

The Cows and Fish Fall 2021 Newsletter



The leaves are crunching under our feet as we welcome the deep freeze to come. This Fall, we're taking the time to reflect on all of the amazing opportunities we've had over this past year. What are you thankful for?



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High Points from the Land

By Kelsey Spicer-Rawe, Riparian Specialist

Amid the haze and heat of the 2021 summer, Cows and Fish Riparian Resource Analysts strode, and likely occasionally stumbled, through around 180 Riparian Health Inventory (RHI) sites in Alberta. Terrain, weather, wildlife, insects (wasps particularly this year), livestock, and vegetation (think prickly rose and Canada thistle!) made for some challenging and arduous site visits. From Onefour to Waterton, Beaverlodge to Bonnyville, and everywhere in between, their feet touched the ground in many of the Natural Regions in the province this year.

Each summer of field work has its highs and lows, both topographically speaking and personally for our "field crews." Looking through the lens of the five Riparian Resource Analysts, Gabe, Tawnee, Nicole, Lecia, and Celsa, who made up our 2021 roster, let's shine a light on the bright spots from their three-and-a-half months of field work.

Stranded Trout Saved With Reusable Sandwich Container

Thankfully, our staff know the value of reusable plastics for their lunches! Low water levels due to drought conditions resulted in a tributary stream being disconnected from Waiprous Creek (west of Cochrane), which caused trout to become stranded. Three staff came to their rescue while doing a RHI at this site, and in a pinch used a plastic lunch container to dip net the stranded trout and release them into the main channel.





Exploring Your Own Backyard

Hailing originally from Milk River, one of our Riparian Analysts requested to work close to home to further explore places she'd heard of but never seen, including Onefour. Just a speck on the map in southeastern Alberta, Onefour sits amid the dry mixedgrass prairie, which is home to a unique plant only found in a handful of locations in this arid corner of the province – soapweed, or more commonly known as yucca (*Yucca glauca*). Although not a riparian species, soapweed can be found on coulee slopes of the Milk River near Onefour and is at its northern limit of its range in Alberta, making it a rare sighting indeed, and a highlight for this budding botanist.

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Landowners Care (both for the people and the land)

Although we could count on one hand (or maybe 2) the number of rainy days amid this droughty hot summer, rain gear was occasionally required. On one such cold and rainy day, an inquisitive



landowner, or more aptly named land steward, walked her riparian site with our staff while they completed the riparian health inventory. Surprising the field crew with a return visit later in the day, the landowner brought hot chocolate to show her appreciation of their work. The highlight for our staff member was not only the warm drink and thoughtfulness it arrived with, but the subsequent conversation as well - learning of the landowner's care for and connection to the land, reinforcing the link between the data collected and the impact to the land.

Urban Transformation – Naturally

Our Calgary-based field staff also got to learn more about their own backyards by collecting riparian health inventory data in the City of Calgary. No matter the land use, riparian areas sometimes need a little help to transform to a healthier condition. Bioengineering, the science of utilizing live materials to restore vegetation, stabilize banks, and reduce erosion, has been featured in the City of Calgary's Bioengineering Demonstration and Education Project along the Bow River. Completing a riparian health check up on this site was a high point for one of our staff who was amazed to see the changes over the past few years; transforming from an eroded sparse bank to a site filled with willows, native plants, and wildlife.

Cumulative Impacts

If awards were given out for the greatest number of bright spots, our last staff contribution would be the winner. Their highlights reel for the



Before and after images of a riparian site in Calgary. Left: July, 2016. Right: July 2021

summer included travelling north of Calgary for the first time, a week amid the dinosaurs in Drumheller, tromping around nearby riparian areas, and venturing out of the riparian and into the aquatic zone to swim in the Oldman River. But if they had to pick one, it would be seeing a grizzly bear sow and cub utilizing a riparian network in the Eastern Slopes.

