Education & Outreach Activities Ghost River Watershed 2026

Ghost Watershed Alliance Society

Working Together to Protect Source Water

Sharlene Fritz
Ghost Watershed Alliance Society
AGM - November 14, 2026
Beaupre Hall



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Lesueur Ridge Sept 2026
Photo: H. Unger

Goals

- Support watershed literacy for all ages
- Offer outdoor experiences in the Ghost
- Make data and information available in accessible formats

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Waiparous Creek

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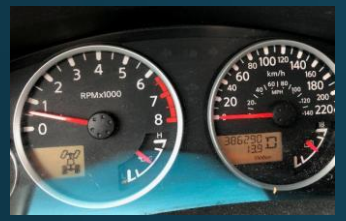
Waiparous Creek



Dashboard

- Met in person with **725+** people
- Benefited from **220+** hours of direct volunteer time
- Planned, delivered and followed up on **26** single events
- Engaged with **10** partner organizations or individuals
- Hosted or met **10** school or youth groups in the watershed
- Attended **11** indoor events with presentations or a booth



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Rocky View Schools

- Service Provider Agreement in place
- Mitford – 1 in-school visit and 4 field days
- 100 Grade 6 students, 16 adults and 7 GWAS leaders



Waiparous Creek Provincial Recreation Area
May 2026



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Rocky View Schools

- Manachaban – half day at Scout Camp with 25 Grade 8 students, 6 adults and neighbours





Scout Camp Gibson
May 2026

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Girl Guides of Canada

- Cochrane Embers –12 girls ages 6-8





Cochrane Girl Guides Camp Jubilee
April 2026

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City of Calgary

- City of Calgary Teacher's Convention – 2 half days in February
- Mayor's Environment Expo - 2 full days in June engaging with over 400 students and adult leaders



City Hall Atrium
June 2026
Photos: E. Chong



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FFCA

- Partner with High School Outdoor Education program
- Ecological restoration days in May and September – 25 students, 3 teachers
- Lesueur Ridge hike in September – 16 students, 2 teachers





Lesueur Ridge, South Ghost PRA
Photos: K. Laustsen, M. Krainer

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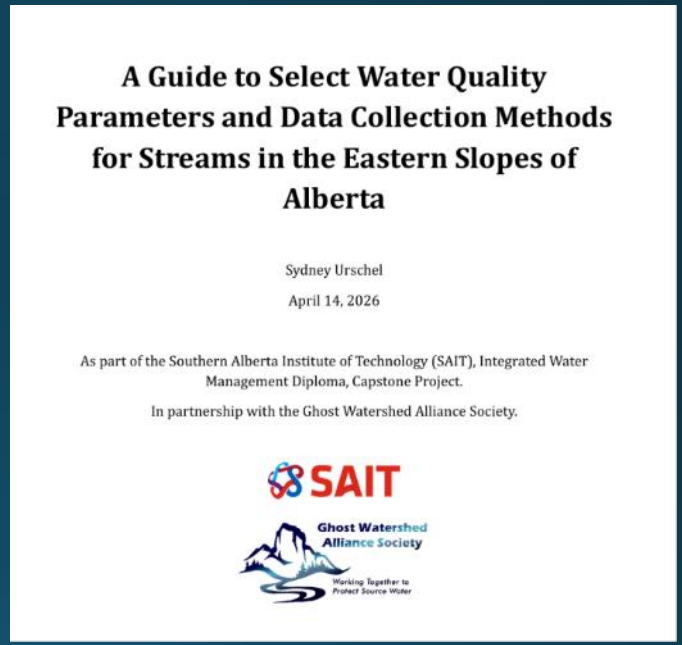
SAIT

- Integrated Water Management Program – Capstone Project Student mentorship
- Student project focused on producing a Guide to Water Quality Monitoring, chemical parameters only
- Many volunteer hours from board members





A Guide to Select Water Quality Parameters and Data Collection Methods for Streams in the Eastern Slopes of Alberta

Sydney Urschel

April 14, 2026

As part of the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology (SAIT), Integrated Water Management Diploma, Capstone Project.

In partnership with the Ghost Watershed Alliance Society.

SAIT

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Ghost Public Land Use Zone
July 2026

SAIT

- World Water Day March 2026
- Exhibition Booth- engaged with over 35 people and connected with partner organizations



Heritage Hall, SAIT
Photo: K. Halvorson

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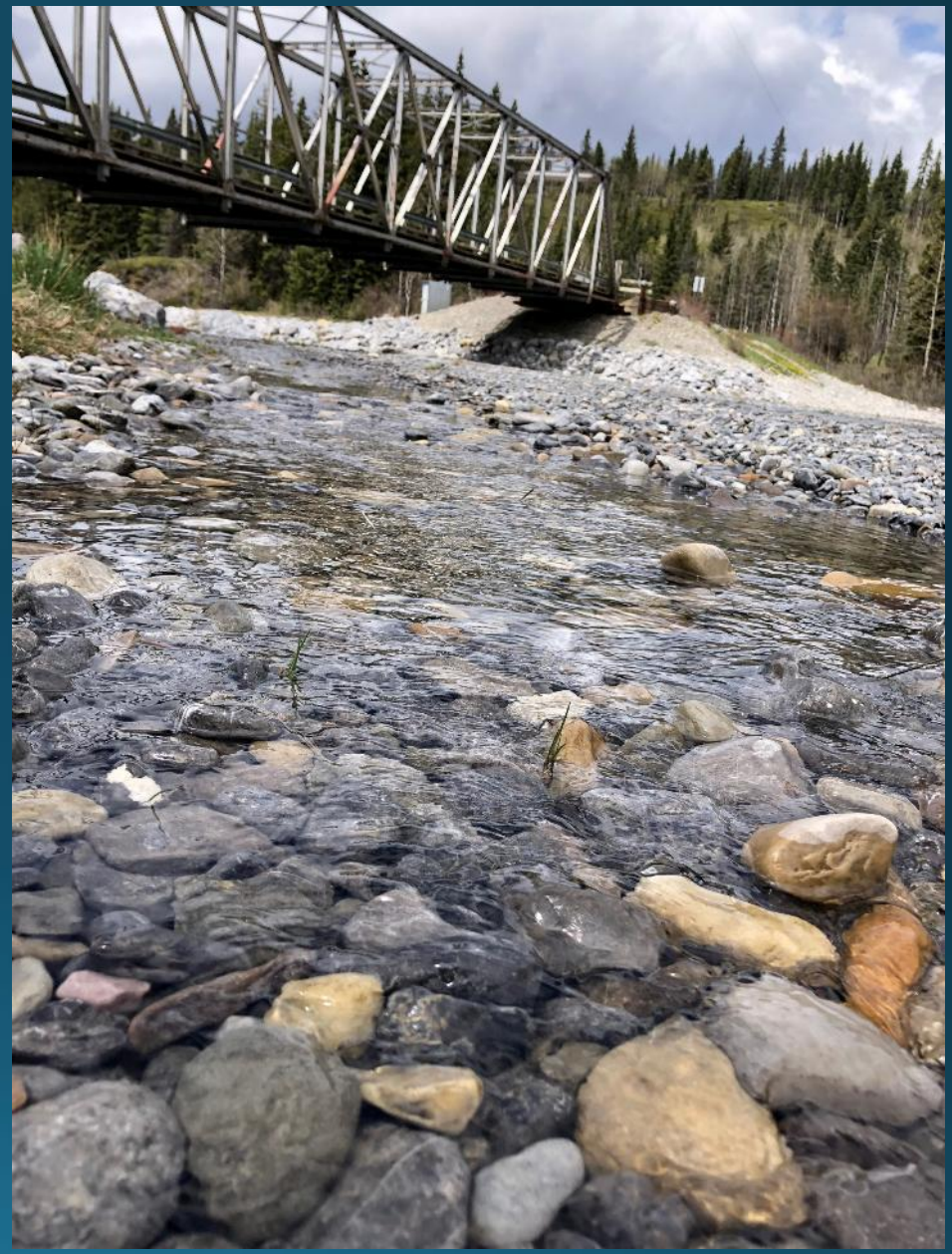
CreekWatch

