

Management Plan Summary

March 8, 2018

Spitzee Riparian Stewardship Society

The PURPOSE of the Management Plan is to help guide the Foothills Land Trust with stewardship, restoration and monitoring of the Conservation Easement parcels in collaboration with the MD of Foothills and the Spitzee Riparian Stewardship Society.

The primary Management Plan OBJECTIVE is to protect and restore native riparian habitat and its associated ecological, fish and wildlife habitat and watershed functions of the Spitzee Riparian Area.

Management Zones

Land was classified into one of the five following categories, based on previous land use and the current ecological state.

Conservation Zone

These areas are characterized by previously minimal or no human-caused disturbances. Protection is the first priority for this zone.

Built Footprint Reclamation Zone

These areas previously contained a structure or road/driveway. Priorities for this zone include the removal of invasive weeds, actively plant native trees and shrubs, and monitor the area. Activity in these areas is prohibited to promote the natural recovery of native vegetation.

Active Restoration Zone

These areas are characterized by other human-caused disturbances, such as lawns and gardens, heavily utilized pasture, hayfields and physically altered streambanks.

Each disturbance will require its own site-specific restoration plan, focused on the removal of invasive plants, planting native vegetation, and monitoring restoration success.

Natural Recovery Zone

These areas are characterized by minimally human-caused disturbances, such as small clearings, narrow trails, and historic livestock grazing. These areas are located adjacent to intact native plant communities so that natural recovery is possible if left undisturbed. Management for this zone includes removing the disturbance pressure and monitoring natural succession.

Public Recreation Access Zone

This area is to provide opportunities for passive wildlife viewing, outdoor education and appreciation. It will utilize existing disturbance corridors for foot traffic in approved locations; these locations will be carefully chosen to best protect intact native ecosystems and current restoration.

Find the full Management Plan on our website, www.spitzee.org.

The Management Plan was written by Cows and Fish, and made possible in partnership with the Government of Alberta.



Spitzee Riparian Area

**DRP Buyouts
shaded green**

