

CAUTION: RESTRICTED AREA AHEAD - PLEASE KEEP OUT OF GATED AREAS

kł ćpəlk stím | cause to come back

SALMON PASSAGE

OKANAGAN LAKE DAM EAST FISH PASSAGE

After years of dedicated effort, advocacy, meticulous planning, and successful implementation, the new Okanagan Dam Fish Passage is now operational. This development allows for a continuous flow of water, granting salmon uninterrupted access from the Okanagan River to their historical spawning habitat in Okanagan Lake for the first time in nearly 100 years!

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

HOW CAN WE SEE THE FISH? WHY DO THE GRATES BLOCK VIEW?



The passage features grates that block the view of potential predators, encouraging salmon to use the passage more confidently. www.riverwatcherdaily.is?l=197 is a public monitoring system that counts, sizes, and films the fish as they pass through.

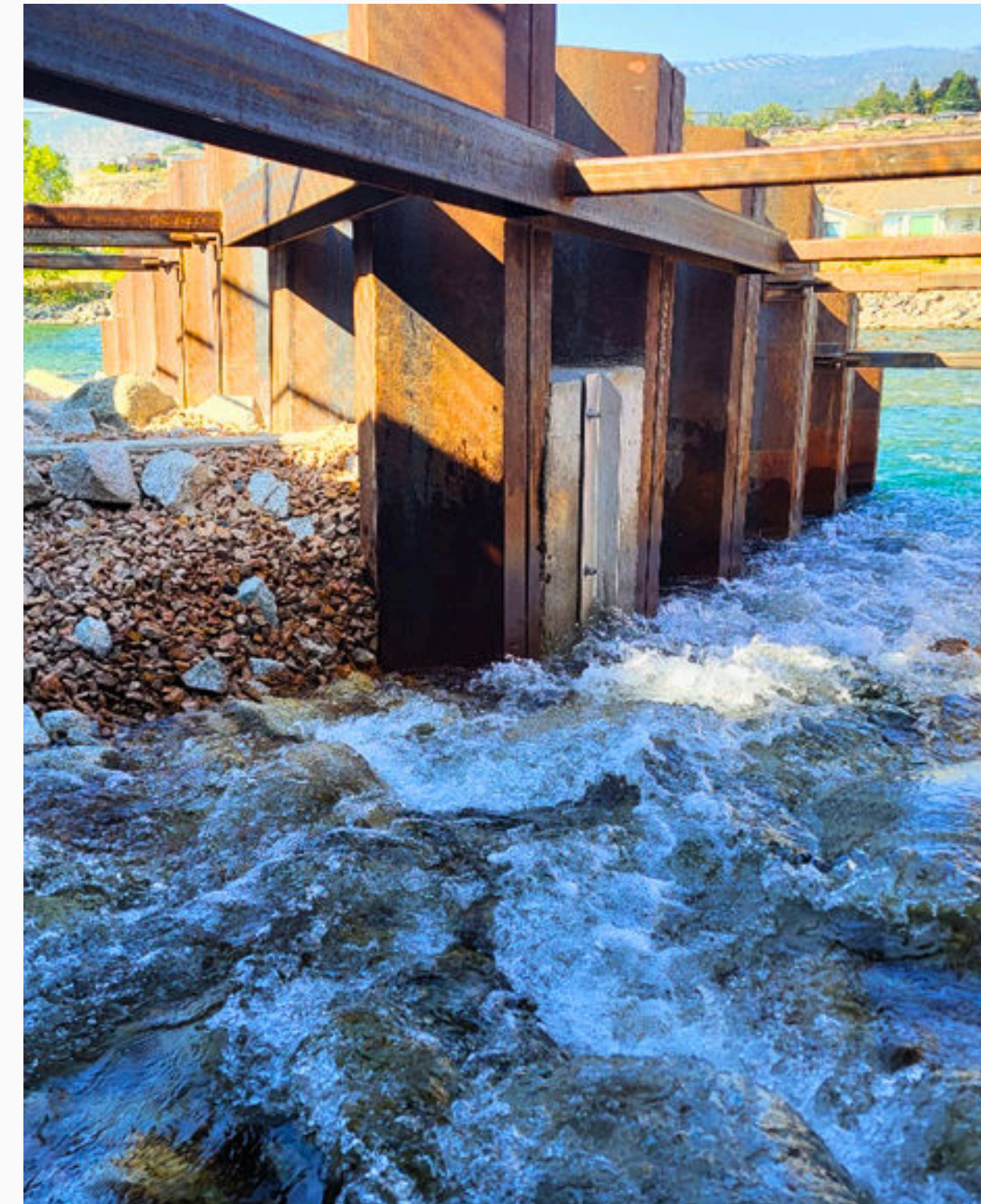
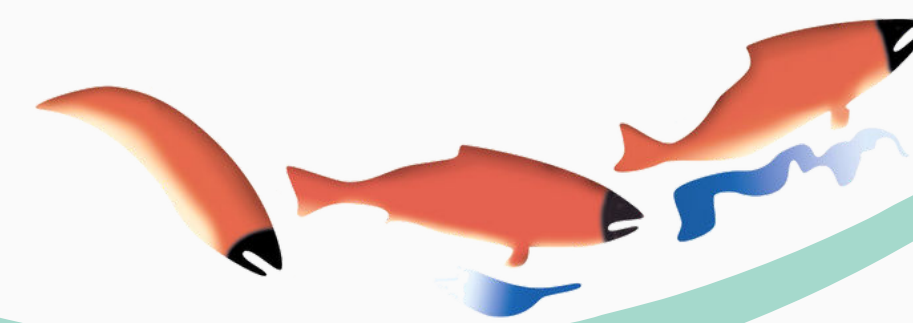
WHY ARE THERE 2 FISH ENTRANCES AT THE RIVER & WHY IS 1 DRY?

