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## Milk River - A Hotspot of Biodiversity

By Cheryl Bradley

The Milk River Basin has a high number of species at risk - 46 in total - in a relatively small area. Because of this concentration it has been chosen as the first provincial project for planning multi-species conservation at the landscape level (MULTISAR). This is a joint project of Alberta Fish and Wildlife and the Alberta Conservation Association. Studies are underway to identify key habitats for species at risk, evaluate land use and recommend beneficial management practices. Landowners are invited to participate in establishing stewardship goals and activities. For more info call 382-4364.

Alberta Species at Risk Report No. 72: A Mult-Species Conservation Strategy for Species at Risk in the Milk River Basin: Year 1 – Progress Report can be seen in pdf format at [www3.gov.ab.ca/srd/fw/riskspecies](http://www3.gov.ab.ca/srd/fw/riskspecies).

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The final report for the Milk River dam and diversions was completed at the end of December 2003. The Environment Minister, Lorne Taylor, is away until about mid-February and has not had the opportunity to see the report. At this point it is not known when he will be releasing the report to the public.