- Two sites on the Ghost River
- May to Oct
- Volunteer driven
- 9 sampling events





Richards Road Bridge

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Walks in the Watershed





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Butters Ranch July 2026

Photos: M. Krainer

Other Events

- Town of Cochrane "Going Wild" booth
- Junior Forest Wardens tour





Photos: M. Krainer

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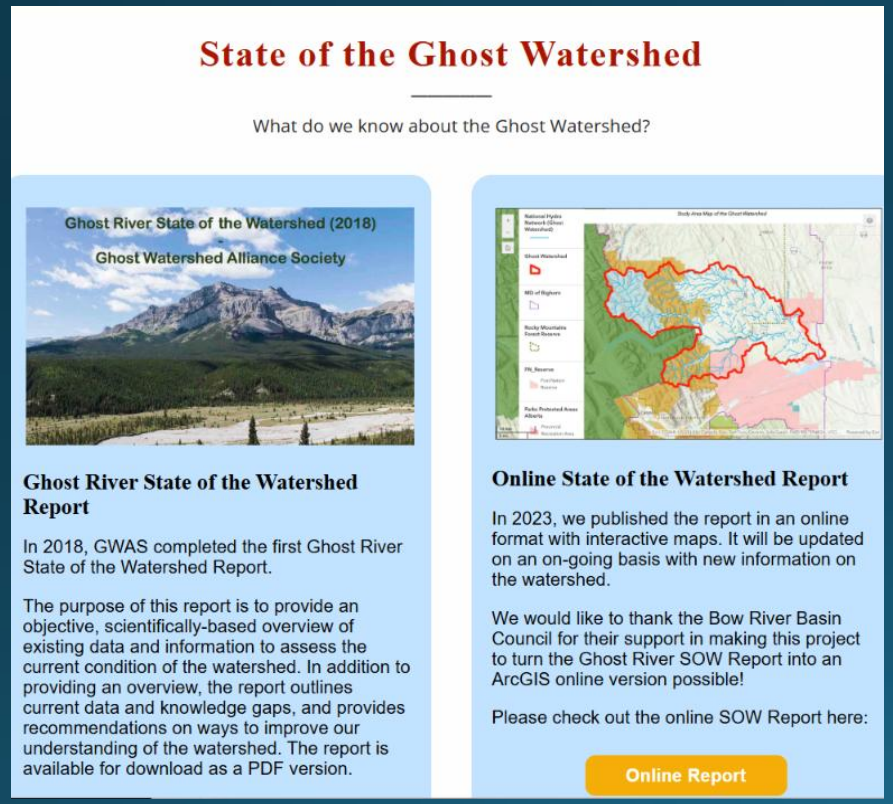
Waiparous Creek

Internal

- Website re-design
- State of the Watershed online – 12,000+ views to date
- Review and recommend updates
- Data upload to DataStream (Gordon Foundation)



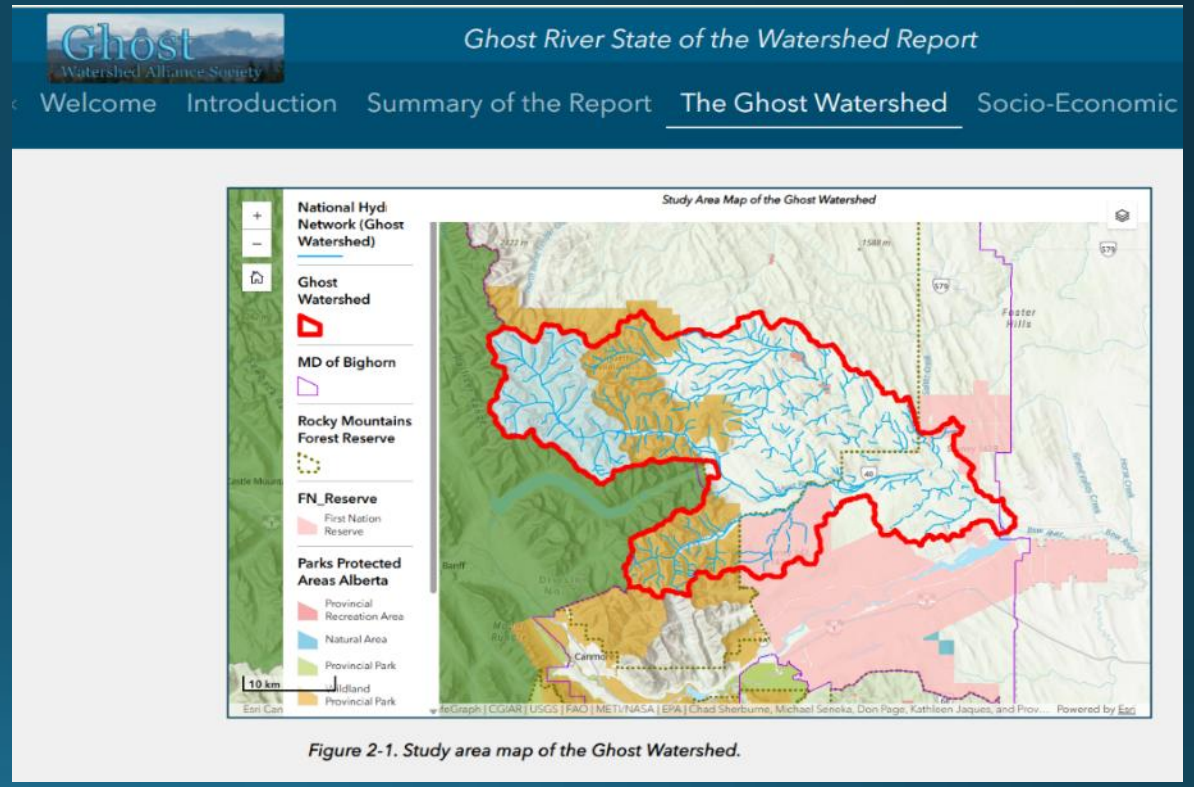


Figure 2-1. Study area map of the Ghost Watershed.

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Many thanks to the BRBC for providing GWAS an ESRI license and office support!

