



**1. MANAGING IN-STREAM FLOWS: THE OKANAGAN CASE STUDY**

*[WEDNESDAY 9:15 – 10:35]*

This opening session introduces managing for change, given the realities of increased weather variability and water-use demand, exploring a range of locally and globally relevant perspectives. The Okanagan is a living laboratory where techniques to collaboratively measure environmental flow needs have been developed. Many water and natural resource actors have developed strategies for adapting to increasing variability and ecosystem needs, including the successful re-introduction of salmon species to Okanagan streams. Recognized leaders, Indigenous and non-Indigenous, are committed to advancing the use of effective tools that span the spectrum of local and traditional knowledge, science, law, institutional capacity, and public involvement to protect, maintain, and restore shared waters.

**2. ENVIRONMENTAL FLOWS IN THE OKANAGAN: STRESSORS AND APPLICATION**

*[WEDNESDAY 11:00 - 12:20]*

This session provides an overview of climate, land-use and population implications for environmental flows in the Okanagan Valley and southern interior of British Columbia, which have led to a region-specific approach to identifying environmental flow needs and the setting of flow requirements. The session will also review examples of the application of environmental flows under the *Water Sustainability Act*.

**3. SESSION NATURAL RESOURCES AND ECOSYSTEM SERVICES**

*[WEDNESDAY 1:30 – 2:50]*

This session provides a snapshot and recognizes the importance of environmental flows and their link to freshwater ecosystem services. Environmental flows will serve to help mitigate some of the negative impacts from climate change, and address gaps in water resources management. This is critical for maintaining healthy freshwater ecosystems. Environmental flows can serve as an important link between environmental conservation and poverty alleviation, while highlighting the values of ecosystem services – and the environmental flows that sustain them for human well-being.

**4. SURFACE/GROUNDWATER CUMULATIVE IMPACTS**

*[WEDNESDAY 3:20 – 4:40]*

This session emphasizes the importance of considering the connectivity between surface and groundwater when making decisions about water allocation and use. This consideration was largely left out from past decisions with the consequences affecting both water users and ecosystems. Knowledge gaps limit the ability to ensure sustainable surface and groundwater use, resulting in uncertainties, widespread cumulative impacts and conflicts. Resolving these issues requires more research and robust methodologies to understand the connectivity and regulate water use in terms of timing and quantities.

*Poster session [5:00 – 6:00pm]*

*Gala Dinner [6:00 – 8:00pm]*



**5. HUMAN DIMENSIONS: SOCIETAL VALUES AND ENVIRONMENTAL FLOWS**

*[THURSDAY 8:40 – 10:00]*

This session aims to explore some of the broader applications of environmental flows; where societal values are integrated with scientific information to guide sustainable decision making around freshwater resources. Presentations will highlight local Indigenous success stories and draw connections between the common threads of international successes in environmental flow needs implementation.

**6. DECISION-MAKING FOR ENVIRONMENTAL FLOWS: ADVANCING A ROBUST REGIME FOR B.C.**

*[THURSDAY 10: 25 – 12:00]*

This session will consider the needs and priorities for implementation of a robust environmental flows law and policy regime in B.C., including a focus on the Water Sustainability Act, linking local knowledge, science, decision-making, and best practices from elsewhere.

*Panel discussion [THURSDAY 1:00 – 1:45]*

*Interactive session: Next steps [THURSDAY 1:45 – 3:30]*

*Conference dialogue summary [Robert Sandford]*