



**Watershed Stewardship Grant Program
Spring 2008 Grant Cycle
AENV Grant: #08GRES12**



Alberta Stewardship Network



Special thanks to: Alberta Environment

**Government
of Alberta** ■

water for life

Members of the Stewardship Grant Committee:

- ◆ Margaret Glasford, Grant Committee Chair
- ◆ Petra Rowell, Alberta Environment
- ◆ Jeff McCammon, Lac La Nonne Watershed and Lake Stewardship Society
- ◆ Shirley Pickering, Highwood Water Management Plan Public Advisory Committee
- ◆ Dale Chrapko, Alberta Agriculture and Food
- ◆ Diana Rung, Alberta Conservation Association
- ◆ Kelsey Spicer-Rawe, Alberta Riparian Habitat Management Society (Cows & Fish)
- ◆ Mike Murray, Bow River Basin Council
- ◆ Ernie Ewaschuk, Land Stewardship Centre of Canada

Additional appreciation is extended to the ASN's other partnering organizations.

The delivery of the range of ASN services is made possible through their ongoing support.

Forward

On behalf of the Stewardship Grant Fund Committee and the Alberta Stewardship Network, I am pleased to submit this Final Report for the Spring 2008 Grant Cycle. We thank the Government of Alberta and Alberta Environment for continuing to support and fund community-based stewardship in Alberta. Our role as the administrator of these funds has helped us to realize our strategic planning goal of being a hub for stewardship resources in the province.

When reviewing the projects included in this grant cycle, it is rewarding to see the geographic spread, the diversity of activities, and their growing sophistication from year to year. This indicates that, not only is community-based stewardship a strong partner in the Water for Life Strategy, but it is also well poised to be an important contributor to the work of the Regional Advisory Committees of the Land Use Framework and their ensuing Plans.

Our congratulations for their significant achievements go out to all the hard-working members of these watershed stewardship groups!

Margaret Glasford
2008 Chair, Stewardship Grant Fund Committee

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A Maturing Stewardship Community: The Third Report on the Watershed Stewardship Grant Program

This report provides an overview of projects associated with the Alberta Stewardship Network's 2008 Watershed Grant Program, made possible through a \$250,000 grant from Alberta Environment (#08GRES12). This report also provides details of 11 additional projects awarded funding in 2008 from Alberta Environment Grant (#06GREA29). The objective of the ASN program is to assist watershed stewardship group contributions towards the goals of *Water for Life: Alberta's Strategy for Sustainability*.

The depth and breadth of impacts associated with Alberta Environment's investment in community based stewardship continue to reverberate with a greater presence than the financial input might suggest. The ASN's grant program is consistently credited as providing foundational support to groups looking to make differences in their local watersheds.

Over the three years and four grant cycles the Watershed Stewardship Grant program has been offered, recipients have, on average, leveraged funds received by a ratio of four-to-one.

In selecting the projects for the 2008 funding round, the ASN's Grant Committee chose from fifty-four fully completed applications. Eligible groups applied to receive up to \$7,500 for projects that sought to raise awareness of local watershed issues or improve the condition of their local watershed. Projects characteristically concentrated their efforts in one or more 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 management options.
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.

Successful applicants also explained how their initiative supported at least one of the **three goals of the *Water for Life* strategy** (safe, secure drinking water supply; healthy aquatic ecosystems; and reliable, quality water supplies for a sustainable economy).

Groups with legal status (e.g., 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 disbursed in partnership with an approved legal entity (e.g., County).

“I want to begin by saying that I can't think of a single more successful initiative that this government has undertaken in the last eight years than the Water for Life initiative. Everywhere I go in the province, whether it's Foothills-Rocky View, my own constituency, or others, I meet the local watershed groups that have been formed pursuant to this that are working with the government, with industry, and with the MDs to monitor and improve water quality”

*Honourable Ted Morton, Minister of Sustainable Resource Development
May 21, 2008*

“Watershed Stewardship Group”

Is a broad term used in the *Water for Life* strategy to encompass diverse types of community partnerships actively engaged in environmental stewardship of their local watershed. Such groups are inclusive (they may include individuals, organizations, agriculture, industry, municipalities and other forms of local government) who work together to set common goals and achieve shared outcomes.

Highlights of the Granting Period

Forty-three projects were selected for funding in 11 watersheds. Total funding requests exceeded available grant funds by approximately \$75,000. Of the applications turned-down by the grant committee, most were rejected on the basis of project or organization ineligibility, or limited perceived contribution of the project towards Water for Life goals. Total approved funding was \$279,631.05

Projects approved by the grant committee varied widely in aspiration, intent, scale and scope.

Forty of the forty-three approved projects completed work as described in their project applications. Funds were not disbursed for one project following prolonged inability to reach a grant agreement that satisfied ASN requirements. A second group returned funding to the ASN when substantial internal reorganization left the group unable to complete the project. The \$15,000 in funds associated with these projects will be directed towards projects in the 2010 Watershed Stewardship Program (pending approval from Alberta Environment) and will be reported on accordingly. One grant of \$7,500 was not reported on.

As part of the project's grant agreement, each project proponent was required to submit an interim report outlining their progress, and a final report detailing project status, impacts, and financial information. Full project reports and associated financial records are available for viewing at the ASN office.

Geographical Distribution

Projects selected for funding were located in eleven watersheds. Over half of the funded projects were in the Bow and North Saskatchewan watersheds.

2008 Program Summary

43 watershed stewardship projects were initially funded. 40 projects were completed as described in applications.

22 projects involved considerable focus on **Awareness and Knowledge**. Scope and reach varied from local event attendance to prominent radio programming.

Eight projects focused on the development of **Tools** to improve the effectiveness of efforts.

13 projects involved substantial **Team-Building** components intended to extend and bring depth to the capacity and passion driving initiatives.

17 projects involved dimensions of **Social and Biophysical Monitoring**.

Nine projects concentrated efforts on **Community-based Action**.

Several hundred additional partnerships between groups, community organizations, municipalities, and other provincial organizations produced among them substantial leveraging and synergy.

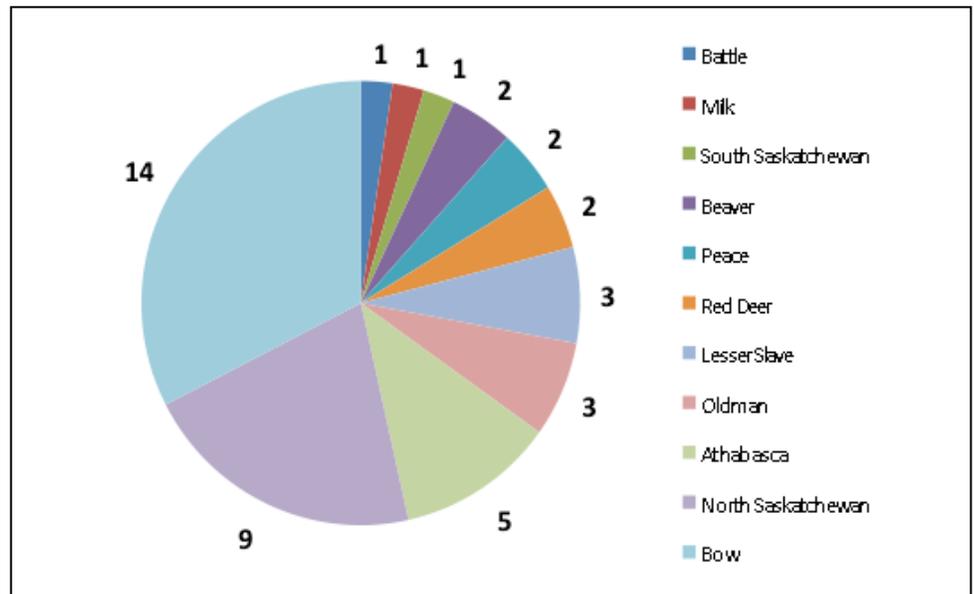


Figure 1. Number of projects in each of Alberta's watersheds funded through the Watershed Stewardship Grant Program

Financial Summary (see Appendix A for detailed accounts)

\$250,000.00 plus an additional \$54,631.05 from grant #06GRE29 allocated in 2008 was approved by the ASN grant committee. This totals \$304,631.05 for the 2008 grant program.

Total funding dispersed to projects: \$264,631.05.

Funding retained by ASN to fund grant administration and projects associated with this document: \$25,000.00 (10% of #08GRES12 grant)

\$15,000.00 will be deferred to the 2010 grant cycle (pending approval from Alberta Environment) and will be reported on accordingly.

These funds are accounted for as follows:

- \$7,500 in funding was withdrawn from a project proponent unable to complete its requisite grant agreement.
- \$7,500 was returned to the ASN by a proponent unable to complete their project.

Total Documented Value of Completed Projects: \$1,081,744.29. This represents leveraging of granted funds at approximately a four-to-one ratio.