Bow River Basin Council

Stream Temperature

Goals:

- to better understand native trout habitat
- to understand thermal sensitivity of streams

Results:

- Five years of data spread over 17 sites
- Ongoing analysis

	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Aura at Mouth	Data- GWAS	Data- GWAS	Data-GWAS	Data-GWAS	Data-GWAS
Aura at Sand Hills	Data-GWAS				***Below and above Horse Lk
Ghost at Diversion	Data-GWAS	Data-GWAS		Data-GWAS	
Ghost at Richards Rd	Data – GWAS	Data – GWAS		Data-GWAS	
Ghost at Benchlands			Data -GWAS	Data-GWAS	
Ghost at Bills					
Johnson at Mouth	Data - GWAS	Data - GWAS	Data-GWAS	Data-GWAS	Installed
Johnson Upper				Installed	Installed
Lesueur at mouth	Data – GWAS				
Lookout			Data – GWAS	Data - GWAS	
Lost Knife	Data - GWAS	Data -GWAS	Data – GWAS		
Margaret at mouth	Data - GWAS	Data - GWAS	Data – GWAS		Data - GWAS
Margaret mid-reach					Data - GWAS
Meadow			Data – GWAS	Data - GWAS	Data - GWAS
Waiparous Upper		Data – GWAS	Data - GWAS	Data - GWAS	Data - GWAS
Waiparous above Aura					Data - GWAS
Waiparous at PRA					
Waiparous at Village	Data – GWAS	Data – GWAS			

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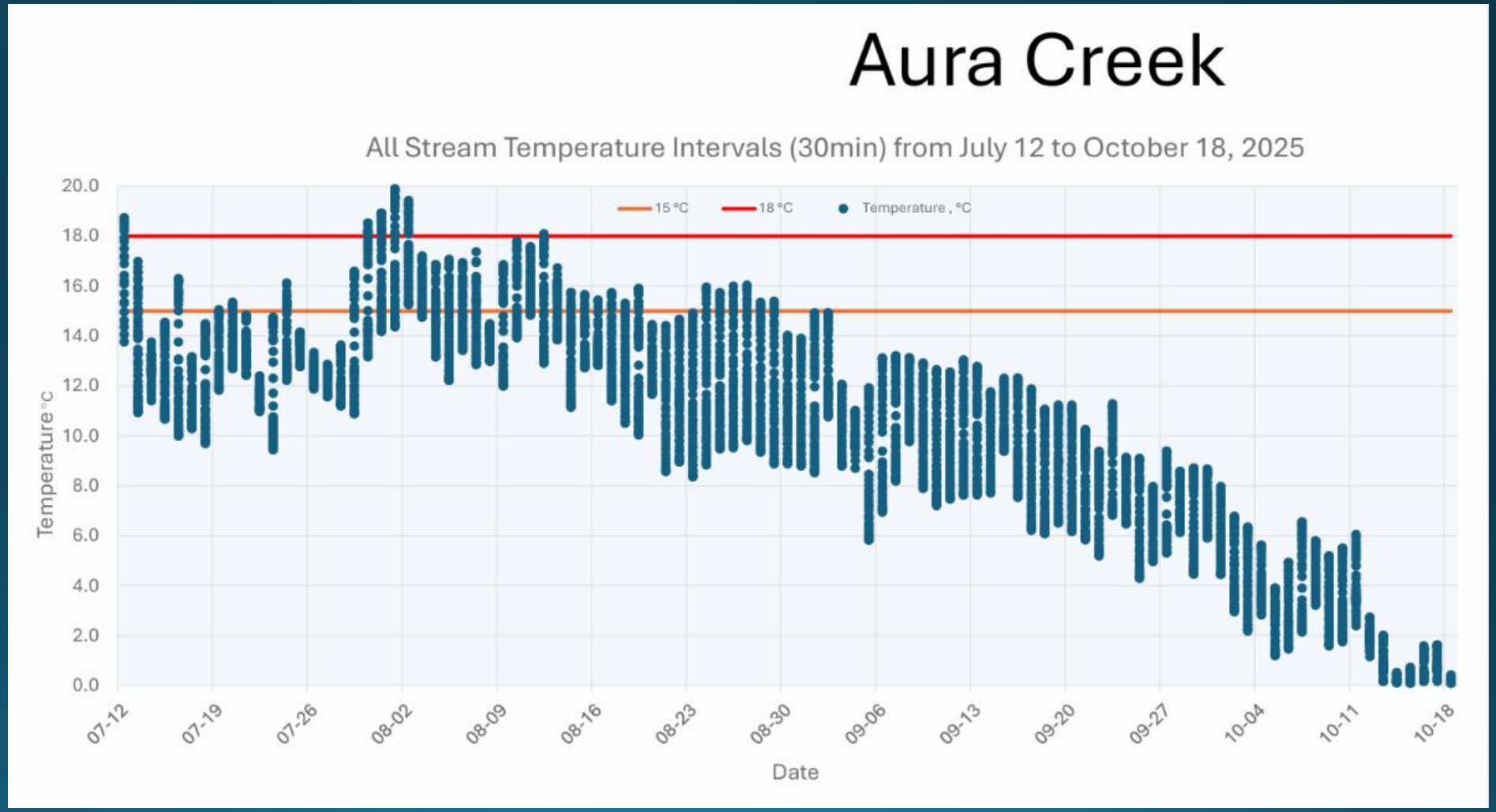
Stream Temperature

- Factor in native trout habitat
- Aura Creek
  33 days above 15°C
  6 days above 18°C (2025 data)



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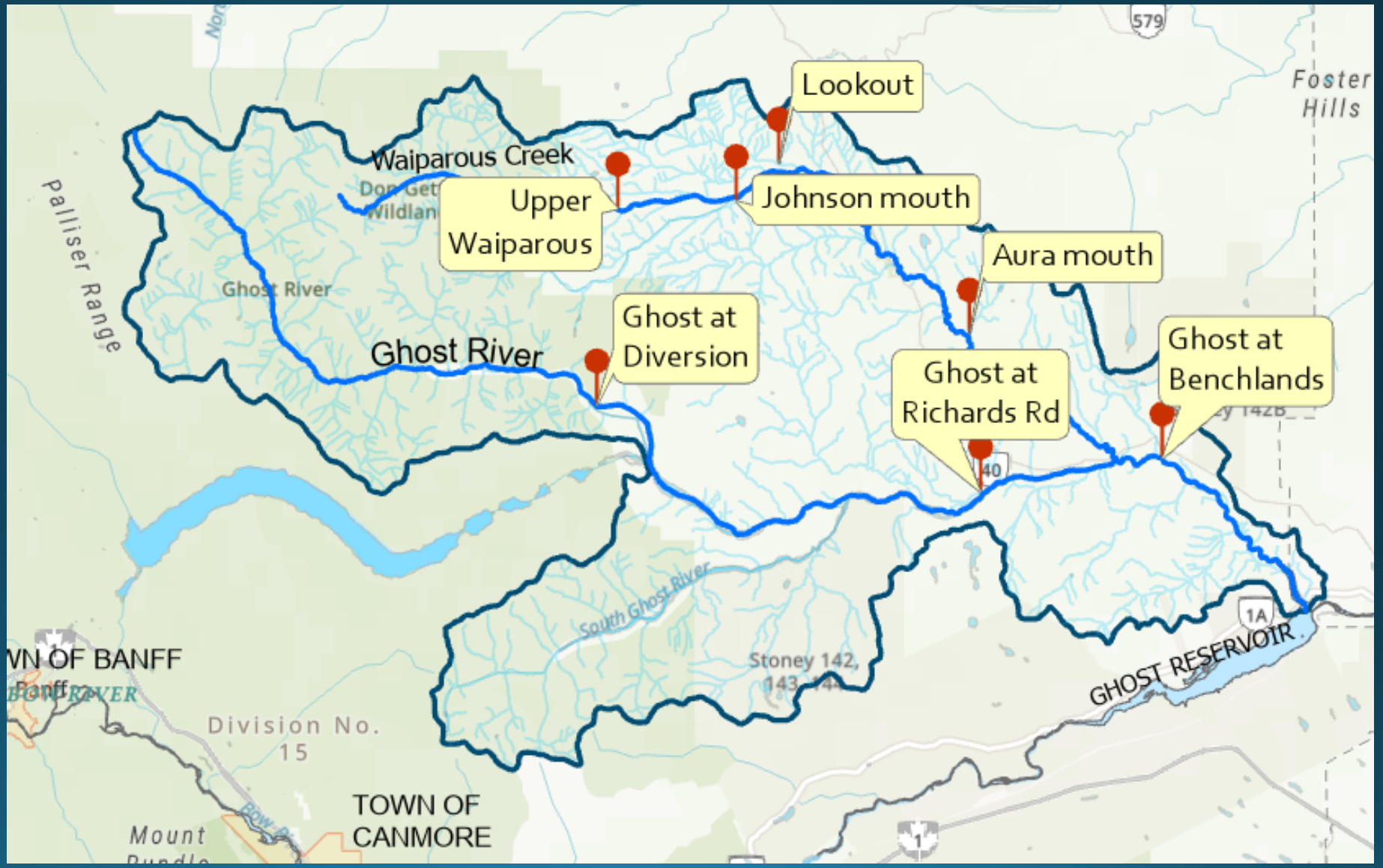
Stream Temperature – analysis of 2025 data

