



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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AOSP supports boreal habitat conservation

Calgary, Alberta – The Alberta Conservation Association (ACA) and Shell Canada today announced that the Athabasca Oil Sands Project (AOSP) will invest \$2 million with the ACA to identify, purchase and conserve ecologically significant sections of Canada’s boreal forest.

Funding of \$200,000 per year will be provided to the ACA over 10 years to acquire hectares of boreal forest as conservation offsets through ACA’s Corporate Partners in Conservation Program. The intention of the agreement is to partially offset the impacts of land clearing for AOSP Expansion 1.

In addition, a portion of the AOSP’s future tree planting activities with Tree Canada will align with lands purchased by the ACA.

“The AOSP is committed to developing our oil sands business in a responsible and sustainable manner, and this includes identifying opportunities to manage the environmental impacts of our operations,” said David Collyer, Shell Canada Vice-President Sustainable Development, Oil Sands.

“While we have plans to manage our footprint, such as phased reclamation, we are also looking to initiatives, such as conservation offsets in the boreal forest, to help mitigate, and partially offset, land and habitat disturbances resulting from our expansion.”

“The AOSP partnership is extremely significant,” says Todd Zimmerling, President and CEO of ACA. “This is a voluntary commitment to make a difference by ensuring ecologically significant parcels of boreal habitat are secured and available for future generations.”

“The Corporate Partners in Conservation Program is becoming recognized by other oil and gas companies in Alberta and as a result ACA is setting the stage both provincially and nationally as a leader in conservation offsets.”

The Athabasca Oil Sands Project is a joint venture among Shell Canada (60%), Marathon Oil Sands L.P. (20%) and Chevron Canada (20%).

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Backgrounder



About ACA and Boreal Habitat Offsets

Established in 1997, the Alberta Conservation Association is a non-profit organization that conserves, protects and enhances fish, wildlife and habitat for all Albertans to enjoy, value and use.

ACA strives to establish long-term funding relationships and increase conservationism within corporate Alberta through the *Corporate Partners in Conservation Program* and its two streams: the Habitat Securement, Enhancement and Management Fund (HSEM Fund) and the Special Project Support Fund (SPS Fund).

The HSEM Fund works by leveraging ACA expertise in land acquisition to purchase offsets on a company's behalf, develop criteria for the offset and ensure other NGOs are in alignment. ACA also works with the company to identify employees who are willing to aid in developing management and rehabilitation plans, build or remove fence, and/or plant trees. The key is to promote habitat conservation and conservation to employees.

The SPS Fund is set up for corporations to fund all or part of the costs associated with conducting conservation-related projects undertaken by ACA. These projects may range from lake aeration programs, to bull trout monitoring, to research on mountain sheep. This support frees up dollars so they can be applied to other priority conservation projects identified by Alberta Sustainable Resource Development. www.ab-conservation.com

About AOSP Expansion 1

AOSP Expansion 1 is a fully integrated 100,000 barrel-a-day expansion of oil sands mining and upgrading facilities. It includes the construction of mining and extraction facilities at Jackpine mine on the east side of Lease 13. This expansion will increase production from 155,000 to 255,000 barrels per day.

Support for the boreal habitat conservation program is the result of an agreement with the Oil Sands Environmental Coalition (comprised of The Pembina Institute, Toxics Watch Society of Alberta and the Fort McMurray Environmental Association) on the environmental commitments for AOSP Expansion 1.