

# 2009 Watershed Stewardship Grant Program Report



Prepared For: **Alberta Environment**  
Grant: 09-GRES-14

Prepared By:



**June 30th, 2010**

**Edmonton, Alberta**

Special thanks to:

Alberta Environment

Government  
of Alberta ■

water for life

For making the Watershed Stewardship Grant Program possible and for continued support of volunteer on-the-ground conservation efforts throughout Alberta.

# Watershed Stewardship Grant Committee Members

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- ◆ Shirley Pickering, Grant Committee Chair
  - ◆ Doug Thrussell, Alberta Environment
  - ◆ Jeff McCammon, Lac La Nonne Watershed and Lake Stewardship Society
  - ◆ LaVerne Ellesworth, Wizard Lake Watershed and Lake Stewardship Association
  - ◆ Kim Dacyk, Federation of Alberta Naturalists
  - ◆ Meghan Payne, Lesser Slave Watershed Council
  - ◆ Diana Rung, Alberta Conservation Association
  - ◆ Kelsey Spicer-Rowe, Alberta Riparian Habitat Management Society (Cows & Fish)
  - ◆ Mike Murray, Bow River Basin Council
  - ◆ Brian Ilnicki, Land Stewardship Centre of Canada
  - ◆ Jim Craig, AAFC Agri-Environment Services Branch
  - ◆ Wallis Johnson, Watershed Stewardship Grant Administrator
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## Acknowledgements

ASN would like to extend their appreciation to all of the committee members and to 2009 past committee members, Margaret Glasford (chairman) and Dale Chrapko (Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development), for their dedication and hard work to help deliver such a valuable program, and to its other partnering organizations, without which delivery of the range of ASN services would not be possible. Finally, we would like to thank all of the Stewardship Groups and volunteers that contribute so much of their time, effort, expertise, and heart to making Alberta watersheds healthy by helping to increase awareness, and improve the quality of water, habitat, and land management practices.

## **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 2009 Watershed Stewardship Program. 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 the importance of 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 increasing geographic spread, the diversity of activities, and their growing sophistication from year to year. These community driven stewardship groups are increasingly contributing to local and regional watershed management planning and are becoming key in on-the-ground implementation of improved watershed management practices to achieve planning outcomes. This indicates that this community-based stewardship is important in achieving the outcomes of the Water for Life Strategy and Land Use Framework.

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

Shirley Pickering  
2009 Chair, Stewardship Grant Fund Committee

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

## Highlights of the Granting Period

This report provides an overview of projects associated with the **Alberta Stewardship Network's 2009 Watershed Grant Program** made possible through a \$250,000 grant from Alberta Environment: 09-GRES-14. This report also provides details of four additional projects awarded funding in 2009 from \$28,610.55 carried over from Alberta Environment Grant: 06-GREA-29. 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 four years and five grant cycles the Watershed Stewardship Grant program has been offered, recipients have, on average, **leveraged funds** received by a ratio of **four-to-one**, and this past year was no exception.

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 provided explanations as to how their initiative supported the **three goals of the Water for Life strategy**:

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

### “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.

*“With every passing day, the Water for Life initiative is more critical and essential. To me, Water for Life means ensuring comprehensive integration and alignment of economic development, settlement patterns and water management practices. As well, a renewed focus on educating and making Albertans aware of the precarious balance between management practices for today and sustainable development for future generations is essential.”*

*Rick Quail  
Municipal Manager, Town of Okotoks  
AWC member*

*“As citizen taxpayers, we believe these funds are well invested and leverage many more dollars and value to our watersheds and water. The availability and flexibility of the ASN program is very helpful to community stewardship groups doing on-the-ground projects.”*

*Dr. Harvey Scott  
Project Coordinator  
Crooked Creek Conservancy Society*

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., Counties and WPACs).

In selecting the projects for the 2009 funding round the ASN's Grant Committee chose from forty-five 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.

Forty-six grant proposals were submitted and **thirty-eight** projects were ultimately selected for funding in **eleven different watersheds**. One project was deemed in-eligible because they did not meet grant application criteria. The total funding request for eligible projects was \$313,610.55. The total grant funding available was \$253,610.55, all of which was approved by the grant committee for allocation to the selected successful applicants.

All projects approved by the grant committee varied widely in aspiration, intent, scale and scope. Thirty-one of the thirty-eight approved projects completed work as described in their project applications. One group withdrew their application due to an inability to secure partner contributions. Three other groups returned a portion of the grant funds at the end of the grant round due to an inability to complete the project to the extent outlined in the original application. In addition, two groups (Saskatoon Lake Steering Committee and Sylvan Lake Watershed Stewardship Society) applied for time extensions to their grant due to an inability to complete the scope of their work planned for the 2009 field work season, these were granted with some restrictions and will be reported on under the 2010 Grant Program.

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. One group only submitted an interim progress report and as such their financial and project records are incomplete, however their project progress will continue to be monitored with the expectation that it will be completed and reported on under the 2010 Grant Program.

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, North Saskatchewan, and Athabasca watersheds (Figure 1 and Table 1).

### 2009 Program Summary

**38 watershed stewardship projects** were initially funded.

- ◆ **31** of these projects were completed as stated in applications.
- ◆ **33** of these projects involved considerable focus on **Awareness and Knowledge**. Scope and reach varied from local event attendance to prominent radio programming.
- ◆ **13** of these projects focused on the development of **Tools** to improve the effectiveness of efforts.
- ◆ **18** of these projects involved substantial **Team-Building** components intended to extend and bring depth to the capacity and passion driving initiatives.
- ◆ **15** of these projects involved dimensions of **Social and Biophysical Monitoring**.
- ◆ **25** of these projects concentrated efforts on **Community-based Action**.
- ◆ These projects generated **several hundred additional partnerships** between groups, community organizations, municipalities, and other provincial organizations resulting in substantial leveraging and synergy.

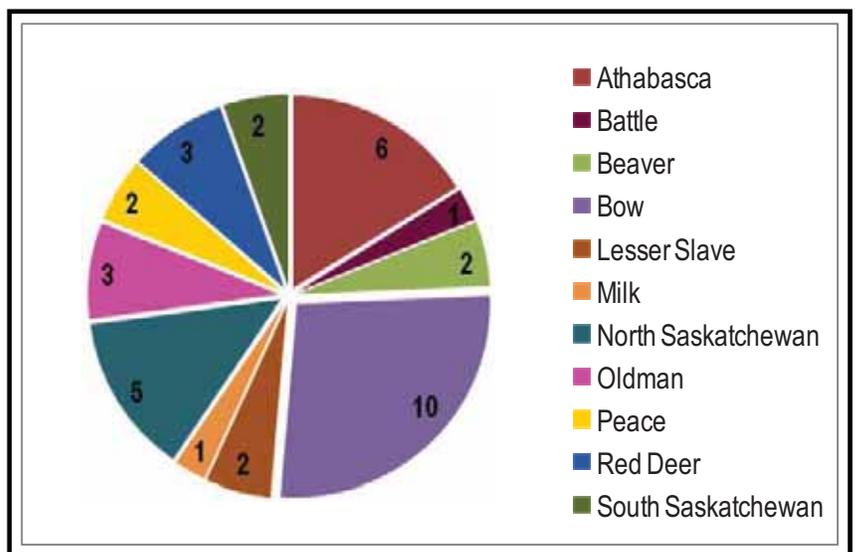


Figure 1 Number of projects within 11 of Alberta's watersheds funded through the 2009 Watershed Stewardship Grant Program.

# Financial Summary

See Appendix A for detailed accounts

\$250,000.00 from grant 09-GRES-14 plus an additional \$28,610.55 transferred from grant 06-GREA-29 was allotted to the 2009 grant program, giving a total of \$278,610.55.

## Funds are accounted for as follows:

- ◆ Total funding dispersed to projects: **\$243,610.55**
- ◆ Funding retained by ASN to fund grant administration and projects associated with this document: **\$25,000.00 (10% of grant 09-GRES-14)**
- ◆ A request has been made in the cover letter submitted with this report to have **\$9,907.24** in returned funds from this 2009 grant program carried over for use in the 2011 Grant Program (funded via Alberta Environment Grant: 10-GRES-13) where it will be reported on accordingly. A breakdown of the returned funds and reason for their return to ASN are outlined below:
  - **\$3,994.41** in funding was withdrawn from a project proponent unable to complete its requisite grant agreement due to a lack of partnering support.
  - **\$2992.81, \$1952.00, and \$968.02** of funding was returned to the ASN by three proponents unable to complete the scope of their project within the allotted timeframe.

Figure 2 shows over **four-to-one leveraging** of these granted funds, thereby increasing the invested value to **\$1,113,811.45**.

