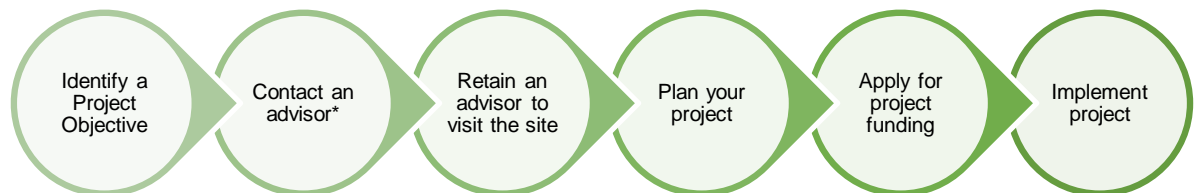


# Farmland Riparian Health: Resources for agricultural landowners in the Kootenay and Boundary Region of BC

There are many resources to help agricultural landowners and producers understand, plan, and implement riparian health projects on farmlands. The general approach to starting a riparian management project through to implementation follows these general steps:



\*Advisors include environmental farm planners, stream keeper associations, local government and environmental consultants.

The resources listed in this document focus on 1) project funding and project planning support, and 2) information about riparian management on farmlands.

## Funding and project planning resources

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### Financial and In-Person Planning Support:

- **Environmental Farm Plan (EFP)**  
*The EFP program links producers with an EFP advisor who will visit your property for a free, confidential consultation to help identify agricultural and environmental risks and opportunities. As part of the EFP, an advisor can conduct a Riparian Health Assessment (RHA). The RHA identifies areas that require attention and remediation. Producers may then be eligible for cost-shares for riparian project planning and execution through the EFP Best Management Practices program.*  
Learn more and connect with an advisor at <https://iafbc.ca/environmental-farm-plan/>.  
Best Management Practices, eligibility, funding maximums, and more can be found at [https://iafbc.ca/environmental-farm-plan/#aboutBMP<sup>1</sup>](https://iafbc.ca/environmental-farm-plan/#aboutBMP1).  
**See the attached flow chart for an overview of how the EFP process works.**

### In-Person Support:

- **Kootenay & Boundary Farm Advisors (KBFA)**  
*KBFA supports producers to improve agricultural production and efficiency by helping find solutions to farm-specific production issues, coordinating educational events and connecting producers to information. <https://kbfa.ca/>*
- **Farmland-Riparian Interface Stewardship Program (FRISP)**  
*The BC Cattlemen's Association delivers this program to assist agricultural producers in efforts to protect and enhance water quality, riparian vegetation, and fish habitat. FRISP can help you with any riparian issue on your farm or ranch requiring attention or upgrade including providing technical*

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<sup>1</sup> Funding eligibility/amounts are published annually and may vary.

information and expertise, developing project prescriptions and cost-estimates and providing project support.

<https://www.cattlemen.bc.ca/frisp.htm>

- **Streamkeeper/Stewardship Societies**

*There are many not-for-profit groups that focus on waterways and associated management and restoration. They can provide project planning and funding support services. There is likely a streamkeeper group local to your area. Here are some that are local to the Kootenays and Boundary:*

- *Slocan River Streamkeepers:* <https://slocanriverstreamkeepers.wordpress.com/>
- *Salmo Watershed Streamkeepers Society:* <https://www.streamkeepers.bc.ca/>
- *Cranbrook Stewardship Society:* <https://nowater-nolife.org/stewardship-in-bc/>
- *Elk Root Conservation Farm Society:* <https://elkrootconservation.org/>
- *Granby Wilderness Society:* <http://granbywilderness.ca/>
- *Kootenay Conservation Program:* <https://kootenayconservation.ca/>

There are additional funding streams that arise annually. They are best captured through partnering with a conservation society. Examples of funding organizations include **Columbia Basin Trust, Climate Change and Heath Adaptation Programs**, and **Indigenous Agriculture and Food Systems Initiative**. Conservation societies include the **BC Wildlife Foundation** and the **Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation**.