- Noted trends within basin and across years
- Added climate and hydrometric data
- Site-specific anomalies



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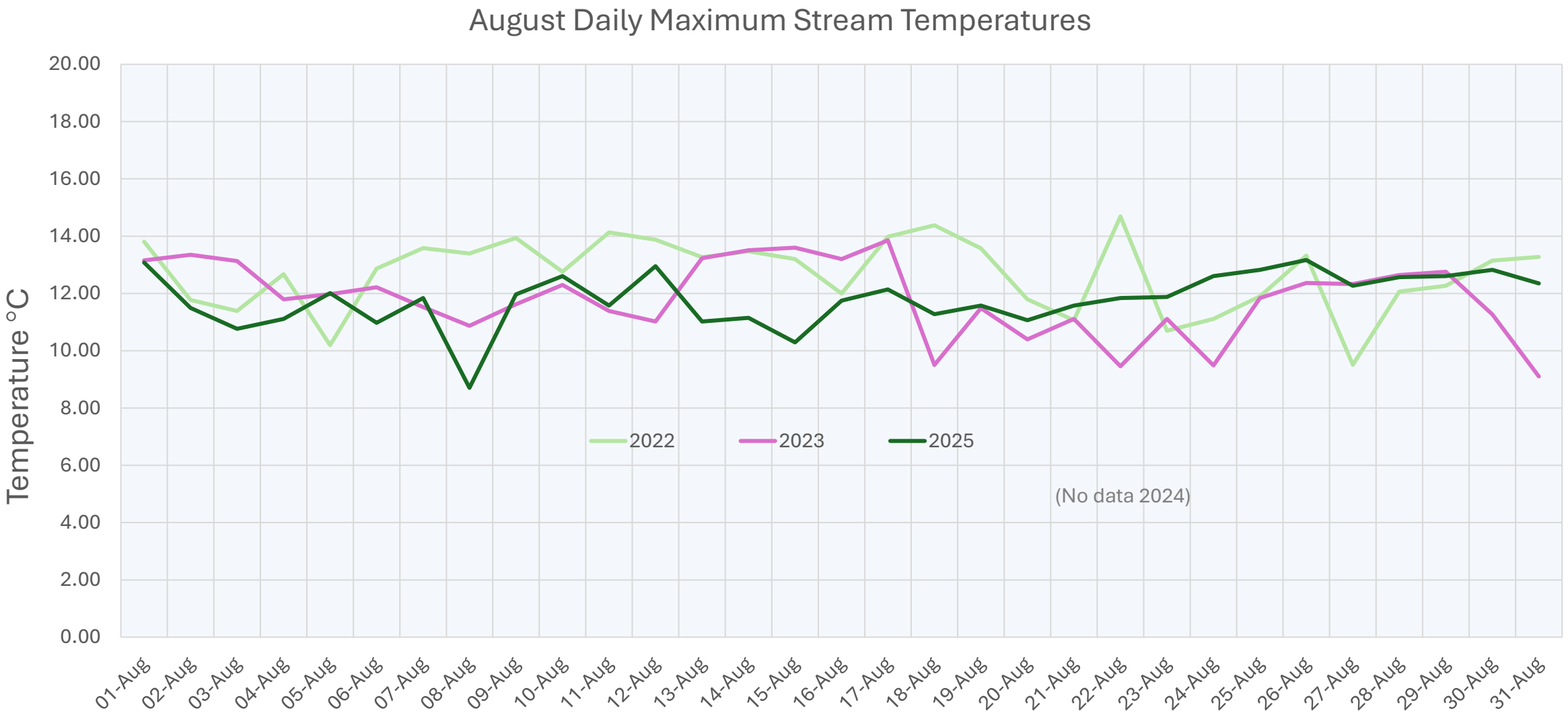
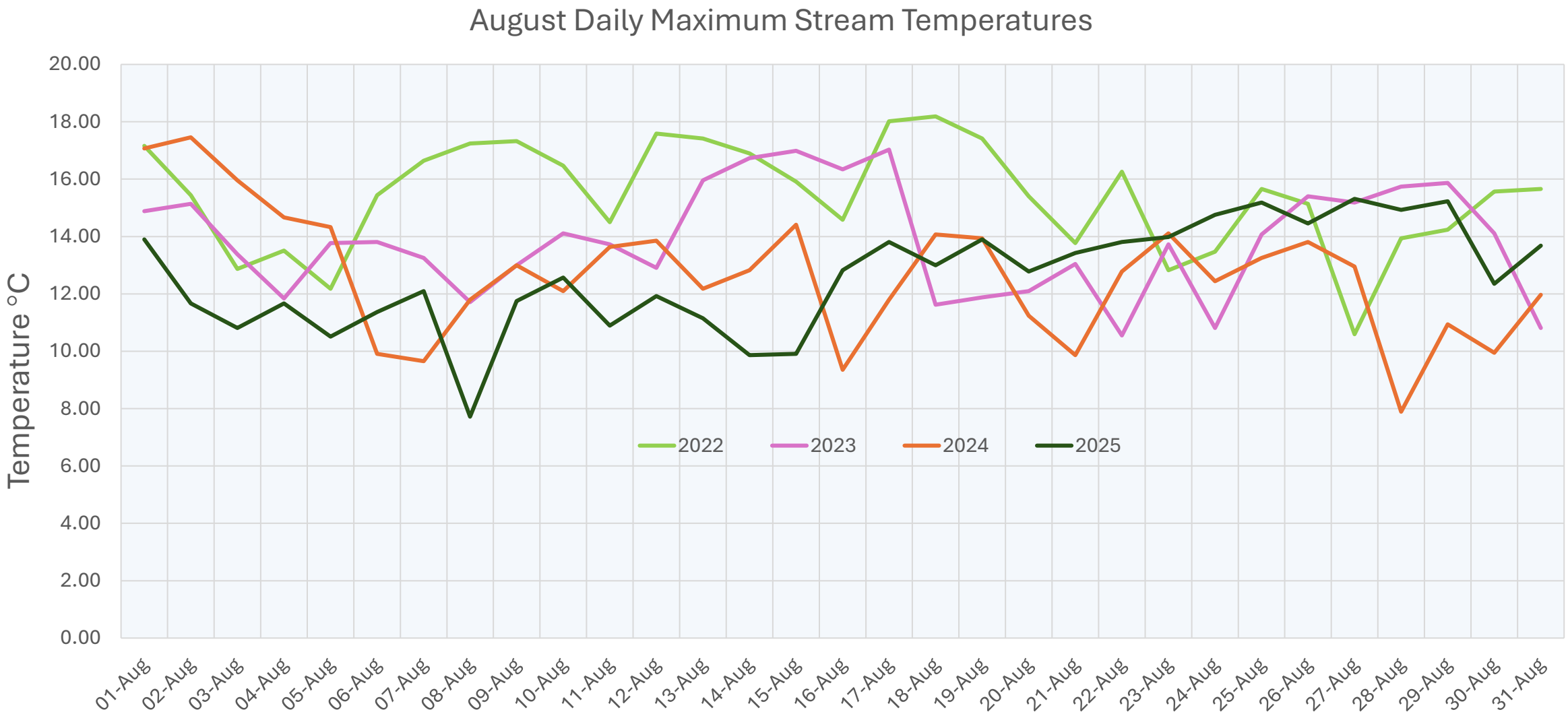
Ghost River at Diversion



