



Annual Highlights 2006 – 2007

Strategic and Recovery Planning

- ❖ **GOERT Five-Year Report Card** produced and distributed to assess progress made under the *Recovery Strategy for Garry Oak and Associated Ecosystems and their Associated Species at Risk in Canada, 2001 – 2006* (see www.goert.ca under 'publications')
- ❖ **Invertebrate species at risk:** Recovery strategies completed for butterflies at risk, i.e. **island blue**, **dun skipper**; and population surveys and habitat restoration undertaken at several locations for **Taylor's checkerspot butterfly**
- ❖ **Vertebrate species at risk:**
 - Recovery strategy completed for **coastal vesper sparrow** and **streaked horned lark**
 - Re-introduction program for **western bluebird** initiated
- ❖ **Plant species at risk:**
 - Multi-species recovery strategies approved by the provincial and federal Ministers of Environment for 20 species at risk found in Garry oak woodlands, maritime meadows and vernal pools
 - Individual species recovery strategies **completed and awaiting approval:** *Meconella oregana*, *Lupinus densiflorus*, *Epilobium densiflorum*, *Epilobium torreyi*, *Camissonia contorta*, *Microseris bigelovi*, and *Bartramia stricta*
 - **Management plan** underway for *Dryopteris arguta* (coastal wood fern)
 - **Critical habitat** description and delineation on federal/provincial lands completed for **16 plant species at risk**
 - Update completed for genetics section of ***Translocation Guidelines for Rare Plants in BC***
 - **COSEWIC status reports** completed for **12 plant species at risk**.

Research and Development

- ❖ *Decision Support Tool for Invasive Species in Garry Oak and Associated Ecosystems* updated and renamed **General Decision Process for Managing Invasive Plant Species in Garry Oak and Associated Ecosystems (GOEs)**. Available in print and at www.goert.ca under 'publications/invasive species'
- ❖ **Five new species accounts** developed for GOERT stewardship manual on *Species at risk in Garry Oak and Associated Ecosystems in BC*, for *Lomatium dissectum* var. *dissectum*, *Meconella oregana*, *Plagiobothrys figuratus* ssp. *figuratus*, *Plagiobothrys tenellus* and *Yabea microcarpa*
- ❖ **Workshop** held for nurseries and other landscape-related businesses and **CD** produced on **how to propagate 86 native plant** species found in Garry oak ecosystems
- ❖ A 20-page outreach document on **Protecting Garry Oak Areas During Land Development** published, distributed, and available at www.goert.ca under 'land developers and government'
- ❖ A 52-page book titled **The Garry Oak Gardener's Handbook** published, distributed and available at www.goert.ca under 'at home and in your community'

- ❖ **Three research workshops** held- one on restoration practices and the other two on research taking place in Garry oak and associated ecosystems
- ❖ **Restoration Symposium and Field Workshop** organized in collaboration with Restoration of Natural Systems Program at the University of Victoria
- ❖ Partners continued/initiated **research** on a variety of Garry oak species and ecosystem factors including: pollinator diversity in Garry oak ecosystems; impact of broom removal on white-top aster; use of paleoecology and bioclimatic modeling to predict future Garry oak ecosystem distribution; dendroecology of Garry oak savannahs; new restoration techniques and techniques for managing invasive species; effects of mammalian herbivores and exotic plants on plant diversity; sharp-tailed snake and coastal vesper sparrow ecology; and techniques for western bluebird re-introduction.

