

To

Date

March 2, 2010

2 pages from Jeanette Merrick

WILDLIFE TREE WORKSHOP

This meeting was an introduction to the WiTS program that has been introduced to the Okanagan Valley in the last three years

Invitations were organized by Lisa Scott of EnviroMatters. Two meetings, the first was in Penticton and was attended by naturalists, trail managers and a few individuals of the Ministry of Environment office in Penticton. This meeting in Kelowna was attended by municipal and commercial arborists, city planners of Kelowna, Greater Vernon, Shuswap. Only CropHealth and Bartlett Tree Services were in attendance that are able to provide hazard tree assessments

Legislation

Lucy Reiss, Environment Canada, Canadian Wildlife Service

- All wildlife is protected (other than pests ie: Starlings)
 - SARA; Species at Risk
 - SARA defines residence as: a dwelling-place, such as a den, nest or other similar area or place, that is occupied or habitually occupied by one or more individuals during all or part of their life cycles, including breeding, rearing, staging, wintering, feeding or hibernating*
- [Subsection 2(1)].**
- "Residence" concept of a cavity being used year round, not just active nests.
 - Critical habitats have weight HOWEVER, there are none identified in the Okanagan. . . yet (TBA)
 - Russell Hinter requested simplified information for the front-liners (arborists and others with chainsaws).

WiTS Program

Lisa Scott, EnviroMatters (<http://www.wildlifetree.org/about.html>)

Goal is the protection of Wildlife Trees - trees that provide habitat for nesting birds and other animals. We facilitate the transfer of nest and tree information, collected by Volunteer Tree Stewards, and make it available for land-use planning by both the Public and by Government.

Species-specific fact sheets (pdf) available at <http://www.wildlifetree.org/birds.html>:

Flammulated Owl, Lewis's Woodpecker, Western Screech Owl, White-headed

Woodpecker, Williamson's Sapsucker: Endangered.

Also available are species environments to be developed with care: Bald Eagles and Osprey as well as Great Blue Herons.

Understanding Trees, Risk & Managing Wildlife Trees in Riparian Areas

Doug Ellis, Essential Resources, essentialtreessources.com

A review of tree biology and assessment aspects.

Trees

Cottonwoods are important for habitat, growth (quick to grow, quick to die)

Hollow ponderosa pines are RARE

Larch are used by multiple species and can be considered condos

Leave coarse woody debris (for the insects, invertebrates which are a food source and many are endangered)

Standing dead conifers; check the roots.