Multi-year stream temperatures for August at the Ghost River at Diversion

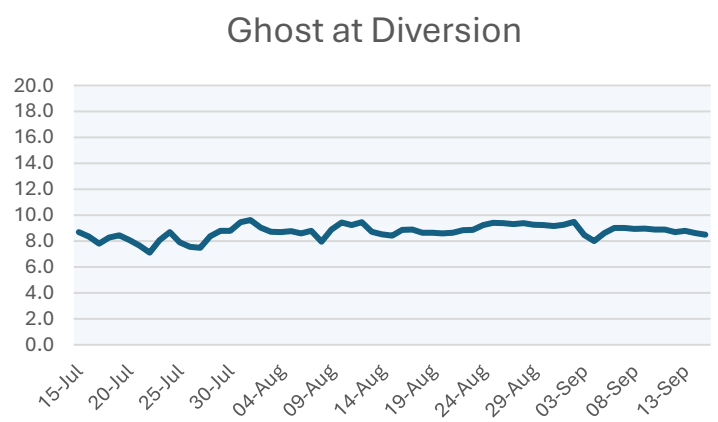
Upper Waiparous Creek

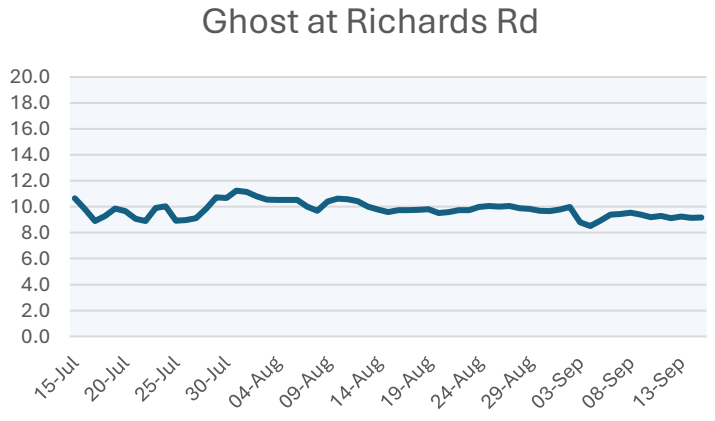


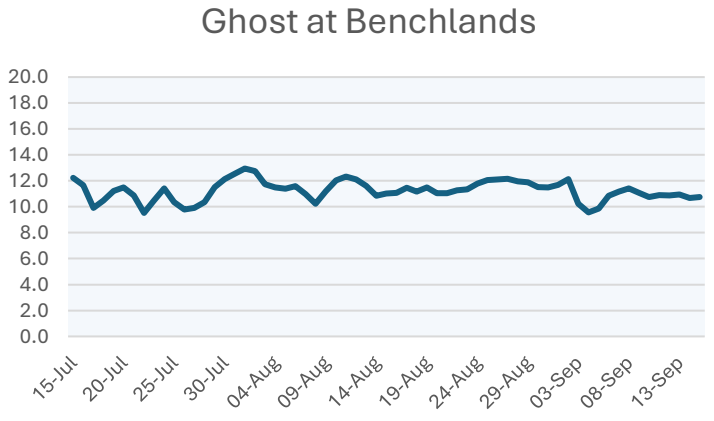
Multi-year stream temperatures for August at Upper Waiparous

Mean daily temperatures (°C) from July 15 to Sept 15, 2025, for 6 retrieved stream temp loggers

