



Greencover Canada Program

Technical Assistance Component

Approved Proposals





Greencover Canada Program

Technical Assistance Component:

The Greencover Canada Program is funded by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) through the Environment Chapter of the Agricultural Policy Framework (APF).

The Technical Assistance Component of Greencover Canada supports activities that contribute to the adoption of beneficial management practices (BMPs) for the sustainable use and management of pasture, hayland, critical/riparian areas, as well as shelterbelts on the agricultural landscape.

Funding under this program is available for a four - year period, beginning in fiscal year 2004/2005 and ending in fiscal year 2007/2008.

Proposals that meet the Greencover goals and the identified regional priorities based on consultations with agricultural groups and organizations in Alberta (see Appendix "1") will receive primary consideration for funding. Other proposals that meet Greencover Canada goals may also be considered.

The **objective** of the Greencover Canada Technical Assistance Component, hereafter referred to as the "Program", is to accelerate the adoption of BMPs for the sustainable use and management of pasture, hayland, critical/riparian areas, and shelterbelts on the agricultural landscape.

The Program results will enhance healthy and functioning riparian areas; improve rangeland conditions; help establish and increase the productivity of forages; and establish and maintain viable shelterbelts.

2004 Approved Alberta Proposals

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2005 Approved Proposals

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FIRST CALL FOR PROPOSALS – September 17, 2004

Project Name:

Agroforestry Improvement Project

Recipient of Funds: Lakeland Agricultural Research Association (LARA)

Contact:

Jason Boorse, Ph: (780) 826-7260;
e-mail: sustainag.lara@telusplanet.net

Partners:

Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development (AAFRD - Toso Botic), Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada (AAFC-PFRA - Don George)

Project Objective:

- With this three-year program LARA will increase the knowledge, through workshops and follow-up tours and one-on-one farm calls, of the environmental and economical impacts of Agro-forestry on at least 15 producers.
- Have at least two landowners develop and implement their own Agroforestry management plans in cooperation with the Woodlot Association of Alberta's Demonstration Network by 2008. These producers will become showcase farms to demonstrate benefits and potential problems and encourage other producers to sign on.
- Increase the number of farming operations that use shelterbelts and/or alley cropping by having five local farms establish shelterbelts by 2008.

End Product:

- Update the LARA Reference Library, which is available to employees as well as producers and hosts a variety of information tools used as a reference to tackle the many issues and questions put forth to LARA. This material will prove vital in the development of the six-part series of fact sheets, displays, and the workshops.
- Purchase of LARA BMP panels for an existing display.
- Funding for BMP information in LARA's annual reports.
- New publishing program.
- Six part fact sheet on Agro-forestry production.
- Agroforestry Improvement Workshop Series.

Project Name:

Biodiversity Benchmarks—Identifying Indicators and Trend Analysis

Recipient of Funds: Alberta Riparian Habitat Management Society (known as Cows and Fish)

Contact: Norine Ambrose; Ph. (403) 381-5538;
e-mail: Nambrose@telusplanet.net

Partners: Cows and Fish (Lorne Fitch), Alberta Sustainable Resource Development (SRD-Barry Adams)

Project Objective:

- Improved management due to increased awareness about the linkages between the health of riparian areas and biodiversity indicators.
- Provincial baseline of riparian health and riparian biodiversity indicators developed.
- Riparian stewardship promoted, both for the riparian area as a provider of biodiversity, as well as for specific biological indicators (birds) to increase the health of riparian areas.
- Demonstrate utility of deliverables for other jurisdictions.

Activities:

- Compile research, build hypotheses regarding biodiversity, riparian health, and forage linkages.
- Site selection, field work, analysis and results compilation.
- Riparian Health Inventory (biodiversity sites).
- Evaluate knowledge.
- Develop and test messages.
- Build biodiversity – riparian health-forage link.
- Build final messages.
- Develop training for message deliverers.
- Project management support.

End Product:

- Training material for resource management professionals engaged and learning to provide consistent relevant biodiversity messages to producers.
- Website will host the final reports from the biodiversity (bird) and evaluating messages.
- We will invite and encourage producers, their community groups, and resource professionals to attend or request a presentation of the messages developed.
- Provincial baseline of riparian health and riparian biodiversity indicators developed.

Project Name:

Best Management Practices in the Establishment of Fast Growing Plantation & Promotion of Opportunities in Agroforestry

Recipient of Funds: The North Peace Applied Research Association (NPARA)

Contact: Maryse Maurice; Ph. (780) 836-3354;
e-mail : npara1@telusplanet.net

Partners: Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC-PFRA), Daishowa Marubeni International, Ducks Unlimited Canada, Manning and District Further Education Council

Project Objective:

The project will showcase beneficial management practices in the establishment of tree and hay cover and will demonstrate opportunities for economic gain as well as environmental benefits associated with agroforestry. The primary goal of the proposed activities is to foster the conversion of marginal cropland to perennial cover including fast-growing hybrid trees.

End Product:

- Opportunities in Agroforestry Workshop.
- Hybrid poplar plantation field tour.
- Producer survey.
- Publication and distribution of BMP's on agroforestry.

Project Name:

Brush Control on Grazing Land Project

Recipient of Funds: County of Paintearth No. 18, Agricultural Service Board

Contact: Jeff Cosens; Ph. (403) 882-3211; e-mail: jeff@countypaintearth.ca

Partners: Paintearth and Flagstaff Counties, Battle River Research Group, Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development (AAFRD), AESA – Rural Conservation Technician

Project Objective:

The purpose of this project is to provide a site where producers can see brush control methods. Being able to see the results firsthand, with the aid of field days, will provide producers with reasonable and constructive solutions to control brush on their pastures and increase forage supply.

Activities:

- Field Days.

End Product:

- Annual report.
- Publication and distribution of final report.
- Publication and distribution of brush control fact sheets.

