

Our Kelowna as we Grow Facts in Focus: Environment & Agriculture



Backbone of City's identity

- ▶ Kelowna's uniqueness
- ▶ Anchor of health and economy
- ▶ Ecosystems, fish and wildlife habitat
- ▶ Green infrastructure
- ▶ Backdrop and major draw for tourism, hiking & biking

Multiple Functions of Agriculture & Natural Lands



Role of Agriculture

- ▶ 55% City zoned Agriculture / 40% in the ALR
- ▶ + 4000 ha land farmed
- ▶ Farm receipts \$106 million (2016 – RDCO)
- ▶ Wine sales \$250 million (2015 - BC VQA)



Role of Natural Areas

► Natural Areas

- Water, land and air quality
- Species and ecosystems at risk
- 28% sensitive ecosystems / 72% modified ecosystems
- Critical migration corridor
- Tourism \$1.7 billion Thompson Okanagan (much drawn by clean lakes, beaches, parks & natural spaces)



Permanent Growth Boundary

“Focus development to designated growth areas”

- ▶ Basis for growth determination
- ▶ Policy framework
- ▶ Interdependency and agricultural / natural area interface

Permanent Growth Boundary

- ▶ Foundation of growth pattern
- ▶ Prioritize and signal infrastructure investments

Agriculture - Current OCP

- ▶ What's Working
 - ▶ Farm Protection DP
 - ▶ Temporary Farm Worker Housing
 - ▶ Permanent Growth Boundary
 - ▶ Non-farm use and exclusion policies
- ▶ Challenges – Pressures from within
 - ▶ Illegal non-farm uses
 - ▶ Illegal soil placement
 - ▶ Unclear provincial regulation
 - ▶ Estate homes increasing prices



