



IN STREAM NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2021

WATERSHED MANAGEMENT



Our theme for this month is watershed management - a multi-stakeholder approach to the management of water and land resources. What strategies and actions can be taken to ensure water quality and quantity in a watershed?

NSWA has worked on watershed management plans at different scales, including the [Integrated Watershed Management Plan for the North Saskatchewan River](#). At more local scales both the [Sturgeon](#) and [Vermilion](#) River watersheds have completed watershed management plans, as well as Wabamun and [Mayatan](#) Lakes.

To find watershed management plans and other reports, check out the RESOURCES section of the NSWA website.

[Watershed Management Resources](#)

LAST WATERSHED WEDNESDAY UNTIL SEPTEMBER

APRIL 28 - REGISTER NOW



**Watershed Wednesday webinar
April 28 (noon to 1 p.m.) featuring:**

- NSWA's **Riparian Health Action Plan**
- New innovative **Riparian WebPortal**

Mary Ellen Shain (NSWA)
Shari Clare (Fiera Biological Consulting)

[REGISTER NOW](#)

The March 24th webinar featured **lake projects** in the watershed. The February 24th presentations featured the **Sturgeon River Watershed Management Plan**. Past presentations are posted on the [NSWA website](#) and on NSWA [YouTube](#) channel.

The Wednesday lunchtime webinars will start up again in September - save the dates!

September 22 October 27 November 24

Watch our social media and website for more information.



NSWA AGM JUNE 23, 2021

Join us on June 23, 2021 for the online NSWA Annual General Meeting. There will be updates on the work of the NSWA, elections for Board members and presentations on our Annual Report and Financial Statements.

A registration link for the AGM will be included in our May newsletter.

If you are a [member of the NSWA](#) and would like to be considered for a Board position, check out the information on available positions and download and fill in the [Nominations to the Board application](#) by April 30th.

INFORMATION ON ALBERTA'S COAL POLICY

Answering your questions about Alberta's Coal Policy

What is coal used for?

There are two main types of coal in Alberta:

- 1 Thermal coal is used for electricity and is typically found outside of mountain areas. An example of this is the Highvale Coal Mine near Lake Wabamun.
- 2 Metallurgical coal is used to produce steel. It is mostly found in Alberta's Eastern Slopes and the Rockies.

What is the Alberta Coal Policy (1976)?

- Encouraged coal development which considered the environment, the economy, and the labour force
- Designated areas where coal exploration and development is viable and places where it should be more limited
- Four Categories were established regarding coal leasing, exploration, and development

To read the 1976 Coal Policy Report, [click here](#).

What are the Coal Categories?

Category 1: No coal mining or development is allowed
— Federal or Provincial Parks, Wilderness Areas, Wildlife Sanctuaries, Designated Recreational Areas, etc

Category 2: Coal surface mining is not allowed, with exceptions
— Parts of southern Rockies and Foothills

Category 3: Coal development can be considered
— Northern forests and eastern part of Eastern Slopes

Category 4: Coal development is permitted
— Parts of land not otherwise covered

To read more on the Coal Categories, [click here](#).

1976 Coal Policy Land Classification

On February 8, 2021, the [1976 Coal Policy was re-instated by the Albert Government](#) to allow for public consultation on updating the policy, including the coal categories which define if and what type of coal activities are permitted in different areas of the Eastern Slopes.

Public consultation will be led by the Coal Policy Committee comprised of five members from various sectors. [The Committee](#) will provide a report on what they heard from Albertans in the fall of 2021.

For more information on the public consultation process or to subscribe to updates go the Government of Alberta webpage.

Information on Coal Policy



Alberta Emerald Foundation

NSWA is honored to be on the shortlist in two categories for this year's 30th Annual Emerald Awards.

[Vermilion River Watershed Restoration and Enhancement Project](#) is a multi-year riparian and wetland restoration and enhancement project in the Vermilion River subwatershed

[The WaterSHED North Saskatchewan River Water Quality Monitoring Program](#) is a collaborative project between Alberta Environment and Parks, EPCOR, NSWA and the City of Edmonton.

The Emerald Awards event will be held on June 1, 2021.