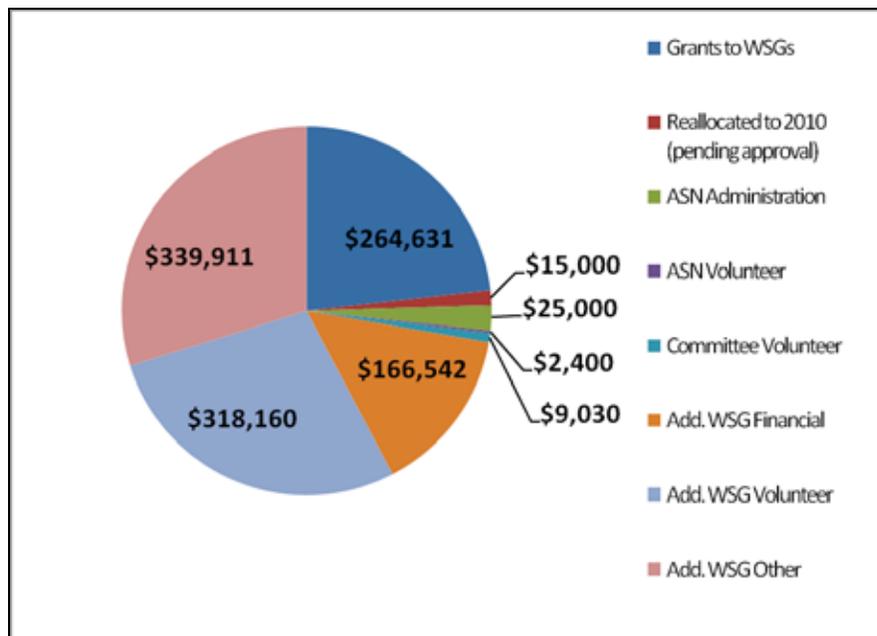


Figure 2. 2008 Watershed Stewardship Grant Program breakdown by funding and in-kind volunteer work.

Grant Recipients by Watershed

The following section outlines the projects undertaken by each grant recipient in each of Alberta's major watersheds.

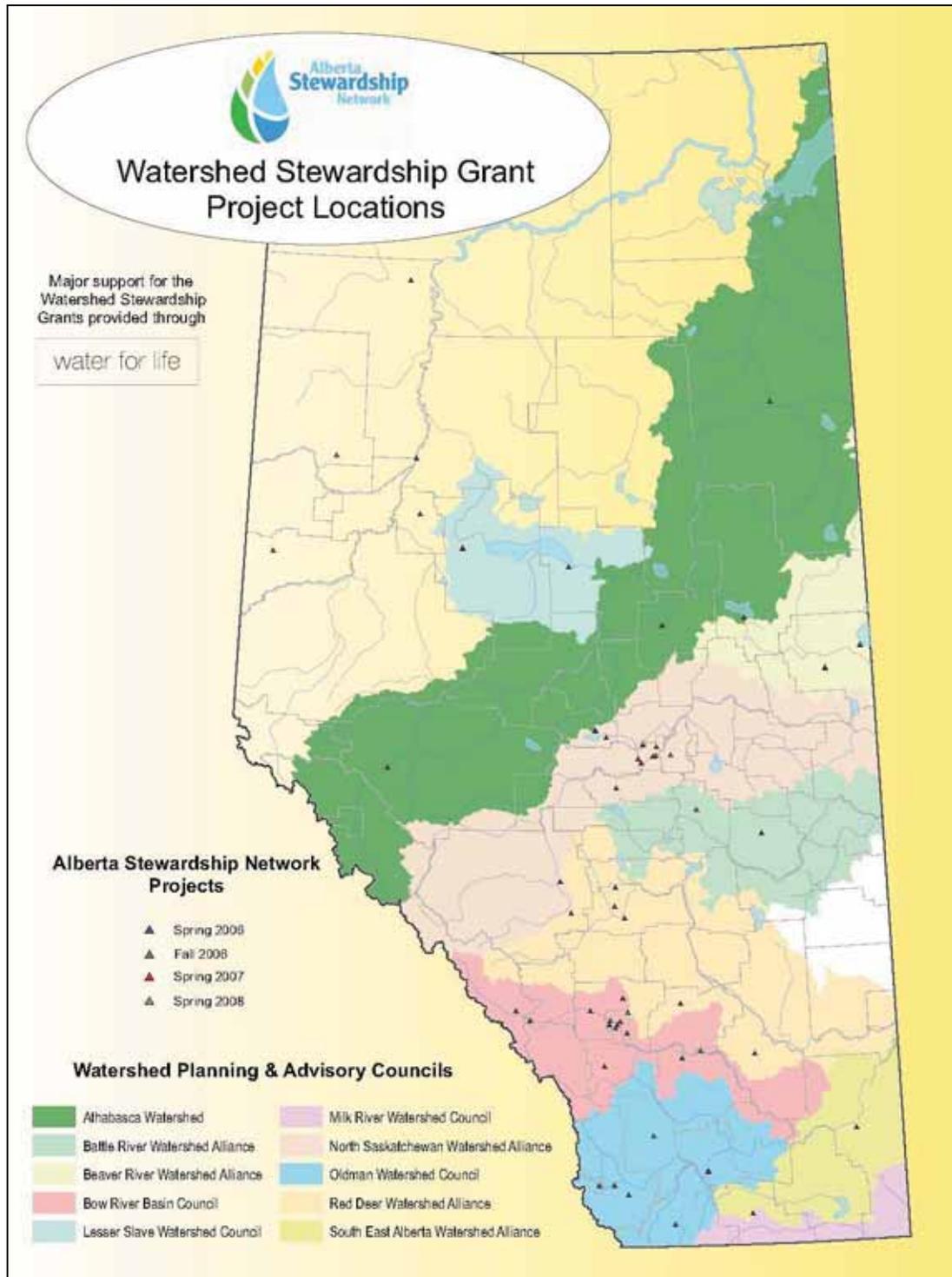


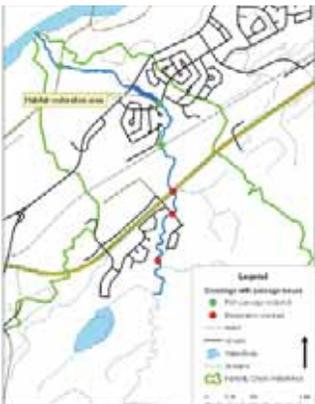
Figure 3. Map of Alberta's Watersheds highlighting the Watershed Stewardship Grant Project locations for spring/fall 2006, spring 2007, and spring 2008.

Athabasca River Watershed

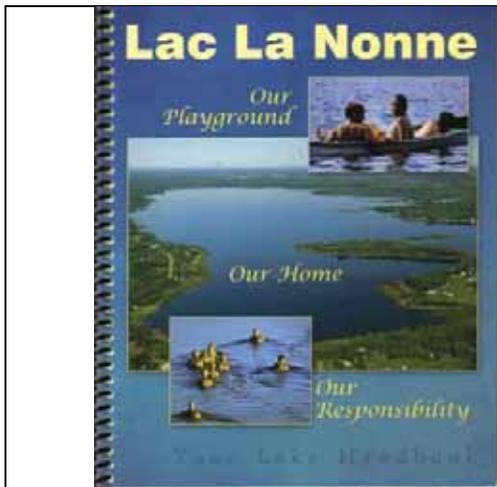
The Athabasca River is the second largest river in Alberta. Originating in the Athabasca glacier of the Columbia Icefields in Jasper National Park, the river flows northeast through the province, past the urban centers of Jasper, Hinton, Whitecourt, Athabasca and Fort McMurray before emptying into Lake Athabasca. Water from the basin eventually makes its way to the Arctic Ocean. The basin covers a total area of approximately 159,000km².

	<p>Crooked Creek Conservancy of Athabasca</p> <p>GRANT: 32s08_#29_CCCSA</p> <p>LOCATION: 11 Communities along the Athabasca River</p> <p>GRANT AMOUNT: \$7,500.00</p> <p>TOTAL PROJECT VALUE: \$101,314.31</p> <p>OTHER PARTNERS: MEC, DFO, United Church of Canada, Keepers of the Water, CBI, Ducks Unlimited, WWF, Driftpile FN, ACFN, CPFN, FtMcMurray FN, Metis Nation of AB #1, Safe Drinking Water Foundation, Sierra Prairie, Alberta Environmental Network, Volunteer Keepers, citizens, Elders</p>
	

This project built on previous work in the area and consisted of the organization and delivery of 11 custom designed “Keepers Days” stewardship events reflecting each community’s cultural and ecological uniqueness. Each session included sharing of stories related to water as well as presentations on water quality, water monitoring, and lessons learned from other successful community initiatives. Events took place between July 6th and August 17th, 2008. As a result, watershed awareness has been raised to similar levels along the length of the river, and communities are increasingly engaged in stewardship initiatives.

	<p>Hardisty Creek Restoration Project</p> <p>GRANT: 40s08_#07_HCRP</p> <p>LOCATION: Hinton</p> <p>GRANT AMOUNT: \$7,500.00</p> <p>TOTAL PROJECT VALUE: \$15,800.00</p> <p>OTHER PARTNERS: Foothills Research Institute (in partnership with ASRD, Canadian Natural Resources Ltd., ConocoPhillips Canada, Encana Corporation, Jasper National Park, Petro-Canada, Talisman Energy Inc., and West Fraser Mills, Town of Hinton)</p>
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This project builds on four years of previous work that has mobilized the local community to remediate and restore the town’s creek. The focus of this project was to test sedimentation levels at 13 sites along five km of stream during wet weather, in order to determine “hot spots” and to target community efforts on mitigating these problem areas. As a result, community awareness of the connection between erosion control on development sites, and healthy aquatic ecosystems, has been enhanced to the point where the Town of Hinton has taken a leadership role in promoting beneficial practices in development and municipal circles.



Lac La Nonne Enhancement & Protection Society and Waters Edge Resources Group

GRANT: 16s08_#36_LEPA
LOCATION: Lac La Nonne (NW of Edmonton)
GRANT AMOUNT: \$7,500.00
TOTAL PROJECT VALUE: \$28,463.79.00
OTHER PARTNERS: Waters Edge Resource Group, Lac Ste Anne County, County of Barrhead, West Central Conservation Group, Cows and Fish, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Alberta Environment, Barrhead Fish & Game, Lac La Nonne Stewardship Group, ASRD

With general awareness of local watershed concerns initiated through previous group efforts, this project sought to build depth of understanding, pride and connections among the community, and the capacity to engage in beneficial practices. As a result, a very high quality information resource has been developed to reinforce beneficial practices for property owners and agricultural producers. It is expected that the resource will be well received and that it will be the catalyst for decreases in pollutants that enter the lake.



