

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

Project Name: Habitat Securement

Land Management Program Manager: Robert Anderson

Project Leader: Ed Kolodychuk, Jeff Forsyth

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

Partnerships

Alberta Fish & Game Association

Computational Ecology Group

Detheridge Family Fund

Ducks Unlimited Canada

Environment and Climate Change Canada

Government of Alberta

Jeanne Wilfort

Kathy and Merv Kopperud

Medicine Hat Fish & Game Association

Pheasants Forever – Calgary Chapter

Pheasants Forever – Chinook Chapter

Sacha Investments Ltd.

Sherwood Park Fish & Game Association

Stackhouse and Wold Family

TransAlta

Key Findings

- Secured two new conservation sites and three conservation site expansions, totalling 1,464.1 acres (592.5 ha) in 2023/24.
- Joined on title with AFGA for the Nevis property, which is a 367-acre parcel.
- Acquisitions include one eco-gift donation and one split eco-gift donation/purchase conserving 320 acres (129.6 ha) of central parkland habitat, one purchase conserving 640 acres (259.0 ha) of dry mixedgrass habitat, one eco-gift land donation conserving 305.1 acres (123.5 ha) of dry mixedwood boreal habitat, and one purchase conserving 199 acres (80.5 ha) of dry mixedwood boreal habitat.
- In total, we secured five land acquisitions with an estimated land value of approximately \$3,551,350.

Details

Alberta's population experienced significant growth in 2023, increasing to 4.75 million by the third quarter, up from 4.60 million in 2022. The activities and economy in agriculture, oil and gas industry, and municipal development have increased, producing a greater impact on the loss of habitat. Alberta Conservation Association's (ACA) Provincial Habitat Securement Program conserves important wildlife and fish habitat through land purchases, land donations, and leases on Crown land. We collaborate with conservation groups, industry, various companies, and conservation-minded private individuals, allowing us to maximize our conservation impact and efficiency in our securement efforts. Together in 2023/24, we completed two land purchases, received two eco-gift donations, and completed one eco-gift donation/purchase combination, which conserved 1,464.1 acres (592.5 ha). These lands have an estimated land value of \$3,551,350. Management plans will be prepared in 2024/25 to collaboratively address roles and responsibilities between managing partners. Securing habitat ensures these lands will be conserved in perpetuity to benefit our valued wildlife and fish resources, and to provide Alberta's outdoor enthusiasts with year-round, sustainable recreational opportunities.

Photos



Photo 1. Wetland complex at our Stackhouse-Wold Conservation Site (Central Region). Photo: Erin VanderMarel



Photo 2. Central parkland habitat at the Wilfort Conservation Site (Central Region). Photo: Erin VanderMarel



Photo 3. Small wetland at our Whitewood/Wabamun Expansion (donation) Conservation Site (Northeast Region). Photo: Terri Perron



Photo 4. The management plan for our Whitewood/Wabamun Expansion (purchase) Conservation Site (Northeast Region) will focus on providing wildlife habitat and carbon sequestration. Photo: Drone Imagery



Photo 5. Coulee top view at our Manyberries Creek Conservation Site (South Region). Photo: Tyler Johns