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MD OF RANCHLAND AG BULLETIN

News, updates, and information for our community.



REDUCING WILDFIRE RISKS ON THE RANCH AND IN THE BACKCOUNTRY

As wildfire seasons start earlier and flare more intensely in Alberta, preparedness has never been more crucial. For ranchers and recreational users, preventing wildfires and minimizing their impact means taking proactive steps.

Ranchers can implement several fire safety practices. Maintain buffer zones free of vegetation around buildings, corrals, and high-use areas and mechanically thin dense brush to reduce fuel and slow the spread of fires. Other practices include integrating fire-resistant materials into structures, using FireSmart techniques, and creating emergency preparedness plans.

Campers can reduce risk by using proper fire rings, never leaving a campfire unattended, and fully extinguishing campfires with water using the soak, stir, soak method. Check for local fire bans or advisories before lighting a fire, and avoid campfires during dry or windy conditions.

OHV riders should be aware that hot exhaust systems and sparks from equipment are common causes of wildfires. Make sure the OHV has an approved spark arrestor, stay on designated trails, and avoid driving through tall, dry grass.

To discuss further, please contact staff at ag3@ranchland66.com or 403-646-3131.

Source(s): 1) ualberta.ca/en/alberta-land-institute/news/2024/08-august/wildfire-mitigation-strategies-for-alberta.html 2) alberta.ca/firesmart 3) firesmartalberta.ca 4) gov.nt.ca/ecc/en/services/wildfire-prevention-and-safety/having-safe-campfire 5) open.alberta.ca/dataset/4826f1d8-bde6-4459-8391-673711996297/resource/11b237c8-0894-435a-96d2-4a54a8f9e254/download/fp-farm-and-acreage-guide-to-reducing-wildfire-risk-2024.pdf

GRANT TO APPLY FOR

oldmanwatershed.ca/proj/watershed-legacy-program

Oldman Watershed Council (OWC) - Watershed Legacy Program (WLP)

WLP works to improve watershed health, ultimately enhancing natural resources and the rural way of life, by funding stewardship projects on a 50/50 cost share basis. There are 7 key categories spanning from riparian and wetland restoration to invasive species management to outreach. Applications open in December each year, so keep an eye out for the next round.

Contact staff at 403-646-3131 or ag3@ranchland66.com with any questions.



WEED TO WATCH

Common Mullein

Verbascum thapsus

ID characteristics: Start as rosettes and grow tall stems; Dense wooly hairs and yellow flowers that grow in a spike-like raceme at the top; Readily establish in disturbed, sandy, and gravelly soils.



Source: abinvasives.ca/fact-sheet/mullein-common

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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 ag3@ranchland66.com with the subject line "Bulletin". Thanks for reading and I look forward to your feedback!

BEAR SAFETY

workshop for

RURAL FAMILIES

Join us for an evening to learn about bear safety. This **free** workshop addresses safety concerns for rural residents and their families who live and work in bear country.

- On-Farm Attractant Management
- Minimizing & Avoiding Encounters
- What to Do in a Bear Encounter
- Identifying Dangerous Bear Behavior
- Appropriate Situational Responses
- Effective Bear Spray Operation

Date: October 3, 2025
Time: 4:00 - 7:00 p.m.
Location: MD Of Pincher Creek Office

To register, please email info@mdpincer creek.ab.ca or call the MD office at (403) 627-3130

ORGANIZATION HIGHLIGHT

Treaty Land Sharing Network

treatylandsharingnetwork.ca

The Treaty Land Sharing Network (TLSN) is a group of rural landholders and Indigenous people who have come together to affirm and implement Treaty relationships. They connect farmers and other landholders with Indigenous people to foster access to land to practice their way of life. They are committed to honouring the Treaties by sharing the land for mutual benefit. TLSN currently operates in Treaty 4 and 6, primarily in Saskatchewan and Central-Eastern Alberta, but are always looking to expand to new areas. Group members include over 90 farmers, ranchers, and other private landholders.



**Treaty Land
Sharing Network**



Bulletin Content Written by MD of Ranchland Agriculture Staff