



OKANAGAN SIMILKAMEEN **STEWARDSHIP**

2023-2026 STRATEGIC PLAN



INTRODUCTION

The Okanagan-Similkameen is an exceptional place, known for its spectacular landscapes, iconic wildlife, amazing outdoor opportunities, world class wines and diverse agricultural products. The region is also home to some of the greatest concentrations of species diversity and species at risk in Canada and is recognized as one of Canada's most endangered natural systems.

Many of the wildlife and natural areas in the Okanagan are threatened because of the impacts from the very things which make this such a desirable place.

Stewardship is our shared responsibility, in order to maintain healthy ecosystems that support wildlife and humans alike.

WHAT IS STEWARDSHIP?

Stewardship is the act of taking care of fish and wildlife habitat by people like you



VISION

We all care for the land and nature so that they thrive.

MISSION

Okanagan Similkameen Stewardship helps people and communities to be stewards of the land and nature.

CORE VALUES

OSS is guided by five core values that are foundational to our vision and mission.

ACCESSIBILITY

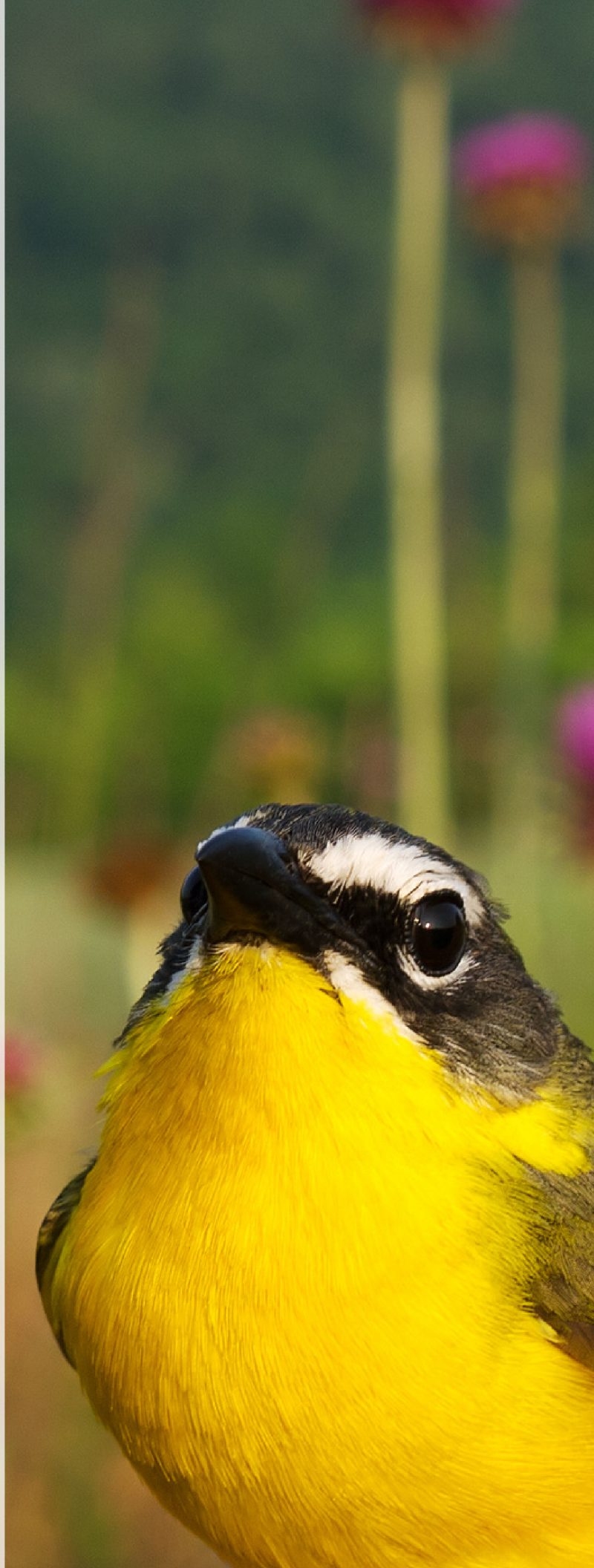
We are constantly looking at the barriers that prevent people from participating in conservation and stewardship; and trying to break them down so that everyone can dip their toes into the water and not feel overwhelmed.

Our events are free and open to all; we use plain language and translate materials into languages spoken in our region.

DIVERSITY

Diversity means a lot of things for OSS. It means that we work in all of the habitats in our area; and promote stewardship for all of our wildlife including birds, fish, amphibians, reptiles, mammals, plants insects, fungi, and lichens.

It also means that we work with all ages of people who may or may not own land, and who all use land in different ways.



RESPECT

We are passionate about creating space for conversations with people, where we listen without judgment. We do not tell people what to do and we only go where we are welcome.

We do not take positions on political issues.

TRUST

We are known for sharing useful information in plain language.

We guarantee landowner confidentiality.

We have faith that our partners honour their commitments; and we see every project through to success.

PARTNERSHIP

We believe stewardship is a shared responsibility.

We work in partnership with landowners and communities to develop win-win solutions that benefit both land users and wildlife.

We believe collaborating with partners can extend our reach and build capacity for conservation.






HOW WE WORK

1. Continuously improving our knowledge and skills.
2. Meeting people where they're at.
3. Landowner and community driven.
4. Finding common ground leads to win-win solutions.



WHAT WE DO

1. Raise awareness about local species and spaces.
2. Engage landowners and communities in stewardship
3. Support Wildlife Habitat Stewards.
4. Enhance and restore habitats.



KEY RESULT 1

We increase the amount of habitat that is stewarded to benefit wildlife of all types in the Okanagan and Similkameen valleys.

- **We increase the # of people engaged in stewardship.**
- **We increase the # of acres under stewardship.**
- **We increase the # of acres that are enhanced while under stewardship**

KEY RESULT 2

We improve our overall organizational capacity.

- We have the resources needed to support our vision and mission in a long-term and sustainable manner.
- We have the required diversity of knowledge and expertise to support our work across our large geographic region that includes a variety of habitats, species, land uses, and people.
- We can respond to the impacts of our rapidly changing climate.

KEY RESULT 3

We raise the profile of our organization, throughout the Okanagan and Similkameen valleys; everyone knows our name, what we do and why we do it.

- We are viewed as the environmental charity of choice in the Okanagan and Similkameen valleys.
- We increase the understanding of what stewardship is, and its critical role in our everyday lives.





OSS has been facilitating stewardship in the Okanagan and Similkameen valleys since 2013. Over time, we have adapted to evolving land use practices and priorities as well as a changing climate.

This four year strategic plan will build upon our past successes and initiatives and bring our organization forward with enhanced capacity, profile, and partnerships in conservation and stewardship.

We gratefully acknowledge that our stewardship initiatives take place on the traditional unceded territories of the Syilx and Secwépemc people, the first stewards of these beautiful lands.

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