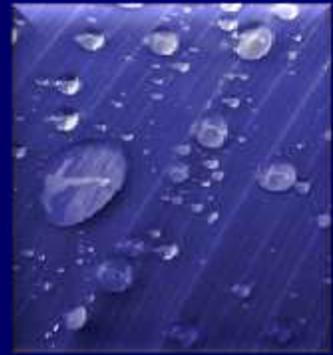


# Watershed Stewardship Grant Program Report



**2011**

An overview of all projects associated with the 2011 Watershed Stewardship Grant Program presented to Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development by Land Stewardship Centre.

June 30, 2012

# Water

It is not only a resource, it is a life source. We all share the responsibility to ensure a healthy, secure and sustainable water supply for our communities, environment, and economy – our quality of life depends on it.

As stewards of this precious resource it is our collective duty to ensure:

- Safe, secure drinking water,
- Healthy aquatic ecosystems, and
- Reliable, quality water supplies for a sustainable economy.

# Contents

- Contents..... 2
- Acknowledgements..... 4
  - 2011 Watershed Stewardship Grant Committee Members..... 4
  - 2011-2012 Watershed Stewardship Coordinator..... 4
- Message from the Committee Chair..... 5
- Highlights of the 2011 Granting Period ..... 6
- Geographical Distribution ..... 8
- 2011 Project Summary..... 8
- Financial Overview ..... 9
- Grant Recipients and Project Activities by Watershed..... 10
  - Athabasca River Watershed..... 11
    - Keepers of the Water-Pembina River Watershed ..... 12
    - Lac La Nonne Watershed Stewardship Society..... 12
    - Tawatinaw Watershed Stewards ..... 13
  - Battle River Sub-Watershed..... 14
    - Iron Creek Watershed Improvement Society (2010) ..... 15
    - Friends of Little Beaver Lake Society ..... 15
    - Love the Lake ..... 16
    - Pigeon Lake Watershed Association ..... 16
  - Beaver River Watershed ..... 17
    - Crane Lake Advisory and Stewardship Society (2010) ..... 18
    - Moose Lake Watershed Society..... 18
  - Bow River Sub-Watershed ..... 19
    - Cochrane Branches and Banks Environmental Foundation..... 20
    - Elbow River Watershed Partnership ..... 20
    - Friends of Fish Creek Provincial Park Society..... 20
    - Friends of Kananaskis Country Cooperation Association ..... 21
    - Ghost Watershed Alliance Society ..... 22
    - Highwood Water Management Plan Core Group..... 22
    - Nose Creek Watershed Partnership..... 23
    - Weaselhead/Glenmore Park Preservation Society..... 23

Lesser Slave River Sub-Watershed.....	24
High Prairie Riparian Action Team .....	25
Milk River Watershed .....	26
Milk River Ranchers Group .....	27
North Saskatchewan River Watershed .....	28
Clearwater Landcare .....	29
Mayatan Lake Management Association.....	29
Wizard Lake Watershed and Lake Stewardship Association .....	30
Oldman River Sub-Watershed .....	31
Lower Little Bow Stewardship Group (2010).....	32
Castle-Crown Wilderness Coalition.....	32
Peace River Watershed.....	33
Clear Hills Watershed Initiative.....	34
Red Deer River Sub-Watershed .....	35
Medicine River Watershed Society (2010).....	36
South Saskatchewan River Sub-Watershed .....	37
Society of Grasslands Naturalists.....	38
Report Summary .....	39
Appendices.....	40
Appendix A: 2011 Watershed Stewardship Grant Program Financial Summary.....	41
Appendix B: Total Value of 2011 Watershed Stewardship Grant Program .....	42
Appendix C: Overview of Watershed Stewardship Group Project Information .....	43
Appendix D: Resources from Selected Projects.....	45



## Acknowledgements

Land Stewardship Centre (LSC) gratefully acknowledges the Government of Alberta for making the Watershed Stewardship Grant Program possible through the *Water for Life Strategy*. We also wish to thank all of the 2011 Watershed Stewardship Grant Committee members for their hard work and dedication to help deliver such a valuable program.

We also recognize the partner organizations which have contributed to the collective success of this program. Without their involvement the range of stewardship projects undertaken would not be possible.

Finally, we extend our appreciation to all of the committed, grassroots watershed stewardship groups and volunteers who contribute so much time, effort and expertise to improving the health of Alberta watersheds.

### 2011 Watershed Stewardship Grant Committee Members

Shirley Pickering, Committee Chair and Watershed Stewardship Group Representative

Jim Craig, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Agri-Environment Services Branch

Brian Innicki, Land Stewardship Centre

Heather Landiak, Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development

Jeff McCammon, Watershed Stewardship Group Representative

Mike Murray, Bow River Basin Council

Meghan Payne, Lesser Slave Watershed Council

Diana Rung, Watershed Stewardship Group Representative

Kelsey Spicer-Rowe, Alberta Riparian Habitat Management Society

Doug Thrussell, Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development

Donna Trottier, Watershed Stewardship Group Representative

### 2011-2012 Watershed Stewardship Coordinator

Jenna Curtis



## Message from the Committee Chair

On behalf of the Watershed Stewardship Grant Committee and Land Stewardship Centre, I am again pleased to submit this final report for the 2011 Watershed Stewardship Grant Program.

We thank the Government of Alberta and Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development for continuing to provide funding support for community-based stewardship in Alberta. Land Stewardship Centre also recognizes the important role the Alberta Stewardship Network Program plays in being a supportive hub for stewardship resources such as the Watershed Stewardship Grant Program, as well as a champion of community based stewardship in the province.

In reviewing the projects included in the 2011 grant cycle, it is good to see a continued geographic spreading of new watershed stewardship groups, and an increasing sophistication of project activities undertaken by maturing stewardships groups. Improved capacity building of groups to leverage grant program funds of more than five-fold continues, but there is still a need for the ongoing support from Watershed Planning and Advisory Councils (WPACs), municipalities, landowners and government, as well as non-government organizations (NGOs) to help initiate new projects and to sustain the evolution of existing projects through to completion.

This stewardship work continues to help promote implementation of WPAC watershed management plans, and informs and supports municipal land use planning in the White Area. This indicates that community-based stewardship is working and serving as an important tool in achieving the outcomes of the *Water for Life Strategy* and *Land-use Framework*.

Our highest recognition goes out to all the hard working members of these watershed stewardship groups for their significant achievements!

Shirley Pickering  
Chair, Watershed Stewardship Grant Committee



## Highlights of the 2011 Granting Period

This report provides an overview of all projects associated with the 2011 Watershed Stewardship Grant Program, made possible through a \$150,000 grant from Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development (Grant #10-GRES13).

This is the first of three grant rounds associated with #10-GRES13. This report also provides details of three additional projects awarded funding in 2010 from Grant #10-GRES04, which were extended into the 2011 grant round.

The main objective of this grant funding is to assist watershed stewardship groups to develop community-based projects and initiatives that contribute to achieving the three goals of *Water for Life: Alberta's Strategy for Sustainability*:

- Safe, secure drinking water supply,
- Healthy aquatic ecosystems,
- Reliable, quality water supplies for a sustainable economy.

To accomplish this, funding recipients directed their efforts to developing and delivering projects focusing on one or several of the following areas:

1. **Awareness and Knowledge** – activities that increase the awareness and understanding of local watershed issues.
2. **Tool Building** – activities that help develop tools to demonstrate, test, or display watershed best management practices.
3. **Team Building** – activities that help build membership and organizational capacity to take on team tasks.
4. **Biophysical and Social Monitoring** – activities that measure environmental and social indicators of watershed health.
5. **Community-Based Action** – physical, on-the-ground activities to improve the condition of the local watershed.

Groups with legal status, such as a registered society, were eligible for direct funding. Groups without legal status were permitted to apply for project funding, with the understanding that funds would be issued and dispersed in partnership with an approved legal entity, such as a municipality or WPAC. Eligible groups applied to receive up to \$7,500 for projects that sought to raise awareness of local watershed issues or improve the quality of their local watershed.

In total, the Watershed Stewardship Grant (WSG) Committee reviewed 32 applications from stewardship groups from across the province. Of the 32 submitted proposals, 23 projects within 10 different watersheds were selected to receive funding. The total funding requests for eligible projects was \$212,252. The total grant funding available was \$135,000, all of which was approved for allocation to the selected successful applicants.

All projects approved by the WSG Committee varied widely in aspiration, intent, scale and scope which speaks to the diversity of needs and the creative approach watershed stewardship groups use to meeting these needs.

