

Presented by:

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Presented for:

2018 Foreshore Plant SAR ID and Survey Workshop

Summerland B C



# **Presentation Outline**



- Introduction to Okanagan Foreshore Plant Species at Risk
- 2. Recognizing Foreshore Plant SAR Habitat
- 3. Identifying Key Foreshore Plant SAR
- 4. Available Resources



# Introduction to Okanagan Foreshore Plant Species at Risk



# What are Species and Ecosystems at Risk (SEAR)?

"At risk"

Endangered

Special concern

Rare

**Red-listed** 





# Identified Wildlife

Blue-listed

**Threatened** 

"Of management concern"







### What are Species and Ecosystems at Risk?

#### Global

NatureServe Global Conservation Status (G1-G5)

#### Canada

- Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC)
- Species at Risk Act (SARA)

#### **British Columbia**

- BC Conservation Data Centre (CDC)
- BC Conservation Framework





**NatureServe** 



#### **COSEWIC and SARA**

- Endangered (E): A species facing imminent extirpation or extinction
- Threatened (T): A species that is likely to become endangered if limiting factors are not reversed
- Special Concern (SC): A species of special concern because of characteristics that make it is particularly sensitive to human activities or natural events

Federal cabinet reviews COSEWIC lists and makes SARA decision

Limited to species (no ecosystems)



Small-flowered Lipocarpha COSEWIC: **E** (2002) / SARA: 1-**E** (2005)



Short-rayed Aster

COSEWIC: E (2006) / SARA: 1-E (2007)



### **British Columbia Conservation Data Centre**

- Red-listed: Includes any indigenous species or subspecies or ecological community that have, or are candidates for, Extirpated, Endangered, or Threatened status in BC
- Blue-listed: Includes any indigenous species or subspecies or ecological community considered to be of Special Concern in BC







**Red-listed** Hairy Water-clover

Yellow-Listed Blue Vervain

Red-listed Alkali Saltgrass Herbaceous



### **BC Conservation Framework**

Species are assigned a Priority (1-5) under each Goal:

- Goal 1: Contribute to global efforts for species & ecosystem conservation
- Goal 2: Prevent species & ecosystems from becoming at risk
- Goal 3: Maintain the diversity of native species & ecosystems

Species are then assigned Conservation Actions to address Goal

#### **Action Groups**

#### Assessing

- Review Status Rank
- · Compile Status Report
- Inventory
- Monitor Trends
- Review Taxonomy and Classification

#### Planning and Listing

- Planning
- Send to COSEWIC \*
- List Under Wildlife Act \*

#### Acting

- Ecosystem and Habitat Protection
- Ecosystem and Habitat Restoration
- Private Land Stewardship
- Species and Population Management \*
- Review Resource Use
- No New Action
- \* indicates the action is only applicable to species.



### **Thompson Okanagan Region SEAR**

- TOR has a disproportional amount of SEAR:
  - Animals: 136 of 436 (31%) Red/Blue
  - Plants: 199 of 864 (23%) Red/Blue
    - Ecological Communities: 172 of 346 (50%)Red/Blue

#### **Foreshore Plant SAR**

- 37 (19%) of TOR Plants
- BC CDC: 13 Red, 24 Blue
- SARA: 4 Endangered, 1 Threatened



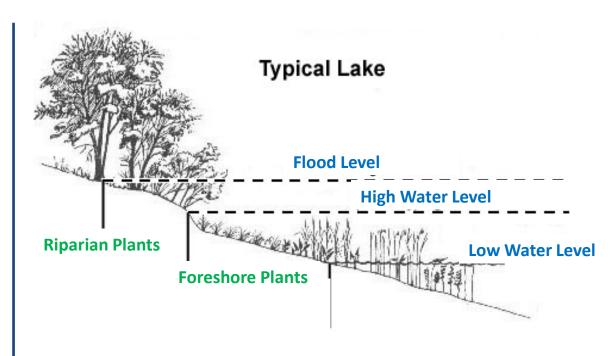




### **Defining "Foreshore" Plant SAR**

#### **Foreshore**

- Part of shore between high and low water levels
- Typically describing lakeshore species
- Generally small annuals
- Group also includes some riparian plants



Modified from: DFO, http://www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/habitat/Glossary-glossaire-eng.htm



# **Okanagan Foreshore Plant SAR**

Scientific Name <sup>1,2</sup>	Common Name	Family	Status <sup>3</sup>
Ammannia robusta	scarlet ammannia	Lythraceae	Red / E
Bidens vulgata	tall beggarticks	Asteraceae	Blue
Carex comosa	bearded sedge	Cyperaceae	Blue
Carex hystericina	porcupine sedge	Cyperaceae	Blue
Cyperus erythrorhizos	red-rooted cyperus	Cyperaceae	Blue
Elatine rubella	three-flowered waterwort	Elatinaceae	Blue
Eleocharis coloradoensis	dwarf spike-rush	Cyperaceae	Red
Eleocharis engelmannii	Englemann's spike-rush	Cyperaceae	Red
Eleocharis geniculata	bent spike-rush	Cyperaceae	Red / E
Eleocharis ovata	ovate spike-rush	Cyperaceae	Blue
Limosella acaulis	Owyhee mudwort	Scrophulariaceae	Red
Lindernia dubia var. anagallidea	false-pimpernel	Scrophulariaceae	Blue
Lindernia dubia var. dubia	yellowseed false-pimpernel	Scrophulariaceae	Red
Lipocarpha micrantha	small-flowered lipocarpha	Cyperaceae	Red / E
Potentilla supina ssp. paradoxa	bushy cinquefoil	Rosaceae	Blue
Rotala ramosior	toothcup	Lythraceae	Red / E
Salix amygdaloides	peach-leaf willow	Salicaceae	Blue
Schoenoplectus saximontanus	Rocky Mountain clubrush	Cyperaceae	Red
Symphyotrichum frondosum	short-rayed aster	Asteraceae	Red / E
Verbena hastata	blue vervain	Verbenaceae	Blue









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-Carex comosa	bearded sedge	Cyperaceae	Blue   2018
Carex hystericina	porcupine sedge	Cyperaceae	Blue
Cyperus erythrorhizos	red-rooted cyperus	Cyperaceae	Blue
Elatine rubella	three-flowered waterwort	Elatinaceae	Blue 2018
Eleocharis coloradoensis	dwarf spike-rush	Cyperaceae	Red \ 2018
Eleocharis engelmannii	Englemann's spike-rush	Cyperaceae	Red
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Limosella acaulis	Owyhee mudwort	Scrophulariaceae	<b>Red</b>   2018
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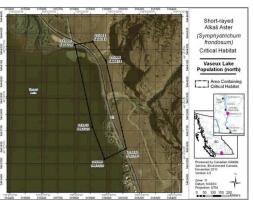






# Why focus on Okanagan Foreshore Plant SAR?





- Multi-species/ecosystems approach
- Area of high development pressure in Okanagan (threats-based)
- Regional interest in these habitat types (e.g., OBWB)
- Critical Habitat first designated for species in this group
- Legislative control under Water Sustainability Act and RAR
- Potentially affected by FLNRORD decisions (e.g., land development, moorage, dams, grazing)



# Why focus on Okanagan Foreshore Plant SAR? (cont.)

- For many of these species:
  - Inventory efforts have been low (65% with Inventory as CF Action)
  - Harder to identify (small, relatively obscure, sedge family)
- Existing guidance for foreshore developments
- Plant SAR identified by QPs as the top species group requiring field workshops in Okanagan
- Assists professionals in meeting government, association and proponent expectations

#### **Action Groups**

#### Assessing

- Review Status Rank
- Compile Status Report
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#### Planning and Listing

- Planning
- Send to COSEWIC \*
- List Under Wildlife Act \*

#### **Acting**

- Ecosystem and Habitat Protection
- Ecosystem and Habitat Restoration
- Private Land Stewardship
- Species and Population Management \*
- Review Resource Use
- No New Action





### **General Plant Characteristics that Dictate Habitat**

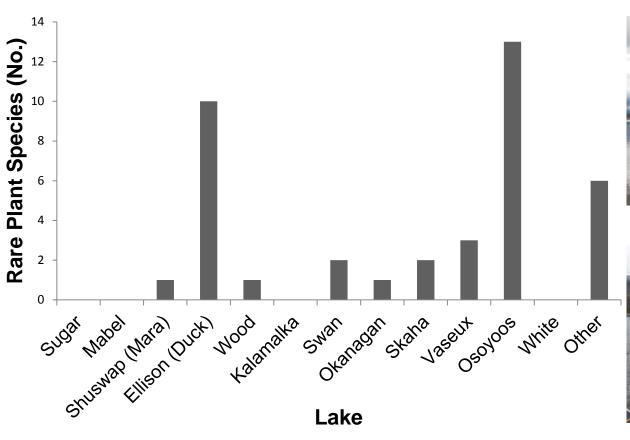




- Typically small annual species that grows each year from seed
- Typically do not reproduce vegetatively, so population survival depends on seeds and seed bank
- Generally have low competitive ability need open substrate
- Germination and development depends on the recession of spring high water levels
- May not appear in some years due to persistent high water levels



