

**Alberta Conservation Association**  
**2023/24 Project Summary Report**

**Project Name:** Fisheries Access Site Management

**Land Management Program Manager:** Robert Anderson

**Project Leader:** Marco Fontana

**Primary ACA Staff on Project:** Mandy Couve, Taylor Dickson, Marco Fontana, John Hallett, David Jackson, Tyler Johns, Ed Kolodychuk, Taylor Lund, Diana Rung, Roy Schmelzeisen, Scott Seward, Dan Sturgess, and Clayton Temple

**Partnerships**

Agroforestry and Woodlot Extension  
Society

Alberta Fish & Game Association

Alberta Transportation

Alternate Land Use Services Canada

Angling Outfitter & Guide Association of  
Alberta

Bettensons Sand and Gravel Co Ltd.

Bow River Trout Foundation

Camrose County

Clearwater County

County of Newell

County of Northern Lights

Cows and Fish

De Beers Group

Devon Canada Corporation

Dickson Fish & Game Association

Government of Alberta

Haul-All Equipment Ltd.

Keyera Corp.

Lacombe County

Lacombe Fish & Game Association

Lethbridge County

Lethbridge Northern Irrigation District

Municipal District of Greenview

North Raven River Working Group

Rocky View County

Saddle Hills County

Stettler County

Trout Unlimited Canada – Bow River  
Chapter

Trout Unlimited Canada – Central Chapter

Waldron Grazing Co-Op Ltd.

Wetaskiwin County

## **Key Findings**

- Inspected and maintained 24 fisheries access sites throughout the province, accessing angling opportunities at three different rivers and 20 lakes, ponds, or reservoirs.
- Commissioned ten maintenance contracts for services at 19 sites provincially.
- Completed a range health assessment and grazing plan for one site in the Central Region.
- Completed site upgrades and repairs at three fisheries access sites provincially, which included the construction of a new access road and parking area, as well as repairing damaged signs, docks, and outhouses.
- Completed the process of obtaining miscellaneous leases on two fisheries access sites on Crown land and continued to pursue the development of a new access site near Calgary.
- Recognized 31 in-kind and financial partnerships in 2023/24 to support management of our fisheries access sites.
- Enrolled one ongoing site steward in Alberta Conservation Association's Volunteer Stewardship Program and hosted a volunteer activity event at one site.
- Submitted four successful partner proposals for funding to complete maintenance activities, infrastructure developments, and habitat improvements at two sites.

## **Details**

Alberta Conservation Association's (ACA) Land Management Program encompasses activities intended to conserve, protect, and enhance wildlife and fish habitat and to increase sustainable recreational opportunities including angling and hunting. One such activity is the delivery of the Fisheries Access Site Management Project, which provides angling access to key streams, rivers, and lakes throughout the province. In 2023/24, we inspected and maintained 24 fisheries access sites (FAS). These sites provide access to 20 lakes, ponds, or reservoirs (of which 14 are stocked and six are stocked and aerated), as well as two sites on the North Raven River, one new site on the Bow River, and one site on the Oldman River. We contracted a range health assessment and grazing plan for Boulder Lake near Red Deer, which will guide how we tender out grazing opportunities on the property adjacent to the fish pond in the coming years. We also constructed a new access road and parking lot at Boulder Lake close to the fishpond and the permanent outhouse installed last year. We completed upgrades and repairs (e.g., docks, signs, outhouses) at four sites with improvements to day-use facilities and access areas. We successfully acquired

two new ACA leases on Crown land. These included McVinnie Reservoir, an existing FAS in our Southern Region, and Legacy Island, a new FAS for ACA that provides access to the Bow River downstream of Calgary, near Carseland. This site was previously managed by Trout Unlimited Canada – Bow River Chapter. We continued to work with the provincial government to develop a new FAS and stocked trout fishery east of Calgary, near Chestermere. We recognized 31 partners in 2023/24 who generously contributed financially or with in-kind assistance. De Beers, The Bow River Trout Foundation, and the Angling Outfitter & Guide Association of Alberta all contributed funds to help with weed management and future access improvements at Legacy Island. De Beers also joined ACA's Volunteer Stewardship Program for the site and organized a day-long weed pulling event for their staff, to help control invasive plants. Keyera Corp and Bettensons Sand and Gravel generously donated funds and materials to help our valued partners, Lacombe Fish & Game Association, complete access developments at Boulder Lake. Our success in managing FAS is achieved through the collaboration with a growing number of partners and volunteers as we continue to strive to ensure anglers have high-quality experiences at ACA FAS across the province.

## Photos



Photo 1. Day-use amenities at Shell True North Pond. Photo: Garret McKen



Photo 2. New parking lot and access road constructed at Boulder Lake. Photo: Marco Fontana





Photo 3. New project sign installed at Dollar Lakes. Photo: Dave Jackson



Photo 4. Overview of Burmis Lake. Photo: Tyler Johns



Photo 5. Volunteers from De Beers pulling weeds at Legacy Island. Photo: Marco Fontana



Photo 6. Site users fishing off the dock at Lee Lake. Photo: Tyler Johns