Sadly, the rubber boots, sunscreen, and hats are being packed away to be replaced with laptops and office chairs. As each and every photo gets catalogued and every bit of site data gets entered and analyzed, the highs and lows of summer field work will be re-visited digitally, reinforcing connections to the land and its health.



The Blackfoot Confederacy Native Trout Recovery Project

By Logan Peters, Communications Coordinator



Members of the Blackfoot Confederacy Native Trout Recovery Project field crew installing willows on a streambank. Photo courtesy of the Oldman Watershed Council

Alberta's native trout species have been swimming through streams of the Eastern Slopes for millennia, but are barely avoiding the unfortunate hooks of extinction. Thankfully, Elliot Fox and Kimmy Houle, the Lands & Environment Director at the Blackfoot Confederacy, along with other members of the Confederacy have created the Blackfoot Confederacy Native Trout Recovery Project, a three year funded initiative involving 13 partners including Cows and Fish.

Elliot Fox grew up following his uncle's beaver trap line just north of Chief Mountain near the Waterton Park area. Together, the pair would hunt, fish, and camp – skills that Fox would later use during his extensive career in conservation and ecology. Fox is a member of the Kainai First Nation in Southern Alberta, which, along with the Siksika, Peigan-Piikani, and Aamskapi Pikuni, form the Blackfoot Confederacy Tribal Council.

Fox chose to dedicate his career to ecological restoration after graduating from the Environmental Science Renewable Resource Management program at Lethbridge College in 1994. One month after graduating, he was hired to track the Belly River wolf pack in the Waterton Lakes area. He has since worked on a number of different projects with numerous different titles including fisheries technician, and now, as a private consultant, working on the Blackfoot Confederacy Native Trout Recovery Project.

"I liked being outside and I wanted to try to help sustain our landscape for everybody. For the future," Fox said.

Alberta's native trout, the bull trout, Athabasca rainbow trout, westslope cutthroat trout, arctic grayling, and mountain whitefish, need cold, clean, and connected water in order to thrive. Human land uses such as mining, forestry, recreation, and even fishing, have made it nearly impossible



for these fish to occupy the waters they used to call home. Add a splash of rising temperatures into the mix, as well as non-native trout species, and Alberta's native trout are left swimming upstream with little support.

"The native trout species here in Alberta that are still here, they have a right to still be here, and with all the degradation of their habitat over the years, I think we owe them at least to try to sustain their habitat so they can still be here," Fox said.

The Blackfoot Confederacy Native Trout Recovery Project, which is being funded for three years by the Federal Government's <u>Aboriginal Fund For Species At Risk</u> (AFSAR) program, is focused on bull trout and westslope cutthroat trout recovery in Alberta, both of which are considered an indicator species and are listed as 'threatened' under the Species At Risk Act. The purpose of the project is to build capacity for the Blackfoot Nation, as guardians of the Eastern Slopes, through mentorship and training to be able to assess the health of native trout habitat. The project also aims to bring Blackfoot knowledge of native trout and their habitat and science-based knowledge together in a respectful way that increases Blackfoot engagement in native trout conservation and restoration initiatives.

Field technicians from the Nations that make up the Blackfoot Confederacy, along with various partners, have been conducting eDNA samples, redd surveys, installing water temperature data loggers, conducting stream habitat assessments, and doing streambank restoration work in the Bow and Oldman River watersheds to better understand the health of Alberta's native trout population.



Field technicians carefully fill a bottle with water from a stream for eDNA sampling. Photo courtesy of Matthew Coombs

"All of our partners have been very supportive and we know we're all in this together. Especially when you're out in the field and there's other people from other agencies. It's like a little community and we're all doing this work in the best interest of the land and those species," Fox said. Cows and Fish

Caring for the Green Zone



Photo courtesy of Matthew Coombs

What is eDNA Sampling?

eDNA sampling is a non-intrusive DNA sampling method where water is carefully collected from a water body using a vessel such as a water bottle. The water is then filtered through a small paper filter, and the filter is carefully placed in an envelope and sent to a lab. The laboratory then reports back with data showing what species of fish are present in the water body.

