



KEN LEWIS, ALUS PROGRAM COORDINATOR

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ALUS Riparian Management (Livestock) – Application Form

The purpose of the ALUS Riparian Management (Livestock) program, is to help farmers and ranchers who are grazing livestock, produce increased ecosystem services from riparian areas, by the adoption of sustainable livestock management practices.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

To be eligible for ALUS funding, all of the following are required. By initialing each point below you are indicating that your project meets the eligibility requirements.

INITIAL	Requirement
	There is at least one natural common water body that will be enhanced by this project (<i>a "natural common water body" is one that is not man-made, and that borders the property of at least one other person who is not the applicant</i>).
	There is either an existing or new alternative livestock watering system (alternative to drinking directly from the natural common water body (-ies)
	There will be a new change in livestock management, that will positively impact the natural common water body(-ies) and associated riparian area(s)
	Relevant agencies (for example, Alberta Environment and Parks) will be contacted, to discuss permit / approval requirements for this project.
	Grazing in riparian areas will use ALUS Sustainable Grazing Management Guidelines (attached) or something similar
	Water trough(s), salt / mineral tubs, portable shelters, oilers, feeding sites will be located so that runoff from these locations, cannot reach any natural common water body AND floodwater cannot reach these locations
	If applicable: wildlife friendly fencing designs will be used (at a minimum, the top wire will be no more than 42" from the ground, and the bottom wire will be at least 18" from the ground)
	If applicable: fence will be built such that flood waters or ice jams cannot impact the fence

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INFRASTRUCTURE (“TOOLS”) NEEDED TO PRACTICE SUSTAINABLE LIVESTOCK MANAGEMENT

What specific tool(s) do you intend to start using, that will help you produce increased ecosystem services from your natural common water body(-ies) and riparian area(s)?	
Infrastructure / Tool Description	Estimated Cost
Estimated Total Cost	

PLANNED LIVESTOCK MANAGEMENT CHANGES

How will your livestock management change, with the tool(s) described above? Answer this by describing your current livestock management without the tool(s), and then describing the new livestock management that will occur once you have the tool(s).

<p><u>Current Livestock Management without the tool(s):</u></p>
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New Livestock Management with the tool(s):

MEASURING SUCCESS

Participating farmers and ranchers will be asked to send in to ALUS, by November 1 of each year, a Riparian Health Checklist (attached for reference).

Please initial here, to indicate that if your project is funded by ALUS, you agree to do this: _____

PROJECT MAP

Attach a map (using air photos) that shows:

- Exactly which natural common water body(-ies) and adjacent riparian acres will benefit from the livestock management changes described above
- The existing livestock management infrastructure / tool(s) and the new livestock management infrastructure / tool(s).
- If you need an air photo, try using [Red Deer County's Interactive Map](#) or [Google Earth](#).

ALUS GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

I have read a sample copy of the "Red Deer County BMP Cost Share Agreement" and the "ALUS Conservation Agreement". I agree to the terms and conditions in those documents (if I am approved for funding). Initial here: _____

OTHER DETAILS

Applicant Name: _____

Applicant Phone #: _____

Applicant Email: _____

Legal Land Location(s) where the new sustainable livestock management will occur:

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ATTACHMENT 1: ALUS SUSTAINABLE GRAZING MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

In the ecological regions of Red Deer County, there is a suite of grazing management practices that typically can produce increased ecosystem services in forest or riparian areas enrolled in the ALUS Program, when fully applied. These include:

1. Grazing when the soils are at their driest, or frozen (typically but not always, July 15 to April 15). This timeframe is also typically after most wildlife and waterfowl have reared their young.
2. Providing a long rest and recovery time between grazes (typically but not always, 60-90 growing season days)
3. Balancing stocking rate with forage production. Balanced stocking rates are typically but not always, around 0.6 AUM/acre for riparian areas, 0.2 AUM/acre for aspen forest, 0.1 AUM/acre for coniferous forest, 0.3 to 0.6 AUM/acre for native grass, and up to 1.0 AUM/acre for tame grass. Typically but not always, achieving this stocking rate using shorter grazing times (around 3 to 5 days) is preferable.
4. Providing upland drinking water (further is generally better...typically at least 100' and preferably 200' from the water body)
5. Providing upland salt and minerals (further is generally better...typically at least 100' and preferably 200' from water body)
6. Controlling weeds
7. Leaving sufficient grazing residual: a general guideline is 6" standing of this year's growth, or managing such that the amount of accumulated litter (from past years) is at least 800 pounds per acre
8. (If applicable) Removing livestock if they are browsing preferred trees and shrubs.



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ATTACHMENT 2: ALUS RIPARIAN HEALTH CHECKLIST

- 85% or more of the riparian area is covered with vegetation
- More than 50% of the riparian plants are taller than your knees
- Willows and/or other Shrubs and trees growing in the riparian area AND do not have a mushroom or hedged appearance
- There are young shrubs and/or trees that will replace older ones over time
- Cattails or bulrushes are growing in the riparian area
- Plants such as Kentucky bluegrass, clover, creeping red fescue and dandelion represent less than 15% of all the plants growing in the riparian area. IN OTHER WORDS, native plants dominate the riparian area
- Weeds make up less than 15% of all the plants in the riparian area.
- The water body banks or shoreline has not been damaged by livestock
- Riparian area has not been heavily grazed
- Wildlife and/or fish are often seen in the riparian area and/or the water body
- Plants are vigorous, there is carryover of plant litter and forage production is stable or increasing

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