Nineteen of the 23 approved grant recipients completed work as described in their project applications. Two groups (Moose Lake Watershed Society, Ghost Watershed Alliance Society) returned a portion of grant funds due to either securing more funds than necessary for the project, or for acquiring project

items below the proposed cost. One group (Cochrane Branches and Banks Environmental Foundation) returned a portion of the funds due to an inability to complete the project to the extent outlined in the original application. In addition, three groups (High Prairie Riparian Action Team, Keepers of the Water-Pembina River Watershed, and Tawatinaw Watershed Stewards) applied for time extensions to their grants, as they were unable to complete the work planned for the 2011 field work season. These extensions were granted with some restrictions and will be reported on in the 2012 Watershed Stewardship Grant Program Report.

As part of each grant agreement, grant recipients were required to submit an interim report outlining their progress, as well as a final report detailing project status, impacts and financial information.

In addition to the results achieved by each of the funding recipients, it is important to note that over the past six years and seven grant cycles of the Watershed Stewardship Grant Program, recipients have, on average been able to leverage funds by a ratio of four-to-one. This past year was no exception.

Complete project reports and their associated financial records from funding recipients are on file at the LSC office.



## Geographical Distribution

The projects selected to receive funding were located in ten of Alberta's eleven watersheds.

The majority of the funded projects were located in the Bow, North Saskatchewan, Athabasca and Battle watersheds (Figure 1).

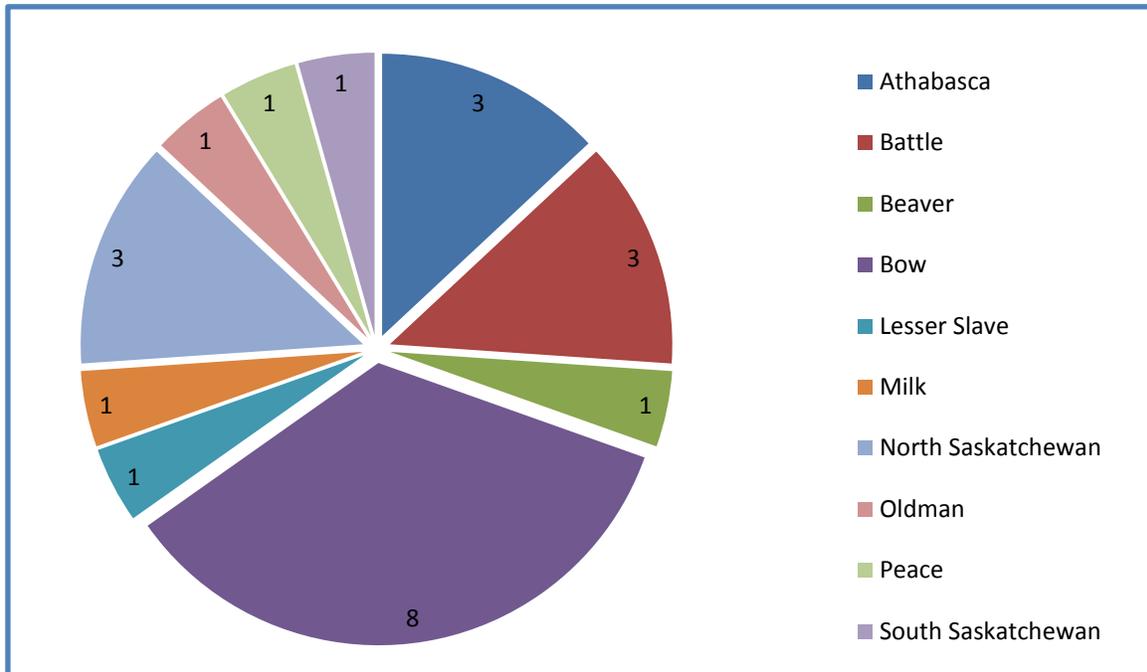


Figure 1—Distribution of funded projects within Alberta's watersheds in 2011.

## 2011 Project Summary

In total, 23 stewardship projects were granted funding. All projects generated extensive partnerships between groups, community organizations, municipalities, and other provincial organizations resulting in substantial leveraging and synergy. During the 2011 cycle:

- 19 projects were completed.
- 23 projects involved awareness and knowledge building, and activities varied from attending local events to developing educational videos.
- 14 projects focused on developing tools to improve the effectiveness of watershed stewardship efforts.
- 15 projects incorporated team building components intended to increase membership and build capacity.
- 12 projects involved dimensions of social and biophysical monitoring such as water quality monitoring and riparian assessments.
- 14 projects concentrated efforts on community-based action to improve local watersheds through hands-on events such as shoreline clean-ups.



## Financial Overview

\$150,000 from grant #10-GRES13 plus an additional \$9,907.24 from #09-GRES14 and \$18,522.50 from #10-GRES13 (2010) were allocated to the 2011 grant program, for a total of \$178,429.74. These grant funds are accounted for as follows:

- Total funding dispersed to projects: \$135,000.00
- Funding retained by LSC to fund grant administration and projects associated with this document: \$24,907.24 (10% of #10-GRES13 (2011) and \$9,907.24 from #09-GRES14)
- Funding retained by LSC for administration of the 2012 grant round: \$18,552.50
- In the cover letter submitted with this report, a request has been made to have \$5,330.26 in returned funds from the 2010 grant program and the 2011 grant program be carried over for use in the 2013 Grant Program (grant #10-GRES13) where it will be reported on accordingly. A breakdown of the returned funds and reason for their return to LSC are outlined below:
  - \$2,206.90 returned by a 2010 group, which was unable to complete their extended project. (Crane Lake Advisory and Stewardship Society)
  - \$1,075 returned by a 2010 group unable to complete their extended project. (Medicine River Watershed Society)
  - \$158.76 returned by a group that secured more funding than was necessary to cover project expenses. (Moose Lake Watershed Society)
  - \$852.80 returned by a group that was able to acquire certain project items at reduced costs from the proposal. (Ghost Watershed Alliance Society)
  - \$1036.80 returned by a group unable to complete the project as proposed in the application. (Cochrane Branches and Banks Environmental Foundation)

Figure 2 illustrates how funding recipients generated more than five-to-one leveraging of the Watershed Stewardship Grant funds, thereby increasing the invested value to \$754,201.65. See Appendices A, B and C for detailed accounts.

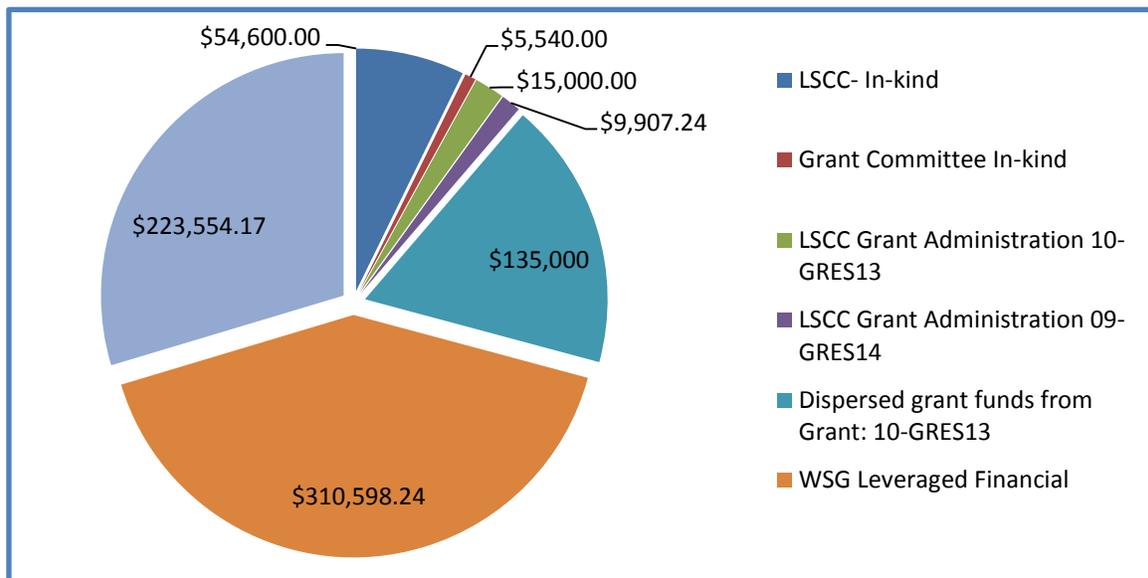


Figure 2. The value of contributions and associated leveraging achieved with 2011 Watershed Stewardship Grant Program funding.