Last year, Fox and his team found bull trout and bull trout spawning beds in seven streams in the Upper Oldman watershed that flowed directly under proposed mining sites. Runoff from the proposed mining sites could potentially seep into these streams, making the water uninhabitable for the native trout, worrying Fox about future implications.

"I'd like this [landscape] to be there for my grandchildren, for the future, so they can enjoy some of these beautiful areas. That was my motivation to work on this project."

Fox and the Blackfoot Confederacy team have also been conducting interviews with Blackfoot Elders about the significance of the fish, the water, and the places that make up the <u>traditional territory of</u> <u>the Blackfoot people</u>. In some



An example of a trout spawning bed, also known as a redd. Photo courtesy of Elliot Fox

interviews, the Elders speak High Blackfoot, which is a dialect commonly spoken by Blackfoot Elders, and Fox, who can understand some of the language, must work with a translator to understand the meaning behind certain words.

The future of this project after the three funded years remains unclear, but Fox made it clear that one of his objectives for the project is to build capacity within the Blackfoot Confederacy to continue this work. He hopes that the federal government will provide more funding for the project.

"We all need water to survive. These fish are excellent indicators of the health of our water and those streams, so I think work needs to continue into the future just to make sure they don't disappear."

When in Drought: Considerations for Grazing Riparian Areas

By Norine Ambrose, Executive Director



Riparian areas produce abundant forage, compared to adjacent uplands, so keeping them healthy is important for drought resiliency

I was recently asked, "What do you recommend for grazing riparian areas in a drought?"

Grazing riparian areas always requires careful management, but particularly during a drought. Like a lot of agricultural management, planning ahead and having contingencies in place before, during, and after a drought is the best way to build resiliency, but that ideal is not always possible.

In the immediate needs of trying to feed your cows, how can you reduce impacts and keep your pasture as healthy as possible?

The most important thing to remember is that applying the four grazing principles still applies:

- Balance supply with demand (leave enough behind)
- Provide effective growing season rest for plants to regrow
- Plan livestock distribution (don't let the cows make all the decisions and hang out in their favourite spots)
- Avoid vulnerable times (like the spring, when plants are just starting to grow and soils are soft and compactable, and late season, when livestock start to seek out woody plants because they keep their nutritional value)

Like any pasture, if you push the distribution, timing, intensity, or duration of riparian grazing beyond the sustainable level for your pasture, then you might have some negative impacts that you will need to address in the coming years. If lack of forage means grazing was heavier than planned, then the pasture will have little residual material to protect your soil from heat, slow down and hold water, or resist erosion. As a result, your production in the coming years may be reduced and your soil may be at increased risk of erosion—so careful management for the next few years will be needed to rebuild carryover, support plants, and put insulating ground cover back. If the pasture is heavily used in the fall and winter, and the willows, which are holding the



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streambanks together, are severely browsed, you might need to avoid late season use in the coming years to ensure they can recuperate. Rebuilding these lost pieces is also important for future water quality, biological diversity, and water storage.

Riparian areas, those moist shore, streambank and floodplain areas next to waterbodies, are often a place of stockpiled or abundant forage, a place where regrowth will take place, even if other drier parts of the pasture are too dry to grow, producing from 2 to 10 times as much forage as their adjacent upland (non-riparian) pastures. More and more producers are



fencing off their riparian areas around their streams and wetlands to exclude livestock, to enhance management control, improve water quality, and provide fish and wildlife habitat, but often the intent of these areas is to act as emergency forage. Even riparian pastures, which are intended for regular use most years, might get more intense use in a drought. If drought continues, areas that were previously inaccessible due to wet conditions become more accessible as firm ground expands. These can be important emergency forage locations when managed appropriately but too much use may result in these areas losing their inherent water holding values that make them so valuable.



