

Ag & Environmental Services Newsletter

November 2023



Why do Riparian Areas Matter?

Riparian area refers to the zones where the vegetation changes from aquatic to upland vegetation. The riparian area follows the waterbody whereas management zones may extend beyond the riparian zone.

The riparian zones are critical in any landscape as they are the most productive ecosystem and provide benefits to wildlife and people. If managed properly, these areas reduce flood damage, trap sediment, and reduce erosion while providing shelter and shade for fish. The riparian areas provide ideal habitats for supporting biodiversity.

Some measures that can be taken to protect riparian areas include building cattle crossings, providing watering systems, limiting river access during the spring, removing invasive weeds to allow native vegetation to grow, and keeping woody debris.

These measures will allow over-grazed areas to grow saplings, prevent slumping, enable native vegetation to establish root growth and provide habitat for aquatic organisms.

UPCOMING WORKSHOPS

Working Well Workshop

November 21, 2023

Learn more about understanding your groundwater, well maintenance, and water testing at this free workshop.. Dinner included!

Registration Link: [Working Well Workshop Hosted by MD of Willow Creek Survey \(surveymonkey.com\)](#)

Foothills Forage and Grazing Association

*November 8, 2023- High River
November 21, 2023- Cremona*

Learn and network with experts from local organizations. Breakout sessions focusing on building your Grazing Plan, Environmental Farm Plans, and RALP Support and Funding. Lunch is included and only \$25 for FFGA members, \$30 for non-members.

Registration Link: [Securing Success: Funding & Grazing Strategies for your Operation \(foothillsforage.com\)](#)

For more information, please contact Ag & Env Services 403-562-8833



Resilient Agricultural Landscape Program

What is RALP?

Under the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership (S-CAP), the Resilient Agricultural Landscape Program is offered, and the objective is to maximize provision of Ecological Goods and Services like carbon sequestration and enhanced climate resilience through accelerated adoption of Beneficial Management Practices (BMPs).

Do you need an Environmental Farm Plan (EFP)?

Yes, however, you are still eligible if you will receive an EFP certificate or letter before the end of project term. The name on the EFP will need to match the name of the farm, not necessarily the name on the grant application.

Can RALP projects take place on rented land?

Yes, provided the Applicant has landowner permission, the leased land is eligible to complete the project over a 3-year term.

How will program funding be paid?

Funding will be paid in two payments. Half of the funding is provided upon application approval and then again at the end of the 3-year term. This ensures the project has been maintained until the end of the term.

Who is eligible?

Crop, bee, or livestock primary producers responsible for day-to-day management and produce at least \$25,000 worth of farm commodities annually.

+ Groups such as Grazing Reserve Associations and Community Pastures.

+ Approved Indigenous applicants (First Nation, Métis Nation, Inuit)

For more specific information on programs, please visit [Resource Management: Crowsnest Pass](#) or [Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership in Alberta | Alberta.ca](#)

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