## Grant Recipients and Project Activities by Watershed

## **Athabasca River Watershed**

The Athabasca River is the second largest river in Alberta. Originating in the Athabasca glacier of the Columbia Icefields in Jasper National Park, the river flows northeast through the province, past the urban centers of Jasper, Hinton, Whitecourt, Athabasca and Fort McMurray before emptying into Lake Athabasca. Water from the basin eventually makes its way to the Arctic Ocean. The basin covers a total area of approximately 159, 000km<sup>2</sup>.

### *Watershed Stewardship Groups*

-  Keepers of the Water-Pembina River Watershed
-  Lac La Nonne Watershed Stewardship Society
-  Tawatinaw Watershed Stewards

## Keepers of the Water-Pembina River Watershed

**Grant #:** 14-KotW-PRW-2011s

**Location:** Pembina Watershed

**Grant Amount:** \$7,500

**Total Project Value<sup>1</sup>:** N/A

**Partners:** N/A

### Project Summary

The Keepers of the Water have been granted an extension until September 30, 2012, so they can consult with a water ecologist to continue water monitoring and complete a watershed assessment, which will be used to help develop an outreach program for the community. The group intends to encourage citizens to take responsibility for observing and reporting on the health of the water and wetlands to the Keepers through a toll free number.

## Lac La Nonne Watershed Stewardship Society

**Grant #:** 15-LWSS-2011s

**Location:** Nakamun Lake

**Grant Amount:** \$7,500

**Total Project Value:** \$13,283.25

**Partners:** Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Cows and Fish, Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development (Fish and Wildlife), Alberta Fish and Game, County of Barrhead, Lac Ste Anne County, Alberta Invasive Plant Council, Waters Edge Resource Group, Camp Nakamun, Summer Village of Nakamun

### Project Summary

The Lac La Nonne Watershed Stewardship Society (LWSS) project included creating *The Nakamun Handbook*, which highlights site-specific details such as lake boundaries, environmental reserves and zoning, recreational features and more. The handbook is available on the LWSS website and hard copies are going to be distributed. The group also hosted a weed education day, which enabled 50 residents to identify noxious and invasive weeds around the lake, and helped them understand why controlling noxious and invasive weeds is important for the health of the watershed. Residents who participated in weed day indicated in a survey afterwards that they increased awareness of local watershed issues.



*“The Watershed Stewardship Grant funding has been central to the success of the activities undertaken through this project. Funding of this type is critical to allowing small, volunteer-based organizations like the Lac La Nonne Watershed Stewardship Society to undertake initiatives which improve the quality of the Athabasca River Watershed and watersheds throughout Alberta.”*

*Martin Connolly, Vice Chairman of Lac La Nonne Watershed Stewardship Society*

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<sup>1</sup> Total Project Value is the sum of in-kind contributions and total cash expended on the project.

## **Tawatinaw Watershed Stewards**

**Grant #:** 26-TWS-2011s

**Location:** Tawatinaw River

**Grant Amount:** \$7,500

**Total Project Value:** N/A

**Partners:** N/A

### **Project Summary**

The Tawatinaw Watershed Stewards were granted an extension until September 30, 2012 in order to complete their project. The group has proposed to monitor riparian areas damaged by livestock and human activity, and then restore these areas through invasive plant species removal, implementing grazing management systems, and continuing monitoring efforts which started in 2010. The group has engaged Cows and Fish to help them with assessments, and a site that will be fenced off this summer has been chosen. Once fencing and invasive plant species have been removed, Cows and Fish will complete a follow up assessment.

## Battle River Sub-Watershed

The Battle River Watershed is a sub-basin of the North Saskatchewan River Basin. The river itself extends 800 kilometers, starting at Battle Lake in central Alberta and flowing eastward to Saskatchewan where it joins the North Saskatchewan in Battleford. Unlike most of Alberta's major rivers, the Battle River is not glacier-fed. It is a prairie-fed system. Its modest water supply comes entirely from local surface runoff, including rain and snow melt, and groundwater flows. As such, the Battle River's natural water flows are typically much lower than that of glacier-fed rivers. In total, the Battle River Watershed covers approximately 30,000 km<sup>2</sup> (83% of this area is within Alberta, the remainder in Saskatchewan).

### *Watershed Stewardship Groups*

-  Iron Creek Watershed Improvement Society (2010)
-  Friends of Little Beaver Lake Society
-  Love the Lake
-  Pigeon Lake Watershed Association

## Iron Creek Watershed Improvement Society (2010)

**Grant #:** 17-ICWIS-2010s

**Location:** Killam

**Grant Amount:** \$3,500

**Total Project Value:** \$18,275.30

**Partners:** Battle River Watershed Alliance, Ducks Unlimited Canada, Camp Wainwright, Cows and Fish, Flagstaff County, Battle River Research Group, Department of National Defense

### Project Summary

The Iron Creek Watershed Improvement Society (ICWIS) was granted an extension for their 2010 grant until September 30, 2011. The group held the highly successful *Wetlands, Trees and Forests Day* in Killam which was attended by 175 students in grades 4-6. Key speakers were brought in to teach the children about the importance of wetlands in water quality and biodiversity, and resources were provided to teachers to enhance their discussions of wetlands with students. The *Wetlands, Trees and Forests Day* was followed by a field day for a class of 25 students to gain hands-on experience with a wetland. ICWIS received a request to hold a similar event in Viking in which 180 school children attended. ICWIS now has a waiting list of classes who wish to attend the event in the future.

## Friends of Little Beaver Lake Society

**Grant #:** 09-FoLBLS-2011s

**Location:** Little Beaver Lake

**Grant Amount:** \$3,000

**Total Project Value:** \$4,273.17

**Partners:** The Village of Ferintosh, Bashaw Art Society, Cows and Fish, Battle River Watershed Alliance, Ferintosh District Recreation Association

### Project Summary

The Friends of Little Beaver Lake Society developed a visual gallery which includes locally made videos, tabletop displays, posters, photographs and a parade float. The group used these resources to increase awareness and knowledge of local watershed issues, which lead to increasing community support and the adoption of practices to help protect the watershed. The group made a questionnaire available to participants, and the feedback and remarks they received were overwhelmingly positive. Overall, the group was able to demonstrate their concern for the watershed and showcase practices they have adopted to benefit the watershed to the local community. This resulted in increased awareness and open dialogue about the lake and watershed. Going forward, Friends of Little Beaver Lake Society intend to use the visual display at other community events, local schools, and for programs of the Battle River Watershed Alliance.



*“Without the Watershed Stewardship Grant Program from Land Stewardship Centre, this project and all other projects of the Friends of Little Beaver Lake Society would not have been possible. Our visual gallery has been, without a doubt, the most important project of the Society. It has allowed us to illustrate to the public what we have accomplished for the community and the Battle River Watershed.”*

*Lorne J. Ferguson, President of Friends of Little Beaver Lake Society*

### **Love the Lake**

**Grant #:** 16-LtL-2011s

**Location:** Pigeon Lake

**Grant Amount:** \$2,175

**Total Project Value:** \$7,295

**Partners:** Summer Village of Grandview, Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development, Alberta Tourism, Parks and Recreation, Leduc County

#### **Project Summary**

The Love the Lake group at Pigeon Lake hired summer students to patrol the shoreline and remove the invasive plant Himalayan Balsam, educate lakeshore homeowners, encourage volunteers to participate in invasive plant removal, and present at the Association of Summer Villages of Alberta annual information meetings. Students were trained on proper invasive plant removal and handling using the “pick, break and drop” method, and they documented the results of their shoreline patrols. It was found that there was no regrowth in plants which were properly broken just above the root system and dropped in an area that was not moist. This method was also determined to be effective at keeping the problem only at the shoreline and not propagating the plants into the upland areas as bagging or composting would have.

### **Pigeon Lake Watershed Association**

**Grant #:** 24-PLWA-2011s

**Location:** Pigeon Lake

**Grant Amount:** \$3,750

**Total Project Value:** \$10,344

**Partners:** Nature Alberta, Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development, County of Leduc, County of Wetaskiwin

#### **Project Summary**

Pigeon Lake Watershed Association offers many stewardship programs including environmental workshops, home site assessments, shoreline clean-ups, as well as various publications for residents to learn about reducing their impact on the lake. This year’s grant funds were used to hire a summer student from Nature Alberta to perform home site consultations for the Living by Water program. Over the course of the summer, 27 home-site assessments were completed, some of which were follow up visits from previous years’ assessments. As a result of a community reserve assessment, one summer village has initiated a riparian restoration project. Overall, the information provided to homeowners and visitors about the health of the lake and practical suggestions for alternate lake habits are enhancing, preserving and protecting the lake.

