



Ghost

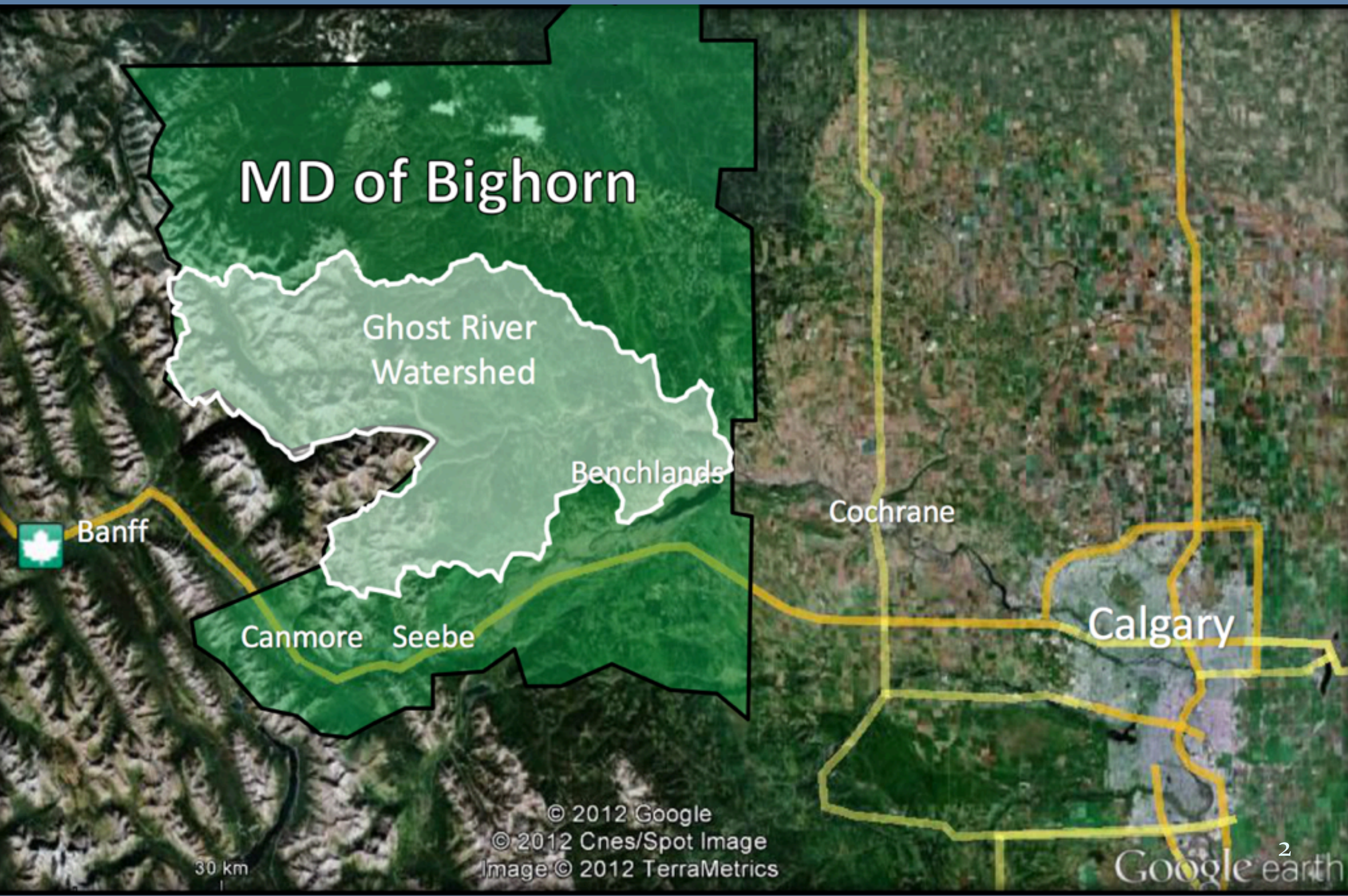
Watershed Alliance Society

Report on GWAS's work in 2021
AGM, November 27, 2021