Lac La Nonne Watershed Stewardship Society

GRANT: 22s08_#45_LWSS
LOCATION: Lac La Nonne (NW of Edmonton)
GRANT AMOUNT: \$5,000.00
TOTAL PROJECT VALUE: \$16,666.82
OTHER PARTNERS: Cows and Fish, PFRA, local schools, County of Barrhead, Lac Ste. Anne Count, University of Alberta

The Lac La Nonne Watershed Stewardship Society continues to build its community and regional presence. The group partnered in June 2008 to host the ASN's annual provincial Stewards in Motion Workshop in Rich Valley and went on to host a number of various events to build awareness and bring the community together to work on watershed issues. This project also helped to build stewardship awareness with youth and homeowners, and to further leverage the knowledge being accumulated with advanced paleolimnological studies on the lake. Overall, the project has helped to increase understanding among residents of how the watershed is changing.



Watershed Advisory Committee & The Lac La Biche County Watershed Steering Committee

GRANT: 6s08_#19_LakWSC

LOCATION: Lac La Biche

GRANT AMOUNT: \$7,500.00

TOTAL PROJECT VALUE: \$57,328.38

OTHER PARTNERS: Lac La Biche County, Aspen Regional Health Authority, University of Alberta

The Lac La Biche Watershed Project received the 2008 ASN Grassroots Award for Environmental Stewardship for its comprehensive approach to community involvement, awareness building, and watershed monitoring. This year's project involved the production of widely read community newsletters, regular lake sampling on five local lakes, bacteriological sampling on 11 local beaches, sampling at 20 inflow sites into Lac La Biche and the delivery of the water related program as part of the "Mad about Science Program" for 6-12 year old students.

Battle River Sub-Watershed

The Battle River Watershed is a sub-basin of the North Saskatchewan River Basin. The river itself extends 800 kilometres, 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 square kilometres (83% of this area is within Alberta, the remainder in Saskatchewan).



Lacombe Lake and Area Preservation Association

GRANT: 28s08_#12_LLWG

LOCATION: Lacombe Lake

GRANT AMOUNT: \$3750.00

TOTAL PROJECT VALUE: \$4154.09*

OTHER PARTNERS: N/A

*Some additional contributions not provided

This initiative began with a group of citizens concerned about the quality of Whelp Creek entering Lacombe Lake. With support of the ASN's Watershed grant program they formed the "Lacombe Lake and Area Preservation Association" and initiated a testing program for the local watershed. Alarmed at some of the testing results, the group has worked with the county to implement steps to address concerns, and has initiated cleanup of Whelp Creek.

Beaver River Watershed

The Beaver River watershed is one of the smaller major watersheds within the province with a catchment area of about 14,500 km². The watershed and river extend east, across the provinces of Saskatchewan and Manitoba, emptying into Hudson's Bay. The Beaver River begins at Beaver Lake, and then flows through urban centres 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.



Crane Lake Advisory and Stewardship Society

GRANT: 12s08_#31_CLASS

LOCATION: Crane Lake

GRANT AMOUNT: \$3,000.00

TOTAL PROJECT VALUE: \$10,418.63

OTHER PARTNERS: Eco Day participants: LICA, ALMS, BRWA, Ducks Unlimited, M.D. Bonnyville, Alberta Environment, Fish and Wildlife. Shoreline Cleanup: Vancouver Aquarium, TD Bank

The Crane Lake Advisory and Stewardship society used their modest \$3000 grant to support a highly successful EcoDay, a Shoreline Cleanup event, and a “Slow – No Wake” campaign on the lake to reduce shoreline impacts. The ASN grant also supported their AGM. Says project contact Gordon Coulman, “The Shoreline Cleanup and Barbeque had the best participation from residents and cabin owners and because it involved quite a lot of physical work with highly visible results, there was a feeling of satisfaction and camaraderie. It was highly satisfying to remove so much garbage from the lake, although there was also a feeling of disappointment that lake users were careless enough to put the trash in the lake in the first place.”



Moose Lake Watershed Society

GRANT: 9s08_#22_MLW

LOCATION: Moose Lake Watershed

GRANT AMOUNT: \$7,500.00

TOTAL PROJECT VALUE: \$27,520.00

OTHER PARTNERS: MD of Bonnyville, Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Lakeland Agricultural Research Association, Cows & Fish, Summer Village of Bonnyville Beach, Summer Village of Pelican Narrows, Ducks Unlimited, Department of Fisheries and Oceans.

The Moose Lake Watershed Society received the 2009 ASN Grassroots Award for Environmental Stewardship in the group category for their continued efforts. The group achieved substantial gains in local awareness with area tours, information evenings, an elementary school invasive vegetation program, local newsletters, and media coverage. The group is particularly pleased at how this project has helped build and foster the working relationships among many organizations and the local community.

Bow River Sub-Watershed

The Bow River originates from Bow Glacier in Banff National Park. The basin is home to more than one million Albertans and the growing population is placing demand on a limited water supply with an uncertain 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 visit this area every year, attracted to recreational opportunities.



Arrowwood Restoration Society

GRANT: 29s08_#23_ARS

LOCATION: Arrowwood

GRANT AMOUNT: \$5,300.00 + \$1,363.23
previous ASN

TOTAL PROJECT VALUE: \$16,832.14

OTHER PARTNERS: Village of Arrowwood,
Arrowwod Community School, Vulcan County

The group's ambitious boardwalk project was not completed during the grant period due to unexpected unavailability of some resources. However, the group has made substantial progress on the project they feel will draw attention to - and respect for - the community's local wetland. Weather depending, the group anticipates completion of the project through the spring and summer of 2009. It is expected that the improved access to the wetland will be useful for a variety of formal and informal initiatives to increase awareness of the local watershed and biodiversity values.

Grant Withdrawn

Big Hill and Horse Creek Watershed Partnership

GRANT: 38s08_#01_BHHC

LOCATION: Big Hill and Horse creek watersheds
in the Cochrane and area

GRANT AMOUNT: Grant Withdrawn

TOTAL PROJECT VALUE: n/a

OTHER PARTNERS: Town of Cochrane, MD of
Rockyview

This project was initially approved for a \$7500 grant to establish an "umbrella" partnership modeled after the successful Jumpingpound initiative for local groups in the area. Funding for the project was cancelled late summer 2008 following an inability to secure a satisfactory grant agreement. Funds were reallocated to the 2009 grant program.



Bow Region Stewardship Society

GRANT: 42s08#42_BRSS

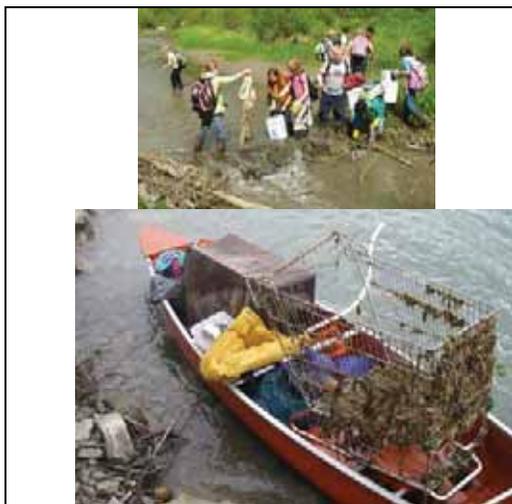
LOCATION: Ghost Forest Land Use Zone northwest of Cochrane

GRANT AMOUNT: \$7,500.00

TOTAL PROJECT VALUE: \$23,045.29

OTHER PARTNERS: Alberta Sustainable Resource Development (in-kind), Calgary Jeep Association, Alberta United Recreationist Society

Meadow Creek, a tributary to the Ghost River, is regarded as important Westslope Cutthroat trout habitat. The Bow Region Stewardship Society sought to build a bridge on the local designated recreational trail system to reduce impacts on habitat and water quality. The group also engaged in significant bioengineering work to rehabilitate the previous crossing and a fencing project to guide trail users to the new crossing structure.



Calgary Field Naturalists Society

GRANT: 39s08_#04_NC

LOCATION: Calgary area

GRANT AMOUNT: \$7500.00

TOTAL PROJECT VALUE: \$62,500.00

OTHER PARTNERS: Largely supported by volunteers and members of Nature Calgary

This grant focused on helping Calgary Field Naturalists Society volunteers overcome the significant burden of transportation and logistics expenses associated with organizing, conducting, and delivering an ambitious assortment of local programs, presentations, and stewardship initiatives. Invasive plants and garbage collection are the major focus of the group's work. As a result of this project 48 student field trips to remove trash and weeds were conducted, 59 stewardship presentations to 3356 participants were delivered, 1356 bird boxes were constructed, and thousands of kilograms of refuse and weeds were removed from dozens of sites in the area. The work of the group's volunteers has inspired many other organizations and individuals to conduct similar projects of their own.



Cochrane Branches and Banks Environmental Foundation

GRANT: 14s08_#33_CBBEF

LOCATION: Big Hill Creek watershed in Cochrane area

GRANT AMOUNT: \$4000.00

TOTAL PROJECT VALUE: \$17,196.69

OTHER PARTNERS: Town of Cochrane, Shell Environmental Fund, TransCanada Pipelines, Bow River Basin Council, The Annex, Bow Point Nursery, Canada Safeway Ltd. (Cochrane), Tim Hortons (Cochrane)

Inclement weather did not deter this project from going ahead with over 100 participants to plant more than 1000 trees and shrubs in the local watershed to stabilize banks and improve local habitat. This project also included the removal of significant amounts of trash, project signage, and volunteer recognition. The group has found benefit in structuring the initiative as a family event to help foster community spirit and understanding of the local environment and its benefits.



