

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

Project Name: Management Plan Development

Land Management Program Manager: Robert Anderson

Project Leader: Roy Schmelzeisen

Primary ACA Staff on Project: Meagan Butler, Mandy Couve, Taylor Dickson, Marco Fontana, John Hallett, Tyler Johns, Ed Kolodychuk, Garret McKen, Stephen Nadworny, Terri Perron, Roy Schmelzeisen, Dan Sturgess, Clayton Temple, and Erin VanderMarel

Partnerships

Alberta Fish & Game Association

Ducks Unlimited Canada

Government of Alberta

Nature Conservancy of Canada

Key Findings

- Developed 30 conservation site management plans in 2023/24.

Details

Alberta Conservation Association (ACA) has management interests on 220,000 acres of land that have been secured to both maintain or enhance natural landscape features and to provide open access for individuals who wish to experience the outdoors in a variety of low impact activities, which can include hiking, hunting, angling, and foraging. Some of these lands are solely titled to ACA, some we share title with partners, and others are a lease or other interest in the land. For those sites in which ACA is the lead management agency for the site, or ACA has developed a lease with the government, ACA works with our partners to develop a management plan to ensure that we are effectively delivering on the objectives and agreements on which the property was secured. These plans provide specific details regarding site features, objectives regarding enhancement or restoration, recreational and facility enhancements, guidelines, and other

planned activities for the site. On titled lands, management plans are reviewed by ACA and our partners as required or on a term basis (e.g., after five or ten years) to ensure we are meeting our intended goals and objectives. On Crown sites, we develop a management plan for the term of the lease (25 years).

In 2023/24, we developed 30 management plans. Along with new sites that have been secured recently by ACA through our Habitat Securement Program, many of these plans are being developed in partnership with Alberta Fish & Game Association (AFGA) on properties secured through Wildlife Trust funding many years ago. ACA has recently become a partner on the AFGA sites and has taken on the lead management role. Also among the new management plans are public lands originally secured under Buck for Wildlife funding that will now be protected under a lease held by ACA. Two fisheries access sites have gone through the disposition process and currently have been assigned leases; more are being prepared for submission.

Developing management plans is an important component of caring for our conservation assets. These plans enable ACA and our partners to effectively manage conservation and fisheries access sites using a consistent and clearly defined process. Management plan development is an ongoing activity in our planning cycle. In 2024/25, we will continue to develop and update plans for sites that we own or manage to ensure that effective and mutually agreed upon goals and objectives are administered on these lands.

Table 1. ACA conservation sites management plans developed in 2023/24.

Site	Management Partners
Boulder Lake	ACA, AFGA
Daysland	ACA, GOA
Debolt	ACA, AFGA
Dickson Dam Site 7	ACA, GOA
Flatbush 5	ACA
George and Joan Mitchell Memorial	ACA, AFGA
Holden	ACA, AFGA
Junction Lake	ACA, AFGA
Kotowich	ACA, AFGA
Legacy Island	ACA, GOA
Link	ACA, AFGA, DUC
Long Pump	ACA, AFGA
MacConnachie	ACA, AFGA
McVinnie	ACA, GOA
North Fawcett 3	ACA
North Fawcett 5	ACA
North River	ACA
North Vilna	ACA
Packer	ACA
Parkland	ACA, AFGA
Pigeon Lake	ACA, AFGA
Redwing	ACA, AFGA, DUC
Silverberry (expansion)	ACA, AFGA
Sturgeon Lake	ACA, AFGA
Therien (addition)	ACA, NCC
Vilna	ACA, AFGA
Wabamun South Shoreline	ACA, AFGA
Wabamun – Whitewood	ACA, AFGA
Walters	ACA, AFGA
Weberville Pond	ACA, GOA

ACA = Alberta Conservation Association; AFGA = Alberta Fish & Game Association; DUC = Ducks Unlimited Canada; NCC = Nature Conservancy of Canada; GOA = Government of Alberta.

Photos



Photo 1. Crop field being restored to grassland habitat on Flatbush 5. Photo: Roy Schmelzeisen



Photo 2. Commemorative stone installed on MacConnachie conservation site. Photo: Roy Schmelzeisen



Photo 3. Strips of hay left uncut in hayfield for pheasant habitat. Photo: Stephen Nadworny