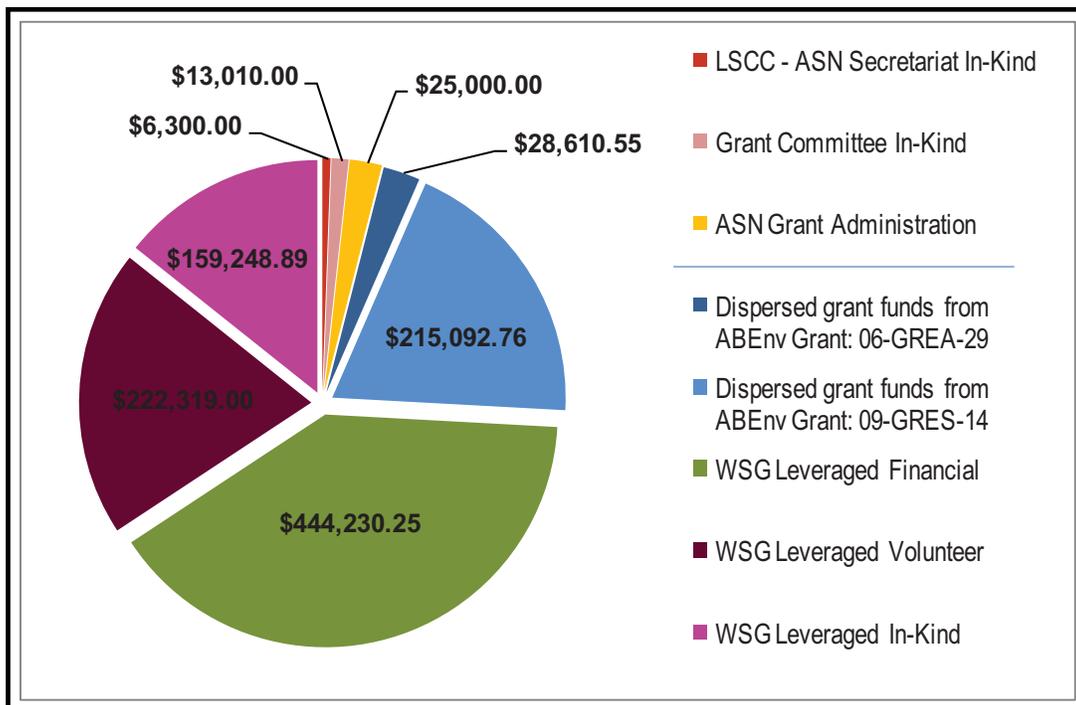


Figure 2. 2009 Watershed Stewardship Grant Program funding breakdown by cash and in-kind contributions.

# Grant Recipients by Watershed

The following section outlines and summarizes the 35 projects completed by 34 different Watershed Stewardship Groups in 11 of Alberta's major watersheds. This number includes the four projects which were funded by the 2007 Grant Program surplus and does not include summaries for the two groups that received extensions. Project intentions for the group that withdrew from the program are stated in this section as well. See Figure 3 and Table 1 for detailed project and group locations.

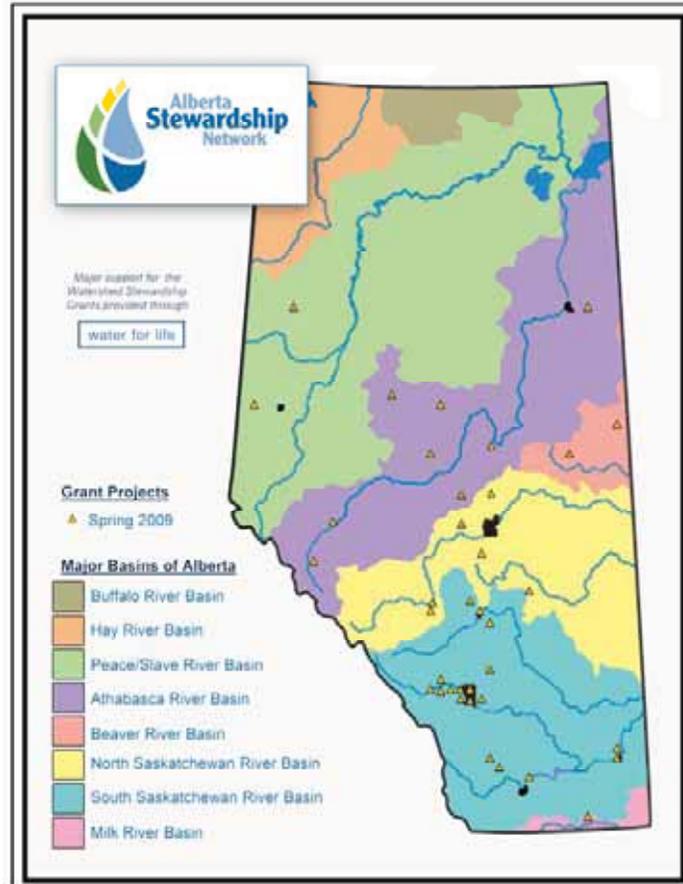


Figure 3. Map of Alberta's Major Drainage Basins highlighting the Watershed Stewardship Grant Project locations for spring 2009.

Table 1. List of Watershed Stewardship Groups separated by 11 Alberta watersheds.

<p><b>Athabasca River Watershed</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Crooked Creek Conservancy Society of Athabasca</li> <li>2. Fort Assiniboine Water Keepers</li> <li>3. Hinton Fish Habitat Coalition</li> <li>4. Lac La Nonne Watershed Stewardship Society</li> <li>5. West Athabasca Bioregional Society</li> </ol>	<p><b>Bow River cont'd</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>14. Ghost Watershed Alliance Society</li> <li>15. Jumpingpound Creek Watershed Project</li> <li>16. Nose Creek Watershed Partnership</li> <li>17. Rosebud River Watershed Partners</li> <li>18. Weaselhead/Glenmore Park Preservation Society</li> </ol>	<p><b>Oldman River Sub-Watershed</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>28. Battersea Drain Watershed Group</li> <li>29. Lyndon Creek Conservation Group</li> <li>30. Willow Creek Watershed Group</li> </ol>
<p><b>Battle River Sub-Watershed</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6. Friends of Little Beaver Lake Society</li> </ol>	<p><b>Lesser Slave River Sub-Watershed</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>19. High Prairie Riparian Action Team</li> <li>20. Smith Environmental Association</li> </ol>	<p><b>Peace River Watershed</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>31. Clear Hills Watershed Initiative</li> </ol>
<p><b>Beaver River Watershed</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7. Crane Lake Advisory and Stewardship Society</li> <li>8. Moose Lake Watershed Society</li> </ol>	<p><b>Milk River Watershed</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>21. Milk River Ranchers Association</li> </ol>	<p><b>Red Deer River Sub-Watershed</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>32. Friends of the Little Red Deer River Society</li> <li>33. Medicine River Watershed Society</li> </ol>
<p><b>Bow River Sub-Watershed</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9. Bow Region Stewardship Society</li> <li>10. Calgary Field Naturalists' Society</li> <li>11. Cochrane Branches And Banks Environmental Foundation</li> <li>12. Elbow River Watershed Partnership</li> <li>13. Friends of Fish Creek Provincial Park Society</li> </ol>	<p><b>North Saskatchewan River Watershed</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>22. Clearwater Christina Watershed Group</li> <li>23. Rocky Riparian Group (a)</li> <li>24. Rocky Riparian Group (b)</li> <li>25. Sturgeon River Watershed Initiative Society</li> <li>26. West Central Forage Association</li> <li>27. Wizard Lake Watershed &amp; Lake Stewardship Society</li> </ol>	<p><b>South Saskatchewan River Watershed</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>34. Cypress County Watershed Group</li> <li>35. Society of Grasslands Naturalists</li> </ol>

## 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>.



### Clearwater Christina Watershed Group

**GRANT:** 22s09-40-CCWG

**LOCATION:** Anzac

**GRANT AMOUNT:** \$7,500

**TOTAL PROJECT VALUE:** \$14,800

**OTHER PARTNERS:** Tawatinaw Watershed Stewardship Group; Ecotrust; Glasswater Fdn.; Tides Fdn., YEIP; Safe Drinking Water Fdn.; Athabasca University Science Outreach; Athabasca Heritage Society; Athabasca, Cold Lake, and Lac La Biche Native Friendship Centres; Treaty 8; CPAWS; AWA; GW Solutions

In partnership with four other stewardship groups in the Athabasca Watershed the Clearwater Christina Watershed Group facilitated and hosted a regional groundwater forum as well as three regional community watershed monitoring and stewardship workshops. The conference had excellent educational presentations, including, but not limited to, one regarding the effects of industry on the Athabasca River watershed communities, and one by a contact from the Centre for Indigenous Environmental Research on how they were able to help the Mikisew Cree with setting up a water monitoring program. To advance outreach to the community, the group also organized a valuable educational watershed activity/workshop day for four classrooms ranging from grades two to seven with such topics as the balance of wildlife and plants in the health of the aquatic ecosystem, pollution tolerance indicators, and benthic invertebrates. Based on recommendations by field experts and desire from community members, in 2009 this group also commenced baseline sampling in the areas surrounding Anzac.