Elbow River Watershed Partnership

GRANT: 13s08_#32_ERWP

LOCATION: Bow and Elbow River Basins

GRANT AMOUNT: \$7500.00

TOTAL PROJECT VALUE: \$23,179.51

OTHER PARTNERS: Alberta Research Council, Bow River Basin Council, City of Calgary

The Elbow River Watershed Partnership has often found itself at the leading edge of watershed management at the local level. Many other groups in the area have built on the examples and learning opportunities provided by the group in the areas of streambank rehabilitation and bio-engineering. For this project, the group sought to raise awareness of ground and surface water interaction through professional workshops and development of educational resources. As the group is quick to point out, "One in six Albertans receives their drinking water from the Elbow River. What is done on the land ... will affect the water."



Friends of Banff National Park – Park Radio

GRANT: 21s08_#44FoB

LOCATION: Banff and Upper Bow Valley

GRANT AMOUNT: \$3,500.00

TOTAL PROJECT VALUE: \$7,500.00

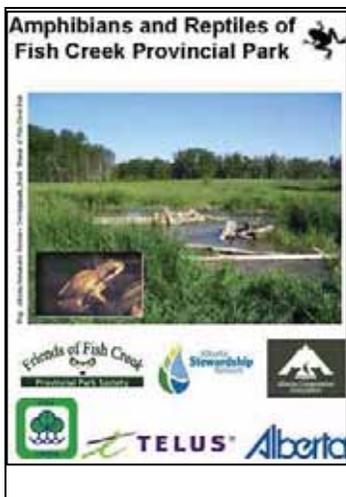
OTHER PARTNERS: Friends of Banff National Park

For the second year running, the unique interests and capacities of the Friends of Banff National Park have helped turn a modest Watershed Stewardship Grant into a professionally produced 10 part radio series on the value of water and the Bow Watershed. An episode is played at least three times a day for four months. All episodes are available as podcasts

through the Friends of Banff National Park website (a direct link to episode one is available at http://parkradio.podomatic.com/player/web/2009-04-08T13_33_32-07_00).

	<p>Friends of Fish Creek Provincial Park Society</p> <p>GRANT: 36s08_#09_FFPPS1</p> <p>LOCATION: Fish Creek Provincial Park, Calgary</p> <p>GRANT AMOUNT: \$7,031.05</p> <p>TOTAL PROJECT VALUE: \$17,626.18</p> <p>OTHER PARTNERS: University of Calgary, Alberta Tourism Parks and Recreation (in-kind), City of Calgary</p>
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This multi-dimensional project resulted in the compilation and interpretation of 2007 water quality data, establishment of 2008 baseline water quality data, revamping of the group's volunteer sampling manual and protocols, an expansion of the existing Science 20 water study program with local high school students, recruitment and training of 2008 sampling volunteers, and collection of 2008 data. This project was wrapped-up with the presentation of a report to Fish Creek Provincial Park management in spring 2009.

<p>Amphibians and Reptiles of Fish Creek Provincial Park</p> 	<p>"This volunteer organization provides an essential function in the management of this Park and I strongly consider it worthy of consideration for your financial support."</p> <p>J.J. Stomp, Site Manager, Fish Creek District, Alberta Tourism, Parks and Recreation</p>	<p>Friends of Fish Creek Provincial Park Society</p> <p>GRANT: 41s08_#10_FFPPS2</p> <p>LOCATION: Fish Creek Provincial Park, Calgary</p> <p>GRANT AMOUNT: \$7,500.00</p> <p>TOTAL PROJECT VALUE: n/a</p> <p>OTHER PARTNERS: Fish Creek Provincial Park, University of Calgary, Alberta Conservation Association, Calgary Zoo, City of Calgary, Golder Associates</p>
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Good project design and disciplined project management saw this unique amphibian monitoring project built from a concept to a functioning volunteer program that engaged several hundred individuals, trained over a dozen volunteers to a high standard, and is well-positioned to continue monitoring into 2009. At the time of final report submission, the project's data was under analysis and is projected to help inform management and outreach programming within the park.



Friends of Kananaskis Country

GRANT: 24s08_#50_FKC

LOCATION: Elbow River / Kananaskis Country

GRANT AMOUNT: \$7,500

TOTAL PROJECT VALUE: \$47,235.27

OTHER PARTNERS: Alberta Parks, Elbow River Watershed Partnership, DFO, Mountain Equipment Co-op

Building on the past successes of their watershed field study, the Friends of Kananaskis Country were able to initiate an active stewardship program focusing on water education. This program consisted of multiple projects throughout the spring, summer, and fall of 2008. This project saw the training and mentoring of two university environmental sciences students who then delivered the highly successful watershed field study program to over 1000 students and produced a DVD in which experts in a number of fields and industries answered questions posed by students about water. A “Plant and Pull” activity (stewardship day), in conjunction with the ERWP, for the Caley School, provided participants the opportunity to link general knowledge with hands-on projects in an effort to gain an understating of the connection between their reclamation efforts and the overall health of the watershed. Three one-week Jr. Naturalists day camps were conducted where 9-12 yr olds interacted with nature (specifically water) in a fun and informative way. As a result of these programs, more than 1000 people were given the opportunity to learn about and reflect upon how they affect “Water for Life” strategy. Through discussion, observation, experimentation, and play, the program invited participants to make better choices about water usage and protection. This group plans on maintaining and developing their stewardship programs and their watershed field study continues to demand more than what is in their capacity to deliver.



Ghost Watershed Alliance Society

GRANT: 15s08_#35_GWAS

LOCATION: Ghost Watershed, northwest of Cochrane

GRANT AMOUNT:

1st Grant - \$6,500.00

2nd Grant - \$800.00

Total: \$7,300.00

TOTAL PROJECT VALUE: \$34,429.26

OTHER PARTNERS: Beaupre Community Association, Red Cougar Enterprises Inc., Janet & David Sharplin, Butters Ranching

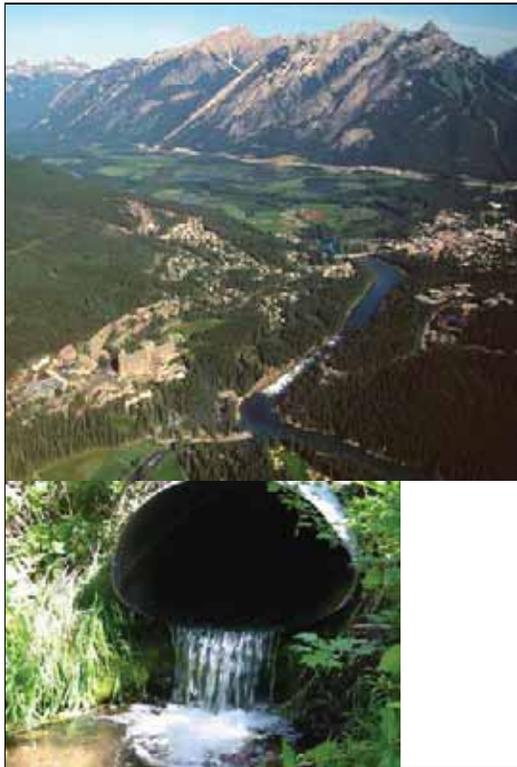
A secondary grant of \$800 was issued to this group when a review of the project’s operations recommended securing additional insurance. This community-led group employed a multi-faceted approach to increase local and regional awareness of the watershed and the challenges facing it. Online and multi-media presence was enhanced with the launch of a new website in March 2009. Attendance and participation in a wide variety of events in Calgary, Airdrie, and Cochrane helped generate familiarity with the group and local watershed function. The group takes particular pride in their “Walks in the Watershed” series which allows participants to experience the area at a very personal level. Additional activities included the design and production of brochures, local media advertisements, detailed trail and local feature GIS mapping, recovery of abandoned vehicles, and active participation in the Ghost Stewardship Monitoring Group, a multi-stakeholder initiative to guide recreational management in the Ghost Forest Land Use Zone.

Project Cancelled by Group

Mountain Parks Watershed Association

GRANT: 11s08_#27_MPWA
LOCATION: Bow Valley and Calgary
GRANT AMOUNT: \$7,500 (FUNDS RETURNED)
TOTAL PROJECT VALUE: n/a
OTHER PARTNERS: n/a

Following the issuance of this grant, Mountain Parks Watershed Association underwent a significant review of its programming and direction. As a result, the organization determined that they would no longer be able to fulfill the activities associated with this project and returned the full amount of the grant in August 2008. Funds were reissued to projects associated with the 2009 grant round.



Mountain Parks Watershed Association and the Yellowstone to Yukon Initiative (Y2Y)

GRANT: 35s08_#53_MWPA
LOCATION: Upper Bow River
GRANT AMOUNT: \$7000
TOTAL PROJECT VALUE: \$20,900.00
OTHER PARTNERS: Yellowstone to Yukon, Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Banff Community Foundation

In association with this project's major partner, the Yellowstone to Yukon Initiative, the Mountain Parks Watershed Association elected to complete this project following its organizational review. The group sought to develop a professionally produced print resource and sign highlighting major findings from previously completed research on the Upper Bow River. Following production, the direct and mailed distribution - as well as web presence and an associated presentation circuit - resulted in the information reaching approximately 10,000 Banff residents and visitors. The initiative brought attention to transportation and resort associated impacts the group felt had been underexplored.

