

MD OF RANCHLAND AG BULLETIN

News, updates, and information for our community.



THE ROLE OF WETLANDS IN SEQUESTERING SOIL CARBON

Wetlands are some of the largest stores of carbon on the planet. They sequester carbon from the atmosphere through photosynthesis and trapping sediment from runoff. Carbon is held in the living vegetation, litter, peat, organic soil, and built up sediments.

Soils in wetlands are oxygen-poor, so they decompose slowly, leading to accumulation of organic matter. How much is stored depends on wetland type and size, vegetation, depth of soils, groundwater and nutrient levels, pH, and other factors. Wetland soils also store carbon that washes in from upland areas, for example from displaced soil, leaves, or tree debris.

Wetlands release carbon when their equilibrium is affected by human interference. When a wetland is disturbed or lost, it means that particular ecosystem will no longer accumulate carbon and will also release carbon previously stored.

There are practices that can protect carbon stores in wetlands. 1) Stop or reduce wetland drainage. 2) Control fires and reduce fire risk. 3) Restore diverse native vegetation to prevent invasive species. 4) Reduce peat harvesting and other carbon removal practices. 5) Promote restoration of peatlands to return to higher sequestration levels.

GRANT TO APPLY FOR

https://cap.alberta.ca/CAP/program/PRGM_NAME_2

Canadian Agricultural Partnership On-Farm Value- Added Program

Supports investment in projects, sales growth, market expansion, and job creation. Eligible activities include processing capacity, food safety, market access, and new products or processes. Deadline is May 24, 2022. If interested, contact Erin at erin@ranchland66.com or 403-646-3131.



WEED TO WATCH

Hoary Cress

Lepidium spp.

ID characteristics: grey-green arrowhead shaped leaves with soft white hairs, small white flowers with four petals that occur in clusters at the end of stems.



Peter M. Dziuk, 2005

ENVIRONMENTAL FARM PLAN WORKSHOPS

VIRTUAL EFP WORKSHOP

May 18, 2022 / 10:00am - 12:00pm

May 30, 2022 / 1:00pm - 3:00pm



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<https://mdranchland.ca/>

If you would like to contribute to this bulletin by writing an article, submitting a photo to be featured, recommending an organization, noxious weed, or grant, or any other suggestions, please send an email to erin@ranchland66.com with the subject line "Bulletin". Thanks for reading and I look forward to your feedback!

ORGANIZATION HIGHLIGHT

Canadian Biosphere Reserves Association

<https://www.biospherecanada.ca/>

UNESCO designated biosphere reserves are places where people share a way of living with nature. The goal is to model solutions for a sustainable future, celebrate cultural and biological diversity, and empower people to engage with nature in healthier ways. The world network of biosphere reserves covers 700+ regions in 120+ countries. In the Canadian Biosphere Reserves Association there are 19 biosphere reserves, including Waterton Biosphere Reserve where the MD of Ranchland is a part of.