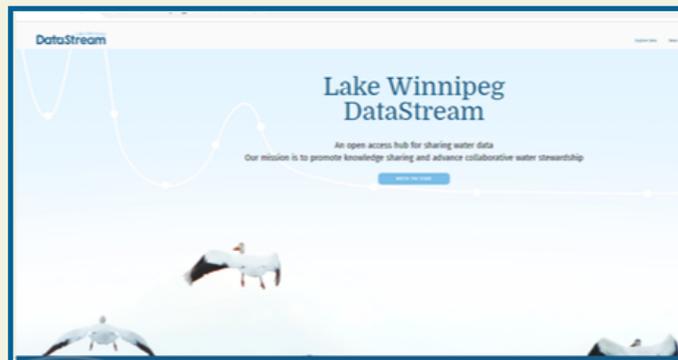
For more information on the Emerald Awards, and to see featured projects from previous winners (including the Battle River Watershed Alliance) go [the Emerald Awards website](#)



Feedback from Albertans contributed to the development of a new disturbance standard that streamlines authorizations for temporary seasonal docks and mooring structures. More information on the new standards can be found on the [Government of Alberta website](#). A good summary can be seen in the information page below.

[**Dock and Mooring Standards**](#)

NSWA Water Quality Data now on new DATASTREAM website



The Lake Winnipeg DataStream is an open access platform for sharing information on freshwater health. It currently allows users to access, visualize, and download full water quality datasets collected by monitoring groups throughout the Lake Winnipeg watershed which includes the North Saskatchewan River watershed.

The NSWA has shared information on the Sturgeon River watershed and the Vermilion River watershed. More information is available on the Datastream website.

[**DATASTREAM**](#)

Green Acreages: Funding for Acreage Owners 2021



The **Land Stewardship Center**, with funding from Alberta's Watershed Resiliency and Restoration Program and support from rural municipalities, has expanded the Green Acreages program and is now accepting applications from small acreage, hobby farm and recreational property owners to fund cost-shared, eligible stewardship initiatives on their properties.

Eligible projects may be funded 50:50 up to a maximum of \$2500 per project on a cost-share basis (i.e., property owners must contribute the same or greater cash or in-kind value to the projects). To be eligible, cost-share projects must incorporate beneficial management practices that will lessen the impacts of flooding and drought incidents. For example:

- Projects that enhance natural watershed function
- Riparian zone enhancements through planting and buffers
- Shoreline remediation and/or re-naturalization, such as planting native species, reinforcing shoreline through soil bioengineering and other natural methods
- Erosion reduction measures
- Exclusion fencing, off-site watering systems and stream crossings (e.g., to keep livestock out of water bodies and away from riparian areas)
- Use of native species in planting initiatives

Funding Information

VERMILION RIVER WATERSHED ALLIANCE

Are you a local landowner, concerned citizen, or nature lover?

Check out the Vermilion River Watershed Alliance's monthly blog which features stories and projects relating to healthy water and landscapes.



APRIL BLOG:
Partner Series: Get to Know Bryon Wolters, Conservation Specialist - Ducks Unlimited Canada

To learn more, go to:
<https://vrwa.ca/blog/>



Both the NSWA and VRWA appreciate the work of our many partner organizations. This month the VRWA blog features the work of

Byron Wolters, Conservation Specialist at Ducks Unlimited Canada.

The full article can be viewed on the [VRWA website](https://vrwa.ca/blog/).

GET TO KNOW THE NSWA BOARD



Jacquie Hansen is our featured Board member this month. She has served on the NSWA Board since 2018 and has been the Vice Chair for 2 years.

Work:

Jacquie has lived in St Albert for 25 years with her husband, where they raised their four children. They moved here from Vancouver and left their big respective families to live in the prairies. It was hard to do but they have no regrets because "they landed in a wonderful community".

Jacquie worked as an elected official on the St. Albert School Board for 12 years and then at a variety of jobs including Inter-governmental affairs with the City of St Albert. In 2017, she entered municipal government and is a Councillor with the City of St. Albert.

Her focus has been recreation, environment and social issues. To that end, she joined the NSWA, the SRWA (Sturgeon River Watershed Alliance), and sits on the Environmental Advisory Committee for St. Albert, as well as the Alberta Urban Municipalities Environment and Sustainability Committee.