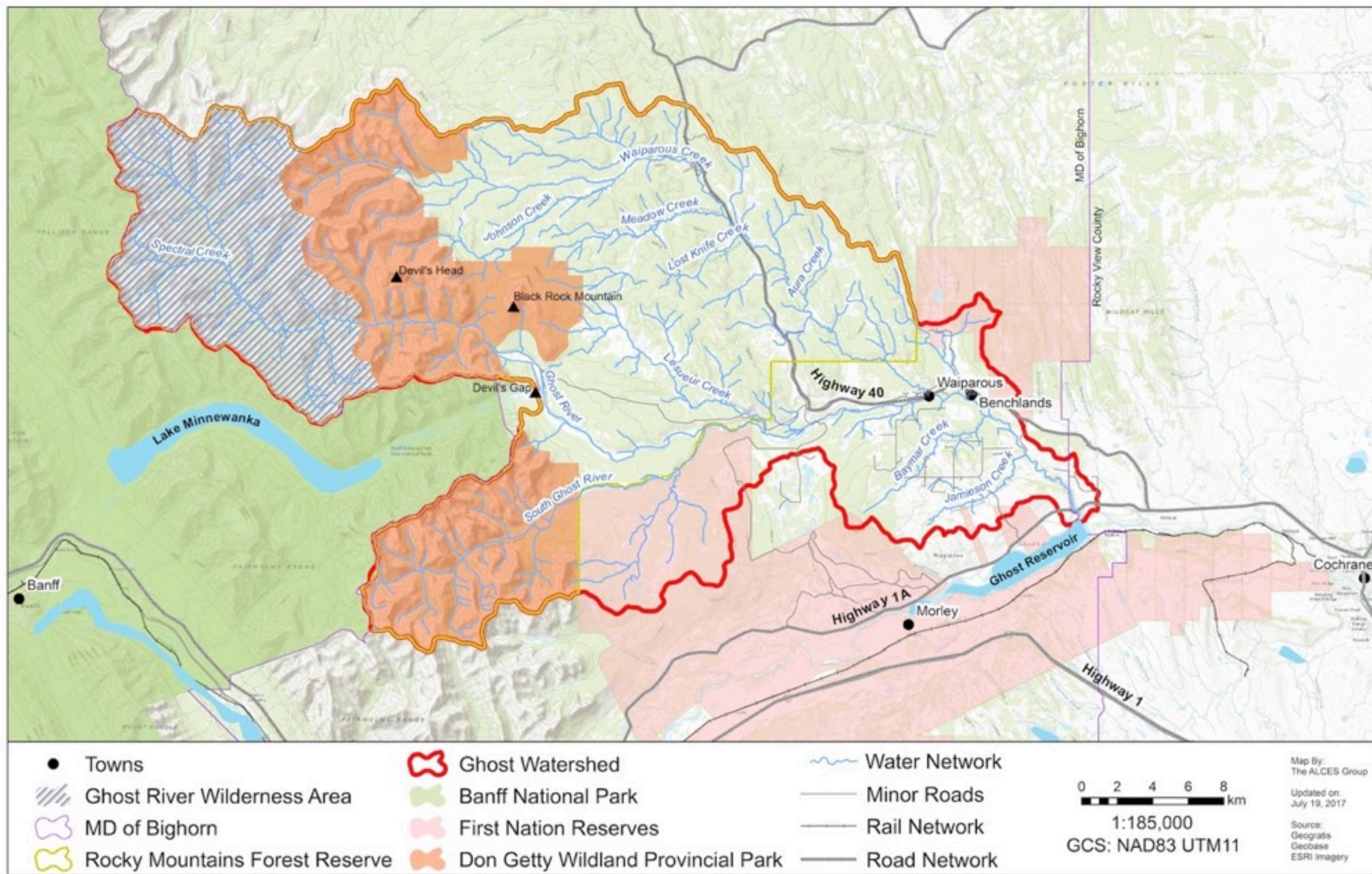
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Marina Krainer
Executive Director