Project Name:

Decision Support Systems for Native Landscape Restoration in the Alberta Grassland Natural Region

Funds Recipient:

Alberta Agriculture Food and Rural Development (AAFRD)

Contact:

Bjorn P. Berg PhD, Ph. (403) 381-5835;
email: bjorn.berg@gov.ab.ca

Partners:

Alberta Sustainable Resource Development (SRD), LandWise Inc., Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development (AAFRD), AXYS Environmental

Project Objectives:

This project will:

- Capture and organize key components and knowledge necessary to construct the BMP's required by resource managers, for successful reintroduction of native plant species into Alberta's natural grassland ecosystems.
- Provide users with tools to improve their effectiveness in setting goals for reclamation/restoration projects; help them assess site type and potential, establish seeding rates and mixtures.
- Help users to practice better stand agronomy and understanding of post-establishment management needs.
- Help users to increase their knowledge of native plant ecology for selecting plant materials.
- Identify gaps in knowledge or areas where demonstrations of existing technology could be implemented.

End Product:

- Two-day workshop.
- Proceedings of workshop.
- Publication of results and priority lists on websites.

Project Name:

Detailed Soil and Site Characterization of Riparian Habitats in the Grassland Natural Region

Recipient of Funds: LandWise Inc.

Contact: Ron McNeil; Ph. (403) 320-0407; e-mail: landys@telusplanet.net

Partners: Alberta Sustainable Resource Development (SRD)

Project Objective:

- To promote improved riparian area stewardship through the provision of:
- detailed classification and characterization of soils, parent materials and groundwater at 61 distinct riparian plant communities in the Grasslands Region of Alberta,
 - detailed description of site characteristics i.e., moisture, nutrient and drainage regime for each plant community,
 - written discussion and interpretation of the soils, parent materials, site characteristics and issues that affect management at each of the 61 sites, including the expected response of each riparian habitat to natural and management changes, and
 - beneficial management practices relevant to each of the 61 riparian plant communities.

Activities:

- Phase 1: Selection of 61 sites that best represent the 61 riparian habitat types.
- Phase 2: Field characterization at 61 sites representative of the riparian habitat types.
- Phase 3: Interpretation and technical reference materials.

End Product:

- The information collected in this project will be incorporated into the Grasslands range plant community guide, and will be adopted as part of the official plant community guidelines.
- Results of this project will also be incorporated into the Ecological Succession Description (ESD) (2004) database, a website being developed by Alberta Sustainable Resource Development. The primary objective of this database is to provide a plant community classification that can be used by field staff and the public to assess the ecology of the various ecological sites within each sub-region of the province.
- The materials will be utilized in all training exercises with livestock producers, land managers, natural resource industries and educational institutions.
- The information collected will also be incorporated into the riparian health assessment of Cows and Fish.

Project Name:

Detailed Soil and Site Characterization of Riparian Habitats in the Central Parkland

Recipient of Funds: LandWise Inc.

Contact: Ron McNeil; Ph. (403) 320-0407; e-mail: landys@telusplanet.net

Partners: Alberta Sustainable Resource Development (SRD)

Project Objective:

- To promote improved riparian area stewardship through the provision of:
- detailed classification and characterization of soils, parent materials and groundwater at 29 distinct riparian plant communities in the Central Parkland natural sub region of Alberta,
 - detailed description of site characteristics i.e., moisture, nutrient and drainage regime for each plant community,
 - written discussion and interpretation of the soils, parent materials, site characteristics and issues that affect management at each of the 29 sites, including the expected response of each riparian habitat to natural and management changes, and
 - beneficial management practices relevant to each of the 29 riparian plant communities.

Activities:

- Phase 1: Selection of 29 sites that best represent the 29 riparian habitat types.
- Phase 2: Field Characterization at 29 sites representative of the riparian habitat types.
- Phase 3: Interpretation and technical reference materials.

End Product:

- The results of this project will be incorporated into the Central Parkland range plant community guide and will be adopted as part of the official plant community guidelines.
- Results of this project will also be incorporated into the Ecological Succession Description (ESD) (2004) database, a website being developed by Alberta Sustainable Resource Development. The primary objective of this database is to provide a plant community classification that can be used by field staff and the public to assess the ecology of the various ecological sites within each sub-region of the province.
- The materials will be utilized in all training exercises with livestock producers, land managers, natural resource industries and educational institutions.
- The information collected will also be incorporated into the riparian health assessment of Cows and Fish.

Project Name:

Development and Distribution of Applied Research on Grazing Regimes and Biodiversity in Alberta

Recipient of Funds: Ducks Unlimited Canada

Contact: Murray D. Klutz; Ph. (780) 672-6786; e-mail: m_klutz@ducks.ca

Partners: Ducks Unlimited Canada, University of Alberta, Cows and Fish

Project Objective:

This project will scan recent literature for information and articles related to the effects of grazing on biodiversity, synthesize the information, prepare and distribute communications products to partner extension agencies to enhance producer adoption of BMPs.

Activities:

- Summary of literature scan and review.
- Development of communication tools and distribution to partner extension agencies.
- Final report.

End Product:

- Distribution of new data to be incorporated into the body of grazing management information available to producers and extension professionals in Alberta.

Project Name:

Ecological Succession Description Database

Recipient of Funds: Rocky Mountain Forest Range Association

Contact: Michael Willoughby ASRD 780 422-4598;
e-mail: mike.willoughby@gov.ab.ca

Partners: Alberta Sustainable Resource Development, CGI Consultants

Project Objective:

To extend the Ecological Succession Description Database to produce on demand web-based hard copy plant community classification reports for use in the field.

End Product:

- Complete project reports for the plant community and ecological range and site phase descriptions
- Develop hard copy range plant community guides for each sub region the province
- Link all reports together to produce on demand web-based hard copy product of range plant community guides for each sub-region of the province

Project Name: **Forage Quality and Seasonality of Rough Fescue and Other Selected Forages From Rough Fescue Grassland Communities**

Recipient of Funds: Rocky Mountain Forest Range Association

Contact: Michael Alexander Range, Management Forester, South West Region Rangeland Management Branch Public Lands Division
Ph.(403) 627-1131; e-mail: Mike.Alexander@gov.ab.ca

Partners: Alberta Sustainable Resource Development

Project Objective:

A better understanding of the forage growth and quality of disturbed and undisturbed rough fescue communities will allow for sustainable management of the rough fescue rangeland resource and provide opportunities to integrate multiple users of the grassland land base in the foothills of Southern Alberta. This project will examine the changes in forage quality of rough fescue over the season (June, July, mid August, late September), by the amount of litter on the site, and by community type across the different sub regions

Activities:

- Site selection, data collection and analysis.
- Compilation of a final report.
- Distribution of information by fact sheets, papers, and Internet
- Information will be presented to the livestock and forestry industry and to the public through numerous presentations across the province.