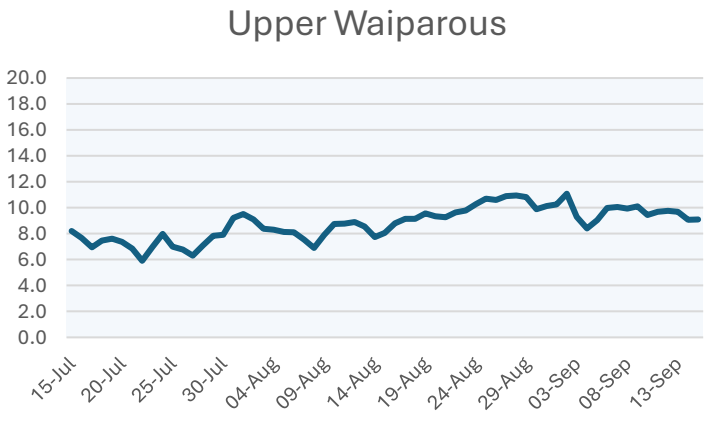
Ghost mainstem

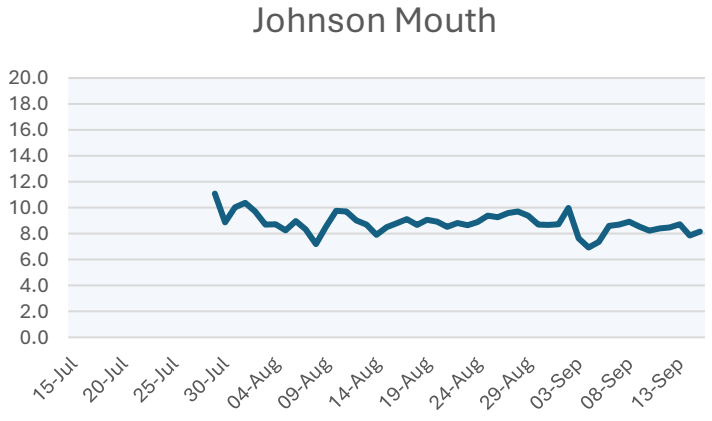


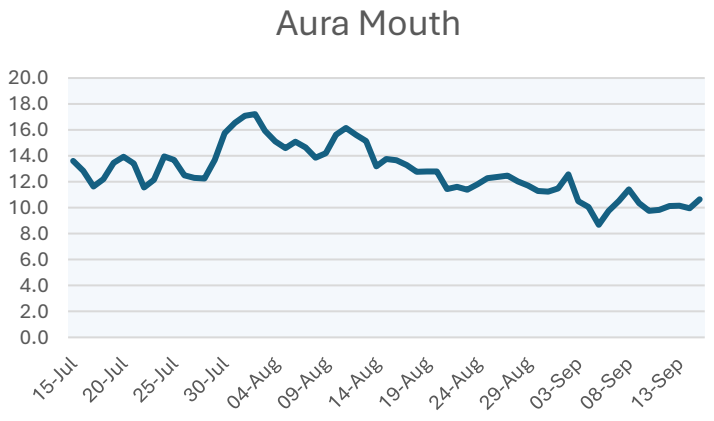




Waiparous sub-basin







Climate and Hydrometric Stations in Ghost Watershed



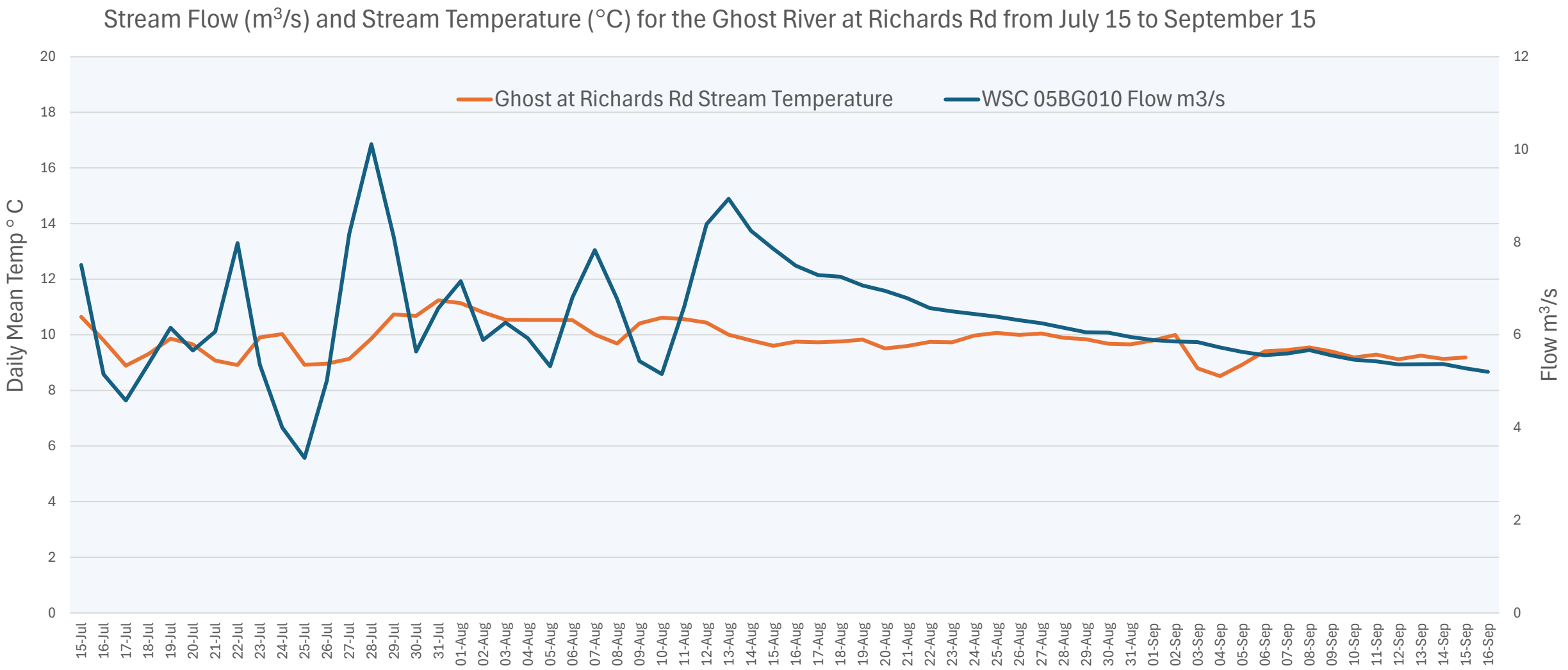
Government of Alberta Weather Stations:

- Ghost Diversion
- Ghost Ranger Station
- South Ghost
- Waiparous Auto

Water Survey of Canada Hydrometric Stations:

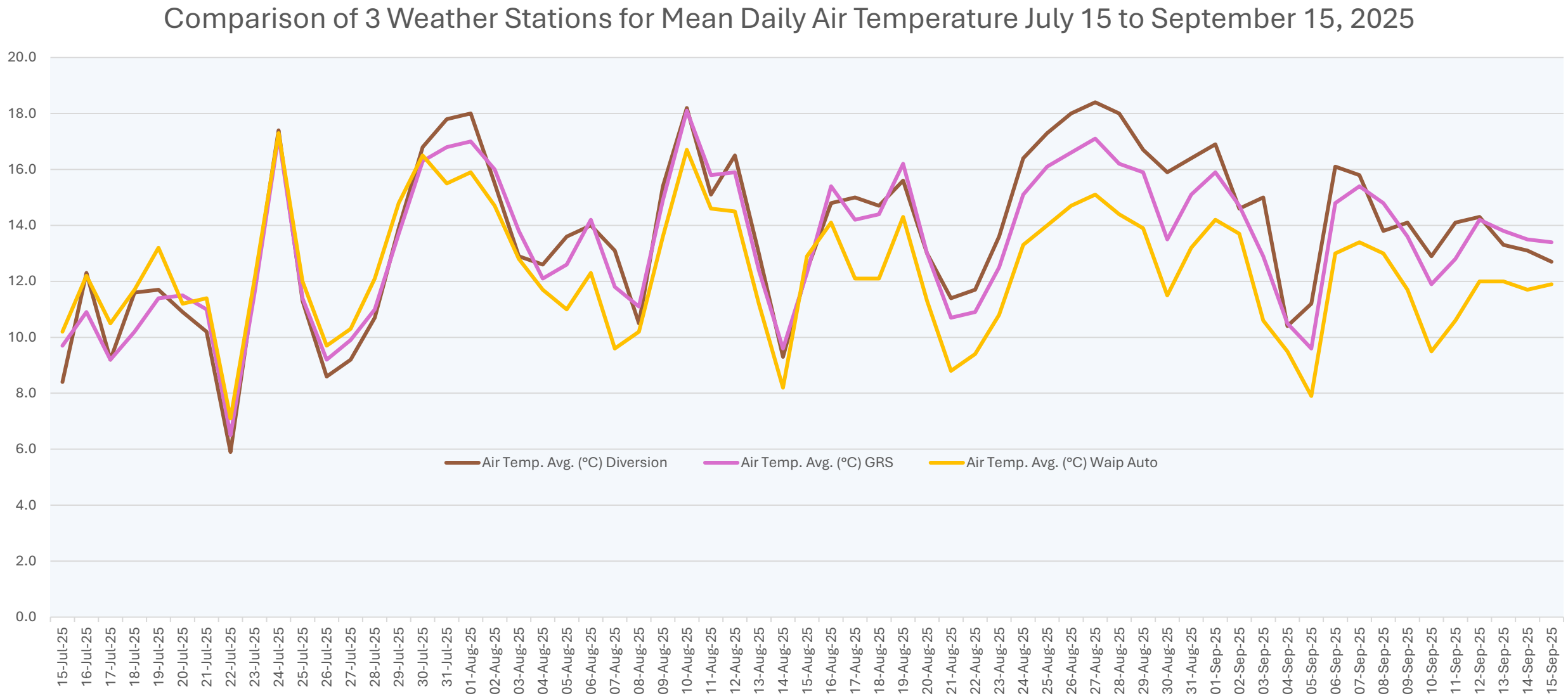
- Ghost above Waiparous (05BG010)
- Waiparous above Mouth (05BG006)

