

Mike Alexander, PAg – Professional Recognition Award

Mike Alexander PAg lives in Lethbridge with his wife Shelly and five children. Born and raised in British Columbia, Mike received his BSc (Agriculture) from the University of British Columbia in 1991 and his Msc (Range Science) from the University of Alberta 1995. He has worked in the field of Rangeland Management his entire career. Mike began his Career in 1994 working for the Alberta Forest Service as a Range Management Forester, first in the Edson Whitecourt area and then moving in 1995 to the Crowsnest region to be the rangeland specialist for the eastern slopes of Southwest Alberta. Mike worked for almost 20 years as the Provincial Rangeland Specialist for the Montane and Foothills Ecosystem. As the provincial specialist Mike was responsible for delivering the range resource management program on the complex eastern slopes landscape. He developed a program that involves working with range resource clients and stakeholders to ensure the maintenance and sustainability of healthy rangeland resources and systems.

At the end of 2014 Mike became the Director of the Provincial Rangeland Resource Stewardship Program with Alberta Environment and Parks. This is a provincial program composed of the rangeland business information and analysis unit, and provincially deployed specialists organized within three rangeland ecosystems: boreal, grasslands, and montane foothills. The Rangeland Resource Stewardship program is responsible for the deployment of a science-based framework of provincial policies, standards, guidelines, strategies, tools, and extension services that ensure the sustainability of the provinces rangeland resources. This is achieved by developing rangeland ecological knowledge including rangeland classification and assessment tools, applied research and extension. Collaboration and partnerships are critical to the success of the program, particularly with respect to the provision of rangeland research knowledge and the implementation of best practices

The highlight of Mike's career has been the opportunity to work with a vast array of incredibly dedicated and passionate rangeland practitioners young and old who have served as mentors. This includes, ranchers, professional agrologists, academics and students.