## Beaver River Watershed

With a catchment area of about 14,500 km<sup>2</sup> the Beaver River Watershed is one of the smaller major watersheds within the province. The watershed and river extend east, across Saskatchewan and Manitoba, emptying into Hudson's Bay. The Beaver River begins at Beaver Lake, and then flows through the urban centers of Bonnyville, Cold Lake and Grand Centre. The basin is characterized by many meandering streams and rivers, which drain such lakes as Cold, Moose, Muriel, Ethel and Wolf.

### *Watershed Stewardship Groups*



Crane Lake Advisory and Stewardship Society (2010)



Moose Lake Watershed Society

## Crane Lake Advisory and Stewardship Society (2010)

**Grant #:** 06-CLASS-2010s

**Location:** Cold Lake

**Grant Amount:** \$4,000 awarded; \$3,000 given; \$2,206.90 returned

**Total Project Value:** \$829.80

**Partners:** Lakeland Industry and Community Association, Alberta Lake Management Society, Beaver River Watershed Alliance, Ducks Unlimited Canada, Municipal District of Bonnyville, Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development (Fish and Wildlife) and Vancouver Aquarium

### Project Summary

The Crane Lake Advisory and Stewardship Society was granted \$4,000 in 2010 but were only sent 75% of the total grant amount. The group was unable to complete the project as proposed when the president of the group resigned, and in 2011 they returned \$2,206.90 of unspent funds. The group was able to put on an Eco Day event which was attended by local residents and campers, as well as hold a shoreline clean up. Recycling and garbage bins were given away as an incentive to keep the area and lake clean, and to promote environmental responsibility. To increase awareness of the No Wake Zone within 100 feet of the shore the group set out shoreline buoys, which residents noticed and respected.

## Moose Lake Watershed Society

**Grant #:** 20-MLWS-2011s

**Location:** Moose Lake Watershed

**Grant Amount:** \$6,500; Returned \$158.76

**Total Project Value:** \$55,933.85

**Partners:** Alberta Tourism, Parks and Recreation, MD of Bonnyville, Cows and Fish, Summer Village of Pelican Narrows, Summer Village of Bonnyville Beach, Portage College, Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development (Fish and Wildlife), Beaver River Watershed Alliance, Lakeland Agricultural Research Association

### Project Summary

The first part of the Moose Lake Watershed Society (MLWS) project was the Walking with Moose day-long field trip for Grade 5 students to learn about the local ecosystem and watershed, and understand how every-day decisions affect the watershed. The group's program has continued to expand over previous years and two new schools participated in the day. They also coordinated the *Watershed Show and Share*, which consists of a day-long workshop that allowed local watershed groups to gather in one place and share their programs, concerns and successes. Despite poor weather, a group of dedicated people still gathered to share their programs, successes, and concerns. MLWS has noticed that what made the day work are the volunteers speaking about topics and issues that matter to them and their communities.



*"The Watershed Stewardship Grant funding enables the Moose Lake Watershed Society to host Walking with Moose as a free fieldtrip for Grade 5 students. We have been able to expand the number of schools we offer it to. This has led to an increased interest in the program as well as additional partners. The funding also helps us host other educational events in the Beaver River Watershed that we would not otherwise be able to. The Society is extremely grateful for this grant and would like to thank LSC for offering this funding program."*

*Kay Lee Kinch, Secretary/Treasurer of Moose Lake Watershed Society*

## Bow River Sub-Watershed

The Bow River originates from Bow Glacier in Banff National Park. This basin is home to more than one million Albertans and the growing population is placing demand on a limited water supply with an uncertain future as glaciers in the region retreat. The area includes several irrigation districts and much of the water supply supports agriculture in the area. Hundreds of thousands of people also visit every year, attracted to recreational opportunities in the area.

### *Watershed Stewardship Groups*

-  Cochrane Branches and Banks Environmental Foundation
-  Elbow River Watershed Partnership
-  Friends of Fish Creek Provincial Park Society
-  Friends of Kananaskis Country Cooperation Association
-  Ghost Watershed Alliance Society
-  Highwood Water Management Plan Core Group
-  Nose Creek Watershed Partnership
-  Weaselhead/Glenmore Park Preservation Society

### **Cochrane Branches and Banks Environmental Foundation**

**Grant #:** 05-CBaBEF-2011s

**Location:** Bighill Creek

**Grant Amount:** \$7,200; Returned \$1036.80

**Total Project Value:** \$15,265.81

**Partners:** Home Depot—Evergreen Grant, Town of Cochrane, Bow Valley Habitat Development, Cochrane Environmental Action Committee, Glenbow Elementary School, Bow Point Nursery

#### **Project Summary**

This group dedicated two days to restoring habitat at Bighill Creek; one was a day to work with students from the Glenbow Elementary School, and the other was for the public. The group, with the help of 400 school students and 50 volunteers, was able to plant close to 1000 native trees to stabilize slopes at three different locations, clean-up any litter around the creek area, and remove wire mesh used to support a 2007 bioengineering project. The group hopes that rehabilitation of the Bighill Creek will result in it re-establishing as a trout spawning tributary of the Bow River, as well as become the foundation of watershed stewardship in the students who participated. Cochrane Branches and Banks is also working with the Cochrane Environmental Action Committee (CEAC) to plant native trees in a highly impacted wetland area, to try to restore some ecological functionality that was lost when development around the area began.

### **Elbow River Watershed Partnership**

**Grant #:** 06-ERWP-2011s

**Location:** Bragg Creek

**Grant Amount:** \$4,000

**Total Project Value:** \$6,193.91

**Partners:** Rocky View County, Bow River Basin Council, University of Calgary

#### **Project Summary**

Elbow River Watershed Partnership had developed a pilot groundwater monitoring program using wells drilled for a wastewater treatment plant. However, technical issues resulted in the group having to use residential wells to implement the program. The group also had to hire a hydrogeologist, who specializes in sampling and testing residential wells, to ensure the success of their project, as the original volunteer hydrogeologist was not available for several months. The findings of this program will be used to support the recommendations set out in the Elbow River Water Management Plan and the Bow Basin Watershed Management Plan, as well as determine what activities in the watershed are still contributing to decreasing water quality in the Elbow River. The group hopes that by piloting the groundwater program they will be able to encourage other partners to contribute to the monitoring efforts in the future.

### **Friends of Fish Creek Provincial Park Society**

**Grant #:** 07-FoFCPPS-2011s

**Location:** Fish Creek Provincial Park

**Grant Amount:** \$5,000

**Total Project Value:** \$94, 513

**Partners:** Mount Royal University, Alberta Tourism, Parks and Recreation, The City of Calgary (Water Services Department), Green Calgary, Cows and Fish, Trout Unlimited Canada, Bow River Basin Council,

Alberta Invasive Plants Council, Alberta Conservation Association, Calgary Women Fly Fishers Club, Cranston Residents Association, RBC Blue Water Project, Calgary Foundation

### **Project Summary**

The Friends of Fish Creek Provincial Park Society (FCPPS) are involved in various projects including water and wildlife monitoring, invasive weed control, beaver management, speakers' series, park watch, and park and trail care. They expanded their public outreach to engage 4583 people within the larger community, 80% of who had no previous affiliation with the group. This allowed them to involve more volunteers in all of their projects. In 2011, the group engaged 367 volunteers, who devoted a total of 2004 hours to the FCPPS's watershed stewardship program. Overall, the group was able to significantly increase awareness of watershed issues through their awareness campaign. The group's monitoring efforts also indicated that the water quality in Fish Creek is declining, in 2012 the creek was rated at "good", this year it was only "fair". The results will be shared with interested organizations and agencies working on water issues who have the capacity to affect change in policy and best management practices.

### **Friends of Kananaskis Country Cooperation Association**

**Grant #:** 08-FoKCCA-2011s

**Location:** Elbow River Valley

**Grant Amount:** \$4,700

**Total Project Value:** \$48,464.68

**Partners:** Government of Alberta, Elbow River Watershed Partnership, The City of Calgary, Alberta Tourism Parks and Recreation

### **Project Summary**

Post-secondary students were hired and trained to deliver watershed protection programs to elementary, junior and senior high students. These interns were introduced to various stakeholders in the Elbow River watershed including industry personnel, researchers and government officials, which enabled them to have in-depth, background knowledge while delivering the program. The intention was to teach student groups about sustainable watershed management and how to care for the water systems. The group did a riparian restoration project during which students removed invasive plant species from the Bow River area. They also held junior naturalist camps, which featured guest speakers, field courses and trips to a local park. Over the course of the summer and fall the group engaged 138 volunteers and had 1300 students participate in all programs.



