

## QUALIFIED ENVIRONMENTAL PROFESSIONAL (QEP)

A QEP is an applied scientist or technologist, acting alone or together with another qualified environmental professional, if the individual is:

- registered and in good standing in British Columbia with an appropriate professional organization constituted under an Act, acting under that association's code of ethics and subject to disciplinary action by that association;
- acting within that individual's area of expertise;
- a full member and is not in training, articling, retired, on leave or a student member.

A technologist may only sign off for prescribed sections of riparian areas regulation assessments.

For more information please see our Qualified Environmental Professionals brochure.

For further information please contact  
**The Planning Department**

**Telephone: (250) 490-4107**

The contents of this brochure may be subject to change at any time. Please contact the RDOS to confirm any requirements and costs.

For more information  
check out the RDOS web site under  
Planning and Environmental Planning  
<http://www.rdos.bc.ca/index.php?id=541>

## Development Services

# Environmental and Watercourse Development Permits



Vaseux Lake with sensitive antelope brush in the foreground.

## ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE DEVELOPMENT PERMIT AREAS

The south Okanagan-Similkameen is one of the three most endangered regions in Canada and is home to many endangered species. This is the only place in Canada some species are found.

Provincial mapping has identified important habitats in the RDOS. Based on these maps, Environmentally Sensitive Development Permit (ESDP) areas have been designated in the RDOS for the protection of the natural environment, its ecosystems and natural biological diversity.

These development permits are used to minimize the impact of development and land disturbance on the natural environment.

If alteration of land within an ESDP area is proposed, an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) signed off by a Registered Professional in the Province of BC may be requested. The EIA will identify how the proposed development will affect the environment and recommend measures to eliminate or reduce any negative impacts. An EIA will assist the RDOS Board decision on rezoning, temporary permits and ESDP applications.

## WATERCOURSE DEVELOPMENT PERMIT AREAS

A Watercourse Development Permit (WDP) is required if non-agricultural disturbance or subdivision of land is proposed within:

- 30 metres of a watercourse
- 30 metres of the top of bank of a ravine less than 60m wide or
- 10 metres of the top of bank of a ravine more than 60m wide

A watercourse may include lakes, rivers, creeks, wetlands, springs and ditches connected to fish bearing waters and may be on an adjacent property.

A property owner must provide the Regional District with sufficient information to determine where a proposed activity is in relation to the WDP area.

A Riparian Assessment which has been completed by a Qualified Environmental Professional (QEP) should be provided to the RDOS for review prior to filing it with the Ministry of Environment. Once filed and approved the applicant may apply for a WDP.

These development permits are used to minimize the impact of development in the riparian area which is the area around watercourses.

## DEVELOPMENT PERMITS

- Development Permits have different inclusions and exemptions depending on the type see your OCP.
- Securities, covenants, and monitoring may be part of the approval.
- Approval of a development permit is required **prior** to development or disturbance.
- The approval of a development permit does not guarantee the approval of a building permit.
- Assessments may be requested at rezoning and development permits may be required at subdivision.
- More information on development permits and applications may be found on the RDOS web site.
- For more information on the Provincial Riparian Areas Regulation : [http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/habitat/fish\\_protection\\_act/riparian/riparian\\_areas.html](http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/habitat/fish_protection_act/riparian/riparian_areas.html)

## FEES AND COSTS

Development Permit \$600

Consultant assessment fees may depend on the area(s) of expertise of the practitioner, the property location, and complexity of the assessment.