Both entrances of the fishway were designed to attract fish under varying river conditions. The low flow entrance is used most of the year, while the high flow entrance activates during spring flows. This custom design helps salmon migrate around the dam effectively.

HOW DO THE SALMON KNOW TO USE THE PASSAGE?

Salmon instinctively return to their historical waters to spawn, with 85-93% of 5,000 tagged sockeye in 2022 homing to their release creeks. At Okanagan Lake Dam, water still seeps through the east side, where most salmon have been observed holding for years, influencing the location of the new fishway.

DID YOU KNOW
ADULT SALMON CAN
TRAVEL UP TO
50 KM A DAY



WHEN ARE THE SALMON COMING THROUGH THE FISHWAY?

The Riverwatcher identified its first salmon on September 15. A thermal barrier delayed migration, but Kokanee and Sockeye, along with other indigenous fish, are now using the fishway. This fishway ensures unhindered passage for all salmon species, including Steelhead, Rainbow Trout, Chinook, Kokanee, and Sockeye, from February to November.

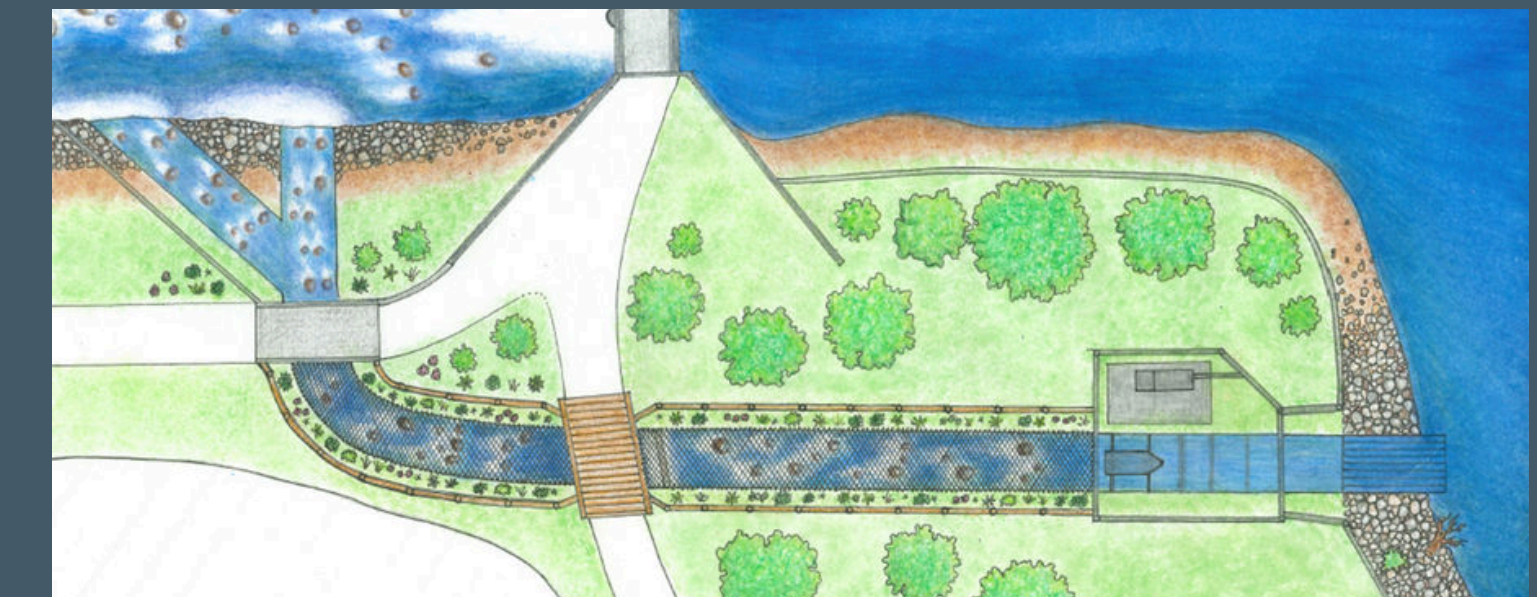
WHY ARE THERE DEAD TREES ALONG THE SHORELINE?

Indigenous trees removed for fishway construction were repurposed on-site to support wildlife by providing habitat and food sources. Willow, alder, and dogwood stakes have been planted along the shoreline and are thriving. This, along with natural revegetation of cottonwoods and additional plantings in the fall of 2025, will enhance riparian diversity.