### Crooked Creek Conservancy Society of Athabasca

**GRANT:** 03s09-35-CCCSA

**LOCATION:** Anzac, Slave Lake, Cold Lake, Lac La Biche

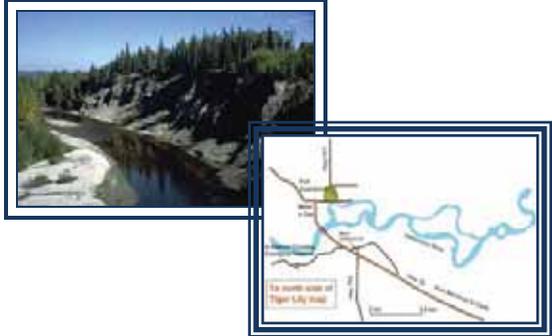
**GRANT AMOUNT:** \$7,500.00

**TOTAL PROJECT VALUE:** \$24,623.20

**OTHER PARTNERS:** Keepers of the Athabasca Watershed Council; Keepers of the Clearwater; Tawatinaw Watershed Stewardship Group; Ecotrust; Glasswater Fdn; Tides Fdn, YEIP; Safe Drinking Water Fdn; Athabasca University Science Outreach; Athabasca Heritage Society; Athabasca, Cold Lake and Lac la Biche Native Friendship Centres; Treaty 8; CPAWS; AWA; GW Solutions

The Crooked Creek Conservancy Society of Athabasca is an alliance of aboriginal and non-aboriginal stewards that benefits from this cross-cultural enrichment. This group has worked to build on this connection as well as previous

efforts and used funds to organize and deliver another series of stewardship workshops 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. 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. This series concluded with their Water is Life Forum, which included presentations from wetland, limnologist, and boreal ecology experts as well as respected TEK aboriginal elders. Beyond community outreach, this group has also ventured into natural history field bio-surveys in an effort to build on their Tawatinaw River Study, Ecological Health Assessment, and Phase I Restoration Plan Project. All of which will help form the beginning of a State of the Tawatinaw Watershed Report.

	<p><b><u>Fort Assiniboine Water Keepers</u></b></p> <p><b>GRANT:</b> 32s09-44-FAWK</p> <p><b>LOCATION:</b> Goose Lake</p> <p><b>GRANT AMOUNT:</b> \$7,500</p> <p><b>TOTAL PROJECT VALUE:</b> \$8,300</p> <p><b>OTHER PARTNERS:</b> Cows and Fish; Athabasca WPAC; Lac La Nonne Watershed Stewardship Society</p>
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The final report and financials were not submitted by this group. However, there was an interim progress report submitted, which accounted for \$800.00 of the grant. In spring/summer 2009 the Fort Assiniboine Water Keepers organized a Water Fun Day that was meant for the community to discover the ecological health of a neighbourhood lake, which, based on natural history claims, had deteriorated. This included an aquatic invertebrate study for kids, a riparian assessment and analysis by Cows and Fish, and background information on how to make an impact at a local level. Unfortunately, only a few people attended which left the group feeling overwhelmed and deflated, even after years of anecdotes and verbal support from the community for such an event. The day eventually turned it into a discussion on the latest progress of the Athabasca WPAC.

<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Before</i></p>  <p style="text-align: right;"><i>After</i></p>	<p><b><u>Hinton Fish Habitat Coalition</u></b></p> <p><b>GRANT:</b> 10s09-20-HFHC</p> <p><b>LOCATION:</b> Hardisty Creek and Robb Road</p> <p><b>GRANT AMOUNT:</b> \$7,500</p> <p><b>TOTAL PROJECT VALUE:</b> \$234,681</p> <p><b>OTHER PARTNERS:</b> Fisheries and Oceans Canada; West Fraser mills Ltd.; Foothills Research Institute; Hinton fish and Game Association; Trout Unlimited Canada; FP Innovations; First Nations Technical Services Advisory Group; Gerard Redmond Junior High School; Fox Creek Development</p>
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The Hinton Fish Habitat Coalition worked with a diverse group of partners including government, industry, general public, and NGO's to improve the condition of local riparian habitats through the removal of a fish barrier and mitigation of sedimentation to open up 10km of fish habitat along Hardisty Creek. As a result, the creek is providing more ecosystem functions and significantly more fish species inhabit reaches of the creek that were previously impassable. This group also conducted tours before and after project construction and as a

direct result three more similar crossing structures were installed by three separate companies. Furthermore, a group of students from a local junior high school planted willow trees for bank stabilization and learned about riparian habitat values. Signs will be put up in early summer 2010 and the site will be used in the future for workshops, tours, and student groups for education surrounding riparian health and stream crossings.



### Lac La Nonne Watershed Stewardship Society

**GRANT:** 07s09-27-LWSS

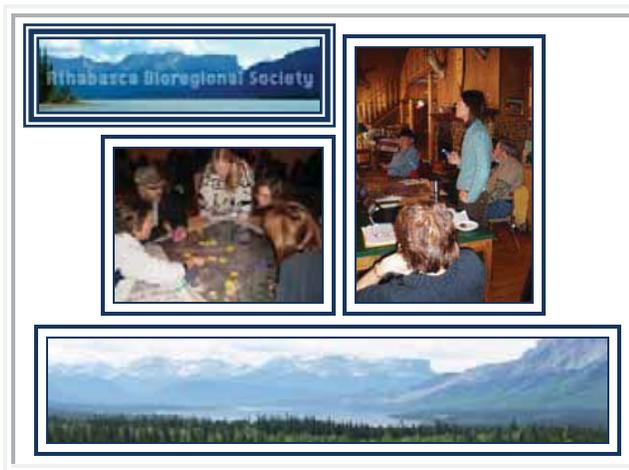
**LOCATION:** Edmonton and Lac La Nonne Watershed

**GRANT AMOUNT:** \$7,500

**TOTAL PROJECT VALUE:** \$21,494.53

**OTHER PARTNERS:** Cows and Fish; PFRA; Lac Ste. Anne County; Barrhead County; Camp Nakamun; SV Nakamun; Seniors Lakeside Resort, LEPA, Fishin Hole, AEV, Sustainable Resources and Development

The Lac La Nonne Watershed Stewardship Society organized a wetland education event with 50 grade five and six students from the Rich Valley and Dustable Schools to gain awareness and knowledge of riparian areas, ecology, and characteristics of the water cycle of the watershed and lakes. In addition to this, they also held a conference, "Lakes: The Naked Truth", which had presenters from local watershed groups as well as field experts and covered a range of topics from riparian areas and fish management, to the values of healthy ecosystems, water supplies, and clean drinking water. In combination with the conference, the group also participated in the Edmonton Outdoor Show, showcasing lake stewardship to over 500 participants.



### West Athabasca Bioregional Society

**GRANT:** 21s09-39-WABS

**LOCATION:** Hinton and its local community landscape region

**GRANT AMOUNT:** \$7,500

**TOTAL PROJECT VALUE:** \$76,800

**OTHER PARTNERS:** Brule Grazing Association; Alberta Real Estate Foundation; local citizens on the Working Group

The West Athabasca Bioregional Society focuses on watershed stewardship, sustainable community works, renewable energy, and wilderness and wildlife conservation. In 2009 the group sponsored a local citizens' initiative for a Community Landscape Visioning Process (CLVP) for Hinton and the surrounding region. This consisted of three separate Open Forums for Public Input based on five themes: 1. Water; 2. Future Development; 3. History, Traditional Use, Aesthetics and Character; 4. Recreation; 5. Wilderness and Wildlife, with efforts to try to find a way to accommodate development and use without adversely impacting the natural, historical, and wilderness values they enjoy and want to protect as a legacy for the future. The CLVP Final Report provides a number of recommendations, including, but not limited to, those for water and water usage in the defined landscape area, and for the protection of riparian areas and water courses of all types.

## Battle River Sub-Watershed

The Battle River Watershed is a sub-basin of the North Saskatchewan River Basin. The river itself extends 800 km, 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).



**Friends of Little Beaver Lake Society**

**GRANT:** 04s09-14-FLBLS

**LOCATION:** Little Beaver Lake - Ferintosh

**GRANT AMOUNT:** \$7,500

**TOTAL PROJECT VALUE:** \$16,189.46

**OTHER PARTNERS:** Village of Ferintosh; Battle River Watershed Alliance; Alberta Riparian Management Society (Cows and Fish); Windwood Group

The ASN Grant supported a riparian assessment of Beaver Lake by Cows and Fish in an effort to establish a baseline to plan future projects that are necessary for improving the lake and riparian health as well as wildlife populations. Through an information session the Friends of Little Beaver Lake Society engaged landowners in a discussion about the riparian assessment and what can be done on a small scale by landowners but have a large cumulative effect on improving the habitat. Furthermore, the group designed and installed an interpretive sign near the lake to further educate people and bring awareness to the importance of the lake, its wildlife, and healthy watersheds. Future plans for this group involve the promotion of non-motorized boats by building a dock and installing another interpretive sign.

## 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 km<sup>2</sup>. 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 the 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:** 08s09-2-CLASS

**LOCATION:** Crane Lake

**GRANT AMOUNT:** \$5,375 (\$2,382.19 spent)

**TOTAL PROJECT VALUE:** \$9,958.02

**OTHER PARTNERS:** LICA; ALMS; BRWA; Ducks Unlimited; M.D. Bonnyville; Alberta Environment; Fish and Wildlife; Vancouver Aquarium; TD Bank

The Crane Lake Advisory and Stewardship Society (CLASS) used this grant to support the highly successful and well attended Eco Day, and Shoreline Cleanup/Barbeque events in spring and fall 2009. The cleanup removed hundreds of kg of beverage containers, tires, plastic and other debris from the shoreline and lake. A "Slow – No Wake" campaign was expanded from 2008 to reduce shoreline impacts and protect nesting and spawning areas, and based on its success this program will continue to grow and will hopefully be maintained by local landowners in the future. The ASN grant also supported the group's AGM, website re-design, and a number of wooden bat houses that were distributed to interested property owners. Furthermore, CLASS has been the central liaison between lake users, residents, other stewardship and watershed groups, and various levels of government.



