



ROSEBUD WATERSHED

Including the Serviceberry Creek

Watershed Resiliency & Restoration Program

NOTE: This program is not retroactive, an application must be submitted and approved before starting your project.

With the aid of provincial funding, ranchers can protect riparian areas and improve water quality in the Rosebud Watershed. Rocky View County and Wheatland County are pleased to offer 100% funding to landowners for new installations of riparian streambank fencing and off-site watering systems for livestock.

The purpose of this program is to improve and restore the riparian function and watershed resiliency of the Rosebud Watershed by assisting producers with the costs associated riparian management.

Cost share: 100%

Eligible producers will receive full reimbursement for riparian fencing and livestock watering projects up to the project limit.

Eligible Items

- Riparian Streambank fencing of the Rosebud River, the Serviceberry Creek and all minor tributaries and natural spillways (continued grazing permitted)
- Riparian streambank exclusion fencing
- Off-Site Watering Systems
- Livestock waterers for new utilization of existing water sources

Ineligible Items

- Replacement of existing fence
- Cross fencing or perimeter fencing
- Costs associated with drilling a well or constructing a new dugout
- Portable livestock panels
- Off-site watering systems for use on irrigation canals

What is a riparian area?

Riparian areas are moist areas of water loving vegetation that border a stream, river, lake or wetland. They are very important ecologically, socially and economically. A healthy riparian area helps reduce streambank erosion, trap sediments, filter pollutants, provides fish and wildlife habitat, improves water quality and provides livestock forage.

Tips for Best Management Practices for Riparian Pasture Health

- Delayed use of grazing riparian pasture until late summer or early fall.
- Allow for rest periods after a grazing period during the growing season or full season rest periods.
- Distribute livestock evenly in pasture (i.e. by using cross fencing, water supply and minerals).
- Avoid direct access by livestock to the creek, and use of an alternative watering system (i.e. off site watering system, groundwater well, dugout etc.).
- Balance animal demand with available forage, and avoid repeated overgrazing.
- Create a grazeable riparian corridor which allows for better management of the riparian pastures
- Not all riparian areas are suitable for grazing and should be excluded (i.e. eroded banks)

Program Contact

Please contact either resource below to submit application forms or for questions regarding the program.

Wheatland County

Sarah Schumacher, PH: 403-361-2027
Email: Sarah.Schumacher@wheatlandcounty.ca

Rocky View County

Delaney McNaughton PH: 403-478-8273
Email: DMcNaughton@rockyview.ca



WRRP Application and Agreement

LANDOWNER DETAILS

Landowner Name(s): _____

Address: _____ Postal Code: _____

Email Address: _____ Phone Number(s): _____

Home Quarter Legal Land Location: _____

PROJECT DETAILS

Project Rural Address or Legal Description (s): _____

Current Land Use: _____ County: _____

- I am the registered landowner I am not the registered landowner; however, I have discussed the project with the landowner and have received permission to complete this project.

Length of riparian area protected _____ m/f

Name of Landowner: _____

RIPARIAN FENCING

Proposed length fence _____ m/f

Type of fencing _____

Exclusion fencing? YES NO

**If Yes, ask about the ALUS program which pays annual per-acre payments*

OFF SITE WATERING SYSTEM

Offsite Watering System required? YES NO

If no, why not _____

To be located on:

Creek Canal Dugout Well Other

Describe your current situation, project and plans for future riparian management

Please attach an air photo which can be obtained from either program contact, printed directly from the County website or from Google Earth.

