

Rivers and Runoff

During **spring runoff**, it can be difficult to identify exactly how much water is *too much*.

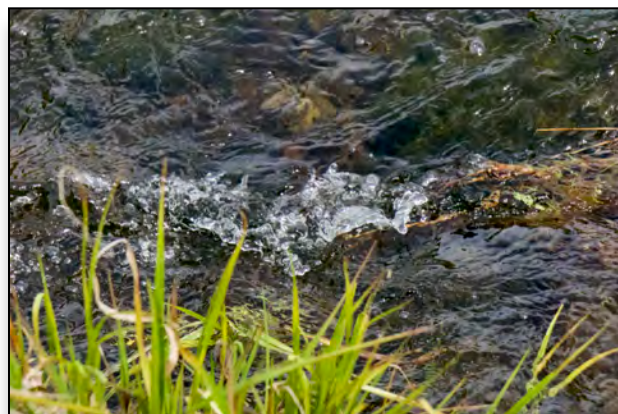
Mountain View County has experienced a significant amount of moisture so far this spring.

In April, **ice jams** created floods across Alberta, including on the **Little Red Deer River**. Ice jams are more common on rivers which flow from south to north, when ice which has begun melting in the warmer areas runs into solid ice further downstream. Perhaps you noticed this happen near Red Lodge Park this year.



Since the ice has cleared, **heavy precipitation** in late May resulted in a **flood watch** for the Little Red, including for some of Legacy's Conservation Properties along the river.

Spring runoff **disperses nutrient-rich sediment and creates wetland areas** for migratory bird species and other wildlife—but it also poses risks.



Significant **erosion** can occur naturally every season, and it's important that we maintain the strength of river banks and the riparian zone wherever possible.

The easiest way to **avoid permanent damage** to the soil is by limiting our impacts when the land is saturated with water and at its most vulnerable.

- Stay off trails until they dry up.
- Fence sensitive riparian areas to keep livestock away.
- Keep vehicles, chemicals and pollutants away from low-lying areas of your property to avoid transmission of hazardous materials to the environment.
- Remove debris from culverts and storm drains where possible and safe to do so.

Jordan Collin
Legacy Volunteer

Learn more about [Alberta's River Basins](#).

This site provides simple, geography-based access to river, lake, precipitation, and snow pillow stations and their data in Alberta.

