

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF OKANAGAN-SIMILKAMEEN
Environment and Infrastructure Committee
REGULAR AGENDA



Thursday, March 20, 2025
11:30 am

	Pages
A. APPROVAL OF AGENDA <u>RECOMMENDATION</u> THAT the Agenda for the Environment and Infrastructure Committee Meeting of March 20, 2025 be adopted.	
B. Water System Meter Locations For Information.	2
C. DELEGATE - OASIS Lisa Scott, Executive Director, OASIS, will provide a 2024 Summary of Activities and Results to Committee.	5
D. ADJOURNMENT <u>RECOMMENDATION</u> THAT the meeting adjourn.	

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

TO: Environment and Infrastructure Committee

FROM: J. Zaffino, Chief Administrative Officer

DATE: March 20, 2025

RE: **Water System Meter Locations**

Purpose:

To provide rationale for the decisions made to implement outside meter pit use at the property line for Regional District water systems.

Reference:

Water Use Regulation Bylaw No. 2824, 2019

Business Plan Objective: *(Tie to current RDOS Business Plan)*

KSD 2: Optimize the customer experience, Goal 2.2 To meet public needs through the continuous improvement of key services.

Background:

In 2019, the Water Use Regulation Bylaw No. 2824 was adopted with the provision of meter and meter pit installation at or near the property line of each service connection within the water system service area.

Analysis:

There are a number of reasons the Water Regulation Bylaw was adopted with direction to install pits and water meters at or near the property line for properties within the water system service areas. Research was conducted on other local government water systems and what decisions led to their preferred water meter location as well as RDOS operations experience with both in house and outside meter pits.

For the long term efficient function of the water systems and staff time, it was resolved that the best option was to install meter pits and meters at the property lines instead of placing meters inside homes.

Some of the rationale for this decision is as follows:

- Access:
 - Can be a challenge and is limited for many houses with absent owners, vacation homes or snowbird travelers.
 - Many residents work outside their community which creates difficulty booking appointments for access to install or repair the meter during regular working hours. Requiring work to be completed in the evening or weekends can significantly increase the staff costs to the water system users.
 - With increased health and safety awareness, such as from COVID, many residents are more hesitant to have people entering their homes for installation or maintenance activities.
 - Operators can easily access the meters in pits for reading and maintenance without needing to enter homes, which is more expedient and less intrusive for both the operators and homeowners.
- Installation requirements:
 - Older homes commonly have crawlspaces that provides no reasonable access to install and maintain plumbing and meters.
 - In some locations, the houses may not have a simple installation location in the plumbing without significant rework of piping. This can also add a higher risk of issues arising from the installation if plumbing is older or not a standard layout.
 - Installing meters at the property line also frees up indoor space, which can be especially useful in smaller homes without separate utility areas.
- Security and damage:
 - Meters at the property line are less likely to be tampered with compared to when placed inside homes.
 - Meter pit lids have a locking mechanism to deter unauthorized access.
 - Unauthorized bypasses have been witnessed inside a home to avoid having all the water used going through the meter which can lead to inaccurate readings and potential billing issues.
 - Meters inside homes are also exposed to potential damage from household activities.
- Water conservation and leak detection:
 - Many properties are large residential lots and commonly have multi-zone irrigation systems. Installation at the property line will ensure capture of irrigation and indoor domestic use if the irrigation system is fed between the property line and the house.
 - Leak detection program can identify new or continuous leaks that increase geotechnical risks and cause excess demand in a water system.

The water systems owned by the RDOS serve small semi-rural communities. The smallest system, Sun Valley, has fewer than 30 connections while the largest system, Okanagan Falls, has just over 1400 connections. Across the regional district, there are over 3500 properties connected to small water systems owned or managed by the RDOS.

Most connections are large residential properties with several hundred having separate agricultural irrigation connections to sustain a variety of crops. The provision for outdoor pit meters versus indoor meters is associated with residential or domestic connections and has no impact on the metering of agricultural, commercial or industrial users.

Overall, using meter pits and meters at the property line offers significant advantages in terms of accessibility, protection, security, and space efficiency, making them the selected option for RDOS water systems.