Terms and Conditions

- **This program is not retroactive. Applications must be approved prior to the start of a project.**
- This program will accept applications starting April 1, 2020.
- Applicants must own or lease land adjacent to the Rosebud River, the Serviceberry Creek or other tributaries within the watershed.
- Applicants must have livestock that have direct access to the Rosebud River, the Serviceberry creek or smaller tributaries in the watershed.
- Fencing may be completed by the Applicant at \$25/hr plus supplies or a contractor hired by the Applicant at a rate of up to \$9/m (this rate includes labor, supplies, equipment use and gates). The rate for permanent electric fencing is \$3.50/m **rates are subject to change as needed*
- Riparian fencing must be permanent.
- Full grazing exclusion is NOT a requirement.
- Applicants may be eligible for up to 2 watering systems, and will be funded up to \$10,000.00 each. The system(s) must be used with intent of protecting the riparian area (may be portable). **rates are subject to change as needed*
- Applicants will be reimbursed following the completion of the project and submission of invoices.
- Applicants will develop a basic management plan for their riparian project (assistance is available from the program contacts).
- If applicable, the Applicant will consent to a free, confidential Riparian Health Inventory completed by Cows and Fish. This process provides information to the landowner on the health of their streambank.
- When applicable, the Applicant must consent to allow Cows and Fish to access to their riparian project for the purpose of conducting the Riparian Health Inventory.
- The Project will not contravene any federal or provincial legislation (i.e. Provincial and Federal Water Act).
- Any permit required for the project is the responsibility of the Applicant.
- Eligible applications will be approved by the Program partners on a first-come, first-served basis until the program is fully expended.
- Funding is limited to the 2020, 2021 fiscal years (subject to change). **Invoices must be submitted by November 1st annually.**
- With permission from the Applicant, the Program Partners may showcase information about projects in local newsletters, ads and tours.
- Staff will conduct a site visit of projects prior to payment of funds.
- Applicants must provide photos of the final project.
- Applicants may not apply to other funding programs for items funded by this program but may use it to subsidize ineligible components of the project. Assistance with additional programs and an Environmental Farms Plans is available by the program contacts.
- Completing an Environmental Farm Plan is recommended but not a requirement.
- **Applicants may be eligible for the ALUS program for per acre annual payments.**
- **Funding for landowners who are not adjacent to a drainage in the Rosebud Watershed is available for similar projects through the Wheatland Agricultural Stewardship Program, the Crowfoot Creek WRRP Program and the Canada Agricultural Partnership (CAP) Programs. www.cap.alberta.ca**

*** Please complete the attached “Looking at my Streambank riparian health checklist” for educational and informational purposes only.**

In signing this contract I agree to the above Terms and Conditions, I understand that Wheatland County will only provide funding for approved projects deemed eligible under this agreement, I accept responsibility for maintaining the project and for ongoing project maintenance costs for a minimum of 5 years. I will submit all invoices to a program contact by March 1st, 2022 or my project will no longer be eligible for funding.

I, _____, hereby certify that the information given on this form is full and complete and is, to the best of my knowledge, a true statement of facts relating to this application and accept the Terms and Conditions.

The applicant hereby waives and releases Wheatland County and Rocky View County and its employees, agents, and representatives, and indemnifies and holds harmless the Counties from any claims, losses, damages, costs, expenses, actions or proceedings related to or arising from this agreement and project.

Signature of Applicant: _____ Date: _____

The personal information in this form is collected under the authority of s. 33(c) of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIP) and is used solely for collecting information regarding your Rosebud Watershed WRRP application. Questions about collection of this information can be directed to the Wheatland County FOIP Coordinator at (403) 934-3321 OR admin@wheatlandcounty.ca.

“LOOKING AT MY STREAMBANK” RIPARIAN HEALTH CHECKLIST

Unhealthy Healthy with Problems Healthy

PROJECT BUDGET

Project Type	Project Cost Details	Expenses		
		Total Estimate	Other funding	Actual
Riparian Fence	<i>i.e. Length, supplies, contracted services, manpower hours</i>			
Watering System	<i>i.e. number of animals, supplies, description of system</i>			
Total Project Cost:				

Note: If final costs are expected to exceed the project estimate please contact the program contacts in advance.

ALUS PROGRAM

Both Rocky View and Wheatland County host an ALUS program through their Agricultural Departments. This program funds per acre annual payments (at market rates) for land and water improvement projects on agricultural land. Contracts are for 5 year flexible terms from \$20 to \$300 per acre/yr.

Is the Applicant interested in taking part in the ALUS program? YES NO

Has the Applicant completed the Expression of Interest Form? YES NO

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:

PRIOR TO PROJECT INITIATION

Project approval by project coordinator(s): _____

Date of project approval: _____ Approved for: \$ _____

PROJECT COMPLETION

Date on invoices provided is after project approval date above? YES NO

Have photos of the final project been received YES NO

Total WRRP funding provided to applicant: \$ _____

Manager of Agricultural Services (or designate): _____

Date: _____

Looking at my Streambank

riparian health checklist



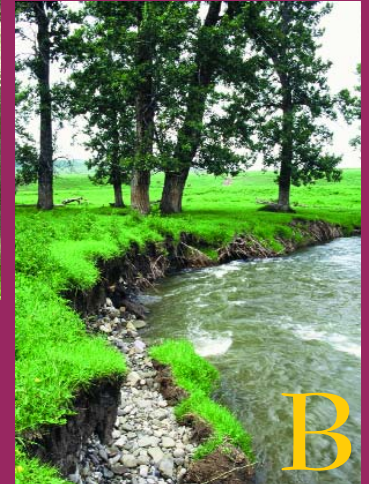
Riparian Areas

Riparian areas are moist areas of water-loving vegetation that border a stream, river, lake or wetland. They are very important ecologically, socially and economically. A healthy riparian area helps reduce bank erosion, trap sediments, filter pollutants, improve water quality and provide livestock forage and excellent fish and wildlife habitat.

