

Waterfowl Crop Damage Prevention Program Agreement

Between:

Alberta Sustainable Resource Development
(SRD)

-and-

Alberta Conservation Association
(ACA)

This agreement is made pursuant to the Wildlife Regulation, AR 143/97 and the Memorandum of Understanding between SRD and ACA dated December 8, 2006.

Program Description

The Waterfowl Crop Damage Prevention Program (WCDPP) provides assistance to agricultural producers throughout the province in preventing depredation losses to unharvested crops caused by waterfowl. Activities carried out under the WCDPP are complementary to the federal-provincial waterfowl damage compensation program. The two programs, in combination, highlight the value of waterfowl in the eyes of producers and contribute to producer willingness to participate in waterfowl habitat initiatives undertaken by the Alberta Conservation Association (ACA), Alberta Sustainable Resource Development (SRD), and entities such as the North American Waterfowl Management Plan.

The ACA functions as a Delegated Administrative Organization (DAO) and is bound by the conditions of this Program Agreement. This Agreement sets down the WCDPP scope, roles and responsibilities that guide the ACA in its activities as a DAO of the Minister of SRD. In collaboration with ACA, SRD leads and is responsible for cooperative planning and support for the WCDPP in Alberta at the provincial, interprovincial and intergovernmental levels. SRD delegates to the ACA the responsibility for collaborative intraprovincial program planning, program delivery, program evaluations and program reporting within an approved annual program plan. Activities under the WCDPP are conducted under an umbrella Memorandum of Understanding between SRD and Environment Canada (EC). Through a collaborative Program Committee process, ACA develops an annual program plan each spring for endorsement by ACA, SRD, and EC, which guides ACA's WCDPP activities for the year. This annual plan is a component of the three year rolling business plan. The EC portion of cost-shared program funding amounts to 50% of the program funding and flows to the ACA under the terms of a Contribution Agreement between the ACA and EC. Alberta's portion of the cost-shared program funding is derived from ACA DAO revenues.

Core elements of the WCDPP are the planning, administration and field delivery of prioritized province-wide programs to prevent waterfowl depredation, including the provision of alternate feeding areas for waterfowl and/or the scaring of waterfowl from unharvested crops. The WCDPP may also include the development and dissemination of information and education materials related to waterfowl depredation on behalf of program collaborators. It may include the completion of technical studies pertinent to enhancement of damage prevention techniques and activities. Another component may be the evaluation of the effectiveness of damage prevention programs delivered by ACA as they relate to waterfowl depredation prevention and compensation in Alberta.

Outcomes

The following outcomes have been identified for the WCDPP. They represent the anticipated results of identified SCDPP activities and provide a basis for tracking the success of the Program.

- Planning of annual programs and activities under the WCDPP is completed.
- A waterfowl damage prevention program is delivered throughout prioritized agricultural areas of Alberta annually.
- Program evaluation (adaptive management or technical studies) may be conducted to minimize crop losses due to waterfowl depredation while retaining the value of the resource to consumptive and non-consumptive users.
- Data relevant to crop depredation by waterfowl in Alberta are collected and summarized in reports.
- Communication materials for agricultural producers may be developed and distributed to facilitate producer cooperation in prevention of losses to waterfowl depredation.

Roles and Responsibilities

The following broad categories of activities have been identified as taking place within the framework of this Program Agreement. For each category of activities roles and responsibilities have been identified for ACA and ASRD. The roles for ASRD have been provided only to the extent that ASRD provides a critical input to an ACA activity.

Activity: Negotiation of Contribution Agreement	
Description – An annual or long-term agreement between ACA and EC is negotiated and concluded to facilitate the annual flow of EC program funds to the ACA.	
ACA Roles and Responsibilities	SRD Roles and Responsibilities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Responsible for negotiation and endorsement of a Contribution Agreement with EC for the express purpose of facilitating the flow of federal funding to ACA. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reviews the agreement between ACA and EC and provides non-binding feedback and suggested revisions to ACA and EC within two weeks of receipt of draft document. May interact with EC on ACA’s behalf, if needed, to facilitate negotiation of a Contribution Agreement in a timely fashion.

Activity: Annual Program Planning	
Description – An annual program plan is developed by the ACA for review and endorsement by ACA, EC and SRD, which provides field program delivery objectives, details of all other activities funded through the WCDPP, and anticipated annual program expenditures.	
ACA Roles and Responsibilities	SRD Roles and Responsibilities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completes an annual program plan and forwards it for endorsement by SRD, EC and ACA. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> May provide collaborative input to the annual program plan. Reviews the draft program plan and collaborates with ACA and EC to facilitate acceptance and endorsement of the annual program plan by May 1.

Activity: Deliver Crop Damage Prevention Program	
Description – Waterfowl scaring assistance and feeding areas, as required, are provided during the harvest season to agricultural producers in prioritized agricultural areas of the province.	
ACA Roles and Responsibilities	SRD Roles and Responsibilities
<p>* Roles and Responsibilities around resourcing and protocols occur as defined in Schedule 7 of the Memorandum of Understanding</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through the annual program planning process, collaborates with SRD to identify prioritized agricultural areas for scaring and feeding program components. • May respond to within-year emergent areas of damage and will communicate changes to the plan to SRD as they occur. • Identifies areas where assistance from SRD is required and requests such assistance from SRD field offices as required. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through the annual program planning process, collaborates with ACA to identify prioritized agricultural areas for scaring and feeding program components. • May provide liaison between agricultural producers having depredation problems and ACA field delivery staff. • Field offices may provide services as a distribution centre for waterfowl scaring equipment.

