

# *State of Watershed Project – A snapshot in time*



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# RDRWA: Mandate and Roles

Red Deer River State of the Watershed Report



**Assess &  
Report on the  
State of the  
Watershed**

**Deliver Water Literacy &  
Education Programs**



**Act as a Convener &  
Collaborator**



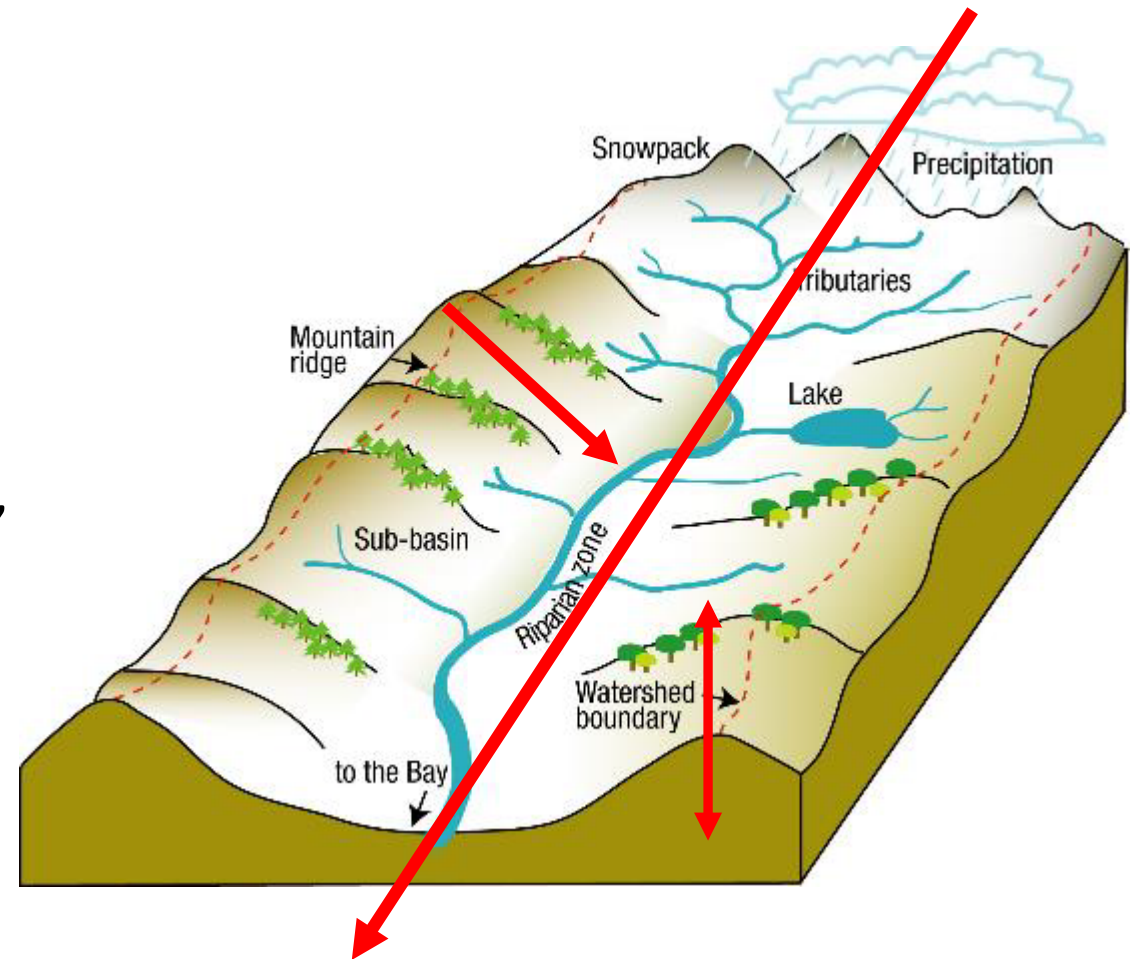
**Develop &  
Implement an  
Integrated  
Watershed  
Management  
Plan**