*"The WSG funding has been key in the growth of our watershed education program over the years. The single greatest contribution of this grant has been the sustainability that comes from a consistent funding source. After the steep learning curve we experienced in 2005, our inaugural year, we gained traction, refined our focus and programming, and began to grow. We're very grateful that we've successfully received this grant for a number of consecutive years. The WSG funding has certainly helped ensuring our work to protect the Bow River Sub-Watershed continues."*

*Curtis Cook, Executive Director of Friends of Kananaskis Cooperation Association*

## Ghost Watershed Alliance Society

**Grant #:** 10-GWAS-2011s

**Location:** Ghost Watershed

**Grant Amount:** \$7,500; Returned \$852.80

**Total Project Value:** \$61, 127.21

**Partners:** Cows and Fish, Alberta Conservation Association

### Project Summary

Working with Cows and Fish, 29 riparian health inventories were conducted in the riparian areas and wetlands in the Ghost Watershed. The results of these inventories produced baseline data for management planning within the watershed, and provided group members, volunteers and the general public with a better understanding of the importance of riparian health. The group was able to engage several landowners who were interested in not only the results of the assessments, but also how to maintain or improve the conditions of riparian areas on their land. Fifteen people attended the field day which was an educational day held for the community, and 35 attended the presentation on the results of the inventory. Comprehensive reports outlining the findings of the assessments and suggesting management recommendations were sent to land managers, land owners, the MD of Bighorn, Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development, and TransAlta.



*“Little baseline data was available for the Ghost only a few years ago. With the help of several WSG grants and other grants by various foundations as well as the Bow River Basin Council, GWAS has been able to acquire significant data for the area. We particularly want to recognize LSC’s willingness to fund project administration and management through the Watershed Stewardship Grant. Very few funders consider this important part in their grant programs, yet it is vital to our group’s ability to deliver successful projects.”*

*Marina Krainer, Executive Director of Ghost Watershed Alliance Society*

## Highwood Water Management Plan Core Group

**Grant #:**12-HWMPCG-2011s

**Location:** Highwood, Sheep and Upper Little Bow River Sub-basins

**Grant Amount:** \$7,500

**Total Project Value:** \$71,156.40

**Partners:** Municipal District of Foothills, Town of High River, Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development, Bow River Basin Council, Oldman Watershed Council, Town of Okotoks

### Project Summary

The Highwood Water Management Plan Core Group worked with a consulting firm to perform a surface water and groundwater quality assessment. This provided the group with an overview of the ground and surface water quality and illustrated the interactions between the two sources. The report also provides the state of water quality in the Sheep, Highwood, and Upper Little Bow sub-basins in both the Bow and Oldman watersheds. In addition, the project has delivered baseline surface-groundwater water quality data and aquifer vulnerability maps, which will be used to guide future land use activities, determine data gaps and identify sources of localized groundwater contamination from surface activities. The results will generate greater awareness when they are also used to advise stakeholders, revise a management model, build a technical memorandum, and define stewardship and stewardship activities to protect water quality and quantity in the three sub-basins.

## Nose Creek Watershed Partnership

**Grant #:** 23-NCWP-2011s

**Location:** Nose Creek Watershed

**Grant Amount:** \$7,500

**Total Project Value:** \$86,401.80

**Partners:** The City of Calgary, City of Airdrie, Town of Crossfield, Rocky View County, Trout Unlimited Canada, Cows and Fish, Bow River Basin Council, Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development, RBC Blue Water Project, Alberta Conservation Association, Coca-Cola Canada

### Project Summary

The Nose Creek rehabilitation project involved many volunteer-based restoration activities including native tree and shrub plantings, weed pulls and clean-ups. These activities all focused on educating basin residents about how they can improve and contribute to a healthy watershed. The group was able to plant 500 trees and shrubs and remove 100 bags of garbage, resulting in a healthier, enhanced riparian area. The group also delivered water, riparian, erosion and fisheries monitoring programs, the results of which were presented to the community and elected officials for decision making purposes. In the coming year, the Nose Creek Watershed Partnership intends to focus on recruiting more volunteers to increase the tangible restoration outcomes that come with increased man-power.

## Weaselhead/Glenmore Park Preservation Society

**Grant #:** 28-WGPPS-2011s

**Location:** Weaselhead Park

**Grant Amount:** \$7,500 (spent \$7,495)

**Total Project Value:** \$36,964

**Partners:** The City of Calgary, Prospect Human Services Society, Immigrant Services Calgary, Youth Central-Youth Volunteer Corps, Nature Calgary, TD Friends of the Environment, Alberta Conservation Association

### Project Summary

The Weaselhead/Glenmore Park Preservation Society aimed to maintain and restore the natural ecosystem within the park through invasive plant removal and by raising public awareness of invasive species in the watershed. They hosted a field day education program, which reached 4000 children and 500 adults. They also attended public events to raise awareness and recruit volunteers. Volunteers spent a total of 861 hours weeding invasive plants from the Elbow River Floodplain. Called the "Early Detection Rapid Response", volunteers removed wetland invasive plants such as purple loosestrife, flowering rush, pale yellow iris and Eurasian milfoil. They also monitored the results of invasive plant removal in the park. As part of this monitoring process, the group has begun to quantify the native vegetation succession versus invasive plant reemergence in previously weeded areas. The group plans to use these results to build a communications strategy which will enable them to share successes and encourage other stewardship groups to control invasive plants in their area.



*"The Grant has allowed us to implement a long-term strategy to control invasive plants in the Weaselhead. It has given the community and Society members an opportunity to become involved in the stewardship of a much-loved, well-used City park, encouraging a wide range of people such as youth, new immigrants and people with personal developmental disabilities to find enjoyment in being and working outside. The program is also a positive, practical example to schoolchildren that habitat loss and damage to the environment can be reversed if people are prepared to act."*

*Sarah Nevill, Invasive Plant Program Coordinator of the Weaselhead/Glenmore Park Preservation Society*

## **Lesser Slave River Sub-Watershed**

This sub-watershed empties into the Athabasca River just north of Alberta's geographical center. A popular fishing destination with a rich history, Lesser Slave Lake straddles the transition between agricultural interests in the west to boreal activities in the east. The Lesser Slave River is directly impacted by a fixed-crest weir that was constructed in 1983 in an effort to regulate the elevation of Lesser Slave Lake.

### *Watershed Stewardship Groups*



High Prairie Riparian Action Team

## High Prairie Riparian Action Team

**Grant #:** 11-HPRAT-2011s

**Location:** Lesser Slave Watershed

**Grant Amount:** \$5,000

**Total Project Value:** N/A

**Partners:** N/A

### Project Summary

The High Prairie Riparian Action Team received a project extension until September 30, 2012. They plan to conduct three riparian health assessments; two new site assessments and one site reassessment. The group will use the assessment sites to measure progress and change in the riparian areas during and after restorations. The results of these assessments will determine if the sites will require offsite watering systems or exclusion fencing to improve conditions.



*“The success of our project sites is determined by the riparian health inventory scores. After a 5-year restoration period at each project we are completing reassessments of each project site to document if we have improved the riparian health status. Because of the support received from ASN we can continue to monitor these areas effectively over time. We can then more accurately determine if more work or different approaches to restoration are needed.”*

*Jaime Borduzak, Manager of High Prairie Riparian Action Team*

## Milk River Watershed

The Milk River Watershed, located in the most southern part of the province, is the smallest of Alberta's ten major river basins<sup>2</sup>, encompassing an area of 6,664 km<sup>2</sup>. It is unique; known not just for its dry climate, extraordinary landscapes and diverse plant and wildlife communities, but also for the direction in which the Milk River flows. As the northern-most tributary of the Missouri River, the Milk River is the only watershed in Alberta that drains south to the Gulf of Mexico. The headwaters originate in northwestern Montana. The river then enters Alberta and flows eastward through the southern portion of the province and into Saskatchewan, prior to looping back into Montana.

### *Watershed Stewardship Groups*



Milk River Ranchers Group

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<sup>2</sup> <http://www.environment.alberta.ca/apps/basins/Default.aspx>

## **Milk River Ranchers Group**

**Grant #:** 18-MRRG-2011s

**Location:** Milk River Watershed

**Grant Amount:** \$6,325

**Total Project Value:** \$11, 586.60

**Partners:** County of Warner, Cardston County, Writing-On-Stone Provincial Park

### **Project Summary**

The Milk River Ranchers Group designed and installed invasive weeds awareness signs to address concerns about the spread of invasive weeds throughout the watershed, and to create a learning opportunity for watershed residents, group members and visitors to the Milk River. The project was advertised to over 1000 people in the local watershed newsletter, *The Meander*, and there were many volunteers interested in helping with the design and installation of the signs. The signs contain information about dalmatian toadflax, spotted knapweed, leafy spurge, and houndstongue, as well as how to properly remove these invasive plants once they are spotted. The group will use surveys and follow-up with landowners to understand how many people see and read the signs, how many fewer bags of invasive plants have to be removed by the County, and whether the riparian areas are improving in areas where signs have been installed.



*“The Watershed Stewardship Grant funding has been so important to our group. It has made it possible for us to do projects that are helpful to residents, visitors and recreational users, and which, in turn, has helped improve the Milk River Watershed. The Milk River Ranchers group was established to create a healthier watershed and every project that we are able to complete contributes to that goal.”*

*Jamie Meeks, Agricultural Fieldman for the County of Warner*

## North Saskatchewan River Watershed

The North Saskatchewan River Basin covers approximately 80,000 km<sup>2</sup> of the province. The basin originates in the Saskatchewan Glacier in Banff National Park and flows in a general eastward direction to the Alberta-Saskatchewan border. The Brazeau, Nordegg, Ram, Clearwater, Sturgeon and Vermilion rivers flow into the North Saskatchewan River as it passes across Alberta. Major centers within the basin include Drayton Valley, Rocky Mountain House, Edmonton, Fort Saskatchewan and the Saddle Lake Indian Reserve.

### *Watershed Stewardship Groups*



Clearwater Landcare



Wizard Lake Watershed and Lake Stewardship Association



Mayatan Lake Management Association

## Clearwater Landcare

**Grant #:** 04-CWL-2011s

**Location:** Clear Water County

**Grant Amount:** \$2,500

**Total Project Value:** \$18,113.61

**Partners:** Clearwater County, Clearwater County Agricultural Services Board, Landcare Australia, EPCOR, Medicine River Watershed Society, Battle River Watershed Alliance, North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance

### Project Summary

Clear Water Landcare (CWL) is in the process of building their Landcare awareness and education group locally. The group intends to help revitalize local stewardship groups and share Landcare concepts more broadly. This was achieved by bringing an expert from Australia to speak to Landcare practices in that country and discuss how they can be applied to Alberta situations. As a result of the Landcare visit, the group noticed that individual stewards were encouraged and had a renewed sense of stewardship. CWL has now created a volunteer board, introduced bi-monthly meetings and expanded circulation of their newsletter. . This past year, the group noted that attendance at their “Cows, Creeks and Communities” event was up 20%. Going forward, they will begin to raise the profile of their “Celebrating Our Successes” event and will continue to build on their strategic planning process.

## Mayatan Lake Management Association

**Grant #:** 17-MLMA-2011s

**Location:** Mayatan Lake

**Grant Amount:** \$7,500

**Total Project Value:** \$34,357.59

**Partners:** Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development (Fish and Wildlife), Aquality Environmental Consulting Ltd., Cows and Fish, Ducks Unlimited Canada, Environment Canada, Jackfish Lake Management Association, Lac La Nonne Watershed Stewardship Society, North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance, Parkland County, Paul Band First Nations, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Alberta Lake Management Society, Environmental Law Centre

### Project Summary

The Mayatan Lake Management Association documented and summarized all of the current information available about Mayatan Lake in a State of the Watershed Report. The report includes information such as history, watershed characteristics, water quality and aquatic ecological information. The report will be used to develop a Mayatan Lake Watershed Management Plan. The group also performed water quality testing with the help of Alberta Lake management society, to gain baseline data. They will continue testing in 2012 to maintain an accurate database. In addition, 30 people attended the group’s boat launch, shoreline and roadside cleanup which was intended to improve the watershed by motivating people to adopt beneficial practices around the lake.



*“The Mayatan Lake Management Association could not have completed the State of the Watershed Report without the Watershed Stewardship Grant funding. Without this report, further work in lake stewardship would not be possible. We gratefully acknowledge this support.”*

*Walter Neilson, President of Mayatan Lake Management Association*

## **Wizard Lake Watershed and Lake Stewardship Association**

**Grant #:**30-WLWaLSA-2011s

**Location:** Wizard Lake

**Grant Amount:** \$7,500

**Total Project Value:** \$11,079

**Partners:** Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development (Fish and Wildlife), Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Leduc County, County of Wetaskiwin, Alberta Lake Management Society, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

### **Project Summary**

The Wizard Lake Watershed and Lake Stewardship Association completed their State of the Watershed Report, which highlights the current conditions of the watershed. They began by referring to examples of completed State of the Watershed reports from Skeleton Lake, Lac La Nonne and Battle Lake. The group hired Aquality Environmental Consulting Ltd. to complete the report which has been three years in the making. The group worked closely with the consultants preparing the report and they volunteered many hours to work with the consultants to ensure the best possible end product. The group has already received requests for copies of the report from local libraries, County administrators and stakeholder groups. They plan to use the report to develop action plans for the future and to improve the health of the watershed by raising awareness with local residents.

## Oldman River Sub-Watershed

Located in southwestern Alberta, the Oldman River Watershed is a sub-basin of the South Saskatchewan system, which eventually drains into the Hudson Bay. The main tributaries of the Oldman River are the Livingston, Crowsnest, Castle, Waterton, Belly and St. Mary rivers, which are in turn supplied upstream by numerous small streams and wetlands. The Oldman River has a drainage area of 26,700 km<sup>2</sup> and it is 362 km in length.

### *Watershed Stewardship Groups*



Lower Little Bow Stewardship Group (2010)



Castle-Crown Wilderness Coalition

## Lower Little Bow Stewardship Group (2010)

**Grant #:**21-LLBSG-2010s

**Location:** Turin

**Grant Amount:** \$6,000

**Total Project Value:** \$12,441.54

**Partners:** Oldman Watershed Council, Cows and Fish, Alberta Conservation Association, County of Lethbridge

### Project Summary

The Lower Little Bow Stewardship Group (LLBSG) was granted an extension for their 2010 grant until September 30, 2011. The LLBSG conducted one riparian health assessment which resulted in the producer fencing off a mile of riparian area, to prevent cattle from entering the stream. The group also purchased a solar off-site watering system to be used at five different locations. Many producers in the area are showing greater interest in off-site watering as a beneficial management practice compared to riparian fencing. The group is encouraged by the interest in off-site watering systems, and will continue to use assessments and newsletters to disperse information. A sustainable agriculture tour of some of the off-site watering systems and riparian fencing projects in the area was arranged to increase awareness of the initiatives that are ongoing in the area.

## Castle-Crown Wilderness Coalition

**Grant #:** 02-CCWC-2011s

**Location:** Castle Wilderness and Pincher Creek

**Grant Amount:** \$5,500

**Total Project Value:** \$25,419

**Partners:** Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society Southern Alberta, Alberta Wilderness Association, Crown of the Continent Conservation Association, Cows and Fish, University of Alberta, Trout Unlimited, Alberta Tourism, Parks and Recreation, Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resources Development, MD of Pincher Creek, Oldman Watershed Council, Mountain Equipment Coop, Alberta Ecotrust, Alberta Conservation Association

### Project Summary

The Castle-Crown Wilderness Coalition focused on increasing the number of volunteers and stewards involved in watershed stewardship by providing numerous stewardship training courses, and setting up field days for youth to understand the importance of caring for watersheds and wild lands. Volunteer stewards report on the conditions of the Castle watershed, and then can enter the information into an online database to maintain an up-to-date source on the state of the watershed. In an effort to recruit new volunteer stewards, the group also attended a variety of public events from festivals and hikes to school outreach. The Castle-Crown Wilderness Coalition held their 4<sup>th</sup> annual West Castle Wetland Weed Pull and their 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Shoreline Clean-Up Day, both of which saw an increase in the number of volunteers attending. The group intends to continue growing and promoting both events and increasing the awareness in their watershed.