# Where are they found in the Okanagan?





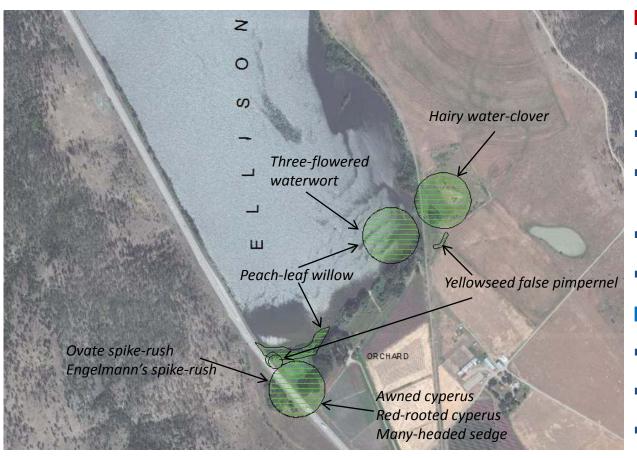
Ellison (Duck) Lake



Osoyoos Lake



# Hot Spot: Ellison Lake (Kelowna)



#### **Red-Listed**

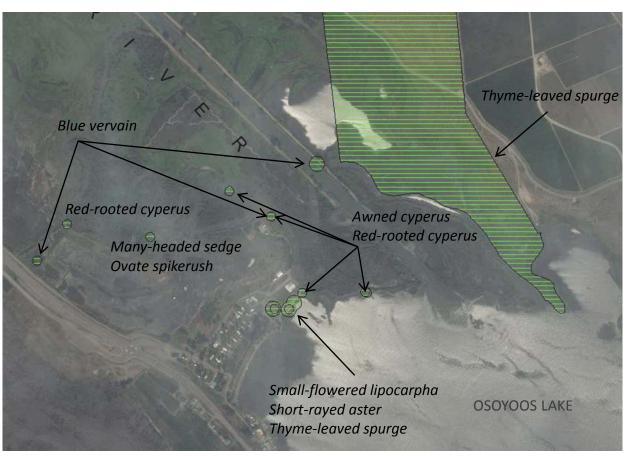
- Red-rooted cyperus ↓ 2015
- Ovate spike-rush ↓ 2015
- Engelmann's spike-rush
- Yellowseed false | 2018 pimpernel
- Hairy water-clover
- Peach-leaf willow ↓ 2017

#### **Blue-Listed**

- Many-headed sedge \( \preceq \) 2015
- Awned cyperus | 2015
- Three-flowered 2018 waterwort



**Hot Spot: Osoyoos Lake (Osoyoos)** 



#### **Red-Listed**

- Small-flowered lipocarpha
- Red-rooted cyperus \$\frac{1}{2015}\$
- Short-rayed aster
- Ovate spikerush ↓ <sup>2015</sup>

#### **Blue-Listed**

- Awned cyperus ↓ <sup>2015</sup>
- Blue vervain
- Thyme-leaved spurge \$\bigse\$ 2015
- Many-headed sedge | 2015



# **Hot Spot: Shuswap Lake (Salmon Arm)**



#### **Red-Listed**

- Mexican mosquito fern
- Hairy water-clover
- Moss grass ↓ 2015

#### **Blue-Listed**

- American sweet-flag
- Thyme-leaved spurge \$\frac{1}{2015}\$



# What habitats are they found in?

Attribute	Higher Potential Habitat	Lower Potential Habitat
Foreshore Habitats		
Disturbance	Natural, modified	Disturbed
<b>Exotic Plant Cover</b>	<30% cover	>30% cover
Wave / Erosion	Minimal, infrequent	Substantial, frequent
Beach Substrate	Natural silts, sands and gravels	Imported, non-natural
Topography	Depression to gentle (<10%)	Moderate to steep (>10%)
Vegetation	Vegetation present	Non-vegetated



### **Natural Foreshore Habitats**



Peach-leaf willow @ Osoyoos Lake



Short-rayed aster @ Vaseux Lake



Many-headed sedge @ Ellison Lake



Giant helleborine @ Skaha Lake

- Gentle slope
- Native silts / sands / gravels
- Small dunes and transition zones
- Low to moderate invasive species cover



### **Modified Foreshore Habitats**



Awned cyperus @ Osoyoos Lake



Short-rayed aster @ Skaha Lake



Short-rayed aster @ Skaha Lake



Thyme-leaved spurge @ Osoyoos Lake

- Modified habitats
- Gentle slope
- Native sands / gravels
- Small dunes and transition zones
- Low to moderate invasive species cover



# **Riparian/Wetland Habitats**



Cut-leaved water-parsnip @ cattail marsh



Western centaury @ alkaline pond



Giant helleborine @ Peachland Creek



Mexican mosquito fern @ slough near Salmon Arm

- Undisturbed to modified habitats
- Generally natural features (marsh, pond, swale)
- Low to moderate invasive species cover





# 1. Scarlet Ammannia (Ammannia robusta)





### **BC** Range

 Known from four locations near Osoyoos (two extirpated)

#### **Habitat**

 Open, muddy soils along lakeshores affected by seasonally fluctuating water levels with high mineral nutrient richness and warm water temperature in the BG Zone

### **Life History**

 Annual sp., grows each year from seed, dispersed by water/animals



# 1. Scarlet Ammannia (Ammannia robusta) (cont.)



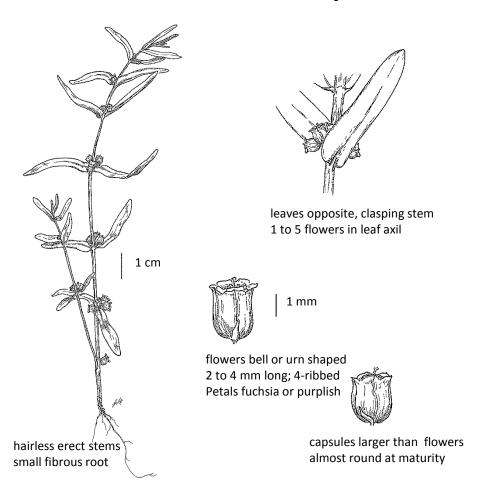
- Hairless erect stems
- Small fibrous root
- 1 to 5 flowers in leaf axil
- Leaves opposite, clasping stem



- Flowers bell or urn shaped, 4-ribbed
- Petals fuchsia or purplish
- Capsules almost round at maturity



# 1. Scarlet Ammannia (Ammannia robusta) (cont.)



### **Identification Tips**

- Characterized by its small stature (10-30 cm), opposite clasping leaves that are rounded at base, and numerous flowers tightly arranged in leaf axils
- May be confused with toothcup (Rotala ramosior) = smaller plant, non-clasping leaves that narrow towards base, and generally fewer flowers in leaf axils



# 2. Toothcup (Rotala ramosior)





### **BC** Range

 Known from Kamloops, Summerland and two locations in the vicinity of Osoyoos

#### **Habitat**

- Open to semi-shaded, usually sandy, swales and flats with seasonally wet soils in riparian habitats in the BG Zone
- Also found in mudflats along lakeshores, receded pond margins and sandy backwater river channels

### **Life History**

 Annual sp., grows each year from seed, dispersed by water/animals



# 2. Toothcup (Rotala ramosior) (cont.)



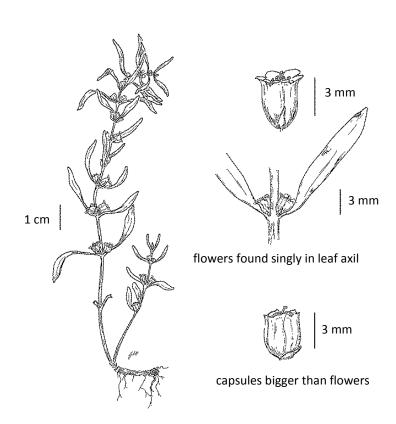
- Small, hairless, annual herb with stems usually erect or somewhat decumbent, from 5 to 15 cm
- Leaves in opposite pairs, smooth edged, tapered towards stem



