

GOAT RIVER WATERSHED

Water Sustainability Planning

The Regional District of Central Kootenay (RDCK) in collaboration with yaqan nu?kiy, is doing water sustainability planning to respond to growing concerns about water availability in the Goat River Watershed (includes the communities of Canyon, Erickson, Kitchener, Lister, Town of Creston, West Creston, Wynndel, and yaqan nu?kiy). This effort aims to protect the health and resilience of the local watersheds that support communities, ecosystems, and economies.



WHAT IS A WATER SUSTAINABILITY PLAN?

A Water Sustainability Plan (WSP) is a comprehensive watershed management strategy that addresses conflicts between users, protects water quality, and ensures the health of aquatic ecosystems. These plans are developed at a watershed level and can include legally binding regulations to manage surface and groundwater, land use, and the impact of human activity on water resources for long-term sustainability. A WSP would help us understand what decisions are happening on the land that are affecting the Goat River Watershed.

WHY THE GOAT RIVER WATERSHED MATTERS

- Provides drinking water and irrigation
- Supports important fish habitat
- Connects to two at-risk aquifers

WHERE WE ARE NOW

We are currently in the public engagement phase (1-3), which is focused on listening, learning, and building relationships across the watershed. No decisions have been made. The goal right now is to develop a shared understanding of community values and what water sustainability could mean for the watershed going forward.



WHAT WE'RE LEARNING

Residents and research both point to clearer signs of stress in the system, including shifting low-flows and increasing drought risk. September 2025 saw the lowest flows on the Goat River in recorded history.

From our surveys and conversations we have heard how many are noticing changes in creeks, wells, and seasonal water patterns. People want to see more done to protect long-term water security for the community, environment and the agricultural sector.

HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED

- Connector - Host a kitchen-table conversation
- Storyteller - Share your personal experiences or observations
- Contributor - Complete surveys, join forums, share input
- Learner - Explore watershed resources and stay updated by joining our mailing list!

Learn more at
rdck.ca/goatwatershed

