

# Riparian Health Training



## Learning about Riparian Health

The Cows and Fish program offers training about riparian areas, riparian and grazing management and riparian health. We work with a wide range of audiences and provide information at a variety of levels. In addition to presentations, we provide opportunities for landowners, resource managers and the general public to better understand the health and functioning of riparian areas - the green zones adjacent to streams, rivers, lakes and wetlands. We aim to custom fit field and training activities to your needs and knowledge level. Understanding riparian health is one tool that allows us to "tune our eyes", appreciate the key pieces of the riparian area and evaluate what we see.



## Why is Training Important?

Riparian health training offers many benefits, including:

- ◆ Creating general awareness about riparian areas and how to recognize and measure riparian health.
- ◆ Helping landowners and others to understand and use information collected in Riparian Health Inventories or Assessments in order to make management decisions either individually or as a group.
- ◆ Providing hands-on learning around riparian area health.
- ◆ For those keen to use the methods themselves, such as landowners or resource management professionals, it creates greater consistency and accuracy in both applying Riparian Health Assessments and interpreting their results.

*"The assessment method will be useful and the workshop was excellent for bringing out the importance of healthy riparian areas to ranchers as well as fish, wildlife and plant resources."*

- Workshop participant

## How to Choose the Right Training

Ask yourself....



**Would you like to better understand the health of your riparian area?** If so, a **Riparian Awareness** presentation or a **Field Day** may be for you.

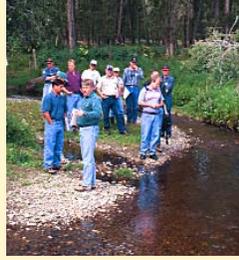
**Are you interested in collecting some information to help you better understand and recognize riparian health?** If so, training in **Riparian Health Assessments** could be just what you are looking for.

**Do you have a strong technical background and plan to collect detailed plant and physical data?** If so, detailed training in **Riparian Health Inventory** may be appropriate.

# Awareness and Training Opportunities



## Getting Your Feet Wet...



### Riparian Awareness

**How Long?** 1 hour to 1 day

**What will I learn?** The value of riparian areas, riparian form and function, basic plant identification (if held outdoors).

**Outdoors?** Optional

## Wading in...

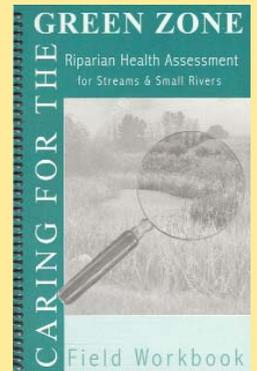


### Riparian Health Assessments

**How Long?** 1 - 2 days

**What will I learn?** How to do and interpret riparian health assessments. Recognize the signs of healthy and unhealthy riparian areas.

**Outdoors?** Yes



## Diving right in...



### Detailed Riparian Health Inventories

**How Long?** 5 - 10 days

**What will I learn?** Starting with a strong scientific background, you will learn how we conduct detailed inventories of riparian vegetation and physical features to determine riparian health.

**Outdoors?** Yes

## About the Cows and Fish Training Team

Cows and Fish staff lead our training workshops, field days and presentations. You have the opportunity to learn from people with extensive knowledge and skills in field techniques, range management, riparian ecology, hydrology and data analysis. Collectively, we have decades of experience in riparian management throughout Alberta and other provinces. Our training sessions are lively, informative and interactive, with a focus on hands-on learning.

Photo Credits: Lorne Fitch, Greg Hale

## What's Next?

*Understanding and measuring riparian health takes a lot of practice and expertise. These workshops can get you started, but learning about riparian health is a long-term commitment!*



## 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**  
AESR, CARDF, CABIDF, Habitat Stewardship Program