



The GVI represents the Government of Alberta's comprehensive biophysical, anthropogenic, and land-use inventory of the province's grassland natural region. Information for the GVI project will be collected for the entire area regardless of jurisdiction including the foothills grasslands (water bodies, native or natural areas, and agricultural, urban and other anthropogenic areas). This existing quarter section Native Prairie Vegetation Inventory (NPVI) did not adequately address current business needs, and it was difficult to implement policies, guidelines and practices to mitigate development in the current state. The Grassland Vegetation Inventory provides the underlying fabric necessary for provincial & federal governments, industry and NGOs to manage environmental resources. The GVI is a more comprehensive and detailed geospatial product when compared to the original NPVI, completed circa 1993.

**Grassland Vegetation Inventory Progress**  
March 2011

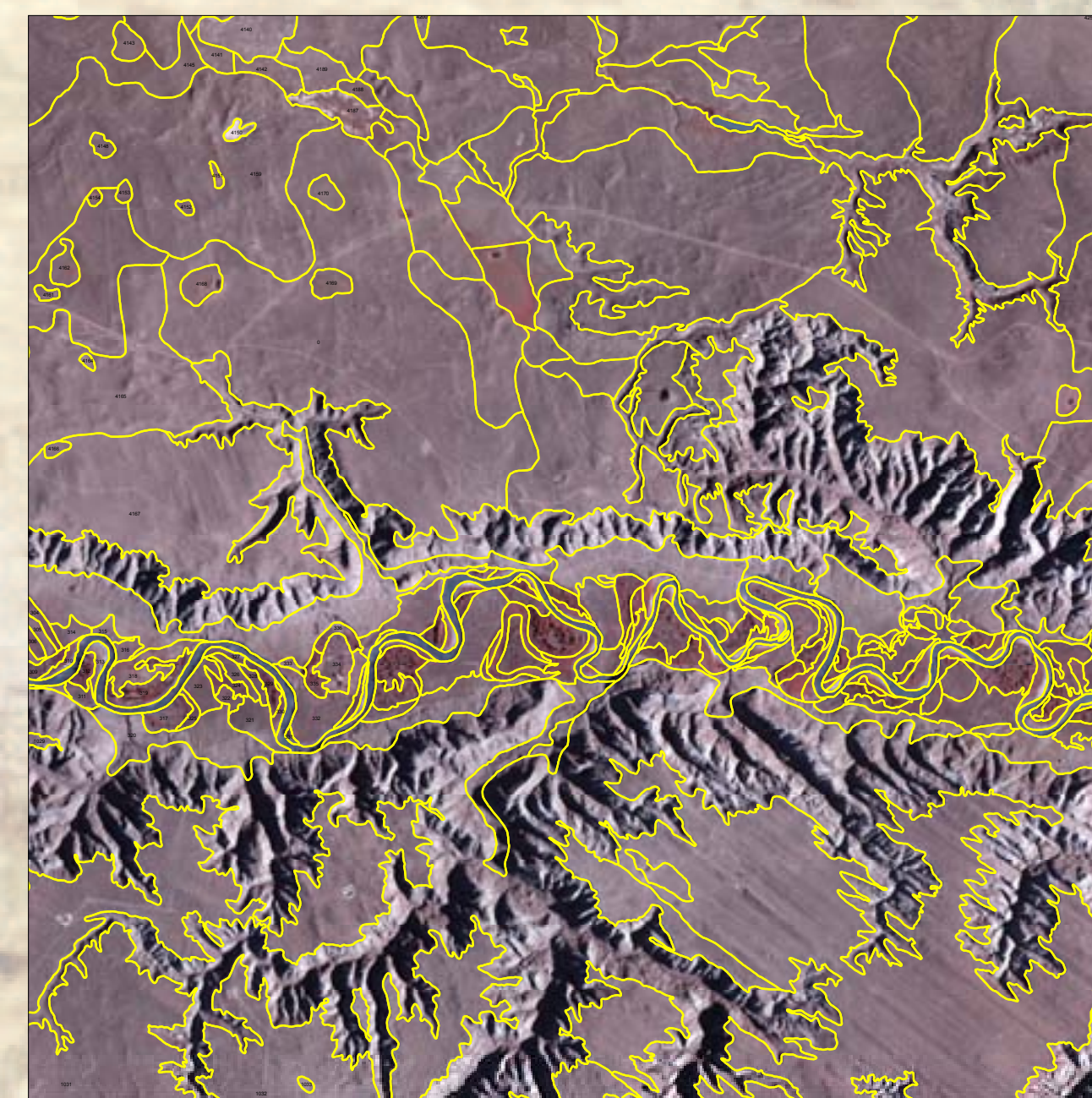
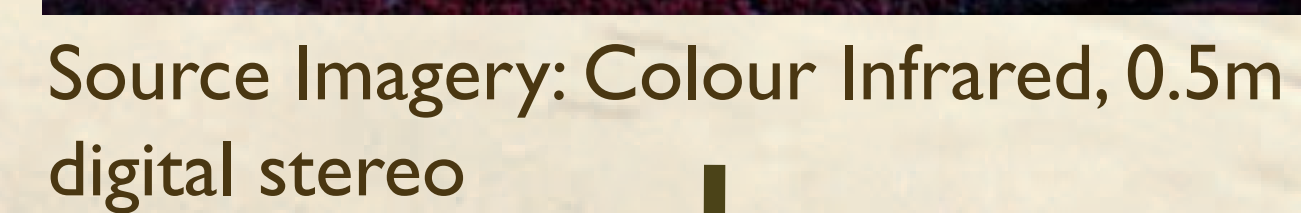
**Legend:**

