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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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ACA Grants in Biodiversity announces 2009 award recipients

Edmonton – March 4, 2009 – Grizzly bears, ants, caribou, fungi, pine beetles and wolves are amongst the many subjects that will receive special attention over the next two years as the ACA Grants in Biodiversity winners were announced this week. Biodiversity Grants totaling \$202,500 will be divided amongst 16 graduate students and post-doctoral fellows for the purposes of increasing the knowledge of flora and fauna in Alberta. The 15-year old Grant program attracts international interest with this year's winners coming from universities across Alberta, British Columbia and even Scotland to conduct world-class research in Alberta.

The ACA Grants in Biodiversity program is funded by the Alberta Conservation Association and operated through the Alberta Cooperative Conservation Research Unit – a partnership between the University of Alberta, the University of Calgary and the University of Lethbridge. With this year's awards, the ACA Grants in Biodiversity has now awarded over \$3.2 million dollars to 318 researchers. The research supported by the ACA Grants in Biodiversity ultimately aims to conserve, protect and enhance Alberta's fish, wildlife and natural habitats.

2009 ACA Grants in Biodiversity Recipients

Recipient	Institution	Project Title
Jonathan Bennett	University of Alberta	Interactions between plant and fungal communities in a native grassland
Varina Crisfield	University of Alberta	The impact of recreational activity on the alpine vegetation of the Canadian Rockies
Evan Esch	University of Alberta	Arthropod diversity, mountain pine beetle, and white pine blister rust in whitebark pine
Janice Gallwey	University of Calgary	The components and dynamics of floral display size and their implications for pollinator attraction and reproduction by angiosperms
Carly Greenway	University of Calgary	Macroinvertebrate and waterfowl communities of temporary prairie pothole wetlands
Peter Knamiller	University of Alberta	Summer wolf predation in the Central Eastern Slopes of the Rocky Mountains, Alberta
Jeff Lane	University of Edinburgh	Hibernation phenology of Columbian ground squirrels: Heritability, plasticity and selection
Terrence Larsen	University of Alberta	Forest harvesting targets susceptible pine: Predicting grizzly bear habitat conditions
Julie Lee-Yaw	University of British Columbia	Dispersal and local adaptation at the range limit of the long-toed salamander
Jeffrey Newton	University of Alberta	Farming of subterranean Sternorrhyncha (Hemiptera) by ants (Hymenoptera: Formicidae) and its effect on temperate grassland vegetation
Amy Nixon	University of Alberta	The role of forest structure and host-parasitoid dynamics in the spread of a forest insect outbreak
Samson Nyanumba	University of Alberta	Mediation of plant-plant interactions through allelochemicals in a native grassland
Catherine Ovens	University of Lethbridge	Kinship and use of space by female Richardson's ground squirrels (<i>Spermophilus richardsonii</i>)

Recipient	Institution	Project Title
Jesse Patterson	University of Calgary	Nesting biology of northern flying squirrels (<i>Glaucomys sabrinus</i>) in Alberta, Canada with emphasis on huddling dynamics and parasite-host interactions
Marla Schwarzfeld,	University of Alberta	Diversity of parasitoids (Hymenoptera: Ichneumonidae) in a boreal forest ecosystem
Byron Weckworth	University of Calgary	Ecological and evolutionary management of threatened woodland caribou in a human altered landscape