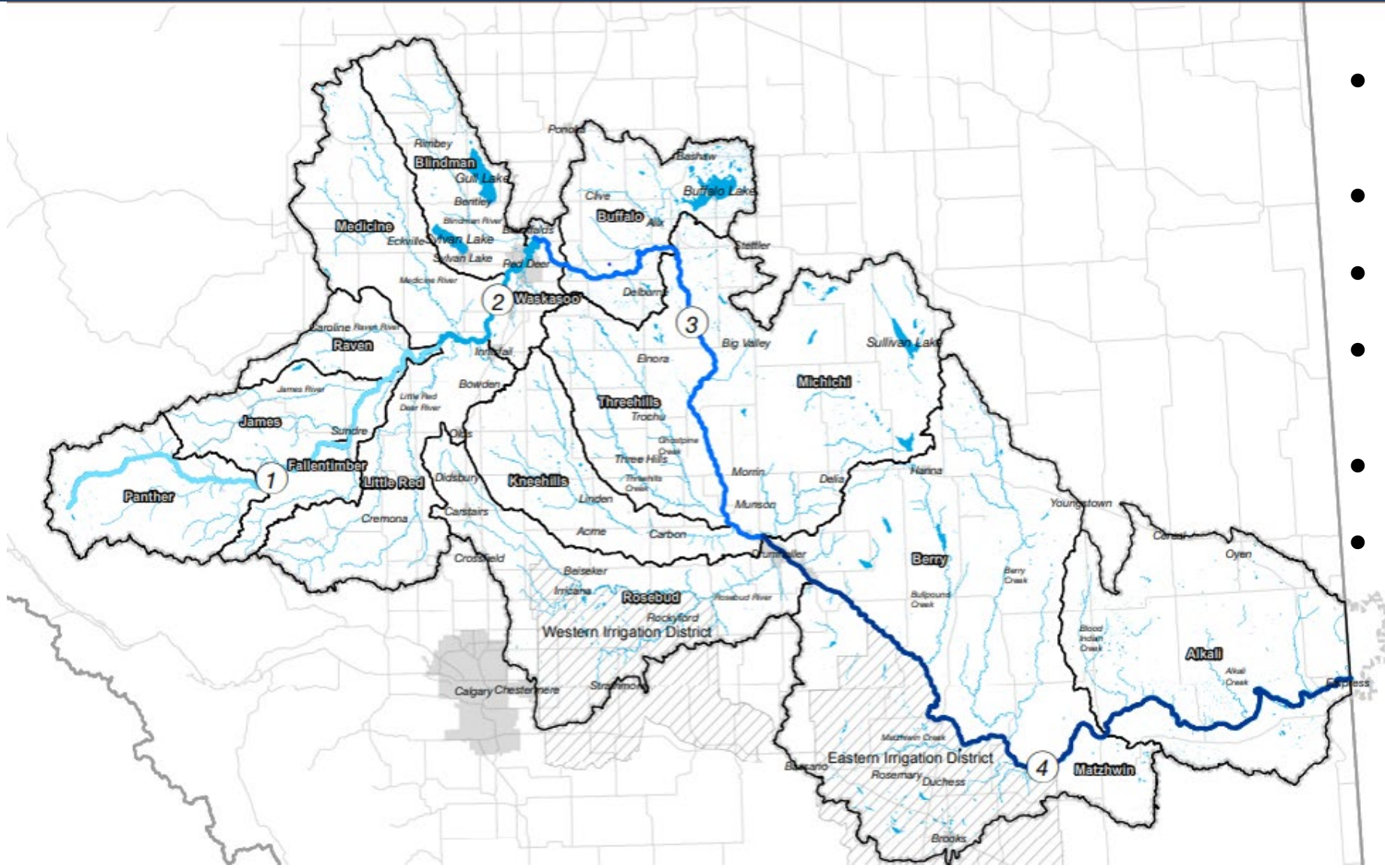
**Continue to Enhance  
Governance & Operational  
Effectiveness**

# *“Alberta’s water resources must be managed within the capacity of individual watersheds.” (WFL)*

- Watershed context:
  - Upstream – downstream
  - Highest to lowest
  - Surface water-groundwater interactions
- Includes tributaries, lakes, wetlands, aquifers, etc.
- Best geographic unit for understanding the cumulative impacts to Alberta’s water resources and changes over time



