

WATER CONSERVATION AND QUALITY IMPROVEMENT GRANT PROGRAM PROGRESS REPORT

Project: Joe Rich Stream Restoration Project 2009

Applicant: Regional District of Central Okanagan

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Background on the organization

Since 1967, Planning Services Department at the Regional District of Central Okanagan has been providing professional assistance to the Regional Board in order to meet and balance the social, economic, and environmental planning needs of the region's growing and diverse population, in order to maintain and enhance the unique lifestyle and environment of the Central Okanagan.

The newly formed Development and Environmental Services Department, including planning staff, carries the same goal to support the high quality of life enjoyed by the residents of the Central Okanagan. We are dedicated to protecting and enhancing natural and environmentally sensitive areas, while achieving sustainable development. We have a commitment to protect and enhance the natural environment including our water resource through land use planning, development regulations, and public education.

Today, the RDCO includes a service area of 2956.3 square kilometers, which is home to approximately 173,000 people.

Project Description

Joe Rich Creek is a major tributary to Mission Creek, located east of the City of Kelowna, upstream of local domestic water supply intakes. The Joe Rich Creek watershed has been affected by development activities on crown and private land, including those associated with Highway 33. Areas of extensive bank erosion, over-widening, riparian clearing, as well as poor water quality (high sediment and coliform counts) and channel dewatering have raised concerns over the health of the system.

In 2007, an extensive restoration project, supported by OBWB and numerous other partners, was undertaken with the goal of re-establishing channel stability, riparian cover and water quality on Joe Rich Creek. To achieve this livestock exclusion fencing was erected, rock riffle and rip rap structures were installed and banks replanted. The project was widely accepted and received a great deal of positive feedback from the community.

This project aims at continuing and improving on past successes by conducting maintenance on previous works and identifying further restoration opportunities on Joe Rich Creek. Monitoring throughout the 08/09 season has shown broad success of cattle exclusion, riparian growth and erosion control efforts. Fencing is 100% functional with a high level of land owner cooperation resulting in no evident cattle access to the stream or riparian areas. Riparian plantings show a high survival rate, along with the majority of rip rap and riffle structures functioning properly.

Communication with local residents and consultants is the focus to establish further restoration opportunities. This will include a community meeting to establish local concerns and identify priority areas. This will be followed by assessment detailed prescriptions provided from a qualified professional.

The project is a collaborative effort between the RDCO and the BC Cattlemans Association and their Farmland Riparian Interface Stewardship Program (FRISP)

Present Achievements analyze

To date, the project has been successfully completed the following:

- Contract awarded to Streamworks Unlimited to assess 2007 works and prescribed repairs and enhancements as well as participate in the planned community meeting and identify future restoration opportunities.
- Landowners contacted as to intent of the project and works to be completed on their property.
- Field assessment of the 2007 works and detailed maintenance prescriptions outlined.

Timeline of remainder of project

Activity	Current status	Anticipated completion date	Projected completion date (as per original proposal)
Monitoring and initial assessment by RDCO staff	Complete	Complete	April - June
Award contract for Phases 1 and 2	Complete	Complete	April - June
Field Assessment and Maintenance Prescriptions	Complete	Complete	April - June
Instream Works (Repairs and Enhancements)	Ongoing	Late September - Early October	August - September
Riparian Planting and Habitat Restoration	Ongoing	Late September - Early October	May & August
Identification of Phase 2 Restoration Opportunities and Stakeholder Meeting	Ongoing	Late September - Early October	Ongoing
Reporting	Ongoing	December	December
Monitoring	Ongoing	Ongoing	Ongoing



Photo Plate 1: Functioning rip rap, revegetated bank and cattle exclusion fencing. June 2, 2009.



Photo Plate 2: Functioning rip rap, revegetated bank and cattle exclusion fencing. June 2, 2009



Photo Plate 3: Functioning rip rap with natural regeneration of alder and willow. June 2, 2009.



Photo Plate 4: Representative photo of livestake growth (~1-2 meters). June 2, 2009



Photo Plate 5: Failed bank stabilization flagged as a priority for maintenance and enhancement. June 2, 2009.



Photo Plate 6: Additional eroding bank due to upstream failure of riffle structure. This site has been identified as a priority for maintenance and enhancement.