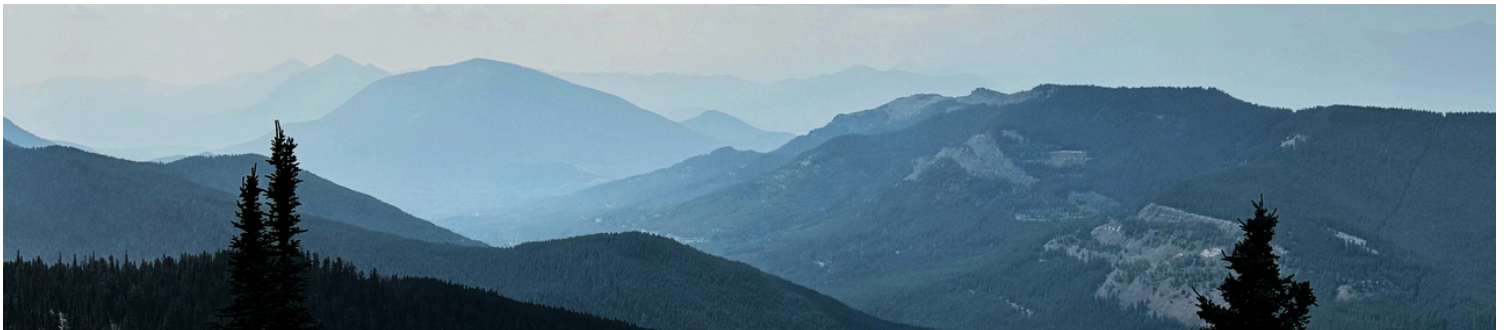


# MD OF RANCHLAND AG BULLETIN

News, updates, and information for our community.



## GROUND SQUIRRELS IN ALBERTA

Ground squirrels, commonly known as gophers, are a common sight in Alberta. These small burrowing rodents play a crucial role in the ecosystem, serving as a primary food source for many predators, including birds of prey like the ferruginous hawk.

Despite their ecological importance, ground squirrels are often considered pests by farmers and ranchers due to the damage they can cause to crops and pastures. Under Alberta's Agricultural Pests Act, Richardson's Ground Squirrel, Thirteen-lined Ground Squirrel, Columbian Ground Squirrel, Franklin's Ground Squirrel and Northern Pocket Gopher are classified as nuisance species. This allows for their lawful removal through methods such as shooting, trapping, and the use of rodenticides. Effective management in Alberta requires early intervention, particularly between March and April. By targeting adult ground squirrels during this time, it's possible to significantly reduce their population and prevent the reproduction of offspring. By implementing these strategies land managers can ensure the sustainability and productivity of Alberta's prairies.

To discuss further, please contact Erika at [ag3@ranchland66.com](mailto:ag3@ranchland66.com) or 403-646-3131.

Source(s): 1) <https://open.alberta.ca/publications/a08>

2) <https://www.alberta.ca/agri-news-early-intervention-crucial-in-managing-richardsons-ground-squirrels>

## GRANT TO APPLY FOR

<https://www.alberta.ca/on-farm-efficiency-program>

### On-Farm Efficiency Program

The intent of the On-Farm Efficiency Program (OFEP) is to support producers in achieving environmental benefits by improving the efficient use of agricultural inputs. The program offers grants to adopt smart farm technologies, energy-efficient practices, farm security improvements, and efficient grain handling methods.

Each applicant can receive up to \$150,000, with specific caps for different program streams. Applications open April 1, 2025. Applicants must have a current EFP certificate.

Contact Erika at 403-646-3131 or [ag3@ranchland66.com](mailto:ag3@ranchland66.com) with any questions.

## WEED TO WATCH

### Hoary Cress

*Lepidium appelianum*

ID characteristics: Hoary Cress, also known as whitetop, is an invasive perennial plant identified by its white, dense clusters of small flowers and heart-shaped seed pods. It grows up to 0.6 m tall and has gray-green leaves that are covered in soft, white hairs.



Source: <https://abinvasives.ca/fact-sheet/hoary-cress/>



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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 [ag3@ranchland66.com](mailto:ag3@ranchland66.com) with the subject line "Bulletin". Thanks for reading and I look forward to your feedback!

## ORGANIZATION HIGHLIGHT

### Canadian Biosphere Regions Association

<https://biospherecanada.ca/>

The Canadian Biosphere Reserves Association (CBRA) supports 19 UNESCO-designated biosphere regions across Canada, promoting innovation and community development while balancing biodiversity conservation with sustainable resource use. The Waterton Biosphere Region (WBR), designated in 1979, is located in southwestern Alberta and was Canada's second biosphere reserve, notable for including a national park at its core.



Canadian Biosphere  
Regions Association

Association canadienne  
des régions de biosphère