# The Red Deer River Watershed

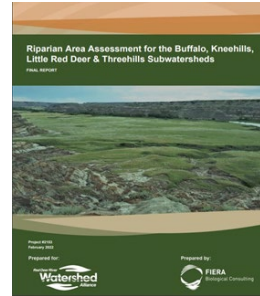


- Spans Treaty 6 & 7 and Metis homeland
- Population: 300,000 people
- 74 urban & rural municipalities
- Banff National Park → Special Areas
- Over 13,000 farms
- Over 130,000 oil and gas wells

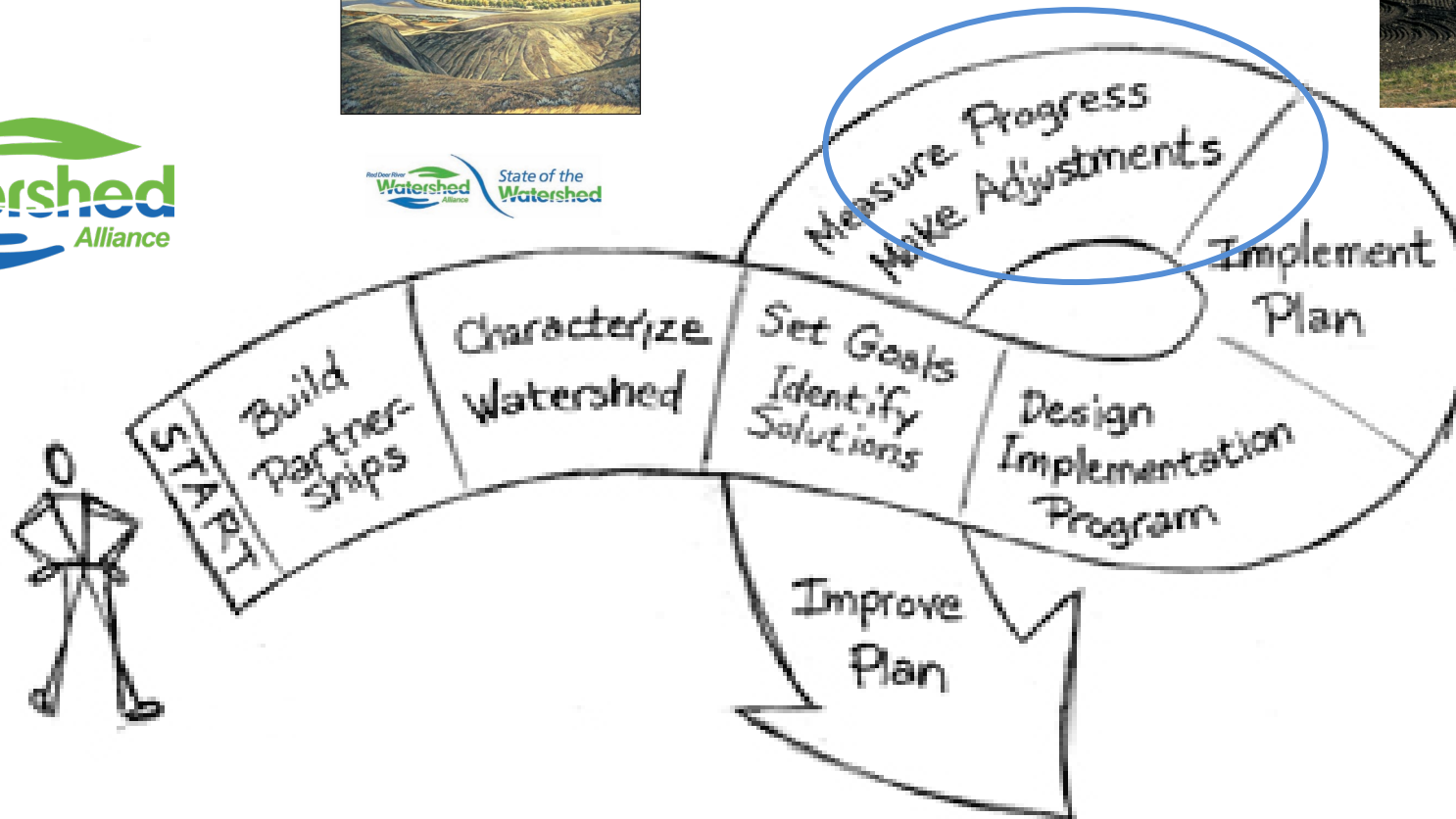
# Watershed Assessment and Planning

2009

Red Deer River State of the Watershed Report



2005



IWMP & Technical Reports (2011-2016)



# State of the Watershed Report

A science-based resource used to:

- Educate and inform the public and local decision makers about:
  - Watershed characteristics
  - Environmental conditions
  - Key pressures
- Support evidence-based planning and management
- Be regularly updated and help guide the Integrated Watershed Management Plan (IWMP)

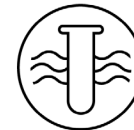
Red Deer River State of the Watershed Report



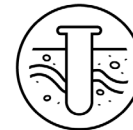
# State of the Watershed Report Update



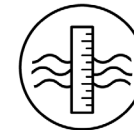
- Guided by: Watershed Health Issues & Projects Committee (WHIP) and Technical Advisory sub-Committees
- New Version
  - Science-based resource
  - Online & Interactive Resource
    - Engaging
    - Accurate yet accessible
    - Framework to update into the future – inhouse capacity
    - Primer- Link to other great resources
  - Temporal context- Recent update (2023 time stamp)
  - Spatial context – IWMP-WMZs and subwatersheds for key tributaries



Surface Water Quality



Groundwater Quality



Surface Water Quantity



Groundwater Quantity



Riparian and Wetland Intactness



Landcover

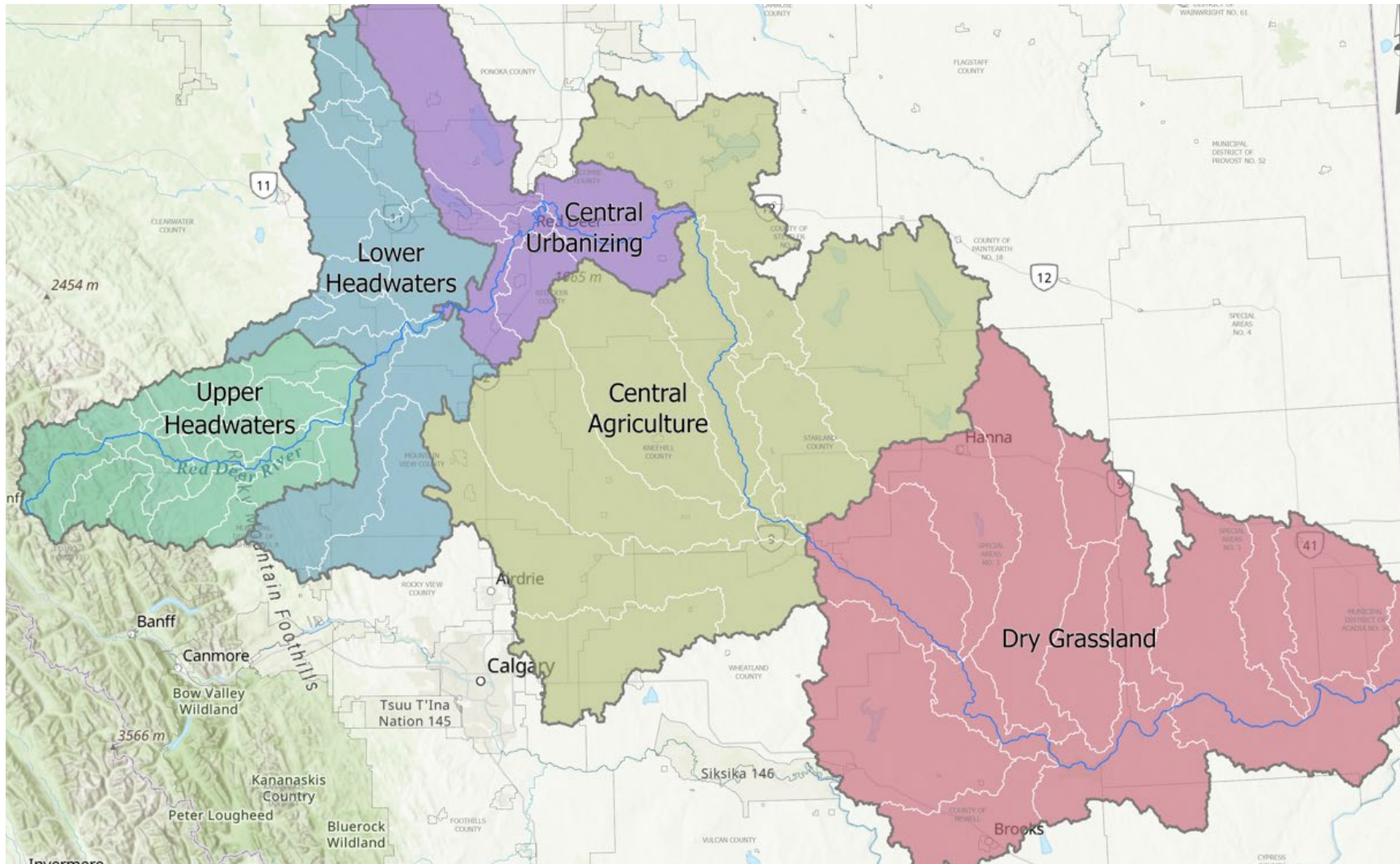


Aquatic Biodiversity



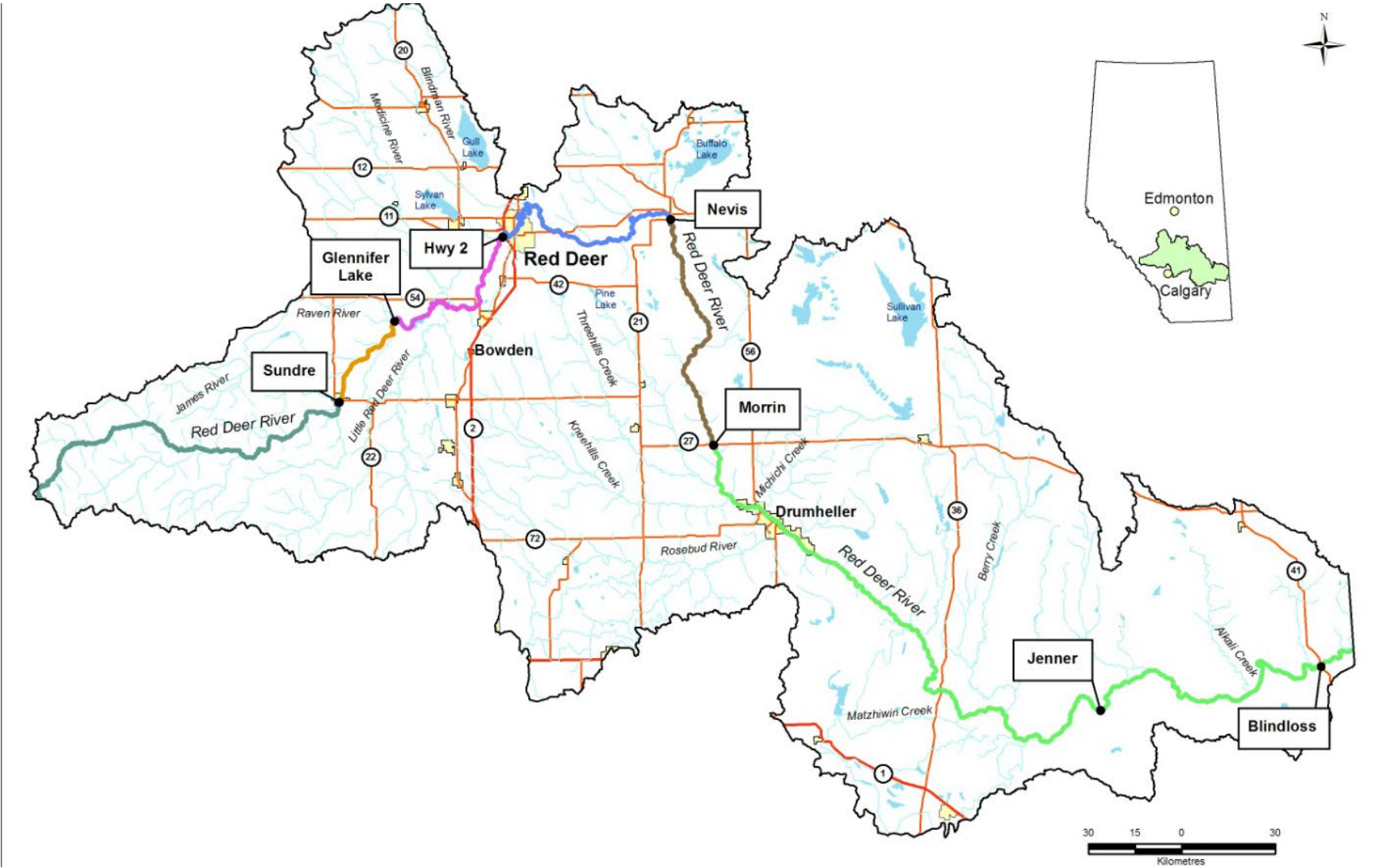
Terrestrial Biodiversity

# SoW Scope – Watershed Planning Zones


















Varying scales:  
Regional WMZs  
&  
