

REGIONAL SNAPSHOT 2014



SOUTH OKANAGAN REGIONAL GROWTH STRATEGY VOL. 6, 2014

South Okanagan Regional Growth Strategy

The purpose of the South Okanagan Regional Growth Strategy (RGS) is to create a “big picture” vision for the South Okanagan over the next twenty years. Legislatively, Part 25 of the *Local Government Act* establishes authority for the RGS and states a RGS is to “promote human settlement that is socially, economically and environmentally healthy and that makes efficient use of public facilities and services, land and other resources.”

Once a RGS is adopted, the *Local Government Act* requires that ongoing monitoring be established to assess implementation and measure progress being made towards the stated objectives and an annual report on progress.

Monitoring and Evaluation: Indicators

As part of the RGS monitoring program, a 2008 Baseline Study identified potential “performance indicators” for the growth strategy. The list of almost 50 indicators was narrowed down to 10 core indicators that have been tracked and used to produce the Regional Snapshot reports beginning in 2009.

Due to changes with the Census and changes to data tracking procedures, a number of baseline indicators have needed adjustments over the past few years.

The following is the sixth annual report on the state of the region which compares 2013 to 2014 data. The report has been condensed from past year’s volumes reflecting possible changes to future monitoring and evaluation information. Only nine key indicators have been reported on this year as obtaining data on public funding for the arts was problematic for 2014.

A South Okanagan Regional Growth Strategy Preliminary Review was completed in 2015 that evaluated RGS policies and RGS indicator data, in order to provide the Board with information and a recommendation on whether any amendments would be required. The recommendation of the report was for a minor amendment that included a review and updating of indicator data being used to monitor the RGS.

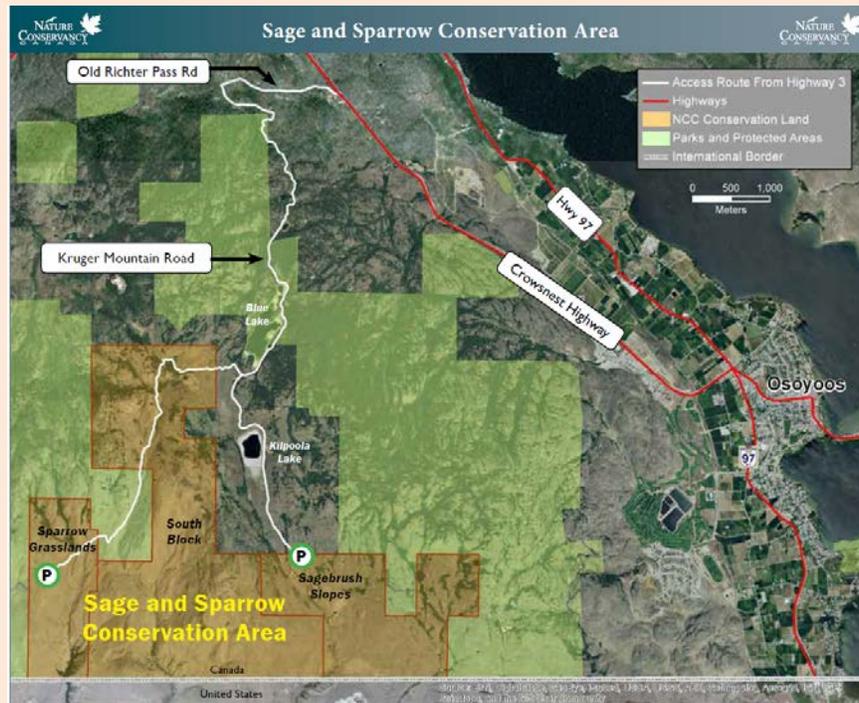
POPULATION GROWTH	Estimated Population	
	2013: 69,959	2014: 70,921
<p>Estimated population projections are based on estimates calculated by BC Stats, the provincial statistical agency.</p> <p>Based on population estimates, the south Okanagan has had an increase of 962 people. The City of Penticton has absorbed the majority of this growth, while Oliver and Osoyoos also showing a slight increase. All of the Electoral Areas and Summerland show a slight decrease.</p> <p>The RGS provides policy direction that promotes sustainable development if growth occurs.</p>		

AGRICULTURE	Land included in the ALR	
	2013 – 2014: - 8.7 ha	
<p>This indicator tracks the success of protecting agricultural land by measuring the amount of land that has been added or removed from the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR). Approximately 13% of the RGS area is within the ALR.</p> <p>For the years 2013 and 2014 there were inclusions, exclusions, and a boundary adjustment for the ALR, resulting in a net loss of 8.7 ha within the RGS area.</p> <p>One of goals in the RGS is the protection of farmland and the agricultural industry in the South Okanagan.</p>		

