



# Cows and Fish

## ***Cows and Fish – Stewardship in Action***

As part of our communications, and program delivery, Cows and Fish has provided ***Awareness*** and ***Education*** through presentations, field days and other events. Between April and September we have delivered over 70 activities, and spoken to approximately 1,100 individuals.



In our presentations and written materials, showing the importance of plants at trapping sediment is one way of helping landowners and resource managers understand the link between management and ecological functions. Filtering runoff and floodwaters improves aquatic ecosystems and creates cleaner water.



Youth education is an important part of Cows and Fish education and awareness activities. We have spoken to a total audience of 750 children and adults as part of *Cows, Fish, Cattledogs and Kids!* and our other youth activities. Nearly 500 youth activity sheets were provided.

**Evaluation and Monitoring:** these areas not only help determine program effectiveness, design and delivery, but they also provide mechanisms to monitor social, knowledge and ecological changes.

**Social & Knowledge Monitoring:** Example 1: We are currently partnering with Trout Unlimited Canada on a survey of Albertans, to gather information on the knowledge and thoughts of Albertans with regard to fish and fish habitat. Information will be used in the design and delivery of extension messages and shared with other organisations and agencies that work on fish or fish habitat.

Example 2: Feedback comments indicate the value received by those attending some of the activities we are involved in delivering. When asked, after the Grazing School for Women, if the school would influence their management practices they responded:

*“yes – anytime we gain info are [our] decisions are better”;*

*“yes – think about principles and environmental effect”;*

*“yes – use ½ [of the grass] leave ½ [of the grass for] BIODIVERSITY!”*

Clearly, these attendees were sold on the utility of managing more thoughtfully, of

incorporating the environment and biodiversity into their management—these areas will now take on a greater priority than before attending the school.



**Ecological Monitoring:** In addition, we just completed our 2007 field season for riparian health assessment and inventory data collection. We are currently in the process of entering the data and will begin analysis later in the fall.