*“The Castle is a multi-use area it is very important that messages on water health continue. More knowledge and education on how we can maintain the health of these of these watersheds is ongoing. Castle-Crown is committed to doing this. We will continue to work with the Oldman Watershed Council and other partners in getting these messages out.”*

*Carolyn Aspeslet, Executive Director of Castle-Crown Wilderness Coalition*

## Peace River Watershed

The Peace River begins in the mountains of northern British Columbia where it is influenced by the W.A.C. Bennett Dam. It then flows into Alberta, continuing northeast across the province through the town of Peace River and empties into the Slave River. At Peace Point the Peace River has a mean annual discharge of 68,200,000 dam<sup>3</sup> and a drainage area of 293,000 km<sup>2</sup>. The Peace/Slave River Basin includes the Wapiti, Smoky, Little Smoky, and Wabasca rivers. It is the largest basin in Alberta, occupying approximately 30 percent of the province. The basin is predominantly covered by native boreal forest and is part of the Mackenzie River system, which eventually drains into the Arctic Ocean.

## *Watershed Stewardship Groups*



Clear Hills Watershed Initiative

## Clear Hills Watershed Initiative

**Grant #:**03-CHWI-2011s

**Location:** Clear Hills County

**Grant Amount:** \$5,850

**Total Project Value:** \$20,729.71

**Partners:** Eureka River Agricultural Society, Skybase Mapping, Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development (Fish and Wildlife), Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Mighty Peace Watershed Alliance

### Project Summary

The Clear Hills Watershed Initiative will continue to monitor water quality within the County to add to an ongoing database of watershed information. They also raised awareness of the watershed through various public events such as Alberta Water Quality Awareness (AWQA) day, where children were be engaged in water related activities such as restocking fish in a lake. The group has begun developing a three-year plan, and has acquired a mapping system that can hold all the layers of data they have. Their three-year plan has enabled the group to identify areas where they can expand their programs and find new projects to undertake, such as riparian restorations.



*“The Watershed Stewardship Grant is very important to the Clear Hills Watershed Initiative and the projects we undertake. This funding allows us to continue to operate and fund ongoing projects such as our three-year plan, our water quality monitoring and our community supper event. We have operated for five years in our community and we have not only established a positive presence in the Peace River Watershed, but have done considerable work with our local schools in educating the youth of the area.”*

*Sherri Larsen, Secretary/Treasurer of Clear Hills Waterhsed Initiative*

## Red Deer River Sub-Watershed

Almost wholly contained within Alberta, the Red Deer River originates in the Canadian Rocky Mountains in Banff National Park, flows northeast and then southeast, joining up with the South Saskatchewan River just eight kilometers into the province of Saskatchewan. Although its headwaters are located within the Rocky Mountains, the Red Deer River receives minimal glacier runoff. It is fed primarily by snowmelt, groundwater, precipitation and inflows from its numerous tributaries. Consisting of a drainage area of nearly 50,000km<sup>2</sup>, the watershed is the largest sub-basin of the South Saskatchewan River basin. It encompasses 55 urban centers and 18 rural municipalities.

### *Watershed Stewardship Groups*



Medicine River Watershed Society (2010)

## **Medicine River Watershed Society (2010)**

**Grant #:** 25-MRWS-2010s

**Location:** Eckville and Leslieville

**Grant Amount:** \$5,100; Received \$3,825; Returned \$1,075

**Total Project Value:** \$7,775.00

**Partners:** Lacombe County, Red Deer County, Clearwater County

### **Project Summary**

The Medicine River Watershed Society received a grant in 2010 to plant trees in riparian areas on both Medicine Creek and Gabriel Creek. However, after a wet summer, site preparation was hindered and tree planting had to be delayed from the summer of 2010 to the spring of 2011. The group was able to hold four public events, two in Eckville, one in Leslieville, and one on the Kreil farm, with guest speakers, a demonstration projects and a barbeque at each. Due to timeline constraints, the group was encouraged to return the remaining unspent funds and apply for a grant in the coming year, which will allow them a full year to complete planting. The group felt this was the best course of action and returned the remaining unspent dollars.

## South Saskatchewan River Sub-Watershed

The South Saskatchewan River sub-basin straddles the border between Alberta and Saskatchewan, and eventually drains into the Hudson Bay. The river runs north and then northeast until it crosses into Saskatchewan to join with the Red Deer River. It has around 14,000km<sup>2</sup> of drainage area and the lowest level of precipitation in Alberta, allowing the climate to be classified as sub-arid to semi-arid.

### *Watershed Stewardship Groups*



Society of Grasslands Naturalists

## Society of Grasslands Naturalists

**Grant #:**25-SoGN-2011s

**Location:** Police Point Park

**Grant Amount:** \$6,000

**Total Project Value:** \$14,594.73

**Partners:** University of Calgary, South East Alberta Watershed Alliance, Esplanade Arts and Heritage Centre

### Project Summary

The Society of Grassland Naturalists planned a digital storytelling workshop where participants learned how to produce educational videos that use personal stories relating to watersheds. The videos that result from the workshop will be used in displays and posted online. The ability to connect with the public and other organizations that comes from the digital stories will ultimately motivate people to become a part of maintaining healthy aquatic ecosystems. The group plans to share the skills that they have learned with others, to be able to develop a variety of videos promoting the positive change within the watershed.



*“We have received WSG funding since 2007. Each project we have completed has led to a related project in subsequent years. Initially, our focus was on general information about the local water places in the area. This led to more detailed projects about beavers, cottonwoods and the roles they play in the health of the South Saskatchewan River watershed. Without WSG funding it would have been extremely difficult to engage the public or complete any of these projects.”*

*Marty Drut, Park Interpreter for Society of Grasslands Naturalists*



## Report Summary

The Watershed Stewardship Grant continues to enable Alberta's stewards to accomplish initiatives that are enhancing their watersheds and positively impacting their communities. In 2011, a total of \$135,000 was granted to 23 groups, 19 of which were able to complete their projects. Groups completed a wide variety of projects ranging from invasive plant species removal to water and fisheries monitoring. In some cases, stewardship groups have developed technical reports, state of the watershed reports, and lake handbooks demonstrating the increasing level of sophistication and maturity as stewardships groups evolve over time.

However, 2011 was a difficult year for some watershed stewardship groups as four groups were unable to complete projects as originally proposed. One group, returned funds after delays in planting and reduced overall funding hindered the original budget and project proposal. Three extensions were granted due to unforeseen factors including flooding, high water levels, and tough harvesting conditions, which resulted in delays to project plans. In spite of these challenges, stewardship groups continue to invest significant time and labor to ensure their projects are a success.

As mentioned in the previous year's Watershed Stewardship Grant (WSG) report, Land Stewardship Centre is dedicated to improving the grant program, as funding is a major priority for Alberta's stewardship groups. In 2011, the WSG program underwent a major enhancement. All documents associated with the WSG, such as application forms, reporting forms and support resources, were edited to enable groups to access information, apply, and report more effectively and efficiently. The grant program was also given an enhanced presence on the LSC website and prominent coverage within the Alberta Stewardship Network electronic newsletter *Grassroots News*, which is distributed four or more times per year to nearly 700 people. Overall, stewardship groups appreciated the improved features and forms, and having enhanced access to WSG and stewardship information online.

Grant recipients continue to express their gratitude for the Watershed Stewardship Grant funds, without which they would not be able to implement their plans and deliver their projects. In addition, receiving consistent and regular funding enables them to create continuity for their grassroots initiatives for the benefit of many.

Watershed stewardship groups are also developing long-term relationships with local communities, NGOs, WPACs, municipal districts and counties to generate thousands of volunteer and in-kind hours which contribute to the success of projects. The consistent leveraging of dollars against financial, volunteer and in-kind commitments permits the scope and reach of projects to far surpass the monetary value of grant funds provided.



