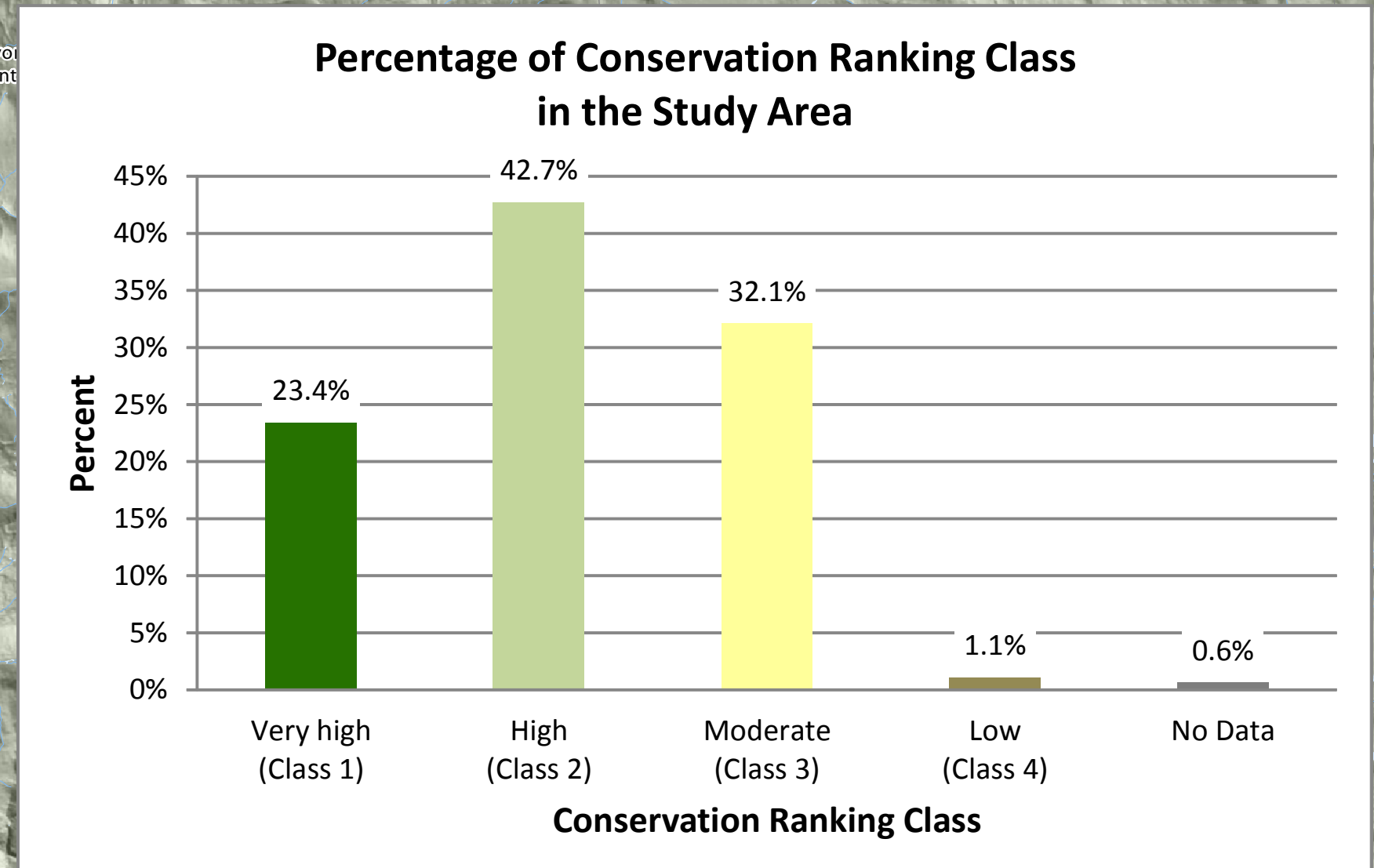




Conservation Rankings
The conservation ranking process was used to evaluate and highlight the relative value of sensitive ecosystems in the South Okanagan-Similkameen using a number of data sources: Terrestrial Ecosystem Mapping (TEM), Sensitive Ecosystem Inventory (SEI), Vegetation Resource Inventory (VRI), wetlands and riparian features, grasslands, and elevation and aspect based on the TRIM DEM.

Applying Conservation Rankings to TEM Polygons
All units mapped in the TEM were linked (using BEC site series or ecosystem name) to the appropriate ecosystem in the Conservation Framework; B.C.'s approach for maintaining the biodiversity and conserving species and ecosystems. Focus was given to ecosystems scoring high under the goals of 'Proactive conservation' and 'Maintaining B.C.'s native biodiversity'. Sensitive Ecosystem Ranks were used to confirm or reconcile the TEM rank, based on expert consensus.

Weighted average:
Because each TEM polygon may consist of varying proportions of up to three different ecosystem types, a weighted average was calculated based on the share of area represented by a particular ecosystem type. A polygon with a weighted average of 1 would consist entirely of ecosystem types with a conservation ranking of 1. A polygon with a weighted average of 3.8 would consist of predominantly urban/residential land uses with a small percentage of a more sensitive ecosystem type. The weighted averages were then grouped into four classes as per the table below.

Class	Class range*
Very High (Class 1)	0.0 - 1.0
High (Class 2)	1.0 - 2.0
Moderate (Class 3)	2.0 - 3.0
Low (Class 4)	3.0 - 4.0

*Based on the weighted rank

Polygons with a maximum conservation ranking of 3 (typically agricultural land uses) or 4 (typically urban and residential land uses) were identified and themed separately. These polygons represent areas where 100% of the polygon is relatively non-sensitive.

Applying Conservation Rankings to VRI Polygons
Where TEM and SEI data were not available, the conservation ranking was based on the attributes present in the VRI (leading tree species and age, biogeoclimatic variant and land cover code, cross-walked with similar TEM units) and other datasets. Riparian areas (modeled from the TRIM DEM and Freshwater Atlas hydrological features) and wetlands received a conservation rank of 1 (very high). All grasslands (from the GGC grassland mapping) were assigned a conservation rank of 1 to factor in the relative rarity of these ecosystems (e.g., BGxh, PPxh and IDFxh) in the province.

0510

05

10

Kilometres

Data sources:

- Ministry of Forests and Range
- Ministry of Environment
- TRIM
- ESRI base data

Scale: 1:145,000¹

Projection: BC Albers NAD 83

¹Written scales are approximate and are based on a 36 x 48 inch paper size.

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CASLYS
CONSULTING

Produced for:

South Okanagan-Similkameen
Conservation Program

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Study Area

Electoral/Municipal Boundary

Freshwater Atlas streams

Stream

Intermittent stream

Subsurface Flow

Major rivers/Lakes

Transportation

Overgrown

Gravel Class 1

Gravel Class 2

Paved

Arterial

Railroad

Highway

Conservation ranking

Very high

High

Moderate

Low