

WHY ARE RIPARIAN AREAS IMPORTANT TO PROTECT?

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A riparian area is the lush, water-loving vegetated areas that surround wetlands and water bodies such as rivers, lakes, and creeks. It is a transitional zone from the “more wet” to “more dry” upland areas out of the aquatic. The functions these areas provide are crucial to watersheds and water quality. The many functions that riparian areas provide are: run-off and flood control, energy dispersion of flood water, filtering potential contaminants in run-off, protect against soil erosion and help stabilize banks, lower sedimentation in the water body, wildlife habitat and biodiversity, and they are also a great grazing source for lush nutritious forage.

Beneficial Management Practices (BMPs) help to mitigate negative impacts on the environment. Funding is available through the Canadian Agricultural Partnership (CAP) Farm Stewardship Program to help maintain and improve the health of riparian areas. The Riparian Grazing Management BMP provides 50 % cost-shared funding on eligible expenses associated with fence construction costs up to \$10,000. The BMP requires that a riparian health assessment and a grazing plan be completed to be eligible to receive funding. This BMP also provides 50 % cost-shared funding for purchase of improved watering systems, if constructed in conjunction with the riparian area grazing plan. Types of fencing may include using a wildlife friendly fence (as constructed per Ministry of Environment guidelines). Riparian grazing management is a pre-approval application and the location in which the project will take place must be checked beforehand to ensure the land meets the eligibility and no further permits or approvals are required.

Information, applications, contacts, and premises identification numbers can be found at:

www.saskatchewan.ca/CAP

or by calling the Agricultural Knowledge Centre at **1-866-457-2377**.

The Swift Current Creek Watershed Stewards (SCCWS) provide AETS service to the RM's of Arlington, Big Stick, Bone Creek, Carmichael, *Coulee, Excelsior, Gull Lake, * Lac Pelletier, Maple Creek, Morse, Piapot, Pittville, Saskatchewan Landing, Swift Current, and Webb.

SCCWS is a non-profit, non-governmental organization located in Swift Current that seeks to promote awareness, education, and responsibility among all users of the Swift Current Creek. We can be contacted at **306-770-4606** or visit **www.sccws.com**.



