



PROJECT UPDATES

- Overview Fish Habitat Assessment including an initial field reconnaissance aerial survey was completed on May 26, 2015.
- Preliminary Assessment and aerial videography of the watershed was completed on July 16 and 21, 2015.
- Detailed Field Surveys were completed between September 16 and 22, 2015.
- Contract was awarded to Stantec Consulting Ltd.
- Project is currently at the final design phase.

NEXT STEPS

- Project construction is planned for 2018.

ALLISON CREEK PROJECT

Allison Creek, a tributary to the Crownsnest River, is located west of Coleman, in the Municipal District of Ranchland No. 66 and the Municipality of the Crownsnest Pass. The entire Allison Creek sub-basin was identified as a potential candidate for the Fisheries Habitat Enhancement and Sustainability (FISHES) Program by Regional Fisheries Management staff. Widespread habitat degradation and increased sediment inputs, exacerbated by the 2014 flood, are significant issues for fish in this creek.

A portion of Allison Creek is designated as critical habitat and supports an isolated population of Westslope Cutthroat Trout. Westslope Cutthroat Trout are listed as threatened under Alberta's *Wildlife Act* and the federal *Species at Risk Act*, due to their small distribution, fragmented population and the continuing decline of habitat quality within their limited range. For more information about threats to this species please see the *Alberta Westslope Cutthroat Trout Recovery Plan*.

The FISHES program aims to mitigate the effects on fish and fish habitat as a result of the flood and re-establish a healthy aquatic environment.

Click for video (<https://youtu.be/gDFVv5EuwNQ>)



Helicopter Flight Path



PROJECT RATIONALE

The Allison Creek Project was ranked as the number two priority project for the FISHES Program by a technical working group of fisheries habitat experts. This ranking is based on a number of biological, social, economic and project specific criteria. Currently only a small portion of the Allison Creek sub-basin is designated under the Allison/Chinook Public Land Use Zone (PLUZ), but is proposed for establishment under the Recreation Management Planning process as part of the Livingstone PLUZ. Multiple land use activities occur within the sub-basin including recreational off-highway vehicle use, forestry, agriculture, and oil and gas activities.

Initial FISHES investigations identified a significant number of sediment sources and widespread habitat degradation resulting from the network of roads, trails, cutlines and pipelines connected to the drainage. The effects of these activities on the landscape have been further compounded by the flooding that occurred in 2014. Additionally, stream instability as result of natural alluvial processes has contributed to habitat degradation within the watershed. Detailed field surveys and sophisticated computer modeling were used to confirm key threats which are limiting the productivity of the Allison Creek fishery. Habitat restoration projects are being developed and will be constructed to mitigate these threats.

PROJECTS GOALS AND BENEFITS

Project goals for Allison Creek include the following:

- reduction or elimination of sources contributing sediment to the waterbody;
- restoration/creation of spawning habitat for Westslope Cutthroat Trout and other sportfish species;
- restoration/creation of overwintering habitat for Westslope Cutthroat Trout and other sportfish species;
- support successional advancement through the use of soil bioengineering techniques to improve stream stability;
- rehabilitation of flood-eroded stream banks and re-establishment of healthy riparian zones; and
- creation of cover for various fish life stages including the introduction of large woody debris.

In the long term, it is hoped that these habitat improvements will help conserve and protect Westslope Cutthroat Trout and other populations of sportfish species in Allison Creek.

WEBSITE INFORMATION

Further information on the FISHES Program can be found by visiting our website at: www.fishes.alberta.ca

For a more detailed assessment of the Allison Creek Project please see the FISHES Project Selection and Priority Ranking Tool on the FISHES website.

This website is updated regularly to reflect current activities.

For further inquiries regarding the FISHES program please email: aep.fishes@gov.ab.ca

Project Status