The Ghost Watershed

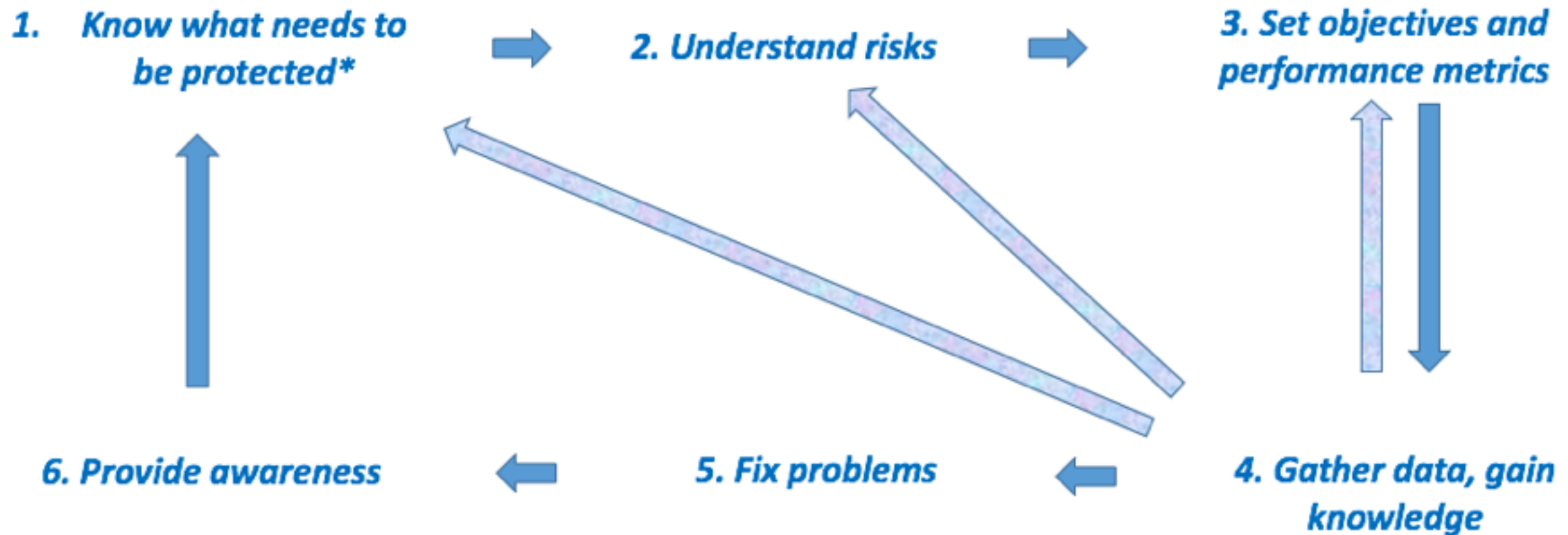


The Ghost Watershed

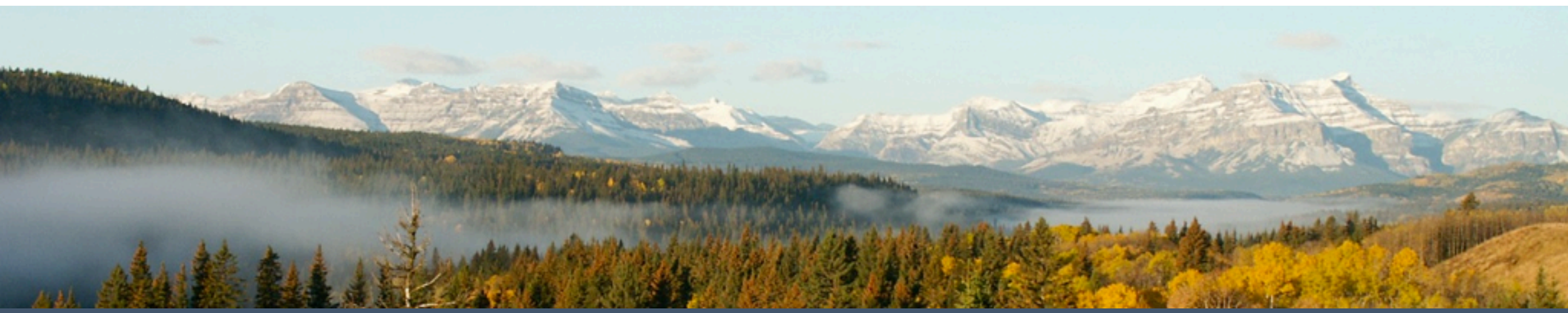


What Watershed Stewardship Groups do

Provide on-the-ground solutions and community level actions to protect the environmental health of the watershed and the ecosystem goods and services it provides



* Foundational to delivering the 6 steps shown is collaboration and healthy relationship with partner organizations



GWAS Operations Plan

Strategic Objectives

- ✦ Science, research, monitoring & knowledge
- ✦ Outreach, awareness, education
- ✦ Advice and recommendations
- ✦ Ecosystem repair and enhancement



Native Trout in the Ghost Watershed

- ◆ Bull trout and westslope cutthroat trout both occur in the Ghost
- ◆ Federally listed as *Threatened* under the Species at Risk Act
- ◆ Issues: habitat degradation, hybridization, over-harvesting, barriers to fish movement



Photo credit: M. Krainer

Working together on trout recovery

- ◆ Native Trout Collaborative (AEP, fRI Research, CPAWS, ACA, TUC, Cows and Fish)
- ◆ Cows and Fish Native Trout workshops
- ◆ Collaboratively work on awareness, closing data gaps and restoration



Photo credit: K. Hull

Why are we talking about fish so much?

- ◆ Indicator for watershed health and good water quality
- ◆ Or in the words of Dave Polster: “If you would breath through gills like a fish does, you’d want clean water.”
- ◆ The most important component of healthy fish habitat is water.



Water Quality Monitoring