2025 Stream Flow

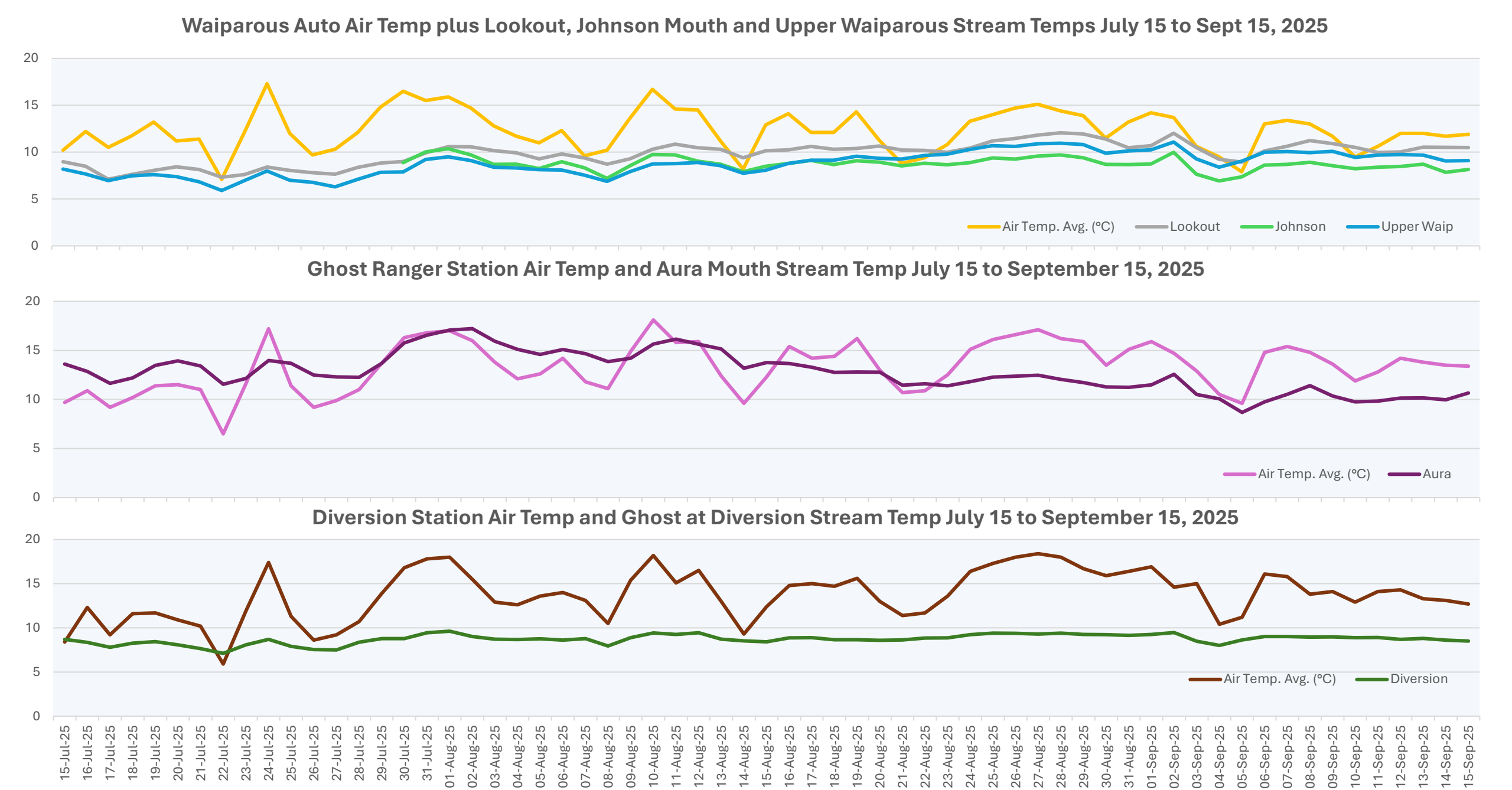


Stream flow and temperature comparison for hydrometric station WSC 05BG010

2025 Air Temperature



Air temperature data at three weather stations in Ghost Watershed



Air and stream temperature comparison for temperature loggers close to weather stations

External

- GWAS collaborated with the Ghost Region Stewardship Collaborative (GRSC) to develop and submit input for the draft Ghost-Kananaskis Sub-regional Plan
- This involved hosting and facilitating workshops as well as producing maps and documents.

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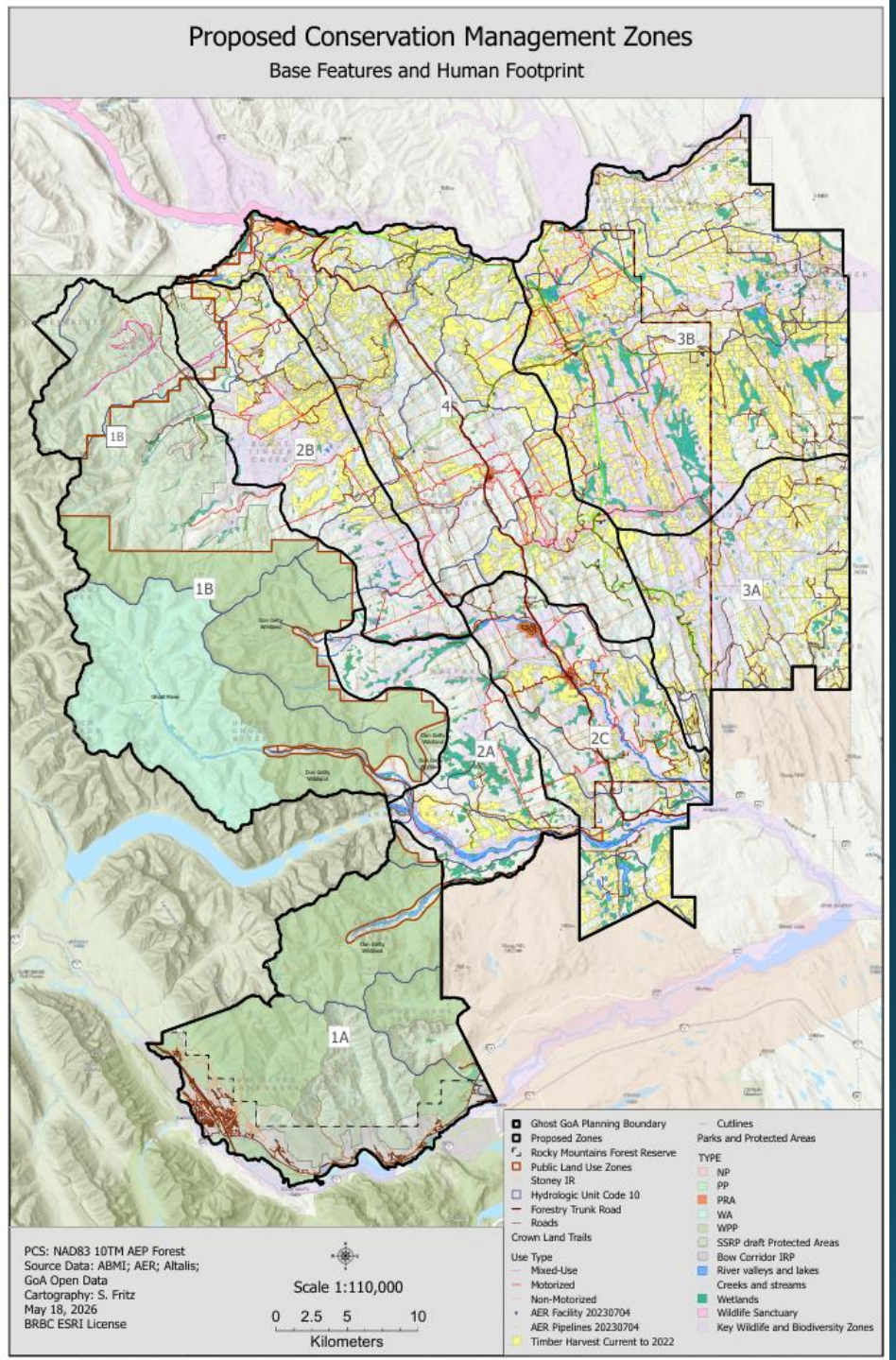
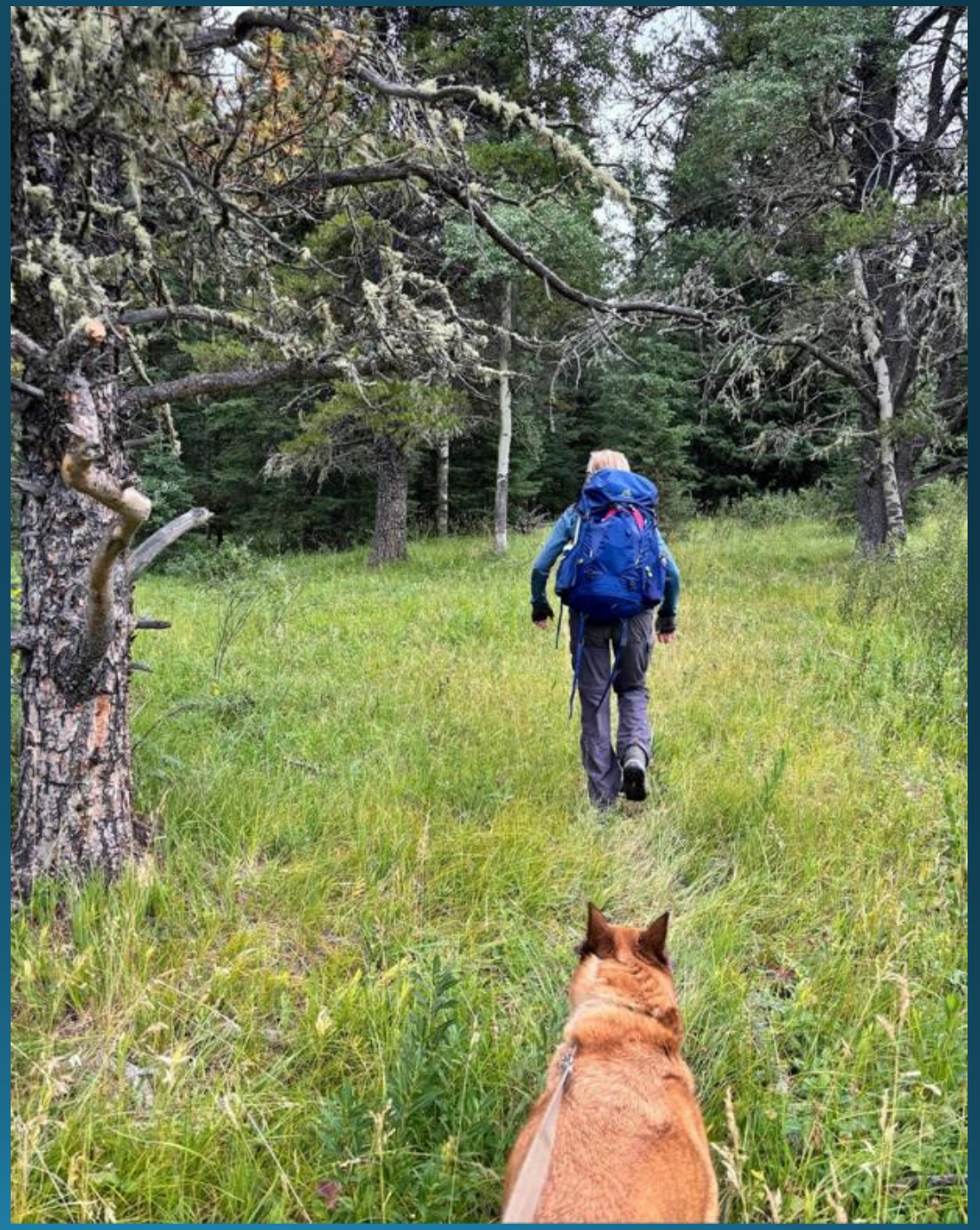
Zone map developed in-house



