

# MD OF RANCHLAND

# AG BULLETIN

News, updates, and information for our community.



## HOW GRIZZLY BEARS HELP MAINTAIN ECOSYSTEM BALANCE AND BIODIVERSITY

In the Eastern Slopes, grizzly bears are a keystone species that keep ecosystems balanced. Through foraging and movement, they shape the land in subtle but powerful ways.

As they dig for roots and bulbs, grizzlies create small openings that help native plant regeneration. Their digging also aerates the soil and enhances nutrient cycling, supporting healthier plant communities. In the fall, bears consume large quantities of berries and fruits, and disperse the seeds widely through their scat, contributing to forest regeneration and genetic diversity across the landscape. Grizzlies also scavenge winter-killed animals or prey on large ungulates, moving carcass nutrients into riparian zones and forest edges, creating hotspots of fertility that benefit other wildlife like birds, foxes, insects, and small mammals.

Because grizzlies require large areas of relatively undisturbed habitat, their presence indicates ecosystem health. Areas that support grizzly bears have lower road densities, higher habitat integrity, and greater biodiversity. Maintaining grizzly populations means maintaining conditions that support a wide range of other species, and the natural systems that ranchers, recreation users, and communities all depend on.

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

## GRANT TO APPLY FOR

[watertonbiosphere.com/projects/stewardship-species-risk](http://watertonbiosphere.com/projects/stewardship-species-risk)

### Waterton Biosphere Region - Stewardship of Species at Risk

Funding for the conservation of species at risk or their habitats. Special priority given to projects relating to the main focus species: Limber Pine, Northern Leopard Frog, Little Brown Bat and Big Brown Bat, and Trumpeter Swan. Funding assessed on a case by case basis, so contact Elizabeth Anderson at [eanderson@watertonbiosphere.com](mailto:eanderson@watertonbiosphere.com) for more information. Can also contact staff at 403-646-3131 or [ag3@ranchland66.com](mailto:ag3@ranchland66.com) with any questions.



## WEED TO WATCH

### Yellow Clematis

*Clematis tangutica*

ID characteristics: Stems up to 3-4m long; Leaves in groups of 5-7, bright green and pointed with coarsely toothed edges; Flowers lemon yellow, nodding, and with 4 petals, start out bell shaped but flatten with time.



Source: [abinvasives.ca/fact-sheet/yellow-clematis](http://abinvasives.ca/fact-sheet/yellow-clematis)

## ENVIRONMENTAL FARM PLAN (EFP) WORKSHOPS



ENFORCEMENT/CEMETERY BUILDING - HIGH RIVER, AB  
NOVEMBER 12, 2025

TOWN OF THREE HILLS HALL - THREE HILLS, AB  
NOVEMBER 13, 2025

MD OF WILLOW CREEK BUILDING - CLARESHOLM, AB  
NOVEMBER 24, 2025

MD OF PINCHER CREEK BUILDING - PINCHER CREEK, AB  
DECEMBER 11, 2025

#### WORKSHOP DETAILS:

- Workshop will begin at 9:00am and wrap-up around 3:00pm
- Lunch will be provided
- Please bring laptop or tablet
- Please bring information on your water sources & water bodies if you have them
- If you are renewing your EFP and you have your old binder, please bring it as this can be helpful

TO REGISTER FOR SPECIFIC LOCATION & DATE VISIT:  
<https://www.foothillsforage.com/efp>



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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

### Alberta Prairie Conservation Forum

[albertapcf.org](http://albertapcf.org)

The Prairie Conservation Forum (PCF) was established to convey Alberta's support and commitment to implementing the Prairie Conservation Action Plan (PCAP). PCAPs are five year blueprints for conserving, protecting and managing native prairie and parkland species, communities and habitats for the preservation of Canada's prairies. Today it is comprised of over 50 member organizations, representing all three levels of government, non-government organizations, industry, academia, and agricultural and environmental interest groups. They host three forums per year as well as a range of educational materials on conservation of the prairies.