- ◆ SOW Report recommendation:
Perform aquatic invertebrate sampling following the ECCC's Canadian Aquatic Biomonitoring Network protocol (CABiN).
- ◆ Took course to become certified CABiN Field Technicians (2019)
- ◆ Hired a certified Project Manager
- ◆ Started sampling in 2020



Collaborative work:

- ◆ Bow River Basin Council (BRBC) Quarterly Forums (will be presenting on GWAS's work at December 8th, 2021 Forum)
- ◆ BRBC Watershed Stewardship Coordinating Committee
- ◆ City of Calgary Source Water Protection Plan
- ◆ Took MLA Miranda Rosin on tour of Ghost



Collaborative work:

- ✦ Work with Land Managers at Alberta Environment & Parks
 - ✦ developed work plan for 2021, approved by AEP
 - ✦ applied for permits to undertake field work and run programs on Public Lands
 - ✦ ongoing communication about recreation issues, collaborative project opportunities, education & outreach

Temporary Field Authorization Pursuant to the Public Lands Act Land Use Charges

Application Date: August 05, 2021	Related Activity:
Applicant/Licensee: GHOST WATERSHED ALLIANCE SOCIETY 1011665-001	
Address: PO BOX 1461 COCHRANCE Alberta CANADA T4C 1B4	
Tel: Fax:	

Authority: Authorization

Purpose: Research, Monitoring and Education - Education

Clean-up event with Backcountry Hunters and Anglers June 2021

- ◆ Full pick-up truck load of mostly rifle and gun shells as well as shooting debris collected in 3 hours
- ◆ 11 participants
- ◆ Many thanks to BHA for their support and for providing lunch



