



## Clearwater County

### CLEAR WATER LANDCARE “CARING FOR MY LAND” PROGRAM

**EFFECTIVE: AUGUST 1, 2017**

**SECTION: AGRICULTURAL SERVICES AND LANDCARE**

#### **POLICY STATEMENT:**

Recognizing the cost associated with on-the-ground practice change the *Caring for My Land* (C4mL) program is intended to reduce the financial burden that comes with implementing beneficial practice change.

Funding is provided by the Watershed Restoration and Resiliencing Program (WRRP). The goal of the WRRP is to improve upland and lowland areas making watersheds more resilient to seasonal runoff and high water events and periods of drought or water deficiency.

Some of these practices include but are not limited to:

- Winter grazing and feeding management including wintering sites to distribute nutrients more evenly and away from runoff areas,
- Establishing soil binding, deep rooted perennial forage, trees and shrubs to slow, filter and retain water,
- Using cross fencing to manage grazing to encourage deeper rooted grasses, reduce weed pressure, manage soil erosion and more evenly distributed manure.
- Using riparian fencing to create buffers for riparian protection or other sensitive areas including erosion prone areas.
- Developing livestock watering sites – preferably with either mobile troughs or pasture pipelines – to move cattle through pasture and avoid nutrient build up, erosion and source contamination,
- Revitalizing wetland areas to maximize water retention, filtering and aquifer recharge using buffers and added vegetation – planting or seeding – to achieve diversity.
- Developing berms and/or catchments along with filtering buffers to capture runoff and release water slowly back into the environment.
- Managing runoff on non-farm or hobby farm lands to slow and filter runoff water, recharge aquifers and provide habitat.
- Encouraging diversity of beneficial species – such as raptors for rodent control – to protect beneficial vegetation.

#### **Who can apply?**

Rural farm or non-farm landowners in Clearwater County – especially those with land vulnerable to water and/or wind erosion – are eligible to apply.

#### **What can be applied for?**

1. Equipment such as a tractor, back/ track hoe, seeder, post pounder, tree planter or mulch applicator.

2. Labor costs for surveyors, consultants or contractors. Landowner labor is considered an in-kind contribution.
3. Materials such as seed, tree/ shrub seedlings, fence posts and wire including e-fence equipment, livestock bridge or platform materials such as rig mats, livestock watering systems, portable windbreaks/ shelters (not confined), pasture pipeline material, beaver habitat management structures, raptor nesting platforms, plastic mulch, filter cloth, wet well culverts, erosion cloth or wood chips.
4. Ineligible are costs not associated with the approved project, without receipts or fully funded by another program.
5. Expenses incurred before a project is considered through C4mL are at the landowner's own risk.

### **How much is available?**

1. The maximum amount that a landowner can apply for is 50% up to \$5,000.
2. The landowner will be responsible for a portion of the project costs.
3. Funding through other partners is strongly encouraged. Any amount must not exceed the total project cost.
4. In-kind contributions of materials, labor or equipment are strongly encouraged and may be considered part of the applicants portion. Value of these sources will not exceed the total project cost.
5. If approved, copies of all receipts **must** accompany request for reimbursement.

### **Who approves applications?**

1. Applications for funding are reviewed by Clearwater County's Landcare Supervisor and approval is through the Director of Agricultural Services or designate.

### **Responsibilities.**

1. All required municipal, provincial or federal government permits and approvals are the responsibility of the landowner.
2. Rented or leased land requires a letter from the owner agreeing to the project and committing to maintain the project for a period not less than five years.
3. The landowner will construct and maintain the project as approved and provide reasonable access to verify.
4. The project will be completed within the calendar year with receipts for reimbursement submitted by December 1<sup>st</sup>.
5. Clearwater County or its representatives will not be held liable for the project in any way.

For more information, to discuss a project or obtain an application form please contact:

Gary Lewis  
Landcare Supervisor  
403-845-4444 ext. 4029  
[glewis@clearwatercounty.ca](mailto:glewis@clearwatercounty.ca)

Danielle Simmonds  
Landcare Coordinator  
403-845-4444 ext. 4068  
[dsimmonds@clearwatercounty.ca](mailto:dsimmonds@clearwatercounty.ca)

Funding is made possible through the Watershed Resiliency and Restoration Program (WRRP)



