



Ducks Unlimited Canada
PO Box 1160,
Stonewall, Manitoba
ducks.ca



Alberta Biodiversity Monitoring Institute
CW 405 Biological Sciences Building,
University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta
abmi.ca

May 22, 2020

Dear Recipient:

Accurate and comprehensive wetland maps are critical to all parties — be they government, Indigenous communities, or industry — involved in land-use planning, water quality management, flood and drought control strategies, biodiversity management and policy implementation, and monitoring. Currently in Alberta, however, there are multiple wetland mapping systems & concerns around how these maps work to support wetland stewardship.

This is why we, Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC) and the Alberta Biodiversity Monitoring Institute (ABMI), have recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding to collaborate on the next generation of wetland maps in Alberta. DUC and the ABMI are bringing our combined knowledge and expertise to the table to take on this important work together.

Both DUC and the ABMI have significant capacity in the area of wetland inventory and monitoring that includes both “boots-on-the-ground” field work, as well as the necessary data science. By combining forces, the intent is to produce a science-based, publicly available, seamless wetland map for the province of Alberta over the next three years. This product will establish the baseline information to more effectively track changes in wetlands in response to land use change, including reclamation, and understand the ongoing impacts of climate change.

Developing an integrated wetland mapping system in Alberta that meets multiple management requirements has the potential to drive efficiency in planning, application and approval processes. With the recent availability of earth observation data (e.g., data from the European Space Agency’s Sentinel missions), and new analytical tools such as machine and deep learning, this is a good time to create a new generation of wetland products that enhance our understanding of wetland distribution, type, and variability.

Both organizations agree that maintaining healthy wetland ecosystems, including riparian areas, require the active participation of many stakeholders. As a result, we welcome additional opportunities to collaborate; this may involve outreach, training, and technical collaboration on wetland mapping work. We encourage you to reach out and get involved in this exciting new opportunity to help advance wetland stewardship in Alberta.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kevin B. Smith".

Kevin Smith
National Manager Boreal Program
DUC

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jim Herbers".

Jim Herbers
Executive Director
ABMI