lake. The restoration includes the re-connection of the river to its historic floodplain, the opening of two oxbows to create a dual meandering channel, and the plantation of riparian vegetation (Fig. 1). ORRI is sponsored by the Canadian Okanagan Basin Technical Working Group and implicates several agencies and funding contributors.

The *Okanagan River and Osoyoos Lake Water Quality Assurance during ORRI - Phase I* project ensures environmental protection, erosion control, and water quality preservation during the construction works by:

- 1) Assessing the quality (water & sediments) of the two oxbows prior works;
- 2) Having an Appropriate Qualified Professional (AQP) on-site during works.

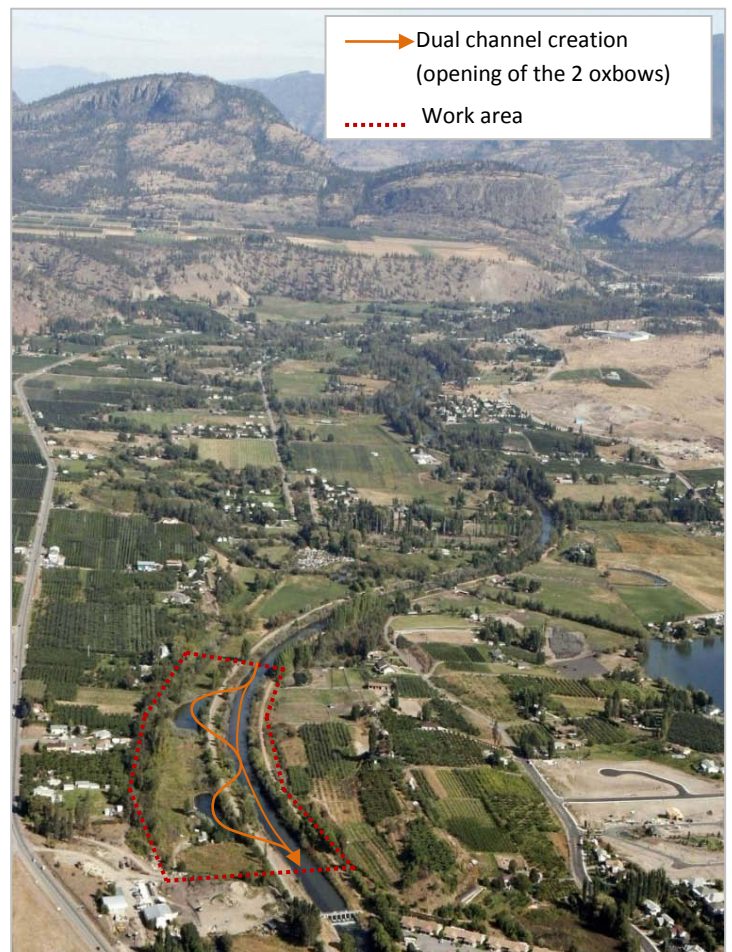


Figure 1: Conceptual design of ORRI-Phase I

Present Achievements

Activities/Deliverables	Progress status	Comment
1. Collection of samples (water & sediment) and field measurements in the 2 oxbows prior construction	Completed	No modification from proposal
2. Daily presence of AQP onsite during construction (erosion & sediment control, environmental protection, outreach)	Completed	No modification from proposal
3. Collection of field measurements in the river during construction	Completed	Measurements taken daily: above site, 100m below works, below site, 2km below site
4. Collection of water samples in the river during construction	In progress (samples taken, in progress of lab analysis)	5 sets of samples taken: above and below site
5. Bi-weekly progress reports sent to ORRI Steering Committee	3 of 4 progress reports completed 1 of 4 progress reports in progress	See attachment
6. Press release	One press release completed, One press release in progress	See attachment
7. OBWB onsite visit	In progress	Will be done in Fall 2009
8. Final report	Not begun	Will be done in Fall 2009

Timeline of Remainder of Project

The project is on schedule. All activities included in the *Okanagan River and Osoyoos Lake Water Quality Assurance during ORRI - Phase I* are expected to be completed by January 2010.

Obstacles Encountered

Obstacle encountered	Way to overcome/Lesson learned
Partial founding of the project.	- Collaboration with Okanagan College to reduce the cost. - Completion of the funding with another source.
High turbidity measurements during some construction activities.	- Constant communication/discussion with contractor. - Modification/adaptation of construction techniques (example: reduction of the speed of the manipulations). - Addition of mitigation measures (example: silt fence).

We are not anticipating other obstacles.