What's Ahead?

- Continue to offer watershed education programming in the field, classroom and exhibition halls

- Continue to improve how we deliver and share information and scientific data



Horse Lake Area
July 2026
Photo: E. Chong

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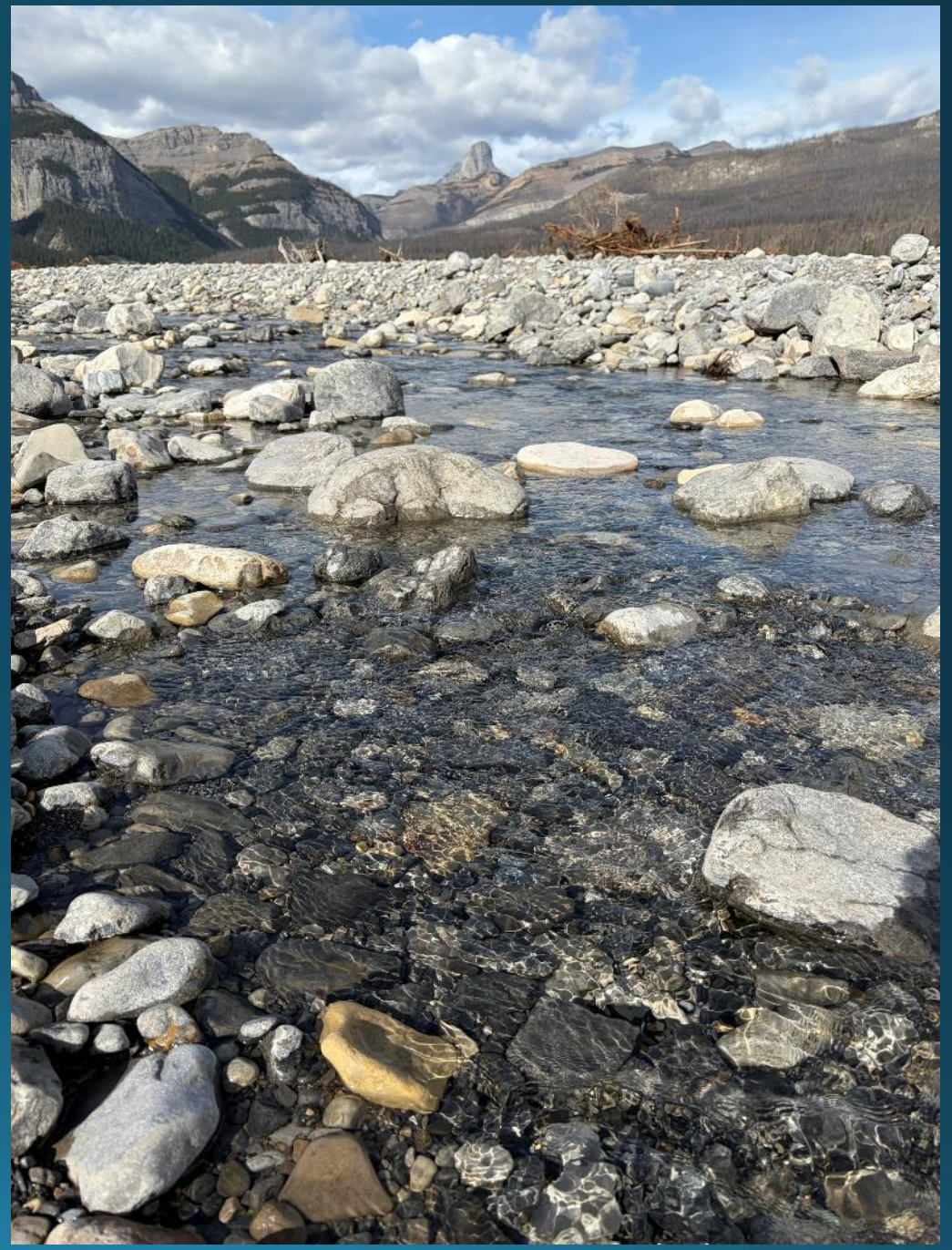
Secret Sauce

Main ingredients

- the incredible, varied and infinitely fascinating nature of the Ghost
- GWAS executive director, contractors and board of directors
- our VOLUNTEERS!
- local community members
- partners
- grant funding



North Ghost
October 2026

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Visionary Funders



View from Black Rock Mountain, Ghost River in valley bottom.

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Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Pêches et Océans Canada

ALBERTA ecotrust

Bow River Basin Council

Calgary

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT of BIGHORN

Alberta Conservation Association

FOREST RESOURCE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION OF ALBERTA (FRIAA)

Thank you!

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