- Flowers tightly arranged in the leaf, with usually one flower per axil
- Stamens and styles short, not exserted from corolla
- Fruits are large elliptic capsules



# 2. Toothcup (Rotala ramosior) (cont.)



### **Identification Tips**

- Characterized by small stature, shortstalked non-clasping leaves, and often singular flowers tightly arranged in the leaf axils
- May be confused with scarlet ammannia (A. robusta) = generally taller plant with clasping unstalked leaves, >1 flower in each leaf axil, and styles that are slightly exserted beyond the calyx



### 3. Small-flowered Lipocarpha (Lipocarpha micrantha)





### **BC** Range

 Known from two sites on Osoyoos Lake and one on Okanagan Lake at SunOka PP

### **Habitat**

 Sandy lakeshores that are moderately wave-washed as well as shallow interdunal swales with seasonal flooding but that are protected from high waves and strong currents in BG Zone

### **Life History**

 Annual sp., grows each year from seed, dispersed by water/animals



# 3. Small-flowered Lipocarpha (Lipocarpha micrantha) (cont.)



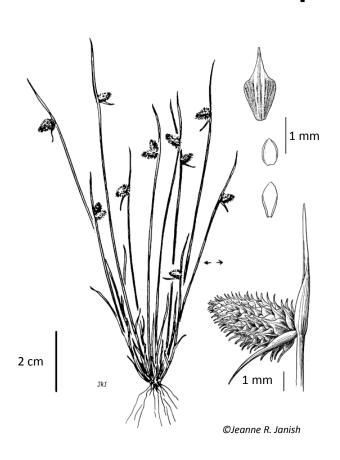
- Tufted growth habitat, small (2-20 cm)
- Leaves narrow, 0.5 mm wide
- Numerous green flowers



- Cone or egg-shaped sessile spikes
- Two long floral bracts at base of spikes



# 3. Small-flowered Lipocarpha (Lipocarpha micrantha) (cont.)

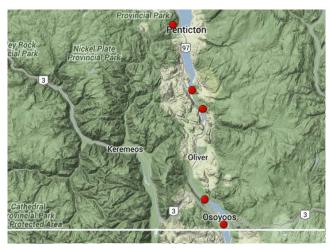


### **Identification Tips**

- Characterized by tufted growth habit, small size, egg-shaped sessile spikes and specialized habitat
- May be confused with awned cyperus
   (Cyperus squarrosus) = flowers on flat,
   two-sided spikes, and flower scales that
   are bent backwards (squarrose)
- Also resembles small, tufted spike-rushes (*Eleocharis* spp.), which have rounded spikes but lack long floral bracts



# 4. Short-rayed Aster (Symphyotrichum frondosum)





### **BC** Range

 Known from south Okanagan Valley at Osoyoos Lake, Vaseux Lake, Skaha Lake and Max Lake

#### **Habitat**

 Open sandy soil along lakeshores in the BG Zone, including moist to dry drawdown zones of sandy beaches and saline zones around lakes and ponds that become exposed in summer and early fall

### **Life History**

 Annual sp., grows each year from seed, dispersed by water/wind/animals



# 4. Short-rayed Aster (Symphyotrichum frondosum) (cont.)



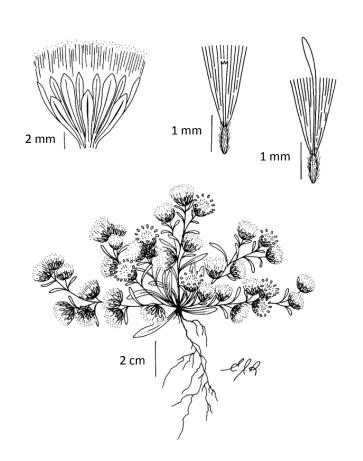
- Small to medium-sized annual herb
- Branched, usually 2 to 30 cm (up to 60 cm) tall stems, small taproot
- Branches may be erect or spreading out over soil



- Flower heads borne open, shortbranched inflorescences
- Pink or white narrow and strap-like ray flowers
- Broad, leaf-like floral bracts



#### 4. Short-rayed Aster (Symphyotrichum frondosum) (cont.)

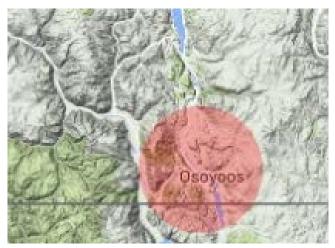


#### **Identification Tips**

- Characterized by broad, leaf-like floral bracts, narrow ray petals, and low, sprawling growth habit
- Rayless alkali aster (S. ciliatum) often cooccurs in same habitats but has erect, taller stems, much shorter often inconspicuous rays, and narrow sharply pointed floral bracts
- Hybrids with S. ciliatum occur in mixed populations; these are recognizable by their intermediate traits



#### 5. Bent spike-rush (Eleocharis geniculata)



#### **BC** Range

 Currently known only from a single site on private land in the south Okanagan Valley

#### **Habitat**

 Sandy mudflats along seasonally receding lakeshores and sloughs in the BG Zone



- Annual or short-lived perennial sp., germination and development depend on the recession of spring high water levels, dispersed by water/waterfowl
- May not appear in some years due to persistent high water levels





#### 5. Bent spike-rush (Eleocharis geniculata) (cont.)





- Tufted growth habitat, arching culms (up to 30 cm)
- Leaves present in tight, persistent sheaths around base of fertile culms
- Flowers in terminal, oval spikelets less than 1 cm long
- Fruits are shiny black achenes, 1 mm
- Tubercles broadly conical, pale



#### 5. Bent spike-rush (Eleocharis geniculata) (cont.)



#### **Identification Tips**

- Mature achenes are essential to confirm species within this group of spike-rushes
- Most similar to purple spikerush (E. atropurpurea)
- Ovate spike-rush (E. ovata)
   and blunt spike-rush (E.
   obtusa) = brown achenes,
   not shiny black



6. Ovate Spike-rush (Eleocharis ovata)



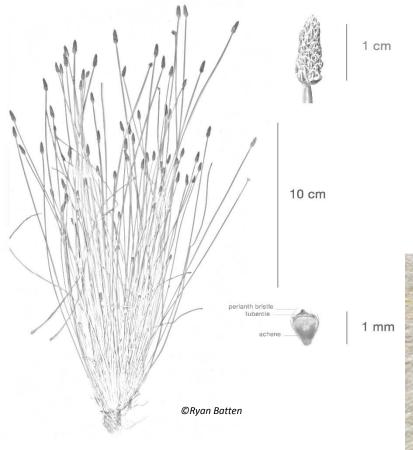








### 7. Englemann's Spike-rush (Eleocharis engelmannii)



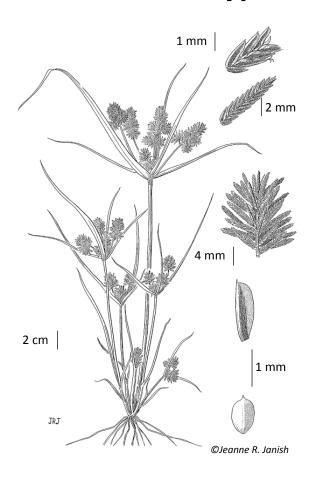








#### 8. Red-rooted Cyperus (Cyperus erythrorhizos)

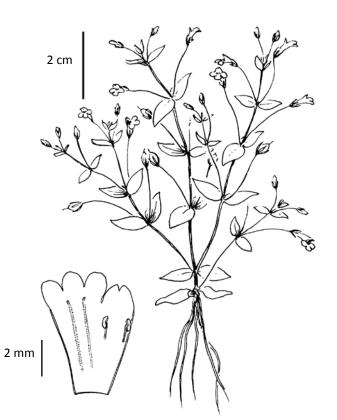








#### 9. Yellowseed False-pimpernel (Lindernia dubia var. dubia)



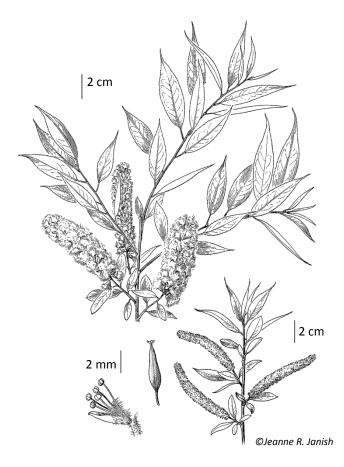








#### 10. Peach-leaf Willow (Salix amygdaloides)











#### **Guidance Documents**



Guidance for Foreshore Plants in the Okanagan









January 2018

Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development Thompson Okanagan Region | Resource Management | Ecosystems Section

