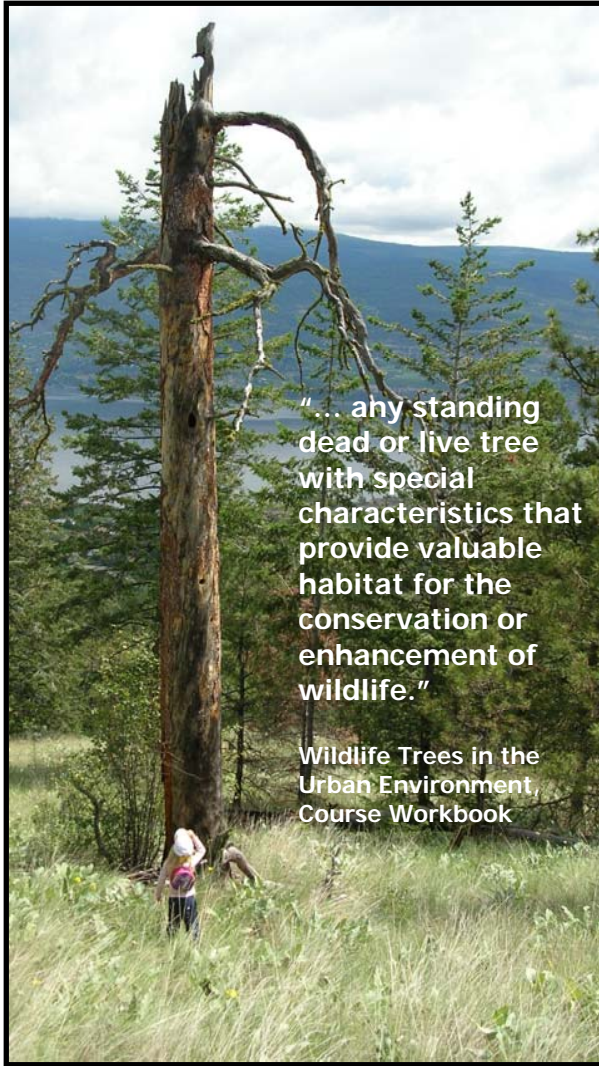


## What is a Wildlife Tree?



"... any standing dead or live tree with special characteristics that provide valuable habitat for the conservation or enhancement of wildlife."

Wildlife Trees in the Urban Environment Course Workbook

Wildlife trees are part of a broader habitat. Protecting identified wildlife trees and the surrounding habitat helps to safeguard the integrity of the tree. It also ensures the protection of the biological diversity that the tree and adjacent vegetation support.

## Become Involved!

1. Become involved... Help identify wildlife trees and monitor nests in the Okanagan-Similkameen.
2. Help us to identify areas of land that support wildlife trees.
3. Consider placing stewardship conservation agreements or covenants on your land to protect wildlife tree patches or important wildlife habitat.
4. Encourage your local government to incorporate wildlife tree protection into bylaws, zoning and Official Community Plans.
5. Make a donation to WiTS to support this important initiative.
6. Learn about wildlife trees. Check out the WiTS website at [www.wildlifetree.org](http://www.wildlifetree.org)

For additional information contact the Regional Coordinator:

Lisa Scott

phone: (250) 404-0115

email: [witsos@shaw.ca](mailto:witsos@shaw.ca)

### Program partners



South Okanagan-Similkameen Stewardship Program



HABITAT CONSERVATION TRUST FUND

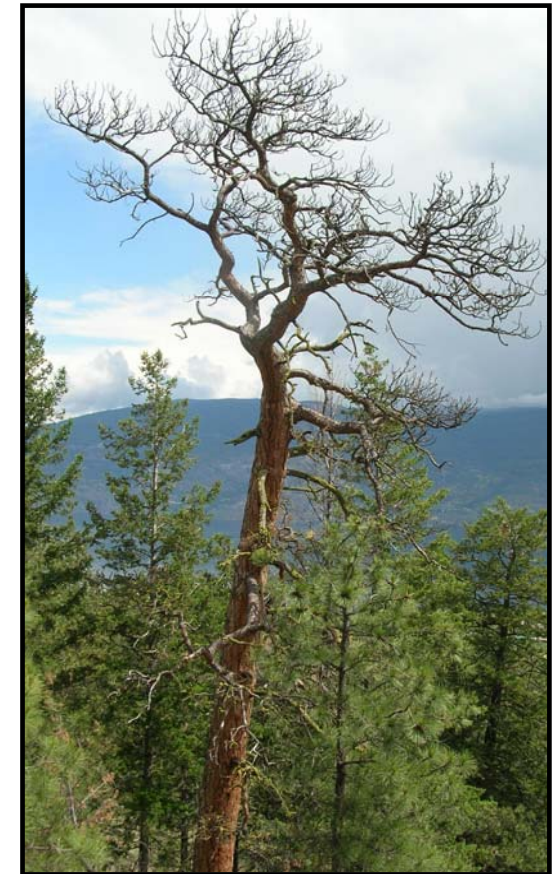


Information compiled by: L. Scott & K. Robbins  
Photography by: L. Scott (unless otherwise indicated)

## Wildlife Tree Stewardship Program



Okanagan-Similkameen



Conserving Wildlife Trees and Habitats for Birds at Risk in the Okanagan-Similkameen

The **Wildlife Tree Stewardship Program** or **WiTS** is a voluntary program to identify and monitor the nesting activity of selected bird species in wildlife trees. The program was first established on Vancouver Island through the Federation of BC Naturalists. In 2006, WiTS expanded to the Okanagan–Similkameen region and was modified to accommodate the regional differences in priority species and habitats.



WiTS - Okanagan-Similkameen (WiTS-OS) operates through a Working Committee comprised of regional representatives from local, provincial and federal government, conservation groups, volunteer clubs and private landowners. The experience and expertise drawn from this group helps to guide the program.



Landowners and volunteer wildlife tree monitors are crucial to WiTS. Willing landowners provide access to wildlife trees on their properties and can also assist with monitoring nest sites. Volunteers identify and record new, active nest sites and monitor the nest to determine productivity.

### Importance of the WiTS Program in the Okanagan-Similkameen

The Okanagan-Similkameen region is a special place in Canada. Its hot, dry summers, mild winters, beautiful lakes and bountiful agricultural lands make it an ideal place for human settlement. These characteristics have also shaped an ecosystem unique in the nation, an ecosystem now threatened by the human settlement it attracts.

### Tree Stewardship Supports Wildlife



© Jared Hobbs  
**White-headed Woodpecker**



© Dick Cannings  
**Flammulated Owl**

Deteriorating wildlife trees can support up to 80 wildlife species including birds, bats and other small mammals.

WiTS-OS focuses on five bird species at risk, including three primary cavity nesters: Lewis's Woodpecker, Williamson's Sapsucker and White-headed Woodpecker; and two secondary cavity nesters: Western Screech-owl and Flammulated Owl.



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**Western Screech-owl Fledgling**