Subwatersheds

# Reaches of the Watershed



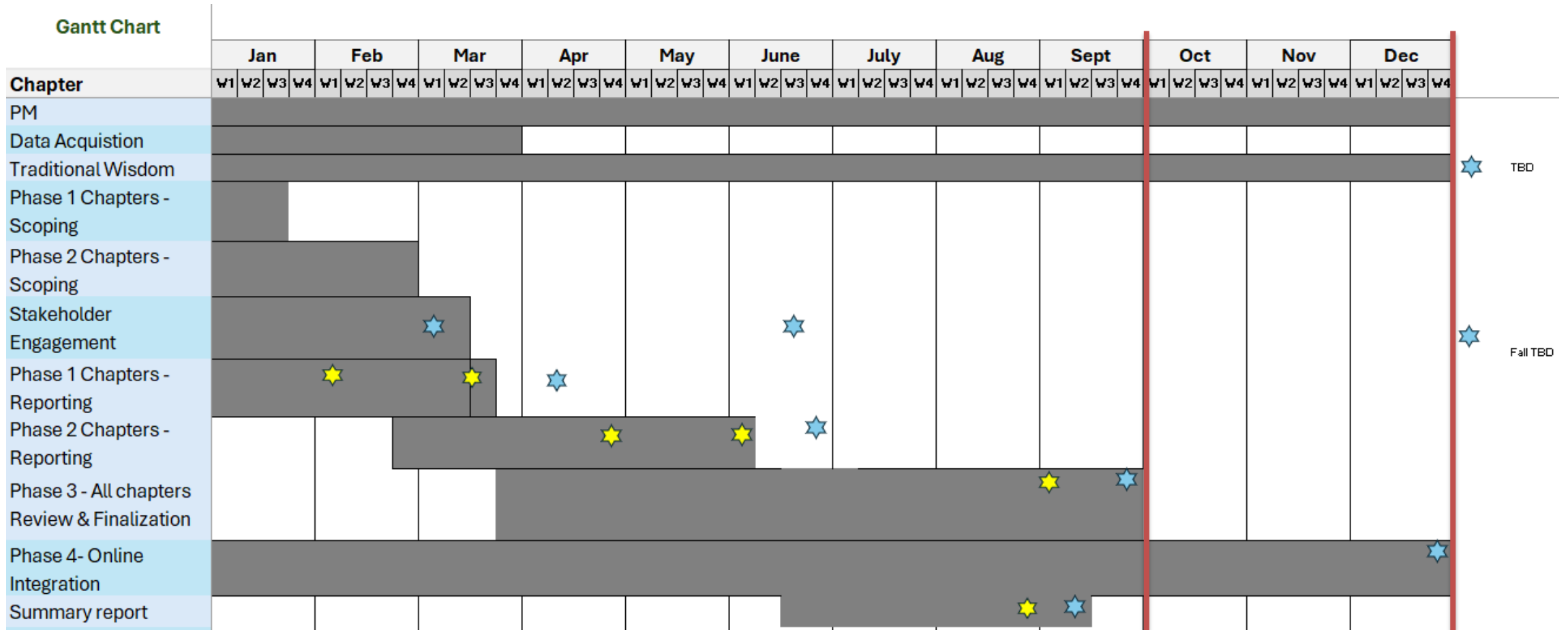
# SoW Scope and Progress

-  Complete
-  In progress
-  Into the work
-  Finishing up

Watershed Health		Chapters	2025-26	2026-27
Traditional Ecological Knowledge	Surface water	Quantity and Allocation	✓	
		Quality		
	Groundwater	Groundwater quantity, quality and use		
	Biodiversity & wildlife resources	Aquatic		