102 Industrial Place | Penticton BC | V2A 7C8

- Published in January 2018
- Provides guidance on:
  - When surveys are required
  - Surveyor qualifications
  - Survey methods
  - Mitigation options
- We will do a detailed review after coffee!

https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/environment/natural-resource-stewardship/best-management-practices/okanagan/guidance for foreshore plants in the okanagan.pdf



#### **Guidance Documents**

### Inventory and Survey Methods for Rare Plants and Lichens

Standards for Components of British Columbia's Biodiversity No. 43

> Prepared by Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy Ecosystems Branch

Resources Information Standards Committee

May 2018

Version 1.0

- Published in May 2018
- Part of RISC Terrestrial Ecosystems,
  Biodiversity series
- Provides guidance on:
  - Surveyor qualifications
  - Survey design and methods
  - Reporting requirements
  - Collecting voucher specimens

https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/environment/natural-resource-stewardship/nr-laws-policy/risc/inventory and survey methods for rare plants and lichens.pdf



#### **Guidance Documents**

Guidelines for Translocation of Plant Species at Risk in British Columbia







Ministry of Environment

Victoria, B.C. November 2009

- Published in 2009
- Provides guidance on:
  - Suitability of translocations
  - Pre-translocation planning
  - Translocation methods
  - Conducting a translocation project
  - Documentation
  - Post-translocation monitoring

http://a100.gov.bc.ca/pub/eirs/finishDownloadDocument.do?subdocumentId=8321



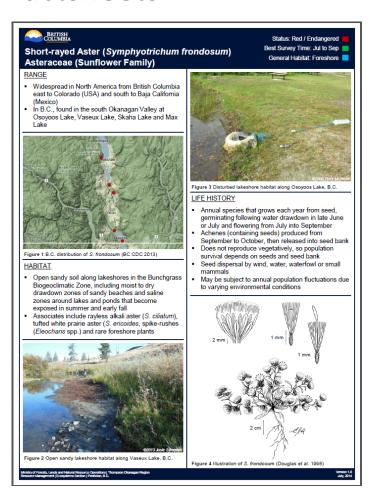
#### **Herbarium & Photo Library**



- FLNRORD herbarium training collection with 34 samples:
  - 10 red-listed
  - 7 blue-listed
  - 5 yellow-listed "look-alikes" for rare species
- Collection to be used at QP workshop and training events
- Have a look at over coffee!



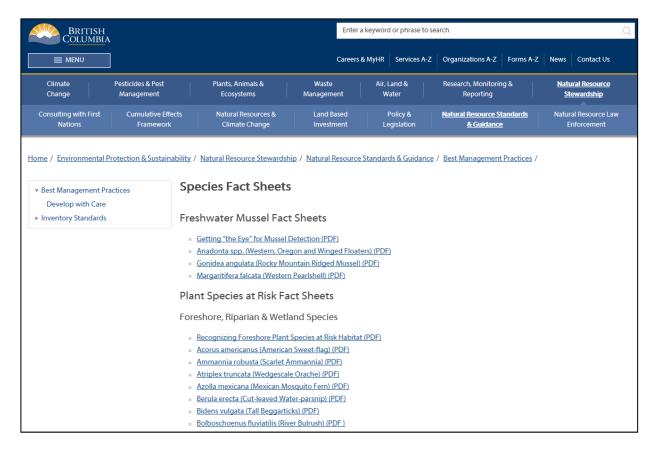
#### **Factsheets**



- Thompson Okanagan Plant SAR Fact Sheets
  - 27 foreshore, riparian and wetland species
  - 15 upland species
  - Completed by BC experts
  - Most up to date taxonomic info
  - Caution: some listings out of due to recent status changes



#### Factsheets (cont.)





#### **Inventory & Monitoring Reports** – most available through Ecocat



- 2009 Osoyoos Lake Inventory
- 2011-2018 Annual Surveys at Christie Memorial Park (Short-rayed Aster Critical Habitat)
- 2013 Osoyoos/Vaseux Lake Plant SAR Inventory
- 2013-2015 Ellison Lake Plant SAR Inventories
- 2015 Foreshore Plant SAR Recovery Actions



- 2018 Swan Lake Foreshore Plant SAR Inventory and Assessment of Water Level Impacts
- 2018 Okanagan Large Lakes Foreshore Protocol Foreshore Plant Zone Confirmation



# Questions?

