

## What's Next? Some of GOERT's projects for 2011-2012

Developing an outreach and communications strategy based on our public opinion survey on Garry Oak ecosystems

Launching into the first year of our 5 Year Bring Back the Bluebird Translocation Project

Publishing an updated Catalogue of Site Records and providing information on priority Garry oak and associated ecosystem sites to partners

Completing the update of the *Recovery Strategy for Garry Oak and Associated Ecosystems and Associated Species at Risk* and meeting with partners throughout the region to discuss implementation

Restoring habitat at priority sites with species at risk to protect populations and minimize threats

Increasing public awareness of the value of Garry oak habitat and species at risk

Completing national recovery strategies for at least 10 species and action plans for 20 species

Updating and distributing Best Management Practices, Model Bylaws and more resources



Elyse Portal (Parchoma) checking a Western Bluebird nestbox on San Juan Island. Photo by Carolyn Masson

# Garry Oak Ecosystems Recovery Team Annual Report 2010-2011

## Restoring British Columbia's Garry Oak Ecosystems

PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICES

### Our unique strategy

GOERT's recovery strategy uses a unique, ecosystem-based approach to protecting individual species at risk. Recovery planning in Canada has historically taken a species-by-species approach, but national initiatives now recognize the importance of incorporating a wider scope in some circumstances.

The ecosystem-based approach makes sense in this case, as so many species at risk occur in the same geographical area in Garry oak and associated ecosystems.

### Like an ecosystem

Like an ecosystem, GOERT functions through relationships. Thanks to the dedicated work of individuals from the community, non-profit groups, businesses, and all levels of government, we have achieved much toward protecting Garry oak ecosystems and species at risk for the future. In 2010-11, more than 70 individuals contributed their time and expertise to the Team or one of its working groups.

## Highlights for the 2010-2011 year

### Recovery planning for species and ecosystems at risk

Conducted rare plant surveys for 3 species at 17 sites.

Information from rare plant surveys was incorporated into recovery planning documents and provided to landholders to help guide management efforts. Total of 45 reports covering 12 different species created for landholders with SAR.

Worked with land trusts, conservancies, and staff from the Ministry of Environment and Parks Canada to ensure that landholder contact for species at risk is coordinated and effective.

Completed a draft single species recovery strategy for *Meconella oregana* (White Meconella).

Coordinated and facilitated Recovery Team meetings and projects including several single species recovery strategies.

Updated information for 44 existing priority Garry Oak ecosystem site records and created new site records for an additional 33 sites.

### Landholder contact

Provided more than 40 private landholders with technical advice, information, and assistance, enabling them to protect and restore the Garry Oak and associated

ecosystems and the at-risk species they sustain on their property.

Verbal stewardship agreements maintained with 7 private landowners. Habitat steward signs prepared and installed at four sites.

Worked directly with more than 9 local land trusts to coordinate and facilitate landowner contact programs and support their conservation initiatives.

Provided information on Garry Oak ecosystem values to land developers and worked with 6 potential developments to reduce ecological impacts.

### Stewardship for species at risk

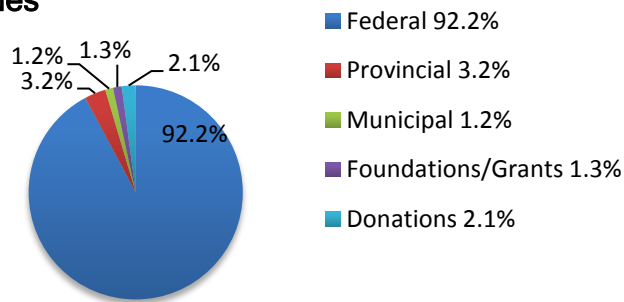
In 2010-2011, GOERT continued a stewardship program covering 8 priority sites. We:

- ❖ monitored sites and species at risk populations
- ❖ developed and updated restoration plans
- ❖ conducted restoration treatments specifically targeted at reducing or eliminating the threats posed to species at risk by invasive exotic shrubs, herbivory and inappropriate land use. Removed invasives, erected fencing, and planted native species.
- ❖ maintained or increased the species at risk populations at each of the sites
- ❖ constructed more than 100 Western Bluebird nestboxes

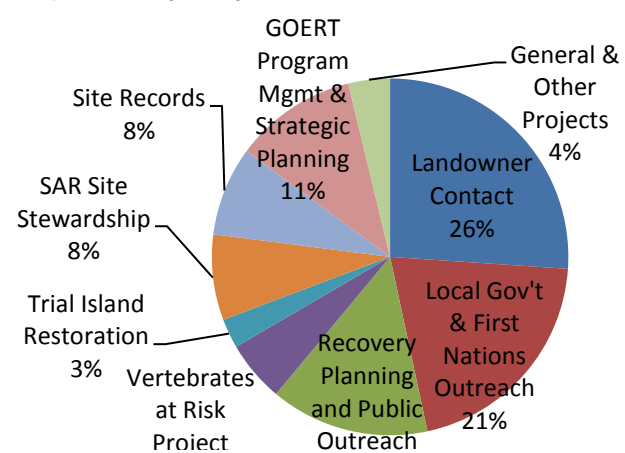


## Financials

### Revenues



### Expenses by Project



## Recovery Team Members

### Special thank you to the members who served on the Team, RIGs and Steering Committees in 2010-2011:

Alice Cang	John Cooper	Raj Prasad
Andrea Schiller	Julia Morlacci	Richard Hebda
Art Robinson	June Pretzer	Rob Hagel
Brad Hawkes	Kate Proctor	Rob Templeman
Brenda Costanzo	Louise Blight	Rob Underhill
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Irvin Banman	Patrick Lilley	Vince Nealis
James Miskelly	Peter Arcese	Wendy Szaniszló
Jan Kirkby	Raj Prasad	Ze'ev Gedalof
Jenny Heron	Richard Hebda	

more highlights >>

## Recovery goals

### Long-term goals

Establish a network of Garry oak and associated ecosystem sites and landscape linkages