Recreation Stewardship Fair - August 2021

- ✦ In partnership with Cows & Fish, AEP, TUC, CPAWS, Calgary Jeep Club (T4T), CARA, CPAWS
- ✦ GWAS led aquatic invertebrate and bio-engineering tours, hands-on watershed model at booth
- ✦ Planning for another event in 2022



Photo credits:
Cows & Fish

Walks in the Watershed 2021

Guided only one Walk in the Watershed this year.

Challenges:

- ◆ Not enough volunteers to guide walks and hikes this year
- ◆ COVID-19
- ◆ Safety concerns due to bear activity and target shooting



Photo credit: M. Krainer

Bio-engineering Workshop Preparation

- ◆ Project collaboration with Trout Unlimited and Cows & Fish
 - ◆ Field day in June to scout restoration sites
 - ◆ Re-visited 2019 and 2020 restoration sites
 - ◆ TUC applied for some of the permits and prepared restoration site for bio-engineering workshop
 - ◆ C&F undertook riparian health inventories and promoted workshop



Bio-engineering Workshop with Dave Polster - September 24 & 25, 2021



Generously funded by:



Photo credit: M. Krainer

Bio-engineering field day Sept 25, 2021



Photo credit: K. Hull

Bio-engineering field day Sept 25, 2021

- ◆ Blackfoot Confederacy members joined workshop
- ◆ Tobacco offering
- ◆ Many thanks for sharing and being part of the project!

Photo credit: M. Krainer

TUC installed a new bridge nearby



Photo credit: E. Lindsay

Bio-engineering field day Sept 25, 2021



Photo credit: K. Hull

Bio-engineering field day - Thank you!

- ◆ Trout Unlimited & Cows and Fish for partnering on the project
- ◆ Trails4Tomorrow and Calgary ATV Riders for promoting the workshop
- ◆ Polster Environmental for leading the course
- ◆ All the volunteers for their hard work!



Generously funded and supported by:

Photo credit: B. Miller

Bio-engineering video

- ✦ Received funding from City of Calgary to raise public awareness on bio-engineering
- ✦ Hired StoryBrokers Media House to develop 8-10 minute long video
- ✦ Filmed both days of bio-engineering workshop in September 2021
- ✦ Final editing currently underway

Generously funded by:



Photo credit: R. Singleton-Polster

How can you help?

- ◆ Being a member of GWAS / Joining the GWAS Board
- ◆ Raising awareness with family and friends
- ◆ Volunteering for a stream-bank restoration day or clean-up event
- ◆ Helping with educational events
- ◆ Taking photos in the Ghost Watershed
- ◆ Helping with Water Monitoring Program (CreekWatch, CABiN)



Photo credit: M. Krainer



Photo credit: K. Hull

Volunteer & Supporter appreciation

GWAS would like to say a big Thank You to:

Bow River Basin Council

The Crossing at Ghost River

all the volunteers who helped with events

&

our passionate volunteers on the Board of Directors



Thank you to our funders!

Alberta Conservation Association

Alberta Ecotrust

BP Canada (BP Retirees)

City of Calgary

Land Stewardship Centre

MD of Bighorn

TD Friends of the Environment

Fisheries and Oceans Canada - Habitat Stewardship Program

&

our members and all the generous individual donors!



The logo for the Ghost Watershed Alliance Society is positioned at the top of the slide. It features the word "Ghost" in a large, blue, serif font with a 3D effect. Below it, the words "Watershed Alliance Society" are written in a smaller, blue, serif font. The background of the logo is a scenic photograph of a mountain range with snow-capped peaks and evergreen trees in the foreground.

Ghost

Watershed Alliance Society

Thank you!

Questions?

For more information please visit our website:

WWW.GHOSTWATERSHED.CA