End Product:

The project products will be information fact sheets, papers and web based (http://www3.gov.ab.ca/srd/land/m_rm_1.html) technical reports that will be used by livestock producers and forest industry groups. These products will be widely distributed to the livestock and forest industry through presentations, and published in mediums such as Cattlemen's magazine, forage/grazing associations, rangelands and range notes.

Project Name:

Grasslands, Forests and Tame Pasture Range Management in Alberta

Recipient of Funds: Alberta Riparian Habitat Management Society

Contact: Gerry Ehlert, Head, Range Resource Management Program, Rangeland Management Branch, Public Lands and Forests Division, ASRD Ph.(780) 427-3595; e-mail: Gerry.Ehlert@gov.ab.ca

Partners: Alberta Sustainable Resource Development, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC-PFRA), University of Alberta, Cows and Fish, Dave Downing, Vegetation Ecologist, Stony Plain

Project Objective:

The development and delivery of “Grasslands, Forests and Tame Pasture Range Management in Alberta” is expected to:

- Accelerate the adoption of improved range management practices in riparian areas which will in turn result in improving the health and function of riparian areas: reducing sedimentation in streams, maintenance and or improvement of riparian habitat for fish, invertebrates, etc.;
- Enhance range health and function;
- Inform range managers of the benefits of grazing practices that reduce soil erosion and increase soil moisture;
- Provide range managers with increased knowledge and skill from which they would be able to increase forage productivity;
- Foster an increased stewardship on rangelands;
- Improve understanding between grazing and the environmental community;
- To provide basic training to other resource managers (forestry, recreation, fish and wildlife, land use) for a better understanding of range management.
- To provide range and resource managers a complete understanding of the ecological principles of grazing management to consider when integrating livestock grazing and other uses and values on rangelands.

Activities:

- Phase 1: Project team will review and replace present course materials with new range management materials and tool kit.
- Phase 2: Project team will write the new course (including new sketches, drawings) to final product and distribution and use stage.
- Phase 3: Complete an evaluation of the project.

Project Name:

Grasslands, Forests and Tame Pasture Range Management in Alberta (continued)

End Product:

- The use of the new training materials will assist Alberta's livestock industry and producers, and governments to graze and manage rangelands (including new opportunities) using the most current and "state of the art" range management knowledge and tools.
- The course product will be in a hard copy and electronic form that all users can freely access and will be widely distributed and posted on the ASRD range management web site: www3.gov.ab.ca/srd/land/m_rm_1.html The product will provide distance learning education opportunities.

Project Name:**Lakeland College Agroforestry Workshop Series****Recipient of Funds:** Lakeland College**Contact:** L.A. (Lorne) Wilson P.Ag, Ph: (780) 416-8868, Fax: (780) 449-6907, e-mail: Lorne.Wilson@lakelandc.ab.ca**Partners:** Alberta Sustainable Resource Development, Ducks Unlimited Canada, Woodlot Association of Alberta, AI-Pac fibre Team, Alberta-Pacific forest Industries, Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development (AAFRD), Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC-PFRA), Canadian Forest Service, Alberta Producers, Alberta Riparian Habitat Management Society (Cows and Fish), Media Match West Communications Inc, and Consultants.**Project Objective:**

To accelerate the adoption of beneficial management practices for the sustainable use and management of pasture, hay land, riparian areas and shelterbelts on the agricultural landscape. Success of the project will be measured using the indicators listed below. In addition, demand for further events and information will be seen as a measure of success.

Activities:

- Development, preparation and logistics of workshop.

End Product:

- Presentations at four workshops.
- Final report and evaluation.

Project Name:**Pasture Rejuvenation/Winter Manure Management****Recipient of Funds:** Central Peace Conservation Society (CPCS)**Contact:**Garry Ropchan Research Co-ordinator,
Ph.(780) 864-3595, e-mail: cpcs@telusplanet.net**Partners:**

Agriculture, Food and Rural Development (AAFRD), Dr. Christoph Weder – Spirit View Ranches Consulting

Project Objective:

This project will demonstrate the effectiveness of winter feeding Peace Country grass seed residues as a means of improving soil fertility and structure while at the same time reducing manure handling and wintering site issues. The project will provide data to show Peace Country livestock producers what effect this winter feeding system will have on cow body condition scores and body weight.

Activities:

- Project preparation.
- Conduct feeding activities.
- Project analysis.
- Summer tour.
- Project analysis.
- Graze cattle.
- Complete final report for CPCS annual report, newsletter, website and meeting.
- Submit articles to agricultural publications.

End Product:

- CPCS's annual report.
- Newsletter.
- Website.
- Annual meeting.

Project Name:

Pasture School

Recipient of Funds: Lac St. Anne County

Contact: Doug Macaulay, Municipal Conservation Coordinator, Ph: (780) 785-3411 (ext.262), email: dmacaulay@gov.lacsteanne.ab

Partners: Agriculture, Food and Rural Development (AAFRD), Western Central Forage Association

Project Objective:

During the past few years producers have encountered drought, grasshopper outbreaks and many other things that have made farming challenging. They are also becoming more aware of environmental concerns through their involvement with the Environmental Farm Plan Program. The three part WCCG Pasture School will address their concerns and educate them on ways they can improve pasture quality and health, avoid overgrazing and protect valuable resources such as water and their riparian areas.

The Pasture School Seminars and Binder include the following:

Day 1 (Classroom)

- 1) History of grazing
- 2) Setting goals for your farm
- 3) Grass & legume species identification
- 4) Grazing principals
- 5) Pasture fertility
- 6) Water
- 7) Fencing
- 8) Pasture rejuvenation
- 9) Drought strategies
- 10) Riparian management
- 11) Nutrition
- 12) Health and disease
- 13) Extending the grazing season
- 14) Manure management
- 15) Pest management

Day 2 (Field Day)

- 1) Pasture assessments
- 2) Pasture species ID
- 3) Landowner presentations

Day 3 (Classroom)

- 1) Setting up a grazing system
- 2) Case study

End Product:

- Development and organization of pasture schools.
- Advertising.
- Classroom sessions.
- Field tours.
- Evaluation of schools.