Improve and secure the status of all species at risk in Garry oak and associated ecosystems in Canada so that they are no longer at risk of extinction

### Short-term objectives

Develop the information base necessary for ecosystem and species recovery

Protect and manage sites and species at risk to minimize immediate losses of ecosystems and species

Motivate public and private protection and stewardship activities by supplying critical information to appropriate audiences

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Photo by Kersti Vaino



Photo by Chris Junck

## More Highlights

### Communications and Outreach

Held our annual Research Colloquium, drawing more than 70 participants. Proceedings are available at [www.goert.ca/research](http://www.goert.ca/research).

Held workshops and field trips for 7 local governments and one First Nation.

Provided information and advice to local governments from Metchosin, to the Gulf Islands, to Comox. Provided *Stay on Track* signs and resources to local governments (see [http://www.goert.ca/pubs\\_stayontrack.php](http://www.goert.ca/pubs_stayontrack.php)).

Provided information at events (16), conferences (2) and public meetings (10) throughout the range of Garry Oak ecosystems in Canada, including at workshops about protection of Coastal Douglas-fir ecosystems.

Developed draft Best Management Practices for mowing in, and activities near, Garry Oak and associated ecosystems.

Conducted a telephone public opinion survey about Garry Oak ecosystems. Results demonstrate that the overwhelming majority of residents value our local biodiversity and want to learn more about it.

Formed the Cascadia Prairie Oak Partnership (CPOP) with ecoregional partners in Washington and Oregon.

Distributed 1450 brochures, flyers and Gardener's Handbooks. Printed 10,000 additional handbooks.

There were 46,000 visits to our website. E-newsletters distributed quarterly to approximately 1000 people.

### New publications and resources

(available at [www.goert.ca](http://www.goert.ca))  
New pages were added to our species at risk field manual for the following 4 species: *Allium amplexans*, *Alopecurus carolinianus*, *Cercyonis pegala incana*, and *Hesperia colorado oregonia*

In addition, updated existing inserts with new information for 6 species: *Lomatium grayi*, *Lupinus densiflorus*, *Sanicula arctopoides*, *Sanicula bipinnatifida*, *Euphydryas editha taylori*, and *Juncus kelloggii*

New pages were added to our invasive species field manual for the following 5 species: *Trifolium subterraneum*, *Lamium purpureum*, *Trifolium dubium*, *Silene gallica*, and *Operophtera rumata*

The long awaited *Restoring British Columbia's Garry Oak Ecosystems: principles and practices* book is now available! [www.goert.ca/restoration](http://www.goert.ca/restoration).



Photo by William F. Walker  
[www.wfwalkerphoto.com](http://www.wfwalkerphoto.com)

## Thank you GOERT Society members for your support in 2010-11

Adolf Ceska	Donna Campbell	Judith Carder	Norah Garyali
Adriane Pollard	Dorothea Siegler	Judy Morrison	Oluna Ceska
Alana Jung	Doug August	Judy Spearing	Pat Johnston
Amanda Irving	Edward Pullman	Julian Anderson	Paul Feldman
Andrew MacKinnon	Elaine Eastman	Julianne Leekie	Pilar Rodriguez-Gomez
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David Tanner	Jennifer Lort	Marilyn Fuchs	Tyler Johns
David Trudel	Jennifer Psyllakis	Marion Grau	Ursula Poepel
Deanna Mathewson	Jennifer Wasyluk	Mary Murphy	Valentin Schaefer
Deborah Gibson	Jenny Clark	Mayumi Nogami	Wendy Szaniszló
Debra Dickson	Joanne Whitehead	Melissa Noel	Willie MacGillivray
Deidre Hill	John Baine	Mike Turner	Wylie Thomas
Deirdre Bruce	John Rogers	Neil Boyle	Zak Henderson

## GOERT Staff

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Betsy Rose, Financial Administrator/Outreach  
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Carolyn Masson, Communications Coordinator  
Kersti Vaino (Lisa Dumoulin), Recovery Coordinator  
Chris Junck, Species at Risk Outreach Specialist  
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## Thank you to our funders and donors

### Government

Parks Canada Agency  
Environment Canada  
Government of BC  
Public Conservation Assistance Fund (PCAF)  
Human Resources and Skills Development Canada (HRSDC)  
Capital Regional District

### Foundations and Business

Evergreen Foundation  
Home Depot  
Mountain Equipment Co-op  
Thrifty Foods

### Many thanks

to all the individual donors (names withheld for privacy) who have provided much-needed and valued support. Your contributions are critical to our success.

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