Research shows that about 80% of drinking by cattle will occur at the trough, instead of the waterbody, even when there is no fence

When you graze riparian areas, how can you reduce negative impacts? First and foremost, try and stay within the carrying capacity of the pasture—if you have too many head for too long, you will need to make adjustments for additional rest and recovery next year. Then, start looking at the other principles: distribution, avoiding sensitive periods, and providing effective rest. Using an off-site watering system is a very important tool to improve distribution, so put the water trough as far from the water's edge as you can, on flat ground. Consider how your livestock behave—cattle often hang around and return to the gate they entered, or the gate they know is their exit, resulting in heavy use, so having several gates means you can alter your entry and exit points and change loitering areas. Physical impacts to the soil are greatest on wet soils, so timing use when these areas are drier or even frozen can reduce hoof shear and prevent compaction, which could take many years to heal. Providing effective rest means



giving plants time to regrow—if the only time you provide plants rest from grazing is in a drought, and they have stopped growing because it is too dry, then they are not getting any rest, just as if it were winter and they were dormant. Providing that rest in the subsequent seasons will be critical to minimize long-term impacts. Plan your next grazing period with these items in mind.

You cannot make it rain, but you can capture and store scarce moisture when it is available to create the best pasture possible. So start planning for the next drought now, by implementing practices that add resiliency wherever you can. Carryover (litter) and current season growth (future litter) will be good indicators that you have the right stuff to help act as a sponge in the future, build soil nutrients, and provide habitat. Just like the grass needs moisture to grow, your cattle need water to drink, but how can you increase water?



2005. Physical alterations to the floodplain and streambanks



2007. With additional rest, both native and non-native plants have re-vegetated the previously exposed soil

Healthy riparian areas store more water, which can move back into the channel during dry parts of the year, but storing water by supporting "nature's engineers" is an option too. Beavers are a "love 'em or hate 'em" topic, but in a drought, water in beaver ponds has been a lifeline for many producers— providing both livestock drinking water and increasing adjacent soil moisture for more plant growth.

Many years ago a cattle producer said to me "I'm not married to my cows." He knew that there would be tough decisions at times and that he could rebuild his herd faster than he could repair damage to his pastures - he managed for healthy soil and plants. Whether that meant selling cows, buying feed, or working with his neighbours to have his cows eat their crop residue, he focussed on maintaining the land so it would maintain productive capacity in the future. This land stewardship ethic benefitted his operation and land long-term, making it more stable and resilient to drought.



Grazing for Riparian Development

By Greg Paranich, Agricultural Field Specialist,

Grey Wooded Forage Association

This past June 2021 we collaborated on three producer Riparian Grazing and Power Fencing field schools to discuss how we can protect and develop riparian areas with grazing to enhance plant stand vitality and diversity. The three key partners responsible for bringing this event together were the Grey Wooded Forage Association, Cows and Fish, and Range Ward Power Fencing. Each day of the field school featured its own "local" host and producer; a Buck Lake location within Wetaskiwin County, Ellis Bird Farm, east of Blackfalds, AB, and a Sundre location with Mountain View County.

Cows and Fish began each session with a riparian assessment review of the sites and identified indicators for healthy riparian environments or signs for improvement. Their presentation covered:

- Reasons/value and philosophy of protecting and developing riparian areas
- Riparian health assessment
- Past and current view of exclusion and managed grazing strategies
- Overall farm/ranch riparian enhancement value

The grazing portion, which targeted riparian areas, was a new approach to teaching, as riparian areas can be especially sensitive to livestock grazing. In the past, many water courses suffered bank and shoreline damage, and desirable vegetation was overgrazed or damaged if not carefully managed. Historically, these areas were permanently fenced off (called exclusion corridors) for protection, but did not always produce successful results. By choosing to manage the fencing and grazing of the sensitive riparian areas, one can have healthy riparian sites, as well as prosperous grazing areas. Selecting seasonal use in late summer or early fall will allow for the overall improvement to the health, diversity, and productivity of the landscape by making changes to management at a time when various habitat cycles are past their critical vulnerability stages.