**Watch this space for funding options:**

- **Farmland Advantage**

*Modest financial compensation through a research and development program that works with farmers to protect and conserve critical, natural lands, streams and habitats in British Columbia.*

<https://farmlandadvantage.ca/>

## Riparian management educational resources

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- **Riparian Areas: Important Natural Assets**

*The importance of riparian areas as natural assets and how your efforts make a big difference in ensuring riparian areas remain healthy for future use.*

<https://open.alberta.ca/publications/9780778554141>

- **Land Near Water: Riparian Restoration and Enhancement**

*The guide focuses on riparian stewardship practices and is an excellent background on riparian health and riparian management. An extensive resource list is included in an appendix.*

[http://stewardshipcentrebc.ca/PDF\\_docs/sar/Agricultural%20Waterways%202018%20\(Web\).pdf](http://stewardshipcentrebc.ca/PDF_docs/sar/Agricultural%20Waterways%202018%20(Web).pdf)

- **Agricultural Waterways: Drainage Maintenance and Stewardship**

*Agriculture specific information on riparian habitat conservation and enhancement.*

[http://stewardshipcentrebc.ca/PDF\\_docs/sar/Agricultural%20Waterways%202018%20\(Web\).pdf](http://stewardshipcentrebc.ca/PDF_docs/sar/Agricultural%20Waterways%202018%20(Web).pdf)

- **Cows and Fish**

*How to and why improvements to riparian areas can enhance landscape health and productivity for the benefit of landowners, agricultural producers, communities and others who use and value riparian areas.*

*General information:* <https://cowsandfish.org/>

Cows and Fish assessment forms: <https://cowsandfish.org/health-assessment-and-inventory-forms/>

- **Riparian Management Field Workbook for Streams and Small Rivers**

How to assess the condition of riparian areas on streams less than 15 m in width, that are easily crossed, or where your farm management practices will have an impact. Familiarize yourself with the topics and get in touch with the EFP program to access additional support and training (free of charge). [https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/farming-natural-resources-and-industry/agriculture-and-seafood/agricultural-land-and-environment/environmental-farm-planning/riparian\\_management\\_field\\_workbook.pdf](https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/farming-natural-resources-and-industry/agriculture-and-seafood/agricultural-land-and-environment/environmental-farm-planning/riparian_management_field_workbook.pdf)

- **Livestock on waterways**

A literature review of the effects of livestock on waterways in relation to waterways interfacing with farmland. <https://open.alberta.ca/publications/9781460143582>

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# ENVIRONMENTAL FARM PLAN (EFP)

## PROCESS SUMMARY FOR RIPARIAN PROJECTS ON FARMLAND

### 1 Farm Classification

Your property must be classified as farm land by the BC Assessment Office in order to receive funding through the EFP Program

### 2 Contact a Planning Advisor

Contact a planning advisor and get an EFP completed (free & confidential, 1-on-1 consultation)

### 3 Complete a Riparian Health Assessment

An EFP advisor or other Qualified Professional will complete a Riparian Health Assessment to gauge the 'health' of the riparian area on your farmland. This is paid for directly by the EFP program.

### 4 Apply for Riparian Management Plan

Value of \$600 will be reimbursed by the EFP program. The plan includes mapping, photos, site assessment, planting plan and recommendations for engineering and permitting requirements.

### 5 Planning and Design

Work with your EFP and other required qualified professional (e.g. biologist, engineer) to create a project design that will suite your needs. A design is required for most permitting applications and funding applications.

### 6 Apply for Appropriate Permits

Required permits will be identified in the Riparian Management Plan. Permit approvals can take a while, so start as soon as possible once the Riparian Management Plan is completed.

### 7 Apply for Project Funding

Contact your EFP advisor early to assemble the required paperwork. Make sure to get quotes from contractors, suppliers (e.g. nursery stock, drip irrigation, mulches, fencing etc.) and cost estimates for your own labour and machinery.

### 8 Project Funding Approval

Projects are ranked based on a weighting process. If your project is approved, you will get a percentage of the project funded, with some of your in-kind labour and machinery counted towards the percentage that you will cover. *Do not spend any money on the project until the approval letter is received.*

### 9 Project Implementation

Upon project funding and permit approval, you may implement the project. All project expenses are to be paid by you, then reimbursed as applicable. Make sure to keep track of all expenses, including in-kind labour.

### 10 Reimbursement

Submit all proof of payment through your planning advisor. Make sure to keep track of your project expenses as well as the project successes, as some projects will be audited. Once proof of payment by you is received, you will receive reimbursement.