How do you know if the riparian area along your streambank is healthy? Take a look at the photos at the right. Does your riparian area look like one of these or does it lie somewhere in between? To better assess the health of the riparian area along your river, stream or creek, fill in the checklist below:



A



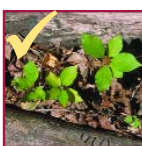
B

Which picture best resembles the riparian area along your streambank? A or B or somewhere in between?



Streambank Riparian Health CHECKLIST

Answer the thirteen questions below to find out how healthy your streambank is. If you are unsure about an answer, leave it blank.



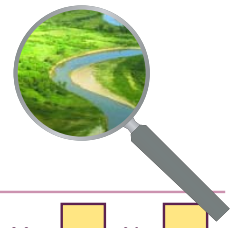
- 1 85% or more of the riparian area is covered with vegetation (of any kind). Yes No
- 2 More than 50% of the riparian plants are taller than knee height. Yes No
- 3 Shrubs such as willow, dogwood and silverberry are growing along or near the stream edge, and grow without a mushroom or hedged appearance. Yes No
- 4 There are young trees and shrubs that will replace the older ones over time. Yes No
- 5 Plants such as Kentucky bluegrass (lawn grass), clovers, dandelion and creeping red fescue represent less than 15% of all the plants growing in the riparian area. Native plants dominate the riparian area. Yes No
- 6 Noxious weeds make up less than 15% of the plants growing in the riparian area (e.g. thistles, scentless chamomile, knapweed and leafy spurge). Yes No










Continued on the other side . . .



Streambank Riparian Health CHECKLIST



- | | | | | |
|---|-----------|---|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
|  | 7 | The bank is NOT damaged by recreational activities or livestock. There are no exposed and eroding soils or slumping banks due to these activities. | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
|  | 8 | The stream channel is narrow and deep (versus shallow and wide). | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
|  | 9 | The stream does NOT appear ditched or entrenched and is able to overflow its banks most years. | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
|  | 10 | Water in the stream is clear and NOT cloudy or full of sediment. | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
|  | 11 | There are NO retaining walls, rip-rap or other bank stabilizing structures. | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
|  | 12 | Wildlife are often seen in the riparian area and fish live in the stream. | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
|  | 13 | Plants are vigorous, there is carryover of plant litter and forage production is stable. | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |

Checklist Summary

How many of these questions did you answer **YES?** and how many did you answer **NO?**

Interpreting Your Checklist

If you answered **YES** to 10 or more of the questions and the riparian area looks like the riparian area in picture A, it is likely that the riparian area is **healthy and functioning well**, which means it is performing key riparian functions such as trapping sediment, buffering the impact of flooding, providing primary productivity and providing fish and wildlife habitat.

If you answered **NO** to 10 or more of the questions and the riparian area looks like the riparian area in picture B, it is likely that the riparian area is **unhealthy and not functioning properly**. Such a riparian area can show signs of erosion, absence of fish and wildlife, increased pollutants entering the water, lack of primary productivity and reduced water quality.

If you answered **NO** to 5 or more of these questions and the riparian area resembles a combination of pictures A and B, the riparian area could be **healthy but with problems**. Some riparian functions may be impaired.

If you would like more detailed information, contact us (see below):

Checklist summaries that indicate the riparian area is healthy, but with problems or unhealthy can often be corrected by changing what you do. For example, producers can provide off-stream waterers that help to reduce trampling and erosion along streambanks and in the riparian area. Evaluate your riparian area again in two to three years - you should see some improvements.

Photo Credits: Lorne Fitch, Liz Saunders, Michael Gerrard



Working with producers and communities on riparian awareness

Program Manager 403-381-5538

North/Central Alberta Coordinator 780-679-1289

Southern Alberta Coordinator 403-381-5377

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www.cowsandfish.org

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Cows and Fish Partners

Producers & Community Groups, Alberta Cattle Commission, Trout Unlimited Canada, Canadian Cattlemen's Association, Alberta Agriculture, Food & Rural Development, Alberta Sustainable Resource Development, Alberta Environment, Department of Fisheries & Oceans, Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration, Alberta Conservation Association

Funding Associates include **Canada**¹⁰¹
AESAs, CARDF, CABIDF, Habitat Stewardship Program