### Moose Lake Watershed Society

**GRANT:** 01s09-6-MLWS

**LOCATION:** Moose Lake Watershed

**GRANT AMOUNT:** \$5,596.14 (\$4,628.12 spent)

**TOTAL PROJECT VALUE:** \$32,948.12

**OTHER PARTNERS:** MD of Bonnyville; Lakeland Agricultural Research Association; Alberta Parks; Beaver River Watershed Alliance; Alberta Lake Management Society; Northeast Natural Resource Education Society

One of the Moose Lake Watershed Society's main goals is to increase public awareness of and engagement in land stewardship activities. They have achieved substantial gains to this goal through a highly successful and sought after elementary school invasive vegetation program, numerous local news publications, and information evenings. The group is particularly pleased at how this project has helped build and foster the working relationships among many organizations and the local community and at how they have begun to see healthy practices occurring around the lake, such as increased shore vegetation, public interest in creek and stream protection, and implementation of best management practices.

## 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 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 visit this area every year, attracted to recreational opportunities.

 	<p><b><u>Bow Region Stewardship Society</u></b></p> <p><b>GRANT:</b> 18s09-28-BRSS</p> <p><b>LOCATION:</b> McLean Creek</p> <p><b>GRANT AMOUNT:</b> \$7,500</p> <p><b>TOTAL PROJECT VALUE:</b> \$21,873.56</p> <p><b>OTHER PARTNERS:</b> n/a</p>
<p><i>Before</i></p>  	

Using this grant the Bow Region Stewardship Society sought to install two fence lines and signs to divert OHV traffic and protect the water ways from being driven through as well as notify users to stay away from the stream banks and enforce the sensitivity of the area. In combination with these efforts, the group engaged in significant bio-engineering work to revegetate and reduce siltation from and erosion in the protected area. Furthermore, they were able to connect with user groups and increase awareness about the importance of responsible use and prevention of excessive erosion to the landscape through a bio-engineering workshop with OHV clubs/users from the surrounding area. The group will visit the sites at 3, 6, and 12 months to monitor the success of the project.

	<p><b><u>Calgary Field Naturalists Society</u></b></p> <p><b>GRANT:</b> 13s09-1-CFNS</p> <p><b>LOCATION:</b> Calgary area</p> <p><b>GRANT AMOUNT:</b> \$7,500</p> <p><b>TOTAL PROJECT VALUE:</b> \$50,500</p> <p><b>OTHER PARTNERS:</b> Many fellow Calgary citizens (students, teachers, nature lovers)</p>
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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 52 student field trips to remove trash and weeds were conducted, 41 stewardship presentations to 3,387 participants were delivered, and thousands of kilograms of refuse and weeds were removed from miles of shoreline and upland areas. This group has made significant contributions to help create a culture of stewardship among young people by encouraging appreciation, observation, study, conservation and protection of all components of the natural world.



**Cochrane Branches and Banks Environmental Foundation**

**GRANT:** 05s09-15-CBCEF

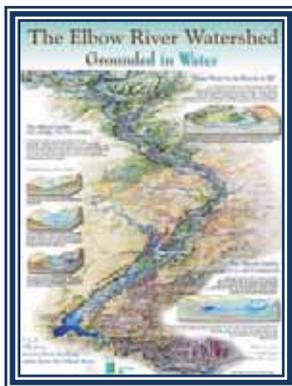
**LOCATION:** Cochrane

**GRANT AMOUNT:** \$3,500

**TOTAL PROJECT VALUE:** \$18,558.55

**OTHER PARTNERS:** Town of Cochrane; Bow River Basin Council; Coco Brooks; Bow Point Nursery; Alberta Conservation Association; TransCanada

This project involved over 350 participants, including 300 students aged kindergarten to grade seven from Glenbow Elementary School. More than 1,300 trees and shrubs were planted in a school yard naturalization project and along Big Hill Creek to stabilize banks, improve local habitat, and promote environmental stewardship and the benefits of volunteering. This project also included the removal of significant amounts of trash from the confluence of Big Hill Creek and the Bow River. The group has found benefit in structuring the initiative as a family and school event to help foster community spirit and understanding of the local environment and its benefits. Future partnerships with schools has shown that revegetation and naturalization is something that is of interest to the community and schools, however, the group feels that partnerships with funders and other watershed organizations are also critical.



**Elbow River Watershed Partnership**

**GRANT:** 25s09-25-ERWP

**LOCATION:** Bow and Elbow River Basins

**GRANT AMOUNT:** \$7,500

**TOTAL PROJECT VALUE:** \$11,240.91

**OTHER PARTNERS:** Centre Point, Alberta Water Portal, Glencoe Golf and Country Club, 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. For this project, the group sought to raise awareness by informing stakeholders through the development of a comprehensive website. The site is an effective way to increase awareness and knowledge as it provides many resources, including various community modules and links to public tools, such as municipal riparian policies. Furthermore, the site development enabled connections with data and information from the Water Portal and Bow River Basin Council's web-based State of the Watershed Report, for example.



### Friends of Fish Creek Provincial Park Society

**GRANT:** 19s09-29-FFCPPS

**LOCATION:** Fish Creek Provincial Park, Calgary

**GRANT AMOUNT:** \$7,500

**TOTAL PROJECT VALUE:** \$38,051.23

**OTHER PARTNERS:** Royal Bank of Canada; Alberta Conservation Association; Trout Unlimited; Fish Creek Provincial Park; Alberta Tourism, Parks & Recreation; City of Calgary; University of Calgary; Calgary Zoo; Parks Canada

This multi-dimensional project resulted in the collection and interpretation of 2009 water quality data, an expansion of the existing Amphibian Monitoring Program with recruitment and training of 27 sampling volunteers, and watershed educational speaker series/tours, including the Centennial High School Student program with 610 participants, which focused on watershed issues, such as biodiversity within the Fish Creek ecological zones. The water quality samples from 2009 showed an improvement over 2008. The amphibian monitoring resulted in 133 individual amphibian species (e.g., Tiger Salamander larvae, Boreal Chorus Frogs, Wood Frogs, and tadpoles) seen and counted in 128 volunteer monitoring observational visits. 15 Tiger Salamander larvae were found dead, and upon testing were found to have a virulent and widespread disease that seems to be in line with the global phenomenon of amphibian disease. The amphibian monitoring information has been passed on to researchers that either study amphibian populations or the diseases that affect these populations. Furthermore, this data adds to the provincial, national, and international databases.



### Ghost Watershed Alliance Society

**GRANT:** 29s09-33-GWAS

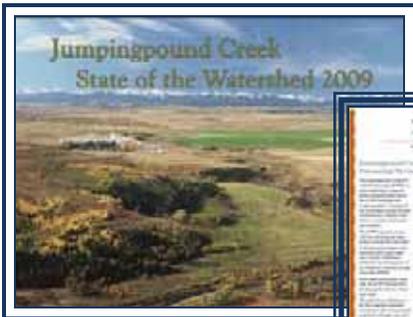
**LOCATION:** Ghost River Watershed

**GRANT AMOUNT:** \$7,500

**TOTAL PROJECT VALUE:** \$58,739

**OTHER PARTNERS:** Calgary Foundation, BRC Blue Water project, Alberta Wilderness Association,

This community-led group employed a multi-faceted approach to increase local and regional awareness of the watershed and the challenges facing it. The group takes particular pride in their "Walks in the Watershed" series, which allows participants to experience the area at a very personal level. This group is committed to gathering baseline data to support land use planning. Through cooperation with the Alberta Wilderness Association they oversaw the development of an Ecosystem-based Management Plan which assessed the condition of the Ghost Watershed. Furthermore, in combination with the health assessment, the group hosted a 2-day workshop with approximately 40 participants ranging in age from 6 to 75. This group has received much positive feedback and attention from other stewardship groups as well as ENGOs. The Ghost Watershed Alliance Society has become more and more active and involved with local watershed issues. As a result they hired a part-time Project Manager for 2009, allowing for more involved, large-scale projects.



### Jumpingpound Creek Watershed Partnership

**GRANT:** 16s09-19-JCWP

**LOCATION:** Jumpingpound Creek Watershed

**GRANT AMOUNT:** \$7,500

**TOTAL PROJECT VALUE:** \$68,218

**OTHER PARTNERS:** Rocky View County; MD of Bighorn; Town of Cochrane; Bow River Basin Council; Shell Canada; Ranchers of the Jumpingpound; Local Landowners; Ranchers; Local Residents

Working off of previous work and successes, the Jumpingpound Creek Watershed Partnership created a State of the Watershed Report for Jumpingpound Creek. This report is intended to provide guidance to municipal, provincial, and federal jurisdictions with mandates in the watershed. It will also encourage good management of watershed resources and will therefore benefit people living and working there, as well as the wildlife and unique vegetation relying on the creek, its tributaries, and wetlands. The report has provided the necessary baseline information to develop targets and thresholds for key watershed health indicators and has set direction for future activities, such as monitoring and educational awareness programs for local landowners, industry, and municipalities operating in the watershed.