No Reports Submitted

Siksika Corporation for Agricultural Development

GRANT: 26s08_#54_SFN

LOCATION: Siksika First Nation

GRANT AMOUNT: \$7,500.00

TOTAL PROJECT VALUE: Insufficient Info

OTHER PARTNERS: Insufficient Info

The intention of this grant by the Siksika Corporation for Agricultural Development was to continue work done in 2007 with workshops, demonstrations, field days, etc. create an understanding and awareness of their impacts on watersheds. 2008 was proposed to include more specific field demonstrations and a fall workshop. This group has failed to submit both an interim and final report as well as respond to any communication from the ASN. There will be continued follow up and the Siksika Corporation for Agricultural Development will no longer be eligible for the Watershed Stewardship Grant program funding.

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.



High Prairie Riparian Action Team

GRANT: 33s08_#37_HPRAT

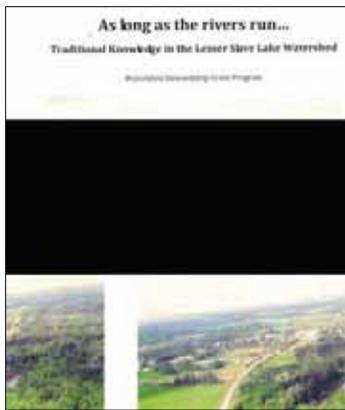
LOCATION: Lesser Slave Lake Watershed

GRANT AMOUNT: \$4,500.00

TOTAL PROJECT VALUE: \$8,075.00

OTHER PARTNERS: SRD (in-kind), MD Big Lakes, ACA, Ducks Unlimited, DFO, Peace Country Beef and Forage Association, Smoky Applied Research and Demonstration Association, Lesser Slave Lake Watershed Council, Cows and Fish

The High Prairie Riparian Action Team chose to approach the landowners of three sites to conduct riparian health inventories along the South Heart River, and Mud Creek, as well as on Lesser Slave Lake in Jousard. After confirming the cooperation of the site owners, assessments were conducted and results shared. Working as a team, members reached back into their respective circles to pursue specific tasks that would address major issues associated with the assessment. These actions are not included in the financial leveraging of this project, but included the provision of fencing materials, a cost sharing contribution to an off-site watering system, forage seed, and weed control.



Lesser Slave Lake Indian Regional Council

GRANT: 17s08_#48_LSLIRC
LOCATION: Swan River First Nation
GRANT AMOUNT: \$7,500.00
TOTAL PROJECT VALUE: \$15,500.00
OTHER PARTNERS: Elders and Council of Swan River First Nation

Twenty individual interviews, a workshop of 30 elders, and a literature review were used to compile a report entitled "As long as the rivers run . . . Traditional Knowledge in the Lesser Slave Lake Watershed". This report documents the knowledge of the local elders, their perspective on how water quality and quantity has changed, areas of concern, perceived causes of impacts, and a number of recommended next steps to better understand the state of the watershed. The report also documents Cree names and their respective meanings for a number of local water features.



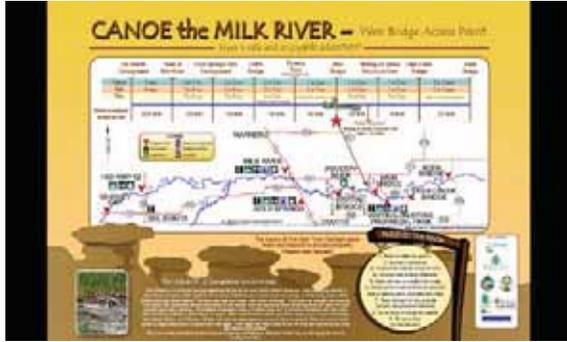
Society of High Prairie Regional Action Committee

GRANT: 25s08_#52_SHPREAC
LOCATION: Lesser Slave Lake Watershed
GRANT AMOUNT: \$7,500.00 + \$3,397.27 previous ASN
TOTAL PROJECT VALUE: \$27,520.00
OTHER PARTNERS: Alberta Environment (in-kind)

Using trained volunteers and professional assistance, the group embarked on 45 water quality tests in 11 locations in 2007 and 2008. Testing parameters included PAHs, dioxins, furans, arsenic, and pesticides. Results of these tests were compiled into a report completed in early March 2009 and were presented in two public meetings in High Prairie and Slave Lake. Results were also shared with Lesser Slave Watershed Council, local municipalities, and the media. The group was particularly pleased with the degree of media coverage on their initiative (with 11 articles being published during the span of the project) and feel their work has helped inspire further testing within the watershed.

Milk River Watershed

The Milk River watershed, located in the most southern part of Alberta, is the smallest of Alberta's seven major river basins, encompassing an area of 6,664 km². 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.



Milk River Ranchers Association

GRANT: 18s08_#38_MRR

LOCATION: River bank rest stops along the Milk River

GRANT AMOUNT: \$7500.00

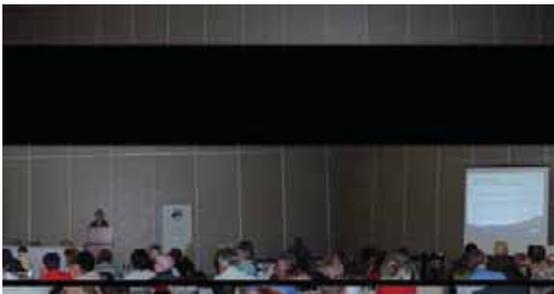
TOTAL PROJECT VALUE: \$24,290.00

OTHER PARTNERS: County of Warner, Cardston County, County of Forty Mile, Milk River Watershed Council, Town of Milk River, Writing on Stone Provincial Park

This unique project saw the local agricultural community take it upon themselves to reach-out and appeal to recreational users of the Milk River to better understand and respect the local watershed. The initiative focused on the design, production, and installation of signs along the river providing pertinent information for recreational navigation and stewardship. Significant research went into how the signs would be used to help ensure they would be effective. Installation, originally scheduled for fall 2008, was regrettably delayed to spring 2009. The group recognizes that the sign infrastructure will require ongoing maintenance and evaluation for effectiveness, and has partnered with the County of Warner and Writing on Stone Provincial Park for this aspect of the project.

North Saskatchewan River Watershed

The North Saskatchewan River Basin covers about 80,000 km² of the province. The basin originates in the Saskatchewan Glacier in Banff National Park and generally flows in an eastward direction to the Alberta-Saskatchewan border. The Brazeau, Nordegg, Ram, Clearwater, Sturgeon and Vermilion rivers flow into the North Saskatchewan River within Alberta. Major centres within the basin include Drayton Valley, Rocky Mountain House, Edmonton, Fort Saskatchewan and the Saddle Lake Indian Reserve.



Beaver Hills Initiative (BHI)

GRANT: 4s08_#17_BHI

LOCATION: Beaver Hills

GRANT AMOUNT: \$2,500.00

TOTAL PROJECT VALUE: \$49,400.00

OTHER PARTNERS: Alberta Lake Management Society

The Beaver Hills Initiative and the Alberta Lake Management Society undertook an ambitious initiative to bring together their respective members and networks for the first conference of its kind in the area. 113 attendees participated in the event (September 18-20, 2008) at the Strathcona Wilderness Centre, with 20 presentations representing local, provincial, national, and international perspectives. The BHI was able to introduce and increase understanding of the BHI Land Management Framework and the ecological significance of land conservation and stewardship in the Beaverhills/Cooking Lake Moraine



Big Lake Environment Support Society (BLESS)

GRANT: 19s08_#40_BLESS

LOCATION: St. Albert / Sturgeon County

GRANT AMOUNT: \$6,175.00

TOTAL PROJECT VALUE: \$18,625.00

OTHER PARTNERS: City of St. Albert, St. Alberta Catholic High School

The Big Lake Environment Support Society recognized the mutual benefit of allowing high school students to be active participants in ongoing water quality monitoring programs and stewardship initiatives for Big Lake and Sturgeon River. The group worked diligently to foster the necessary partnerships, and curriculum connections as well as develop the Sturgeon Watershed Ecology Education Program (SWEEP). Over 120 grade 11 biology students participated in a multi-module program that systematically allowed participants to enhance their scientific inquiry skills, knowledge of natural systems, respect for natural areas and roles as citizens in stewarding the local watershed. Students also experienced the opportunity to present their findings directly to city officials.



Bonnie Doon Keepers of the Creek

GRANT: 10s08_#25_KMC

LOCATION: Edmonton

GRANT AMOUNT: \$6,700.00

TOTAL PROJECT VALUE: \$10,400.00

OTHER PARTNERS: Bonnie Doon and Strathcona Community Leagues, Edmonton Naturalization Group, City of Edmonton



Residents knew there was a lot to learn about the history and ecology of Edmonton's popular Mill Creek when they formed the Keepers of the Creek in the fall of 2007. Their project moved the group along a fascinating journey that investigated the cultural, academic and historical aspects of the local watershed they care for. As part of the project, the group produced two reports: 1) Studies, Reports, and Resources relevant to Mill Creek Watershed in Edmonton and Vicinity, and 2) The State of the Mill Creek Watershed in Edmonton and Vicinity as reflected by the state of Mill Creek's watercourse. The group wrapped-up their project with a public presentation on February 28, 2009 based on their findings. "I have benefitted enormously from the watershed analysis of the creek . . . I am compelled to be a 'Keeper'. I personally cannot thank you enough for supporting this organization", submitted one passionate resident.



Lac Sante Watershed Society

GRANT: 27s08_#11_LSWSC

LOCATION: Lac Sante

GRANT AMOUNT: \$7500.00

TOTAL PROJECT VALUE: \$16,109.02

OTHER PARTNERS: PFRA, County of Two Hills, Cows and Fish, Alberta Sustainable Resource Development, Taschuk Farms

With this project, the Lac Sante Watershed Society sought to improve riparian health, increase awareness of the benefits of off-site watering among the local agricultural community, and reduce tension between lake-lot owners and agricultural producers. The project resulted in a watering system serving three pastures, significant reduction in cattle access to the lakeshore, excellent coverage with local media, and increased cooperation among local residents.



