

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 WATER SUSTAINABILITY PLANNING?

Water sustainability planning in the Goat River Watershed brings together yaqan nu?kiy, RDCK, and the community to better understand current water conditions and key challenges. The focus is on finding practical solutions to issues like water use conflicts, low water levels, and ecosystem health. Different tools under the Water Sustainability Act may be considered, including a Water Sustainability Plan, depending on what best addresses the identified needs.

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
[engage.rdck.ca
/projects/goatwatershed](https://engage.rdck.ca/projects/goatwatershed)