It is important that one first understands the guiding principles of grazing management, including the cycles that affect forage production and soil health.

- Solar Cycle: maintaining enough leaf as the plant's solar panel
- Water Cycle: capturing (and holding) the water that comes from rain/precipitation
- Mineral or Nutrient Cycle: accessing nutrients from manure recycling
- Soil Litter: to provide adequate armour protecting the soil from impacts of water and wind (erosion), prevent dehydration/evaporation from the soil, insulate from heat (for cool, moist surface and upper profile)

Plant solar panels, also known as leaves, convert solar energy into sugars via photosynthesis. Mature plants, dead plants, and bare soil are not very effective in capturing solar energy (lazy or dormant). Leaves that are grazed properly are active and vibrant solar panel converters. More



biodiversity adds various leaf structures to the overall solar panel with variation of angles and heights. Capturing sunlight in different layers, with *full ground cover* density (with no bare soil exposed), will produce an impressive 43,560 ft² per acre of solar panel!

Water capture is the soil's ability to have water infiltrate the soil before it can runoff and/or evaporate. Bare soil will erode, compact, and seal with the impact of raindrops, preventing infiltration. Ground cover or litter is the first line of water capture as it cushions rainfall impact on the land. Ground cover also acts as a surface sponge to hold and retain water allowing it more time to infiltrate the soil without runoff or evaporation. Soil aggregation, also known as the soil structure, will impact the water cycle as it will influence the infiltration rate and holding capacity – a reflection of soil carbon content. Soil carbon is built into the soil by plants, especially those with vibrant growth as a result of well-managed grazing practices.

Grazing plants results in the root system sloughing off the very tiny root hairs into the soil as a "stress response." Mowing does not produce nearly the same impact as grazing. The stress response with the root hairs sloughing off stimulate the plant to repair the "damage" with increased metabolism and growth. The discharged root hairs become food for the *mycorrhizal fungi* who are the "workhorses" operating the nutrient transport system to the plants. Nutrients recycled from livestock are processed and transported to the plants via the mycorrhizal fungi, thus completing the system of solar, water, and nutrient cycles that improve soil health and in turn supports plant vigor and diversity.

In summary:

- Managing active plant growth to manage the cycles
- Understanding the need to leave enough solar panel to be able to rapidly regrow into a functional solar panel again
- Have diversity in a forage stand for optimum above ground solar panel diversity and diverse below ground root systems for healthy and diverse microbial populations.
- Maintain high levels of ground cover *with no bare ground* to expose soil to negative effects
- Actively growing, and re-growing, plants supports healthy microbial and soil carbon building systems
- Soil carbon is the cornerstone for soil and plant health
- Stagnant or dead plants (ungrazed) contribution is significantly reduced during these essential cycles for healthy forage stands and ecosystems

In order to manage plant growth, one must also manage livestock grazing. Grazing timing, livestock density, and duration are all factors in managing a grazing system and plant stand, especially in sensitive environments like riparian areas.

Tools of the trade to help achieve managed grazing include Power Fencing Technology. When properly used, portable electric fencing can be the path to achieving success in managed grazing for the desired outcomes for many plant environments. The added feature of portability and easy deployment make it a critical hinge pin on the doorway to successful riparian gazing.

We have exposure to a lot of knowledge for management "systems." Yet, we need to access the wisdom of experience and understanding to properly harness knowledge into a functional application.