**RiverWatch
(Beyond Books Institute Of Alberta)**

GRANT: 37s08_#39_EdRiver

LOCATION: Edmonton (North Saskatchewan River) and Calgary (Bow River)

GRANT AMOUNT: \$7,500.00

TOTAL PROJECT VALUE: \$30,751.67

In-kind contributions not documented

OTHER PARTNERS: Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Human Resources and Skills Development Canada, Alberta Summer Temporary Employment Program, Trout Unlimited, Calgary Field Naturalists, Cochrane Environmental Action Committee, Calgary Water Services, Calgary Zoo, Telus World of Science, Edmonton Gold Bar Wastewater Treatment Plant.

The summer 2008 RiverWatch program saw 702 participants directly experience their urban rivers to view first-hand both the positive and negative impacts that people have on watersheds and fish habitat. Participants engaged in awareness-to-action conversations concerning watershed ecology, fish and fish habitat, natural history, environmental issues, and stewardship. How urban areas handle wastewater and storm water featured prominently in programs. Both school-focused and open programs were offered this season which helped result in a 233% increase in participation.



Rocky Riparian Group

GRANT: 20s08_#41_RRG

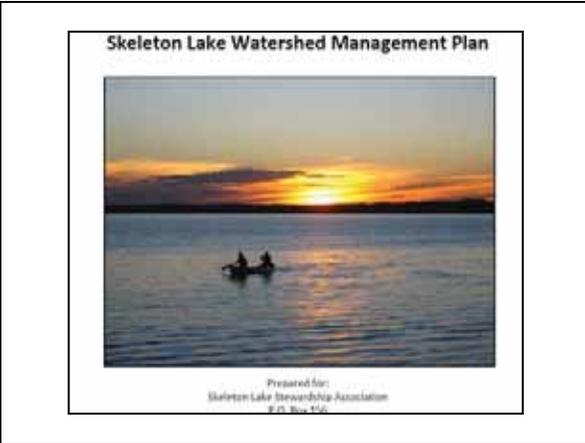
LOCATION: Central Alberta

GRANT AMOUNT: \$7,500.00

TOTAL PROJECT VALUE: \$31,264.76

OTHER PARTNERS: Cows and Fish, Red Deer County, Clearwater County, Red Deer River Watershed Alliance, Alberta Environment (in-kind), Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Battle River Watershed Alliance

Communicating the impacts and learnings of stewardship initiatives is critical to inspiring and propagating concepts, principles and passion. This project focused on professional training and production assistance in the art of digital storytelling for volunteer stewards in central Alberta. Twelve individuals participated in a three day intensive workshop that resulted in nine new productions. As part of the project, these productions were featured in the showcase event “Water and the Willows” in February 2009. Digital stories produced with this project have also been shown at several regional, provincial, and national events including the 2009 National Stewardship Conference in Calgary.



Skeleton Lake Stewardship Association

GRANT: 31s08_#28_SLSA

LOCATION: Skeleton Lake watershed

GRANT AMOUNT: \$ 7,500.00

TOTAL PROJECT VALUE: \$102,500.00

OTHER PARTNERS: Alberta Environment (inkind), Summer Villages of Bondiss and Mewatha, Department of Fisheries and Oceans, community donations

Alarmed by plummeting lake levels and declining water quality, the Skeleton Lake Stewardship Association formed in 2005 and shortly after had established a terms of reference for developing a Watershed Management Plan for the lake. This project focused on bringing the necessary partners and capacity together to develop a draft plan. After extensive work, the draft plan was completed in May 2009 with a focus on five core recommendations. The group will be continuing its efforts through 2009 in the hopes of gaining the required commitments necessary to fully act upon the recommendations listed in the report.



Sturgeon River Watershed Initiative

GRANT: 5s08_#18_SRWI

LOCATION: St. Albert

GRANT AMOUNT: \$6,000.00

TOTAL PROJECT VALUE: \$11,742.32

OTHER PARTNERS: City of St. Albert

This project enabled the establishment of the Sturgeon River Watershed Initiative Society. Funding for the project was directed towards a kick-off/AGM event, significant local communication and awareness, development of a strategic plan, and orientation for the society’s new Board of Directors. Over 300 contacts were made in the lead-up to the event and from the 36 attendees at the first AGM, nine stepped forward to form the group’s first Board of Directors. The group now feels grounded and empowered to initiate and pursue watershed activities that will improve the conditions of the Sturgeon River Watershed.



Wizard Lake Watershed and Lake Stewardship Association

GRANT: 30s08_#26_WLWLSA

LOCATION: Wizard Lake and local watershed

GRANT AMOUNT: \$7,500.00

TOTAL PROJECT VALUE: \$50,256.62

OTHER PARTNERS: PFRA, AESA, Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Leduc County, Wetaskiwin County, RCMP, Alberta Environment (in-kind), Alberta Lake Management Society

Activities made possible with ASN Watershed Stewardship Grants to the Wizard Lake Watershed and Lake Stewardship Association helped earn the group the 2008 Leduc County Environmental Stewardship Award. This ambitious group hosted a number of events throughout the year to galvanize and inspire the lake’s community to actively steward their local watershed including an awareness day, open house, strategic planning retreat for their board, and the very popular annual “WizSpiel”. In addition, the group bolstered community awareness and knowledge through local schools, their community newsletter, improvements to their bulletin board network, and capacity building opportunities for local watershed leaders. The group also engaged in significant watershed research and is pleased to have produced, with their project partners, a new local watershed map.

Oldman River Sub-Watershed

Located in southwestern Alberta, the Oldman River watershed is a sub-basin of the South Saskatchewan system. 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.



Castle-Crown Wilderness Coalition

GRANT: 34s08_#46_CCWC

LOCATION: Crowsnest Pass Area

GRANT AMOUNT: \$7,500.00

TOTAL PROJECT VALUE: \$23,030.00

OTHER PARTNERS: Wilburforce, ACA, Alberta Ecotrust, Livingstone School, Kainai School, Oldman Cultural Centre

The Castle Crown Wilderness Coalition (CWCC) desired to expand its monitoring, stewardship and outreach programs with particular focus on riparian health, restoration, and invasive species monitoring and removal. The project resulted in the hiring and training of local youth leaders who further engaged the community through face-to-face events, and a variety of other media, including the Internet. Summer months also allowed for streambank bioengineering work, weed pulls, garbage collection, trail maintenance and a shoreline cleanup. The group was one of several organizations and many additional volunteers who participated in the 14th annual Ed Gregor Stewardship Day.



Drywood Yarrow Conservation Partnership

GRANT: 3s09_DYCG

LOCATION: Pincher Creek and area

GRANT AMOUNT: \$875.00

TOTAL PROJECT VALUE: \$2,818.75

OTHER PARTNERS: Municipal District of Pincher Creek, Southern Alberta Conservation Partnership, Agricultural Service Board of Pincher Creek, Cows and Fish, Trout Unlimited

This small group of 16 volunteer landowners sought to complete a modest project that would demonstrate and leverage the value of range assessment and planning. Using a volunteer landowner's property, the group learned from a professionally conducted assessment and invasive plant identification workshop. As a result, members of the group are employing custom grazing techniques, rotations with decreased Animal Unit Months (AUMs) and off-stream watering methods.



Willow Creek Watershed Group

GRANT: 2s08_#13_WCWG

LOCATION: Willow Creek Watershed

GRANT AMOUNT: \$7,500.00

TOTAL PROJECT VALUE: \$19,395.00

OTHER PARTNERS: Member landowners, M.D. of Ranchland, M.D. of Willow Creek

The Willow Creek Watershed Group sought to initiate local awareness and capacity building through the establishment of a variety of different demonstration projects that provide landowners with information and tangible options available to enhance the watershed. As a result, the group established riparian fence and pasture, pasture pipeline and grazing rotation, and upland wintering demonstration sites to move cattle away from the creek’s riparian zone. The group used the sites in conjunction with two workshops (riparian health and bioengineering) to directly engage 26 landowners and in broad contact with 86 separate producers in the area. The group was pleased that they achieved and exceeded their first-year goals and is encouraged by the enthusiasm their efforts are helping to foster.

Peace River Watershed

The Peace River begins in the mountains of northern British Columbia where it is then 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 dam³ and a drainage area of 293,000 km². The Peace/Slave River Basin includes the Wapiti, Smoky, Little Smoky, and Wabasca rivers.



Clear Hills Watershed Initiative

GRANT: 23s08_#47_CHWI

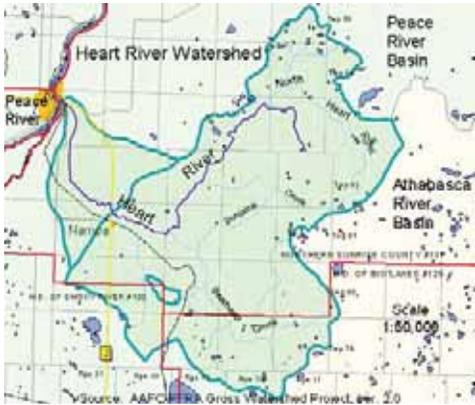
LOCATION: Clear Hills County

GRANT AMOUNT: \$7,500.00

TOTAL PROJECT VALUE: \$33,394.05

OTHER PARTNERS: Clear Hills County, AESA, Fairview Printing, Eureka River Ag. Society, AWQA day

One of the more northerly grant recipients, the Clear Hills Watershed Initiative brought considerable water quality awareness to the community through comprehensive monitoring and outreach initiatives. The group helped bring about general awareness through active participation in trade fairs, quarterly newsletters, and the establishment of a web presence. They worked to generate depth of understanding through local school presentations and contests, community presentations, and a dugout testing program. “We created incredible community awareness in our year in both the schools and public sector,” submits Sherri Larsen, project contact.