BIODIVERSITY & NATURAL SPACES	Amount of parks and protected areas	
	2013: 11.4%	2014: 11.6%
<p>This indicator measures the percentage of total land area of parks and protected natural areas in the South Okanagan. It includes lands zoned as a park and lands owned by Natures Trust of BC, the Nature Conservancy, Ducks Unlimited and the Land Conservancy.</p> <p>The Okanagan valley supports some of the most rare flora and fauna in Canada. The policies of the RGS strongly support the conservation, protection and enhancement of ecologically sensitive lands and the retention of open spaces, parks and large rural holdings.</p> <p>The RGS recognizes the value of all components of the natural environment and policies</p>		

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For the year 2013 to 2014, a slight increase of protected land was identified, in Electoral Area “A” which reflects a Nature Conservancy grasslands acquisition.



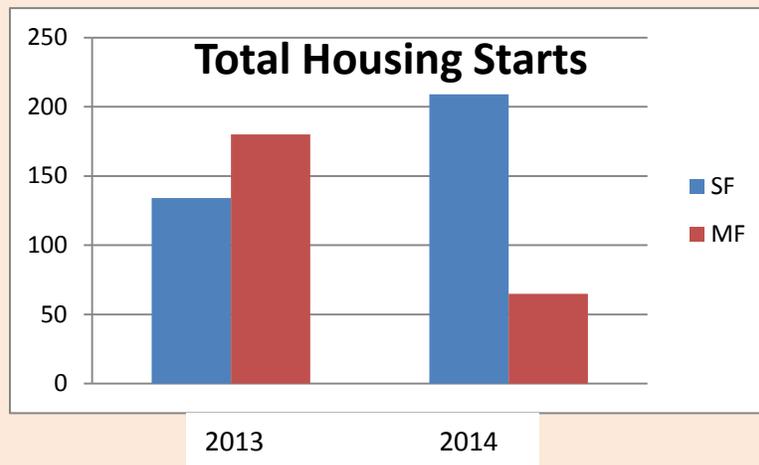
AFFORDABLE HOUSING	Housing starts and median house price
	Median house price (CPI adjusted*)
	2013: \$294,742 2014: \$303,467

This indicator measures the mix of new housing starts by structural type, that is, the number of buildings that are single family and those as multi-family. The median annual housing price calculated and CPI adjusted is derived from the regional homes sales.

The RGS strongly encourages the development of compact complete communities. Developing complete communities that are accessible to their residents require a mix of housing types within the housing continuum.

The median house price appears to have increased \$8725. Single Family dwellings appear to dominate the overall housing starts for 2014. Multi-family starts for 2014 were almost exclusively with the City of Penticton.

*The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is an indicator in consumer prices experienced by Canadians. It is obtained by comparing, over time, the cost of a fixed good (e.g. housing) using a constant base year cost. The base year used for this indicator is 2010.



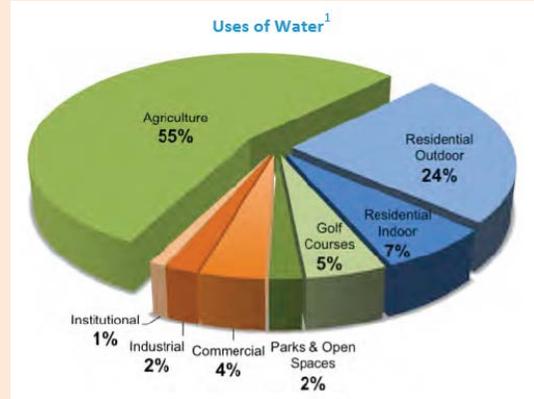
ENERGY USE	Energy consumption per customer in GJs	
	2013: 105.8	2014: 106.6
<p>This indicator has been adjusted to be consistent with the Provincial Community Energy & Emissions Inventory (CEEI) data collected in each local government across BC. It is anticipated that this data collection methodology will remain consistent in future years. Future CEEI reports will be produced every two years (i.e. 2014, 2016). Data is calculated in Giga Joules. One GJ is equal to 26.1 m³ of natural gas and 25.8 litres of heating oil.</p> <p>Data is collected by Fortis by 'premise addresses' of customers (mailing address town or city) that include: Summerland, Penticton, Oliver, Osoyoos, OK Falls, Kaleden, and Naramata. The remote areas of the RGS area may not be included within this indicator. The data used comparing 2013 to 2014 is for natural gas consumption only.</p> <p>Data is collected for Residential, Commercial and Industrial customers. This indicator uses all energy consumed measured in gigajoules per customer.</p> <p>Residential Use only comparison: 2013: 62.0 GJ 2014: 68.8 GJ</p>		

**WATER
MANAGEMENT**

Daily Water Consumption in Litres per Capita

2013: 2022 2014: 2367

This indicator uses the data collected from eight water utilities of the South Okanagan. Utilities include Penticton, Summerland, Osoyoos, Oliver (including rural Oliver), Faulder, Sage Mesa, West Bench and Naramata. 2014 data *does not* include Summerland. For comparison purposes, the 2013 data was adjusted to remove Summerland data. The indicator uses combined residential and irrigation usage of water.