- GVI Boundary
- Grassland Natural Region to be captured
- GVI Captured

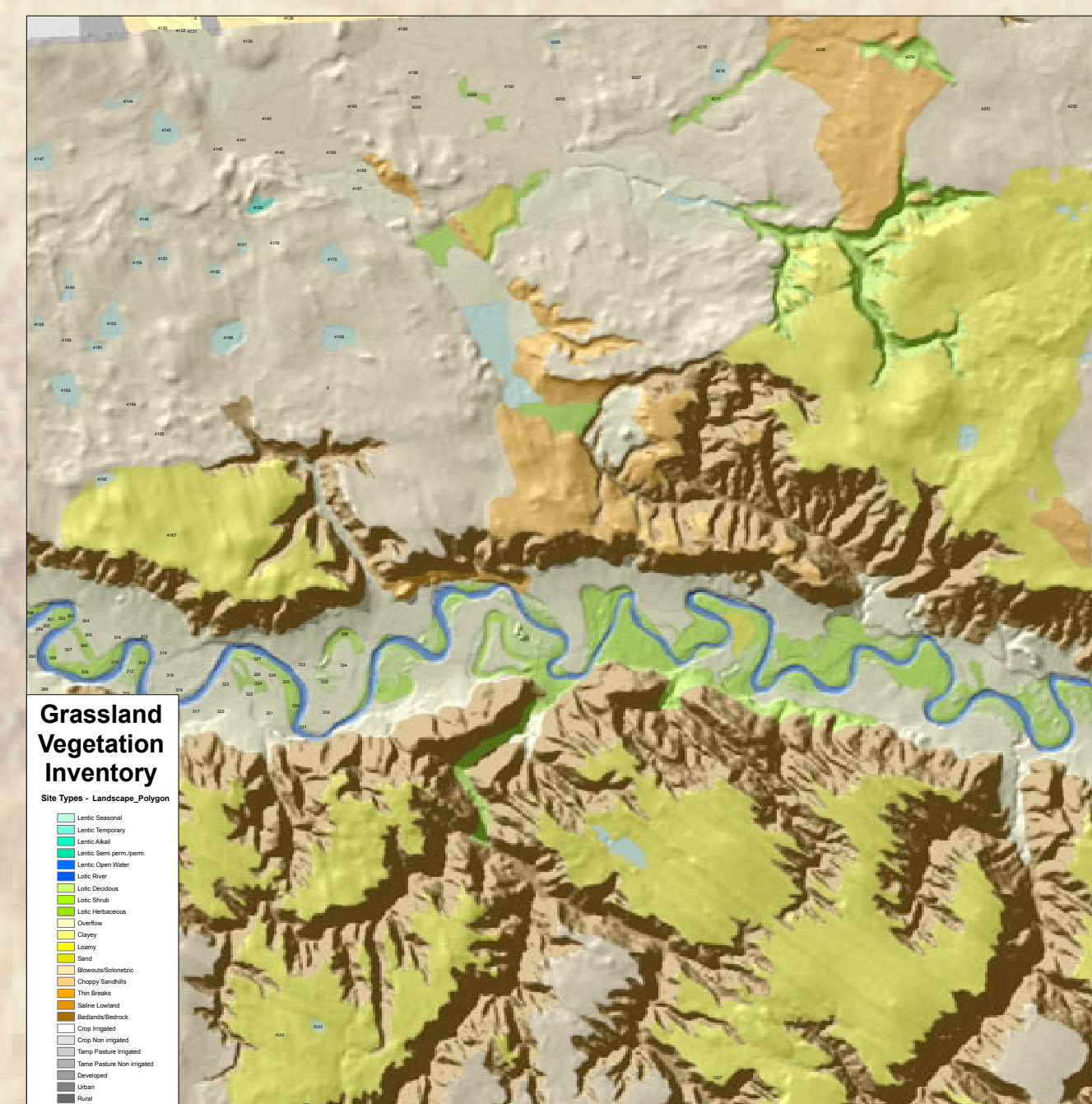
**Locations:** Red Deer, Calgary, Lethbridge, Medicine Hat

**Rivers:** Red River, Bow River, Milk River, Saskatchewan River

**Grid:** 1-30, 1-12

[illegible]

Source Imagery with GVI polygons  
overlayed on landscape



## ArcGIS themed GVI

Grassland Vegetation Inventory (GVI) Specifications, Alberta Sustainable Resource Development, Government of Alberta 5th Edition June 29, 2010. revised July 13, 2010.

The compilation of GVI commenced in 2006 by Alberta Sustainable Resource Development. It is accomplished by photo-interpretation, using colour infrared digital stereo models. This allows for a 3D view of the landscape and proper polygon delineation. Resolution of the imagery being used is 0.5 metres, allowing for very precise line placement and interpretation of the ground. Minimum polygon sizes are 5.0 ha for upland site types and 1.0 ha for wetland site types.

Some Site Types may be further described using site-type modifiers. Ground cover characteristics are described in general by tree, shrub, herbaceous percent cover, height, and distribution pattern. Bare ground and water are also given percent cover calls if present. The geodatabase allows for specific entries regarding species-type and the percent cover of a species within a Site. Line and point vegetation layers have been introduced to delineate landscape features such as shelterbelts and solitary trees. The GVI Schema includes a provision for adding additional information collected during field surveys.

The GVI is intended to meet the multitude of business needs integral to land-use planning and management in Alberta. It represents the Government of Alberta's comprehensive biophysical vegetation and anthropogenic inventory of the province's Grassland Natural Region. It addresses requirements defined by the province's rangeland management, fish and wildlife, wetland management, and land-use operations sectors. The Grassland Vegetation Inventory can be generalized as a landscape (rangeland sites), native vegetation, and land use (agricultural, industrial, and populated areas) inventory with emphasis placed on the native – public land component.

An aerial photograph of a vast, flat, arid landscape, likely a salt flat. The terrain is a mix of light brown and tan colors, with some darker patches. A large, irregularly shaped, reddish-brown area in the center is labeled "Lentic Tidalpool". To the left of this area, the word "Leamy" is written. To the right, the words "Lentic Open Water" and "Browns" are written. Further right, the words "Thin Brakes" and "Overflow" are written. In the bottom left corner, the words "Lentic Area" are written. In the bottom right corner, the words "Browns" and "Lentic" are written. The overall scene is a wide, flat expanse of land with some small, dark, irregular shapes scattered across it.

