

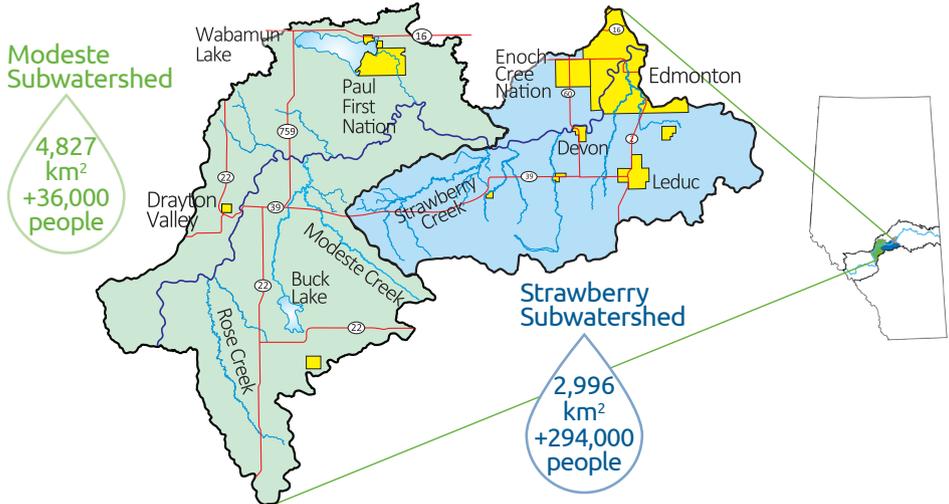
HEADWATERS ALLIANCE



About the Headwaters Alliance

- A municipally-led watershed stewardship group that works in partnership with the North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance (NSWA).
- Guided by a Steering Committee of elected officials and a Technical Advisory Committee of technical staff and volunteers.

Two Subwatersheds are part of the Headwaters Alliance



Priority Issues in the Watershed

- Loss of riparian areas, wetlands and other environmentally sensitive areas
- Impacts from extensive agriculture and industrial development
- Risk to groundwater quality and quantity
- Threat of aquatic and terrestrial invasive species

Watershed Planning

Watershed Health indicators

- Water quantity
- Water quality
- Land use
- Biological health



Modeste = Fair

Strawberry = Poor



Headwaters Alliance Goals



Balance between social, economic and environmental needs



Resilience to current and changing issues



Healthy watercourses, wetlands and riparian areas that support biodiversity



Collaborative action on the ground



Earned trust through listening



Informed and aligned policies and plans

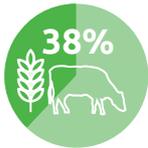


Knowledge shared with the public and key stakeholders

About the Watersheds

The Modeste Watershed is fed by precipitation and groundwater from the surrounding foothills and prairies. It is home to some of Alberta's most frequented recreational lakes. Its economic base is agriculture, oil and gas extraction, forestry, and coal extraction.

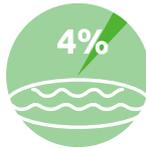
Watershed Land Cover



Agricultural



Natural



Open
Water



Wetland



Human
Development

The Strawberry Watershed is fed by prairie precipitation and groundwater. Its health has been affected by extensive agriculture and urban development. Its economic base is oil and gas exploration and processing, and agriculture.

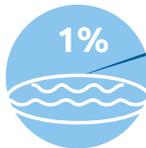
Watershed Land Cover



Agricultural



Natural



Open
Water



Wetland



Human
Development

Activities of the Headwaters Alliance

Riparian Health Action Plan (RHAP): Improving riparian areas is the top priority for the Headwaters Alliance. These vital transition areas between land and water mitigate the impacts of floods and drought and preserve water quality. RHAP has three phases:

Phase 1

Assess the condition of riparian areas using a new satellite data tool. Nearly 6,000 km were assessed for the Modeste, Strawberry and Sturgeon subwatersheds.



Phase 2

Collaborate with local municipalities and landowners to develop riparian bylaws and guidelines.



Phase 3

Support municipal programs that give landowners incentives to improve riparian health and provide access to riparian data and resources through a public website.

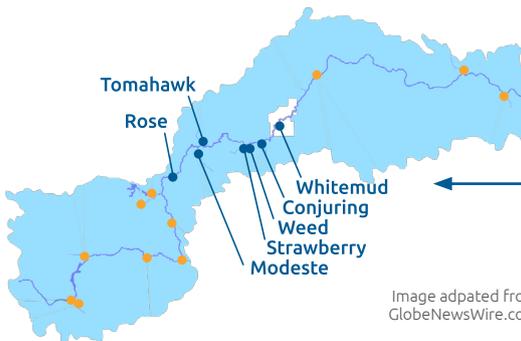


Image adapted from
GlobeNewsWire.com

The North Saskatchewan River WaterSHED monitoring program provides enhanced water quality and quantity monitoring on rivers and major creeks in the Modeste and Strawberry subwatersheds.



Our Headwaters Partners

Brazeau County
Clearwater County
Leduc County
Parkland County
Wetaskiwin County
Town of Devon
Town of Drayton Valley
Town of Rocky Mountain House
EPCOR

Above: Headwaters Alliance Committee
Cover: Clifford E. Lee Nature Preserve, Bill Trout

To find out more, please contact:

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