### Nose Creek Watershed Partnership

**GRANT:** 35s09-13-NCWP

**LOCATION:** Calgary, AB

**GRANT AMOUNT:** \$7,500

**TOTAL PROJECT VALUE:** \$41,757.22

**OTHER PARTNERS:** Trout Unlimited Canada; Petro Canada; HRDC

The Nose Creek Watershed Partnership is a very active group committed to the protection of aquatic resources in Nose Creek through riparian management and restoration, as well as water quality monitoring and improvement. This group is well respected by the stewardship community and has gained valuable partnerships with major corporations. This project saw the removal of over 2,500 lbs. of noxious weeds and 1,000 lbs. of garbage, as well as the planting of 1,000 native trees and shrubs along the riparian area of Nose Creek. Volunteers also worked to protect 1,700 trees from beaver activity along the Bow River riparian south of Calgary. Media coverage of these events doubled volunteer participation and allowed the group to expand locations of their stewardship activities. The group anticipates even greater numbers of volunteers working on stewardship projects in the future.



**Rosebud River Watershed Partners**

**GRANT:** 22s09-40-CCWG

**LOCATION:** County of Wheatland and Didsbury

**GRANT AMOUNT:** \$3,600

**TOTAL PROJECT VALUE:** \$9,835

**OTHER PARTNERS:** Encana; Cows and Fish

Rosebud River Watershed Partners (RRWP) built off the momentum of previous projects with an ambitious assortment of awareness and capacity building initiatives including: an annual volunteer “Splash” recognition event; river tours; on-farm projects, riparian assessments and demonstrations; a signage program; National Stewardship Conference attendance; and their AGM. Though on-the-ground projects directly affect water quality, the RRWP Board believes that substantial change will come from education, particularly among youth. The group feels that all of its initiatives generate public awareness but that individual awareness and commitment to change is the ultimate goal.



**Weaselhead/Glenmore Park Preservation Society**

**GRANT:** 09s09-5-WGPPS

**LOCATION:** Weaselhead Natural Environment Park

**GRANT AMOUNT:** \$7,500

**TOTAL PROJECT VALUE:** \$24,050

**OTHER PARTNERS:** Alberta Conservations Association; Calgary Foundation - Kayak Fund

The Weaselhead/Glenmore Park Preservation Society has worked to preserve, protect, and restore naturally functioning ecosystems within the Weaselhead Natural Environment Park and to advance the education of the public in conservation and protection of the physical and natural environment. They have accomplished this by removing and preventing the establishment of non-native species that interfere with the natural function of ecosystems through annual invasive plant surveys, mapping, and removal, as well as through educational field-trips and four ‘Protecting Biodiversity’ workshops, which reached 741 adults, and 4,109 children. Based on the invasive species mapping information gathered through their 2009 project this group has been able to use adaptive management techniques to plan weed management strategies for the coming years in an effort to best allocate resources and volunteer time. This includes early detection and removal of invasives in areas of most concern. This group has also partnered with the City of Calgary on a Caragana control site, and plan to use this as an educational tool for future tours.

## 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.

	
<i>Before</i>	<i>After</i>
	

**High Prairie Riparian Action Team**

**GRANT:** 06s09-21-HPRAT

**LOCATION:** High Prairie

**GRANT AMOUNT:** \$5,050

**TOTAL PROJECT VALUE:** \$11,640

**OTHER PARTNERS:** SRD (Public Lands); SRD (Wildlife); MD of Big Lakes; Alberta Conservation Association; Ducks Unlimited; DFO; Peace Country Beef and Forage Association (PCBFA); Smoky Applied Research and Demonstration Association (SARDA); Lesser Slave Lake Watershed Council; Agri-Environment Services Branch

The High Prairie Riparian Action Team is comprised of a number of different stakeholders that have pooled resources and leveraged funds to achieve success in watershed protection and enhancement. Their 2009 project saw them conduct three Riparian Health Assessments; two were revisits and one was a new site. The two revisit sites showed significant improvement of the riparian due to their off-site watering and fencing projects. This information is crucial to provide demonstrations to the public and to make recommendations on future project areas. Other landholders have made similar changes to their holdings based on the information and success displayed through this group's initiatives.

 	<b>Smith Environmental Association</b>
	<b>GRANT:</b> 30s09-36-SEA
	<b>LOCATION:</b> Slave Lake
	<b>GRANT AMOUNT:</b> \$7,500
	<b>TOTAL PROJECT VALUE:</b> \$12,800
	<b>OTHER PARTNERS:</b> Athabasca Keepers of the Watershed Council; Crooked Creek Conservatory; Regional Environmental Action Committee; Lesser Slave Watershed Council

The ASN grant supported a 'Water is Life' conference that looked at water from historical, social, ecological, scientific and economic perspectives. It provided participants with much information on how pollutants enter water streams as well as quantitative assessments of contamination in northern Alberta streams and watersheds as a result of industrial activity. Representatives from local First Nation groups brought a more traditional perspective to the day. In addition to the conference, the Smith Environmental Association hosted a public meeting, which focused on 'The State of the Lesser Slave River' and consisted of a presentation by a biologist and forester followed by a group discussion. The presentation centered on various factors of anthropogenic activity that affect the quality, quantity, and hydrology of the river, as well as causes of algae blooms and sources of nitrification.

## Milk River Watershed

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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 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.



**Milk River Ranchers Association**

**GRANT:** 34s09-43-MRRA

**LOCATION:** Milk River

**GRANT AMOUNT:** \$7,500

**TOTAL PROJECT VALUE:** \$8,965.42

**OTHER PARTNERS:** County of Warner; Cardston County; Milk River Watershed Council Canada

The Milk River Ranchers Association is focused on providing an annual awareness/educational project appealing to a variety of different stakeholders. In 2008 they focused on recreational users of the Milk River, and in 2009 they provided a workshop for producers and residents of the watershed. The workshop provided participants with the necessary tools and skills to determine the health of uplands and their contributions to watershed health, such as water quality and vegetation cover. The workshop also introduced ideas for maintaining or improving the health of the uplands on their properties. Regular monitoring and record keeping will help to determine the success and impact of practice changes. This group plans to continue work with producers to implement and encourage better management practices, as well as to evaluate such management changes.

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## North Saskatchewan River Watershed

The North Saskatchewan River Basin covers about 80,000 km<sup>2</sup> 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.

### Grant Withdrawn

#### Lac Sante Watershed Society

**GRANT:** 38s09-34-LSWS

**LOCATION:** Lac Sante

**GRANT AMOUNT:** Grant Withdrawn

**TOTAL PROJECT VALUE:** n/a

**OTHER PARTNERS:** n/a

This project was initially approved for a \$3,994.41 grant to improve riparian health and water quality, increase awareness of the benefits of off-site watering among the local agricultural community, and reduce tension between lake-lot owners and agricultural producers. Funding for the project was cancelled by the stewardship group early summer 2009 following an inability to secure partner contributions. Funds are to be reallocated to the 2011 grant program and will be reported on accordingly (pending approval from Alberta Environment).



#### Rocky Riparian Group (Clear Water Landcare)

##### *Electric Fencing - Try It First (a) Water Well Management (b)*

**GRANT:**

- a) 02s09-32-RRG
- b) 20s09-31-RRG

**LOCATION:** Clearwater County

**GRANT AMOUNT:**

- a) \$2,195
- b) \$2,300

**TOTAL PROJECT VALUE:** \$16,137.25

**OTHER PARTNERS:** Clearwater County; Grey Wooded Forage Association

The Rocky Riparian Group partnered with Clearwater County to work on two different projects, riparian fencing and water well management. This was done in an effort to help producers develop better practices to protect groundwater sources and riparian areas. In an effort to increase the potential for a change in practice that requires economic investment, both projects provided demonstration equipment that producers can use. Through newspaper articles, field tours, and distribution of information packages, this group raised awareness and increased knowledge of water quality issues and more sustainable practices. In 2009, 11 farms used the well management equipment with a very positive response and a desire to invest in treatment systems and water analysis. Only one landholder used the electric fencing equipment, which was a lot less than the surveyed number interested. There are however, a few

producers that adopted this practice without using this equipment and have all voiced the benefits that they have experienced. This group believes that as more producers know of, or experience these benefits and funding comes available through the provincial "Growing Forward" program more landowners will invest. To ensure this, this group plans to keep raising awareness and increasing landholder knowledge of fencing and groundwater management benefits so that eventually there is a significant and noticeable beneficial change in local watersheds.



