

OKANAGAN COLLABORATIVE CONSERVATION PROGRAM (\$29,590)

PROJECT TITLE: FORESHORE INVENTORY MAPPING CONTACT PERSON: SUSAN LATIMER

The OCCP is a partnership of 24 organizations with shared goals, which include maintaining regional biodiversity, protecting Species at Risk, maintaining ecological connectivity throughout the valley, and balancing regional growth with conservation. Members of the OCCP include all levels of government (Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO), Ministry of Environment (MOE), regional districts, municipalities), land trusts, businesses, stewardship and outreach organizations. OCCP's mandate is to

assist partners in sharing information, collaboration and research to fill knowledge gaps, and setting priorities on conservation issues. As partners, the City of Vernon, MOE, DFO and Regional District of Central Okanagan (RDCO) have identified a need to completing FIM on Okanagan Lake.



This grant allows the Okanagan Collaborative Conservation Program (OCCP) to coordinate Foreshore Inventory and Mapping (FIM) on the northern third of Okanagan Lake (totalling 60.3 km). FIM provides a geo-referenced record of the foreshore, which provides a baseline for regulatory monitoring and enforcement, future restoration, and estimating the cumulative impact of development on species such as kokanee. FIM involves making a video of the entire shoreline by boat and embedding GPS coordinates onto the video images. Data compilation then involves tabulating the number of docks, shore type, land

use, riparian condition, shoreline substrate composition, lakeshore structures, level disturbance and other variables for each shoreline section.

RDCO staff has developed a streamlined methodology for FIM and has provided advice and support for this project. MOE provided a suitable boat and driver, as well as Conservation Corps personnel to conduct fieldwork. The OCCP will also provide some in-kind coordination of the project with funding assistance from the Real Estate Foundation. The Community Mapping Network will also provide valuable in-kind assistance in making basic FIM data available via the North Okanagan Habitat and Resource Atlas, an online mapping service, which requires no special software or expertise. The Department of Fisheries and Oceans has provided personnel to assist in further streamlining FIM field methodology and developing a consensus regarding terminology and standard FIM protocol.

RDCO completed FIM for 121 km of foreshore along the central portion of Okanagan Lake, including a detailed report. With completion of FIM for the remainder of the lake and analysis of shore spawning data, agencies will be better able to quantify the cumulative effect of shoreline development on kokanee, for example, relative to the total habitat available in the rest of the lake.

With the help of our partners, field work has already been completed for this project. The BC Conservation Corps Crew, funded by the BC Ministry of Environment, was trained with the assistance of the staff from the Regional District of Central Okanagan through the OCCP partnership; this crew also conducted field work to collect shoreline video and GPS FIM data points. A team familiar with past FIM projects from DFO, MOE, RDCO, RDOS and the OCCP was assembled to come to a consensus on the FIM field protocol and terminology. These definitions will be included in the reporting for this project as the definitive FIM protocol reference by FIM future projects which should greatly enhance the comparative value of future projects. The video processing for the project is now underway and report writing will likely be complete by November 2008.

