

Okanogan Valley Land Council

Protecting wildlife and fish habitat, private agricultural and forestry lands in the Okanogan



Beginnings



OVLC is a local land trust

- Protect land/habitat permanently using conservation easements
- Collaborate with landowners
- 150 years collective experience in the Okanogan



The OVLC work area

- Loomis State Forest to the Kettle Crest
- Columbia River to Canada
- Sinlahckin, Similkameen, Okanogan, San Poil, and Upper Kettle watersheds

Challenges



- Market pressures on agriculture
- Fewer ag producers
- Land unaffordable for farmers
- Large private ownerships unraveling
- Degradation of habitat

Strategies

- Target landscape priorities, use land trust tool kit working directly with landowners
- Include water values
- Partner with others- CNW, TNC, TPL, WWT, F&W
- Utilize government, other conservation funding, landowner donations



Wildlife dependent on privately-owned habitat

- Mule deer
- Sharp-tailed grouse
- Chinook salmon & steelhead
- Golden eagle
- Western gray squirrel
- Prairie falcon, curlew, sandhill crane, white-headed woodpecker



Photo: Dennis Paulson

Partnerships with private landowners- dry conifer forest



Partnerships

- Sharp-tailed grouse habitat



Tonasket Alternative School, WADFW, NRCS

Sharp-tailed grouse



Photo: Rose Gerlinger

Partnerships



Colville Confederated Tribes:

Anadromous fish habitat

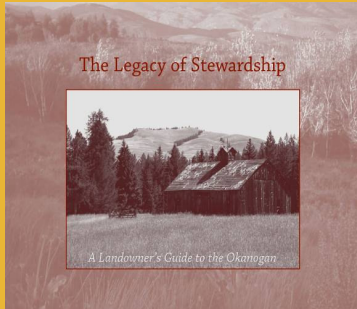
Partnerships



• Betsy Hewitt Foundation:

- Mule deer winter/spring range, migration corridors

Promoting stewardship of open space and resource lands



Accomplishments

- 820 acres under conservation easement
- 177 acres owned and protected
- Sharp-tailed grouse habitat enhancement
- Okanogan conservation easement handbook
- Landowner's stewardship handbook

Our vision: Wildlife, watershed,
and community thriving
throughout the Okanogan



Thank you!



www.ovlandcouncil.org
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