Project Name:

The Pasture Stick for Awareness and Planned Grazing

Recipient of Funds: Agriculture, Food and Rural Development (AAFRD)

Contact: Grant Lastiwka, Pasture Specialist Extension, Ph.(403) 782-8028, e-mail: grant.Lastiwka@gov.ab.ca

Partners: Agriculture, Food and Rural Development (AAFRD), Grey Wooded Forage Association, Yellowhead County, Consultants.

Project Objective:

To provide graziers with a tool that promotes grazing management by matching the forage production to animal consumption for more predictable grazing outcomes.

Activities:

- Purchase pasture sticks
- Transportation and delivery of sticks to user groups. The sticks are a tool that will enable producers to quickly determine forage production and better match yield to animal number and intake

End Product:

Participants of grazing courses will receive a pasture stick which will be able enable them to quickly determine forage production and better match yield to animal number and intake.

Project Name:

Riparian Forage Production – Understanding the Riparian Forage Base

Recipient of Funds: Alberta Riparian Habitat Management Society (Cows and Fish)

Contact:

Norine Ambrose, Program Manager Ph.(403) 381-5538,
e-mail: nambrose@telusplanet.net

Partners:

Alberta Sustainable Resource Development , Consultants.

Project Objective:

- Increased knowledge of riparian forage base productivity by Cows and Fish and other resource extension staff.
- New messages developed on appropriate inclusion of riparian forages in producers' grazing management plans.
- Increased knowledge of riparian forage for producers to include in grazing management planning.
- More producers including appropriate forage information in their grazing management plans.
- Better management and healthier grazing lanes (tame and native uplands and riparian areas) due to improved knowledge and better grazing.

Activities:

- Project development and site selection
- Field work, data analysis, and results compilation
- Linking riparian forage to riparian soils characterization project
- Develop new riparian and grazing management messages
- Develop fact sheets and place on website.

End Product:

- The website will host the final reports from the forage work, and it will be sent to our resource management colleagues digitally as well.
- We will invite and encourage producers, community groups, and resource professionals to attend or request a presentation of the messages developed.
- We will begin training resource professionals on the new messages and information collected.
- New information and messages from this work will be incorporated into our riparian grazing messages.

Project Name:

**Stockpiled (Banked) Perennial Forages for
Extending the Grazing Season Pasture**

Recipient of Funds: Agriculture, Food and Rural Development (AAFRD)

Contact: Grant Lastiwka, Pasture Specialist Extension, Ph.(403) 782-8028,
e-mail: grant.Lastiwka@gov.ab.ca

Partners: Agriculture, Food and Rural Development (AAFRD), Agriculture
and Agri-Food Canada, Consultants.

Project Objective:

Effectively create, publish and communicate a scientifically sound and practical Stockpiled (Banked) Forages fact sheet that can be used as a module and template for a future Extending the Grazing Season publication.

Activities:

- Literature search and write draft
- Project team review and finalize draf
- Final proof and printing

End Product:

Fact sheet publication sent to media, key groups and specialists across Western Canada, placed on relevant websites (AAFRD, AFFC, Foragebeef.ca), Cattlemen-Grainews interview and excerpt of articles, added to Grazing Schools proceeding/CD contents.

Project Name:**The Practical Weed Management Pasture Manual****Recipient of Funds:** County of Barrhead, Agricultural Service Board**Contact:** Marilyn Flock, Agricultural Fieldman, Ph.(780) 674-3331,
e-mail: marilyn@phrd.ab.ca**Partners:** Agriculture, Food and Rural Development (AAFRD), University of Alberta, West Central Forage Association, Gateway Research Organization, Alberta Feeders Association, West Central Conservation Group**Project Objective:**

We have a great deal of information on weed control in pastures available. One example is a lot of information that we have as a result of a joint project with 25 other municipalities and the University of Alberta on alternative Canada Thistle control in pastures. We would like to hire a person to get this information into a useable format for farmers and those working with the agricultural Industry.

Activities:

- Literature search and write draft
- Final proof and printing

End Product:

- Distribute the Practical Weed Management pasture manual to each of the research and forage associations as well as all municipalities in Alberta.
- This information when used by extension agencies will provide producers with relevant and practical means to manage the pasture weeds.

Project Name:**Wheatland County Range Management Program****Recipient of Funds:** Wheatland County Agricultural Service Board**Contact:** Mike Sauve, Watershed Coordinator, Ph.(780) 934-3321,
e-mail: mike.sauve@wheatlandcounty.ca**Partners:** Agriculture, Food and Rural Development (AAFRD), Foothills Forage Co-op Association, Ducks Unlimited Canada, Monsanto, Alberta Riparian Habitat Management Society (Cows and Fish).**Project Objective:**

To improve range and vegetation management on upland and riparian areas in pasture and in rangeland. We will accomplish this through an education and awareness approach to encourage landholders to adopt sustainable range management principles and utilize environmentally friendly technology that selectively controls unwanted plant species to increase range production.

Activities:

- Pasture health assessment.
- Grazing management plan.
- Workshops.
- Producer survey.
- Range tour.
- Newsletter.
- Newspaper articles.
- Riparian grazing demonstration.
- Environmental farm plan.
- Weed control.

End Product:

- Publish two special editions of our Rural Connector newsletter.
- Utilize a communications consultant to write three articles profiling local graziers and promoting good grazing strategies.

Project Name:

Winter Feeding / Winter Manure Management / Utilization of Crop Residues

Recipient of Funds: Central Peace Conservation Society (CPCS)

Contact: Central Peace Conservation Society (CPCS)

Contact: Garry Ropchan Research Co-ordinator, Ph.(780) 864-3595,
e-mail: cpcs@telusplanet.net

Partners: Agriculture, Food and Rural Development (AAFRD), University of Alberta, West Central Forage Association, Gateway Research Organization, Alberta Feeders Association, West Central Conservation Group

Project Objective:

To provide an objective comparison of traditional management of perennial grass crops which involves mowing of excess residues to improve the subsequent yield with the utilization of introduction of livestock This project will demonstrate which of the three management systems is best for producers to adopt in terms of economic impact. The three systems to be evaluated are:

- Grass seed residue mowed
- Grass seed residue grazed
- Grass seed residue check (left for comparative purposes)

Activities:

- Site setup.
- Monitor sites and livestock during fall, spring and summer.
- Field day and tours.
- Conduct economic analysis.
- Complete final report.
- Survey producers.

End Product:

- CPCS's annual report.
- Newsletter.
- Website.
- Annual meeting.

SECOND CALL FOR PROPOSALS – February 28, 2005

Project Name:

Iron Creek Watershed Improvement Society

Recipient of Funds: Iron Creek Watershed Improvement Society

Contact: Kristin Cuss; Ph: (780) 385-2474; e-mail: kcuss@flagstaff.ab.ca

Partners: Flagstaff County, Cows and Fish, Alberta Environmentally Sustainable Agriculture (AESAs), Ducks Unlimited Canada, Battle River Research Group

Project Objective:

- Continuing to improve the health of Iron Creek through increased adoption of beneficial management practices in riparian areas and adjacent grazing lands. The health inventories will give producers a background as to “where we’ve been” and “where we are”.

Activities:

- Riparian health inventory project includes data collection and analysis of 2001 and 2006 data.
- Two community meetings to promote awareness. The first meeting will be held prior to the 2006 health inventories and will inform residents of the project and the importance of monitoring. The second will be held after the inventory and analysis is complete and will update the community on Iron Creek’s state of health. The health in 2006 will be compared to what was found in 2001.
- The 2001 and 2006 inventory data will be profiled in a report card which will be published for extension to residents so they can see how the health of Iron Creek has changed and the difference that projects have made to improve it. It will also contain more solutions for continued improvement of Iron Creek.
- Tour to showcase riparian management. A key producer who made management changes benefiting Iron Creek will be profiled on this tour as well as in a publication to be distributed on this tour.

End Product:

- The 2001 and 2006 inventory data will be profiled in a report card which will be published for extension to residents so they can see how the health of Iron Creek has changed over the preceding five years.
- Publication and field tour showcasing one or more producers within the study area that have made changes to their operation and how it improved the health of their riparian area.

Project Name:**Grassroots Cattle Conference Association****Recipient of Funds:** Grassroots Cattle Conference Association**Contact:**

Delaney Anderson; Ph: (780) 656-3730;
e-mail: danderson@smokylakecounty.ab.ca

Partners:

Smoky Lake County (Delaney Anderson), Alberta Environmental Farm Plan (AEFP), (Perry Phillips), Alberta Environmentally Sustainable Agriculture (AESAs)

Project Objective:

- To provide information on grazing management strategies in various formats (presentations, tradeshow, resource materials and professionals) to local cow/calf operators from a broad perspective while maintaining a forum for local and regional issues and current events.
- One of the key components of this project, and a feature that sets it apart from others in Alberta, is the fact that it includes aspects of social, economic, and technical information in order to address barriers that prevent the adoption of BMPs.
- Through the annual fall conference and tradeshow, and the spring workshop and field day, producers will have access to a wide range of resources including various local extension staff available for on-farm support.

Activities:

- Fall conference and tradeshow – will provide primary cattle producers with an opportunity to receive information on a wide variety of topics from high-calibre speakers in a rural (grassroots) location at an affordable price. There are many local producers who cannot attend large events (economics and time constraints) to receive the expert advice (i.e. Western Grazing Conference) and this provides an opportunity for them to do so. Our target attendance is 200 producers.
- Workshop and field day – hands-on opportunity to see BMPs put to the test.
- Ongoing marketing and advertising – proceedings, articles, web site, and advertisements.

End Product:

- Fall conference and tradeshow.
- Conference proceedings will provide producers with information from all presentations and important resource and funding information that is available (i.e. local AESAs rural extension staff (RES), EFPs, and the Canada-Alberta Farm Stewardship Program).
- Workshop and field day.

Project Name:

3rd Annual Grazing Management School for Women

Recipient of Funds: Beaver County

Contact: Aimee Cooke; Ph: (780) 663-3730; email: aesa@beaver.ab.ca

Partners: Counties of Vermilion River/Minburn, Smoky Lake/St. Paul, Flagstaff/Paintearth and MD of Wainwright, Cows and Fish, Greenhouse Gas Mitigation Program, Parkland Conservation Farm

Project Objective:

- To provide female ranchers with valuable learning opportunities regarding pasture and range management, herd health and promote the adoption of BMP's related to tame pasture, hay land, shelterbelts and riparian areas in north east Alberta. The long-term objective is to promote the idea that furthering the ecological health of ranching operations can have a positive effect on the economics and lifestyle aspects of the farm family.

End Product:

- 3rd Annual Grazing School for Women.
- Evaluation questions will help direct the activities of the rural extension staff in the area.
- Individual follow-up with attendees to be completed by rural extension staff.
- Newspaper and newsletter articles will be published regarding the school.

Project Name:

Increasing Producer Awareness and Adoption Rate of Agroforestry BMPs in MD #23

Recipient of Funds: North Peace Applied Research Association

Contact: Kelly Zeleny; Ph: (780) 927-3776; e-mail: npara2@telusplanet.net

Partners: Forestry Operations – Dave Sadowsky,(Fort Vermilion), (780) 927-3235; Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development (AAFRD) Sustainable Woodlot Specialist – Toso Bozic (780) 415-2681; MD # 23 Ag-Fieldman – Grant Smith (780) 927-3717; Tolko Forest Industries – Bruce Avery (High Level) (780) 926-5725; Alberta Environmentally Sustainable Agriculture (AESAs), Conservation Peace Region Coordinator – John Zylstra (780) 835-7542

Project Objective:

- To increase MD #23 producer awareness and adoption rate of agroforestry beneficial management practices in regards to managing sustainable economic and environmental potentials of woodlot, silvopasture and alley cropping applications. It is apparent that producers would also like to see programs offered near home since travel distance and economic considerations can be a deterrent to attending similar training workshops in other locations.

Activities:

- Locate demonstration sites.
- Advertise and promote tour and sites.
- Tour.
- Surveys.
- Final report.

End Product:

- Agroforestry tour and demonstration sites.
- Before and after written/phone survey to assess producer familiarity with agroforestry.
- Publication of newsletter and annual report.

Project Name:

Prescription Grazing: A Best Management Practice for Aspen

Recipient of Funds: Western Rangeland Consultants Inc.

Contact: Dr. Arthur W. Bailey, Ph.D, P.Ag.; Ph: (780) 487-5273; e-mail: Art.Bailey@ualberta.ca

Partners: Dr. Barry Irving, University Ranch, Kinsella; Ron Moss, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada-PFRA; Mike Alexander and Gerry Ehler of Alberta Sustainable Resource Development (ASRD); Drs. Edward Bork and Jane King, University of Alberta.

Project Objective:

- To develop best practices for the implementation of prescribed grazing management systems to manage aspen as a forage resource under several landscape management scenarios on Alberta grassland and forested rangelands.

Activities:

- Develop a best practices approach to removal of aspen forest followed by best grazing/browsing to sustain aspen and other forages.
- Develop a best practices approach to aspen and grass management under grazing to optimize aspen and other forage production where aspen suckers and saplings are invading grasslands.
- Develop a best practices approach to aspen and other vegetation in aspen clear-cuts with the regeneration of healthy aspen stands for commercial forestry, consistent with a continuing (but reduced) forage supply for grazing cattle.
- Develop fact sheets to highlight major findings relevant to best management practices for the three scenarios of aspen and grazing/browsing management.
- Develop and publish a final report.

End Product:

- A research paper with fact sheets will demonstrate the essential nature of the use of prescription grazing to manage aspen.
- Three best practice prescription grazing management scenarios for aspen will be prepared to accommodate the major uses being made of this forage species.
- Will be featured on www.foragebeef.ca Web site as a research article with fact sheets.
- To be included in the new prairie brush management manual.
- A final report will be developed, published and distributed.
- Results will be available to be presented at field days, symposia and workshops when requested.

Project Name:

Demonstration of Year-Round Grazing Systems Utilizing BMPs

Recipient of Funds: Peace County Beef and Forage Association

Contact: Leanne Stucklschwaiger; Ph: (780) 835-6799;
e-mail: leanneg@nait.ab.ca

Partners: Grant Lastiwka of Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development (AAFRD), Greg Griffin of Last Lake Cattle Company

Project Objective:

- To demonstrate to producers the feasibility of grazing for 300+ days per year utilizing a coordinated systems of winter grazing practices.
- To demonstrate to producers the potential cost savings and overall economics of a year-round grazing system.
- To demonstrate to producers the ability of beef cows to maintain body condition and reproductive performance under a year-round grazing system.

Activities:

- Selection and planting of demonstration sites.
- Controlled grazing, collection of data and monitor sites.
- Workshops and tours.
- Preparation and distribution of final report.

End Product:

- Periodical articles in regional and national print media.
- Newsletters and articles to be sent out through applied research groups as well as general distribution of articles through Agricultural Research and Extension Council of Alberta (ARECA).
- Five seminars and tours to be facilitated across the province with speakers and demonstrations on sites as well as in classrooms.

Project Name:**Effects of Litter Load on Tame Pasture Health****Recipient of Funds:** Alberta Riparian Habitat Management Society**Contact:** Darlene Moisey; Ph: (780) 645-6336;
e-mail: Darlene.Moisey@gov.ab.ca**Partners:** Alberta Sustainable Resource Development (ASRD), University of Alberta, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC)**Project Objective:**

- Provide relevant information (see below) to develop/refine extension and communication materials to convey the message of the importance of litter related to sustaining the productivity and health of tame pastures and how to manage carry over.
- Describe the relationship between litter load and tame forage production.
- Define how much litter is enough to maximize productivity while sustaining other resource values.
- Determine if there is a relationship between litter load and health indicators (i.e. soil and site stability, hydrological function and biotic integrity) identified by Pyke et al. (2002)
- Collect and compare production and litter load data from long-term enclosures.
- Provide demonstration sites (associated with the study site) for “hands-on” training during workshops and field days.

Activities:

- Establish study site(s) – fencing, plot layout, apply treatments, initial/base data collection.
- Annual/growing season data collection/handling – measure soil-related parameters, plant growth stage, production clips, sample handling, data compilation, etc.
- Reporting – compile/analyze data, write reports.

End Product:

- Field days, tours and seminars will highlight the new information throughout the region.
- Demonstration plots can be viewed on field days throughout the study. Appropriate signage will be installed at sites.
- Preliminary reports will be prepared based on the data collected to date.
- Final report will be communicated to Applied Research and Forage Associations, government and conservation agencies, and other interested parties.

Project Name:

Evaluation of BMPs for Converting Annual Cropland to Perennial Pasture

Recipient of Funds: Peace County Beef and Forage Association

Contact:

Leanne Stucklschwaiger; Ph: (780) 835-6799;
e-mail: leanneg@nait.ab.ca

Partners:

Greg Griffin Last Lake Cattle Co. (780) 835-0384, Arvid Aasen of Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development (AAFRD) (403) 782-8027

Project Objective:

- To demonstrate to producers three different systems for converting annual cropland to perennial pasture forage and the BMPs that comprise those systems.
- To demonstrate to producers the overall cash-flow and revenue-generating attributes of each transition option.
- To demonstrate the effect of each transition strategy on the successful establishment of the perennial forage stand.
- To demonstrate to producers the importance of controlled grazing in the successful establishment and sustainability of a productive pasture stand.

Activities:

- Selection and planting at demonstration sites.
- Controlled grazing, collection of data and monitoring of sites.
- Workshops and tours.
- Analyze data and prepare and distribute the final report.

End Product:

- Article submitted to fall edition of Forage Country Magazine and distributed to 9,000 farm postal boxes.
- Article submitted for June issue of North Peace Forage Association (NPFA) 'Forage Facts' Member Newsletter and distributed to 200+ NPFA members.
- BMP field day and tour to be held in late July.
Peace Region Grazing School to be held in early March – project results will be presented.

Project Name:

Grazing Management Planning in Southwestern Alberta

Recipient of Funds: Foothills Forage Association

Contact:

Isabel McPherson; Ph: (403) 541-0911;
e-mail: info@foothillsforage.com

Partners:

Southern Applied Research Association (SARA), Grey Wooded Forage Association (GWFA), Chinook Applied Research Association (CARA), Agriculture Research and Extension Council of Alberta (ARECA), County of Mountain View, County of Wheatland, Peigan First Nation

Project Objective:

- To improve grazing patterns or livestock stocking rates to address declining water quality, loss of biodiversity, soil erosion and to increase production and economic gains.