Activity: Compensation Data	
Description – Annually obtain data on compensation paid for wildlife depredation in Alberta and maintain a wildlife damage compensation database for use by ACA and SRD.	
ACA Roles and Responsibilities	SRD Roles and Responsibilities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Secures data annually from Alberta Agriculture Financial Services Corporation (AFSC) and integrates the data into ACA’s wildlife damage compensation database. Provides all compensation data available to SRD annually. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assists ACA, if requested, in acquisition of compensation data from Alberta Agriculture Financial Services Corporation.

Activity: Evaluation and Technical Studies	
Description – Conduct investigations into the relationship between the field operation of damage prevention programs and waterfowl damage compensation claims. Conduct technical studies directed at enhancement of methodologies or techniques to increase the effectiveness of field programs delivered by the ACA in minimizing crop losses to waterfowl depredation and increase hunter opportunities.	
ACA Roles and Responsibilities	SRD Roles and Responsibilities
<p>* Roles and Responsibilities around resourcing and protocols occur as defined in Schedule 7 of the Memorandum of Understanding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Takes the lead role in conducting investigations or evaluations and technical studies. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where requested, may assist ACA with the design or delivery of investigations, evaluations or technical studies.

Activity: Data and Program Reporting	
<p>Description – Activities and results of prevention program field delivery are presented in an annual summary report provided to SRD and EC. Results of technical studies and/or program evaluations are presented in reports provided to SRD and EC.</p>	
ACA Roles and Responsibilities	SRD Roles and Responsibilities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collects data, collates information and produces an annual summary report following field delivery of programs. • Collects and analyzes data, and prepares reports summarizing the finding of any technical studies. • May make reports available to the public, within the terms and conditions established in the Shared Services Agreement. • May make data available to the public, within the terms and conditions established in the Shared Services Agreement. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Owns all data collected, gathered, produced, or acquired by the ACA as a result of programs conducted within the authority of the DAO. • May, at the request of ACA, assist with preparation and/or distribution of reports. • May, within the guidelines established in the Shared Services Agreement, authorize the use and/or dissemination of data.

Activity: Education and Outreach	
<p>Description – Develop and distribute education and outreach material/products to assist agricultural producers in efforts to minimize depredation losses to waterfowl. (e.g., fact sheets, self-help techniques, electronic media, websites for farmer-hunter linkages, etc.)</p>	
ACA Roles and Responsibilities	SRD Roles and Responsibilities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifies, jointly with SRD, key audiences, messages and timelines for development of education/outreach materials to support effective delivery of program activities. • Secures resources and administers for, produces and distributes education and outreach material intended to encourage agricultural producer action or cooperation in minimizing losses to waterfowl depredation. All materials distributed will recognize the participating agencies, ACA, SRD, and EC. • Where appropriate, makes recommendations to other DAO Programs within ACA that may play roles in education and outreach • Will pilot a website to explore opportunities for hunter-farmer linkages 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifies, jointly with ACA, key audiences, messages and timelines for development of education/outreach materials to support effective delivery of program activities. • May assist ACA with production and distribution of education and outreach material. • May provide data and resources to ACA, within the provisions of the Shared Services Agreement and the Information and Communications Agreement to facilitate development and production of education and outreach material.

WCDPP Performance Measures

As a mechanism to track and report on activities delegated to ACA under this program agreement both parties have agreed to adopt the following performance measures. ACA assumes responsibility for tracking and reporting on these performance measures to SRD at the conclusion of each operating year. Both parties may report on these measures to stakeholder groups as they deem appropriate.

- Program elements are completed by targeted dates
 - Contribution Agreement is endorsed by ACA and EC and/or in effect, and an annual program plan has been prepared by ACA and endorsed by SRD and EC by May 1 of each program delivery year.
 - Compensation data are appended to the database maintained by ACA and the data are provided to SRD by October of the year following program delivery.
 - Wildlife compensation data are requested and obtained from AFSC by August of the year following field program delivery.
 - An annual field program summary report is prepared and distributed to SRD and EC within time frames identified in the annual program plan.

- Program elements are delivered as described in the annual program plan
 - % of anticipated canons distribution centres in operation
 - % of anticipated feed stations operated

WCDPP General Conditions

- SRD is responsible for all interprovincial and intergovernmental planning and coordination of waterfowl crop damage prevention and compensation programs.

- ACA is responsible for annual intraprovincial operational planning and field delivery of waterfowl damage prevention programs in Alberta.

- ACA will take a lead role in informal liaison and communication with field delivery personnel of other jurisdictions but only with respect to program delivery methodologies and techniques that may have application to program delivery in Alberta.

- SRD will take the lead role in coordination or participation in any waterfowl crop damage related multi-jurisdictional workshops, seminars, or conferences.

- SRD will assist ACA in liaison with other governments or other governmental departments to obtain data required for program deliver, program evaluation, or

- technical studies (e.g. Spatial, water, precipitation). Provisions for data access are subject to the terms and conditions described in the Shared Services Agreement.
- Funds allocated to the WCDPP may only be utilized for activities that conform and contribute to WCDPP Outcomes identified in this Agreement.
 - SRD and ACA agree to the exchange of all information on activities related to delivery and/or administration of the WCDPP.
 - SRD and ACA will acknowledge the contribution and role of all participating agencies (ACA, SRD, and EC) in all communications regarding the WCDPP.
 - In the case that Environment Canada terminates their involvement in this program, this Program Agreement is effectively terminated and subject to renegotiation.

Program Term

- This Agreement shall commence upon the date of signature and remain in effect until December 8, 2011.
- This Agreement is subject to annual review and may be amended from time to time as outlined in the MOU signed December 8, 2006 between ACA and SRD.