Favorite places in the watershed:

Jacquie's favourite spot in the watershed is in St. Albert on the children's bridge - pictured above. "My family and I have enjoyed the trail system around Sturgeon River these 25 years, as have all St. Albert residents. It was one of the things that drew us here".

Interesting Hobbies: Tinkering on the piano, daily exercise, enjoying mountain and sea air, and celebrating all things big and small with family.

Quote: "The NSWA is an organization that advocates for the protection of our land and water now and into the future. It provides decision makers with important scientific data as well as bringing awareness on how to best to preserve our watershed. As our global world evolves, we will be more and more impacted by climate change. The NSWA will be a critical part in helping us understand the needs of our water system and environment. I've learned so much being on this Board and have to say that it's been a great honour to be a part of NSWA".

SURVEY on RECREATION ON CROWN LANDS

Outdoor Recreation on Alberta's Crown Lands - Participation & Economic Impact Survey

Introduction

TOURISM INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION ALBERTA

Thank you for taking some time to help us better understand outdoor recreation on Alberta's Crown Land and its economic impact. Please read this introduction before beginning the survey and ensure you have some dedicated time to complete it, we estimate this survey will take you approximately 15-20 minutes.

Outdoor recreation has always been important to Albertans. However, the COVID-19 pandemic has put a spotlight on just how much value Albertans' attribute to Crown Lands for outdoor recreation purposes. The Tourism Industry Association of Alberta (TIAA) is excited to gather your feedback on outdoor recreation participation on Crown Lands and to estimate the economic contribution it makes provincially, and regionally. The study, a first of its kind in Alberta, will assist Crown Land managers in better understanding, and quantifying, the powerful economic role that Crown Land based outdoor recreation plays in Alberta, while providing essential insights to help strengthen and align advocacy efforts by the stakeholders across the Crown Land outdoor recreation ecosystem.

Next

6%

The Tourism Industry Association of Alberta (TIAA) is excited to gather Albertans' feedback on outdoor recreation participation on Crown Lands and to estimate the economic contribution it makes provincially, and regionally through a province-wide survey.

[Survey](#)

OTHER WATERSHED RESOURCES

The **Environmental Law Centre** recently published their written submission for public consultation on the Alberta Coal Mining Policy. You can find it [here](#).

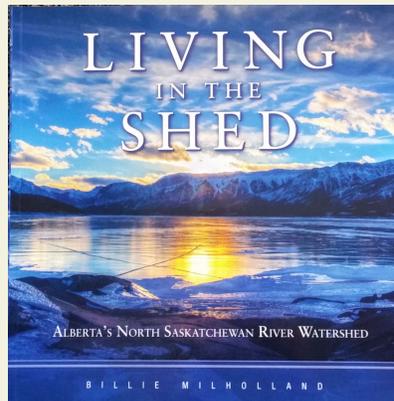
Check out the **Ducks Unlimited webinar** on May 18th, part of their Wetland Knowledge Exchange series. Catherine Brown, of Ducks Unlimited Canada, will present "A Very Visual Field Guide for Wetland Classification in Alberta".

The **Land Use Framework** has resources on many topics including four webinars on conservation easements. Explore their [website](#) for more information.

ALUS Canada is a national not-for-profit organization that supports the delivery of the ALUS program across the country. ALUS helps farmers and ranchers restore wetlands, reforest, plant windbreaks, install riparian buffers, manage sustainable drainage systems, create pollinator habitat and establish other ecologically beneficial projects on their properties. There are many ALUS programs in the watershed including those in the [County of Two Hills](#), [Parkland County](#) and the [County of Vermilion River](#).

Several **Working Well** workshops are scheduled in our watershed over the next few months. For more information on how to manage and maintain your water well check out the [Working Well](#) website.

Check out the **NSWA DISCOVERS** section on our website with watershed resources and activities for adults and children. There are many activities to encourage watershed learning for your family.



SUPPORT THE WORK OF NSWA

Living in the Shed is a great gift for all of the nature lovers on your list. Priced at \$20 per copy they can be ordered at our [SHOP](#).

NSWA is a registered charity. For information on supporting our watershed projects go to our [DONATE](#) webpage.



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