Surveys and Monitoring

- ❖ **Species at risk surveys** completed for the **Trial Islands** Ecological Reserve and **Somenos** Garry Oak Protected Area, in three parks located within the Township of **Esquimalt**, as well as 11 sites in Colwood and Langford.
- ❖ **Vegetation monitoring** and report produced for the **Somenos** Garry Oak Protected Area
- ❖ Improved **vegetation survey** and **coastal vesper sparrow banding and monitoring** completed at the Nanaimo Airport
- ❖ **Garry Oak Ecosystems Protection Fund** established by GOERT to help non-profit conservation groups secure the services of species at risk specialists to survey areas of interest or make recommendations to improve their restoration projects

Site Restoration and Management

- ❖ **Restoration of five key Garry oak areas**, with removal of invasive species and/or re-introduction of native species, at Trial Islands and Mt. Tzuhalem Ecological Reserves, Somenos Garry Oak Protected Area, Cowichan Garry Oak Preserve and at the Nanaimo Airport (coastal vesper sparrow)
- ❖ Over **35,000 native plants being planted** over 33 ha in protected areas; and **invasive species removed over 112 ha** of protected areas
- ❖ Over \$312,000 in cash and \$362,000 in matching in-kind contributions were secured for all surveys and restoration projects, with a value of over **\$674,000** allocated to these activities

Outreach and Education

- ❖ A very active partnership-oriented **outreach program** took place, for a total value of ~\$342,000 in cash and \$88,000 of in-kind contributions, for a total value of **~\$430,000** allocated to outreach and education in 2006-07
- ❖ **Three outreach workshops** organized in collaboration with Parks Canada and other partners, i.e.:
 - *Why should local governments and land developers protect Garry oak habitats? What is in it for them? What are the tools available to do so?*
 - *How do I protect and restore Garry oak habitat in my backyard?*
 - *How can GOERT, conservancies, land trusts and other partners work together to deliver an effective landowner contact program to promote the protection of Garry oak ecosystems and of the 118 species at risk they sustain?*
- ❖ As a result, **two new major publications** produced by GOERT, **partnerships created or strengthened** with The Land Trust Alliance of BC, Habitat Acquisition Trust, and several land trusts

and conservancies to develop an **integrated and effective landowner contact program for Garry oak species at risk**

- ❖ At least **55 landowners with species at risk** on their property contacted and provided with information regarding SARA and how to protect the species
- ❖ **Partnership formed with municipalities of Colwood and Langford** to participate in their Official Community Plan review, with GOERT being responsible for identifying, mapping and prioritizing all Garry oak areas and species for protection within their municipal boundaries
- ❖ **A new GOERT website at www.goert.ca**, with pages on Garry oak research, conservation planning and restoration, and specific information pages for private landowners, local governments and land developers
- ❖ GOERT is working in partnership with The Land Conservancy and CRD parks to offer **native plant gardening workshops** and re-establish native plants at Gonzales Hill Park
- ❖ **Public seminars and school programs** were delivered in the Western Communities to educate the public on Garry oak ecosystems in those municipalities.

Habitat Protection

- ❖ GOERT contributed funds to help the **City of Nanaimo** develop an informative **Garry oak ecosystems sign**, which is to be posted at key Garry oak sites
- ❖ GOERT developed **posters** which were distributed widely to encourage recreationists to respect and help protect sensitive Garry oak habitats
- ❖ Outreach staff and GOERT's Native Plant Propagation Steering Committee are helping to develop a **native oak demonstration garden** at the **Dockside Green land development** on the Gorge in Victoria, an initiative supported by VanCity and known for its efforts to achieve Platinum LEED certification
- ❖ Outreach and other staff provided **technical input to several land developers and some local governments** to help them identify and protect key Garry oak values and species at risk on their properties, e.g. Vanier Grove in Courtenay
- ❖ GOERT contributed funds and a free legal survey to help place a **covenant on Camas Hill, a 13-acre** parcel in Metchosin

Financial Highlights 2006-2007

During fiscal 2006-2007, a **total budget of \$727,455** was available to **GOERT**, of which over \$611,000 was spent. Major contributors were the Habitat Stewardship Program (\$316,400), Parks Canada (\$230,476, plus \$92,210 for PIFSARR outreach workshops) and BC Environment (\$60,000).