Heart River Watershed Advisory Committee

GRANT: 8s08_#21_HRWAC

LOCATION: Northern Sunrise County

GRANT AMOUNT: \$7,500.00

TOTAL PROJECT VALUE: \$30,200.00

OTHER PARTNERS: Northern Sunrise County (grant holder), Village of Nampa, MD of Smoky River, MD of Big Lakes, SARDA, Dusks Unlimited, DMI, Alberta Environment, ASRD, Frank Lake Important Bird Area, local farmers, PFRA

Building on previous phases of work, completed in part with support of the ASN Watershed Stewardship Grant Program, the Heart River Watershed Advisory Committee, through public and First Nation consultations, finalized their Watershed Management Plan and submitted it to Alberta Environment in June 2008. This plan has provided direction to the Municipal Planning Committee in the development of the Municipal Development Plan. The on-going water sampling program is expected to provide proof of any improvements to the water quality in the Heart River as the committee continues to promote better stewardship through brochures, signs, tours, and restoration efforts. Their efforts have not only encouraged some local landowners to take advantage of riparian restoration programs but also to change their management practices. The group plans to continue to increase awareness of riparian area importance within Northern Sunrise County and the Heart River Basin.

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 8 kilometres into the province of Saskatchewan. Although its headwaters are found within the Rocky Mountains, the Red Deer River receives minimal glacial runoff, and is fed primarily by snowmelt, groundwater, precipitation, and inflows from its numerous tributaries. Consisting of a drainage area of nearly 50,000 km², the watershed is the largest subbasin of the South Saskatchewan River basin. It encompasses 55 urban centres and 18 rural or regional municipalities.



Rosebud River Watershed Partners

GRANT: 7s08_#20_RRWP

LOCATION: County of Wheatland

GRANT AMOUNT: \$4,500.00

TOTAL PROJECT VALUE: \$19,763.00

OTHER PARTNERS: Encana, Cows and Fish, Western Irrigation District, Village of Rockyford, Wheatland County, Environmental Farm Plan Company

Rosebud River Watershed Partners built off the momentum of previous projects with an ambitious assortment of awareness and capacity building initiatives including their annual Xeriscape Plant Dig, school awareness days, river tours, on-farm projects and riparian assessments, a signage program, their AGM, and an annual volunteer "Splash" recognition event. As the group's capacity and reputation continues to expand, it is now working closely with the County and local producers to assist and advise with local watershed issues.

	<p>Sylvan Lake Watershed Stewardship Society</p> <p>GRANT: 43s08_#34_SLWSS</p> <p>LOCATION: Sylvan Lake</p> <p>GRANT AMOUNT: \$7,500.00</p> <p>TOTAL PROJECT VALUE: \$13,624.00</p> <p>OTHER PARTNERS: Alberta Environment (in-kind)</p>
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Analysis of lake water samples taken during previous years showed that significant nutrient load enters the lake and very little exits. Based on findings, the group initiated the development and distribution of a beneficial management practice document “Sylvan Lake Water Quality Sampling and Beneficial Management Practice Awareness”. In addition to making the report available to members and prominently available on the group’s website, the report was also shared with the eight governing municipalities in the local watershed. General public awareness will be assisted with the development of the group’s new display panel. The group feels their work has significantly and directly influenced local development requirements. Building on their successes, the group has expanded a sampling program to the remaining inflow streams.

South Saskatchewan River Watershed

The South Saskatchewan River Basin includes the sub-basins of the Bow, Red Deer, Oldman and South Saskatchewan river basins. All of the basins begin in the Rocky Mountains, generally flowing eastward through foothills and prairie.

	<p>Society of Grassland Naturalists</p> <p>GRANT: 1s08_#02_SGN</p> <p>LOCATION: Medicine Hat</p> <p>GRANT AMOUNT: \$7500.00</p> <p>TOTAL PROJECT VALUE: \$20,500.00</p> <p>OTHER PARTNERS: City of Medicine Hat, Medicine Hat Interpretive Program, Shell Environmental Fund, community volunteers</p>
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The Society of Grassland Naturalists wanted to bring attention to the types, variety, and importance of wetlands within the urban area. The project recruited and trained enthusiastic volunteers to monitor and observe various sites.

Throughout the summer, volunteers documented site characteristics including amphibian, wildlife, and vegetative presence. The group built off their learnings to host several public wetland hikes, amphibian calling workshops, a special teacher reception, and a teacher resource kit. In total the group engaged approximately 165 volunteers, teachers and wetland tour participants. An additional 1000 visitors to the local Nature Centre experienced the group's exhibit in September 2008. The group plans to continue to use the resources developed in association with this project throughout 2009.

Report Conclusions

The 41 projects completed in association with this report are representative of the variety of projects led and pursued at the community level across Alberta. Reflecting upon previous grant cycles, it is possible to see the emerging level of maturity and sophistication being achieved by a number of groups.

Like many community level efforts, the consistent and persistent presence of a particular theme, topic or cause often slowly works its way into local culture and becomes accepted as the “new normal”. For example, thanks to the efforts of some lake stewardship organizations it is now becoming common practice that local citizens become a member of the group. The powerful social dynamic of community norms combined with the pride and ethic of a stewardship initiative brings new depth and durability to messages, activities, and beneficial practices.

For the most part, the issues and opportunities brought forward in previous reports and surveys remain. Many groups are still challenged with volunteer capacity, liability questions, and consistent and sufficient support to allow them to pursue their goals.

An emerging theme associated with some projects undertaken in this grant cycle relates to the system – or in some respects *the lack of an articulated system* – for the efforts of community groups to coordinate, contribute and be seen as contributing to broader initiatives. Some groups, having developed the knowledge and capacity to pursue sophisticated monitoring or planning initiatives found themselves wondering how this information could effectively contribute to regional or watershed goals.

Some groups reiterated their previously expressed desire to better understand how their efforts could most effectively support the Government of Alberta’s initiatives and struggled to understand if their limited resources would be well placed if associated with “Water for Life” under the intensifying presence of the Land-use Framework (LUF). Many groups perceived the visibility and prominence of WPACs in decline in light of the LUFs planning regions and wondered how their efforts might be supported in the future.

Regardless, in its current form, the Watershed Stewardship Grant Program appears to have found an approximate equilibrium. Interest in funds from legitimate projects has been shown to roughly equal the funds made available to the program and the impact of the projects continues to “punch well beyond its weight” with a consistent four-to-one leverage ratio.

Recognizing the significant potential associated within the emerging financial and policy landscape, the Alberta Stewardship Network expresses its continued gratitude to Alberta Environment for the support of the Watershed Stewardship Grant Program. The ASN’s Board of Directors is committed to keeping both the program and the organization relevant and meaningful to the stewardship community and welcomes the opportunity to discuss future opportunities.

Appendices

Appendix A: Financial Information

Budget (A1): Overview of Administration & Granting

1. Leveraged In-kind contributions from all sources:	Amount (\$)
<i>e.g. Volunteer time - \$20/hour, Technical expert - \$30/hour, Equipment time - \$40/hour</i>	
Stewardship Grant Committee (tech. time @\$30/hr):	
Land Stewardship Centre of Canada /ASN Secretariat Volunteer time(80hrs plus)	\$2,400.00
Alberta Environment	\$420.00
Alberta Agriculture, Food, and Rural Development – AESA	\$780.00
Alberta Riparian Habitat Management Society / Cows and Fish	\$750.00
Alberta Conservation Association	\$660.00
4 Volunteers (i.e. representatives from 2 community-based watershed stewardship groups and ASN Chair report writer	\$4,680.00
Representatives from Watershed Planning & Advisory Councils (Oldman Watershed Council, Bow River Basin Council, ? hrs)	\$1,740.00
Sub-total: Stewardship Grant Committee In-kind	\$11,430.00
<i>Grant Recipients: Documented in-kind volunteer time</i>	\$328,160.00
<i>Grant Recipients: Documented in-kind miscellaneous (equipment and materials etc.)</i>	\$160,102.42
Sub-total: Grant Recipients in-kind contributions¹	\$488,262.42
Total In-kind Contributions	\$499,692.42
2. Cash Income from all sources:	
GOA Grant received for Watershed Stewardship Grant Program (08GRES12)	\$250,000.00
Funds from GOA Grant 06-GREA29 allocated in 2008	\$54,631.05
Sub-total ASN Income	\$304,631.05
<i>Grant Recipients: Documented additional financial contributions</i>	\$339,910.82
Total Project Income	\$644,541.87
3. Expenses:	
Total Grants issued to projects: 41 projects up to \$7500 each ²	\$264,631.05
Administration: ASN Grant Administration	\$25,000.00
Sub-total ASN Expenses	\$289,631.05
<i>Grant Recipients: Documented additional expenses</i>	\$339,910.82
Total Project Expenses	\$629,541.87
4. Total Cash Income less Total Expenses³	\$15,000.00

¹ In-kind contributions were not fully documented in several final reports. Actual in-kind contributions estimated to be up to 20% higher.

² Figure includes \$7,500 issued to Siksika Corporation (26s08_#54). It is assumed that the funds were spent, but it was not reported on.

³ Figure represents \$7,500 grant returned, and \$7,500 grant initially approved but subsequently withdrawn. These funds will be reissued to the 2010 grant cycle (pending approval by Alberta Environment) and will be reported upon in this process.