		Terrestrial		
	Basin Condition	Riparian Areas and Wetlands		
		Landuse Development		
		Climate Change		
	TEK	Traditional Ecological Knowledge		
	Governance & Stakeholders	Governance & Stakeholders		
	Ecosystem Services	Provisioning, Regulation & Support, Cultural		

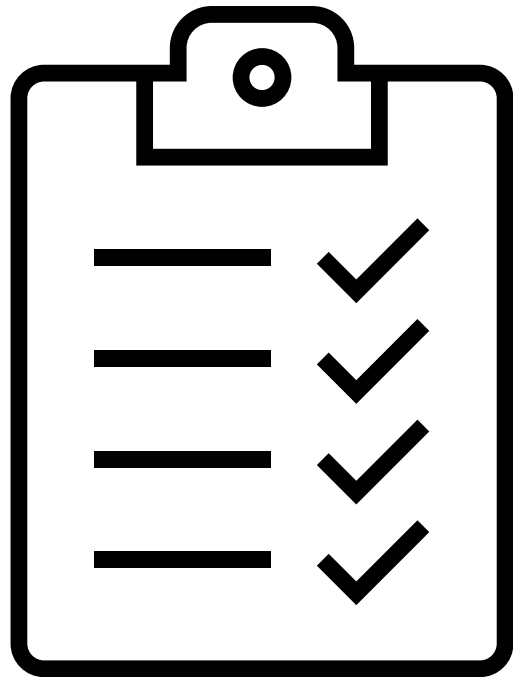
Hydrology and Allocation published Fall 2025