Moments of Gratitude

By Kathryn Hull, Riparian/Range Specialist and Logan Peters, Communications Coordinator

As winter quickly approaches, we are taking the time to reflect on the many ways our funders, partners, staff, and volunteers have made our work possible over the last few months. We have had so many amazing opportunities to work on a multitude of restoration and education projects this summer and fall. Listed below are a number of projects that we have been proud to facilitate and be a part of. Want to get your hands dirty on restoration projects with the Cows and Fish team? <u>Click here</u> to join our volunteer mailing list.



August 21 and August 28 – Cows and Fish helped host two Recreational Stewardship fairs. The first event on August 21 took place at the Waiparous Provincial Recreation Staging Area in the Ghost Public Land Use Zone west of Cochrane and the second event on August 28 took place at the Caesar's Flats Staging Area in the Livingston Public Land Use Zone, west of Claresholm. The events were complete with family friendly fun promoting backcountry activities, etiquette, and safety. Our



many partners for these events were Alberta Environment and Parks, Alberta Parks, Ghost Watershed Alliance Society, Oldman Watershed Council, Elbow River Watershed Partnership, Trails 4 Tomorrow, Alberta Off-Highway Vehicle Association, Calgary Jeep Association, Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society, Trout Unlimited Canada, Rocky Mountain Land Cruisers Association, fRI Research, Search and Rescue, and Alberta Wilderness Association.

September 9 – Friends of Fish Creek Provincial Park Society staff and volunteers have been very busy this fall as part of their ReWilding project in Calgary. Cows and Fish was pleased to participate in various planting days as part of this initiative.





September 10 – Silvester Creek watershed, located within the McLean Creek Public Land Use Zone, is a busy place. As part of a joint collaborative with the Elbow River Watershed Partnership, Trout Unlimited Canada, and Pieridae Energy, Cows and Fish led erosion control work using bioengineering and large woody debris along a steep pipeline approach crossing Silvester Creek. Previously unmanaged offhighway vehicle use of the pipeline right-ofway contributed to increased erosion over the years. Silvester Creek provides critical

Volunteers hard at work at Silvester Creek

habitat to threatened, native westslope cutthroat trout. Partnership activities have been done in this watershed since 2014 to restore and enhance riparian habitat for westslope cutthroat trout. See our video to learn more.

September 20-21 and October 8: As part of the West Bragg Creek Collaborative Watershed Stewardship Project, Cows and Fish, Bragg Creek Trails Association, and the Elbow River Watershed Partnership teamed up with volunteers and contractors to plant over 700 native plants along Bragg Creek in Kananaskis Country (West Bragg Creek area). Planting took place September 20-21 in an area with cumulative impacts from recreation, historic industrial roads, and cattle use. An enthusiastic and energetic group of volunteers came out on October 8 to install the remaining plants and to learn a few simple bioengineering techniques from specialist Mike Gallant (Kerr Wood Leidal). The October 8 event was preceded by a 'Bioengineering Basics' webinar featuring Mike Gallant (available from <u>https://youtu.be/RGtqmvch4IA</u>). A special thanks to the talented staff at Grumpy's Greenhouses and Gardens Ltd. for their assistance with this project.

September 24-25: The Ghost Watershed Alliance Society, along with Trout Unlimited Canada, hosted Dave Polster to lead a bioengineering workshop in the Waiparous Creek area, a priority stream for threatened native trout. Cows and Fish staff enjoyed the opportunity to participate in this initiative.

October 2: Cows and Fish partnered with volunteers from the Fish Creek Watershed Association (FCWA) and Trout Unlimited Canada to lead a small-scale restoration in the upper headwaters of Fish Creek in the Mclean Creek Public Land Use Zone west of Calgary. This event gave participants the chance to learn about simple bioengineering techniques (wattle fences; 'live smiles'; willow staking) and how they can be applied to remediate soil compaction and erosion. It also gave members of the FCWA a first-hand experience of touring this busy, headwaters watershed.



