

## Wetland Conservation and Stewardship A Case Study for Wetland Markets in the Beaver Hills Biosphere

The project will inform a Proof of Concept that can support the multiple benefits of restoring and stewarding wetlands within the Beaver Hills Biosphere. The project will focus on collaborating with multiple partners who have a keen interest in the topic area, as well as identify roles and responsibilities of these partners to research, design, test and evaluate a diverse market approach for wetland conservation and stewardship within the Biosphere.



**RECIPIENT:**  
**Land Stewardship  
Centre**



**PARTNERS:**  
**Beaver Hills  
Biosphere**



**TOTAL BUDGET:**  
**\$640,000**



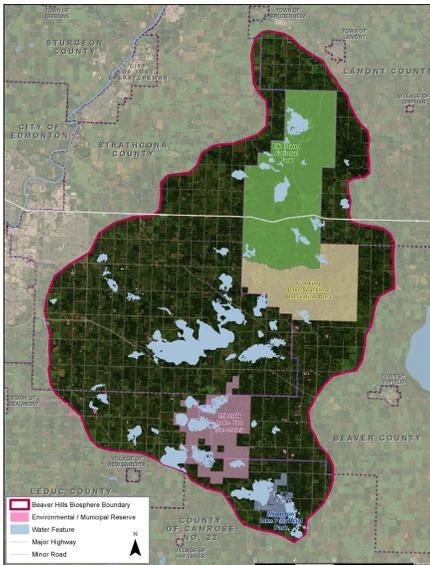
**AI FUNDING:**  
**\$225,000**



**PROJECT DATES:**  
**May 2019 –  
March 2021**



**PROJECT TRL:**  
**Start: 5  
End: 7**



### APPLICATION

The Proof of Concept is intended to support how a broad partnership can design and evaluate a market-based approach for a specific environmental issue. There is a common belief that current management decisions related to wetland conservation and stewardship is potentially resulting in a long-term expense associated with these same ecosystem services. The focus for this project is to utilize an integrated approach specific to wetlands, across multiple sectors with a specific interest in the Biosphere.



# ALBERTA INNOVATES CLEAN RESOURCES

## ENVIRONMENTAL INNOVATION

### ECOSYSTEM SERVICES AND BIODIVERSITY

## PROJECT GOALS

- Review and map of existing wetland policies.
- Identify and source data to support the project.
- Develop a benefit: cost analysis for wetland conservation.
- Design an implementation plan.
- Initiate a summary of cultural ecosystem services.
- Test a partnership approach for wetland mitigation.
- Assess an inter-municipal approach for wetland conservation and stewardship.
- Establish a knowledge network with the capacity to extend lessons learned to other jurisdictions in Alberta.

## BENEFITS TO ALBERTA

Ecosystem Services are the benefits that humans receive from nature including; provisioning, regulating, cultural and supporting services. Over the past several years many organizations, various levels of government, academia and industry have been exploring ways to integrate ES into planning and decision-making on working landscapes of Alberta. A key element to help advance ES is to identify current and future information needs and to meet these needs by developing solutions that are practical, easily communicated and science-based. This project proposes to design and test market-based approaches to conserving, restoring and stewarding wetlands and associated wetland habitats. Outcomes from the project will provide decision-makers with tools to support wetland conservation and, in turn, provide society with the multiple ES benefits associated with wetland ecosystems.



**3 Publications**



**1 Internship**



**4 Project Jobs**



**1 Knowledge Network**



**Red Tape Reduction**



**Continuous Improvement**

## CURRENT STATUS

### MARCH 2020

Land Stewardship Centre has completed the synthesis and review of Federal, Provincial and Municipal polices as applied to wetland conservation and mitigation. A review of existing data and forecasted data requirements has also been completed with a current focus on acquiring spatial data to support the project. Initial work is underway to engage stakeholders and to begin to explore the opportunities under an Intermunicipal Collaboration Framework for the Biosphere.