

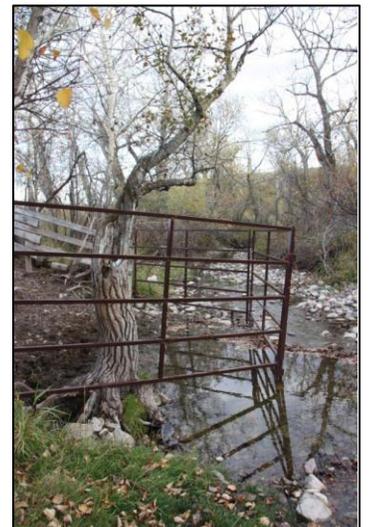
2010 – 2011 Watershed Legacy Program Projects

Off-Stream Watering System on Cottonwood Creek

Project Category: Riparian & Creek Restoration, Water Quality

Bob and Jen Jenkins of Jenkins Ranche near Twin Butte, Alberta, saw a need for change to their livestock operation. At the time of their application to the Watershed Legacy Program (WLP), up to 150 cow/calf pairs at different times were watering at a single access point on Cottonwood Creek, a tributary of the Waterton River. Recognizing that allowing cattle in the sensitive riparian zone can be detrimental to riparian health and water quality but not having all of the resources necessary to make the required change, the Jenkins, with the support of the Nature Conservancy of Canada, Cows and Fish and the Waterton Watershed Group, applied to the Watershed Legacy Program for funding to install:

- fencing,
- new water troughs,
- power and water lines to new water troughs
- and a pump house with pressure tank, pump and heater.



Above, shows single access point where up to 150 head of cattle watered on Cottonwood Creek

The project would ensure that cattle are kept off of the riparian zone of Cottonwood Creek and that livestock are alternatively provided with good quality water from an off-stream water source. The total cost of the project was \$16,000 with the OWC covering \$8,000 and the other \$8,000 being covered by other sources, including in-kind. Part of the Watershed Legacy Program is monitoring the change in the affected area. As baseline data, photographs were taken and a riparian health assessment was done before the project was undertaken so that future photos and assessments can be compared and improvement monitored.

Besides immediately improving water quality and watershed health for the good of Oldman watershed residents and downstream users, the project serves as a great example of what landowners and the Oldman Watershed Council can accomplish in partnership to better manage the land and improve water resources. Another great benefit of the Watershed Legacy Program, besides enabling landowners to take positive, on-the-ground action in our watershed, is the sharing of knowledge and promotion of best management practices to other landowners through tours, forums and promotional materials that the program provides.



Now fenced off riparian area



New trough installed



Trough in foreground, pumphouse/well in background at left and new section of fence