



Bed & Shore

- ER is not the same as **'bed and shore'**
- The *Alberta Public Lands Act* states that the Province owns the **beds and shores** of all permanent and naturally occurring bodies of water including wetlands, as well as what activities are permitted in bed and shore areas.

You don't own the water on your land!

- The *Alberta Water Act* prohibits anyone from draining, altering or infilling wetlands on **private or public land** unless authorized to do so by the Province through an approval under the provisions of the *Act*.

You don't own the land under the water!

ATVs and Shorelines

- Alberta Public Lands Administration Regulations Section 43 outlines that no wheeled or tracked conveyance shall enter the bed or shore of a waterbody.

Solutions

County Council is considering:

- Public education;
- Installing new signage;
- Adopting a new bylaw which would regulate the activities of residents and visitors on ER;
 - Enforcement action

Environmental Reserves (ER)

The *Alberta Municipal Government Act* (MGA) states:

- a municipality has the direction, control and management of the rivers, streams, watercourses, lakes and other natural bodies of water within it;
- at the time of subdivision, a municipal government can take Environmental Reserve (ER) as a buffer around any body of water;
- This may both allow public use/access, and help to prevent pollution;
- ER must be used as a public park or remain in its natural condition;

Problems

- Individuals sometimes assume that ER is part of their land, and may:
 - Clear vegetation,
 - Operate various motorized vehicles
 - Build fences, stairs, or illegally develop/encroach onto ER
- Abuse of these lands may require updating bylaws for use and management of ER

