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Okanagan Basin Water Board
2020 Overview
Mandate 1970 – present

- Define problems and priorities
- Communicate and Coordinate
- Present recommendations
- Organize and receive proposals
- Participate financially in projects on behalf of local governments
Okanagan Basin Water Board
50 Years, Three Programs

- Sewage Facilities Assistance
  - Grants to local governments
- Watermilfoil control
  - Valley-wide, year-round
- Water Management Program
  - Grants, Collaboration & Coordination
  - Water Science and data
  - Policy and planning
  - Communications
  - Advocacy
Okanagan Lake - Annual Net Inflow (1921 - 2019)

* Based on 1981-2010 Normal
Source: BC River Forecast Centre, Ministry of Natural Resource Operations
Water Conservation and drought planning
Flooding in the Okanagan - An Introduction

There have always been floods in the Okanagan - a valley born of water and ice. As times change, with different weather and different ways we live on the land, the story of flooding in the Okanagan changes with each generation. It is a story of resilience, regeneration, balance, and community.

After high water events in 2017 and 2018, the Okanagan Basin Water Board (OBWB) led a valley-wide partnership of local governments and Indigenous communities to update the region’s floodplain mapping. This included mapping Okanagan valley-bottom lakes: Ellison (also known as Duck), Wood, Kalumukha, Okanagan, Skaha, Vaseux and Osoyoos, and the Okanagan River from Boundary to Okanagan Falls. This information is valid for:

www.OkanaganFloodStory.ca
1. WHAT IS FLOOD MAPPING?

2. HOW TO USE THE MAPS

3. OKANAGAN LAKE AND RIVER FLOODPLAIN MAP

The following table identifies the Average Recurrence Interval (ARI) values that were mapped and the corresponding probability of flooding in each year. Overlaying this value is a map, or over 75 years is estimated for infrastructure and community planning. As an example, how to re-draw the table in each year, there is a 1% chance that Okanagan Lake water (red) will be above the 100-year flood level of 241.16 meters. Over 25 years, there is a 22.2% chance that lake levels will be above this level and over 75 years, there is a 33.9% chance that lake levels will be lower than this.

Recently, the vertical datum in Canada has been updated to the Canadian Geodetic Vertical Datum 2013. This means that while the location or height of a point is not changed, its reported elevation differs from that of previous data. In the Okanagan valley, the new datum is between approximately 11m and 20m higher than the old datum may be mis-measured anywhere from 210 ft to 310 ft depending on where the point is located in the valley. As many lake levels currently known is the Okanagan were on an older vertical datum (OVD2 28), some correction information is provided below.

4. COMPLEMENTARY FLOOD MAPS
Watermilfoil: a long haul

Issues: access & permitting...
Strengths

- Many diverse partners and supporters
- Joint capacity is greater than individual capacities
- OBWB creates a communication hub: bridges levels of government and other partners
- Valley-wide strategic planning
- Integrated projects give highest value
- Long-term, steady efforts bring big results

Thank You!