

# Bow River Regional Wetland Datasets

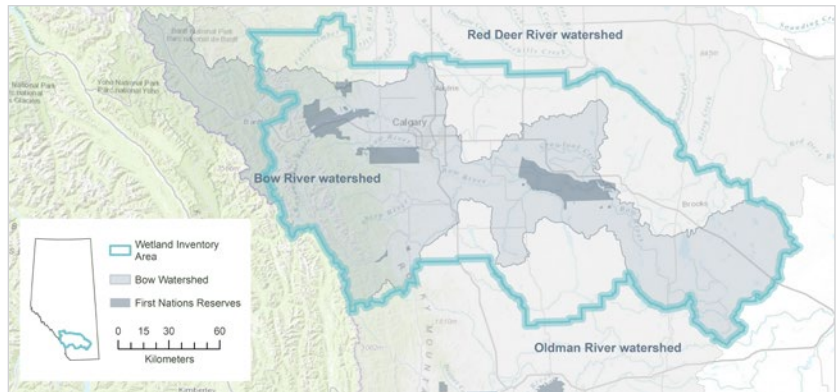


## PURPOSE

These datasets were created to support municipalities and Indigenous communities with land use planning and wetland management. These datasets can also support watershed groups with identifying areas of conservation concern and restoration potential.

## ABOUT THE DATASETS

We developed four wetland-focused datasets:



A spatial representation of wetlands classified according to the Alberta Wetland Classification System and consistent with the GOA's wetland inventory standards.



Wetland areas with a high likelihood of human-caused drainage activity that may be eligible for the provincial Wetland Restoration Program.



Historical extent of wetlands based on aerial photos from 1949 to 1951.



Land cover classified into two hierarchical levels, which integrates the wetland inventory to create a single, seamless product.

### These datasets provide:

- Consistent, high accuracy spatial data for the Bow River watershed; the spatial data extends beyond the watershed in some areas to provide full coverage for several counties
- A freely available and easily accessible resource for a variety of users
- A wetland inventory that meets Government of Alberta inventory standards and uses the Alberta Wetland Classification System
- An attribute within the wetland inventory that identifies disturbed wetlands
- Relatively current land cover and wetland inventories, mostly using imagery from 2020

### How can they be used?

- To provide a benchmark for the current extent of natural habitats that future habitat losses can be compared to
- To understand how much natural area and wetland habitat has been lost already
- To identify potential areas of interest for protection or restoration
- To identify watersheds at risk to water management issues such as flooding and drought
- For landscape level planning:
  - When considering development
  - To support future mitigation efforts for floods
  - To create natural asset inventories
- To support habitat assessments, monitoring and modelling applications

