



# Community Stories

## Lower Mosquito Creek Water Users Association

Cows and Fish Fact Sheet



Suzanne Witham

*Our goal is improved water quality and quantity, through sustainable agriculture practices with positive results that include a sustainable environment for our community and improved conditions for the landholder.*

### About Us

We are an agricultural, community-based association consisting of several dozen families that own land along the lower section of Mosquito Creek. The creek flows from the foothills west of Nanton, south through Nanton and eventually joins with the Little Bow River. Our group, known as the Lower Mosquito Creek Water User's Association (LMCWUA), was formed in 1998.

Our long-term goals include improving the water quality in the creek, creating a more stable water flow through participation of a government public advisory committee on water management planning, and restoring the riparian areas along Mosquito Creek.

Our approach was a take-charge, proactive one. We feel that it is in the best interest of the community to become involved in the proactive restoration of water quality in Mosquito Creek, rather than wait for government intervention. We also recognize that there is no quick fix, and that it could take many years for our efforts to be realized.



Diana Andrews

## What People are Saying...

**Greg Hale,  
Cows and Fish program**

*"Landowners along Mosquito Creek are using a variety of range management practices to help restore riparian health and water quality. In less than two years, producers who have made practical changes in their grazing management have demonstrated improved riparian health in their pastures."*

**Diana Andrews,  
President of LMCWUA**

*"We all need to do our part in cleaning up the creek. The water in the creek is vital to us. We use it for irrigation, livestock watering, domestic water and recreation. It is also a valuable resource for many types of wildlife. This project benefits all the citizens who live along and downstream of Mosquito Creek."*

# What We Have Achieved. . .



Diana Andrews



Suzanne Witham

*Mosquito Creek in recovery. Note the recent establishment of vegetation, including sedges and willows.*



Michael Uchikura

To meet our goals, we are taking action in the following areas:

- ◆ Identifying and rectifying agricultural non-point sources of pollution.
- ◆ Identifying and rectifying other non-points sources of pollution.
- ◆ Ongoing monitoring of water quality in cooperation with Alberta Environment
- ◆ Restoring riparian areas.
- ◆ Introducing environmentally sustainable agricultural practices.
- ◆ Encouraging and including young adults with future interest in agriculture to enhance their awareness of environmentally sustainable agricultural practices.
- ◆ Including the public to enhance their awareness of the importance of having environmentally sustainable agriculture co-existing with wildlife, natural habitat and acreage development that is consistent with our goals.

We have held numerous information meetings and workshops to help improve our knowledge of how riparian systems work, or should work. These workshops and meetings have involved landowners, Nanton residents, and the M.D. of Willow Creek, through the Cows and Fish Program.

Riparian health assessments have been completed for Mosquito Creek. These will help set base line conditions, and help individual landowners monitor the progress of their efforts. We have established several demonstration sites where we can share different methods of off-stream watering, rotational grazing, fencing strategies as well as other ideas.

## Plans for the Future Include:

- ◆ To continue to work proactively with local landholders and the community on riparian management issues through ranch/farm planning, workshops, and demonstration projects.
- ◆ To effectively promote the model of community-based initiatives to promote environmentally sustainable agriculture on a watershed and landscape basis.

*For more information please contact:*

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**Working with producers and communities on riparian awareness**

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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**  
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