Based on the preliminary results of the RENEW report produced by Environment Canada, the total amount of **cash** contributed by all provincial and federal agencies, as well as GOERT and other partners for fiscal 2006-2007, was \$1,163,078.

In-kind donations, converted into "People Years" and "Volunteer People Years" (261 days), were 9.25 PY and 3.31 VPY respectively, being equivalent in cash to \$1,207,125 (PY) and \$259,173 (VPY).

During 2006-2007, a grand total of \$ 2,629,376 was spent by over 90 agencies and groups on the protection Garry oak ecosystems and the species at risk they sustain (see next page for list).



Parks
Canada

Parcs
Canada



Groups and Agencies involved in Garry Oak Projects in 2006-2007		
RENEW Report 2006-2007		
Parks Canada Agency	City of Nanaimo	Cowichan Valley Naturalists' Society
Habitat Stewardship Program (HSP) / Federal Government (EC, DFO & PCA)	Ministry of Forests and Range (BC) / British Columbia Government	Garry Oak Meadow Preservation Society
Interdepartmental Recovery Fund (IRF) / Federal Government (EC, DFO & PCA)	BC Parks / Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection (BC) / British Columbia Government	National Research Council Canada
Ministry of Environment (BC) / British Columbia Government	Citizens Combating Ivy Growth and Spread	Windmill Development
Aboriginal Critical Habitat Protection Fund / Federal Government (EC, DFO & PCA)	Nanaimo Area Land Trust	Aruncus Consulting / Consultant
Scotiabank	District of Saanich Community Members / Volunteers (Time)	Canadian Wildlife Service / Environment Canada (EC)
District of Saanich	University of Guelph	City of Langford
Individual Donor (\$)	University of Victoria	Comox Valley Land Trust / Land Trust Alliance of British Columbia
The Nature Conservancy in Washington	Islands Trust Fund (BC)	Cowichan Community Land Trust Society
Habitat Acquisition Trust	Salt Spring Island Conservancy	Environment Canada (EC)
Kaatza Foundation	Nanoose Property Owners and Residents Association	University of British Columbia
Land Trust Alliance of British Columbia	Polster Environmental Services Ltd.	Canadian Land Trust Alliance
Nature Conservancy of Canada	City of Victoria	Carelton University
Garry Oak Ecosystems Recovery Team	Friends of Brodick, Feltham and Bow Parks	Department of National Defence
Landowners	Pacific Forestry Centre / Canadian Forest Service / Natural Resources Canada	District of Central Saanich
Saanich Community Matching Fund Program / District of Saanich	City of Colwood	District of Highlands
District of Oak Bay	City of Courtenay	District of North Cowichan
Canadian Wildlife Federation	Canadian Forest Service / Natural Resources Canada	Friends of Beacon Hill Park Society
Township of Esquimalt	Comox Valley Naturalists' Society	Gaia College
BC Gaming Commission / British Columbia Government	The Land Conservancy of BC	Galiano Conservancy Association
Shell Canada	Tsolum River Restoration Society	Institute for Sustainability Education & Action
WorkSource Wage Subsidy Program	Valley Environmental	LifeCycles Project Society
Strawberry Vale School	Canadian Coast Guard / Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO)	Malaspina University-College
Volunteers (Time)	Capital Regional District Parks (BC)	Masselink Environmental Design
Natural Resources Canada	CFB Esquimalt / Department of National Defence	Mayne Island Conservancy Association / Land Trust Alliance of British Columbia
Ministry of Forests (BC) / British Columbia Government	Society for Organic Urban Land Care	Victoria Real Estate Board
Nanoose Naturalists	Songhees First Nation	Victoria West Community Association
Pender Islands Conservancy Association	Swan Lake Christmas Hill Nature Sanctuary	Alberta Ecotrust Foundation
Regional District of Nanaimo	Town of View Royal	Canadian Development Services
Simon Fraser University	Trinity Western University	Hornby Island Conservancy / Land Trust Alliance of BC