

INTRODUCING

Salmon-Safe Communities for BC



What is Salmon-Safe?

Salmon-Safe is a certification program that recognizes progressive, environmentally friendly management practices on agricultural and urban lands to help protect Pacific salmon habitat and enhance water quality.

The program began in Oregon in 1996 and is active across Washington, Oregon and California. Salmon-Safe was launched in British Columbia in 2011 by the Pacific Salmon Foundation and Fraser Basin Council to promote sustainable land management practices and habitat restoration.

Salmon-Safe certification is a mark of leadership and commitment to the health of BC's watersheds.

Nothing epitomizes the spirit of British Columbia quite like wild Pacific Salmon. Today there is an opportunity for leaders in all sectors to make a difference in the future of salmon by having the lands they manage be certified as Salmon-Safe.

What has been done so far?

Agriculture is a key focus for Salmon-Safe. In the US, more than 300 farms, encompassing 85,000 acres, and 200 vineyards have been certified as Salmon-Safe. The certification confirms that specific environmental standards are followed by the producer.

In British Columbia, Salmon-Safe BC has certified over 40 farms, ranches and vineyards since introduction of the program in 2011. These include Klipper Organic Acres, Nk'mip Vineyards and Glen Valley Organic Farm. Visit www.salmonsafe.ca.

In 2013 the Salmon-Safe BC program will be extended to urban lands. Read on!



PARTNERS



Fraser Basin Council



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Salmon-Safe Communities for BC



Photo courtesy of Picture BC

New in BC in 2013 is Salmon-Safe Communities, a certification to recognize progressive urban development and land management practices that support healthy watersheds and the protection of Pacific salmon.

What Lands are Eligible?

The Salmon-Safe Communities program is available to BC municipalities and regional districts, developers and other landowners in both the private and public sector. The certification can apply to such places as parks and natural areas, college or university campuses, business sites and residential developments in urban, suburban and rural settings.

Land can be certified even if it has no watercourses on it. Commercial, industrial and residential activities, even those not immediately adjacent to streams and rivers, have long-term cumulative impacts on fish and other aquatic species. Contaminants, for example, can affect groundwater and are transported through storm drains into rivers, lakes and marine waters. For this reason, it is beneficial to adopt Salmon-Safe practices on a wide variety of urban lands.

What are the Certification Criteria?

Certification is based on six categories of criteria:

- *In-stream habitat protection and restoration*
- *Riparian and wetland protection and restoration*
- *Water use management (irrigation activities)*
- *Stormwater management*
- *Erosion and sediment control*
- *Chemical and nutrient containment*

The Salmon-Safe BC program can assist landowners and property managers in developing land management plans and introducing changes and innovations as they prepare for certification. Here are examples of what they can do:

- *capture stormwater on site*
- *maintain a buffer of trees and vegetation along streambanks*
- *restore streams and water courses where previous development has diverted or buried them*
- *increase the use of permeable surfaces / reduce or redesign impervious surfaces*
- *improve passage for migrating fish*
- *eliminate use of herbicides and pesticides, and substitute natural methods to control weeds and pests*
- *reduce water use, such as through more efficient irrigation or drought-resistant landscaping*
- *protect wetlands, woodlands and other natural areas.*

Are there Benefits of the Brand?

Are there other benefits of the Salmon-Safe brand? Absolutely! For BC organizations now engaged in environmentally friendly land management practices, Salmon-Safe certification is the ideal way to have that work recognized – and to show

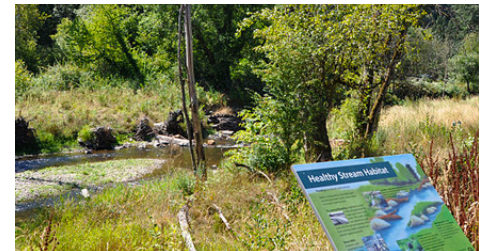
leadership by demonstrating to others what is possible.

Salmon-Safe can help organizations increase operational efficiency through a comprehensive land management standard that can apply to multiple properties.

Those that qualify as Salmon-Safe can display the brand on their premises, in customer service, in public relations and in business proposals – anywhere they wish to communicate their corporate social responsibility commitments.

What is the Certification Process?

Salmon-Safe certification is based on an independent review and inspection of land management practices, using criteria appropriate for the lands under review. Contact us to find out more.



In the US Pacific Northwest, all 250 City parks and natural areas—10,000 acres in total—are now certified Salmon-Safe. The Portland South Waterfront district, Oregon Convention Centre, Nike World Headquarters, REI Headquarters and University of Washington campus are also among the growing number of partners that proudly display the Salmon-Safe brand.

Visit Us Online

To find out more about Salmon-Safe in BC, visit:
www.salmonsafebc.ca
www.fraserbasin.bc.ca/water_salmon-safe.html

Contact Us

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