



The **Southern Interior Land Trust Society**, (*originally called the Okanagan Region Wildlife Heritage Fund Society*), was formed by members of the Okanagan Region B.C. Wildlife Federation and regional fish and game clubs. It was incorporated in January of 1988.

Stated Purpose:

The purpose of the society is to promote preservation and protection of lands, forests, lakes, streams and wildlife, including fish, for the benefit of all people.

The primary objective is to acquire or otherwise secure and protect real estate and real property for the propagation of forests, wildlife and wildlife habitat in order to preserve and protect Canada's environmental heritage.

Other projects directed at improvement of wildlife productivity or the furthering of public awareness and general knowledge of wildlife may be considered.

The Society has purchased, or has been instrumental in the purchase of riparian areas and other properties in Grand Forks, Keremeos, Vernon, Christina Lake and Kelowna.

The Southern Interior Land Trust Society is a volunteer run organization, with no paid staff. All of the monies raised by the Society, through fund raisers and project administration fees is used for further habitat and wildlife projects in the Southern Interior Region.

A Brief History:

The Okanagan Region of the BCWF undertook to organize and run the annual Federation conventions in Penticton in 1986 and 1987. Fund Raisers were a part of these conventions and especially after the success of the fund raisers it was decided that these could be annual affairs and that the proceeds could go towards purchase of land for wildlife.

After several meetings and another successful fund raiser in 1988, a new society was formed. This was called the Okanagan Region Wildlife Heritage Fund Society (ORWHFS). In 2015, the Society changed it's name to The Southern Interior Land Trust (SILT) to recognize its expanded mandate .

The original intent of the society was to raise money for land acquisition but the actual constitution allows for the raising of funds for numerous wildlife projects as well. Because land is so very expensive to purchase we have partnered with numerous organizations to allow the acquisition, such groups as:

- Ministry of Environment
- HCTF
- Nature Trust, and
- Regional Districts.

This has worked out well for us as well as the partners. The society has a Tax Number and is able to give receipts for donations. We have not as yet had land bequeathed to us but we hope that in the future as more and more people hear of this society, that is may happen.

How can we help? Learn more about this society. Become a member. Tell others. Donate funds and/or land. Inform the society about possible acquisitions. Let the society know about possible bequeaths.

Over the years we have purchased several properties and have partnered in many more. As well, we have funded numerous projects. The following list will indicate to you how involved this society has been in the past few years.

Accomplishments:

The society has deeds to:

- Purchased Ginty's Pond (Keremeos) in 1990
- Purchased Edwards Pond (Grand Forks) in 1991
- Donation of Ward's Lake (Grand Forks) in 1992
- Purchased Cold Creek property (Keremeos) in 1998

The society has partnered to acquire:

- 200 acres of sheep lambing range on the east side of Skaha Lake
- 100 acres of Sandner property at north end of Christina Lake
- Rose Valley pond on the west side of Keremeos
- Swan Lake land purchase
- Haase property on Mission Creek
- Mission Creek Greenway

The Society has funded numerous projects:

- Martins Lake aerator power access (Princeton)
- Kokanee enhancement by Peachland Club and Penticton Fly Fishers
- Grand Forks deer fencing
- Kokanee Educational Interpretive tours
- Assisted "Project Wild"
- Assisted in "Ashnola W.M.A."
- Okanagan Lake kokanee enhancement
- Natives Land Coordination
- Kokanee stream enumeration
- Wildlife viewing
- Okanagan Watershed
- Mission Creek Interpretive Center
- Burnell Lake diversion
- Vernon bat roost
- Private land stewardship
- Wildlife Week
- Yellow Lake aeration
- South Okanagan Grasslands
- Okanagan W.A.T.E.R.
- Science Week
- South Okanagan sheep project
- Inventory of Endangered Invertebrates
- Lassie Lake
- Naturescape
- Vaseux Creek Fishway
- Avian Diversity in Orchards
- Summerland deer fence
- Mysis shrimp in Okanagan Lake
- Enforcement Fund
- Westland Video
- Trout Creek
- Week coordinator