End Product:

- Pasture health assessment workshop.
- Grazing management plans delivered (5).
- Grazing clubs formed (2).
- Range tour.
- Six newsletters published and distributed throughout area.

Project Name: Up The Creek With a Paddle Newsletter and Local Watersheds in Action 3 Conference

Recipient of Funds: Mountain View County

Contact: Leslie Gavelin; Ph: (403) 335-3311; e-mail: lesleyg@telusplanet.net

Partners: Red Bow Alliance Committee

Project Objective:

- To make producers aware of what is available to them in regards to sustainable agriculture and help them with the implementation of BMPs.
- Give producers ideas and options that they can use to make environmentally sound improvements on their farms.
- Increase the number of livestock producers that are implementing beneficial management practices.

End Product:

- Up the Creek With a Paddle newsletter.
- 2006 Local Watersheds in Action 3 Conference.
- Survey.

Project Name:**Range and Pasture Assessment Workshop Series****Recipient of Funds:** Agricultural Research and Extension Council of Alberta (ARECA)**Contact:**Leah Froehlich; Ph: (780) 826-7260;
e-mail: livestock.lara@telusplanet.net**Partners:**

Lakeland County Agricultural Service Board (ASB) – Barry Kolenosky, Manager of Public Services; Rick Ennis, Agricultural Fieldman; Municipal District of Mackenzie #23 – Grant Smith, Agricultural Fieldman; Westlock County – Jacolyn Tigert, Assistant Agricultural Fieldman; Special Area 2 – Lorne Cole, Range Management Specialist; Isabel McPherson – Manager, Foothills Forage Association; Greg Griffin – Pasture and Grazing Coordinator; North Peace Forage Association, Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development (AAFRD) Representatives; Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada (AAFC); Grant Lastiwka – Pasture Specialist (Lacombe); Cows and Fish .

Project Objective:

- To teach producers the skills to diagnose, identify, and remediate range and pasture production problems in order to increase environmental and financial sustainability of pasture systems.
- To introduce producers to BMPs that can be used to address range and pasture health problems in order to increase environmental and financial sustainability of pasture systems.

Activities:

- Contact speakers/guests to be involved with the workshop and book venues.
- Promotion of the workshop by utilizing radio ads, newspaper ads, posters, bulk mail-out of flyers to producers.
- Host workshops throughout Alberta.
- Send out questionnaires to attendees asking for input and suggestions on future workshops.
- Send out questionnaires to attendees inquiring about which/how many new management practices they implemented on their operation.

End Product:

- Eighteen (18) workshops across Alberta.
- Survey of producers to find out if and when they are implementing BMPs on their operation.

Project Name:

Intercropping Spring and Winter Cereals to Extend Grazing

Recipient of Funds: Agricultural Research and Extension Council of Alberta (ARECA)

Contact: Jenifer L. Heyden; Ph: (780) 582-7308 e-mail: brrg.fl@telus.net

Partners: Battle River Research Group (BRRG), Lakeland Agricultural Research Association (LARA), Gateway Research Organization (GRO), Chinook Applied Research Association (CARA), Grey Wooded Forage Association (GWFA)

Project Objective:

- To accelerate the adoption of beneficial grazing management practices related to tame forage management by showing producers and providing them with the information necessary to extend their grazing season and release pressure on their pasture resources via the intercropping of a spring and winter cereal.

Activities:

- Set up and maintenance of demonstration/replicated sites.
- Feed quality, other data analysis and further project costs.
- Workshops and tours.
- Newsletters and other communications.
- Training / education (train the trainer).

End Product:

- Fourteen (14) workshops and tours.
- Newsletters.
- Survey to assess the number of producers making significant management changes to extend their grazing season.

Project Name:

Lesser Slave Basin- Riparian Stewardship 2005

Recipient of Funds: MD of Big Lakes

Contact: Andrew Wagner, Alberta Environment; Ph: (780) 523-6512;
e-mail: ajwagner@telusplanet.net

Partners: Municipal District of Big Lakes, Alberta Conservation Association (ACA), Ducks Unlimited (DU), AAFC-PFRA, Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO), Sustainable Resource Development (SRD-Fisheries), SRD(Wildlife), SRD(Public Lands) and Alberta Environment

Project Objective:

- To increase the awareness of local producers in regards to the benefits of riparian stewardship.

Activities:

- Cows and Fish riparian health assessment.
- Secure co-operators and demonstration sites.
- Complete projects at sites.
- Tour and workshop.
- Brochures.

End Product:

- Riparian health inventory to be used as base data for future.
- Workshop.
- Brochure.

Project Name:

Rangeland Plant Community – Types of the Dry and Central Mixedwood

Recipient of Funds: Alberta Riparian Habitat Management Society

Contact:

Darlene Moisey (ASRD); Ph: (780) 645-6336; e-mail: Darlene.Moisey@gov.ab.ca

Partners:

Alberta Sustainable Resource Development (ASRD), Alberta Sustainable Resource Rangeland Management Branch (RMB), Rangeland Resource Management Program (RRMP) members: Program Coordinator: Gerry Ehlert; Range Ecologist: Michael Willoughby; Range Management Specialists: Darlene Moisey, Barry Adams, Colin Stone, Donna Lawrence, Carcey Hincz, Angela Burkinshaw, Michael Alexander; Range Analyst: Jennifer Carlson

Project Objective:

- Build upon existing information to provide descriptions and management information for rangeland plant community types in the Dry and Central Mixedwood natural subregion.
- Strengthen and broaden the scope of the Rangeland Health Assessment tool providing users with relevant information to monitor and manage rangeland plant communities in the Dry and Central Mixedwood natural subregion.
- Contribute to the sustainable management of native rangelands in northern Alberta through improved information and distribution of this knowledge.

Activities:

- Data collection/compilation.
- Data analysis.
- Reporting/ develop communication materials.
- Implement communication plan (tour, workshops, extension materials, etc.)

End Product:

- The project product will be an improved range plant community guide for the Dry and Central Mixedwood natural subregion of the province. These guides will be presented at workshops, training days, seminars and stockman short courses as basic resource information required for completion of the Rangeland Health Assessment protocols.

