



# OKANAGAN SIMILKAMEEN STEWARDSHIP SOCIETY

## Voluntary Wildlife Habitat Steward Agreement



Name:

Civic Address:

Mailing Address (if different):

Phone:

E-mail:

Do you prefer contact by email or phone? \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like to receive our semi-annual e-newsletter?      Circle one:    Yes                      No

Would you like to become a member of Okanagan Similkameen Stewardship (\$10.00/year)?  
Circle one:    Yes                      No

Under this voluntary agreement:

**1. Okanagan Similkameen Stewardship Society agrees to the following as capacity allows:**

- a. Provide information and/or advice regarding wildlife, habitat, and stewardship options to the landowner when requested.
- b. Provide landowner with information, technical assistance and support with habitat enhancement within the stewarded area as capacity allows [and as appropriate according to our guidelines], including: *(select all that apply)*
  - Compiling a baseline ecological summary of property including best management practices for wildlife
  - Planting of native species
  - Invasive species management plans
  - Fencing of ecologically sensitive areas to exclude livestock and/or trespass
  - Provide wildlife residence boxes for installation
  - Other (please describe):
- c. Provide landowner with a Wildlife Habitat Steward gate-post sign.
- d. Check in with landowner through email or phone at least once per year to answer questions and/or make recommendations if requested
- e. Conduct site visits to the property as requested by landowner

**2. The landowner(s) agree(s) to manage the stewarded area in the following way:**

- a. Managing the spread of invasive and noxious species:
  - i. Not planting invasive plant species within the stewarded area.
  - ii. Not introducing fish/turtles/other non-native wildlife to the stewarded area
- b. Assisting OSS with habitat enhancement efforts on their property(ies), including: continuation of OSS invasive plant removal efforts on their own time, taking bags of invasive species to the landfill, watering planted areas when possible, assisting with planting days, and any other activities agreed upon by both parties.
- c. Not filling in or draining any wetland area.

- d. Installing any wildlife habitat features (nest boxes, bat boxes, turtle basking structures) within one month of receipt and reporting use (or not) by wildlife when requested of OSS staff.
- e. Not removing native plant vegetation within the Stewarded Area unless it poses a risk to health and safety or is prescribed in order to reduce encroachment of grasslands.
- f. Contacting Okanagan Similkameen Stewardship Society if there are any threats to or concerns about the stewarded area.
- g. Contacting Okanagan Similkameen Stewardship Society if the property is to be sold (to aid in continuity with new property managers).

**3. Confidentiality & Privacy & Recognition**

Okanagan Similkameen Stewardship Society can share the details of this agreement and your involvement in the program with: (please initial next to your response)

a) Species at Risk Recovery Teams

\_\_\_\_\_ Agree      \_\_\_\_\_ Do not agree

b) South Okanagan Similkameen Conservation Program and/or Okanagan Collaborative Conservation Program partners

\_\_\_\_\_ Agree      \_\_\_\_\_ Do not agree

**4. Recognition and Outreach**

Okanagan Similkameen Stewardship Society can share your involvement in the program with the public and on tabletop displays and brochures.

\_\_\_\_\_ Agree      \_\_\_\_\_ Do not agree

**4. Property Access**

Any and all access to private property must be requested of and approved by the landowner(s). All requests will be made with reasonable advance notice by Okanagan Similkameen Stewardship representatives. The landowner(s) retain(s) all rights to restrict access to their private property.

**I (we) understand that this voluntary agreement does not involve any loss of ownership rights. It only serves to indicate my (our) intention to conserve native habitat and wildlife.**

Okanagan Similkameen Stewardship Society  
 #6 – 477 Martin Street  
 Penticton, BC V2A 5L2  
 E: info@osstewardship.ca P: 250-770-1467

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature of landowner

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature of OSSS Representative(s)

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Date

## Property Overview and Information

**Property Location (directions & overview map):**

**Site Map:** Property outlined in yellow, stewarded area outlined in red

### **Description of the stewarded area:**

Property Identifier (PID):




Approximate size (ha):




Habitat type(s):





Potential projects:



SAMPLE

Potential wildlife and/or species-at-risk occurrences/observations

Species Name	Federal &/or Provincial status	Observer & Date or potential	Management Recommendations
<p>Blotched Tiger Salamander</p> 	<p>F: Endangered P: Red List</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fence ponds and lakes to exclude livestock</li> <li>• Maintain water levels of ponds and irrigation reservoirs whenever possible</li> <li>• Create ponds to compensate for loss of natural breeding habitat</li> <li>• Protect riparian areas and shrub-grasslands to provide migration corridors and feeding areas</li> <li>• Do not stock salamander breeding ponds or lakes with game fish</li> <li>• Ensure irrigation intake lines are screened</li> </ul>
<p>Lewis' Woodpecker</p> 	<p>F: Threatened P: Blue Listed</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Avoid frequent or prolonged human disturbance at nest sites during the breeding season (May-August)</li> <li>• Preserve and maintain ponderosa pine forests and black cottonwood stands.</li> <li>• Protect known nest sites.</li> <li>• Maintain dead or dying standing trees, especially soft, large diameter snags.</li> <li>• Monitor and reduce the use of pesticides.</li> </ul>
<p>Flammulated Owl</p>  <p>A tiny owl; length 15 cm, weight 50 - 65 gm</p>	<p>F: Special Concern P: Blue List</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protect remaining old-growth ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir forests.</li> <li>• Leave snags and some large pines and firs when selectively logging a site; this can be done by choosing wildlife tree patches that contain suitable nesting snags.</li> <li>• Set up nest boxes in forests that have few or no suitable nest sites.</li> <li>• Contact your local B.C. Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection to report a sighting of Flammulated Owls.</li> </ul>

Species Name	Federal &/or Provincial status	Observer & Date or potential	Management Recommendations
<p>Great Basin Spadefoot</p> 	<p>F: Threatened P: Blue List</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protect major breeding sites and surrounding foraging habitat.</li> <li>• Fence ponds and lakes to exclude livestock.</li> <li>• Maintain water levels whenever possible.</li> <li>• Create ponds to compensate for loss of natural breeding habitat.</li> <li>• Install culverts under roads and amphibian fences along roads near areas with high numbers of toads.</li> <li>• Do not stock ponds or lakes with game fish.</li> </ul>
<p>Western Painted Turtle</p> 	<p>F: Special Concern P: Blue List</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protect key habitat including remaining wetlands, ponds and other small waterbodies.</li> <li>• Restrict the development of roads, trails, beaches and campgrounds in key turtle habitat.</li> <li>• Observe turtle basking sites from a distance and avoid nest sites.</li> <li>• Keep dogs leashed near turtle habitat and don't pick up turtles.</li> <li>• Restore degraded wetlands, provide basking logs and create nesting sites.</li> <li>• Erect fences around wetlands and known nesting habitat to prevent trampling by livestock and damage by all-terrain vehicles.</li> <li>• Take unwanted, non-native turtles to the SPCA; do not release them into the wild.</li> </ul>
<p>American Badger</p> 	<p>F: Endangered P: Red List</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain large tracts of key habitat, particularly open grassy areas with soils suitable for excavating burrows.</li> <li>• Employ grazing management practices that promote the growth of healthy native grassland communities.</li> <li>• Carefully monitor the use of rodenticides.</li> <li>• Support prescribed burning programs.</li> <li>• Encourage landowners to adopt a more sympathetic attitude towards Badgers and ground squirrels.</li> <li>• Report any observations of shooting, trapping, or harassment.</li> </ul>
<p>Behr's Hairstreak</p>	<p>F: Endangered</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Retain antelope brush plant community</li> <li>• Manage invasive plants</li> </ul>

Species Name	Federal &/or Provincial status	Observer & Date or potential	Management Recommendations
	P: Red List		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce/eliminate use of pesticides</li> </ul>
<p>Great Basin Gopehersnake</p> 	F: Threatened P: Blue List		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify and protect dens and nesting sites whenever possible.</li> <li>• Leave 1 km buffer zone around known den sites and critical habitats.</li> <li>• Avoid road construction near talus slopes and around known snake dispersal routes.</li> <li>• Avoid disturbing rock and woody debris in potential snake habitat.</li> <li>• Maintain good range condition in grasslands for cover and habitat for prey species.</li> </ul>
<p>Western (Northern Pacific) Rattlesnake</p> 	F: Threatened P: Blue List		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Leave 1 km buffer zone around known den sites and critical habitats.</li> <li>• Avoid road and skid trail construction near potential den sites such as rock outcroppings and talus slopes, and around known snake dispersal routes.</li> <li>• Avoid disturbing rock and woody debris in potential snake habitat.</li> <li>• Maintain good range condition in grasslands for cover and prey species.</li> <li>• Contact your local British Columbia Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection if a den site is located.</li> </ul>
<p>Western Screech-Owl</p> 	F: Threatened P: Blue List		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain patches of mature forest 5-10 hectares in size.</li> <li>• Retain large, standing coniferous and deciduous trees in riparian habitats.</li> <li>• Where large, standing deteriorating trees have been felled, allow a new generation of trees to develop; in the meantime, construct and erect owl boxes to provide suitable nesting sites.</li> </ul>