**Sturgeon River Watershed Initiative Society**

**GRANT: 27s09-8-SRWIS**

**LOCATION:** Sturgeon River Watershed (Lac Ste. Anne, Sturgeon, and Parkland Counties)

**GRANT AMOUNT:** \$7,500

**TOTAL PROJECT VALUE:** \$18,700

**OTHER PARTNERS:** North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance; Environmental Initiatives Grant Program

This grant and other partnerships allowed the Sturgeon River Watershed Initiative Society to gather mapping information on the Sturgeon River Watershed to produce six printable PDF maps depicting basic features and conditions, including: land cover, water bodies, municipalities, oil and gas well density, water well density, and linear feature density. This group was able to use this information to produce a user-friendly GIS mapping package that allows exploration of more than 25 layers and the addition of geographic data, photographs, and other watershed data by users. Without a state of the watershed report, this package provides a tool that can be used to determine the ecological integrity of the watershed as well as help to facilitate decisions, actions, and policies to promote wise-use and improved management. Production of such a tool has also provided the group information in where data is required as well as a snapshot of various components of the watershed that can be used to monitor change over time. The group feels that this was a stepping stone for stakeholders in the Sturgeon River Watershed; to prepare a State of the Watershed Report.



**West Central Forage Association**

**GRANT: 23s09-46-WCFA**

**LOCATION:** Evansburg

**GRANT AMOUNT:** \$7,500

**TOTAL PROJECT VALUE:** \$12,201.45

**OTHER PARTNERS:** Agriculture Opportunities Fund (ARD); Agriculture Initiatives Program (ARD); West Central Conservation Group (WCCG); and Cows and Fish.

The West Central Forage Association is working to create an industry that promotes healthy families, farms, and communities and is economically, environmentally, and socially sustainable. For this project, the group held a riparian assessment training workshop and tour, published newsletter articles on sustainable riparian management practices, and purchased a portable watering system to demonstrate off-site watering. The group feels that as

watershed awareness is raised among producers, more off-site watering systems are implemented after seeing the demonstration unit, and more sustainable practices are adopted by area producers there will be significant improvements to environmental conditions.

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	<p><b><u>Wizard Lake Watershed and Lake Stewardship Association</u></b></p> <p><b>GRANT:</b> 11s09-37-WLWLSS</p> <p><b>LOCATION:</b> Wizard Lake and local watershed</p> <p><b>GRANT AMOUNT:</b> \$7,500</p> <p><b>TOTAL PROJECT VALUE:</b> \$55,259.05</p> <p><b>OTHER PARTNERS:</b> AESA, Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Leduc County; Wetaskiwin County; RCMP; Alberta Environment (in-kind); Alberta Lake Management Society (ALMS)</p>
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The Wizard Lake Watershed and Lake Stewardship Association received the 2010 ASN Grassroots Award for Environmental Stewardship in the group category for their continued efforts. This ambitious group has carried forward their previous initiatives and hosted a number of events throughout the year to galvanize and inspire the lake's community to actively steward their local watershed. These included an awareness day, open house, strategic planning retreat for their board, and the very popular annual fundraiser the "WizSpiel". In addition, the group bolstered community awareness and knowledge through their community newsletter, improvements to their bulletin board network, signage, and capacity building opportunities for local watershed leaders. A major event for this group actively involving the community was the shoreline clean-up. "We are gradually building a community that has a better understanding of environmental issues and individual responsibilities to achieving this," submits Laverne Faulkner, Board Chair. The group has also engaged in significant watershed research to create an ongoing State of the Watershed Report and Area Structure Plan, with efforts to influence the County of Leduc in issues affecting the long-term sustainability of Wizard Lake.

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## 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 is 362 km in length.



### Battersea Drain Watershed Group

**GRANT:** 31s09-45-BSWG

**LOCATION:** Battersea drain Watershed

**GRANT AMOUNT:** \$7,500 (\$5,548 spent)

**TOTAL PROJECT VALUE:** \$13,792.84

**OTHER PARTNERS:** Alberta Agriculture; Oldman Watershed Council; County of Lethbridge

In an effort to increase awareness amongst producers regarding the necessity of maintaining good nutrient management programs to ensure that water quality downstream is only minimally affected by cropping practices, the Battersea Drain Watershed Group produced a quarterly letter describing planned Best Management Practices (BMPs) and reviewing supporting literature on how the BMPs are expected to improve water quality. Furthermore, this group tested the nutrient levels on land in the Battersea Drain and found that at least ten quarters currently do not need manure for the next five years and applications in the future are recommended to be minimal. To educate producers in the Battersea Drain as well as citizens in the surrounding area the group posted signs about nutrient applications and implications. By creating closer relationships with producers in the Battersea Drain as well as Post Doctorate Students from the Universities of Alberta, Lethbridge, and Calgary the group has not only ensured future extension and collaboration with these groups, but also continued awareness and interest in the water quality.



### Lyndon Creek Conservation Group

**GRANT:** 24s09-9-LCCG

**LOCATION:** Lyndon Creek

**GRANT AMOUNT:** \$4,500

**TOTAL PROJECT VALUE:** \$8,150

**OTHER PARTNERS:** M.D. of Willow Creek

This grant allowed the Lyndon Creek Conservation Group to purchase two hounds tongue and five leafy spurge biological release control agents. Though the insects will not show noticeable results until summer 2010, the site is being monitored over the next few seasons with the help of the MD of Willow Creek and a consultant. When the numbers of agents increase the group is hoping to harvest and spread them to other invaded areas. The hope is that this project will help to minimize the amount of chemical herbicides applied, a method which seems to have little

effect anyways. In combination with the insect release program, this group also hosted a tour of the Lyndon Creek Watershed with over 50 participants. The tour helped to show what the agents can do as well as brought awareness to specific invasive species and problems that can arise.

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	<p><b><u>Willow Creek Watershed Group</u></b></p> <p><b>GRANT:</b> 33s09-18-WCWG</p> <p><b>LOCATION:</b> Willow Creek Watershed</p> <p><b>GRANT AMOUNT:</b> \$7,500</p> <p><b>TOTAL PROJECT VALUE:</b> \$22,979.89</p> <p><b>OTHER PARTNERS:</b> Member landowners; M.D. of Willow Creek</p>
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The Willow Creek Watershed Group sought to initiate local awareness and capacity building through the establishment of a demonstration project that provides landowners with information and tangible options available to enhance the watershed. As a result, the group established a new upland all-season frost free solar and wind powered watering demonstration site to move cattle away from Willow creek and its riparian area. Over time the project will monitor riparian health as well as track upkeep costs. As a result of this demonstration initiative, interest has increased with other local producers and the community.

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## 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 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 and is the largest basin in Alberta, occupying approximately 30 percent of the province. Predominantly the basin is covered by native boreal forest and is part of the Mackenzie River system, which eventually drains into the Arctic Ocean.

 <p><b>Clear Hills Watershed Initiative</b> <small>To protect, preserve and improve water quality and quantity throughout the Clear Hills through education, good water practices and water testing.</small></p> <p>Two photographs are included: one showing a group of people gathered by a body of water, and another showing a person in a blue shirt pouring water from a white container into a clear plastic bottle.</p>	<p><b><u>Clear Hills Watershed Initiative</u></b></p> <p><b>GRANT:</b> 12s09-38-CHWI</p> <p><b>LOCATION:</b> Clear Hills County</p> <p><b>GRANT AMOUNT:</b> \$7,500</p> <p><b>TOTAL PROJECT VALUE:</b> \$24,850</p> <p><b>OTHER PARTNERS:</b> Clear Hills County; AESA; Eureka River Agriculture Society</p>
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One of the more northerly grant recipients, the Clear Hills Watershed Initiative brought considerable water quality awareness to the community through their ongoing comprehensive monitoring and outreach initiative. The group helped to increase awareness and knowledge of watershed issues through quarterly newsletters, local school presentations and contests, community presentations, riparian programs, and dugout testing. The funding for “this project enabled us to completely meet our goals and forward our vision by increasing awareness...” submits Sherri Larsen, project contact.

## 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 km 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 km<sup>2</sup>, the watershed is the largest sub-basin of the South Saskatchewan River basin. It encompasses 55 urban centres and 18 rural or regional municipalities.



### Friends of the Little Red Deer River Society

**GRANT:** 36s09-23-FLRDRS

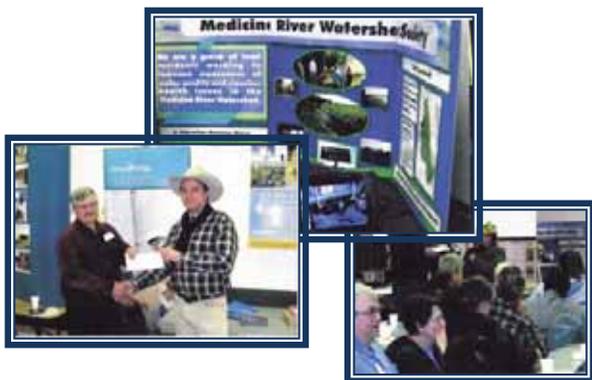
**LOCATION:** Communities along Little Red Deer River

**GRANT AMOUNT:** \$7,500

**TOTAL PROJECT VALUE:** \$15,970

**OTHER PARTNERS:** Olds College; Red Deer County; Red Deer River Alliance

The Friends of the Little Red Deer River Society have created a partnership with Red Deer County to promote awareness and implement preventative stewardship practices among local landowners. This project consisted of water sampling along 150 km stretch of the Red Deer River and its tributaries. Since this group and the county helped support changes in agricultural practices by local landowners, such as off-site watering systems and riparian fencing, the water quality has improved. Testing water quality has given this group the ability to locate areas of concern, quantify conservation efforts of agricultural producers, and inform local communities about what is happening along the Little Red Deer River waterways. Changing the water quality is a long process but with the positive feedback from the water sampling this group can move forward with extended efforts to improve agricultural practices.



