

Watershed Management Planning in the Battle River and Sounding Creek Watersheds



Driedmeat Lake Weir south of Camrose

A Guide to Action for the **GOVERNMENT OF ALBERTA**

Recommendations for Non-point Source Pollution Management

Storm and Waste Water Management

- Encourage Albertans to limit the use of fertilizers, pesticides and other harmful lawn-care and household products and utilize “Low Impact Development” techniques to manage stormwater on their property and in their communities.
- Expand educational efforts related to the installation, maintenance, use and life-expectancy of private sewage systems. Use financial incentives to encourage people to upgrade failing or inadequate systems.
- Review the Private Sewage Disposal Systems Regulation to allow alternative, cost-effective sewage disposal options.
- Explore alternative sewage management strategies (e.g. regional systems).

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Complete recommendations
and other fact sheets in this
series are available at
www.battleriverwatershed.ca

Natural Areas

- Partner with landowners, Cows and Fish, and the BRWA to conduct riparian health assessments along the mainstem of the Battle River, as well as on tributary streams, lakes and wetlands throughout the watershed.
- Conduct detailed wetland inventories for the Sounding Creek watershed and each subwatershed of the Battle River watershed (as has already been done for the Iron Creek subwatershed).
- Support the protection and restoration of wetlands and riparian areas throughout the watershed.

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Recommendations for Non-point Source Pollution Management

Water Quality Management Framework

- Finalize the draft Battle River Water Quality Objectives and develop management strategies to achieve the targets outlined in those Objectives.
- Undertake detailed water quality monitoring of the Alberta-portion of the Battle River on a regular basis.
- Consider establishing two additional long-term river network stations along the Battle River (near the Forestburg reservoir and in the Hardisty-Wainwright area).
- Undertake water quality monitoring of lakes and tributary streams in the Battle River watershed in order to quantify non-point source pollution loads in these systems.
- Explore the feasibility of establishing long-term water quality monitoring in the Sounding Creek watershed.
 - Share water quality monitoring data and research undertaken in the Battle River and Sounding Creek watershed.

Research

- Identify “critical source areas” in the Battle River and Sounding Creek watersheds (areas with high nutrient concentrations and runoff potential).
- Calculate export coefficients for the various types of land cover and land use found in the Battle River and Sounding Creek watersheds.
- Increase understanding of the effectiveness of various BMPs in reducing non-point source pollution.

Agricultural Management

- Expand educational programs related to agricultural beneficial management practices aimed at managing non-point source pollution and support landowners in implementing those practices.
- Continue to offer programs that compensate landowners for costs associated with implementing BMPs.
- Review the potential for regulation of soil-test phosphorus limits for agricultural land in Alberta.
- Assess the progress of Alberta’s agricultural industry in developing and implementing a more sustainable phosphorus management strategy.
- Consider modifying manure application limits (as outlined in Alberta’s Agricultural Operation Practices Act) to resolve the issue of phosphorus accumulation in agricultural soils.