Water availability remains a concern throughout the Okanagan valley.

Outdoor domestic use accounts for about 25% of water used in the Okanagan, indoor domestic 7%, agricultural irrigation accounts for approximately 55% with commercial and other users making up the remaining 13% of consumption.

Residential only use for the seven utilities averages approximately 770 litres/day/capita.

The RGS promotes water sustainability through conservation and best practises and working collaboratively to ensure water remains available for future uses.

**MUNICIPAL
SOLID WASTE**

Solid Waste Disposed (kg/per capita)

2013: 1.37 2014: 1.41

Data is shown for the amount of landfilled waste per capita which is the waste going into the landfill after the diverted waste is taken into account.

Specifically this indicator is measured in kilograms (kg) of solid waste per person per year and consists of measurements taken from the Campbell Mountain landfill.

A slight increase is noted but generally remains consistent with previous years.



The RGS speaks directly to reducing solid waste production by promoting and encouraging waste reduction, through best practises, public awareness and actions.

**SOCIAL,
CULTURAL &
THE ARTS**

Crime Rate per 1000 population (average of)

2013: 61.46 2014: 74.14

This indicator measures the number of Criminal Code offences (excluding traffic offences) per 1000 population. Criminal Code offences include property (e.g. break and enter, theft, fraud, mischief), violent (e.g. homicide, sexual and non-sexual assault, abduction, robbery), and other crimes (e.g. prostitution, gaming and betting, disturbing the peace). Jurisdictions included are Penticton Municipal, Penticton Provincial, South Okanagan Oliver Provincial, South Okanagan Osoyoos Provincial, and Summerland Municipal. Statistics from policing jurisdictions do include several areas outside of the South Okanagan RGS area.

Crime rate statistics are obtained from Ministry of Justice Police Services Division that includes a qualifier that crime data from previous years are revised to reflect any updates, therefore crime statistics may vary for year to year. South Okanagan crime rate for 2014 remains below the provincial average which is 76.0 for every 1000 people.

**SOCIAL,
CULTURAL &
THE ARTS**

Total Length of Trails – km

2013: 2014:

Data from the Regional Trails Master Plan has been used for this indicator. The total length of trails are as follows:

Cycling: 313 km Mixed: 195 km Motorized: 449 km Non-motorized: 905 km

Maintaining an inventory of trail distances has not been implemented during 2014, therefore the km's remain the same as 2013.

Several projects have been completed in 2014 that enhance the recreation and alternative transportation options for the South Okanagan, the include:

- Paving of the KVR at the 'little tunnel' section of the KVR
- Closing motorized use from Penticton to the 'little tunnel' section of the KVR
- Piloting a shared use trail in Faulder
- Completing West Bench and Osoyoos (Lake Shore Drive) pedestrian corridors
- Publishing a new Click Hike Bike brochure

Summary and Conclusions

The intent of the Regional Snapshot Report is to track a number of performance indicators to enable us to measure the progress on implementing the objectives of the Regional Growth Strategy. This report which is the sixth annual Snapshot uses data collected from 2014 and compares it to 2013 data.

There are limitations to the use of indicators. A region comprises many subsystems with complex relationships and interdependencies. Indicators provide big picture and long term information.

Overall it appears that the South Okanagan was relatively stable, although with some fluctuations, in terms of the nine indicators assessed in this report. The number of housing starts were up from 2013; however, the majority of these are for single detached dwellings, as opposed to multi-unit dwellings. Additional land was purchased to help with biodiversity and conservation in 2013. There was also a net loss of Agricultural Reserve lands of 8.7 ha in 2014.

The vision of the Regional Growth Strategy is a long term commitment to manage growth that is rooted in sustainability. Fluctuations in the marketplace and development industry usually occur somewhat cyclically, therefore, it is important to reflect on the goals of the RGS in the long term.

In 2015, the Regional Board of Directors agreed to proceed with a minor amendment to the RGS that will enhance the usability of the RGS and also will re-evaluate key indicators that will tie into specific goals. It is therefore anticipated that some of the indicators tracked over the last six years in the Snapshot will be amended.