Respectfully Submitted,

Endorsed By:

Endorsed By:

"Shelley Fiorito"

"Liisa Bloomfield"



S. Fiorito, Projects Coordinator

L. Bloomfield, Senior Manager
of Public Works

A. Fillion, MD of Development
& Infrastructure



Summary of 2024 Activities and Results

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Invasive Plant Program Overview

- Assistance provided to municipalities
- 29 species treated
- 222 chemical treatments covering 17ha
- 97 mechanical treatments covering 5.5ha
- 44 sites with NO plants found



New Partnerships and Projects

- Oliver District and Heritage Society-
inventory and
treatment at
Fairview townsite
- Nature Conservancy
of Canada -
inventory in fire
impacted areas



Invasive Plant Program- RDOS Funded Work

- 13 invasive plant species
- 41 surveys covering 2ha
- 32 mechanical treatments covering 0.33 ha
- 5 chemical treatments, covering 0.02 ha

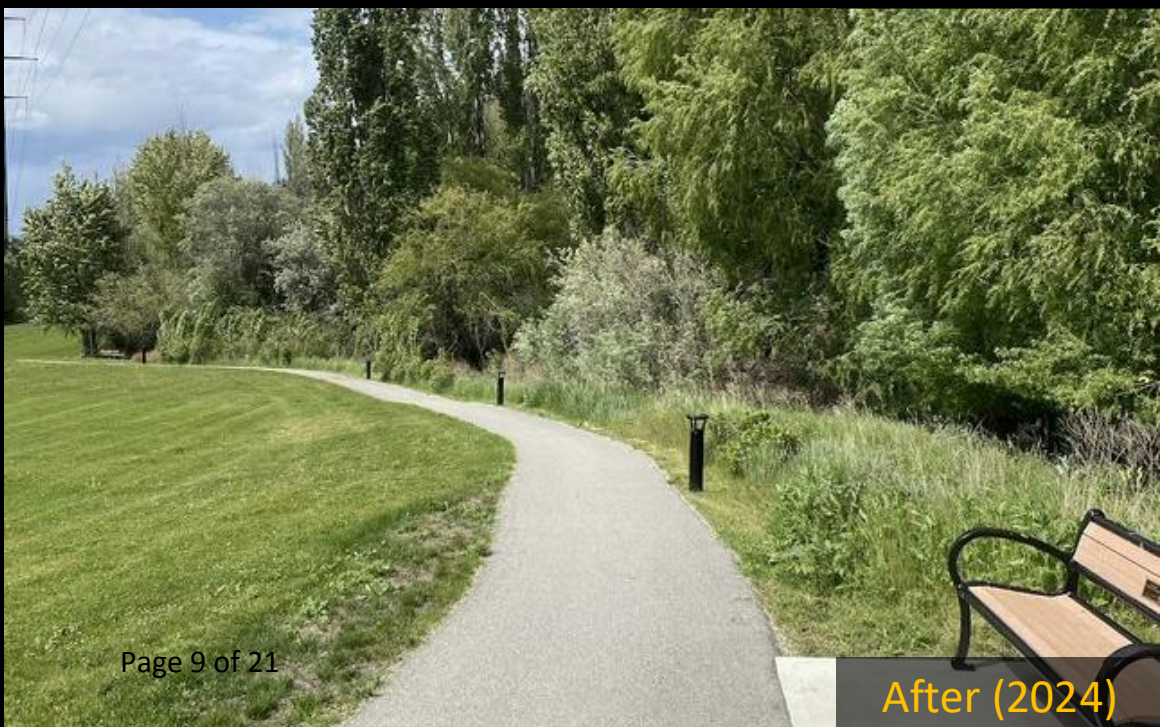


Garnet Park, Heritage Hills

- 377 kg removed
in 2024- 73%
decrease from
2020



Before (2020)



After (2024)



Collaboration With First Nations Communities



Door to Door Contact

- High priority species
- Himalayan balsam and Puncturevine



Education and Outreach

- Community event
 - Earth Day events – Summerland
 - SORCO Open House
 - Seedy Saturdays – Princeton, Penticton
- Training
- Presentations
- Articles for newsletters
- Social Media Outreach



Education and Outreach

- Media Coverage
 - Invasive Trees
 - Puncturevine
 - Invasive Mussels





New Outreach Tools/Resources



Invasive Trees of the Okanagan-Similkameen **SIBERIAN ELM**



Invasive trees...

- Are fast growing and produce lots of seeds
- Outcompete and shade out native plants
- Can support invasive insect pests
- Are difficult and costly to manage

Invasive Trees of the Okanagan-Similkameen **RUSSIAN OLIVE**



Invasive trees...

- Are fast growing and produce lots of seeds
- Outcompete and shade out native plants
- Can support invasive insect pests
- Are difficult and costly to manage

