Produced March 2014 with support from Environment Canada, the Nature Conservancy of Canada and Ducks Unlimited Canada and in kind support from the Province of BC, The Nature Trust of British Columbia and numerous other organizations and individuals, including Doug Brown, the volunteer IBA Caretaker.

Photo of the sign kiosk on which the new sign panels (see below) will be placed on provincial crown land along Rd 22. Note that the existing signs will be removed or moved to a different panel.
Images of the new sign panels for Osoyoos Oxbows IBA
WATER
A Priceless Resource in a Dry Land.

THE BIOSRHELIC CRUST
A perpetual relationship and plan for cooperation between the act of growth and decay. The biological and geologic cycles are interconnected, with a planet of life that relies on the natural processes of decay to return nutrients to the soil and sustain the ecosystem.

Native wildlife and ecosystems are dependent on water resources to thrive. The importance of water conservation and management cannot be overstated. Conservation efforts, such as creating and maintaining wetlands and riparian areas, are crucial for sustaining healthy habitats and supporting diverse wildlife communities.
The Osoyoos Oxbows

Until the 1970s, the Osoyoos Oxbows were a series of shallow lakes surrounded by vegetation, providing a habitat for a variety of wildlife. Today, the Osoyoos Oxbows are part of the Osoyoos Lake Wetland Reserve, a designated Important Bird Area (IBA) in British Columbia. The wetlands are home to a diverse array of bird species, including waterfowl, wading birds, and shorebirds. The Osoyoos Oxbows are also a popular spot for birdwatching and photography.

Important Bird Area (IBA)

The Osoyoos Oxbows were designated as an Important Bird Area (IBA) in 2013. IBAs are areas that are of global significance for the conservation of birds. The Osoyoos Oxbows IBA is a critical habitat for a variety of species, including the Audubon’s Warbler, the Oregon Dark-eyed Junco, and the American Avocet. The wetlands are also important for migratory birds, with thousands of birds stopping over during their annual migrations.

Conservation Efforts

The Osoyoos Oxbows are managed by the Regional District Okanagan Similkameen, which works to protect and enhance the natural resources of the area. Conservation efforts include habitat restoration, invasive species management, and public education programs. The Osoyoos Oxbows are a valuable resource for the local community and serve as a reminder of the importance of preserving our natural heritage.
A Changing Landscape

Development for housing, agriculture, and flood control has reduced and altered local ecosystems. We face many challenges in protecting wildlife and natural habitats in the Okanagan.
We’re All in This Together

STEWARDSHIP

TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE

Conservation organizations and agencies working at the local level are supporting local programs and initiatives in the community to build capacity and foster connections.

HOW TO JOIN LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS IN ACTION

- Participate in local conservation efforts.
- Support local conservation organizations.
- Share your knowledge and experiences.
- Advocate for conservation policies.
- Volunteer your time and talents.

STAY INVOLVED

- Help by sharing your knowledge and experiences.
- Support local organizations.
- Join efforts to protect the environment.
- Share your stories and insights.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR COMMUNITY

- Join local conservation organizations.
- Volunteer your time and talents.
- Advocate for conservation policies.
- Share your knowledge and experiences.

Together we can make a difference in the community.

PHOTO CREDITS

- Images courtesy of [Local Conservation Organization].

- Images courtesy of [Local Community Group].

- Images courtesy of [Local Artist].

- Images courtesy of [Local Photographer].

- Images courtesy of [Local Illustrator].

- Images courtesy of [Local Filmmaker].
Osoyoos Oxbows
Floodplain Restoration Project

Conservation organizations have purchased properties along R0ad 71 and the Osoyoos Oxbows to conserve and restore critical wetlands.

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Protecting Valuable Ecosystems

A HOTSPOT FOR BIODIVERSITY
The atrisk species that we see today are remnants of a rich ribbon of wetlands that once extended along the Ohagan Valley.

THE SOUTH OAHAGAN WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA
The South Oahagan Wildlife Management Area (SOWMA) is a critical component of the ecosystem that supports the endangered species of the region. It is located in the heart of the Oahagan Valley, providing habitat for many species in danger of extinction.

HAYNES-LEASE ECOSYSTEMIC RESERVE
The Haynes-Lease Ecosystemic Reserve is a remote area that is home to some of the most endangered species in the region. It is located on the outskirts of the Oahagan Valley, providing a safe haven for species that are in danger of extinction.

WHY DO ANTELOPE MULES NEED PROTECTION?
The Antelope Mule is a species that is threatened by habitat loss and human encroachment. It is located in the Oahagan Valley, providing a home for this species in danger of extinction.

PALLID BAT
The Pallid Bat is a species that is threatened by habitat loss and human encroachment. It is located in the Oahagan Valley, providing a home for this species in danger of extinction.

MADDOX GROVE
Maddox Grove is a critical component of the ecosystem that supports the endangered species of the region. It is located in the heart of the Oahagan Valley, providing habitat for many species in danger of extinction.
Site Map

The South Okanagan Wildlife Management Area and District Lands, including resources, best practices, guidelines, and tools, are prepared and managed by the Province of British Columbia, the Nature Conservancy of Canada, and the National Audubon Society. This map highlights the landscape and the various conservation efforts taking place within the area.

- **LANDS OWNED BY CONSERVATION PARTNERS**
- **HAYNES' LEASE ECOLOGICAL RESERVE**
- **SOUTH OKANAGAN WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA (SOWMA)**
Wildlife Viewing

RIVER SEDD, BUILT IN THE 1960S FOR FLOOD CONTROL, NOW PROVIDES A WILDLIFE-AND-RECREATION PARADISE THAT IS IDEAL FOR VIEWING WILDLIFE DURING ALL SEASONS.

SAFETY
- Keep noise levels low, especially near nesting areas.
- Avoid using flash photography to disturb wildlife.
- Do not feed or attempt to touch any animals.
- Keep your distance to avoid scaring or harming wildlife.

TIPS FOR WILDLIFE VIEWING
- Use binoculars or a telescope to view birds and distant wildlife.
- A camera with a telephoto lens is ideal for capturing wildlife images.
- Wear comfortable clothing and sturdy footwear for hiking.
- Bring water and snacks for long periods of observation.

SHELTER WILDLIFE VIEWING
- The sheltered Eurasion oystercatcher is a common species found in the area.
- Look for other waterfowl, such as ducks and geese, near the river.
- Keep an eye out for wading birds like herons and egrets.

PASSAGE WILDLIFE VIEWING
- The migration of birds and mammals is a highlight of this area.
- Observe wildlife crossing the river and along the riverbank.
- Be aware of riprap areas where wildlife may be found.

CAMPFIRE WILDLIFE VIEWING
- Listen for the sounds of night, such as the calls of owls and the chirping of crickets.
- Look for the moon to guide your way as you explore the area after dark.
- Keep a flashlight handy for any nighttime wildlife encounters.

WEBSITE: [www.wildlifewatching.com]

PHOTO CREDITS: [List of photographers and their credits]
Osoyoos Oxbows and Road 22
Through the Seasons

WINTER RESIDENTS

SPRING – RETURNING AND RENNAWMING

SUMMER

FALL

PHOTO CREDITS:

[Credit list here for all images used in the diagram]