Budget (A2): Overview of Watershed Stewardship Groups' Financial Information

2008 WATERSHED STEWARDSHIP GRANTS			Project Funding from ASN			Leveraged Contributions			Total Project Value
ASN Grant Agreement	Group Name	Signing Authority	Requested	Approved	Grant/Spent	Misc.	Volunteer Time	Direct Financial	
1s08_#02_SGN	Society of Grasslands Naturalists	Same	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00	\$10,000.00	\$3,000.00		\$20,500.00
2s08_#13_WCVWG	Willow Creek Watershed Group	MD of Ranchland	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00		\$2,330.00	\$9,565.00	\$19,395.00
3s09_#_DYCG	Drywood Yarrow Conservation Group	MD of Pincher Creek	\$875.00	\$875.00	\$875.00	\$43.75	\$900.00	\$1,000.00	\$2,818.75
4s08_#17_BHI	Beaver Hills Initiative	County of Strathcona	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	\$40,900.00	\$6,000.00		\$49,400.00
5s08_#18_SRWI	Sturgeon River Watershed Initiative Society	Same	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00	\$302.32	\$4,940.00	\$500.00	\$11,742.32
6s08_#19_LaKWSC	Watershed Advisory Committee & The Lac La Biche County Watershed Steering Committee via Lac La Biche County	Lac La Biche County	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00	\$5,760.00	\$15,800.00	\$12,500.00	\$41,560.00
7s08_#20_RRWP	Rosebud River Watershed Partners	Same	\$4,500.00	\$4,500.00	\$4,500.00	\$4,763.00	\$5,000.00	\$5,500.00	\$19,763.00
8s08_#21_HRWAC	Heart River Watershed Advisory Committee	Northern Sunrise County	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00				\$7,500.00
9s08_#22_MLW	Moose Lake Watershed Society	MD of Bonnyville	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00	\$11,060.00	\$3,700.00	\$5,260.00	\$27,520.00
10s08_#25_KMC	Bonnie Doon Community Keepers Of The Creek	Bonny Doon Community League	\$6,700.00	\$6,700.00	\$6,700.00		\$2,000.00	\$1,700.00	\$10,400.00
11s08_#27_MPWA	Mountain Parks Watershed Association	Same	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
12s08_#31_CLASS	Crane Lake Advisory And Stewardship Society	Same	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$918.63	\$2,000.00	\$4,500.00	\$10,418.63
13s08_#32_ERWP	Elbow River Watershed Partnership	Same	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00	\$7,527.51	\$1,060.00	\$7,092.00	\$23,179.51
14s08_#33_CBEBF	Cochrane Branches And Banks Environmental Foundation	Same	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00	\$5,296.69	\$5,900.00	\$2,000.00	\$17,196.69
15s08_#35_GWAS	Ghost Watershed Alliance Society	Same	\$6,500.00	\$6,500.00	\$6,500.00	\$1,549.26	\$20,000.00	\$5,580.00	\$33,629.26
15s08_#35b_GWAS	Ghost Watershed Alliance Society	Same	\$800.00	\$800.00	\$800.00				\$800.00
16s08_#36_LEPA	Lac La Nonne Enhancement & Protection Society and Waters Edge Resources Group	Same	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00	\$12,743.79	\$2,380.00	\$5,840.00	\$28,463.79
17s08_#48_LSLIRC	Lesser Slave Lake Indian Regional Council	Same	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00		\$8,000.00		\$15,500.00
18s08_#38_MRR	Milk River Ranchers Association	County of Warner	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00	\$4,470.00	\$4,000.00	\$8,320.00	\$24,290.00
19s08_#40_BLESS	Big Lake Environment Support Society	Same	\$6,973.00	\$6,175.00	\$6,175.00	\$3,450.00	\$2,000.00	\$7,000.00	\$18,625.00
20s08_#41_RRG	Rocky Riparian Group	Clearwater County	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00	\$9,646.88	\$5,440.00	\$8,677.88	\$31,264.76
21s08_#44_FoB	Friends Of Banff National Park - Park Radio	Friends of Banff National Park	\$3,500.00	\$3,500.00	\$3,500.00	\$3,800.00	\$200.00		\$7,500.00
22s08_#45_LWSS	Lac La Nonne Watershed Stewardship Society	Same	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$941.82	\$3,000.00	\$7,725.00	\$16,666.82
23s08_#47_CHWI	Clear Hills Watershed Initiative	Same	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00	\$6,264.05	\$17,380.00	\$2,250.00	\$33,394.05
24s08_#50_FKC	Friends Of Kananaskis Country	Same	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00	\$24,735.27	\$6,000.00	\$9,000.00	\$47,235.27
25s08_#52_SHPREAC	Society Of High Prairie Regional Environmental Action Committee	Same	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00	\$7,618.27	\$16,350.00	\$172.00	\$31,640.27
26s08_#54_SFN	Siksika Corporation for Agriculture Development	Same	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00				\$7,500.00
27s08_#11_LSWSC	Lac Sante Watershed Society	Same	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00	\$4,759.02	\$3,730.00	\$120.00	\$16,109.02
28s08_#12_LLWG	Lacombe Lake Citizens Group	Battle River Watershed Alliance	\$3,750.00	\$3,750.00	\$3,750.00	\$404.09			\$4,154.09
29s08_#23_ARS	Arrowwood Communities in Bloom	Arrowwood Restoration Society	\$5,300.00	\$5,300.00	\$5,300.00	\$3,576.60	\$3,490.00	\$4,465.54	\$16,832.14
30s08_#26_WLWLSA	Wizard Lake Watershed And Lake Stewardship Association	Same	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00	\$4,016.62	\$33,200.00	\$5,540.00	\$50,256.62
31s08_#28_SLSA	Skeleton Lake Stewardship Association	Same	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00	\$55,000.00	\$40,000.00		\$102,500.00
32s08_#29_CCCSA	Crooked Creek Conservancy Society Of Athabasca	Same	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00	\$55,114.31	\$15,000.00	\$23,700.00	\$101,314.31
33s08_#37_HPRAT	High Prairie Riparian Action Team	MD of Big Lakes	\$4,500.00	\$4,500.00	\$4,500.00	\$75.00	\$2,040.00	\$1,460.00	\$8,075.00
34s08_#46_CCWC	Castle-Crown Wilderness Coalition	Same	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00	\$3,360.00	\$3,000.00	\$9,170.00	\$23,030.00
35s08_#53_MWPA*Y2	Mountain Parks Watershed Association & Y2Y	Mountain Parks Watershed Association	\$7,000.00	\$7,000.00	\$7,000.00	\$11,500.00	\$400.00	\$2,000.00	\$20,900.00
36s08_#09_FFCPPS (1)	Friends Of Fish Creek Provincial Park Society	Same	\$7,031.05	\$7,031.05	\$7,031.05	\$1,315.13	\$4,000.00	\$5,300.00	\$17,646.18
37s08_#39_EdRiver (1)	Beyond Books Institute Of Alberta Operating As Riverwatch	Beyond Books Institute of Alberta	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00	\$23,251.67			\$30,751.67
38s08_#01_BHHC	Big Hill & Horse Creek Watershed Partnership	Town of Cochrane	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
39s08_#04_NC	Calgary Field Naturalists' Society	Same	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00		\$53,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$62,500.00
40s08_#07_HCRP	Hardisty Creek Restoration Project (Hcrp)	Foothills Model Forest	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00		\$800.00	\$15,800.00
41s08_#10_FFCPPS2	Friends Of Fish Creek Provincial Park Society	Same	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00	\$817.85	\$12,120.00	\$4,365.00	\$24,802.85
42s08_#42_BRSS	Bow Region Stewardship Society	Same	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00	\$4,905.29	\$10,000.00	\$640.00	\$23,045.29
43s08_#34_SLWSS	Sylvan Lake Watershed Stewardship Society	Same	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00	\$2,524.00	\$800.00	\$2,800.00	\$13,624.00
TOTAL:			\$280,429.05	\$279,631.05	\$264,631.05	\$339,910.82	\$318,160.00	\$166,542.42	\$1,089,244.29

Notes:

- 1 Some leveraged contribution data missing from final report
- 2 Secondary grant issued to assist group with insurance for main project
- 3 Partial, but sufficient, final report received
- 4 Some final report elements still outstanding
- 5 Funding returned following group reorganization
- 6 Funding withdrawn
- 7 Originally approved for \$5275. Additional allocation of \$900 issued following review of modified project.
- 8 No reports received. Insufficient information

Appendix B: Resources from Selected Projects

Several projects resulted in the production of resources and tools that represent significant additions to the body of work built by community stewardship groups. Below is a list of resources that were included with some of the project final reports, some of which are available for viewing online.

1. Handbook: “Lac La Nonne: Our Home, Our Playground, Our Responsibility”
 - View at: <http://www.lepa-ab.com/>
2. Poster: Elbow River Watershed
3. Radio Broadcasts: “Streams of Thought – Water and Conscience”
 - Listen at: http://parkradio.podomatic.com/player/web/2009-04-08T13_33_32-07_00
4. Report: “As long as the river runs... Traditional Knowledge in Lesser Slave Lake Watershed”
5. Report: “Skeleton Lake Watershed Management Plan”
 - View at: <http://www.skeletonlake.com/news/Skeleton-Lake-Watershed-Management-Plan.pdf>
6. Digital stories by Rocky Riparian Group and partners
 - Listen at: <http://www.cowsandfish.org/photos/learning.html>
7. Report: “Heart River Watershed Management Plan”
 - View at: [http://www.northernsunrise.net/Baseline study of Amphibians in Fish Creek Provincial Park](http://www.northernsunrise.net/Baseline%20study%20of%20Amphibians%20in%20Fish%20Creek%20Provincial%20Park)
8. DVD: Friends of Kananaskis Q&A