Invasive Trees of the Okanagan-Similkameen **BLACK LOCUST**

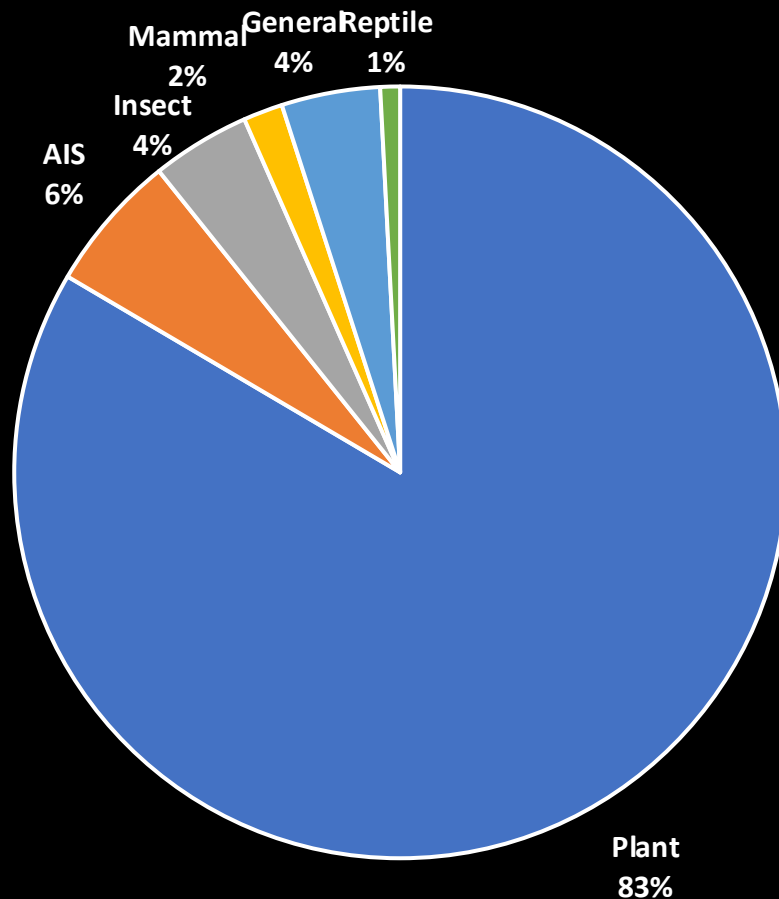


Photo credit: Paul Wray, ISU

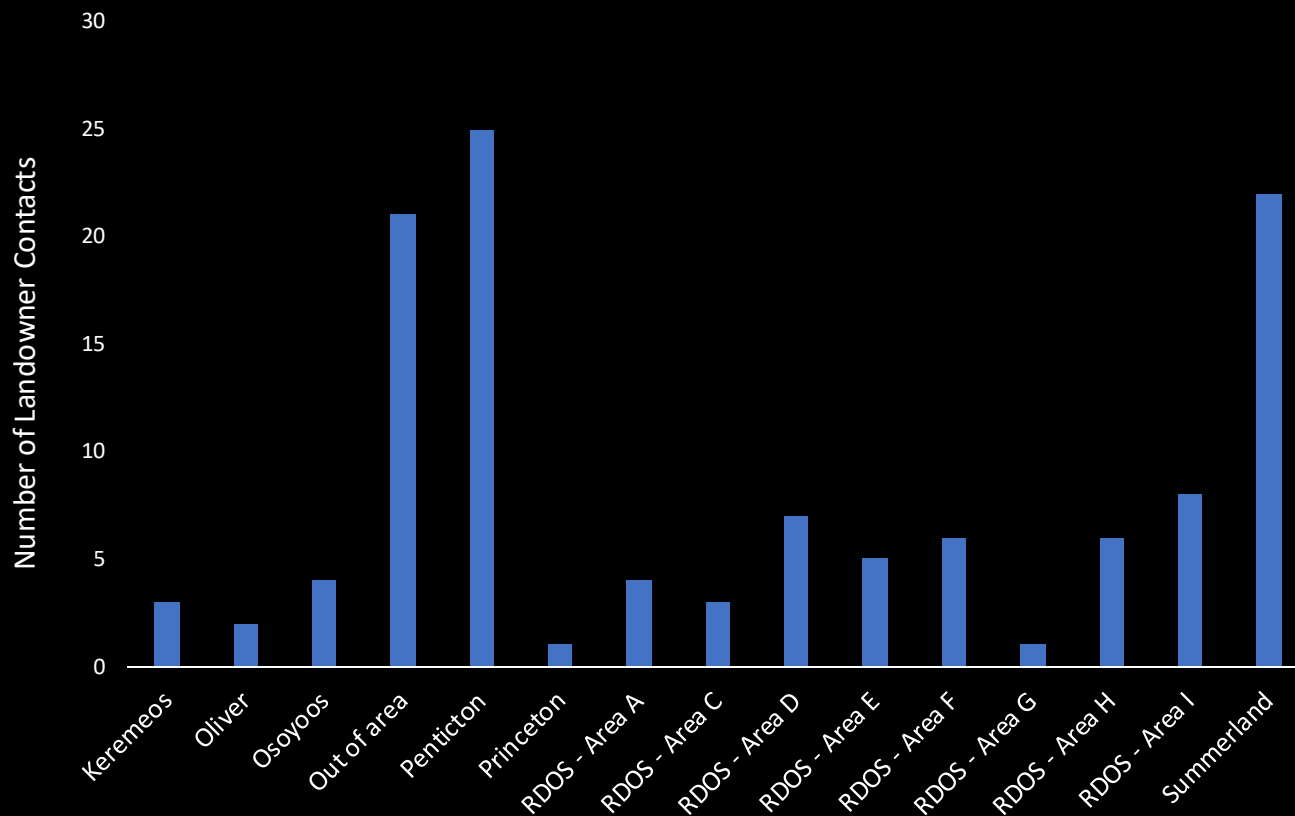
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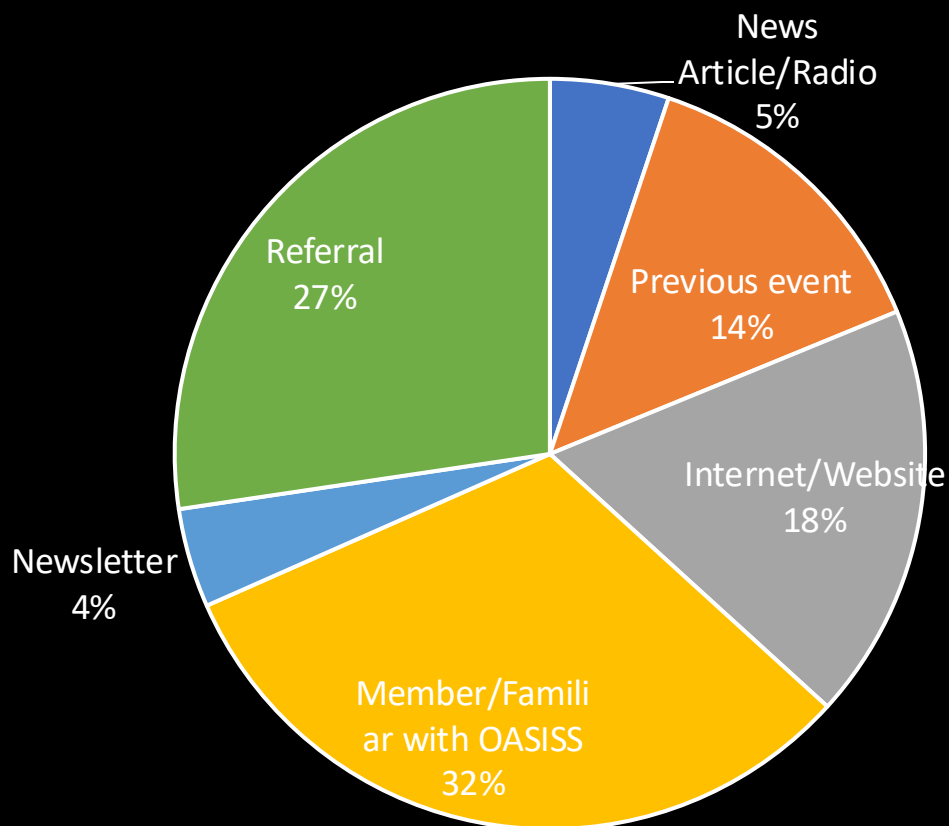
Enquiries - Summary of Categories (RDOS)



Enquiries by Municipality/Area (RDOS)



Enquiries by Source (RDOS)





Okanagan Invasive Species Online

Look what's **NEW** on **OISO** JANUARY 30, 2025




**NEW INFORMATION
AVAILABLE ON
PROTECTING LIVESTOCK
FROM TOXIC INVASIVE
PLANTS**



DECEMBER 24, 2024

**SPOTTED LANTERNFLY
DISCOVERED IN ONTARIO**



MARCH 22, 2024

**WATERBODIES CLOSED IN
TWO BC NATIONAL PARKS
DUE TO WHIRLING
DISEASE**



FEBRUARY 5, 2024

**JOIN US AT THE
SOUTHERN INTERIOR
HORTICULTURAL SHOW!**



DECEMBER 21, 2023

**WHIRLING DISEASE
DETECTED IN YOHO
NATIONAL PARK**



OCTOBER 16, 2023

**INVASIVE QUAGGA
MUSSELS FOUND IN
PACIFIC NORTHWEST**

Aquatics Program

- 3 summer staff
- Connected with ~5,269 people
- Surveyed 986 boats at 15 launches
- Material distribution
- Attended 13 community events
- Youth presentations
- Citizen Science Project
- Invasive mussel monitoring
- Social media outreach



Education and Outreach

Students Plant for the Future

- Invasive plant removal
- Planting events at Oliver Mountain and Max Lake
- Walk on the land with indigenous teacher



SOUTH OKANAGAN
CONSERVATION FUND



Questions?

Lisa Scott

Executive Director

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