Project Name:

Hands on Agroforestry and Riparian Management Awareness Workshop Series in the Peace River Region

Recipient of Funds: Woodlot Association of Alberta (WAA)

Contact: Victor Brunette; Ph: (780) 489-4223;
email: Victor.Brunette@gov.ab.ca

Partners: Ainsworth Lumber Company Ltd., Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development (AAFRD), Alberta Pacific Forest Industries Inc., Daishowa-Marubeni International Ltd., Ducks Unlimited Canada, Footner Forest Products Ltd., Millar Western Forest Products Ltd., Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration, Vanderwell Contractors (1971) Ltd., Weldwood of Canada Ltd., Woodlot Association of Alberta

Project Objective:

- Create, improve material (better adapted to regional needs) to support training and the delivery of this workshop series.
- Deliver quality workshop sessions to agricultural producers and landowners on a regular basis, in strategic locations throughout the Peace region territory, and at times most convenient to the active landowners and private land decision-makers.
- Supplement the workshop series with a series of agroforestry demonstration sites and seasonally well-scheduled site visits that correspond to client needs and Woodland Extension Program (WEP) partner capacity of delivery.

Project Name:

Hands on Agroforestry and Riparian Management Awareness Workshop Series in the Peace River Region (continued)

Activities:

- Project Planning – validation with local WEP partners.
- Materials development by trainers and consultants.
- Validation process with AEFB, AAFC-PFRA, WAA and AAFRD partners.
- Advertising in local newspapers and magazines, and through partner Web sites and newsletters.
- Recruitment of partners, resource extensionists and individuals who can successfully deliver workshop components on agroforestry, shelterbelts, riparian area management, etc.
- Workshop delivery in pre-determined locations (in consultation with local extension specialists and WEP partners) – Valleyview, Grande Prairie, Beaver Lodge, Fairview, Peace River, Falher, Manning, High Prairie, Fairview, and Fort Vermillion.
- Five workshops delivered in the fall, five in the spring.
- Field tours/ demonstration site visits (ongoing WEP program).
- Project completion and evaluation.

End Product:

- Extension materials developed and communicated specifically for the Peace River Region.
- Ten (10) workshops.
- Various field tours.
- Final evaluation report.

APPENDIX 1

GREENCOVER CANADA TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE COMPONENT Priorities for Alberta

General Technical Assistance Component

The Greencover Canada program is a five year \$110 million Government of Canada initiative to help agricultural producers improve their grassland-management practices, protect water quality, reduce greenhouse-gas emissions, and enhance biodiversity and wildlife habitat.

A national program, Greencover Canada focuses on four components:

- Land Conversion - converting environmentally sensitive land to perennial cover
- Critical Areas - managing agricultural land near water
- Shelterbelts - planting trees on agricultural land
- Technical Assistance - helping producers adopt beneficial management practices

The purpose of the Technical Assistance Component is to provide support to technical transfer activities aimed at accelerating the adoption of beneficial management practices (BMPs) for the sustainable use and management of pasture, hayland, riparian areas, and shelterbelts on the agriculture landscape. In support of technical transfer activities, a proposal-based program has been developed and is now available to provide funding to government agencies and non-government organizations that are active in the following provincial priorities:

- Native rangeland management;
- Tame forage management;
- Agroforestry management; and
- Riparian area stewardship.

Provincial priorities for technical assistance were determined through one-on-one consultation by the AAFC Range Resource Team with:

- Alberta Agriculture Food and Rural Development (AAFRD)
- Alberta Environmentally Sustainable Agriculture (AESA) Council and their Rural Extension Staff (RES)
- Sustainable Resource Development (SRD) Public Lands and Forest

Division

- Western Forage/Beef Group (WFBG)
- Agricultural Research and Extension Council of Alberta (ARECA)
- Forage associations
- Producer groups
- Individual/producers

APPENDIX 2

Alberta Specific Technical Assistance Priorities

Native Rangeland Management

- Aspen encroachment control techniques and management. Brush control techniques and management. There is a need for more Alberta examples - profiles on techniques and equipment/products used, post treatment grazing management, yield/species changes, etc.
- Canada Thistle control and management including profiles on techniques and equipment/products used, post treatment grazing management, yield/species changes, etc.
- Rangeland types and productivity descriptions for Alberta (i.e. benchmarking)
- Grazing management on native rangelands
- Summer Grazing Schools or workshops targeted to native rangelands and tame pastures.

Tame Forage Management

- Annual forage adaptation guide should include the latest information and research on annual crops for spring, summer, and extended grazing and stored feed production
- Managing pasture bloat. Create publication on causes/management of bloat including grazing pure alfalfa stands, grass species which complement alfalfa growth and palatability, grazing tips (risk factors leading to incidence of bloat, safe vegetative stage to graze, cattle movement to alternative pasture/feed sources when risk increases, time of day to move cattle, other). Bloat products: how they work, how to use, costs, research or demo highlights.
- Reduced confinement strategies or winter management of cattle. Information needs to include site selection that does not compromise environmental quality (e.g. riparian issues, woodlot/habitat destruction, etc.). Infrastructure considerations such as paddock development, shelter, and water. Rotation of winter sites - crop rotation issues, manure management issues, herd health issues. Feed type options, quality, and supplementation. Adding flexibility to winter feeding programs (eg. bale grazing, swath grazing, stockpiled pasture, annual crop residue utilization, mobile feeding). Mobile feeding concepts/ideas. It would be useful to have producer profiles with detailed costs, management strategies, etc. and research highlights on winter feeding alternatives

- Stockpiled forage quality results in Alberta and other current data/research
- Profiles on different enterprise types of successful forage managers who have implemented a number of sound production, stewardship, and marketing practices eg. cow/calf (late winter, early and late spring, summer, fall calving scenarios), Grassing yearlings, dairy, PMU, buffalo, other. Utilization of “grazier of the year” nominees from Alberta grazing school.
- Summer Grazing School/Workshops
- Forage stand renovation techniques.

Agroforestry Management

- Silvopasture
- Pest management
- Alley-cropping

Riparian Area Stewardship

- Livestock management and grazing strategies for riparian areas. Detailed consideration/recommendations based on state of riparian condition/ characteristics. Reference to research data on buffer strips or grazing studies in riparian areas. Producer profiles.