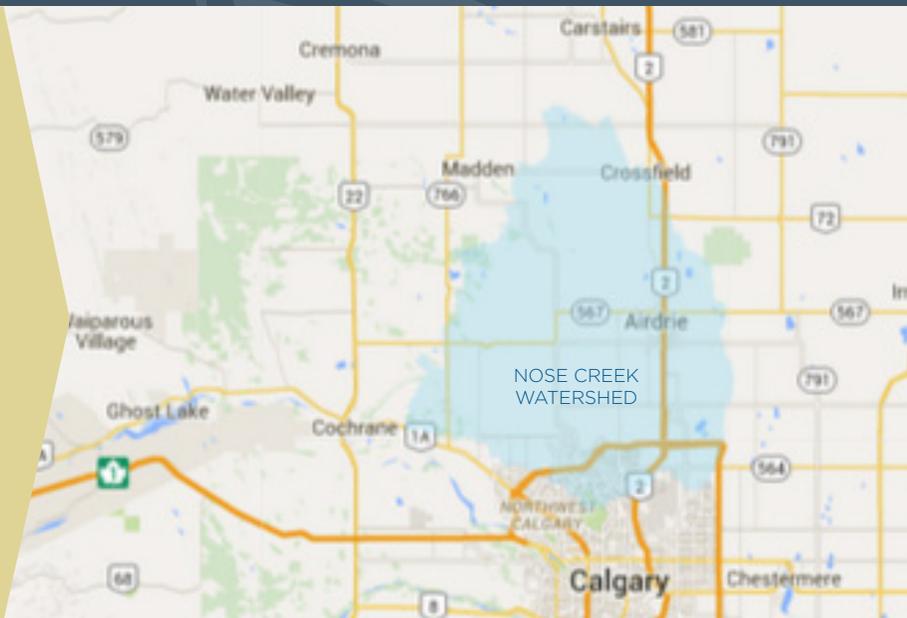**Your participation pays** We know that wetlands are not always convenient on the working agricultural landscape—or even in your backyard. Having a wetland on your property might incur costs for you, whether it's because you're losing a portion of your productive land, or because you have to work around it. We are willing to pay you for those costs and inconveniences; at a price that you think is fair.

# How does it work?

**We are not buying land.**
Instead, we are paying you to let us restore a wetland on your land.

In order to determine which wetlands we restore, and at what price, we will be running a *reverse auction* in the Nose Creek watershed in 2016.

NOSE CREEK WATERSHED
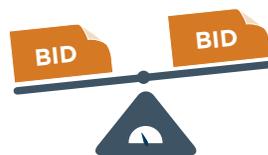
**STEP 1 Have your land surveyed**



If you have a wetland that has been previously drained, **our team would like to come out to your property and survey the wetland to determine the area that would be affected if the wetland were to be restored**. We will give you this information, and this will help you understand what the impacts would be if you participated in the program.

**STEP 2 Submit a bid**



Once you have an understanding of how big the restored wetland would be, and how this might influence how you currently use and manage your land, we want you to formulate a bid. **This bid would be the price that you would be willing to accept as a payment for having the wetland restored on your property.**

**STEP 3 Wait for bids to be compared & selected**



Once you have formulated a bid, you would submit the bid to our research team, and we will compare the prices of all of the bids that we receive. **We will select "winning" bids based on environmental significance and cost. Bids with the lowest cost and highest environmental significance will be selected.**

**STEP 4 Sign a restoration contract**



**Those selected will sign a restoration contract and wetlands will be restored in the fall of 2016.** Our team will work with landowners to ensure that the timing of the restoration work does not interfere with other land activities that may be happening at that time.

# What should I think about when I formulate my bid?

**1** **One of the most important things to consider is the length of the contract that we will ask you to sign.**

For each wetland that we restore, landowners will be required to sign a contract that guarantees that the wetland will be conserved for a period of 10 years. Once the wetland is restored, you would need a permit from the provincial government to drain the wetland if you decide to remove it in the future.

**2** **You should think about how restoring a wetland on your property might affect current and future land value prices.**

**3** **You should also think about how the restored wetland might impact your land management practices. For example, you should consider:**

- Knowing the estimated size of the wetland once restored (through our site visit), how much money will you lose as a result of a decrease in the land area that you currently use to produce crops or graze livestock?

- Will you gain a water source to supply livestock?

- Will you incur costs associated with constructing a fence to keep livestock out of the wetland?

- Will you increase your use of fuel or chemical applications because of the need to maneuver machinery around the wetland?

- Will there be crop or property damage associated with increased wildlife use of the wetland?

*There may be other things to consider when formulating a bid, and because each situation is going to be a little bit different, the bid prices will likely vary between landowners.*

## How will I be paid?

Once the wetland is restored, you will receive 50% of your bid payment up front. The remaining portion of the payment will be paid to you on an annual basis, over the 10-year term.

## Interested in Participating?

If you'd like to submit a bid, the next step is for us to come out to survey your property and provide you with an accurate assessment of the wetland area we'd like to restore.

Please contact us as soon as you can if you are interested, at wetlands@ualberta.ca or at 780-248-1073.