



The BC Beef Cattle Industry

BC Cattlemen's Association

December 1, 2015

To the Conservation Officer Service

BC Cattlemen's Association

- Official voice of BC cattle ranchers since 1929
- Organized to promote, encourage, protect and develop the cattle industry in an environmentally responsible manner
- Voluntary membership of almost 1,200 BC beef cattle producers



About The BC Beef Cattle Industry

- Primarily cow-calf operations
- 570,000 head of cattle (20% Dairy)
- 5 million acres private land
- 21.5 million acres Crown range tenure
- Almost 70% of the Agriculture Land Reserve (ALR) is owned by ranches
- Average size of cattle farms is 1,074 acres
- 98 % of ranches are family owned



Beef and the Environment

- Most land used in cattle production is unsuitable for crops
- Land management practices enrich soil, control erosion, protect water systems & nurture grasses
- These same lands are home to a variety of wildlife that depend on the cattle and ranchers to preserve their habitat



Environmental Stewardship

Several programs available to encourage & enhance the environment

- Environmental Farm Plans
- Annual Environmental Stewardship Award
- Farmland Riparian Interface Stewardship Program
- Species At Risk Partnership Program



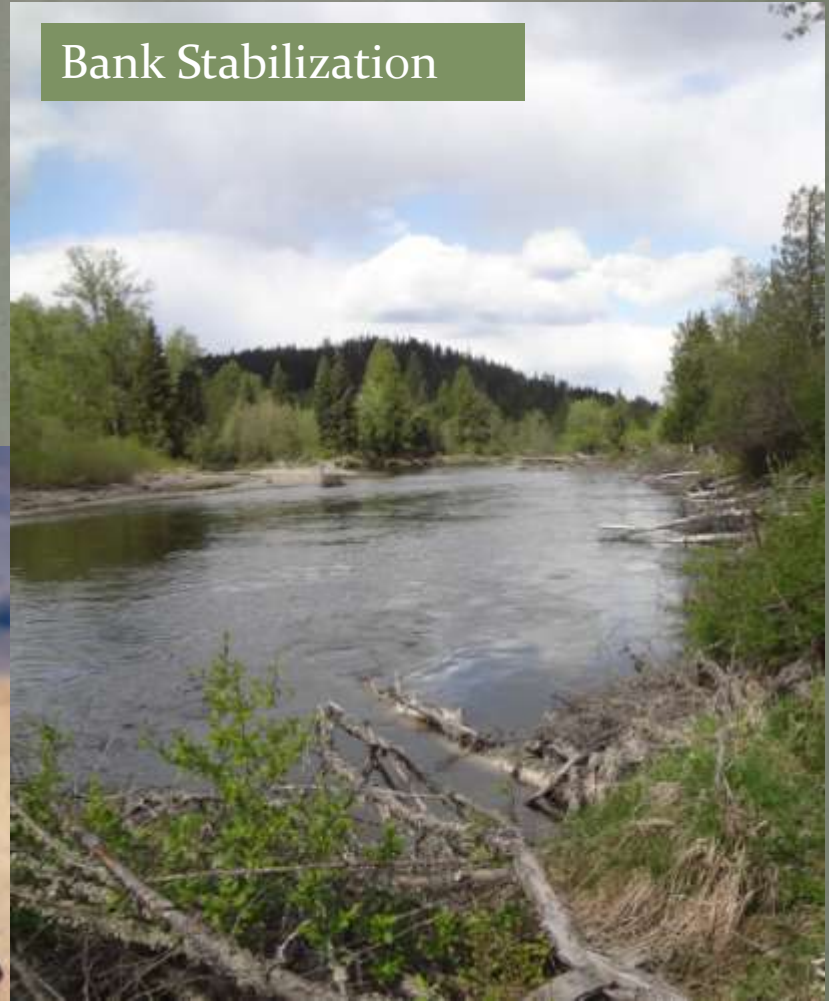
Stewards of the Land

- Ranchers collaborate with environmental and conservation groups to develop and protect areas on both private and Crown lands

Grazing practices compatible with wildlife habitat



Bank Stabilization



Ranchers & Predation

Costs of Predation are High

- Compensation only for carcasses that are assessed & verified by a trained specialist (75% of animal value)
- Actual losses are much higher
 - May lose several cattle before finding a fresh carcass that can be verified (Ratio: 1 in 10 losses are verified)
- Shortfalls of compensation:
 - does not reflect the future losses & lost potential (future calves)
 - does not address harassment & injury (vet bills, animal health)
- Other losses not covered by compensation
 - decreased weight gain,
 - declining reproductive rates,
 - lack of proper distribution and utilization of range/pastures.



History of Predator Control

- Industry Delivery 2003-2011
 - 2 successful pilot programs
 - 2003-2009: BCCA Delivered
 - reduce the impacts of wild predators on cattle operations through improved management, targeted problem animal control, and compensation for unavoidable losses.
 - 2009-2011: ARDCorp Delivered
 - concentrated on development of prevention measures; the investigation and verification of predator harassment, injuries, or killing of livestock; and the implementation of targeted predator control strategies
- Conservation Officer Service Delivery 2011– 2015
 - Verification & Mitigation

Livestock Protection Program

- LLP for beef, sheep & dairy
- Beginning January 2016
- Objectives:
 - Deliver services that mitigate problem predators
 - Reduce the economic impact of predation on livestock owners
 - Raise awareness of prevention tools (Best Management Practices)
 - Assist with the compensation of verified livestock losses caused by predators



Operation

- Funding to operate 2016-2019
- Province-wide
- Limited to wolves/coyotes
- New toll-free, 24 hour predator hotline
- Goal is to have traps/snares set within 24-36 hrs of report



Collaboration

- Designed to complement COS efforts, not replace
- Wildlife specialists will be approved by COS
 - must have trapper licence, completed verification course, and experience with removing/targeting canid species
- Collaborate with COS for training (verification),
- Liaise with regional predator committees



Oversight

- Advisory Committee of producers to help ensure program meets industry needs
- Oversight Committee to ensure program meets stated objectives, evaluate effectiveness & dispute settlement - MOE, FLNRO, COS, Agri

NEXT STEPS

- Waiting on approval of operating permit
- List of mitigators to work for program

