

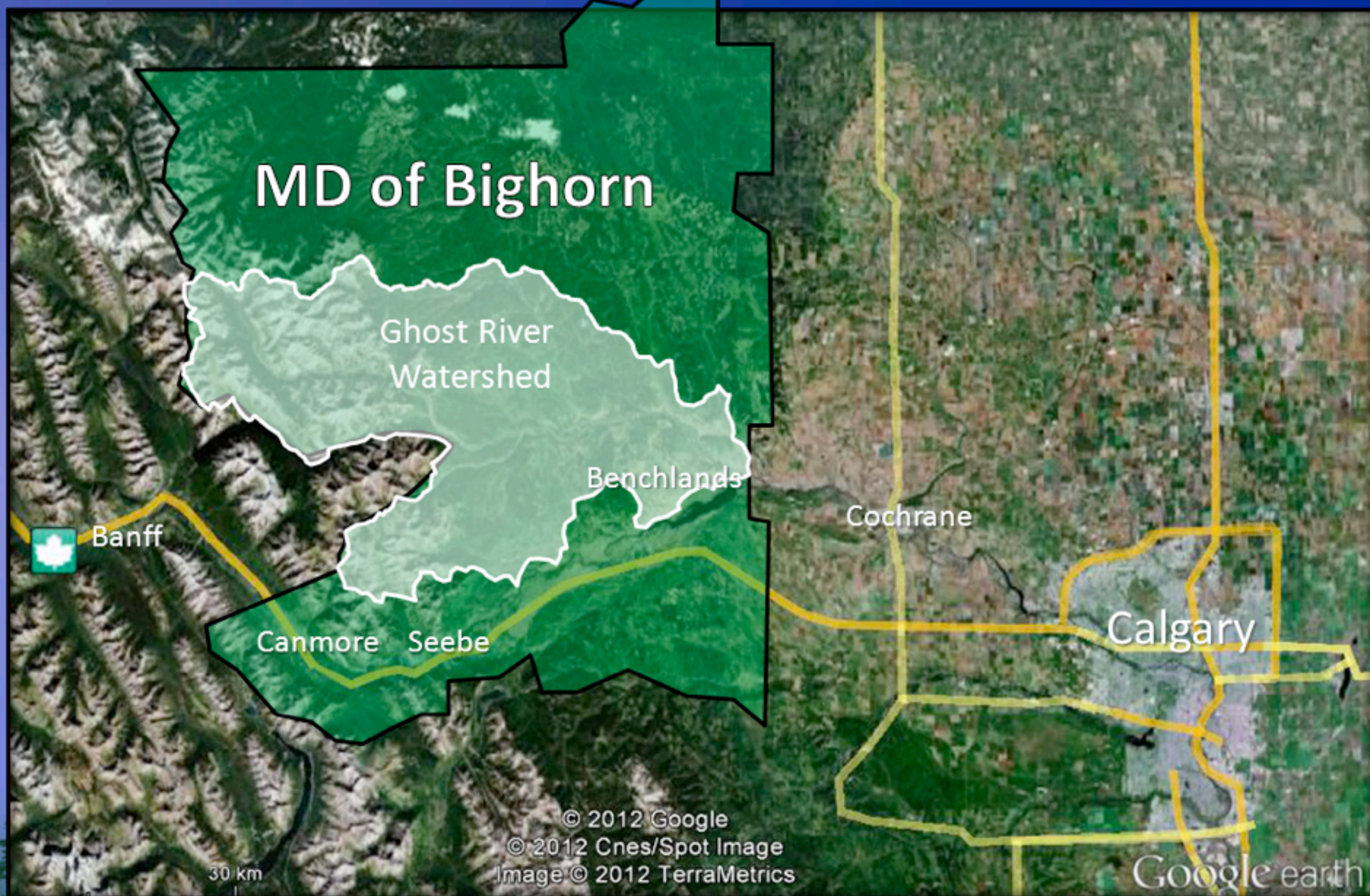
Ghost

Watershed Alliance Society

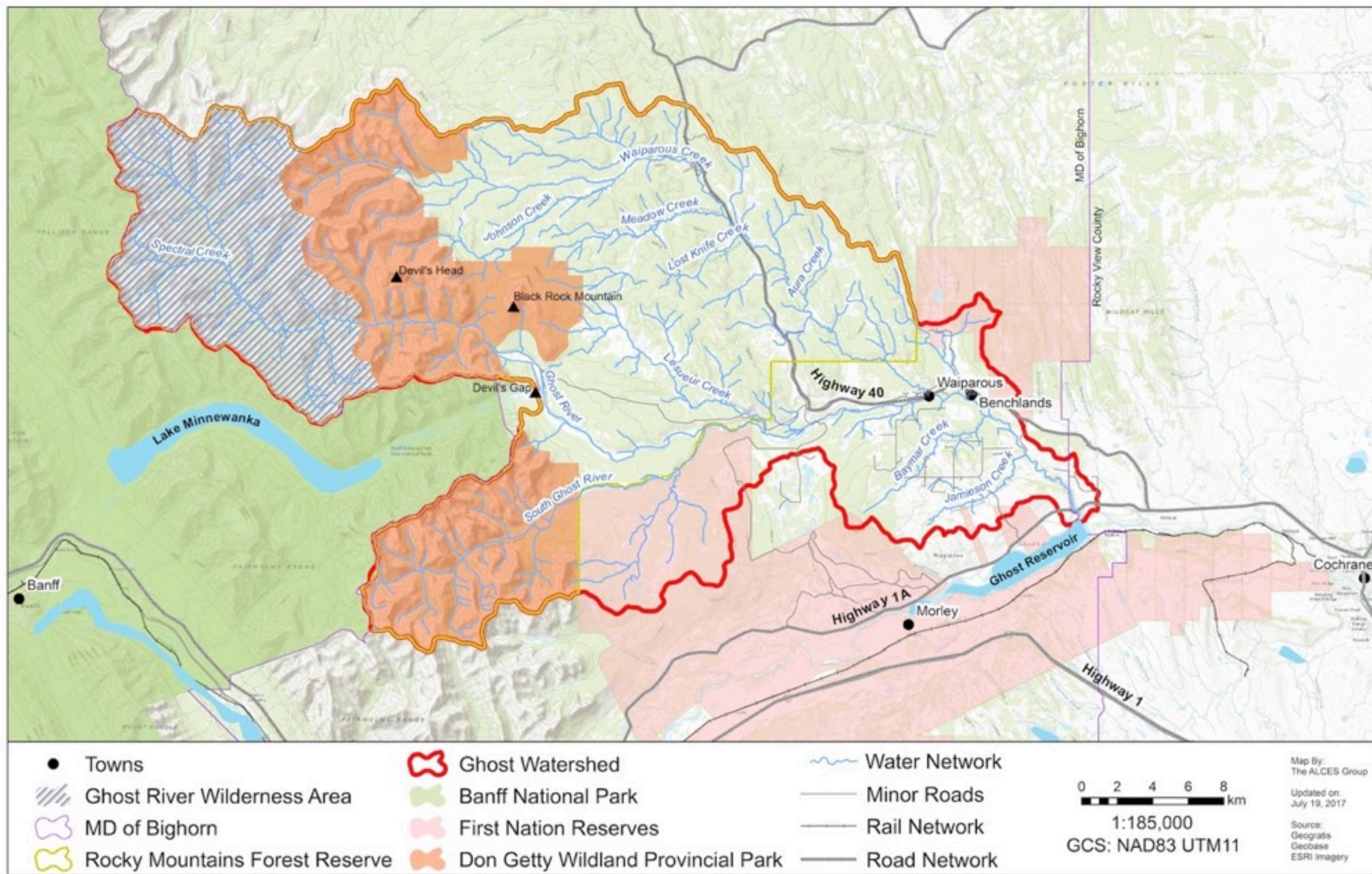
Report on GWAS's work in 2020
AGM, November 28, 2020

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Marina Krainer
Executive Director

The Municipal Context

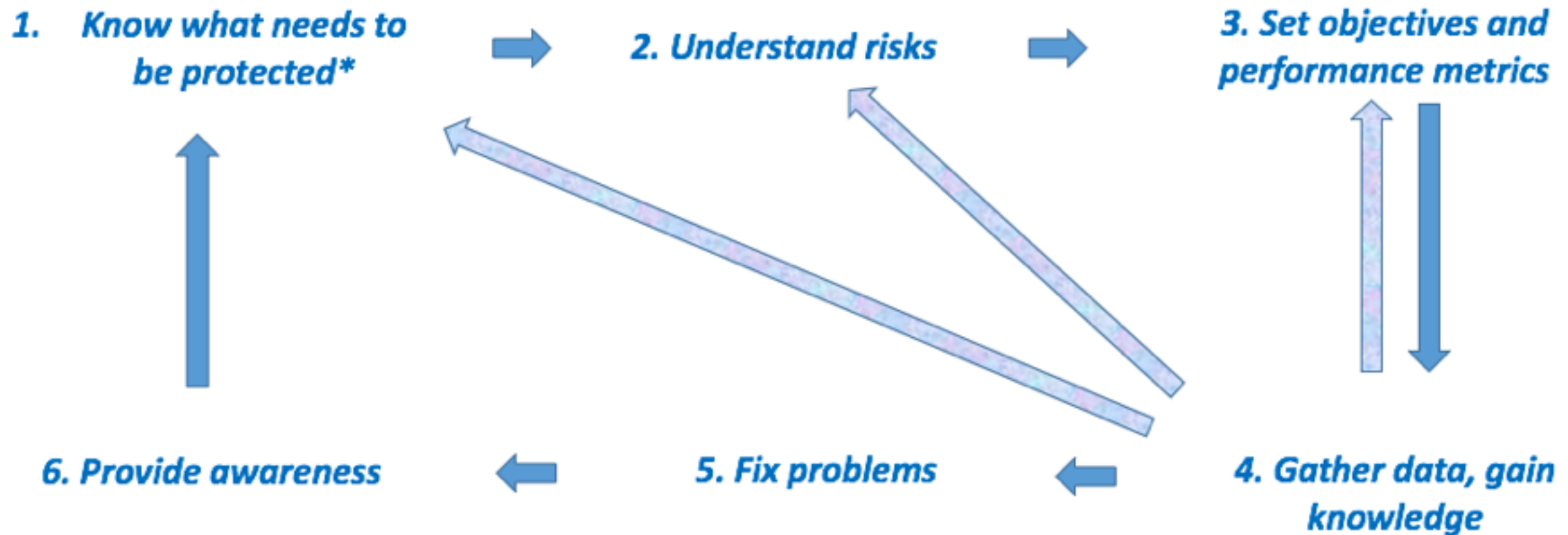


The Ghost Watershed

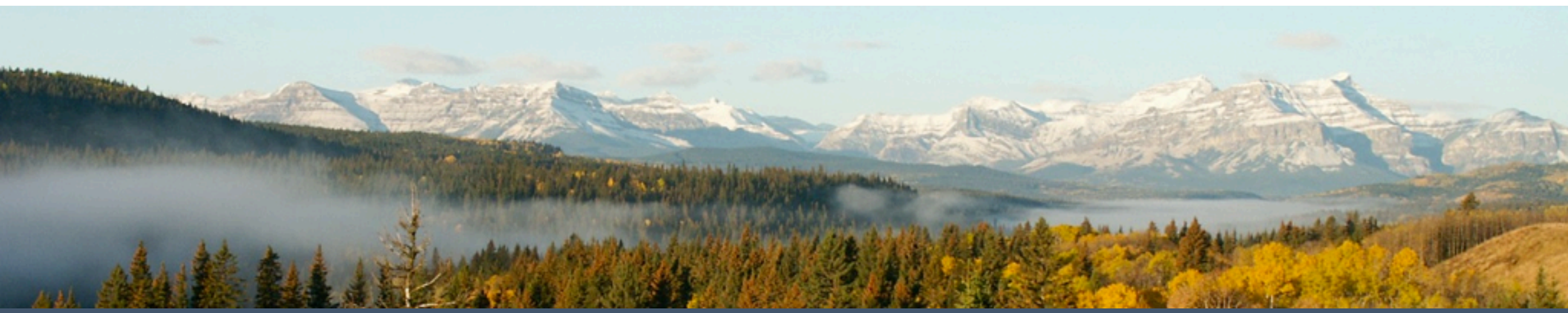


What Watershed Stewardship Groups do

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



5 Walks in the Watershed completed in 2020

Horse Lake



Fuller's Pass

**Generously
supported by:**



Photo credits: K. Unger, Y. Fouli

5 Walks in the Watershed completed in 2020

Horse Lake



Lesueur Ridge

Photo credit: K. Unger

GWAS organizes Walks in the Watershed in order to:


- 
- A group of approximately 15-20 people are gathered in a lush green field, likely a watershed. They are dressed in casual outdoor attire, including hats, backpacks, and hiking shoes. A man in a light-colored shirt and hat is standing in the center, gesturing with his hand as if speaking to the group. The background shows a dense forest of evergreen trees under a clear sky.
- ✦ **provide opportunities to get out into nature**
 - ✦ **educate about watershed health, flora and fauna**
 - ✦ **raise awareness**

