

# Cows and Fish

Riparian Management Society

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## **Job Announcement:**

**Riparian Resource Technician – 1 position**

**Application Deadline: March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2024**



Cows and Fish is currently looking to fill a position to collect and interpret riparian health inventory data. A self-directed and motivated individual is required to assist with riparian inventory and health assessments in Alberta for Riparian Management Society – known as Cows and Fish. You will be part of a team collecting vegetative and physical baseline information of riparian function on various streams, rivers, lakes, and wetlands across Alberta during the summer months, which is then analyzed and used in reporting throughout the remainder of the year, by other staff. Inventory data collected will assist local communities and our organization to address riparian land management issues throughout the province.

You will possess a B.Sc. in Agriculture, Biological, or Environmental Sciences with a strong emphasis in terrestrial / aquatic ecology and range management. Related degree or diploma with experience working on ecological data collection and/or sustainable agricultural issues will be considered. **Strong interest in plants and plant identification skills are required.** You must also have strong interpersonal and verbal communication skills. An understanding of landscape processes including fluvial geomorphology and watershed function is an asset. Candidates must be willing to travel extensively overnight away from home and possess a valid Class 5 driver's license.

### **Hiring Details:**

Position will be based in Lethbridge or Calgary.

**Riparian Resource Technician** – Approximately 4-6 months, full-time term position, starting no later than May 15th, 2024, with a salary of \$3,450-\$3,900 per month, depending on qualifications. This position is field-oriented and requires individuals to live in a camp setting most work days (M-F).

**Submit applications by March 22, 2024 to: Email: [jobs@cowandfish.org](mailto:jobs@cowandfish.org)**

Questions can be sent to [jobs@cowandfish.org](mailto:jobs@cowandfish.org) prior to the deadline. Applications must include a cover letter, resume, and references. **Please submit all items as 1 file.** Early applications are encouraged. Only those selected for interviews will be contacted.

**Candidates must be available for an in-person interview in early April.**

## Job Details:

### **Additional Riparian Resource Technician Job Description Details:**

- The position is for a full-time, term position, starting no later than May 15<sup>th</sup> but sooner if possible. Assuming the summer term goes well, the position may be extended.
- The position will be based in Lethbridge or Calgary, Alberta, although extensive travel during the spring and summer will cover many areas of the province.
- The position is with the Riparian Management Society, commonly known as Cows and Fish. Cows and Fish is a small, non-profit society, comprised of approximately 20 staff. We are committed to improving the awareness and understanding of riparian areas and riparian health to help landowners and communities manage their riparian areas through proactive, voluntary approaches driven by the landowner and local community.
- The Technician will be required to provide their own food, camping and cooking equipment for the summer field season work. Hip waders will be supplied by Cows and Fish. A daily rate to cover meal and camping expenses is provided. Staff will be provided with a work-designated vehicle for the field work portion of the job.
- Field activities involve surveying numerous riparian systems (lotic and lentic) within various project areas in Alberta following the Alberta lotic and lentic riparian health inventory and assessment protocols (go to “Download our Riparian Health Assessment Forms and User Manuals” at <https://cowsandfish.org/health-assessment-and-inventory-forms/> for simplified field methods.)
- Approximately two weeks of familiarization and training will be provided prior to field work. Riparian health inventory training is held the first week of June each year and attendance at that training is mandatory.
- Riparian health inventory field work at each riparian site is generally done by two staff, working collaboratively. The two staff will travel together and stay at the same camping facility, although will be responsible for their own meals and camp gear.
- Candidates must be willing to travel and be away from home overnight for the majority of weekdays during the summer. Occasionally, work on weekends may be required.
- Field days are often long (i.e. more than 8 hours), and overtime is expected and will be banked.
- **Strong plant identification skills and interest in plants is required.**
- Previous experience with handheld data collection devices, GPS units, cameras, maps, and air photo interpretation is valuable, and proven experience in a field setting is important.
- The job requires a self-motivated, enthusiastic, and team-oriented individual, who pays attention to details. Individuals are required to work closely with their colleagues to complete various elements of riparian health related and other tasks.

*Office based work (which will be very few days over the summer for the technician position, but could apply if the position is extended):*

- Tasks shared among the field based staff will include air photo interpretation (mostly via digital aerial imagery), extensive data entry and verification, image cataloguing, limited

GIS mapping, and extensive preparation of materials to contribute to riparian health reporting.

- Tasks shared among the Riparian Resource Analysts include extensive report writing to summarize results from field work. Much of November to March is spent writing reports from data collected in the summer; editing and oversight of report writing is done by more senior staff.
- Using riparian health data, the analyst will prepare summaries, reports, and other written materials for landowners and community groups using Cows and Fish templates.
- Office duties may also involve assisting the Executive Director and Riparian Specialists with various administrative and project-related tasks and occasional outreach and extension events.
- Knowledge and use of computer spreadsheets, word processing, and graphics software programs is required. Some experience with GIS is also valuable.