



# **Osoyoos Lake Regional Park**

## **Seasonal Farm Worker's Campground**

### **Management Plan**

**Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen**

#### **Background**

The South Okanagan [Electoral Area A (Osoyoos Rural) and the Town of Osoyoos] require a Seasonal Farm Worker's Campground. The availability of local farm labour has led to a shortage of experienced farm workers in the Okanagan creating a significant challenge for farmers, particularly during peak harvest periods. As a result, farmers hire Seasonal Farm Workers from across Canada who come regularly to work and enjoy the summer season in these communities.

When accommodation cannot be offered by growers, farm workers encroach on public and crown land with no provision for washrooms, sleeping and warmth.

#### **Current**

Stakeholders from the Regional District, Town of Osoyoos, Provincial Government (MLA, Ministries of Environment, Transportation, and ILMB), BC Fruit Grower's Association, and RCMP identified three key issues surrounding seasonal farm workers in the Okanagan; Accommodation, Transportation, and Communication.

Working with Integrated Land Management Bureau, a potential crown parcel has been identified which will provide basic accommodation requirements, washroom (porta potty), and fire pits. The campground is intended to serve as a controlled camp area for seasonal farm workers with the goal to reduce the impact on public and crown lands environmentally, and the threat of wildfire; particularly Strawberry Creek areas.

#### **Proposal**

##### **1. Site Manager**

- a. Contracted Site Manager on site; may have a trailer on site for accommodation
- b. Site Manager will be a safety conduit; 9-1-1

##### **2. Operational Period**

- a. June 1 to mid October

##### **3. Parcels (a portion thereof)**

- a. Southwest corner of DL 2450s, LDYD, License #344561, in the vicinity of Lot 993, Plan 22928 for maintaining a Desert Interpretive Centre and Access Road Purposes.
- b. Plan C17927, District Lot 2450S, Lot 963, Plan C17927, District Lot 2450S, Similkameen Div of Yale Land District, Portion PL 14686, RW NO 302751 FOR

TRANSMISSION & DISTRIBUTION LINES. Land District Similkameen Div of Yale

- i. Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure Interest – Map Reserve for gravel pit. The proposed site has been disturbed by the gravel operation
- ii. Osoyoos Desert Interpretive Centre – License #344561

**4. Access**

- a. The site is accessible off Highway 3 and Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure gravel pit location road.
- b. A secondary road leads to the campground site which allows Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure to lock their gate to the gravel pit location.

**5. Basic Amenities**

Year One:

- a. Camping Sites
  - i. 10 to 12 designated camping sites (larger affording some privacy)
  - ii. Overflow Area; sites dependent as space permits
- b. Dumpster and smaller garbage cans for refuse disposal
- c. Porta Potties for washroom facilities
  - i. To be maintained regularly on a contractual basis by supplier
  - ii. To be equipped with hand sanitation facilities such as wet wipe/alcohol solution
- d. Fire Pit
  - i. One central pit that is well guarded by a gravel pad and fire ring
  - ii. Firewood
- e. Cooking Facilities
  - i. Limited to propane stoves or BBQ's in a central area
- f. Notice Board
  - i. Display camp rules and regulations; in English and French
  - ii. Help wanted advertisements
- g. Fencing
  - i. The disturbed area would be fenced to restrict access beyond the proposed site

Year Two and Beyond:

- h. Shower Facilities – likely a shower trailer.

**6. Security**

The need for security will be assessed; however the site manager will have control over the site. Local RCMP will be requested to undertake regular patrols.

**7. Water**

No provision for portable water will be provided in Year One. Assessing how potable water may be provided will be researched and coordinated with Interior Health Authority.