

Osoyoos River



The Okanagan **watershed**, or **basin**, is a narrow strip that spans from Armstrong, BC to the US border and includes six main lakes - Okanagan, Kalamalka, Wood, Skaha, Vaseux and Osoyoos - and surrounding mountains. Connecting all the lakes is the Okanagan river. The river is 185 km long. A river **basin** or **watershed** is high at its edges and low in the center where the waters flow.



The Okanagan river was formed millions of years ago during the ice age. It is believed that the area was under 7,000 feet of ice. After the retreat of the glaciers, lakes formed and the valley sides were covered with vegetation such as lodgepole pine, ponderosa pine, grasses and sage brush.

In 1811 the first non-natives came to the Okanagan Valley, in a fur trading expedition. Within fifteen years, fur traders created the Brigade Trail from the Cariboo Plateau and Thompson Country to Fort Kamloops and through the Okanagan.

Many animals can be seen in the Okanagan river including otters and salmon. The salmon travel from the Pacific Ocean through the river to Okanagan Lake.