### Medicine River Watershed Society

**GRANT:** 37s09-41-MRWS

**LOCATION:** Lacombe County

**GRANT AMOUNT:** \$7,500

**TOTAL PROJECT VALUE:** \$19,199

**OTHER PARTNERS:** Eckville Co-op, Gilby Agriculture Society, Conoco Philips, Alberta Environment, Red Deer County, Rocky County

The Medicine River Watershed Society has partnered with such agencies as Alberta Environment, Conoco Philips, and Red Deer and Rocky Counties in an effort to improve the riparian habitat and water quality of the Medicine River. Their 2009 project saw fencing of a major tributary, Gabriel Creek, in an effort to keep cattle out of the riparian area and creek. In 2010/2011 they hope to test the water in Gabriel Creek to compare to their 2007 baseline data. This group also puts on an annual trade show that brings together agricultural and business stakeholders to present the importance of healthy riparian zones and water quality as well as to provide ideas and show what is available for producers to adopt more sustainable practices.

## South Saskatchewan River Watershed

The South Saskatchewan River Basin includes the sub-basins of the Bow, Red Deer, Oldman and South Saskatchewan rivers. All of the basins begin in the Rocky Mountains, generally flowing eastward through foothills and prairie. The South Saskatchewan River itself originates at the confluence of the Bow and Oldman Rivers near Grassy Lake Alberta. The total watershed area is 146,100 km<sup>2</sup>, with a majority of it within Alberta and Saskatchewan and a small portion (1,800 km<sup>2</sup>) in Montana.



### Cypress County Watershed Group

**GRANT:** 22s09-40-CCWG

**LOCATION:** Cypress County

**GRANT AMOUNT:** \$7,500

**TOTAL PROJECT VALUE:** \$11,473.75

**OTHER PARTNERS:** Cypress County; Alberta Environmentally Sustainable Agriculture; Federal Agri-Environmental Services Branch (AESB); Sustainable Resources and Development (SRD)

With this grant, the Cypress County Watershed Group was able to purchase an off-site watering system so that local producers may have use of the equipment before making a major financial investment, which is an important first step to encouraging a change in practice. Keeping cattle from free and open access to natural water sources will reduce contaminants such as silt, fecal matter, and urine, allow riparian vegetation growth, and keep dugout edges from sloughing in and reducing water depth. Through promotion and use of this equipment, the group has been able to open up the lines of communication with local residents regarding water quality and watershed issues. In an effort to continue to promote and educate producers on the benefits of off-site watering, a number of workshops and tours have been organized for 2010.



### Society of Grassland Naturalists

**GRANT:** 14s09-10-SGN

**LOCATION:** Medicine Hat

**GRANT AMOUNT:** \$7,500

**TOTAL PROJECT VALUE:** \$12,265

**OTHER PARTNERS:** City of Medicine Hat Parks and Outdoor Recreation Department; Grasslands Naturalists/Medicine Hat Interpretive Program; Community Volunteers

The Society of Grassland Naturalists wanted to help maintain the integrity of the watershed by mitigating the serious impact that beavers are having while simultaneously increasing appreciation for the beaver's dynamic importance to the landscape of the prairie watershed. The project recruited and trained volunteers to protect trees from beaver damage as well as collect data regarding beaver activity along the South Saskatchewan River and two main tributaries. Data collection occurred throughout the summer with surveys conducted on foot, by boat and by airplane. The group feels the data will be very useful for agencies involved with beaver management as well as in preparing future school and public programs. The group was able to reach a large number of the public (approx. 2,500) to increase awareness about beavers and their impacts to local waterways by hosting several public presentations, including two television segments, as well as producing a beaver display for the Police Point Park Nature Centre.

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## Report Conclusions

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The 35 projects completed in association with this report are representative of the variety of projects led and pursued at the community level across Alberta. The Alberta Stewardship Network 2009 Watershed Stewardship Grant Program made it possible for groups to undertake these initiatives. Over the Grant Program years, efforts made by the community are showing maturity and sophisticated development in a direction that the Province of Alberta can be proud of.

### **Community Investment**

Water is becoming more of a concern at all levels and issues of water quality and quantity often arise in discussions, but for these to improve land practices need to improve and holistic watershed approaches need to be adopted. Providing support for a community willing and capable of achieving this is one of the most valuable and crucial investments Alberta Environment could make. The effort, time, and energy provided on an in-kind basis from group members as well as NGOs, WPACs, municipalities, counties, and local citizens allows not only substantial leveraging of the funds provided, but also building of long-term relationships and initiatives that serve to protect and ultimately significantly improve watershed health throughout the province. These cumulative benefits are what make this program such a success.

### **Grassroots Connection**

The grassroots approach to watershed management is not only beneficial but necessary to reach all levels of society, collectively contributing positive change to the state of our watersheds. By facilitating everyone to become more aware of the connection with and necessity of the land, water and air we can move forward to protecting and using our resources in a responsible and sustainable manner. At the community level, groups encourage change from the bottom-up which can be more effective in reaching the citizens of Alberta. For example, by encouraging, spreading awareness, and providing resources to producers to adopt new management practices, some of the major issues that have negatively impacted watershed health in the past can be amended. 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. These initiatives not only bring awareness to the public, but also provide an avenue for concerned citizens to have an impact in their community and contribute to a future that ensures perpetuity and health.

### **Contributions to Broader Initiatives**

An emerging theme associated with some projects undertaken in this grant cycle relates to a 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 local, regional or watershed goals. For example, groups feel that some local levels of government still have not fully embraced State of the Watershed Reports as a key document for decision making processes regarding land use practice, zoning, and subdivision approvals. By improving the communication and use of the efforts made by the community and for the community, this will also increase volunteer commitment and recruitment, which is often a problem associated with community-based stewardship groups. Seeing a difference resulting from their hard work and contribution is potentially the single most encouraging benefit to ensure the future of these groups. Furthermore, groups continue to reiterate their desire to better understand how their efforts could most effectively support the Government of Alberta's initiatives. Many groups perceive the visibility and prominence of WPACs declining in light of the Land Use Framework's planning regions and wonder how

their efforts might be supported in the future. Furthermore, many groups have reached a point where they require greater and more secure funding to complete projects due to the higher level and more holistic nature of their initiatives.

### **Watershed Stewardship Growth**

As has been the case all along, fund requests exceed the funds available demonstrating the growth of community interest, involvement, and environmental accountability. In light of the economic downturn, and being at the cusp of environmental change, the importance of the Alberta Stewardship Network's Watershed Stewardship Grant Program has never been more critical. Groups continue to grow, evolve and work towards accomplishing substantial and worthwhile goals with more maturity and sophistication. Recognition and continued support for what these groups and many others are accomplishing is something that needs to be showcased as an environmentally responsible and sustainable approach to protecting, managing and enhancing Alberta's natural resources.

Recognizing the significant potential associated within the emerging 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, while contributing to the success of Alberta's Water for Life Strategy.

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# Appendices

## Appendix A: Financial Information

### Budget (A1): Financial Summary of Alberta Environment Grant Funding for 2009 ASN Grant Program

Alberta Environment Grant Funding	
Alberta Environment Grant 09-GRES-14 received for 2009 Stewardship Grant Program	\$250,000.00
Funds from Alberta Environment Grant 06-GREA-29 allocated to 2009	\$28,610.55
Sub-total : ASN Income	\$278,610.55
Total Grant funds issued to projects: 37 projects up to \$7500 each	\$243,703.31
Administration: ASN Grant Administration	\$25,000.00
Sub-total: ASN Expense	\$268,703.31
Total Income less Total Expense:	\$9,907.24

## Budget (A2): 2009 Watershed Stewardship Grant Program Valuation

<b>Value of Stewardship Projects</b> e.g. Volunteer time - \$20/hour, Technical expert - \$30/hour, Equipment time - \$40/hour	
<b>Cash Contributions:</b>	
Total Grant funds issued to projects: 37 projects up to \$7500 each <sup>1</sup>	\$243,703.31
Leveraged Funding	\$444,230.25
<b>Sub-total: Cash</b>	<b>\$687,933.56</b>
<b>In-kind Contributions:<sup>2</sup></b>	
Documented group volunteer time	\$222,319.00
Documented in-kind (equipment, materials, technical volunteer time, etc.)	\$159,248.89
<b>Sub-total: In-kind</b>	<b>\$381,567.89</b>
<b>Total Value of Stewardship Projects:</b>	<b>\$1,069,501.45</b>
<b>Value of Grant Program Administration &amp; Delivery</b>	
<b>Alberta Stewardship Network Secretariat:</b>	
Land Stewardship Centre of Canada (paid)	\$25,000.00
Land Stewardship Centre of Canada (In-kind)	\$6,300.00
<b>Sub-total: Land Stewardship Centre</b>	<b>\$31,300.00</b>
<b>Stewardship Grant Committee In-kind Contribution:</b>	
Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development	\$650.00
Alberta Environment (venue provision)	\$200.00
Alberta Sustainable Resources and Development	\$8,000.00
Alberta Conservation Association	\$750.00
Alberta Riparian Habitat Management Society (Cows and Fish)	\$650.00
3 Volunteers (i.e. representatives from 2 community-based watershed stewardship groups and Grant Committee Chair)	\$1,860.00
Representatives from Watershed Planning & Advisory Councils (Bow River Basin Council)	\$900.00
<b>Sub-total: Stewardship Grant Committee</b>	<b>\$13,010.00</b>
<b>Total Value of Grant Administration &amp; Delivery</b>	<b>\$44,310.00</b>
<b>Total Value of the 2009 Watershed Stewardship Grant Program</b>	<b>\$1,113,811.45</b>

<sup>1</sup> Figure excludes returned funds. Figure includes funds issued to WSGs that received extensions as well as the Fort Assiniboine Water Keepers grant (32s09-44-FAWK) as funding is assumed to be spent. These reports will be reported on under the 2010 Grant Program.

