

May 1, 2022

Nature Conservancy of the North Okanagan

Vision and Mission

“Protecting and Conserving Nature in the North Okanagan”

VISION OF THE FUTURE

Working in partnership with the community natural spaces that people value in the Regional District of North Okanagan (RDNO) are protected and conserved. The Nature Conservancy of the North Okanagan (NCNO) is doing its' part to protect and conserve nature in the North Okanagan as well as on the planet.

MISSION – WHAT THE NCNO IS TRYING TO ACHIEVE

The mission is to protect nature in the RDNO by acquiring land or a right to land and then conserving and restoring these important natural spaces. The NCNO manages land held by the organization to achieve environmental sustainability and connect people to the land for the benefit of the community and as a legacy for future generations.

There are three classification of land held by the NCNO.

1. *Ecological*. The primary use is ecological conservation.
2. *Green Space*. The primary use is ecological and landscape conservation along with a role to provide opportunities for people to connect with nature.
3. *Environmentally Sustainable Working Landscapes*. The primary use is ecological conservation along with a role for sustainable forestry or agriculture within the context of ecological conservation.

HOW THE NCNO ACCOMPLISHES ITS' MISSION

The NCNO accomplishes its' mission by securing ownership of land by purchase or donation or by securing a right to land generally through conservation covenants.

The acquisition and management of land held by the NCNO is guided by the Canadian Land Trust Alliance Standards and Practices and based on sound scientific natural resource and protected area management practices, responsible fiscal management and careful planning.

All this is done by working in partnership and collaboratively with property owners, local, provincial and federal governments, First Nations, other land trusts and citizens.

VALUES

Conservation – NCNO will work in partnership with the community to promote the value of land conservation and environmental stewardship, and will be responsible stewards of conserved lands under their protection, in perpetuity.

Good Governance – NCNO will maintain a professional, effective, and ethical organization governed with excellence and accountability.

Collaboration – NCNO will operate in communication and collaboration with local government and community partners to achieve mutual conservation goals.

Leadership - NCNO will be known as the confidential, credible and best source of information on available land conservation opportunities and processes in the RDNO.

Trustful – NCNO will be known as an organization that is honest, clear about what it is trying to accomplish and takes actions that are in the best interest of conservation and quality of life for the people in the RDNO.

TERRITORY ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The NCNO respectfully acknowledges that we are situated on the unceded and ancestral territory of the Syilx/Okanagan people.

DEFINITIONS

Protect. Action by the NCNOS to acquire a right or ownership of land and to convert the use of land to conservation.

Conserve. Action of managing the natural environment (i.e., ecosystems and species – plants and animals) by using scientific, citizen and First Nation ecological knowledge and principles to ensure that ecosystems and species survive and evolve through natural processes.

Environmentally Sustainable. In the context of NCNO's work it is about acting in a way to ensure that land held by NCNO is there for future generations, that natural processes are occurring and native plants and animals are thriving.