# State of the Watershed Project - Timeline

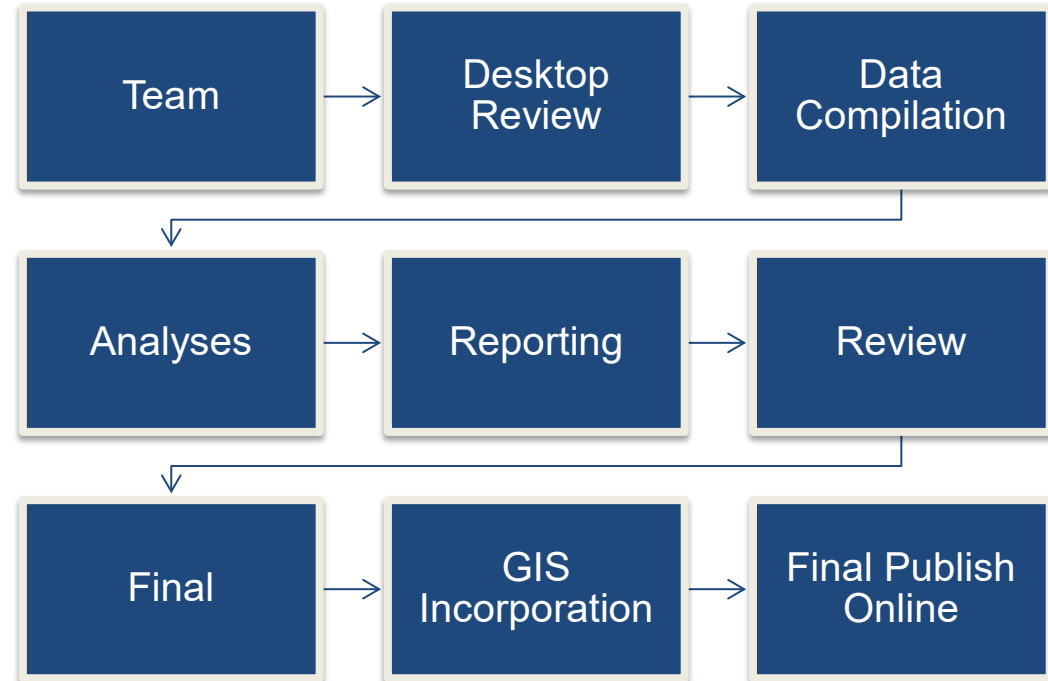


Content completion and integration

















Online Report

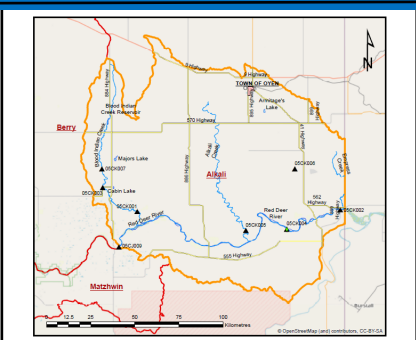
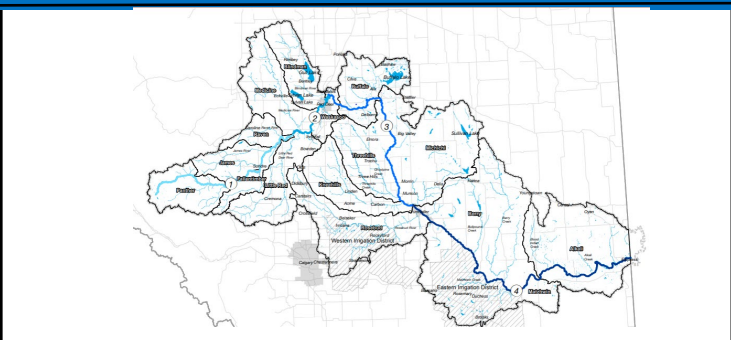
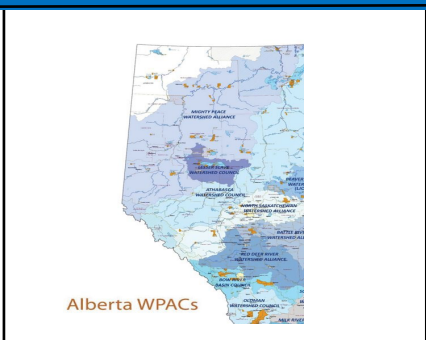


# Chapter Components



# Watershed Partners

FEDERAL	PROVINCIAL	REGIONAL	MUNICIPAL	LOCAL GROUPS, OTHER
<p>Indigenous Rights Holders</p> 	   	   	 <p>RDRMUG</p> <p>Municipal funders &amp; supporters</p>	     



# Thank you to our Funders



- Village of Beiseker
- Summer Village of Parkland Beach
- Lacombe County
- Wheatland County
- Starland County
- Special Areas
- Clearwater County
- Mountain View County
- Town of Blackfalds
- Town of Sundre
- Town of Bentley
- Summer Village of Burnstick Lake
- Town of Oyen
- Rocky View County
- Summer Village of Half Moon Bay
- Summer Village of Jarvis Bay
- Summer Village of Norglenwold
- Summer Village of Birchcliff
- Summer Village of Sunbreaker Cove
- County of Newell
- Town of Stettler
- Red Deer County
- Nova Chemicals
- Kim Sturgess

