

Bobolink Meadows Phase II



A bobolink sings in Bobolink Meadows. (Photo by NCC)

Rare wetland/meadow habitat is disappearing in the Okanagan

Conservation project will reverse habitat loss in internationally important bird area

At the north end of Osoyoos Lake sits a stunning suite of properties that make up part of the Osoyoos Oxbows Important Bird Area. Located midway between Osoyoos and Oliver, these four properties contain some of the last remaining marshes in an area that was once a significant chain of wetlands.

Much of this rich wetland system has been lost to agricultural and urban development. Still, the Osoyoos Oxbows area continues to support diverse wildlife such as long-billed curlew, northern harrier, tiger salamander and numerous species of bats.

Bobolink Meadows Phase II will protect a prime example of rare valley-bottom wetland/meadow ecosystem. This acquisition will build on an existing conservation complex that includes lands owned by the Nature Conservancy of Canada and its conservation partners.

What's in a name?

This project takes its name from the bobolink, a small songbird that undertakes the longest migration of any North American songbird, travelling some 20,000 kms to and from southern South America each year.

Bobolink Meadows II at a glance

Location: South Okanagan

Nearest towns: Osoyoos & Oliver

Size: 90 acres (36 hectares)

Number of parcels: 4

Project Budget: \$1.9 million

Habitats: valley-bottom wetland and meadow ecosystem

Species at risk: bobolink, long-billed curlew, barn owl, short-eared owl

Other notable wildlife: tiger salamander, great basin spadefoot, turtles, waterfowl, migratory songbirds

Threats: agricultural and urban development

CONSERVATION BOBOLINK MEADOWS PHASE II

Ecological significance

The Osoyoos Oxbows hosts the only breeding population of bobolinks in the Okanagan Valley, and is one of largest, most important sites for this at-risk songbird in British Columbia.

This Important Bird Area earns its designation from the diversity of bird species, including long-billed curlew, sandhill crane, red-tailed hawk and many species of waterfowl, that use these lands for breeding, nesting, hunting and as a critical migration stopover point.

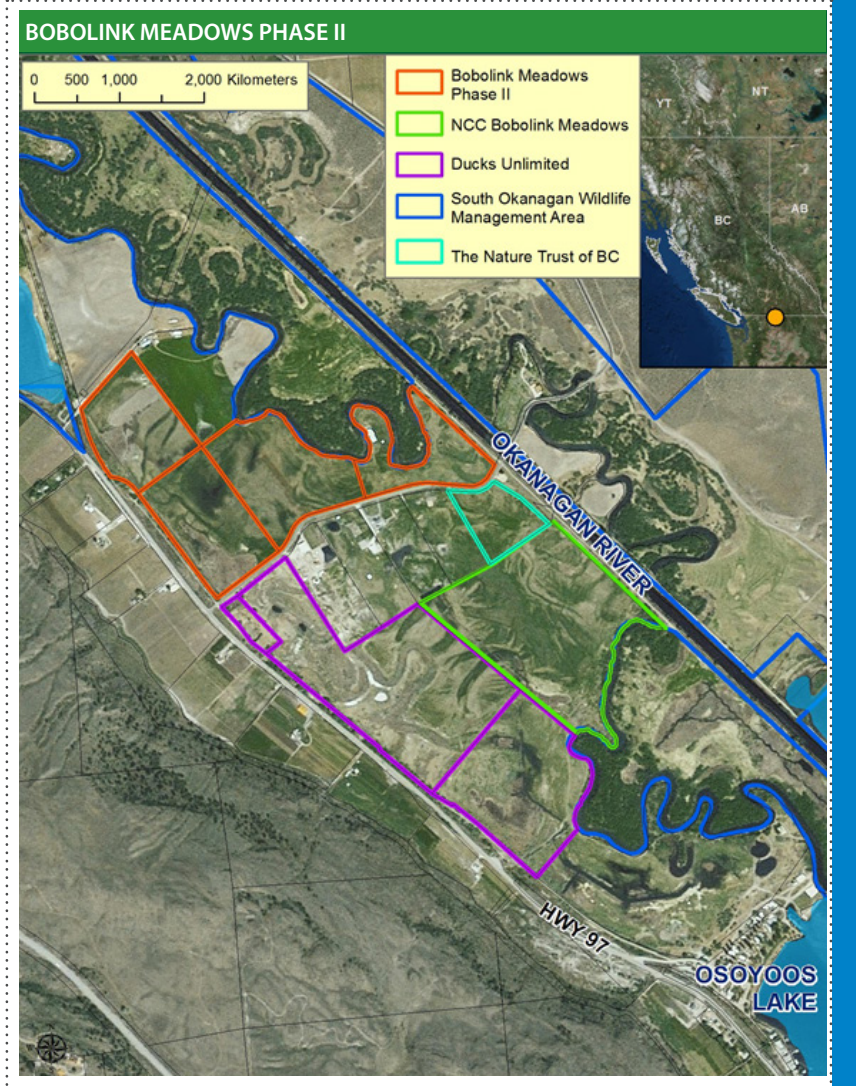
Amphibians that rely on these wetlands include tiger salamander, great basin spadefoot and turtles.

This acquisition will fill a gap between existing conservation lands, building connectivity between the Osoyoos Oxbows and the high-quality natural lands in the South Okanagan Wildlife Management Area, managed by the Province of BC.

Threats

Bobolink Meadows Phase II is under threat from agriculture and urban expansion; only an estimated 15% of the Okanagan's valley-bottom wetlands remain intact.

New urban and resort development is already underway nearby. The four-lot configuration of the subject properties puts them at high risk for development, due to the fact that no subdivision approval would be needed.



Support this project

Please join us in protecting this internationally significant project. Your investment will help to ensure Boboblink Meadows Phase II is conserved and will support the stewardship of this and all Nature Conservancy of Canada lands in British Columbia.

NCC Charitable Registration Number: 11924 6544 RR0001

Restoration plans

The Nature Conservancy of Canada and its partners will initiate restoration and creation of habitat on the Phase II lands, building on the successful restoration of the first phase.



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