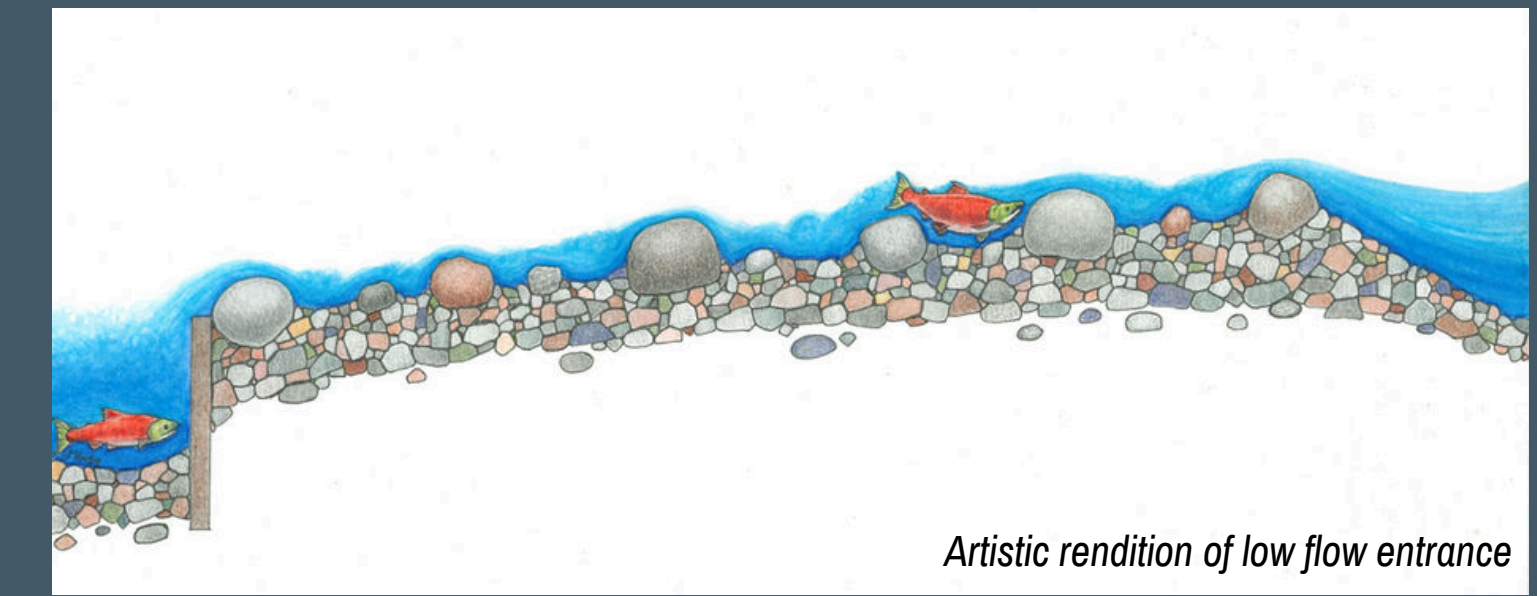
ARE INVASIVE SPECIES GETTING THROUGH THE FISHWAY?

Invasive species such as carp, bass, and perch are already present both upstream and downstream of the Okanagan Dam. A deterrent jump installed in the fishway is designed to hinder their movement; however, determined carp and bass can still navigate through it.