## Appendices

## Appendix A: 2011 Watershed Stewardship Grant Program Financial Summary

<b>Funds Received</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Alberta Environment Grant #10-GRES13 for 2011 Watershed Stewardship Grant Program	150,000.00
Funds from Alberta Environment Grant #09-GRES14 allocated to 2011 administration	9,907.24
Funds from Alberta Environment Grant #10-Gres13 retained for 2012 administration	18,522.50
<b>Total Funds Received</b>	<b>178,429.74</b>

<b>Funds Expended</b>	<b>Amount</b>
2011 Grant funds issued to recipients (23 projects up to \$7,500 each)	135,000.00
2011 Watershed Stewardship Grant administration costs (Grant #10-GRES13)	15,000.00
2010 Watershed Stewardship Grant administration costs (Grant #09-GRES14)	9,907.24
Retained for 2012 Watershed Stewardship Grant administration costs (Grant #10-GRES13)	18,522.50
<b>Total Funds Expended</b>	<b>178,429.74</b>

## Appendix B: Total Value of 2011 Watershed Stewardship Grant Program

<b>Watershed Stewardship Projects – Cash</b>		<b>Amount</b>
Total grant funds issued to projects (23 projects up to \$7,500 each)		135,000.00
Leveraged funding		310,598.24
<b>Watershed Stewardship Projects – Cash Subtotal</b>		<b>445,598.24</b>
<b>Watershed Stewardship Projects – In-Kind</b>		
Documented group volunteer time and in-kind (equipment materials, technical support, etc.)		223,554.17
<b>Watershed Stewardship Projects – In-Kind Subtotal</b>		<b>223,554.17</b>
<b>Total Value of Watershed Stewardship Projects</b>		<b>669,152.41</b>
<b>Grant Program Administration and Delivery</b>		
Watershed Stewardship Grant Coordinator (paid)		24,907.24
Land Stewardship Centre in-kind contributions		54,600.00
<b>Grant Program Administration and Delivery Subtotal</b>		<b>79,509.24</b>
<b>Watershed Stewardship Grant Committee In-Kind</b>		
Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada		740.00
Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development		570.00
Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development		490.00
Alberta Riparian Habitat Management Society (Cows and Fish)		420.00
Land Stewardship Centre		440.00
Watershed Stewardship Group Representative		1,090.00
WPACs (Bow River Basin Council and Lesser Slave Watershed Council)		1,080.00
Watershed Stewardship Group Representative and Chair		710.00
<b>WSG Committee In-Kind Subtotal</b>		<b>5,540.00</b>
<b>Total Value of Program Administration and Delivery, and WSG Committee In-Kind</b>		<b>85,049.24</b>
<b>Total Value of the 2011 Watershed Stewardship Grant Program</b>		<b>754,201.65</b>

### The following amounts have been used to calculate the value of in-kind contributions:

Volunteer time	\$20/hour
Technical support	\$30/hour
Equipment costs	\$40/hour

## Appendix C: Overview of Watershed Stewardship Group Project Information

2010 Watershed Stewardship Grants			Project Grant Funding			Leveraged Contributions		
Grant #	Applicant	Signing Authority	Requested	Approved	Spent	Financial	In-Kind	Total Project Value
06-CLASS-2010s	Crane Lake Advisory and Stewardship Society	Applicant	4,000.00	4,000.00	793.10	36.70	-	829.80
17-ICWIS-2010s	Iron Creek Watershed Improvement Society	Applicant	7,500.00	3,500.00	3,500.00	11,275.30	3,500.00	18,275.30
21-LLBSG-2010s	Lower Little Bow Stewardship Group	Oldman Watershed Council	7,500.00	6,000.00	6,000.00	2,141.54	4,300.00	12,441.54
25-MRWS-2010s	Medicine River Watershed Society	Applicant	7,500.00	5,100.00	2,750.00	2,325.00	2,700.00	7,775.00
<b>Total</b>			<b>26,500.00</b>	<b>18,600.00</b>	<b>13,043.10</b>	<b>15,778.54</b>	<b>10,500.00</b>	<b>39,321.64</b>

2011 Watershed Stewardship Grants			Project Grant Funding			Leveraged Contributions		
Grant #	Applicant	Signing Authority	Requested	Approved	Spent	Financial	In-Kind <sup>3</sup>	Total Project Value
02-CCWC-2011s	Castle-Crown Wilderness Coalition	Applicant Group	7,500.00	5,500.00	5,500.00	4,514.00	15,405.00	25,419.00
03-CHWI-2011s	Clear Hills Watershed Initiative	Applicant Group	7,500.00	5,850.00	5,849.71	-	14,880.00	20,729.71
04-CWL-2011s	Clear Water Landcare	Clear Water County	6,080.00	2,500.00	2,500.00	10,497.64	5,116.00	18,113.64
05-CBaBEF-2011s	Cochrane Branches And Banks Environmental Foundation	Applicant Group	7,200.00	7,200.00	6,163.20	1,402.61	7,700.00	15,265.81
06-ERWP-2011s	Elbow River Watershed Partnership	Applicant Group	4,600.00	4,000.00	4,000.00	412.91	1,781.00	6,193.91
07-FoFCPPS-2011s	Friends of Fish Creek Provincial Park Society	Applicant Group	7,500.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	53,513.00	36,000.00	94,513.00
08-FoKCCA-2011s	Friends of Kananaskis Country Cooperating Association	Applicant Group	7,500.00	4,700.00	4,700.00	31,364.68	12,400.00	48,464.68
09-FoLBLS-2011s	Friends of Little Beaver Lake Society	Applicant Group	6,146.50	3,000.00	3,000.00	727.00	546.17	4,273.17
10-GWAS-2011s	Ghost Watershed Alliance Society	Applicant Group	7,500.00	7,500.00	6,647.20	49,419.01	5,061.00	61,127.21

*Continued on next page*

<sup>3</sup> In-kind contributions include volunteer hours.

2011 Watershed Stewardship Grants (continued)			Project Grant Funding			Leveraged Contributions		
Grant #	Applicant	Signing Authority	Requested	Approved	Spent	Financial	In-Kind <sup>4</sup>	Total Project Value
11-HPRAT-2011s	High Prairie Riparian Action Team	Peace Country Beef and Forage Association	5,000.00	5,000.00	-	-	-	-
12-HWMPCG-2011s	Highwood Water Management Plan Core Group	Municipal District of Foothills No 31	7,500.00	7,500.00	7,500.00	43,331.40	20,325.00	71,156.40
14-KotW-PRW-2011s	Keepers of the Water - Pembina River Watershed	Keepers of the Athabasca Watershed Council	7,500.00	7,500.00	-	-	-	-
15-LWSS-2011s	Lac La Nonne Watershed Stewardship Society	Applicant Group	7,500.00	7,500.00	7,500.00	5,283.25	500.00	13,283.25
16-LtL-2011s	Love the Lake	Summer Village of Grandview	4,000.00	2,175.00	2,175.00	1,800.00	3,320.00	7,295.00
17-MLMA-2011s	Mayatan Lake Management Association	Applicant Group	7,500.00	7,500.00	7,497.59	50.00	26,810.00	34,357.59
18-MRRG-2011s	Milk River Ranchers Group	County of Warner No. 5	6,325.00	6,325.00	6,325.00	2,531.60	2,730.00	11,586.60
20-MLWS-2011s	Moose Lake Watershed Society	Applicant Group	7,500.00	6,500.00	6,341.24	6,312.61	43,280.00	55,933.85
23-NCWP-2011s	Nose Creek Watershed Partnership	Trout Unlimited Canada	7,500.00	7,500.00	7,500.00	76,901.80	2,000.00	86,401.80
24-PLWA-2011s	Pigeon Lake Watershed Association	Applicant Group	7,500.00	3,750.00	3,750.00	6,594.00	-	10,344.00
25-SoGN-2011s	Society of Grassland Naturalists-Medicine Hat Interpretive Program	Applicant Group	6,000.00	6,000.00	6,000.00	894.73	7,700.00	14,594.73
26-TWS-2011s	Tawatinaw Watershed Stewards	Applicant Group	7,500.00	7,500.00	-	-	-	-
28-WGPPS-2011s	Weaselhead/Glenmore Park Preservation Society	Applicant Group	7,500.00	7,500.00	7,495.00	12,069.00	17,400.00	36,964.00
30-WLWaLSA-2011s	Wizard Lake Watershed and Lake Stewardship Association	Applicant Group	7,500.00	7,500.00	7,500.00	2,979.00	600.00	11,079.00
<b>Total</b>			<b>157,851.50</b>	<b>135,000.00</b>	<b>112,943.94</b>	<b>310,598.24</b>	<b>223,554.17</b>	<b>647,096.35</b>

<sup>4</sup> In-kind contributions include volunteer hours.

## Appendix D: Resources from Selected Projects

Several projects produced resources and tools that contribute to the body of work developed by community stewardship groups over the years. The following is a list of various information resources that were developed using 2011 Watershed Stewardship Grant funds:

### Videos

Society of Grassland Naturalists Digital Stories

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=upKIN5ohzE4>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rkwk6WqhA-M3>

### Reports

- Highwood Management Plan Core Group Technical Report
- Lac La Nonne Watershed Stewardship Society – Lake Nakamun Handbook
- Mayatan Lake Management Association – Mayatan Lake State of the Watershed Report
- Wizard Lake Watershed and Lake Stewardship Association –State of the Watershed Report