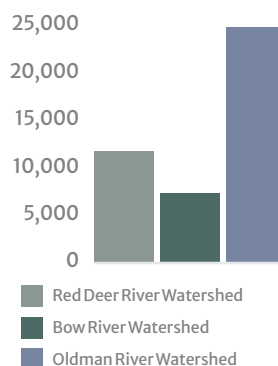
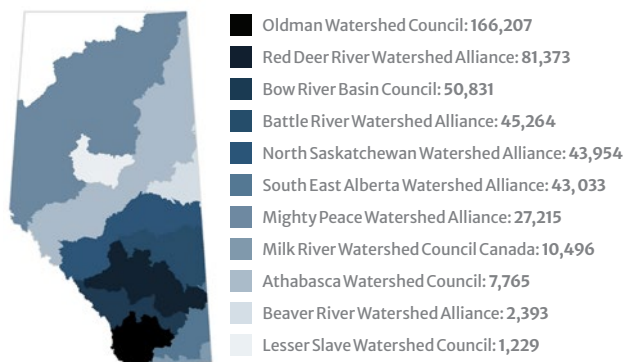


Watershed Resiliency

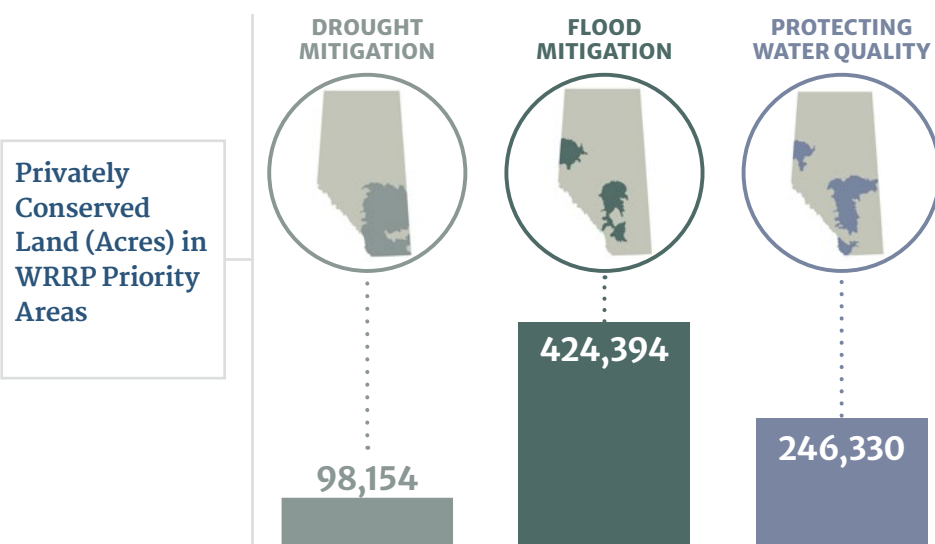
Private land conservation benefits watershed resiliency by protecting land that mitigates flood and drought risks, improves water quality, or supports groundwater aquifers. It also protects riparian habitats and areas of hydrological significance that are important to watershed health.



Watershed Planning and Advisory Councils (WPACs) are independent, non-profit organizations that are designated by the Alberta Government to act as stewards of Alberta's major watershed. This map shows the number of acres protected by private land conservation in each of the WPAC regions.

This figure shows the **number of acres** protected by private land conservation in riparian zones in three of Alberta's watersheds.

Government of Alberta's Watershed Resiliency and Restoration Program identified high priority watersheds for maintaining water quality, and mitigating risks of floods and drought. Private land makes up over 70% in these areas but only about 1% is currently protected.



Private land conservation can also protect riparian habitat with benefits to watersheds resiliency by providing bank stability and shading in water systems.



PHOTO: FOOTHILLS LAND TRUST

- Approximately 60-70% of pre-settlement wetlands in Alberta have already been lost in settled areas.
- Private land conservation provides a tool to protect these valuable natural infrastructure resources that help dampen flood impacts, and store water on the landscape.
- Over 26,000 acres of privately conserved land are located within wetlands throughout Alberta, and approximately 16,000 acres are within the Prairie Habitat Joint Venture area.

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