

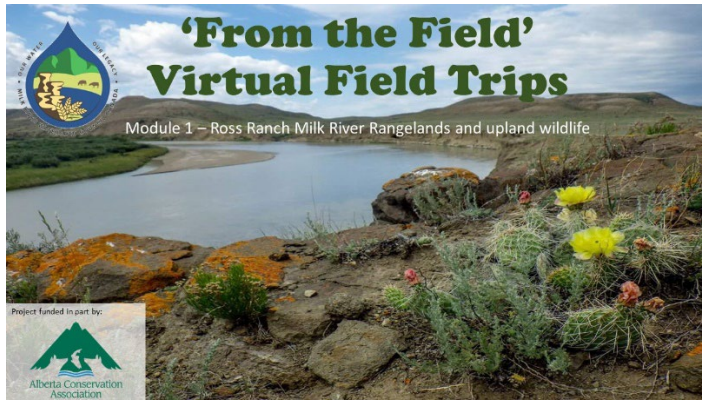
'From the Field' – Virtual Watershed Fieldtrips NOW AVAILABLE FOR EDUCATORS!!

The From the Field - virtual field trip educational series project allows for the development of curriculum linked grade 8-12 in classroom virtual fieldtrips with wildlife researchers, habitat managers, and cow-calf farmers/ranchers that are responsible for sustainable management of land, water, and biodiversity in southern Alberta.

Alberta Conservation Association funded modules feature stewardship of Species at Risk on native grasslands, as well as management along water courses of the Milk River and the unique challenges such as management of invasive species and water shortages.

Teachers can book a virtual fieldtrip with the Milk River Watershed Council Outreach staff by emailing allison@mrwcc.ca Come along on the journey!

Module 1 – Ross Ranch rangelands and upland wildlife



10 min Introductory Video

Key messages include the value of working landscapes and in particular native grasslands to providing grazing opportunities for farm and ranch families as well as valuable habitat for a large range of species of wildlife, often unique to the grasslands of Southern Alberta.

Classroom tool kit

- ACA At home on the Range book
- SAR information guides
- Ranch Management Plan activity guide
- Ranch Management planning map sheets
- Markers and pencil crayons
- Lost and found items (ie) antler sheds, feathers, rocks, artifacts, litter calculation, winter shrub browse utilization examples

Classroom Activity

- Provide a templated Ranch Management Plan Map to small groups of students
 - o Students first watch introductory video that describes the range and activities that the manager tries to incorporate that supports healthy grasslands, and the diverse habits for various wildlife species, can also talk about some of the challenges such as managing invasive species, drought, etc.

- Students use the classroom toolkit to develop a ranch management plan that incorporates the activities outlined in the video and best practices for the species of concern or interest from the introduction.
- Students are dealt Wild Cards that have to be incorporated into their ranch plans
 - Plans are presented to the group for discussion and feedback.

Optional follow up activity

- Teacher contact MRWCC to coordinate a follow up virtual presentation in classroom where either a 'researcher' or the producer has the students present their plans back to us and we provide feedback as a positive evaluation.

Module 2 – Benchmark Farms and the Milk River Ridge - water, trees, and aquatic species!

10 min Introductory Video

Key messages include managing on the milk river ridge for livestock and a healthy environment. Water is critically important to the Benchmark Ranch, up to 300 days a year are spent managing grass, access to the river, and important wetlands and springs across the ranch. Join our manager Dale on a tour of the range and learn about how ranch planning impacts all aspects of sustainable management. See how researchers keep track of rare fish species on the river and the importance of riparian areas.



- Interview with Dale Fehr
- Collection of Images from the ranch operators incorporated
- Drone Video footage collection

Classroom tool kit

- ACA At home on the Range book
- SAR information guides
- Riparian Health assessment guidelines and mock data on site map
- Cows and fish info sheets
- Browse utilization guide – winter browse samples of shrubs/willow (pokiness test for kids)
- Ranch Management Plan Maps
- Teachers Guide
- Advanced ranch plan materials: health assessments Animal Unit Month and stocking rate calculations

Classroom Activity

- Provide a templated Ranch Management Plan Map to small groups of students
 - o Students first watch introductory video that describes the range and activities that the manager tries to incorporate that supports healthy grasslands, and the diverse habits for various wildlife species, can also talk about some of the challenges such as managing invasive species, drought, etc.
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