Environment - Current OCP

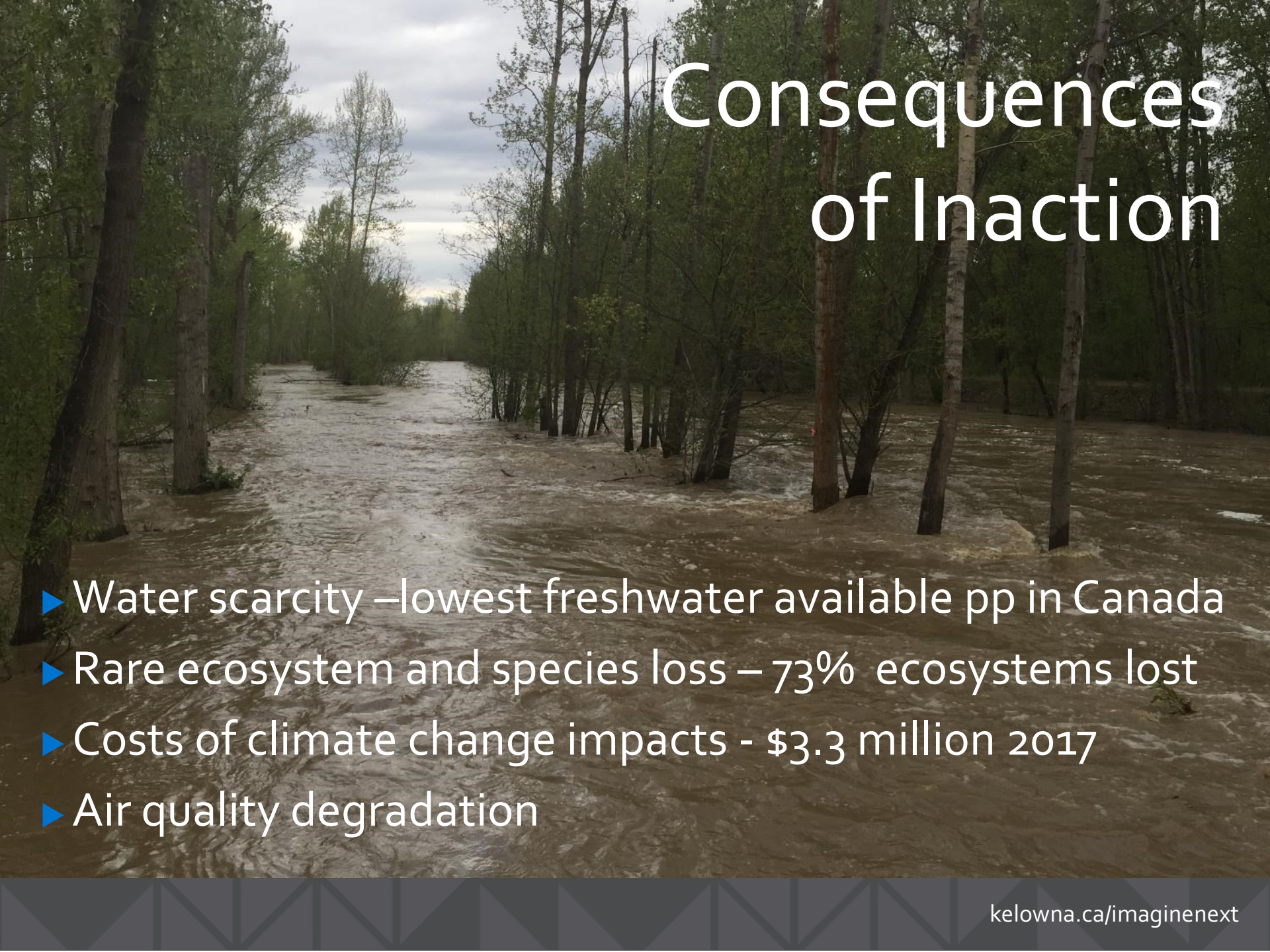


▶ What's Working

- ▶ Development Permits for Natural Areas
- ▶ Mission Creek Restoration Initiative
- ▶ Munson Pond
- ▶ Bellevue Creek Linear Park

▶ Challenges

- ▶ Development Pressure
- ▶ Climate Change
- ▶ Fires and floods impact habitats
- ▶ Costs of managing impacts



Consequences of Inaction

- ▶ Water scarcity –lowest freshwater available pp in Canada
- ▶ Rare ecosystem and species loss – 73% ecosystems lost
- ▶ Costs of climate change impacts - \$3.3 million 2017
- ▶ Air quality degradation

Consequences of Inaction



- ▶ Escalating farm land costs
- ▶ Pressure for commercialization of farm land
- ▶ Long term food security


Draft Imagine Kelowna

- ▶ Action & Resilience in face of climate change
- ▶ Vibrant Urban Centres – stop sprawl
- ▶ Preserve Okanagan Lake
- ▶ Protect water, land and air
- ▶ Adhere to Permanent Growth Boundary
- ▶ Boldness and consistency through time
- ▶ Protect agricultural land & sustainable farming

Key Directions for 2040

- ▶ City as steward of farmland and natural areas
- ▶ Vigilant protection of water, land and air resources
- ▶ Maintain the integrity of the Permanent Growth Boundary
- ▶ Ensure water quality and quantity
- ▶ Invest in green infrastructure
- ▶ Mitigate and adapt to climate change threats
- ▶ Support access to local food

More than land preservation

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- A scenic photograph of a lake at sunset. The sky is a mix of blue and orange, with the sun low on the horizon. Silhouettes of trees are visible on the left and right, and a few small figures of people are sitting on the shore in the distance.
- ▶ Kelowna's distinct identity & aesthetic character
 - ▶ Nurtures our population health, economy, tourism, recreation, & food security
 - ▶ Natural assets that make our community flourish
 - ▶ Basis of our quality of life



Resources:

For more information, visit:
kelowna.ca/imaginenext

Facts in Focus Background Paper

Environment StoryMap Link:

<http://apps.kelowna.ca/ocp/2018/environment/index.html>

Agriculture & Rural Areas StoryMap Link:

<https://apps.kelowna.ca/ocp/2018/agriculture/index.html>