

# Watershed Resiliency and Restoration Program Grant Approval Fact Sheet

The Watershed Resiliency and Restoration Program (WRRP) aims to protect communities from floods and drought by improving natural watershed functions.

## WRRP Grants (March 2015)

Recipient	Project Description	Grant Amount
Alberta Land Institute	<b>Location: Nose Creek Sub-watershed, Bow River Basin</b> Restore wetlands in and around Calgary, focusing new techniques to get wetlands on the landscape. Around 60 wetland sites will be restored in the Calgary area.	\$603,600
Alberta Riparian Habitat Management Society (known as Cows and Fish)	<b>Location: Oldman River Basin Headwaters</b> Work with landowners to identify and restore riparian areas in Southern Alberta. About 10-15 riparian enhancement projects are expected to enhance 8-12 km of riparian areas.	\$388,250
Battle River Watershed Alliance	<b>Location: Iron Creek Sub-watershed, Battle River Basin</b> Project will help drought proof the area around Iron Creek by initiating a 3-yr riparian restoration plan to improve water retention and minimize flood erosion. The result of the implemented plan will be 15 riparian health assessments, 10 riparian enhancement projects, and 6 to 10 km of restored or enhanced riparian areas.	\$17,820
Battle River Watershed Alliance	<b>Location: Battle River Basin</b> Project will help drought proof the area around Ponoka of the Battle River by initiating a 3-yr riparian restoration plan, improving water retention and minimizing flood erosion. The result of the implemented plan will be 15 riparian health assessments, 10 riparian enhancement projects and, 6 to 10 km of restored or enhanced riparian areas.	\$12,500
Ducks Unlimited Canada	<b>Location: Bow River and Red Deer River Basins</b> Wetland restoration in a large portion of the South Saskatchewan River basin. This will increase water storage and retention. Approximately 558 hectares (1380 acres) of wetlands will be restored.	\$11,675,000
Jumpingpound Creek Watershed Partnership	<b>Location: Jumpingpound Creek Sub-watershed, Bow River Basin</b> Initial projects will include 4000 feet of fencing, trail access management and restoration in the Town of Cochrane. Landowners will be engaged to determine future restoration and resiliency projects.	\$74,000
Milk River Watershed Council Canada	<b>Location: Milk River Basin</b> Project will initiate a riparian restoration and stewardship program to provide incentives to landowners along the Milk River. Full implementation will result in 15 riparian health assessments, 10 riparian enhancement projects and 6 to 10 km of restored or enhanced riparian areas.	\$70,000
North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance	<b>Location: Vermilion River Sub-watershed, North Sask. River Basin</b> Restore wetlands and riparian areas that have been degraded within the Vermilion Watershed. Approximately 40 hectares (100 acres) of wetlands restored and 10 km of riparian areas restored.	\$1,445,000
Town of Black Diamond, Town of Turner Valley, Sustainability Resources Ltd.	<b>Location: Sheep River Sub-watershed, Bow River Basin</b> Restoration of a damaged creek riparian area within the Town of Turner Valley, with a focus on community involvement and engagement to improve awareness around the importance of riparian areas.	\$13,255

Bow River Basin Council	<b>Location: Sheep River Sub-watershed, Bow River Basin</b> Project will develop and pilot study areas in the flood plain of the Sheep River. Test sites will determine the best methods for riparian buffers to support future decision making, community, and stakeholder engagement.	\$125,000
University of Lethbridge	<b>Location: Bow River and Red Deer River Basins</b> Study flood regimes downstream of dam infrastructure, including scientific and technical information and modeling on Bow and Red Deer Rivers. Potential to lead to changes in dam operations for riparian enhancements downstream.	\$207,000
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$14,631,425</b>

## Applicant Eligibility

Non-governmental organizations, stewardship groups and other not-for-profit organizations, municipalities, First Nations, and all local authorities are eligible to receive funds under the program, provided that it is for a project undertaken in partnership with landowners. Private entities, whether it is an individual or enterprise, are eligible to participate and contribute to projects, but are not eligible to receive funding under the WRRP. Partnerships between multiple stakeholders are encouraged under this program.

## Project Eligibility

The WRRP is limited to watershed mitigation efforts that promote the long-term ability of watersheds to mitigate the effects of future flood and drought events. Examples of eligible projects include:

- Riparian enhancements (e.g. fencing, plantings, grazing management, off-stream watering, etc.)
- Wetland enhancements (e.g. wetland creation, conservation or restoration, etc.)
- Floodplain/river improvements (e.g. channel naturalization, removal of old structures, removal of flow impediments, re-vegetation, floodplain storage capacity enhancements, etc.)
- Creation/increase of absorptive capacities of a watershed
- Irrigation and drainage district enhancements
- Conservation initiatives
- Data collection efforts for the purpose of research, evaluation and assessment related to a specific project(s) for watershed resiliency
- Education and outreach associated with a specific project(s) for watershed resiliency

Structural projects eligible for funding under Environment and Parks' Alberta Community Resiliency Program (ACRP) are **not** eligible to receive funding under the WRRP. Examples of **ineligible** projects include:

- Structural restoration or construction: dams, berms, dykes, tunnels, riprap, storm water ponds
- Municipal infrastructure, such as stormwater ponds, etc.
- Groyne and other in-stream structures
- River training or realignment
- Erosion protection efforts

## Project Selection Criteria

The primary criteria are the degree to which the project mitigates the impacts from flood or droughts, and impact on community safety and health (i.e. headwaters and floodplains where individuals could be affected). Secondary criteria such as biodiversity and additional environmental benefits, and complimentary criteria including data gathering, capacity building, and outreach, education and stewardship, will also be considered.