



EcoServices
NETWORK

PROJECT PROFILE: WETLAND CONSERVATION AND STEWARDSHIP IN THE BEAVER HILLS

A CASE STUDY FOR WETLAND MARKETS

A collaboration of multiple partners with a keen interest in wetland markets to identify roles and responsibilities to research, design, test and evaluate a diverse market approach for wetland conservation and stewardship within the Beaver Hills Biosphere.

PROJECT LEADS

EcoServices Network, Land Stewardship Centre, Alberta Innovates (funder)

OVERVIEW

Over the past several years many organizations, various levels of government, academia and industry have been exploring ways to integrate ecosystem services (ES) into planning and decision-making on working landscapes of Alberta. This project will inform a proof of concept that can support the multiple benefits of restoring and stewarding wetlands within the Beaver Hills Biosphere.

Launched in 2019, this project will include a review of scientific publications and policy specific to the Biosphere and to the Beaver Hills Sub-Watershed, a review of past research efforts associated with wetland ES, development of an inventory of cultural ecosystem services associated with wetlands, focusing on both traditional (First Nation and Metis) and western knowledge, link wetland assessment procedures to ES outcomes, develop and understanding of the role of municipalities in the protection and restoration

of wetlands, and the development of a business case for wetland conservation and restoration that identifies opportunities to test a variety of cost-effective market based instruments.

THE ESN CONNECTION

This project builds on feedback from the multi-sector workshops led by Land Stewardship Centre in 2017. This pilot project will engage a variety of stakeholders, including landowners and land managers, with a focus on exploring an alternative approach for wetland conservation and stewardship in a way that supports both traditional and current cultural attributes of the Biosphere, and developing science-based solutions that are practical and easily communicated.

LEARN MORE

About the project at landstewardship.org.

About the ESN at ecoservicesnetwork.ca and follow us on Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn