

# Annual Operating Plan

## 2016/17







*Conserving Alberta's Wild Side*  
ab-conservation.com

## **Our Vision**

An Alberta with an abundance and diversity of wildlife, fish and their habitats; where future generations continue to use, enjoy and value our rich outdoor heritage.

## **Our Mission**

ACA conserves, protects and enhances fish and wildlife populations and their habitats for Albertans to enjoy, value and use.

Cover photo: ACA, Mike Verhage  
Porcupine Hills

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Copies of this plan are available on our website at:  
[ab-conservation.com/aop](http://ab-conservation.com/aop)



Salt Creek  
photo: ACA, Garret Mcken

# 1.0 Introduction

Alberta Conservation Association’s (ACA) *Annual Operating Plan 2016/17* informs Albertans, our stakeholders and partners about the projects we are undertaking this fiscal year and how we are directing revenue to our various program areas. The plan guides us in fulfilling our mission to conserve, protect and enhance fish and wildlife populations and their habitats for all Albertans to enjoy, value and use. It also assists us with meeting our delegated responsibilities, through the Wildlife Act, to the Minister of Alberta Environment and Parks (AEP).

When reviewing this document, you may notice a discrepancy between the numbers in the program budget and those stated in the Financial Summary (Section 8). This difference is attributed to how costs for activities such as training, planning, professional development and public speaking are budgeted. The budget is typically allocated within the program area and not within a specific project.

We report on budgets within 12 program areas: 1) Finance and Administration, 2) Business Development, 3) Human Resources, 4) Health and Safety, 5) Information Technology, 6) Information, Education and Communications, 7) Wildlife, 8) Fisheries, 9) Land Management, 10) Report A Poacher, 11) Grants and 12) Landowner Compensation and Damage Prevention Program.

In 2016/17, we anticipate receiving roughly \$3.9 million in partner (non-levy) and/or in land value. Projected levy revenue from hunting and fishing licences is \$14,777,438. Thanks to the efforts

of our dedicated employees and the generosity of our various donors and partners, most of this money will be directed back into conservation efforts. It stands as testament to the quality of our conservation work.

A key to the long-term viability of hunting and angling (and therefore conservation) in this province is the recruitment, retention and education of hunters and anglers. Historically, this collective group has been the driving force behind conservation initiatives in Alberta, and its members continue to contribute their time, effort and money (through levies on licences) into conserving Alberta's natural heritage. Considering the role they play in conservation, it is crucial that we continue supporting retention, recruitment and education activities. We will be expanding the number of mentored fishing and hunting events that we support and will continue working on communications campaigns that increase the awareness of conservation issues, of opportunities for getting involved in hunting and angling, and of the important role hunters and anglers play in conservation.

In our partnership with Hunting for Tomorrow, we will continue to reimburse the cost of the first WIN card for any youth who successfully completes the Conservation and Hunter Education Training Program. Along with receiving a reimbursement of \$8.40 (cost of the WIN card), each youth receives an information package containing literature on each of our member groups, giving them an opportunity to learn more about Alberta's conservation community.

A significant part of our work involves developing and maintaining partnerships. These partnerships contribute to the success and scope of our conservation work. Our partnerships span across all our program areas, including fisheries, wildlife, land management, communications and administration. We will continue to work closely with our member groups, as well as non-member groups (e.g., Alberta Fish & Game Association, Pheasants Forever, and Ducks Unlimited Canada) and AEP.

Our most important partners are Alberta's hunters, anglers and trappers, and we expect them, along with our many other partners and stakeholders, to hold us accountable. We expect to hear from you if we do not meet your expectations for the conservation work you have told us you want to see happening in Alberta.

## 1.1 Linkages 2009 – 2019 Strategic Business Plan

The 2009 – 2019 Strategic Business Plan includes both a four-year and ten-year business plan. The objectives identified in the four-year plan are reviewed annually and updated if a significant change in strategic direction is warranted. The Strategic Business Plan is a roadmap that keeps us focused on the strategies that influence our effectiveness. This clear sense of direction enables us to develop the most appropriate means of reaching our goals, which contributes to our success in fulfilling our Mission and achieving our Vision.

## 1.2 Regional Boundary Map



# 2.0 Business Program Areas

## 2.1 Finance and Administration

The Finance and Administration programs focus on ensuring the smooth day-to-day operation of ACA. Tasks performed in these programs include payroll, payables, receivables and administrative support for our managers and Board of Directors.

Table 1: Finance and Administration Projects for 2016/17

Project	Primary Purpose	Expected Outcomes
<b>Finance</b> <hr/> ACA                    \$604,352 Partner                \$7,169 Total                    \$611,521	Provide financial services that safeguard company assets. Ensure legal and contractual obligations are met. Provide accurate and timely information to ACA's decision makers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Manage assets effectively.</li> <li>· Provide complete and timely legal reporting.</li> <li>· Support management's information needs and facilitate effective decision-making.</li> </ul>
<b>Administration</b> <hr/> ACA                    \$1,921,834 Partner                \$58,814 Total                    \$1,980,648	Provide administrative support to all areas to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of internal operations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Support Board of Directors, executive and management.</li> <li>· Maintain building operations.</li> </ul>

photo: ACA, Mike Jokinen



## 2.2 Business Development

The Business Development program is focused on maintaining strong collaborative relations with our existing business partners as well as forming new partnerships with companies operating in Alberta. To do this, Business Development aims to increase ACA's profile in the business community in order to raise awareness and engage companies in supporting and/or collaborating with our work on various conservation issues. Most of our business relationships are incorporated into the Corporate

Partners In Conservation program. In 2016/17, we will continue to explore ways of generating non-levy revenue, which will include: advertising sales, sponsorship of specific resource projects (communications, wildlife, fisheries, land), support for our grants to community and research projects, corporate involvement in outdoor education and recreation events in communities across Alberta and terrestrial conservation offsets.

Table 2: Business Development Projects for 2016/17

Project	Primary Purpose	Expected Outcomes
<b>Business Development Support</b>	Strengthen existing partnerships and develop new relationships that support ACA programs and projects.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Increase non-levy revenue by 5% minimum above previous fiscal year.</li> <li>· Sign on a minimum of five new corporations and/or substantially increase contributions from five existing Corporate Partners in Conservation for conservation-related projects.</li> </ul>
ACA \$104,361		
Partner \$168,084		
Total \$272,445		
<b>ACA Store</b>	Provide opportunities for staff to receive ACA-branded clothing for work (office, field, meetings and tradeshow) and personal use.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Support the overarching ACA goal of increasing brand recognition in the general public and business community.</li> <li>· Maintain employee satisfaction with merchandise.</li> <li>· Work with Communications to ensure brand identity is achieved.</li> </ul>
ACA \$24,120		
Partner \$0		
Total \$24,120		

## 2.3 Human Resources

Human Resources implements strategies and policies that meet organizational objectives. In 2016/17, our continued focus is on: 1) retention and recruitment, 2) training and development and 3) creating a culture where employees are engaged and enthusiastic. Having the right people with the right skills will help ACA achieve their strategic objectives.

Table 3: Human Resources Projects for 2016/17

Project	Primary Purpose	Expected Outcomes
<b>Program Coordination</b>	Maintain market competitiveness and Human Resources innovation. Deliver services, programs and communications which are valued by prospective and current employees.  Commitment to promote and maintain environmentally responsible practices as an integral part of ACA business operations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Create a corporate culture that attracts and retains employees.</li> <li>· Increase job satisfaction to foster a productive work environment with a higher retention rate.</li> <li>· Recognize human capital as the resource that drives organizational success.</li> <li>· Maintain management system targets and evaluate successes.</li> <li>· Engaged employees who practice responsible practices in their work activities.</li> </ul>
ACA \$169,734		
Partner \$0		
Total \$169,734		

<b>Professional Development</b> <hr/> ACA                    \$26,783 <hr/> Partner                \$0 <hr/> Total                    \$26,783	Improve the talent development of ACA employees through professional development, career development and improved performance management.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Provide employees with opportunities to grow and take on new challenges through mentoring and training.</li> <li>· Document high level of job satisfaction in the annual staff survey.</li> <li>· Invest in professional development programs to improve leadership capabilities, job skills and employee productivity.</li> <li>· Maintain a work environment that motivates and inspires.</li> </ul>
<b>Professional Memberships</b> <hr/> ACA                    \$4,000 <hr/> Partner                \$0 <hr/> Total                    \$4,000	Encourage employees to contribute to self-regulating professional associations committed to promoting excellence in professional practices.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Increase awareness and credibility of ACA and our employees by promoting and maintaining high standards of professional competence and ethics.</li> </ul>
<b>Health and Wellness</b> <hr/> ACA                    \$43,000 <hr/> Partner                \$0 <hr/> Total                    \$43,000	Promote the achievement of work-life balance and wellness for our employees.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Deliver a broader range of wellness programs and services for improved physical and mental health.</li> <li>· Maintain work-life balance through annual work plans.</li> <li>· Determine employee satisfaction levels through the annual staff survey.</li> <li>· Maintain levels of employee engagement and satisfaction.</li> </ul>
<b>Service Awards</b> <hr/> ACA                    \$5,000 <hr/> Partner                \$0 <hr/> Total                    \$5,000	Recognize employees for their loyalty, commitment and achievements.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Provide service awards to employees who reach milestones.</li> <li>· Examine and source innovative service awards on an annual basis.</li> </ul>
<b>Online Survey</b> <hr/> ACA                    \$1,000 <hr/> Partner                \$0 <hr/> Total                    \$1,000	Determine level of employee satisfaction with various aspects of ACA.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Conduct annual employee survey.</li> <li>· Identify challenges and develop action plans for improvements.</li> <li>· Review new employee survey format and determine whether questions asked supplied ACA with a good overview of employee satisfaction.</li> </ul>
<b>Recruitment</b> <hr/> ACA                    \$14,865 <hr/> Partner                \$0 <hr/> Total                    \$14,865	Use strategies such as social media, the web, ads and relationships with universities to recruit candidates.  Create a corporate culture that attracts and retains employees of all generations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Promote ACA as an organization where employees can build their careers and expand their skills.</li> <li>· Hire employees with the knowledge, skills and ability to perform the job and whose beliefs and behaviours fit our organizational culture.</li> <li>· Work with universities and colleges to incorporate co-op and intern opportunities.</li> </ul>
<b>Career Fairs</b> <hr/> ACA                    \$3,132 <hr/> Partner                \$0 <hr/> Total                    \$3,132	Hire high-quality students for temporary summer work.  Build employment relationships with students.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Promote ACA to college and university students.</li> <li>· Provide co-op and intern opportunities to students.</li> </ul>

## 2.4 Health and Safety

Our Health and Safety program is an integral part of our operations, ensuring all work is conducted in a healthy and safe manner, regardless of the working environment or situation. Administered by ACA's Health and Safety Committee, the program relies on input from staff and management so that principles and practices remain current, comprehensive, easy to apply and relevant for day-to-day operations. Maintaining the best possible Health and Safety program requires constant feedback through internal reviews of program materials and an emphasis on incident reporting and tracking.

In 2016/17, our goal is to ensure employees continue to embrace ACA's Health and Safety program and are kept safe and healthy. We will foster a company culture and work environment that ensures safety is a company priority, which includes providing employees with the necessary training, equipment, materials and procedures required to conduct work in a healthy and safe manner. Improvements to the Health and Safety program are continuous so the program remains comprehensive, efficient, effective and current.

A key goal is maintaining our Certificate of Recognition (COR) from Alberta Employment and Immigration.

Table 4: Health and Safety Projects for 2016/17

Project Name	Primary Purpose	Expected Outcomes
<b>Health and Safety</b> <hr/> ACA \$135,285 Partner \$0 <hr/> Total \$135,285	<p>Foster a company culture and working environment where all employees can work in a safe and healthy manner.</p> <p>Continue to monitor, maintain and improve upon the Health and Safety program so that it remains comprehensive, efficient, effective and current.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eliminate workplace injuries as well as loss or damage to property, facilities, materials and equipment.</li> <li>• Integrate workplace safety into daily operations.</li> <li>• Provide ACA employees access to health and safety resources (e.g., forms, policies, procedures and other reference materials).</li> <li>• Provide employees with the necessary training, equipment, materials and procedures required to conduct work in a healthy and safe manner.</li> <li>• Respond to all health and safety incidents, including near misses.</li> <li>• Operate the Health and Safety program in a transparent and open manner.</li> <li>• Finalize revisions to health and safety information, manuals and forms based on COR audit reviews, staff suggestions and lessons learned from incidents.</li> <li>• Conduct internal audit in 2016 and complete required auditor training to comply with COR requirements.</li> <li>• Maintain COR.</li> </ul>

## 2.5 Information Technology

The Information Technology (IT) program is responsible for the day-to-day operation, management and strategic direction of ACA's information technology services. The program's primary activities and applications include: network and data security, corporate telephone systems, intranet website, financial applications, payroll system, GIS applications and several other applications and services. Core responsibilities also include ensuring workstation and network functionality, providing end-user support and data recovery.

Table 5: Information Technology Projects for 2016/17

Project Name	Primary Purpose	Expected Outcomes
<b>Information Technology/ Systems</b>	Manage and operate ACA's IT infrastructure on a daily basis.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rollout new computers and migrate to current operating systems.</li> </ul>
ACA	Provide technical support to all areas of ACA's information technology and management systems.  Provide IT initiatives that reduce costs, environmental impacts and provide future growth.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Migrate GIS software to latest version.</li> <li>Maintain security of ACA network and data structures.</li> <li>Ensure existing technology provides information in an efficient and effective manner.</li> <li>Research and review new technology that support ACA's strategic goals and objectives.</li> </ul>
Partner		
Total		

Taber Pheasant Festival  
photo: ACA, Colin Eyo



## 3.0 Resource Programs

### 3.1 Information, Education and Communications

This resource program is key to the profile of Alberta Conservation Association, its ongoing fieldwork and research in fisheries, wildlife and land management. Creating awareness and interest in conservation, educating the public on what conservation means and keeping the fish, wildlife and land resource programs accessible are major roles.

Communications builds relationships with the public through ACA projects and events and provides information on emerging issues, from keeping ACA stakeholders up-to-date on the new aeration information to telling the public about the latest pheasant release sites in the province.

The Information, Education and Communications program is also responsible for:

- Advertising
- Internal and external communications
- Social media
- Publications
- Website
- Media relations
- Brand awareness
- Outreach programs
- Educational activities

Kids Can Catch, Wabamun  
photo: ACA



Table 6: Information, Education and Communications Projects for 2016/17

Communications		
Project	Primary Purpose	Expected Outcomes
<b>General Advertising</b> <hr/> ACA                      \$25,816 Partner                      \$0 <hr/> Total                      \$25,816	Increase general public awareness of ACA as an organization, key ACA programs and projects, and relevant conservation issues in Alberta.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify key advertising opportunities and implement strategies that align with the Strategic Business Plan's four-year objectives.</li> </ul>
<b>Marketing Campaign</b> <hr/> ACA                      \$58,373 Partner                      \$0 <hr/> Total                      \$58,373	Create a longer-term approach to ACA branding profile through advertising contemporary lifestyles that include hunting, angling, trapping and conservation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Through this multi-year approach keeping in step with the Strategic Business Plan timeframe – a consistent advertising campaign using a wider scope of media including outdoor billboards will build equity in the ACA brand.</li> </ul>
<b>Social Media</b> <b>Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Constant Contact</b> <hr/> ACA                      \$17,719 Partner                      \$0 <hr/> Total                      \$17,719	Use social media to connect with our existing stakeholders as well as new audiences by highlighting the projects and events of ACA and member groups as well as related conservation issues in Alberta.  Assist AEP with promotion of the Aquatic Invasive Species Program, Family Fishing Weekends, and Waterfowl Heritage Days youth initiatives.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Produce and deliver monthly <i>Constant Contact</i> e-newsletter as a tool to promote important news and events.</li> <li>Promote various ACA activities and events that occur throughout the year including: tradeshows, peregrine cameras, fish stocking dates, Taber Pheasant Festival, Kids Can Catch, Archery Days and Waterfowl Warmup.</li> <li>Interact daily with audiences on Facebook and Twitter and respond to questions.</li> <li>Increase awareness of conservation issues such as aquatic invasive species and member group activities.</li> <li>Assist member groups and other organizations/partnerships with social media resources.</li> </ul>
<b>Internal Communication Needs</b> <hr/> ACA                      \$16,600 Partner                      \$0 <hr/> Total                      \$16,600	Support the ACA President and CEO; Business Development; Human Resources; and Wildlife, Fisheries and Land Management programs.  Work with Program Managers and Regional Managers to ensure wildlife, fisheries and land are represented in all publications, on the web and in social media.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide all planned and approved communication needs as well as address any unforeseen opportunities, whether internally or sourced through third party.</li> <li>Complete online seasonal job postings by mid-December 2016.</li> <li>Post Report Series by the end of March 2017.</li> <li>Improve program representation in all materials by working closely with Program Managers and Regional Managers.</li> <li>Develop key communications materials to ensure appropriate branding and messaging (e.g., media releases, fact sheets, poster templates, presentations).</li> <li>Coordinate and/or facilitate support for program/project operations such as lake aeration notices and hay tender ads.</li> </ul>
<b>Stakeholder Communications</b> <hr/> ACA                      \$1,985 Partner                      \$0 <hr/> Total                      \$1,985	Assist member groups and stakeholders in communications support where viable. Examples include the Moose App/ Clean Drain Dry/ member group advertising.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide creative and promotional support where possible fostering positive business relationships.</li> </ul>
<b>Emerging Issues</b> <hr/> ACA                      \$17,633 Partner                      \$0 <hr/> Total                      \$17,633	Communications on-demand response. Examples include the 2015 Aeration Plan and changes in Pheasant Release sites.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintain ACA as an up-to-date resource within its operations and within its public relations.</li> </ul>

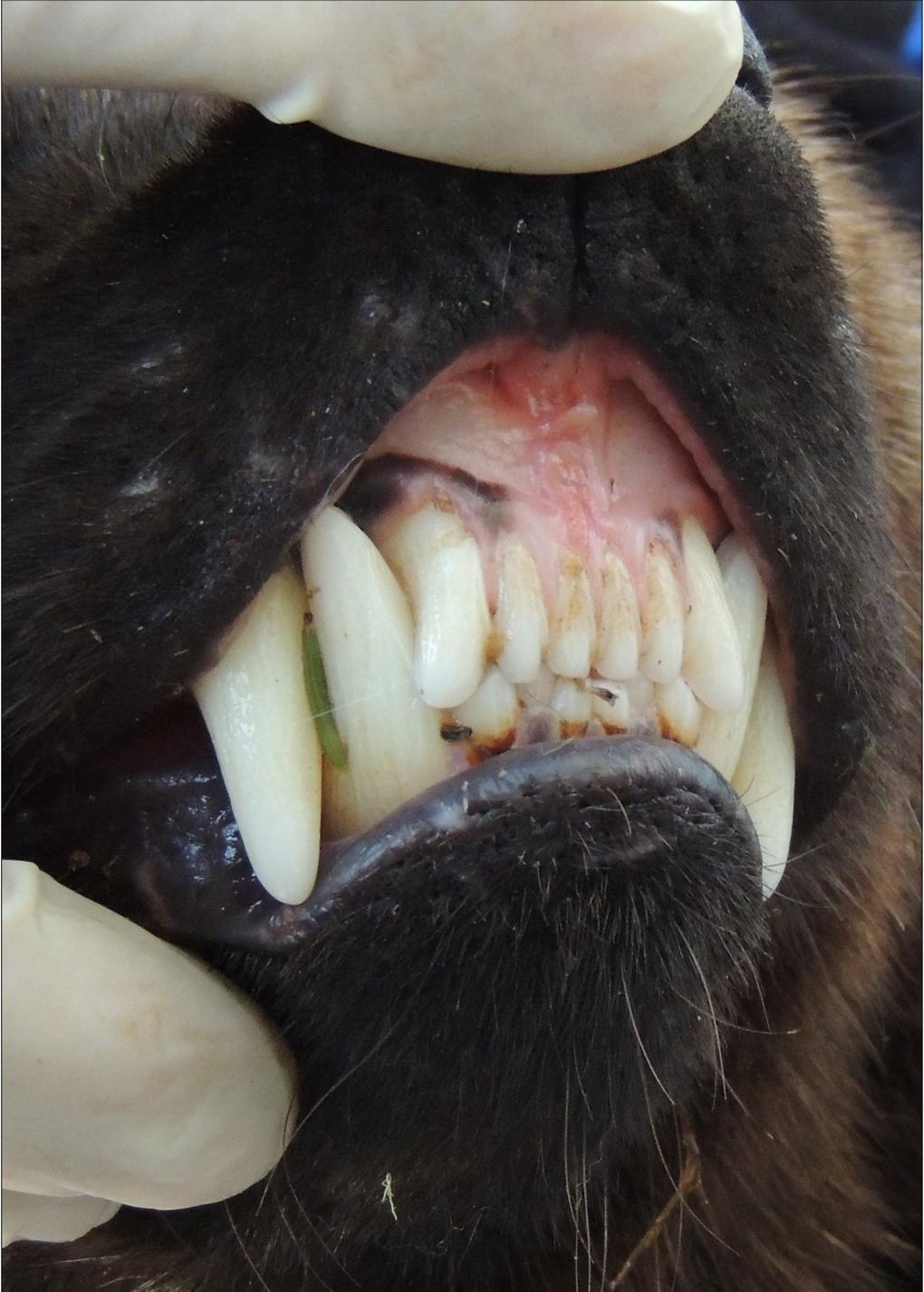
Publications/Print		
Project	Primary Purpose	Expected Outcomes
<b>Conservation Magazine</b> Spring/ Summer Fall/ Winter <hr/> ACA                    \$121,824 <hr/> Partner                \$16,000 <hr/> Total                    \$137,824	Provides the opportunity to discover and connect with the people and research that impact the conservation of Alberta's wildlife, fish and habitat.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Produce, publish, promote and deliver 30,000 hard copies of <i>Conservation Magazine</i>, seasonally in spring and fall, with digital versions available online.</li> </ul>
<b>Alberta Discover Guide</b> <hr/> ACA                    \$59,805 <hr/> Partner                \$55,000 <hr/> Total                    \$114,805	Provides a comprehensive reference to several hundred sites conserved for the purpose of habitat protection and made available for recreational use by our stakeholders.  Promotes the value of habitat conservation and the benefits of securing that habitat for wildlife.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Produce, publish, promote and deliver 80,000 hard copies of the Guide with digital versions available online.</li> <li>Foster relationships with conservation partners who are key contributors to the Guide, such as Alberta Fish &amp; Game Association (AFGA) and its affiliated clubs, Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC) and Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC).</li> <li>Promote the benefits of habitat conservation and how to make land donations.</li> </ul>
<b>Annual Operating Plan</b> <hr/> ACA                    \$16,374 <hr/> Partner                \$0 <hr/> Total                    \$16,374	Ensure our stakeholders are aware of how ACA is spending funds, what projects are being undertaken and how our yearly activities link to our Strategic Business Plan.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prepare the <i>Annual Operating Plan</i> draft for ACA Board of Directors meeting, December 2016.</li> <li>Coordinate, edit and design the <i>Annual Operating Plan</i>.</li> <li>Complete and post the <i>Annual Operating Plan</i>, after ACA Board of Directors approval, in April 2016, to coincide with the next fiscal year, which starts April 1, 2016.</li> </ul>
<b>Annual Report</b> <hr/> ACA                    \$17,181 <hr/> Partner                \$0 <hr/> Total                    \$17,181	Show stakeholders how ACA has spent funding, what conservation outcomes have been achieved and how ACA has performed relative to our stated goals.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Produce the <i>Annual Report</i> by September 2017.</li> <li>Report audited financial statements to stakeholders.</li> <li>Coordinate editing and post ~ 45 resource program annual summaries (Wildlife, Fisheries, Land) online by April 15, 2017.</li> </ul>
<b>Grant Fund Annual Report</b> <hr/> ACA                    \$9,045 <hr/> Partner                \$0 <hr/> Total                    \$9,045	Provide stakeholders information about the ACA Grants Fund projects awarded, allocations and activities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Post and promote interim reports, annual report, grant information and important deadlines.</li> <li>Produce the <i>Grant Fund Annual Report</i> by October 2016 for grant eligible committee meeting in December 2016.</li> </ul>
<b>Conservation Site Signs</b> <hr/> ACA                    \$8,009 <hr/> Partner                \$0 <hr/> Total                    \$8,009	Work with the land and fisheries teams to produce branded Conservation Site Signs, Fisheries Access Site signs and specialty signs as required.  <i>The budget is allocated within the Land Management and Fisheries programs</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Design and coordinate proofing, quotes and printing of signs for placement at Conservation Sites.</li> <li>Design, produce and coordinate signs as required for all resource programs inclusive of, but not limited to, site boundaries, way-finding, thin ice warning and use respect</li> </ul>
<b>Riparian Publication</b> <hr/> ACA                    \$10,000 <hr/> Partner                \$0 <hr/> Total                    \$10,000	Work with the land teams to rewrite existing outdated publication.  <i>The budget is allocated within the Land Management programs</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Design and coordinate research and writing, proofing, quotes and printing of the new version of <i>Caring For Shorelines</i>.</li> </ul>

<b>Bats Project</b> <hr/> ACA \$5,000 <hr/> Partner \$0 <hr/> Total \$5,000	Work with the AEP to provide media and promotional support for Alberta Bats program.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promotional opportunities within existing ACA media platforms.</li> </ul>
<b>Final Reports</b> <hr/> ACA \$6,982 <hr/> Partner \$0 <hr/> Total \$6,982	Provide publishing support for resource programs within research.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Awareness and accessibility to ongoing project research by ACA.</li> </ul>
<b>Guide App</b>		
<b>Project</b>	<b>Primary Purpose</b>	<b>Expected Outcomes</b>
<b>Alberta Outdoor Adventure Guide iPhone app</b> <hr/> ACA \$47,133 <hr/> Partner \$0 <hr/> Total \$47,133	Provide digital version of the Guide for mobile devices which makes planning and finding Conservation Sites to hunt, fish, forage and explore easier.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implement redesign of the <i>Alberta Outdoor Adventure Guide</i> iPhone app.</li> <li>Notify users through the in-app notification about when ponds and lakes are stocked with trout, the latest events, and conservation concerns, such as invasive aquatic species information.</li> </ul>
<b>Website</b>		
<b>Project</b>	<b>Primary Purpose</b>	<b>Expected Outcomes</b>
<b>Website Maintenance and Development</b> <hr/> ACA \$77,642 <hr/> Partner \$0 <hr/> Total \$77,642	The ACA external websites provide an accessible information gateway that engages users and profiles our conservation projects, member groups, corporate partners in conservation, events and publications.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Redesign the ACA website with a focus on mobile use and user access.</li> <li>Continually monitor and update website content to ensure the most recent and accurate information is provided and that all links, downloads and postings are valid and functional.</li> <li>Implement search engine optimization practices at all times.</li> </ul>

Table 7: Education and Outreach Events for 2016/17

Project	Primary Purpose	Expected Outcomes
<b>Peregrine Cameras</b> <hr/> ACA \$11,840 <hr/> Partner \$0 <hr/> Total \$11,840	Connect with the general public by providing a bird's-eye view into the daily lives of peregrine falcons as they return to Edmonton to secure nesting sites, fight for mates, defend their territory, catch food and raise their young.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote Peregrine Cameras, primarily through social media.</li> <li>Maintain remote camera infrastructure at three existing sites (U of A, Bell Tower, Weber Centre).</li> <li>Educate the public about peregrine falcon behaviour, biology and its <i>Threatened</i> status in Alberta.</li> <li>Increase traffic to our website.</li> <li>Explore opportunities for similar remote camera coverage of other species.</li> </ul>

<p><b>Taber Pheasant Festival</b></p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>ACA</td> <td>\$234,771</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Partner</td> <td>\$50,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Total</b></td> <td><b>\$284,771</b></td> </tr> </table>	ACA	\$234,771	Partner	\$50,000	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$284,771</b>	<p>Introduce youth and novice hunters to pheasant hunting including necessary skills as well as responsible and ethical hunting practices.</p> <p>Provide additional pheasant hunting opportunities for all hunters.</p> <p>Promote altered municipal and farming practices that support wildlife and self-sustaining pheasant populations.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to work with local organizations and businesses to support and/or coordinate the Taber Pheasant Festival.</li> <li>Promote Taber Pheasant Festival through various media.</li> <li>Design event materials (e.g., signs, banners, tickets, posters, presentations).</li> <li>Manage the online registration system and questions.</li> <li>Increase awareness of upland game bird habitat requirements and increase landowner participation in habitat enhancement projects.</li> <li>Encourage continued interest in pheasant and upland game bird hunting beyond the event.</li> <li>Increase overall number of youth and families hunting upland game birds each year (increased hunting licence sales).</li> </ul>
ACA	\$234,771							
Partner	\$50,000							
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$284,771</b>							
<p><b>Archery Days</b></p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>ACA</td> <td>\$5,580</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Partner</td> <td>\$1,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Total</b></td> <td><b>\$6,580</b></td> </tr> </table>	ACA	\$5,580	Partner	\$1,000	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$6,580</b>	<p>Introduce and encourage youth and families in communities across Alberta to get outdoors and try archery.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to work with local organizations and businesses to support and/or coordinate youth archery events at several communities across Alberta.</li> <li>Promote Archery Days through various media.</li> <li>Increase the total number of Archery Days events each year.</li> <li>Ensure youth are taught basic archery practices in a safe and responsible environment.</li> <li>Encourage continued interest in archery and/or bowhunting beyond the event.</li> </ul>
ACA	\$5,580							
Partner	\$1,000							
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$6,580</b>							
<p><b>Kids Can Catch</b></p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>ACA</td> <td>\$15,452</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Partner</td> <td>\$14,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Total</b></td> <td><b>\$29,452</b></td> </tr> </table>	ACA	\$15,452	Partner	\$14,000	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$29,452</b>	<p>Introduce and encourage youth and families in communities across Alberta to get outdoors and enjoy angling.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to work with local organizations and businesses to support and/or coordinate youth fishing events at several communities across Alberta.</li> <li>Promote Kids Can Catch through various media.</li> <li>Increase the total number of Kids Can Catch events each year.</li> <li>Ensure youth are taught responsible and ethical angling practices in a safe environment.</li> <li>Increase awareness and use of stocked and aerated lakes, often near urban centres.</li> <li>Encourage continued interest in angling beyond the event.</li> <li>Increase overall number of youth and families fishing each year (increased fishing licence sales).</li> </ul>
ACA	\$15,452							
Partner	\$14,000							
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$29,452</b>							
<p><b>Waterfowl Warmup</b></p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>ACA</td> <td>\$6,665</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Partner</td> <td>\$15,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Total</b></td> <td><b>\$21,665</b></td> </tr> </table>	ACA	\$6,665	Partner	\$15,000	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$21,665</b>	<p>Provide a unique event opportunity for the general public, businesses and conservation organizations to support the Report A Poacher program.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase awareness and funds for the Report A Poacher program.</li> <li>Promote responsible and ethical hunting practices.</li> <li>Strengthen corporate relationships in the pursuit of long-term partnerships in conservation.</li> </ul>
ACA	\$6,665							
Partner	\$15,000							
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$21,665</b>							
<b>WIN card</b>								
<b>Project</b>	<b>Primary Purpose</b>	<b>Expected Outcomes</b>						
<p><b>WIN Card Reimbursement</b></p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>ACA</td> <td>\$20,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Partner</td> <td>\$0</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Total</b></td> <td><b>\$20,000</b></td> </tr> </table>	ACA	\$20,000	Partner	\$0	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$20,000</b>	<p>Encourage recruitment of young people into hunting and allow ACA and our member groups to connect with new hunters when they purchase their first WIN card.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase the number of youth 12 to 17 years old who complete the Alberta Hunter Education Instructors' Association hunter education program.</li> <li>Introduce and connect young hunters to programs, information and other groups to enhance their experience.</li> </ul>
ACA	\$20,000							
Partner	\$0							
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$20,000</b>							



Wolverine Project  
photo: ACA, Mike Jokinen

## 3.2 Wildlife

At the foundation of conservation is the meaningful engagement of stakeholders to identify issues and implement solutions. Successful outcomes frequently require change from the status quo so gaining buy-in from stakeholders at an early stage is a key step in moving forward. Our wildlife program seeks meaningful long-term collaboration with stakeholder groups, ranchers, farmers and citizen scientists in both the planning and delivery stages of projects. The MULTISAR project for example, has been very successful in developing long-lasting relationships within the ranching community to deliver practices that benefit both wildlife and profitable cattle operations. This coming year we'll be expanding the focal area beyond the Milk River to include the South Saskatchewan River drainage. This collaboration now affects more than 330,000 acres of habitat and we anticipate an even broader impact with this expansion. We also collaborate with Alberta Fish and Game Association (AFGA) and local landowners in these same grassland systems to enhance the movement of pronghorn by upgrading fences with "wildlife-friendly" characteristics.

Landowners are vital partners in our upland game bird program where we work with producers to enhance habitat. We've been working with multiple partners over the past four years to identify public land within irrigation districts and improve habitat and access for hunters along public right-of-ways. The Enchant Project is a demonstration farm where we've partnered with a farming operation to trial approaches for improving upland bird densities and biodiversity while maintaining a profitable operation. We're also delivering the Alberta pheasant release program where we're providing hunting opportunity across an expanding geographic area. Stakeholder feedback has been extremely positive

with the establishment of more release sites closer to Edmonton and Calgary. Our partnership with 4-H Alberta has gained tremendous momentum over the past two years with the number of kids more than doubling in 2015 alone. Each year more and more kids sign up to rear pheasant chicks and learn about husbandry and their habitat needs. These kids will be the custodians of their landscape in the coming generation so building this connection with wildlife now is a step towards a better future.

We work with many landowners whose landscapes support piping plovers where we implement recovery plan actions to improve their breeding success. These actions often improve shoreline habitat for non-target species as well. We also coordinate the amphibian monitoring program to identify the location of amphibians and reptiles throughout the province. In 2016-17, we'll be collaborating with multiple partners to conduct a DNA survey of grizzly bears in bear management area 5. Our efforts will focus on public land as well as private holdings where ranchers play a key role in grizzly bear conservation.

Our long standing partnership with the Alberta Trappers' Association (ATA) continues to unveil mysteries with the cryptic wolverine. We work together to better understand wolverine distribution and the conservation risks associated with human disturbance. This grassroots effort involves dozens of trappers volunteering their time and expertise to collect field data in the backcountry. And again working with ATA, we're extending this collaboration to include a University of Alberta (U of A) graduate student project designed to reveal the risks of industrial activity associated with wolverines.

Table 8: Wildlife Projects for 2016/17

Wildlife Population Monitoring		
Project	Primary Purpose	Expected Outcomes
<b>Surveying grizzly and black bear numbers in priority landscapes</b> <hr/> ACA                      \$359,453 <hr/> Partner                    \$32,663 <hr/> Total                        \$392,116	Estimate grizzly and black bear numbers using rub object hair samples.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify and map bear rub objects in bear management area 5 (BMA 5) in collaboration with partnership group.</li> <li>Engage volunteer stakeholder groups to train and plan for BMA 5 collection survey in 2016.</li> <li>Estimate minimum number of grizzly bears using DNA from hair samples taken from rub objects in BMA 5.</li> </ul> Year 3 of 4
<b>Volunteer-based monitoring</b> <b>Alberta Volunteer Amphibian Monitoring Program (AVAMP)</b> <hr/> ACA                        \$15,906 <hr/> Partner                    \$3,200 <hr/> Total                        \$19,106	Volunteer collection of amphibian location data throughout Alberta.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Coordinate volunteer collection of amphibian data from across Alberta (AVAMP).</li> </ul> On-going
Development of Detailed Status Reports		
Project	Primary Purpose	Expected Outcomes
<b>Alberta Wildlife Status Reports</b> <hr/> ACA                        \$24,506 <hr/> Partner                    \$23,900 <hr/> Total                        \$48,406	Co-ordinate and develop detailed status reports.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Initiate new status reports.</li> <li>Provide data to AEP for entry in Fisheries and Wildlife Management Information System (FWMIS) or to Alberta Conservation Information Management System (ACIMS) (for plants).</li> </ul> On-going
MULTISAR		
Project	Primary Purpose	Expected Outcomes
<b>MULTISAR</b> <hr/> ACA                        \$150,288 <hr/> Partner                    \$618,309 <hr/> Total                        \$768,597	Engage landowners with planning and implementation of habitat strategies along the Milk River Basin and new areas along south Saskatchewan drainage.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Initiate habitat conservation strategies at three to four ranches. Evaluation of habitat conservation strategies on select properties.</li> <li>Ongoing consultation and relationship building with landowners and stakeholder community.</li> </ul> On-going
<b>MULTISAR</b> <hr/> ACA                        \$3,060 <hr/> Partner                    \$100,000 <hr/> Total                        \$103,060	Identify and implement habitat enhancements to benefit sage grouse.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enhancements to benefit sage grouse in areas identified as critical habitat.</li> </ul> Year 2 of 3
Implementation of Population Recovery and Management Plans		
Project	Primary Purpose	Expected Outcomes
<b>Alberta Piping Plover Recovery</b> <hr/> ACA                        \$54,665 <hr/> Partner                    \$35,500 <hr/> Total                        \$90,165	Assist recovery of piping plovers through habitat enhancements, and report on success of recovery efforts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implement enhancements, including fencing, sanctuary signage, and vegetation reduction, at select properties.</li> <li>Conduct inventory of plovers at select lakes.</li> </ul> On-going <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Submit peer-reviewed paper focused on the success of population recovery using nest enclosures.</li> </ul> Year 3 of 3



<b>Pheasant Releases to Enhance Hunting Opportunities</b> <hr/> ACA \$709,185 <hr/> Partner \$0 <hr/> Total \$709,185	Enhance hunter opportunity by releasing pheasants in select locations and, in particular, in areas with limited opportunity for native upland birds. (provincial)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Manage and coordinate pheasant release program within Alberta. Target 25,000 roosters.</li> <li>Engage volunteer groups to assist with delivery of pheasants at sites.</li> <li>Evaluate the efficiency of program and satisfaction of hunters through a hunter survey (hard copy or smartphone).</li> <li>Update and maintain web-based platform to inform hunters of all release sites including detailed maps.</li> <li>Identify and initiate sites in new areas in proximity to major urban areas (i.e., Edmonton and Calgary).</li> <li>Evaluate and work with stakeholders to change historic release sites where additional hunting pressure may hinder self-sustaining populations of sharp-tailed, pheasants or grey partridge.</li> </ul> On-going
<b>Sharp-tailed Grouse Stewardship</b> <hr/> ACA \$19,458 <hr/> Partner \$500 <hr/> Total \$19,958	Assess and recommend habitat enhancements that benefit sharp-tailed grouse.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop enhancement actions and habitat plan that benefits sharp-tailed grouse nesting habitat on select public grazing reserves in NW Alberta. Monitor/identify lek activity in select locations (NW, South).</li> </ul> On-going

### Applied Research and Ecological Studies

Project	Primary Purpose	Expected Outcomes
<b>Wolverine occupancy in a changing landscape (ACA/ATA partnership)</b> <hr/> ACA \$316,133 <hr/> Partner \$30,000 <hr/> Total \$346,133	Identify distribution and habitat associated with wolverine occupancy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Design and coordinate data collection to determine wolverine occupancy and habitat use with ATA and volunteer trappers.</li> <li>Foster strong working relationship with ATA and other stakeholders with interest in wolverines and other furbearers.</li> <li>Communicate concept of unique contribution that trappers are making to science-based conservation to local and international audiences. (province and international)</li> </ul> Year 5 of 10
<b>Effect of industrial disturbance on wolverine. (ACA/U of A partnership)</b> <hr/> ACA \$131,167 <hr/> Partner \$20,000 <hr/> Total \$151,167	Identify if wolverines are affected by industrial disturbance in collaborative project with U of A.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Collaborate with U of A and key members of trapping community to better understand the influence of industrial disturbance on wolverines (boreal forest).</li> </ul> Year 5 of 5
<b>Amphibian monitoring using environmental DNA</b> <hr/> ACA \$17,711 <hr/> Partner \$40,265 <hr/> Total \$57,976	Develop monitoring tool to detect amphibians (10 species) using a DNA-based sampling method.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Test the functionality of the new eDNA protocol by running samples through one or more different labs that attempt to use this method.</li> </ul> Year 2 of 2



Muir Lake Aeration  
photo: ACA, Colin Eyo

### 3.3 Fisheries

Our Fisheries Program helps sustain the diversity and abundance of Alberta's fish populations and their habitats, ensuring recreational angling opportunities are maintained for future generations. The lake aeration and Enhanced Fish Stocking (EFS) projects, for example, create recreational fisheries in areas of the province where such opportunities do not otherwise exist.

The lakes we aerate are prone to both summer and winter fish kills due to low dissolved oxygen (DO) levels but through aeration we maintain DO at levels that promote year-round survival of stocked trout. In the summer of 2015, we became aware of a relatively obscure law under the Federal Criminal Code that fundamentally changed our approach to winter lake aeration during 2015/16. Unfortunately, the subsurface diffuser systems deployed during the winter of 2015/16 did not provide the results we were hoping for; however, we have been working with the Provincial Government on this issue and we are confident that for the winter of 2016/17 the regular surface aeration systems will be installed once again at all lakes.

In addition to the 17 lakes that we regularly aerate, we will develop winter aeration facilities at two new lakes in 2016/17. As well, we continue to work with Alberta Environment and Parks (AEP) and the Municipal District of Greenview toward expanding aeration from East to West Dollar Lake in 2017/18.

Alberta has a long history of fish culture and stocking with the introduction of brook trout to the Bow River system as early as 1910 and construction of the first hatchery in Banff National Park in 1913. Fish stocking remains an important component of Alberta's recreational angling experience. Through EFS, we stock approximately 120,000 catchable-sized (i.e., 20 cm) trout into 60 ponds each year, creating "put-and-take fisheries" that allow anglers to harvest up to five fish per day. Most EFS ponds are close to towns and cities, making them popular family destinations and ideal for the recruitment of new anglers. In addition to the rainbow trout we typically stock in these ponds, we stocked brown trout into six EFS ponds in 2015/16 to provide anglers with greater diversity in their fishing experience. Based on the positive feedback we have received, we will continue stocking brown trout into select EFS ponds. With projects designed to identify new EFS waterbodies, assess the field performance of stocked rainbow trout strains and evaluate the performance

of existing EFS fisheries, we renew our commitment to the development and enhancement of recreational fishing opportunities through EFS in 2016/17.

Effective management of recreational fisheries requires accurate information from resource users. Our angler surveys describe angler demographics, effort, catch and harvest at popular Alberta fisheries. This information is required by AEP fisheries managers and forms the basis for fishing regulation changes. For 2016/17, we will conduct surveys on Moose and Haig lakes, and the Upper Bow River. In the Angler Recruitment and Retention project, we collaborate with Alberta's social science research community and AEP to analyse angling licence sales data toward a better understanding of the factors influencing recent trends in angler recruitment and retention in the province.

A necessary component of the adaptive management process employed by AEP requires science-based research, designed to answer specific questions relevant to fisheries policy and management. Our related projects generate critical information required for the development of provincial and federal conservation initiatives, with emphasis on sport fishery restoration, development of the Alberta Fish Sustainability Index (FSI), and Species Recovery and Management Plans. The fishery restoration projects at Isle and Hasse lakes seek to restore once popular walleye and trout fisheries, respectively, that collapsed in recent years due to accelerated

eutrophication. This is a bold initiative that requires multidisciplinary and multi-stakeholder collaborative effort for successful rehabilitation and restoration. Our assessment of winter DO levels in rivers will help address growing concerns that low levels of winter DO may be a key factor limiting fish production in many of Alberta's developed watersheds. Projects in the Kakwa and Brazeau river watersheds will feed directly into the Arctic grayling and bull trout FSIs, respectively, while our study of native cutthroat trout in the upper Oldman River watershed directly addresses recovery plan recommendations. While the population structure, abundance, distribution and life history data collected through these projects are valuable in themselves, it is the diverse ways in which our results translate into meaningful conservation actions that our stakeholders and staff find most rewarding.

Table 9: Fisheries Projects for 2016/17

Enhanced Sport Fisheries		
Project	Primary Purpose	Expected Outcomes
<b>Lake Aeration</b> <hr/> ACA                      \$265,713 Partner                    \$13,000 <hr/> Total                        \$278,713	Create or enhance recreational angling opportunities for Albertans by aerating lakes to promote year-round survival of stocked fish.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Reduce risk of summer and winter kills of stocked trout in 17 waterbodies distributed within ACA regional boundaries as follows:                             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Northwest Region (six waterbodies): Cecil Thompson Pond and Figure Eight, Swan, Sulphur, East Dollar, and Spring lakes.</li> <li>2. Central Region (six waterbodies): Beaver, Mitchell, Fiesta and Birch lakes, Ironside and Hansen's Reservoir</li> <li>3. Southern Region (one waterbody): Coleman Fish and Game Pond.</li> <li>4. Northeast Region (four waterbodies): Muir, Spring, and Millers lakes and Radway Pond.</li> <li>5. Investigate and deploy alternative lake aeration techniques to surface aerators, if needed, to address liability issues associated with Criminal Code Section 263.</li> </ol> </li> </ul> On-going

<p><b>New Lake Aeration Development</b></p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>ACA</td> <td>\$38,390</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Partner</td> <td>\$12,105</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>\$50,495</td> </tr> </table>	ACA	\$38,390	Partner	\$12,105	Total	\$50,495	<p>Use aeration as habitat enhancement technique to facilitate year-round survival of stocked fish.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop aeration facilities to facilitate overwintering survival of stocked trout at Winchell Lake and Hansen's Reservoir. Deferred from 2015/16 pending resolution of Criminal Code Section 263 liability issues and/or successful deployment of alternative techniques to surface aeration on existing lakes.</li> <li>Continue to work with AEP and the MD of Greenview toward expanding aeration from East to West Dollar in 2017/18.</li> </ul> <p>Year 2 of 3</p>
ACA	\$38,390							
Partner	\$12,105							
Total	\$50,495							
<p><b>Enhanced Fish Stocking (EFS)</b></p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>ACA</td> <td>\$342,373</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Partner</td> <td>\$14,500</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>\$356,873</td> </tr> </table>	ACA	\$342,373	Partner	\$14,500	Total	\$356,873	<p>Stock trout into waterbodies to provide Albertans with recreational angling opportunities in areas of the province where such fishing opportunities do not otherwise exist.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stock 120,000 (20 cm) trout, consisting of 115,000 rainbow trout and 5,000 brown trout into 60 waterbodies. The brown trout will be stocked in addition to rainbow trout in six select waterbodies to provide anglers with a diverse fishing experience.</li> </ul> <p>On-going</p>
ACA	\$342,373							
Partner	\$14,500							
Total	\$356,873							
<p><b>Fish Stocking Expansion – New Lakes</b></p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>ACA</td> <td>\$66,461</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Partner</td> <td>\$0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>\$66,461</td> </tr> </table>	ACA	\$66,461	Partner	\$0	Total	\$66,461	<p>Identify and evaluate new waterbodies for stocking to increase recreational fishing opportunities, particularly close to urban areas; rehabilitate existing ponds.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop stocked trout fishery for at least one of three candidate waterbodies identified in 2015/2016.</li> <li>Continue to develop shortlist of candidate waterbodies for EFS using and conduct field assessment of potential candidates.</li> <li>Review and expand priority areas and revise short list of waterbodies from 2015/16 survey. Initial assessments in 2014/15 identified Edmonton, Calgary, Medicine Hat, and Airdrie as priority areas for EFS expansion but very few suitable waterbodies were found in these areas during the 2015/16 survey.</li> <li>Identify existing EFS ponds with water quality issues for rehabilitation.</li> <li>Develop partnerships with cities of Edmonton and Calgary to explore opportunities for EFS site development.</li> <li>Complete feasibility assessment and cost estimates for construction of EFS ponds on ACA properties.</li> <li>Collaborate with AEP area biologist, District Conservation Officer, and local AFGA to develop select borrow pits in the Ft. McMurray into EFS sites.</li> <li>Explore partnership opportunities with local communities and organizations such as Alberta Transportation, EPCOR, AFGA, etc. to identify and enhance existing waterbodies or construct new ones for recreational fishing.</li> <li>Complete feasibility assessment and cost estimates for construction of EFS ponds on ACA properties.</li> </ul> <p>On-going</p>
ACA	\$66,461							
Partner	\$0							
Total	\$66,461							
<p><b>Fish Stocking Expansion – New Species/Strains</b></p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>ACA</td> <td>\$56,941</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Partner</td> <td>\$0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>\$56,941</td> </tr> </table>	ACA	\$56,941	Partner	\$0	Total	\$56,941	<p>Expand scope and diversity in fish stocking activities: investigate suitability of new fish species/strains to complement currently stocked rainbow trout under the ACA fish stocking project.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Compare relative performance of two strains of cultured rainbow trout (i.e., Silver Steelhead and Lyndon rainbow trout strains) in select EFS ponds.</li> <li>Compare growth and survival (natural vs. fishing mortality) of the Silver Steelhead and Lyndon rainbow trout strains.</li> </ul> <p>Year 1 of 2</p>
ACA	\$56,941							
Partner	\$0							
Total	\$56,941							

## Assessment of Angler Demographics, Effort, Catch and Harvest

Project	Primary Purpose	Expected Outcomes
<b>Angler Surveys on Moose and Haig lakes</b> ACA                    \$109,250 Partner                \$5,500 Total                    \$114,750	Provide information to aid sport fisheries management.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Describe angling effort, harvest and associated fisheries demographics at Moose and Haig lakes.</li> <li>Use of data by AEP to formulate fisheries management plans.</li> </ul> 1 year
<b>Angler Survey on Upper Bow River</b> ACA                    \$152,093 Partner                \$5,500 Total                    \$157,593	Provide information to aid sport fisheries management.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Describe angling effort, harvest and associated fisheries demographics in the Upper Bow River.</li> <li>Use of data by AEP to formulate fisheries management plans.</li> </ul> 1 year
<b>ACA Fish Stocking Evaluation</b> ACA                    \$26,515 Partner                \$0 Total                    \$26,515	Describe physical and water quality characteristics and evaluate angling effort at ACA stocked ponds.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Collect water quality and bathymetry data on select EFS ponds to fill in data gaps.</li> <li>Deploy data loggers in 12 ponds to monitor summer temperature and dissolved oxygen conditions.</li> <li>Use trail cameras to estimate angler effort at up to 20 ACA stocked ponds.</li> </ul> On-going
<b>Angler Recruitment and Retention Trends in Alberta</b> ACA                    \$11,473 Partner                \$0 Total                    \$11,473	Collaborate with Alberta's recreational angling and social sciences research community and Government of Alberta fisheries managers toward a better understanding of trends in angler recruitment and retention in the province.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Quantify trends in recruitment and retention of licenced Alberta anglers over the timeframe for which digital license sales data are available (circa 1998).</li> <li>Identify major demographic, environmental and social factors impacting current trends.</li> </ul> Year 1 of 3
<b>Applied Research</b>		
Project	Primary Purpose	Expected Outcomes
<b>Arctic Grayling Adult Density</b> ACA                    \$189,795 Partner                \$0 Total                    \$189,795	Collect information to address data deficiencies identified by AEP for Arctic grayling FSI development.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Determine adult density and population structure in the Kakwa River watershed. Additional data-deficient HUCs (Hierarchical Unit Code) for subsequent years to be provided by AEP. This project was originally planned for 2015/16 but deferred due to low water levels.</li> </ul> Year 1 of 4
<b>North Saskatchewan River Drainage FSI Data Gaps</b> ACA                    \$81,503 Partner                \$30,000 Total                    \$111,503	Describe fish distribution and stream habitat in areas of mutual interest to provincial resource managers and industrial partners with emphasis on priority species for FSI development.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Collect fish abundance, distribution, and stream habitat data in watersheds within West Fraser (Hinton, Edson) and Weyerhauser Forest Management Areas to aid in development of management plans and address FSI data deficiencies.</li> <li>Describe adult bull trout distribution and abundance in the Brazeau River.</li> </ul> Year 2 of 3

<p><b>Winter Dissolved Oxygen Conditions in Running Waters</b></p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>ACA</td> <td>\$66,907</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Partner</td> <td>\$0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>\$66,907</td> </tr> </table>	ACA	\$66,907	Partner	\$0	Total	\$66,907	<p>Determine potential for winter dissolved oxygen as a limiting factor to fish production in running waters identified by AEP.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Determine spatial and temporal patterns in winter dissolved oxygen in select watersheds (i.e., candidates include, Cadotte, Heart, Whitemud and Notikewin rivers).</li> </ul> <p>Year 1 of 3</p>
ACA	\$66,907							
Partner	\$0							
Total	\$66,907							
<p><b>Sport Fishery Restoration at Isle Lake</b></p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>ACA</td> <td>\$48,003</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Partner</td> <td>\$47,584</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>\$95,587</td> </tr> </table>	ACA	\$48,003	Partner	\$47,584	Total	\$95,587	<p>Restore native sport fishery at Isle Lake through improvements in lake and watershed health.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Expand on stakeholder and local community partnerships/support established in Year 1. Partnerships established in Year 1 include: Sturgeon River Watershed Alliance, Parkland County ALUS (Alternative Landuse Services Inc.), Lac Ste. Anne ALUS, Lake Isle/ Lac Ste. Anne Water Quality Management Society, Lakes of Parkland County and North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance.</li> <li>Establish baseline water quality for the lake.</li> <li>Work with AEP area biologist to develop Fisheries Management Objectives (FMO) for the lake.</li> <li>Document health of riparian zone around the lake and the Sturgeon River upstream using aerial drone videography.</li> <li>Establish one to three on-the-ground riparian restoration projects in partnership with landowners and partners.</li> </ul> <p>Year 2 of 5</p>
ACA	\$48,003							
Partner	\$47,584							
Total	\$95,587							
<p><b>Sport Fishery Restoration at Hasse Lake</b></p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>ACA</td> <td>\$31,198</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Partner</td> <td>\$0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>\$31,198</td> </tr> </table>	ACA	\$31,198	Partner	\$0	Total	\$31,198	<p>Re-establish sport fishery at Hasse Lake through improvements in lake and watershed health.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Expand on stakeholder and local community partnerships/support established in Year 1. Partnerships established in Year 1 include: Parkland County Recreation and Culture, ALUS, and Lakes of Parkland County.</li> <li>Work with AEP area biologist to develop FMO for the lake.</li> <li>Continued technical support to partners for on-the-ground riparian restoration activities.</li> <li>Develop lake phosphorus budget.</li> <li>Monitor water quality and biota.</li> <li>Initiate measures for avian predator control (primarily gulls) on island in the lake.</li> </ul> <p>Year 2 of 5</p>
ACA	\$31,198							
Partner	\$0							
Total	\$31,198							

**Implementation of Approved Fish Species Recovery and Management Plans**

Project	Primary Purpose	Expected Outcomes						
<p><b>Westslope Cutthroat Trout Recovery and Management</b></p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>ACA</td> <td>\$130,258</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Partner</td> <td>\$0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>\$130,258</td> </tr> </table>	ACA	\$130,258	Partner	\$0	Total	\$130,258	<p>Determine population structure and critical habitat use and threats for pure strain populations in the upper Oldman River watershed to aid implementation of recovery plans.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Determine juvenile and adult abundances in key sub-watersheds.</li> <li>Identify potential spawning reaches.</li> <li>Describe sedimentation rates in key sub-watersheds and spawning reaches.</li> <li>Collect genetic samples to improve knowledge of population genetics and help delineate critical habitat areas for protection.</li> <li>Prioritize areas for reclamation.</li> </ul> <p>Year 2 of 2</p>
ACA	\$130,258							
Partner	\$0							
Total	\$130,258							

## 3.4 Land Management

Our Land Management program focuses on conserving, protecting and enhancing wildlife and fish habitat. We also promote the recreational value associated with conserved land. We recognize the importance of collaborative partnerships and consider our partners an integral component of the Land Management program. These partnerships require ongoing communication with a variety of conservation organizations and stakeholder groups.

The main component of ACA's land management program involves securement, enhancement and management of fish and wildlife habitat which includes inventory, assessment and monitoring of Conservation Sites and other habitat initiatives. We secure important wildlife and fish habitat within 27 focal areas in Alberta—for our enjoyment now and for generations to come. We use several methods to secure land including direct purchase, land donations and habitat lease agreements.

We currently manage over 207,000 acres of habitat within Alberta. This includes fisheries access sites, managed Crown properties, ACA-titled lands, lands with conservation easements and other habitat type projects. Management involves restoring and enhancing a variety of habitat, controlling invasive species, maintaining infrastructure, addressing industrial referrals and installing new signage on all ACA Conservation Sites. Management of our Conservation Sites involves a mix of science and creativity which is outlined in detailed management plans which provides short and long term visions of what we expect to accomplish on our Conservation Sites.

Enhancement of riparian habitat is another priority where we use techniques to restore and enhance priority riparian drainages. We use a host of tools including streambank fencing, off-channel watering for livestock, bank stabilization, education and outreach, and habitat retention agreements to enhance and protect riparian habitat. Success of our riparian program is attributed to collaborative partnerships with private landowners, watershed groups, industry, federal, provincial and municipal governments, and a variety of granting agencies and other stakeholders.

Securement, enhancement and management of recreational opportunity initiatives are an integral component of our Land Management Program. We currently manage and maintain 27 Fisheries Access Sites across the province, these provide angling opportunities to a variety of rivers, lakes and trout ponds. We are also initiating a new project "Recreational Opportunity Enhancement" which looks at increasing hunting and angling opportunities. Another component of this project is to explore opportunities to connect hunters with landowners who experience elk/deer depredation. *Alberta's Discover Guide* and the Discover Guide iPhone app, developed with ACA's Communications program, are important tools that highlight the value of habitat conservation and the diversity of recreational opportunities available to Albertans. The 2016 edition is the ninth installment and features over 761 ACA and partner-owned sites across the province, including 338 sites owned by Ducks Unlimited Canada and 75 by Alberta Fish & Game Association. Another focus is the Use Respect – Ask First program that fosters respect between land users and landowners, increasing responsible access to privately owned lands.

Our conservation efforts provide recreational opportunities such as hunting, fishing, photography, hiking, berry picking and wildlife viewing for Albertans and our visitors.

Table 10: Land Management Projects for 2016/17

Securement , Enhancement and Management of Fish and Wildlife Habitat (includes Inventory, Assessment and Monitoring)		
Project	Primary Purpose	Expected Outcomes
<b>Conservation Site Management</b> <hr/> ACA \$757,327 Partner \$272,631 Total \$1,029,958	Manage, enhance and maintain ACA Conservation Sites to provide a diversity of habitat for a variety of fish and wildlife species.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Manage, enhance and maintain over 207,000 acres of habitat on over 300 Conservation Sites in the province.</li> <li>Complete inspections on 50% of ACA managed Conservation Sites.</li> <li>Install new signage on 12 ACA Conservation Sites.</li> <li>Enhance wildlife and fish habitat on 14 Conservation Sites.</li> <li>Maintain and develop collaborative partnerships to enhance management of Conservation Sites.</li> <li>Enhance sustainable recreational opportunities on ACA-owned and managed sites.</li> <li>Continue to work collaboratively with AEP on priority Crown Conservation Sites that ACA is managing (dispositions).</li> </ul>
<b>Habitat Securement Fund</b> <hr/> ACA \$600,000 Partner \$550,000 Total \$1,150,000	Identify and conserve high-priority wildlife and fish habitat using ACA's Habitat Securement Fund and through collaboration with other conservation partners.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Secure 1,000 acres of habitat through land purchases and land donations.</li> <li>Maintain, enhance and expand securement partnerships.</li> <li>Increase sustainable recreational opportunities across the province.</li> <li>Provide information to the public that makes it easier to enjoy the outdoors, such as <i>Alberta's Discover Guide</i>, the Guide App, articles in our <i>Conservation Magazine</i> and external website.</li> </ul>
<b>Corporate Partners Program (Securement)</b> <hr/> ACA \$221,394 Partner \$0 Total \$221,394	Conserve, enhance and restore priority wildlife and fish habitat with corporate partners.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Secure 800 acres of habitat through direct purchase within focus areas.</li> <li>Restore and enhance habitat on conserved lands (where applicable).</li> <li>Maintain and enhance current corporate partnerships.</li> <li>Increase the number of corporate partners actively donating to ACA (one new corporate partner).</li> <li>Increase sustainable recreational opportunities across the province.</li> </ul>
<b>Landowner Habitat Program (LHP)</b> <hr/> ACA \$81,485 Partner \$24,033 Total \$105,518	Conserve important habitat on privately owned lands through habitat lease agreements.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protect an additional 1,000 acres of important wildlife and fish habitat using 5- to 20-year term habitat retention agreements.</li> <li>Enhance sustainable recreational opportunities on private lands.</li> </ul>
<b>Riparian Conservation</b> 1) Owl River 2) Beaverlodge River 3) Edson River 4) South Riparian Conservation expansion to Milk River Ridge 5) North Raven and Raven Rivers 6) Isle and Hasse Lakes <hr/> ACA \$173,937 Partner \$180,579 Total \$354,516	Continue to enhance, restore and protect riparian habitat through collaboration with private landowners, watershed groups, government, industry and other stakeholders.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish 5 to 10 new riparian conservation projects and associated landowner agreements (e.g. fencing, off-channel watering, habitat lease agreements, tree planting, bank stabilization, etc.)</li> <li>Increase public interest and awareness of riparian conservation through community outreach, public presentations and direct contact with key property owners who manage riparian habitat, signage, advertisements, etc.</li> <li>Complete Cows and Fish health assessments and inventories at new and existing project locations, and conduct water sampling to monitor riparian conditions.</li> <li>Participate in watershed groups, councils and stewardship networks.</li> </ul>

## Development and Implementation of Habitat Management Plans

Project	Primary Purpose	Expected Outcomes
<b>Management Plan Development</b> <hr/> ACA \$132,714 Partner \$0 Total \$132,714	Develop management plans for Conservation Sites ACA owns and/or manages.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop habitat management and enhancement objectives and identify project partner roles and responsibilities for priority Conservation Sites.</li> <li>Complete management plans on 100% of titled lands acquired in 2015/16.</li> <li>Prioritize and develop management plans for Crown Conservation Sites (sites with dispositions).</li> <li>Work with partners and update management plans where required.</li> </ul>

## Securement, Enhancement and Management of Recreational Access Sites

Project	Primary Purpose	Expected Outcomes
<b>Fisheries Access Site Management</b> <hr/> ACA \$278,714 Partner \$103,250 Total \$381,964	Maintain and enhance fisheries access sites that support and increase recreational angling opportunities across the province.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Manage and maintain 27 fisheries access sites across the province.</li> <li>Install new infrastructure (e.g. floating casting-platforms, garbage cans and picnic tables) at two fisheries access sites.</li> <li>Complete site upgrades and repairs at three sites (e.g. fence repairs, outhouse removal).</li> <li>Maintain infrastructure at all fisheries access sites.</li> <li>Develop one new fisheries access site.</li> <li>Continue to work collaboratively with AEP on Crown Fisheries Access Sites (dispositions). Continue providing access for anglers to key streams, rivers, lakes and trout ponds.</li> <li>Maintain and develop collaborative partnerships to assist with maintenance costs associated with managing fisheries access sites.</li> <li>Collaborate with AEP and ACA's Fisheries Team on the identification of new Fisheries Access Sites.</li> </ul>
<b>Recreational Opportunity Enhancement</b> <hr/> ACA \$36,000 Partner \$0 Total \$36,000	Increase opportunities for hunting and angling, as well as other non-consumptive activities such as hiking, canoeing or photography.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop an online service that connects hunters with landowners who experience elk or deer depredation.</li> <li>Expand the access sign-in process (12 new landowners) currently employed in Southern Alberta.</li> <li>Explore the use of seasonal or permanent leases to allow for access to Crown waterbodies across private land.</li> <li>Collaborate with AEP, AFGA, landowners and other stakeholders.</li> </ul>
<b>Use Respect – Ask First</b> <hr/> ACA \$500 Partner \$0 Total \$500	Increase recreational access opportunities on privately owned lands by promoting the <i>Use Respect – Ask First</i> program.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Distribute signage to increase awareness of Use Respect (over 10,000 distributed to date).</li> <li>Foster respect between land users and landowners.</li> <li>Deliver program in collaboration with other conservation partners.</li> <li>Increase awareness and enhance hunting and angling opportunities on privately owned lands across Alberta.</li> </ul>
<b>Alberta Discover Guide</b> Dollars allocated in Information, Education and Communications	Promote the value of habitat conservation and the diversity of recreational opportunities available on ACA-owned and partner Conservation Sites.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review and update the Conservation Site database with new ACA Conservation Sites and partner-owned properties for the 9th edition of the Guide (2016).</li> </ul>

# Report A Poacher

As part of the Report A Poacher (RAP) program, we work with Alberta Justice and Solicitor General, Fish & Wildlife Enforcement Branch (AJSG) as well as AEP to ensure RAP retains a high profile and remains an important resource for the general public. As such, ACA is responsible for administering program funds and promotional activities. In 2016/17, we will continue to: 1) identify ways to educate the public about poaching in Alberta, 2) refine various promotional aspects such as the RAP education trailer, 3) improve public awareness of, and access to, the program, 4) support AJSG with funding and 5) provide funds for cash rewards to members of the public who help in charging poachers.

Table 11: Report A Poacher Projects for 2016/17

Project	Primary Purpose	Expected Outcomes
<b>Report A Poacher Promotion</b> <hr/> ACA \$142,078 Partner \$0 Total \$142,078	Continue promotion of anti-poaching campaign. Provide support for the RAP toll-free phone line.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increased public awareness and understanding of poaching and maintain/increase use of RAP program by the general public through:                             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Using various media to increase RAP program exposure and use.</li> <li>Completing update of RAP education trailer.</li> <li>Maintaining sufficient stock of promotional items used for trade shows and community/stakeholder events, as well as research new items that maximize exposure.</li> </ol> </li> <li>RAP toll-free line has an operator available at all times, with increased capacity during peak periods.</li> </ul>
<b>Enforcement Funding</b> <hr/> ACA \$80,000 Partner \$0 Total \$80,000	Provide funding to Alberta Justice and Solicitor General, Fish and Wildlife Enforcement Branch.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improved effectiveness of Alberta Justice and Solicitor General, Fish and Wildlife Enforcement Branch.</li> </ul>
<b>RAP Rewards</b> <hr/> ACA \$60,000 Partner \$0 Total \$60,000	Provide funding for rewards paid to members of the public who provide information leading to a poaching-related conviction.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increased public participation in the RAP program through monetary incentives.</li> </ul>

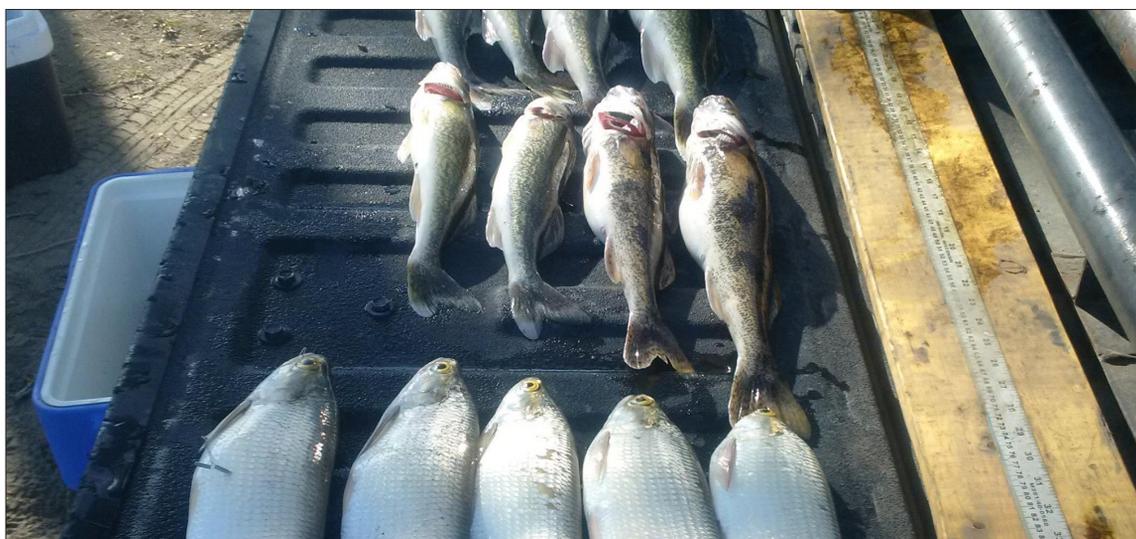


photo: Alberta Solicitor General

## 5.0 ACA Grants

ACA has three separate grants that are available through open competition:

ACA Conservation, Community and Education Grants support conservation activities by individuals, organizations, and communities that contribute 1) to fish and wildlife population conservation and the conservation or enhancement of fish and wildlife habitats, or 2) to the understanding, appreciation and use of the natural environment. Projects that increase participation in, and awareness of, outdoor opportunities, while developing knowledge and respect for conservation, are funded through this grant.

ACA Research Grants fund high-quality research projects on wildlife, fish and habitat that inform the effective management of wildlife and fish populations or habitat in Alberta. These grants are generally applied for by professional researchers but are available to any individual, organization or community that can provide a high-quality research proposal.

ACA Grants in Biodiversity provide research funds to outstanding graduate students doing Alberta-based research. The mandate of the program is to train future conservation professionals, while at the same time increasing knowledge of the flora and fauna of Alberta, covering broadly the fields of biodiversity, conservation biology and ecology. This grant is administered in collaboration with the Alberta Cooperative Conservation Research Unit, which represents a consortium of Alberta universities, including University of Alberta, University of Calgary and the University of Lethbridge. This grant is available only to graduate students undertaking research within Alberta (they may be attending universities outside of the province, but their research must be Alberta-based).

A fourth grant, the ACA Chair in Fisheries and Wildlife Grant is made available to ensure the ACA Chair in Fisheries and Wildlife is able to provide a link between academic research and ACA and other resource management personnel.



Smooth brome (invasive grass species)  
photo: Gisela Stotz

Table 12: Grants Program for 2016/17

Project	Primary Purpose	Expected Outcomes						
<p><b>ACA Conservation, Community and Education Grants</b></p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>ACA</td> <td>\$970,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Partner</td> <td>\$0</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Total</b></td> <td><b>\$970,000</b></td> </tr> </table>	ACA	\$970,000	Partner	\$0	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$970,000</b>	<p>This fund supports conservation activities by individuals, organizations, and communities that contribute to fish and wildlife population health and the health of their environments, and to the understanding, appreciation and use of those environments. The grant funds projects that increase participation in and awareness of outdoor opportunities, while developing knowledge and respect for conservation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contribute to healthy wildlife and fish populations, to a healthy environment for wildlife and fish in Alberta, and to the understanding, appreciation and use of that environment.</li> </ul>
ACA	\$970,000							
Partner	\$0							
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$970,000</b>							
<p><b>ACA Research Grants</b></p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>ACA</td> <td>\$330,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Partner</td> <td>\$0</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Total</b></td> <td><b>\$330,000</b></td> </tr> </table>	ACA	\$330,000	Partner	\$0	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$330,000</b>	<p>This grant funds high quality wildlife, fish and habitat research.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contribute to effective management of natural resources in Alberta.</li> </ul>
ACA	\$330,000							
Partner	\$0							
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$330,000</b>							
<p><b>ACA Grants in Biodiversity</b></p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>ACA</td> <td>\$175,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Partner</td> <td>\$50,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Total</b></td> <td><b>\$225,000</b></td> </tr> </table>	ACA	\$175,000	Partner	\$50,000	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$225,000</b>	<p>Support the training of future professional biologists and facilitate graduate student research that focuses on the conservation of Alberta's biological diversity.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Participate as a member of the Grants Program Committee that awards these funds to select graduate students.</li> <li>Support high-quality graduate research.</li> </ul>
ACA	\$175,000							
Partner	\$50,000							
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$225,000</b>							
<p><b>ACA Chair in Fisheries and Wildlife at the U of A</b></p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>ACA</td> <td>\$20,500</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Partner</td> <td>\$0</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Total</b></td> <td><b>\$20,500</b></td> </tr> </table>	ACA	\$20,500	Partner	\$0	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$20,500</b>	<p>Provide educational initiatives to wildlife professionals through the ACA Chair.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintain a close connection between the ACA Chair and ACA programs.</li> <li>Ensure research knowledge is being transferred to biologists involved in conservation, management and policy development.</li> </ul>
ACA	\$20,500							
Partner	\$0							
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$20,500</b>							

# 6.0 Landowner Compensation and Damage Prevention

Landowner Compensation and Damage Prevention consists of the Waterfowl Crop Damage Prevention Program, the Wildlife Predator Compensation Program and the Shot Livestock Compensation Program. ACA is responsible for the administration and implementation of these programs in Alberta.

## Waterfowl Crop Damage Prevention Program

This program assists agricultural producers to help prevent depredation losses to crops caused by waterfowl by providing information on loss-prevention techniques and scare cannons. These activities complement the joint federal-provincial financial compensation program, which requires that a prevention program be provided in order for agricultural producers to qualify for compensation funding.

## Wildlife Predator Compensation Program

This program provides financial compensation to agricultural producers who have incurred losses to livestock (cattle, swine, sheep, goats and bison) because of predation by wildlife (bears, wolves, cougars or eagles). Assessment of losses is undertaken by Alberta Justice and Solicitor General, Fish and Wildlife Enforcement Branch (AJSG). ACA is responsible for making the compensation payments to the agricultural producers as per a set payment scheduled. In 2016/17, the federal government will continue to supply approximately 50 percent of the funding required for compensation payments.

## Shot Livestock Compensation Program

This program provides financial compensation to agricultural producers who have incurred losses to livestock because of accidental shooting by third parties during an open hunting season. Compensation covers losses of horses and livestock covered under the predator program, as well as veterinary costs for wounded animals. Assessment of the losses is undertaken by AJSG, while ACA is responsible for making the compensation payments to the agricultural producers as per a set payment schedule.

Table 13: Landowner Compensation and Damage Prevention Projects for 2016/17

Project	Primary Purpose	Expected Outcomes
<b>Waterfowl Crop Damage Prevention</b> <hr/> ACA \$2,953 Partner \$0 Total \$2,953	Provide assistance to agricultural producers in preventing crop depredation losses as a result of waterfowl.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Provide access to information on techniques for reducing crop depredation to agricultural producers.</li> <li>· Ensure the prevention program meets requirements so that Alberta's agricultural producers qualify for the joint federal-provincial compensation program.</li> </ul>
<b>Wildlife Predator Compensation</b> <hr/> ACA \$350,000 Partner \$350,000 Total \$700,000	Reimburse livestock producers for losses or injury to specified livestock because of predation by wolves, cougars, grizzly bears, black bears or eagles.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Provide compensation payments within 30 days of receiving claims.</li> </ul>
<b>Shot Livestock Compensation</b> <hr/> ACA \$15,000 Partner \$0 Total \$15,000	Reimburse livestock producers for losses or injury to specified livestock as a result of accidental shooting by a third party during an open hunting season.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Provide compensation payments within 30 days of receiving claims.</li> </ul>



Fresh bear tracks in burn, Landslide trail  
photo: ACA, Shevenell Webb

# 7.0 Monitoring and Accountability

*On time, on budget, high quality and done safely* continue to be the cornerstones by which we measure every project.

Project leads are responsible for providing monthly updates, ensuring projects are on track. These updates allow us to address and resolve any issues in a timely manner. In addition, project leads prepare annual summary reports that are posted on our website by April 30 each year. These summary reports are reviewed as part of an internal quality control process and then are reviewed externally. Posting our reports on the website allows our stakeholders to assess the quality of our work. Whether praise for a job well done or constructive criticism on how to improve our work, we encourage stakeholder feedback.

In addition to our operational controls, we continue to involve our Board of Directors in our monitoring and accountability process, through the Standards Review Committee. This committee selects a group of projects or programs and reviews their merits for scientific credibility, efficiency and ability to positively impact conservation in Alberta. The Standards Review Committee's recommendations

are brought to the Board of Directors and are given to management for immediate implementation, as required.

We assure financial accountability through a number of processes, including internal controls and a yearly external audit. We also make all financial statements available to the public on our website.

Our *Annual Report* is released each September to Alberta Environment and Parks (AEP), our member groups and to the general public. This document clearly and concisely outlines the projects we have completed, the funds we have spent and the results we have produced. It is this document that our stakeholders should review to ensure that we are providing good conservation value.

Perhaps the most important monitoring and accountability process is our staff, who are always willing to engage with our partners, stakeholders and the general public about our organization, our work and our projects. We pride ourselves on being open and transparent and willing to answer questions about any of our projects.



Wood frog at Potter's Seep  
photo: ACA, Colin Eyo

## 8.0 Financial Summary

Our 2016/17 operating budget, including projected land donations and funds donated for land purchase, is \$18,004,603.

In accordance with the *Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants Standards and Collection Handbook*, our year-end financial statements for land donations and funds donated for land purchase are presented as assets, rather than revenue. Showing these partner donations in our annual budget fairly represents the next 12 months of work and our efforts to increase conservation activities through non-levy funding.

Our 2016/17 budget is based on a levy revenue projection of \$14,777,438, established from 2015/16 actuals, a projection of partner (non-levy) revenue for projects of \$3,931,080 and a projection of partner (non-levy) donations of land or funds for land purchase of \$2,000,000.

\$12,343,360 is allocated to Wildlife, Fisheries, Land Management (including land purchase and donations), and Information, Education and Communications programs. This amount is equivalent to 83 percent of the levy revenue value collected from hunters and anglers.

Table 14: Summary Budget for 2016/17

Program	ACA (Levy Funds)	Partner Funds	Total Budget
Administration	\$1,921,834	\$58,814	\$1,980,648
Finance	\$604,352	\$7,169	\$611,521
Business Development	\$128,481	\$168,084	\$296,565
Human Resources	\$269,513	\$0	\$269,513
Health and Safety	\$135,285	\$0	\$135,285
Information Technology	\$458,487	\$0	\$458,487
Information, Education and Communications	\$1,074,977	\$151,000	\$1,225,977
Wildlife	\$2,855,005	\$1,029,806	\$3,884,811
Fisheries	\$2,227,163	\$128,189	\$2,355,352
Land Management	\$2,289,202	\$588,018	\$2,877,220
Report A Poacher (RAP)	\$301,788	\$0	\$301,788
Landowner Compensation and Damage Prevention	\$365,000	\$350,000	\$715,000
Grants	\$1,546,351	\$50,000	\$1,596,351
<b>Subtotal Budget</b>	<b>\$14,177,438</b>	<b>\$2,531,080</b>	<b>\$16,708,518</b>
Land Donations and Funds Donated for Land Purchases	\$600,000	\$1,400,000	\$2,000,000
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>\$14,777,438</b>	<b>\$3,931,080</b>	<b>\$18,708,518</b>



Marking fence with reflectors  
photo: ACA, Paul Jones



*Conserving Alberta's Wild Side*

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Adam Norris - Public At Large, Northwest Region

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Vacant - Treaty 8

## Member Groups

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Alberta Fish & Game Association

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Alberta Hunter Education Instructors' Association

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Alberta Professional Outfitters Society

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Alberta Trappers' Association

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Nature Alberta

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Pheasants Forever, Alberta Council

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Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta

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Trout Unlimited Canada

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Wild Sheep Foundation Alberta

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NATURE ALBERTA





