

OH Ranch Heritage Rangeland Management Plan

Engagement information

Heritage rangelands

Heritage rangelands conserve native prairie and foothills grasslands while using grazing and traditional ranching practices to maintain the native grassland ecology. The key objective of a heritage rangeland is to preserve biological diversity and maintain the ecological health of native grasslands through stewardship and appropriate land use.

Key facts

- Heritage rangelands are managed to conserve native grasslands through grazing and stewardship.
- The heritage rangeland is managed under the *Wilderness Areas, Ecological Reserves, Natural Areas and Heritage Rangelands Act* (WAERNAHR) and the *Public Lands Act*.
- All users requesting to access these lands are encouraged to share stewardship responsibility by helping maintain ecological integrity and respecting the presence of grazing activities and the adjacent private land within and around the designated area.

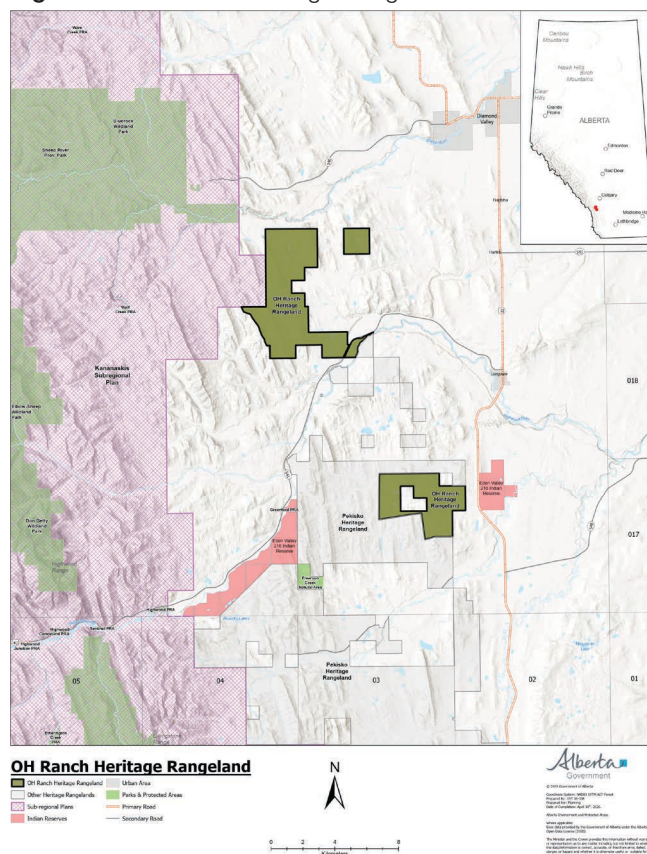
OH Ranch Heritage Rangeland

The [OH Ranch Heritage Rangeland](#) is protected Crown land northwest of Longview, Alberta, in the Municipal District of Foothills No. 31. Encompassing 4,277 hectares (10,569 acres), it consists of two separate land parcels. The Tongue Creek parcels are situated between the Wolf Creek Provincial Recreation Area to the west and private conservation areas to the east. The Pekisko Creek parcel lie further south, west of Highway 22 (the Cowboy Trail). This southern parcel is surrounded on three sides by the proposed Pekisko Heritage Rangeland.

The surrounding area includes private lands protected by conservation easements and the OH Ranch owners. Any private lands in the area are excluded from the OH Ranch Heritage Rangeland.

OH Ranch Heritage Rangeland is the second heritage rangeland (2008) established in Alberta. Together with the proposed Pekisko Heritage Rangeland and the Black Creek Heritage Rangeland, it forms part of the largest contiguous blocks of native Foothills fescue grassland and Foothills parkland in Alberta.

Figure 1: OH Ranch Heritage Rangeland



Management plan

The OH Ranch Heritage Rangeland Management Plan is being updated to reflect current management practices, policies and legislation. The existing plan, approved in 2010, has been reviewed and requires updates to confirm the area continues to meet the management intent for the heritage rangeland designation.

The updated plan will set clear expectations for grazing, natural resource management, wildlife and species at risk, recreational and commercial access, educational awareness, and monitoring and reporting in the OH Ranch Heritage Rangeland. It is intended to support long-term conservation of native rough fescue grassland while recognizing existing land uses, local relationships and Indigenous traditional uses.

Management intent

The Ministries of Forestry and Parks and Environment and Protected Areas oversee management of the heritage rangeland and work with disposition holders to support stewardship and responsible land use. Management decisions recognize the importance of conservation, local relationships and respect for adjacent private lands.

The OH Ranch Heritage Rangeland will be managed to preserve its natural heritage, including soil, plants, wildlife, landscape features and ecological processes for future generations. The management approach is intended to maintain a balance between conservation and human activity, including grazing and other compatible uses.

Existing use and access

Existing grazing dispositions will continue to be managed under the *Public Lands Act*. For eligible leaseholders in good rangeland management standing, grazing lease terms may extend from 20 to 30 years. Existing petroleum and natural gas tenure (pre-designation) would also be honoured in keeping with current government policy.

To help protect native fescue grasslands, low-impact activities such as hiking, cycling and backcountry camping are permitted in heritage rangelands, while public motorized access, including for recreational and hunting use, is not. Motorized access is permitted for disposition holders working within the terms of their disposition and for access to private land within the boundary. Recreational access remains subject to applicable access rules, including prior contact with the grazing lessee, and access to adjacent conservation easement lands requires the consent of the responsible agency or individual.

South Saskatchewan Regional Plan amendment

A focused amendment to the [South Saskatchewan Regional Plan](#) is proposed to Note A on page 209. The amendment will enable forest harvesting that manages forest encroachment for range health.

Engagement

Statutory consent holders, including grazing lease holders will be invited to in-person sessions to learn more. Conservation easement agreement holders, other disposition holders and Foothills County are invited to provide feedback via email on the draft management plan.

Stakeholder feedback can be shared through an online survey from August 19 until November 17, 2026.

Indigenous communities and organizations will be notified of the updated plan and may request one-on-one meetings or provide written submissions.

Stay informed

Learn more about the plan at alberta.ca/OHRanchEngagement, or contact the study team at epa.ohranch@gov.ab.ca.