

The Riffle

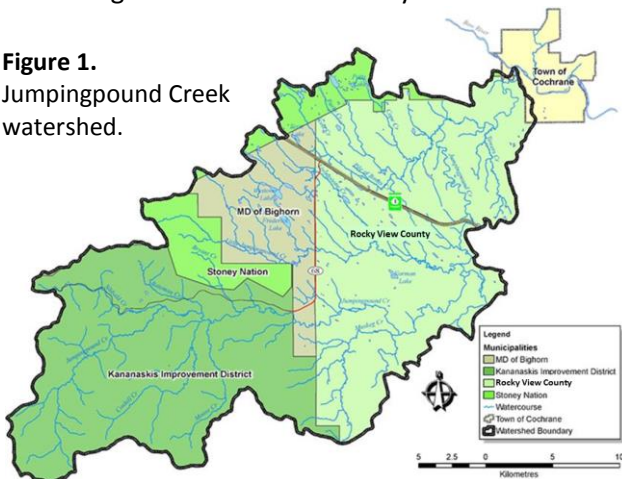
Jumpingpound Creek Watershed Partnership's Newsletter

July 2015

Jumpingpound Creek Watershed Partnership

The Jumpingpound Creek Watershed Partnership (JCWP) formed in 2007-08, and is a multi-stakeholder, non-profit group concerned about the future of the Jumpingpound Creek watershed (Figure 1). Members of the Partnership include local farmers, ranchers, landowners, residents, all levels of government and industry.

Figure 1.
Jumpingpound Creek watershed.



The JCWP's Mission was to develop the *Jumpingpound Creek Integrated Watershed Management Plan (IWMP)*:

- Using the best available science,
- Consulting multi-stakeholders to ensure inclusiveness and fair representation, and
- Encouraging land and water stewardship that will maintain and enhance environmental function.

The JCWP now works under a new Terms of Reference that supports the implementation of the IWMP.

Since the JCWP formed, the group has:

- Obtained endorsements for the Terms of Reference that guided the development of the Jumpingpound Creek Integrated Watershed Management Plan (2008),

- Completed the Jumpingpound Creek Water Balance Study (AMEC 2009),
- Completed the Jumpingpound Creek - Water Supply and Demand Assessment (AMEC 2011)
- Completed the 2009 Jumpingpound Creek State of the Watershed Report,
- Hosted Public Open Houses and presented progress at local stewardship events,
- Cultivated partnerships,
- Established a website to disseminate reports to the public,
- Finalized the Jumpingpound Creek Integrated Watershed Management Plan (2014)
- Secured funding to implement aspects of the IWMP (2015).

Jumpingpound Creek Integrated Watershed Management Plan

The *Jumpingpound Creek Integrated Watershed Management Plan (IWMP)*, initiated in 2008, has received provincial support and is available to the public. The *Jumpingpound Creek IWMP* was endorsed by Rocky View County (2011), MD of Bighorn (2012), supported by the Town of Cochrane's Environmental Committee (2012) and supported by Alberta Environment and Parks in 2014.

The *Jumpingpound Creek IWMP* will guide decisions made by individuals, groups, resource managers and governments living and operating within the watershed to maintain and improve environmental function and ensure an ample supply of high quality water for future generations.



Within the Plan, ecologically-based targets and thresholds were established for:

- Water quantity (streamflow),
- Groundwater,
- Water quality,
- Riparian health,
- Rangeland health, and
- Land cover (to promote biodiversity).

Recommendations were also made to help land managers achieve the targets and thresholds and to guide decisions regarding land and water management in the watershed.

To download a digital copy of the *Jumpingpound Creek Integrated Watershed Management Plan*, please visit <http://www.rockyview.ca/Agriculture/Watersheds.aspx>.

JCWP Receives Watershed Resiliency and Restoration Program Funds

In spring 2015, JCWP received funding from the Provincial Watershed Resiliency and Restoration Program (WRRP) that will help to implement recommendations within the Jumpingpound Creek Integrated Watershed Management Plan. The WRRP goals are well-aligned with the Plan recommendations, including:

- wetland/riparian restoration and conservation,
- advancing flood and drought resiliency,
- restoring and enhancing ecological connectivity and function in critical areas,
- increasing knowledge and participation in activities that restore and sustain watershed functions and,
- enhancing community capacity to restore and maintain critical watershed features.

The main Jumpingpound Creek projects that were funded through the WRRP are 1) riparian fencing to promote regrowth of willows and cottonwoods and improve livestock distribution on rangeland, 2) work with local landowners to identify future restoration/resiliency project sites and, 3) the preparation and implementation of a restoration resiliency plan for the lower Jumpingpound Creek within the Town of Cochrane.



This restoration plan objectives for lower Jumpingpound Creek include:

- Restore streambank vegetation to moderate water temperatures in Jumpingpound Creek (maintain 20°C).
- Enhance instream fish habitat structure.
- Manage invasive plants to reduce occurrence and improve riparian health scores (>68%).
- Educate residents about Jumpingpound Creek to encourage stewardship.
- Highlight the importance of the creek in terms of a) headwater tributary and water supply, b) importance of riparian areas, c) local biodiversity.

JCWP Needs Your Help!

JCWP is currently looking for more resiliency and restoration projects to implement in the Jumpingpound Creek watershed!

If you are a landowner within the watershed and have a project idea for your property that would restore or preserve the Creek, a tributary, or wetland and riparian environments please contact Sandi Riemersma to discuss your ideas (sandi@palliserenvironmental.com or phone 403-921-5667). JCWP will be compiling projects and hope to submit a future funding application.

Contact Us

The JCWP meets at least twice per year to discuss the state of the Jumpingpound Creek watershed and to plan for its future. Please visit our website at <http://www.rockyview.ca/Agriculture/Watersheds.aspx>. If you have any questions or would like to get involved, please contact Lori-Anne Eklund, Co-Chair at lori-anne.e@hotmail.com.