A group of volunteers at the Mclean Creek restoration day on Oct. 2



Riparian Fun Fact: Bull Trout Redds and Riparian areas

When, Where, and What makes them 'reddy' to spawn? By Jonathan Fearns, Riparian Specialist



Bull trout are in the char family of the Salmonids (trout and salmon), and like all char, are fall spawners. Their cue to migrate and prepare to spawn (reproduce) is when water temperatures drop below 10°C.

Bull trout are very particular about where they spawn. Generally, they prepare to spawn in areas that have groundwater upwelling to the surface. When the time is right, females use their body and tails to dig spawning redds (egg nests) in precise locations. They dig in areas with strong localized downwelling (think of these spots like the drain in your kitchen sink)





Bull Trout spawning. Photo courtesy of Will Warnock

and that have significant water flowing between the gravels on the bottom of the stream. They prefer these areas because the flow ensures eggs get oxygen and are kept safely in the spaces between the gravel, out of reach from potential predators. Upwelling groundwater is oxygen rich and has a consistent temperature, which is ideal for egg incubation (development). Their eggs incubate over winter and hatch in the spring.

Intact and functioning riparian areas are vital for keeping water cool and well aerated, making them vital for conserving bull trout.



UPCOMING EVENTS



JOIN US FOR THE 2021 LOQUIZ VIRTUAL High School Riparian Tour SOILS • PLANTS • TREES • WILDLIFE

September - November 7th, 2021 at the Evergreen Learning and Innovation Centre

REGISTER HERE: https://forms.gle/48PLrXtpcZQxYP2R8

For more information, please contact: Jill Henry: jhenry@countygp.ab.ca Kate Winterford: kwinterford@countygp.ab.ca



Street to Stream Webinars

For Municipalities November 4 @ 9AM-12PM

For the General Public

Part 1: November 4 (Time TBD) Part 2: November 9 (Time TBD)

Stay tuned for more information and how to RSVP. If you have questions about these events, please contact Rachel at (780) 812-2182 or outreach@lica.ca

> High School Riparian Tour November 7, 2021

Join County of Grande Prairie, Mighty Peace Watershed Alliance, Matrix Solutions Inc, and Cows and Fish for a virtual high school riparian tour. <u>Click here</u> <u>to RSVP</u>

Living with Beavers Webinar

November 16 | 7 PM-9PM

Stay tuned for more information and how to RSVP. If you have questions about this event, please contact Lisa Card at 780-674-8069 or at lisa.card@hwy2conservation.com



The Follow-Up Project

Showcasing the land managers that have taken the Cows and Fish approach to riparian stewardship in Alberta

Cows and Fish October 17, 2021

We are so excited to tell you about a new project we are working on that showcases restoration projects by the dedicated landowners we have worked with over the years. Our first interactive story-map walks you through Glen and Kelly Hall's hard work and passion for improving the overall health of the Timber Ridge Ranch. <u>Click here to view.</u>



Original development of our newsletter was graciously supported by **Alberta Ecotrust Foundation**, along with our many core <u>funders and supporters</u>. As you may know, we rely upon grants to do much of the work we do, so if you want to suggest an opportunity, collaboration, or make a donation, please do!

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Have you worked with Cows & Fish in the past?

- Have you wondered how your riparian area scores now?
- Wanted to have an extension event in your local community?
- Have a riparian management story to share?

To increase the broader community's riparian awareness and expertise, we will deliver extension events with local partners, bringing together neighbours and sharing successes. If you are a landowner we worked with in the past, and want to reconnect with us, give us a call or email. <u>Contact us.</u>

We love hearing from you!

Please contact Norine Ambrose <u>nambrose@cowsandfish.org</u> or any Riparian Specialist in your area, to follow up on any items in this newsletter. For full contact information, visit our website at: <u>https://cowsandfish.org/contact-us/</u>

Cows and Fish 2nd Flr, Avail Place, 530-8th Street South, Lethbridge, AB, T1J 2J8 Ph: 403-381-5538



A special thank you to our partners