ANNUAL REPORT SUMMARY

APRIL 1, 2025 - MARCH 31, 2026

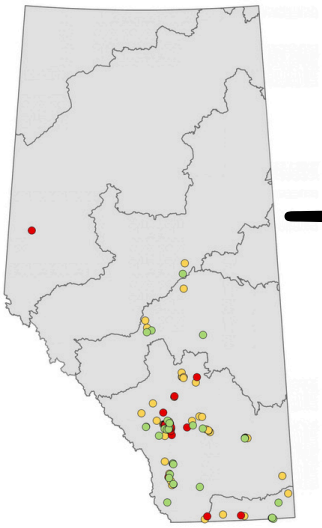


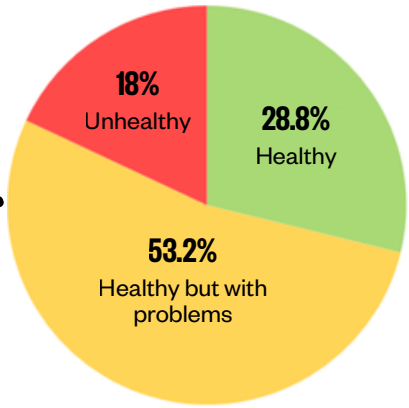
COWS & FISH
RIPARIAN MANAGEMENT SOCIETY

Promoting healthy landscapes by fostering riparian stewardship

RIPARIAN HEALTH 2025

WHERE WE MONITORED → WHAT WE FOUND





Of the 126 riparian sites, 111 are included, excluding sites that have overlap.

RIPARIAN HEALTH CATEGORIES

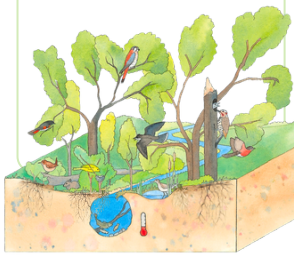
≤ 59% Unhealthy



60-79% Healthy but with problems

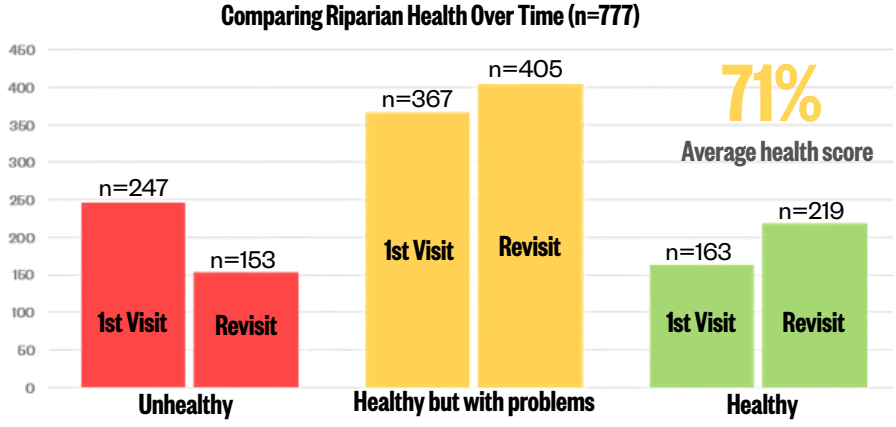


≥ 80% Healthy



IMPROVING RIPARIAN HEALTH

Of the 3,470 sites assessed, 22% (777) were re-assessed. The provincial average for initial assessments was 67% (1995–2021), which rose to 71% for revisited sites (2001–2025).



2025 HIGHLIGHTS

126
sites assessed on...

62
unique waterbodies along...

~ 76 km
of bank and shoreline.

4,357
people spoken to at...

165+
extension activities.

38
areas impacted by improvements

> 4,700
plantings (shrubs and trees)

> 144 hectares
of riparian areas protected or restored

OUR WORK IS HAVING AN IMPACT

Evaluating the effectiveness of our program delivery is key to ensuring our work is having an impact. This includes evaluation events and activities throughout the year, in addition to larger scale, periodic third-party evaluations of our work.

90%

of the AgricultHER and Original and Southern Alberta Grazing Schools for Women attendees said they learned something that would influence their management.

95%

of attendees at the Ladies Livestock Lessons said they would recommend the event to others.

90%

of Living with Beaver Workshop participants said the workshop increased their understanding.

SOCIAL MEDIA

We shifted our focus to creating more video content in the form of "reels" after we opened an Instagram account in April, 2024.

Of the 17 reels we posted on Instagram during this period, we received:

- 19 hours and 31 seconds of watch time
- 10,486 total views

We posted to our Instagram story 49 times, which:

were viewed over 6,500 more times than last year at 13,170 views, and had a reach of 11,294, which is 10,139 more than last year.

Working with landowners and partners has led to many excellent on-the-ground changes to benefit riparian health.

> 81 Partnerships, 1 Shared outcome

19 Rural & Urban Municipalities

41 Watershed & Conservation Groups

5 Government Agencies

5 Agricultural Groups

7 Indigenous Communities

4 Post-Secondary Institutions

and countless landowners

Working together for healthy, resilient watersheds and communities with:

Clean, secure water supply

Increased resilience to drought & flood

Habitat for wildlife

Beautiful spaces to recreate

Increased productivity for producers

Together, our actions make a difference!



COWS & FISH

WANT TO LEARN MORE?

WWW.COWSANDFISH.ORG
@COWSANDFISH

RIPARIAN HEALTH ASSESSMENT APP



Our newly relaunched Riparian Health Assessment app is ready! This free and easy to use app is designed for landowners, volunteers, and conservation groups to monitor riparian areas while they support stewardship of freshwater ecosystems.

Available for download on both iPhone and Android

Google Play Apple Store

OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Cows and Fish Board of Directors and Members include local producer and community representatives

Freshwater Conservation Canada

RMA Rural Municipalities of Alberta

Canadian Cattle Association

Alberta

Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation; Alberta Environment and Protected Areas; Alberta Forestry and Parks

Alberta Beef Producers

AAA Fieldmen

FUNDING ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Cows and Fish relies extensively on grant funding. Some support our overall broad diverse work while others provide targeted funding for a specific project or location, particularly those related to on-the-ground implementation, including:

This project was undertaken with the financial support of
Ce projet a été réalisé avec l'appui financier de

Canada Water Agency | Agence de l'eau du Canada

Oldman Watershed Council
oldmanwatershed.ca

ALBERTA ecotrust

Samuel Hanen Society for Resource Conservation

Alberta Conservation Association

TD Friends of the Environment Foundation

Watershed Resiliency & Restoration Program (WRRP)

Canadian Cattle Association

CRSB Canadian Roundtable for Sustainable Beef

Alberta Beef Producers

Calgary Foundation For Community, Forever

Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership

Alberta

Canada

Dozens of other local partners, including rural municipalities, support our work. Individual landowners also cost-share project costs on their own lands.

Visit our supporting Cows and Fish webpage to make a donation or scan the QR code: