

Beneficial Management Practices Program 2026/27

Appendix: Riparian & Grazing

Applicants are responsible for reviewing and understanding the Beneficial Management Practices Program (BMP) criteria before submitting their application. For complete program details, visit www.iafbc.ca/bmp/.

This appendix to the BMP 2026/27 program guide outlines the activities for the Riparian & Grazing category of the program.

Activity Type	Cost-Share Ratio	Maximum Funding	Project Length
Riparian and Grazing Activities	60%	Up to \$70,000	140 days from Project Approval or by January 31, 2027, whichever is first.

A portion of BMP Program funding is provided by CleanBC and is reserved for Riparian & Grazing activities that demonstrate a significant and measurable reduction in greenhouse gas emissions or an increase in carbon sequestration. These eligible activities (or practice codes) are marked with a  symbol. If funding is limited, projects eligible for CleanBC funding may be prioritized over projects that are not.



Funding for these programs have been provided by the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership, a \$3.5 billion, 5-year agreement between the federal, provincial and territorial governments. Additional funding has been provided by CleanBC. The program is delivered by the Investment Agriculture Foundation of BC (IAF).

Riparian & Grazing Activities: Practice Code Details

For some activities, a plan, technical assessment or engineered design is required. You can independently attain the required plan/assessment/design or check for funding opportunities via BMP: Planning, Technical Assessments and Engineered Designs (P&D) category. The prerequisite must be completed prior to applying for the activity below. To learn more about the requirements for professionals to complete a plan/assessment/design and/or to find a qualified professional, visit www.iafbc.ca/bmp/qualified-professionals/.

Practice Code	Name	Description and details
1001	Alternate watering systems to manage livestock	<p>Establishment of off-site watering systems for livestock to minimize negative impacts on habitat for wildlife and species at risk.</p> <p>Eligible costs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Solar, gravity-fed, wind, grid or alternative power:<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ Pumps◦ Storage◦ Power setup from existing power line◦ Waterlines◦ Protective fencing or portable panels◦ Monitoring equipment◦ Construction: meaning the installation of permanent offsite watering infrastructure requiring modification of the streambank/riparian area (e.g., pumps, piping, electricity source, footings, earthworks, etc.). Refer to the B.C. Livestock Watering Handbook for more information <p>Required documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Engineering or Technical Design or Assessment – Water/Riparian (BMP: P&D activity code: 1102)<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ If watering system construction occurs within a riparian area (e.g., pumps, piping, electricity source, footings and (or) access points to the offsite watering system for livestock) <p>Ineligible costs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Repair and maintenance of existing riparian pasture management systems and equipment• On-going maintenance costs of existing equipment• Opportunity costs associated with payments for land taken out of production• Installation costs of main electrical service

		<p>Note:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All projects must be designed by an accredited engineering consultant or qualified professional and comply with all federal, provincial, and local regulations • Projects may require a Section 11 Change Approval under the Water Sustainability Act. For guidance, contact FrontCounter BC (1-877-855-3222 or FrontCounterBC@gov.bc.ca)
1002 	Riparian habitat establishment or restoration	<p>Establishment/planting of adaptable, hardy, permanent native (preferred) and/or non-invasive introduced species of grasses, forbs, shrubs and trees.</p> <p>Eligible costs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultative services for the creation of a riparian management plan (RMP) (including a riparian health assessment) or a riparian planting plan/site design • Pre-planting site preparation and plant purchase costs prior to the year of planting if needed • Establishment year site preparation including, including invasive species control or removal, irrigation (trickle or drip), or temporary fencing • Purchase/planting/establishment costs for grasses from certified seed, forbs, trees and shrubs for the year of planting • Maintenance one year after the planting year can be included as part of the project proposal but is subject to the availability of funding in following program year <p>Required documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completed Riparian Health Assessment (RHA) indicating a site designated as "unhealthy" or "healthy with problems." • Riparian planting plan/design including: site map, suitable species, composition, density and maintenance plan OR a letter of commitment from a Qualified Professional indicating that the plan will be completed prior to starting project activities. <p>Recommended documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Riparian Management Plan (BMP: P&D activity code 3001) <p>Ineligible costs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On-going maintenance • Costs associated with acquiring / planting invasive plant species • Opportunity costs associated with payments for land taken out of production • Landscape quality or landscaping type plantings • Commercial fruit trees, Christmas trees, ornamentals, afforestation, woodlot establishment and reforestation. • Purchase and relocation of established trees <p>Note:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All projects must be designed by an accredited engineering consultant or qualified professional and comply with all federal, provincial, and local regulations

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Projects may require a Section 11 Change Approval under the Water Sustainability Act. For guidance, contact FrontCounter BC (1-877-855-3222 or FrontCounterBC@gov.bc.ca)
1003	Fencing to manage and improve riparian condition and function	<p>Eligible costs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consultative services for the creation of a riparian management plan (RMP) or a plan/site design for temporary or permanent fencing (e.g. materials, length, siting/location, maps) Fencing parallel to water's edge to exclude livestock in order to maintain or improve riparian conditions and function. Permanent fencing inclusive of all costs including in-kind labour Protection of newly established or enhanced riparian buffers <p>Required documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed Riparian Health Assessment (RHA) indicating a site designated as "unhealthy" or "healthy with problems" Plan/site design including (but not limited to): siting/location of proposed fencing with maps, recommended fencing type, materials and design OR a letter of commitment from a qualified professional (QP) indicating that the plan will be completed prior to starting project activities <p>Recommended documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Riparian Management Plan (BMP P&D activity code 3001) <p>Ineligible costs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Repair and maintenance of existing riparian pasture management systems and equipment (e.g. can't be used to repair existing fence) On-going maintenance costs Opportunity costs associated with payments for land taken out of production <p>Note: Projects may require a change approval authorization under section 11 of the Water Sustainability Act. For more information, please contact FrontCounterBC (phone:1-877-855-3222 or email: FrontCounterBC@gov.bc.ca)</p>
1004	Rejuvenation and enhancement of sensitive areas through revegetation and restoration of disturbed areas	<p>Eligible costs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seeding and planting of native plant material (grasses, legumes, forbs, shrubs, and trees) and on-going maintenance of an established or restored site Seeding and planting of native plants to establish native perennial forage cover to provide wildlife habitat <p>Required documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grazing Management Plan (BMP: P&D activity code 2601), if grazing management is applicable <p>Ineligible costs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tame or agronomic pasture seeding and establishment or renovation costs Pasture renovation Altering native species plant balance

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Routine forage management practices • Costs associated with acquiring / planting invasive plant species • Opportunity costs associated with payments for land taken out of production • Establishing forages as part of the operation's normal crop rotation <p>Notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Native vegetation refers to plant species indigenous to the area • Restoration refers to improving the ecological integrity of disturbed or degraded sites • Establishment refers to an area under different land use and the native species must be planted
1005.1 	Improved grazing management of tame pasture	<p>Eligible costs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cross fencing to implement rotational, seasonal, rest, swath, and extended grazing systems • Permanent fencing inclusive of all costs including in-kind labour • Portable electric fencing, set-ups, including solar battery chargers, battery and initial line and post purchases • Cross fencing • Virtual collars are eligible as an alternative to structural fencing where physical fencing is impractical, as a replacement for fencing supporting under code 2601 (referenced below) • Monitoring and management equipment <p>Required documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grazing Management Plan (BMP: P&D activity code 2601) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ If doing cross-fencing – this plan must identify importance and value of cross fencing in dealing with identified environmental risks and achieving environmental benefits <p>Ineligible costs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perimeter fencing • Pasture seeding and establishment costs • Pasture renovation • Repair and maintenance of existing riparian erosion control or riparian pasture management systems and equipment (e.g. can't be used to repair existing fence) • On-going maintenance costs • Opportunity costs associated with payments for land taken out of production <p>Note: Approval of projects will be contingent upon adherence to all federal, provincial, and municipal guidelines and regulations for project design and implementation</p>
1005.2	Improved grazing	<p>Emphasis on the four rotational grazing principles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Balance forage supply and livestock demand

	<p>management of native pasture</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distribute grazing pressure across the pasture • Provide rest for pasture plants during the growing season to help plants recover • Avoid grazing during sensitive times <p>Eligible costs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cross fencing to implement rotational, seasonal, rest, swath, and extended grazing systems • Eligible permanent fencing inclusive of all costs including in-kind labour • Portable electric fencing, set-ups, including solar battery chargers, battery and initial line and post purchases • Cross fencing • Virtual collars are eligible as an alternative to structural fencing where physical fencing is impractical, as a replacement for fencing supporting under code 2601 (referenced below) • Monitoring and management equipment <p>Required documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grazing Management Plan (BMP: P&D Activity code 2601) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ If doing cross-fencing—this plan must identify importance and value of cross fencing in dealing with identified environmental risks and achieving environmental benefits <p>Ineligible costs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perimeter fencing • Pasture seeding and establishment costs • Pasture renovation • Repair and maintenance of existing riparian erosion control or riparian pasture management systems and equipment (e.g. can't be used to repair existing fence) • On-going maintenance costs • Opportunity costs associated with payments for land taken out of production <p>Note: Approval of projects will be contingent upon adherence to all federal, provincial, and municipal guidelines and regulations for project design and implementation</p>
1006	<p>Improved stream crossings</p> <p>For structures that demonstrate improved riparian conditions</p> <p>Eligible costs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New structures • Improvements and/or repairs to existing structures • Removal or re-location of existing structures - may include bridges or culverts • Materials, labour, and equipment rental associated with earthwork, installation of structures, and re-vegetation work in addition to the constructed works

		<p>Required documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engineering or Technical Design or Assessment – Water/Riparian (BMP P&D activity code 1102) <p>Ineligible costs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On-going maintenance costs • Stream crossing projects that are associated with a new or expanded agricultural activity- where no crossing has existed previously • Projects that include culverts must meet same requirements as bridges in terms of design and regulations <p>Note:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All projects must be properly designed by an accredited engineering consultant or a qualified professional in accordance with federal, provincial and local government regulations and specifications • Projects may require a change approval authorization under section 11 of the Water Sustainability Act. For more information, please contact FrontCounterBC (phone:1-877-855-3222 or email: FrontCounterBC@gov.bc.ca)
1101	Riparian erosion control or channel restoration utilizing bioengineered solutions	<p>For site assessments, materials, labour, and associated equipment rental required for bioengineering activities or constructed works.</p> <p>Eligible costs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contour Terraces (e.g., earthwork, seedbed preparation, seed) • Gully Stabilization/Grassed Waterways (e.g., earthwork, erosion control matting, silt fencing, seedbed preparation, seed, outlet structure) • Bank Stabilization (e.g., bank shaping, revetment, gabions, riprap, crib walls, re-vegetation, blanketing and combinations) • Drop Inlet Structures and In Channel Control (e.g., drop structures) • Improved Infiltration of Concentrated Water Flow (e.g., filter trenches, filter wells, diffusing wells, etc.) • Retention Ponds and Erosion Control Dams (in riparian areas) • Establishment of Beaver Dam Analogues • Wetland Restoration – earthworks, ditch plugs, equipment rentals. The wetland must be restored to as close as the original size, depth and ecological function as possible. In addition, A one-time payment for the restoration of wetlands will be issued to individuals • Surface water diversion on slopes <p>Required documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engineering or Technical Design or Assessment – Water/Riparian (BMP P&D activity code 1102) <p>Ineligible costs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Systematic tile and other subsurface drainage systems that are not an integral part of erosion control structure

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Activities related to constructing or repairing drainage systems, where the purpose is to remove ponded water or draining saturated soils Converting open channels to closed drainage systems Construction of new drainage channels or repair of existing drainage systems (e.g. drainage ditch clean-outs) Costs of tile and installation that exceeds 30 meters for riparian drop inlet structure projects Installation of drop inlets for drainage of ponded surface water (e.g. not associated with an erosion control structure) Header tile systems Tile outlet structures associated with new tile drainage installations Wetland restoration principally intended to be used for water sources (i.e., dams and dugouts) Retrieving topsoil from areas of deposition and transporting it upslope to eroded hillsides Construction and land improvement activities not associated with soil erosion control Ongoing payments for maintenance of wetlands and/or other infrastructure associated with wetlands Pothole/wetland consolidation or deepening existing functioning wetlands <p>Note:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All projects must be properly designed by an accredited engineering consultant or a qualified professional in accordance with federal, provincial and local government regulations and specifications Projects may require a change approval authorization under section 11 of the Water Sustainability Act. For more information, please contact FrontCounterBC (phone: 1-877-855-3222 or email: FrontCounterBC@gov.bc.ca)
0501	Storm water/runoff management around confined livestock facilities	<p>Upstream diversion around outdoor confined livestock areas or downstream protection of stewardship areas, may include catch basins, retention ponds, in field diversion works, or constructed wetlands.</p> <p>Ineligible costs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gutters and downspouts for farm buildings <p>Required documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Farmyard runoff/storm water management plan/design (BMP P&D activity code: 0503)
0601	Relocation of livestock facilities	<p>For moving operations away from sensitive surface water, riparian areas, critical wildlife habitat and areas of severe erosion potential. Existing site must be decommissioned.</p> <p>Eligible costs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Relocation of corrals, paddocks and wintering sites away from riparian areas Relocation of fences, powerlines, trails or other infrastructure having negative impacts on species at risk. Groundwater protection <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Application must provide rationale other than of proximity to sensitive groundwater

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construction of impermeable surfaces or roofs if they existed at the decommissioned site New water supply infrastructure if it was part of the decommissioned site <p>Ineligible costs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construction of impermeable surfaces or roofs that didn't exist at the decommissioned site New water supply infrastructure that didn't exist as part of the decommissioned site
0704	Field access improvements for livestock winter feeding areas	For alleyway/access lane upgrades to improve distribution of feed and manure away from riparian areas or high-risk ground water areas.
3501.4	Creative environmental solutions	<p>This category is open to applications that address projects or situations identified in an Environmental Farm Plan but not represented by any other Riparian and Grazing projects.</p> <p>Applications will be accepted on a proposal driven basis and will be reviewed by a technical expert and/or staff at the Ministry of Agriculture and Food.</p> <p>Required documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Applicable planning, engineering or technical design must accompany application