<sup>2</sup> In-kind contributions were not fully documented in all final reports. Actual in-kind contributions estimated to be up to 15% higher.

**Budget (A3): Overview of Watershed Stewardship Group Financial Information**

**2009 Watershed Stewardship Grants**

ASN Grant Agreement	Recipient	Signing Authority	Project Funding from ASN			Leveraged Contributions			Total Project Value
			Requested	Approved	Expended	Financial	Volunteer	In-Kind	
31s09-45-BSWG	Battersea Drain Watershed Group	Oldman Watershed Cnd.	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00	\$5,548.00	\$244.84	\$4,800.00	\$3,200.00	\$13,792.84
18s09-28-BRSS	Bow Region Stewardship Society	Recipient	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00	\$373.56	\$14,000.00	\$0.00	\$21,873.56
13s09-1-CFNS	Calgary Field Naturalists' Society	Recipient	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00	\$0.00	\$31,500.00	\$11,500.00	\$50,500.00
12s09-38-CHWI	Clear Hills Watershed Initiative	Recipient	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00	\$0.00	\$14,210.00	\$3,140.00	\$24,850.00
22s09-40-CCWG	Cleanwater Christina Watershed Group	Keepers of the Athabasca	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00	\$300.00	\$1,000.00	\$6,000.00	\$14,800.00
05s09-15-CBCEF	Cochrane Branches And Banks Environmental Fndtn.	Recipient	\$3,500.00	\$3,500.00	\$3,500.00	\$6,938.55	\$5,500.00	\$2,620.00	\$18,558.55
08s09-2-CLASS	Crane Lake Advisory and Stewardship Society	Recipient	\$5,375.00	\$5,375.00	\$2,382.19	\$75.83	\$4,500.00	\$3,000.00	\$9,958.02
03s09-35-CCCSA	Crooked Creek Conservancy Soc. of Athabasca	Recipient	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00	\$1,123.20	\$2,800.00	\$13,200.00	\$24,623.20
17s09-24-CCWG	Cypress County Watershed Group	Cypress County	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00	\$1,293.75	\$480.00	\$2,200.00	\$11,473.75
25s09-25-ERWP	Elbow River Watershed Partnership	Recipient	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00	\$1,880.91	\$400.00	\$1,460.00	\$11,240.91
32s09-44-FAWK	Fort Assiniboine Water Keepers	Keepers of the Athabasca	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00	\$800.00	\$0.00	\$200.00	\$600.00	\$8,300.00
19s09-29-FFCPPS	Friends of Fish Creek Provincial Park Society	Recipient	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00	\$9,931.23	\$17,580.00	\$3,040.00	\$38,051.23
04s09-14-FLBLS	Friends of Little Beaver Lake Society	Recipient	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00	\$1,744.46	\$700.00	\$6,245.00	\$16,189.46
36s09-23-FLDRS	Friends of the Little Red Deer River Society	Recipient	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00	\$370.00	\$1,000.00	\$7,100.00	\$15,970.00
29s09-33-GWAS	Ghost Watershed Alliance Society	Recipient	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00	\$3,1439.00	\$19,000.00	\$800.00	\$58,739.00
06s09-21-HPRAT	High Prairie Riparian Action Team	M D of Big Lakes	\$5,050.00	\$5,050.00	\$5,050.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	\$5,590.00	\$11,640.00
10s09-20-HFHC	Hinton Fish Habitat Coalition	Foothills Research Inst.	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00	\$223,681.00	\$1,250.00	\$2,250.00	\$234,681.00
16s09-19-JCWP	Jumpingpound Creek Watershed Partnership	MD of Rockyview No. 44	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00	\$35,301.00	\$5,224.00	\$20,193.00	\$68,218.00
07s09-27-LWSS	Lac La Nonne Watershed Stewardship Society	Recipient	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00	\$2,894.53	\$3,600.00	\$7,500.00	\$21,494.53
38s09-34-LSWS - Withdrawn	Lac Sante Watershed Society	Recipient	\$7,500.00	\$3,994.41	Withdrawn	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
24s09-9-LCCG	Lyndon Creek Conservation Group	MD of Willow Creek	\$4,500.00	\$4,500.00	\$4,500.00	\$1,100.00	\$450.00	\$2,100.00	\$8,150.00
37s09-41-MRWS	Medicine River Watershed Society	Recipient	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00	\$3,199.00	\$6,000.00	\$2,500.00	\$19,199.00
34s09-43-MRRA	Milk River Ranchers Association	County of Warner No. 5	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00	\$15.42	\$300.00	\$1,150.00	\$8,965.42
01s09-6-MLWS	Moose Lake Watershed Society	MD of Bonnyville	\$7,500.00	\$5,596.14	\$4,628.12	\$17,560.00	\$2,240.00	\$8,520.00	\$32,948.12
35s09-13-NCWP	Nose Creek Watershed Partnership	Trout Unlimited Canada	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00	\$19,907.22	\$9,000.00	\$5,350.00	\$41,757.22
02s09-32-RRG	Rocky Riparian Group a)	Cleanwater County	\$2,195.00	\$2,195.00	\$2,195.00	\$112.25	\$240.00	\$1,300.00	\$3,847.25
20s09-31-RRG	Rocky Riparian Group b)	Cleanwater County	\$2,300.00	\$2,300.00	\$2,300.00	\$8,990.00	\$250.00	\$750.00	\$12,290.00
15s09-16-RRWS	Rosebud River Watershed Partners	Recipient	\$3,600.00	\$3,600.00	\$3,600.00	\$4,735.00	\$1,000.00	\$500.00	\$9,835.00
28s09-17-SLSC - Extension	Saskatoon Lake Steering Committee	County of Grande Prairie	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00	Extension	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
30s09-36-SEA	Smith Environmental Association	Recipient	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00	\$300.00	\$3,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$12,800.00
14s09-10-SGN	Society of Grasslands Naturalists	Recipient	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00	\$5,500.00	\$4,765.00	\$2,000.00	\$19,765.00
27s09-8-SRWIS	Sturgeon River Watershed Initiative Society	Recipient	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00	\$1,679.00	\$2,400.00	\$7,121.00	\$18,700.00
26s09-26-SLWSS - Extension	Sylvan Lake Watershed Stewardship Society	Recipient	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00	Extension	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
09s09-5-WGPPS	Weaselhead/Glenmore Park Preservation Society	Recipient	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00	\$6,620.00	\$9,430.00	\$500.00	\$24,050.00
21s09-39-WABS	West Athabasca Bioregional Soc.	Recipient	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00	\$48,000.00	\$14,400.00	\$6,900.00	\$76,800.00
23s09-46-WCFA	West Central Forage Association	Recipient	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00	\$2,861.45	\$500.00	\$1,340.00	\$12,201.45
33s09-18-WCWG	Willow Creek Watershed Group	MD of Ranchland	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00	\$350.00	\$2,600.00	\$12,529.89	\$22,979.89
11s09-37-WLWLS	Wizard Lake Watershed & Lake Stewardship Soc.	Recipient	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00	\$5,709.05	\$37,000.00	\$5,050.00	\$55,259.05

**Total**

\$259,020.00	\$253,610.55	\$243,703.31	\$444,230.25	\$222,319.00	\$159,248.89	\$1,069,501.45
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## Appendix B: Resources from Selected Projects

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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.

### Web-Based:

Elbow River Watershed Partnership website

[View at:](http://www.erwp.org) <http://www.erwp.org>

Community Landscape Visioning Process for Hinton and surrounding region website

[View at:](http://www.ourcommunitylandscapevision.ca) <http://www.ourcommunitylandscapevision.ca>

Mapping Information and Interactive GIS Software Package - Sturgeon River

[View at:](http://www.nswa.ab.ca/) <http://www.nswa.ab.ca/>

### Reports:

State of the Watershed Report - Jumpingpound Creek

[View at:](http://www.rockyview.ca/Main_Left_Menu/Departments/Ecology_Watersheds/Watershed_Stewardship_Groups) [http://www.rockyview.ca/Main\\_Left\\_Menu/Departments/Ecology\\_Watersheds/Watershed Stewardship\\_Groups](http://www.rockyview.ca/Main_Left_Menu/Departments/Ecology_Watersheds/Watershed_Stewardship_Groups)

Ecosystem Based Management Plan - Ghost Watershed

[View at:](#) ASN Office

Volunteer Amphibian Monitoring Project Report - Fish Creek

[View at:](#) ASN Office