

Data Meets Dirt – Supporting Producers through ALUS Rocky View



Wetlands clean our water, support wildlife, and help reduce the impacts of floods, droughts, and wildfires, making them a vital part of our landscape. The ALUS program engages local farmers and ranchers in enhancing, restoring, and creating wetlands and other natural features on working lands. This local initiative builds community resilience, and fights climate change and biodiversity loss. Since 2000, ALUS has invested more than \$37 million to support over 2,100 farmers and ranchers across six provinces in Canada.¹

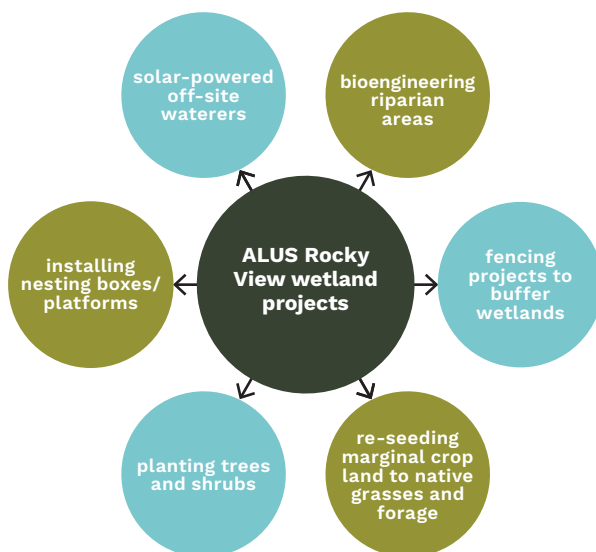
Rocky View County joined ALUS in 2018 and is now one of 42 communities across Canada and 18 communities in Alberta delivering the program. Locally, ALUS supports 2–4 projects each year that generate ecosystem services such as improved water and air quality, enhanced biodiversity, and increased flood and drought resilience.

The ALUS Program Coordinator works directly with landowners to establish projects, with participants receiving annual per-acre payments for ongoing management and maintenance.²

TYPES OF WETLAND RESTORATION ACTIVITIES³

ALUS supports a variety of wetland restoration activities, for example: **enhancing and restoring wetlands, creating dug-out wetlands, and installing beaver pond leveling devices.**

Enhancing Wetlands means improving the health and function of existing seasonal or permanent wetlands. This can often be achieved with simple management changes, such as off-site watering and exclusion fencing to create a buffer around the wetland, both of which have been successfully utilized in ALUS Rocky View projects.



Off-site watering and exclusion fencing removes livestock from wetlands reducing soil erosion and improving riparian plant health, which improves water quality and animal health.



Buffering around the wetland prevents livestock from impacting the edge of the wetland, and prevents nutrients from entering wetlands from adjacent cropland, which helps improve water quality and prevent algae blooms.

¹ alus.ca/what-we-do/

² alus.ca/alus_community/alus-rocky-view/

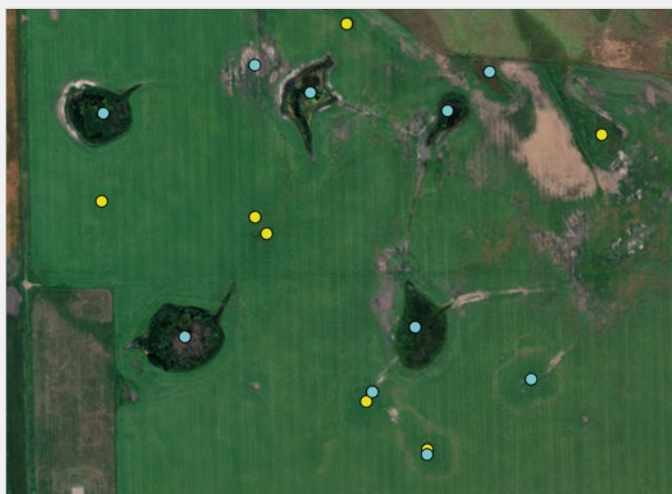
³ alus.ca/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/2021-09-09-ALUS-CAP-Wetlands-guide-WEST.pdf

ALUS AND THE BOW RIVER REGIONAL WETLAND DATASETS

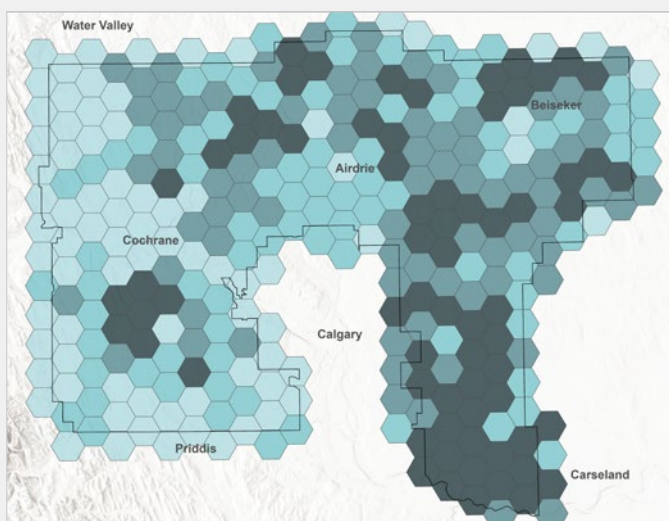
To increase the impact of the ALUS Rocky View program, the Bow River Regional Wetland Datasets (the datasets) can refine the project selection process and help identify the most urgent and impactful restoration opportunities, supporting full program uptake.

How can the datasets help?

The datasets can be used to identify areas of high restoration and enhancement potential to promote ALUS projects to potential participants in those areas. They can also help ALUS Rocky View prioritize projects to maximize ecological impact when demand exceeds available funding.

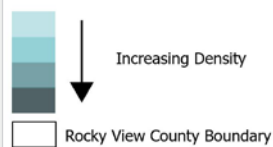


- The *Potential Restorable Basins Layer* (blue dots) shows points for basins with evidence of human-caused drainage or modification, that could benefit from restoration. There are over 4,400 restorable basins in Rocky View County.
- Whereas the “disturbed” attribute in the *Wetland Inventory Layer* (yellow dots) indicates wetlands that were likely altered by agricultural activity. There are over 14,700 disturbed wetlands in Rocky View County.
- Both of these features in the datasets can be used to highlight wetlands that may benefit from restoration or enhancement projects to restore ecosystem services.



- Using the *Potential Restorable Basins Layer*, this map highlights restoration potential by calculating the density of restorable basins relative to $\frac{1}{2}$ township sized hexagons within Rocky View County, enabling equitable comparison across the county.
- The resulting map not only highlights areas where intervention could yield ecological benefits but also helps **prioritize where ALUS resources might be most effectively allocated** for watershed rehabilitation.

Potentially Restorable Basin Density



For more information on the ALUS program in Rocky View County, please contact the ALUS Rocky View Coordinator Matthew Chilakos at MChilakos@rockyview.ca.

For more information on the wetlands datasets, please visit www.bowregionwetlands.ca.

FUNDERS AND PARTNERS



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