



Kit Carr © NCC

The South Okanagan Similkameen is a rare international biological treasure, shaped by hot, dry summers and mild winters. As one of the four most endangered ecosystems in Canada, this region is rich with a diversity of species and habitats that occur nowhere else in the nation.

### **Kit Carr: a natural legacy**

Kit Carr is a spectacular property in the heart of the South Okanagan Similkameen Natural Area. The Nature Conservancy of Canada's interest in Kit Carr is enhanced by its location directly adjacent to the organization's 3,120-acre (1,260-hectare) Sage and Sparrow Conservation Area. Kit Carr is a logical and necessary addition to NCC's holdings in the area.

The diverse lands of Kit Carr include grasslands, dry forests, a 10-acre (4-hectare) lake, aspen forests and gullies. All of these ecological systems are under significant threat of development and conversion to agricultural systems in the South Okanagan Similkameen region.

In addition to connecting to the Sage and Sparrow Conservation Area, Kit Carr also borders the provincial South Okanagan Grasslands Protected Area. Conserving this parcel will provide opportunity for further investigation of biodiversity on Sage and Sparrow, which features a total of 52 known listed species to date.

Kit Carr will be a major conservation achievement that provides connectivity and landscape linkages across the region.

### **The Project at a Glance**

*Size:* 320 acres / 130 hectares

*Location:* South Okanagan Similkameen

*Nearest Town:* Osoyoos

*Adjacent Protected Lands:* Sage and Sparrow Conservation Area, South Okanagan Grasslands Protected Area; Kilpoola Lake Nature Reserve

*Habitats:* native bluebunch wheatgrass and sagebrush grasslands, wetlands, trembling aspen gullies, rugged terrain, coniferous forest

*Species at Risk:* Lewis's woodpecker, grasshopper sparrow, Brewer's sparrow, western rattlesnake, gopher snake, American badger, half moon hairstreak butterfly

*Other Notable Wildlife:* black bear, lazuli bunting, Columbian bitterroot, western meadowlark, mule deer

*Threats:* incompatible recreational activities, invasive plants, development

**Kit Carr is a major conservation achievement that provides connectivity and landscape linkages across the region. This acquisition became the fourth addition to the Sage and Sparrow Conservation Area, bringing the total area of this important conservation assemblage to 3,440 acres (1,390 hectares).**

## Conservation Values

Kit Carr supports many iconic South Okanagan species and the fragile habitat on which they depend.

- 🍃 This grassland ecosystem is one of the four most endangered ecosystems in Canada and provides habitat for a diverse range of amphibian, reptile, bird and mammal species, some of which are unique to Canada, and even to the world.
- » Kit Carr's mature Douglas-fir forests are important for flammulated owl, various woodpeckers and more.
- 🍃 Kit Carr Lake is a rare and important feature in this dry region, providing critical habitat for waterfowl and at-risk species such as Great Basin spadefoot, western painted turtle and western tiger salamander.
- 🍃 The project area forms part of the Kilpoola Lake Important Bird Area as designated by IBA Canada.



Flammulated Owl © Joe Milmoe



Western Painted Turtle © NCC

## What's in a name?

Kit Carr is named for Christopher Donahue (Kit) Carr, the English homesteader who settled this land in 1902. The remnants of Carr's original log cabin still sit on the property, as well as a small corral system and two water troughs.

