



Western Sky Land Trust

Conserving Our Sense of Place

Bow & Beyond Initiative

The Bow River is arguably the most important natural feature in the Calgary region, and extremely prominent in Alberta. It is an important resource for drinking water, agricultural and industrial activity, wildlife habitat, scenic values, and recreational opportunities. With the completion of the Agrium-Nodwell Nature Preserve, Western Sky Land Trust (Western Sky) is motivated to continue conserving land on this stretch of the Bow from Calgary to Siksika. While deemed by Alberta Tourism, Parks and Recreation, to be of *national significance*, Western Sky is the only land conservation organization with a concentrated focus in this area.

Initiative Goals

Conserve & Restore Natural Areas

Creating additional conservation opportunities along a key section of the Bow. Given the profile of this reach, this project will leverage support to engage in future watershed land projects in the Calgary region.

Increase Watershed Awareness

Reaching out to all landowners along this stretch to discuss options for voluntary land conservation. Working with a diversity of stakeholders to create awareness of the importance of this stretch and watershed land conservation in general.

Develop Community-Based Watershed Stewardship

Providing the private & recreational sector, government; non-profits and individuals the opportunity to consider ways in which they can directly support this initiative through their own efforts or by participating in Western Sky's activities.

Funding Overview

2010 Target: \$500,000

Initiative Timeframe: 2010/2011

1. **Projects** – Reaching out to all landowners along this stretch to describe the importance of watershed lands and voluntary conservation options to secure additional projects along the Bow River.
2. **Outreach & Awareness Building Activities** – Identifying key stakeholders from all sectors (private, government, non-profit and recreational) to coordinate or participate in events and or provide other communication avenues to increase awareness and capacity for watershed conservation.
3. **General Programs** – Landowners and donors view access to funds on a short-term and long-term basis as key when considering whether they will donate to Western Sky. These funds will support our program areas which are imperative to identifying and securing conservation opportunities: Outreach & Awareness, Land Evaluation, Land Securement, Land Stewardship, Fund Development & Membership, and Administration.