Photo credit: M. Krainer

Education & Outreach with Schools

- ◆ Contracted Sourcewater Communications for the role of Education Coordinator
- ◆ Received funding for the project from:
 - ◆ Alberta Ecotrust
 - ◆ TD Friends of the Environment
 - ◆ Alberta Conservation Association
 - ◆ City of Calgary



Photo credit: K. Unger

Water Quality Monitoring

- ◆ SOW Report recommendation:
Perform aquatic invertebrate sampling following the ECCC's Canadian Aquatic Biomonitoring Network protocol (CABiN).
- ◆ Hired CABiN Project Manager
- ◆ 10 sites sampled in 2020



Collaborative work:

- ◆ Bow River Basin Council (BRBC) Quarterly Forums
- ◆ BRBC Watershed Stewardship Coordinating Committee
- ◆ City of Calgary Source Water Protection Plan
 - ◆ spoke in support of Source Water Protection Policy at Standing Policy Committee meeting (Sept. 2020)
- ◆ Fish & Forest Roundtable



Collaborative work:

- ◆ Presented at Native Trout Workshop hosted by Cows & Fish (over 60 people attended)



Soil Bioengineering - Techniques and Successes

Native Trout Workshop, March 12th, 2020

Marina Krainer, Executive Director, GWAS

Collaborative work:

- ◆ Work with Land Managers at Alberta Environment & Parks
 - ◆ developed work plan for 2020, approved by AEP
 - ◆ as per AEP request: took lead for a clean-up day with BHA
 - ◆ ongoing communication about recreation issues, collaborative project opportunities, education & outreach
- ◆ Took course on use of sedimentation and stream-crossing app led by fRI Research and AAF (July 2020)



Photo credit: K. Unger

Clean-up event with Backcountry Hunters and Anglers



Photo credits: C. Hill

Clean-up event - July 11, 2020



**Generously
supported by:**



- ◆ 860 kg of garbage and one pick-up truck load of metal collected
- ◆ Thanks to all the volunteers, Backcountry Hunters and Anglers and Trout Unlimited.

Photo credits: K. Lee, C. Hill

Collaborative work:

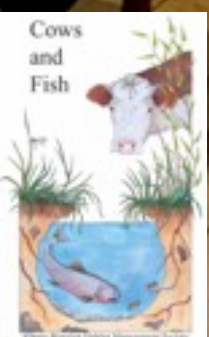
- ◆ Project collaboration with Trout Unlimited and Cows & Fish
 - ◆ field day in June to scout restoration sites
 - ◆ visited 2019 restoration site
 - ◆ TU applied for permits and prepared restoration site for bio-engineering workshop
 - ◆ C&F undertook riparian health inventory at the site, promoted workshop



Bio-engineering workshop with Dave Polster - September 25 & 26, 2020



Generously funded by:



Bio-engineering field day Sept 26, 2020



Photo credit: S. Fritz

Volunteers planting willow stakes



Photo credit: M. Krainer

**Calgary ATV Riders Volunteers distributed large
woody debris donated by Spray Lake Sawmills**

Thank You!



Bio-engineering field day - Thank you!

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

Generously funded by:



Photo credit: S. Fritz

Thanks to AEP for installing a new bridge



Generously funded by:



Photo credit: M. Krainer

Forestry

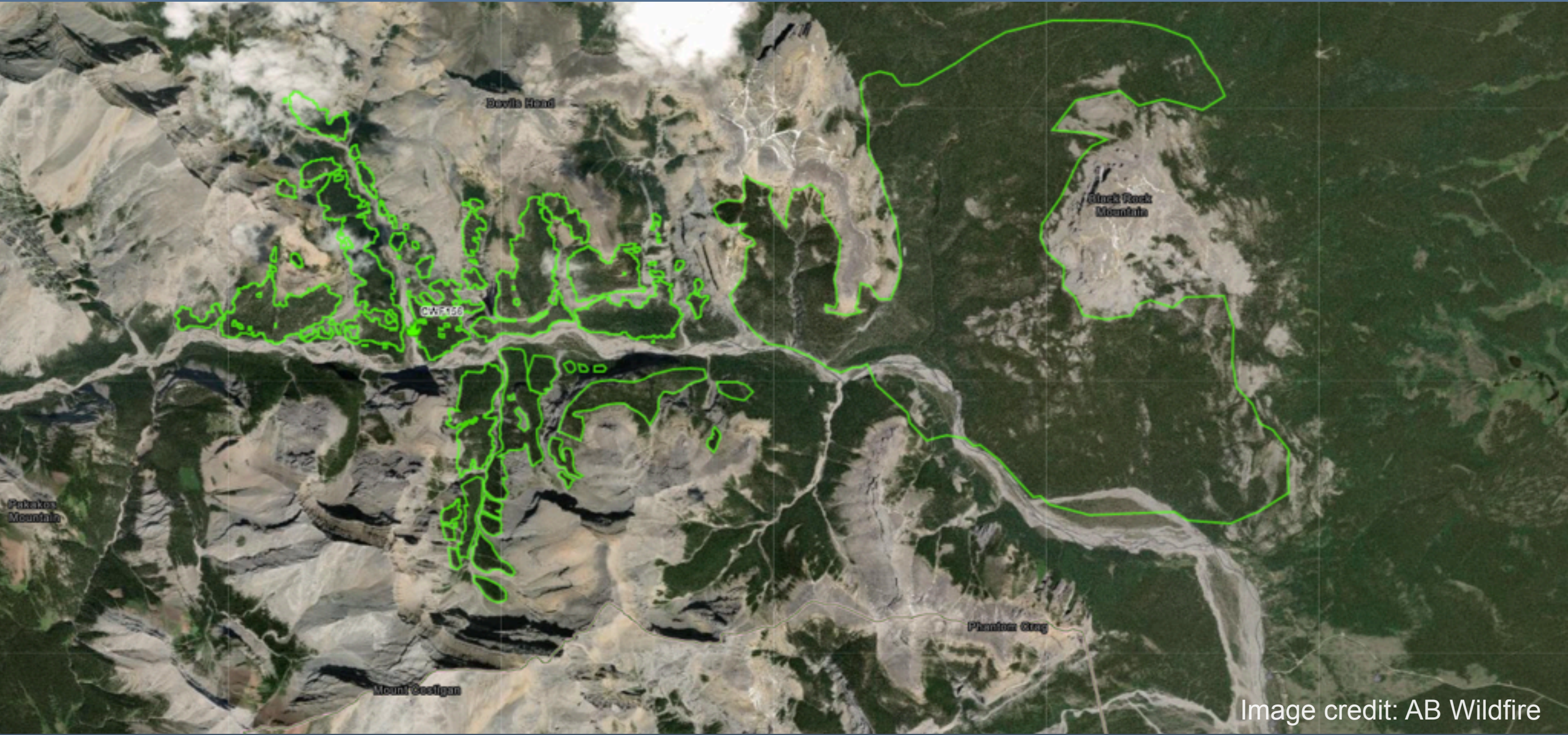
- ◆ SLS published draft Forest Management Plan in June 2020
- ◆ GWAS submitted feedback to draft plan in July 2020.
- ◆ SLS harvested some areas north of Horse Lake this summer.
- ◆ September 2020: SLS joined GWAS in raising concerns with the GoA about unsafe target shooting.



Photo credit: M. Krainer

Devils Head Wildfire

- ◆ Started by abandoned camp fire on Sept. 4th, 2020
- ◆ Oct. 5th: flared up with strong Chinook winds
- ◆ grew from 620 ha to app. 2,420 ha
- ◆ considered under control now



Ghost Watershed Alliance Society

Operations Plan

January 1, 2021 – December 31, 2023



2021 Top Priorities

- Water Monitoring Project
- Education & Outreach
- Collaboration with partner organizations
- Walks in the Watershed
- Bio-engineering project
- Site clean-up

An aerial photograph of a lush green landscape. In the center, there is a small, calm lake surrounded by dense evergreen forests. The terrain is hilly, with varying shades of green indicating different vegetation types. The image is partially obscured by a dark grey curved shape on the right side, which serves as a background for the text.

Possible additional initiatives

- Mapping of linear disturbance
- Develop GIS capacity
- Erosion control or riverscape restoration project

How can you help?

- ◆ Being a member of GWAS / Joining the GWAS Board
- ◆ Raising awareness with family and friends
- ◆ Volunteering for a streambank restoration day or clean-up event
- ◆ Helping with educational school events
- ◆ Taking photos in the Ghost Watershed
- ◆ Helping with aquatic biomonitoring events



Volunteer & Supporter appreciation

GWAS would like to say a big Thank You to:

Bow River Basin Council

The Crossing at Ghost River

Heinz and Kris Unger

all the volunteers that 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

&

our members and all the generous individual donors!





Ghost

Watershed Alliance Society

Thank you!

Questions?

For more information please visit our website:

WWW.GHOSTWATERSHED.CA