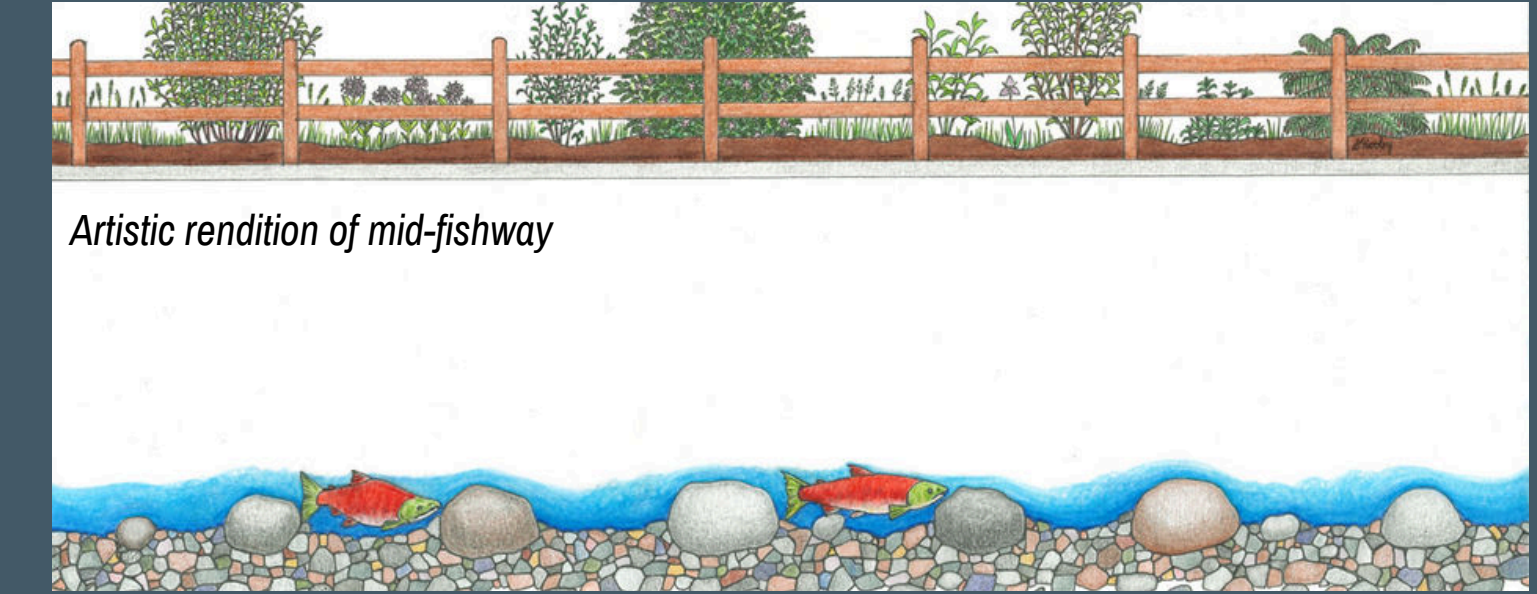
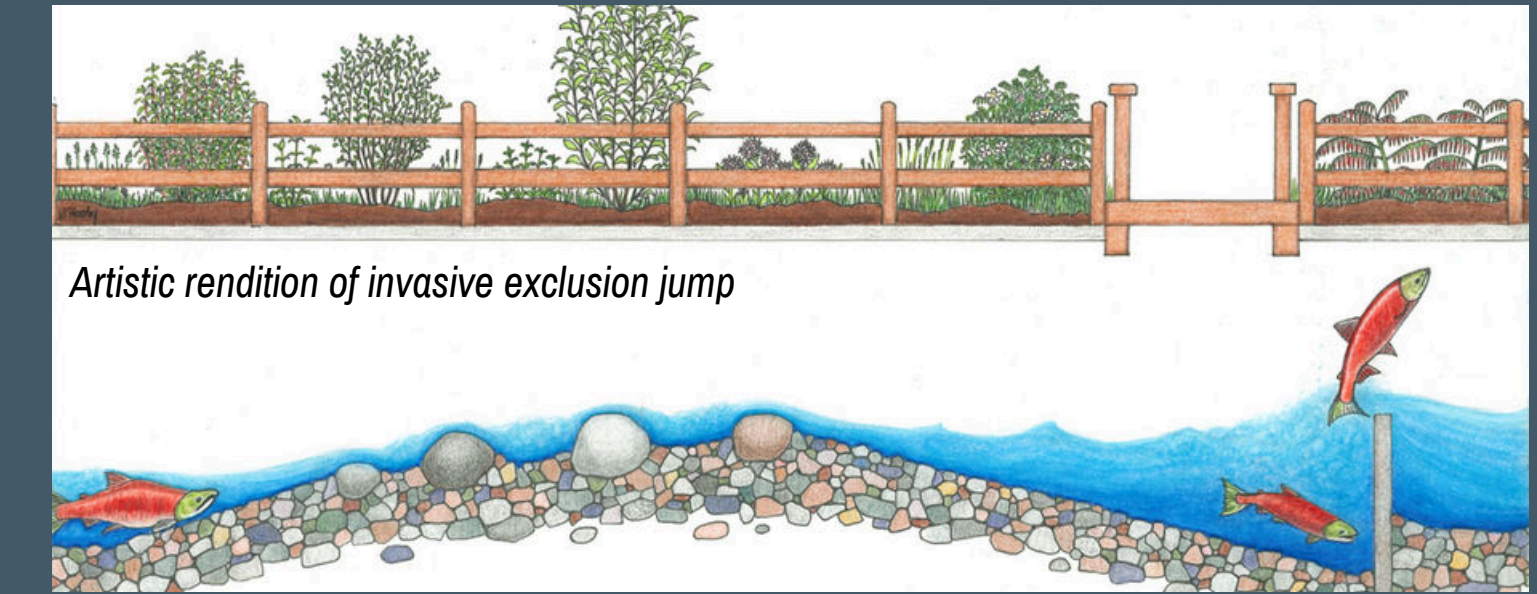
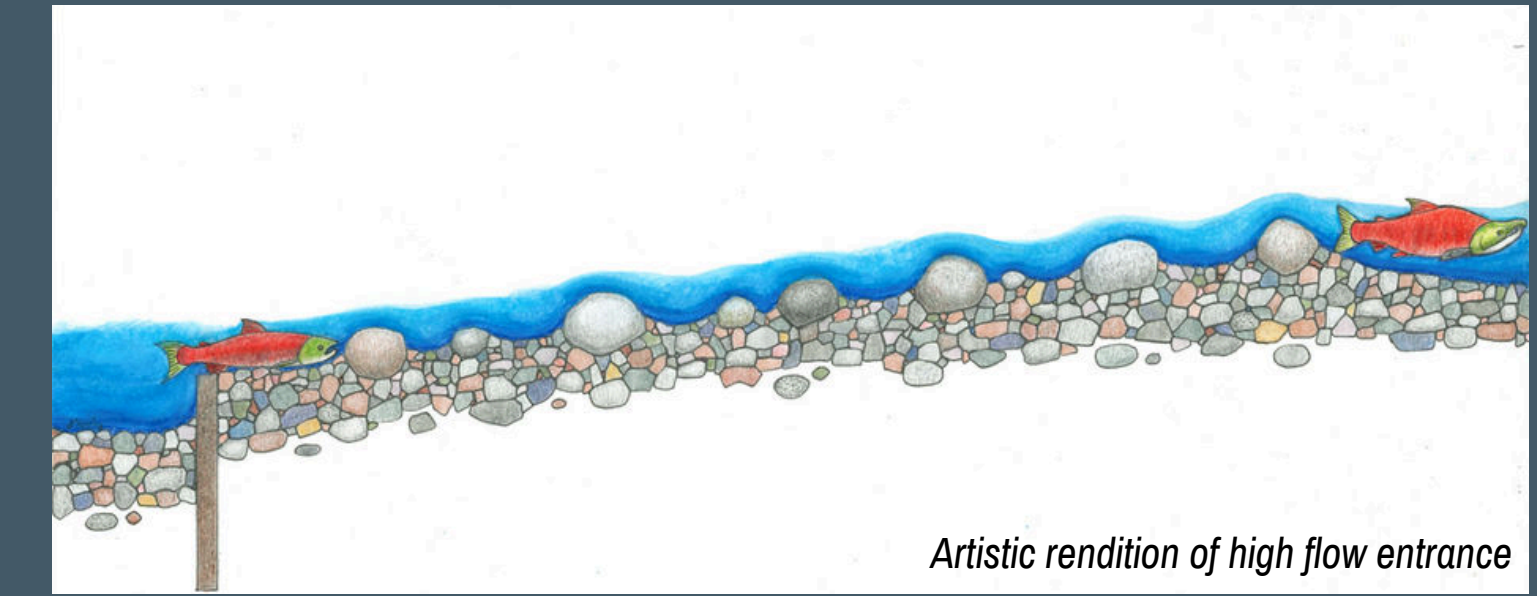
Passage Imagery



Artistic rendition of low flow entrance



Artistic rendition of high flow entrance



limlāmt to Sheena Hooley of the Penticton Indian Band for these artistic renditions of the passage!



For More Info
Okanagan Nation Alliance
habitat@syilx.org
www.syilx.org

For Urgent Concerns
Penticton Indian Band
Natural Resources
250-492-0411

limlāmt | Thank You to Our Partners



HABITAT SUBCOMMITTEE
OF THE PRIEST RAPIDS COORDINATING COMMITTEE



TD Friends of the
Environment Foundation

