

A Model for First Nations Engagement in Recovery Planning and Implementation

Ron Hall

Osoyoos Indian Band

Canada's new *Species at Risk Act* mandates aboriginal involvement at all stages of recovery planning and implementation where First Nations interests may be affected. In many locations, First Nations Reserve and Treaty Settlement lands contain key habitats which will be important in achieving recovery objectives. The Osoyoos Indian Band and the Canadian Wildlife Service have been developing a model of engagement which balances First Nations economic development aspirations with the achievement of species at risk recovery objectives. Key ingredients in making the model work are consistent capacity building efforts within the local First Nation community, and strengthening of working relationships between community members and conservation agencies.