Species Name	Federal &/or Provincial status	Observer & Date or potential	Management Recommendations
<p>Little Brown Myotis</p> 	<p>F: Endangered P: Yellow List</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Avoid the use of pesticides, particularly near wetlands and riparian areas.</li> <li>• Protect important habitat such as low elevation forest, grassland, and riparian areas.</li> <li>• Establish a buffer zone of at least 100 metres around roosting sites.</li> <li>• Preserve old mine shafts, but erect gates to prevent human access to caves and mine sites.</li> <li>• Refrain from entering caves or mine shafts, particularly during winter months when bats are hibernating.</li> </ul>
<p>Williamson's Sapsucker</p> 	<p>F: Endangered P: Blue List</p>	<p>Critical Habitat Identified and posted</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>





**Management Concerns and Recommendations:**

Concern (eg. Invasive plants, etc)	Location & Description	Management Recommendations
<p><i>Common Burdock</i> (biennial to short lived perennial with first year rosette and second year )</p> 	<p><i>Infestation is approximately 0.5 acres, located along shoreline of XYZ creek at east boundary of property.</i></p>	<p><i>Dig at least 6 inches of taproot and re-seed bare soil where possible to encourage desirable, competing vegetation. Plant can be composted but flowers and seeds should be bagged and buried at the landfill.</i></p>
<p><i>Hound's Tongue</i> (Biennial. 3-4 ft. with first year rosette)</p> 	<p><i>Description of infestation goes here</i></p>	<p><i>Hand pull or dig up at all stages ensuing most/all of root has been removed. Compost only if flower/seed is not present. Remove burrs from self &amp; equipment before leaving site.</i></p>
<p>Purple Loosestrife (perennial 3-4 ft)</p> 	<p><i>Description of infestation goes here</i></p>	<p><i>Biocontrol has been released in many places throughout Okanagan and Similkameen. Sign of biocontrol includes "shot-holes" through stem/leaves. If no biocontrol present and plants are not in standing water, dig to remove root. Otherwise cut flowering stalks near the base.</i></p>
<p>Siberian (Russian) Elm (Tree growing up to 25m)</p>	<p><i>Description of infestation goes here</i></p>	<p><i>Hand pull saplings. Cut down or girdle mature trees and apply systemic herbicide to the stump.</i></p>



		
<p>Comfrey (perennial up to 4 ft)</p> 	<p><i>Description of infestation goes here</i></p>	<p><i>Mow or hand pull as much as possible then cover with landscape fabric and leave covered at least 2 growing seasons. Landscape fabric should be overlapped at seams or comfrey will grow through.</i></p>
<p>Yellow flag iris (perennial up to 5 feet)</p> 	<p><i>Description of infestation goes here</i></p>	<p><i>Permits may be required due to plants growing in or near water bodies. Repeated cutting or pulling can be effective over time. Digging can be effective but portions of root left behind can spread the plant, ensure you remove as much of the plant as possible.</i></p>
<p>Sulfur Cinqufoil (perennial 1-2.5 feet tall)</p> 	<p><i>Description of infestation goes here</i></p>	<p><i>Hand pulling can be effective on small infestations. Make sure to get at least the first few inches of root. Mowing is not an effective form of control. With large infestations use of herbicides may be required.</i></p>
<p>Hoary Alyssum (annual to short-lived perennial 1 – 2.5 feet tall)</p> 	<p><i>Description of infestation goes here</i></p>	<p><i>Hand pull ensuring entire root is removed. Cut and bag seed heads of mature plants before pulling.</i></p>

<p>Yellow Salsify (Yellow Goatsbread annual 1-2 feet_</p> 	<p><i>Description of infestation goes here</i></p>	<p><i>Annual weed, not highly concerning. Hand pull before plants go to seed. It becomes more difficult to remove the entire root as the plant matures. Once the plant has gone to seed bag seed head prior to pulling.</i></p>
<p><i>Livestock access to creek</i></p> 	<p><i>Cattle are currently allowed free access to creek.</i></p>	<p><i>Livestock exclusion fencing with nose-in to allow for limited access along creek recommended leaving a minimum 30m buffer. If void of all riparian vegetation, may recommend planting of native species in fenced area.</i></p>

SAMPLE

## **Restoration Plan (if applicable)**

Site description/baseline

Rationale for project

Goals & Objectives of project

Site plan

Action plan

Restoration Activity	Description (lead, partnership, etc)	Date

Monitoring schedule & protocol

*Photo point monitoring*

*Before/after photos*

Maintenance