



# Land Trust Alliance

BRITISH COLUMBIA

## Site Visit B 12:30 – 4:00 March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2010 – meet at Osoyoos tbd.

Join the First Nation's Land Trust for a site visit to Osoyoos Indian Reserve near Osoyoos. The site is approximately 45 minutes from Naramata and will be part one of a two-part site visit to the Okanagan River Restoration Project on the way from Osoyoos toward Naramata. The tour would include several parcels of land that are being sought for protection as well as a visit to the Nk'mip Cultural Centre at Spirit Ridge in Osoyoos, expanded by a short hike to protected desert lands also in an almost pristine state. The tour will show specific parcels of extremely valuable lands ripe for protection or acquisition. The specific habitats are desert to grasslands and riparian habitat in a virtually untouched environment.



### Okanagan River Restoration Initiative (ORRI)

During the 1950s much of the Okanagan River was straightened, narrowed and dyked to control flooding. This, and development adjacent to the river resulted in the loss of approximately 90% of important aquatic and riparian habitats.

During 2009, the Ministry of Environment, the Okanagan Nation Alliance and partners directed the completion of

Phase 1 of ORRI, reconnecting the river channel to a historic floodplain and oxbows along 600 meters of Okanagan River north of Oliver, providing huge benefits for aquatic and riparian species, including sockeye and Chinook salmon, rainbow trout, and several endangered wildlife species.

Restoration of disturbed areas began. Planting of native vegetation will significantly contribute to the long term success of the project and provides benefits to the many residents and visitors who utilize the new hiking/biking path.