

## Landowner Compensation/Prevention Programs Agreement

Between:

Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development  
(ESRD)

-and-

Alberta Conservation Association  
(ACA)

This agreement is made pursuant to the *Wildlife Regulation*, AR 143/97 and the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between ESRD and ACA dated May 20, 2014

### Program Description

The department of Environment and Sustainable Resources Development (ESRD) has the responsibility to manage all aspects of Alberta's fish and wildlife resources on behalf of the Government of Alberta. In carrying out this responsibility, ESRD requires both internal and external resources to support management decisions and programs. The department of Alberta Justice and Solicitor General (AJSG) is responsible for enforcing fish and wildlife regulations in the province of Alberta. The Alberta Conservation Association (ACA), as a delegated administrative organization (DAO) established under the Alberta *Wildlife Act* and *Wildlife Regulation*, undertakes projects and programs to address ESRD priorities with respect to fish and wildlife resources.

This agreement comprises three delegated programs; The Waterfowl Crop Damage Prevention Program, the Wildlife Predator Compensation Program and the Shot Livestock Compensation Program. The ACA has the fiscal responsibility for implementation of these programs in Alberta. Compensation programs are currently under review, given the emerging new bilateral agricultural agreement between the governments of Canada and Alberta, but will remain intact, pending the outcome of this review.

The purpose of compensation and prevention programs is to contribute to a more positive attitude among landowners towards: a) wildlife, which are often perceived as a liability due to property damage, and b) resource users, whose activities may result in the unintended loss of livestock due to hunting. Financial compensation and/or tools to help minimize economic losses to agricultural producers are intended to enhance the level of support for wildlife and wildlife programs in Alberta,

The Waterfowl Crop Damage Prevention Program (WCDPP) provides assistance to agriculture producers to help prevent depredation losses to crops, caused by waterfowl. This assistance entails provision of information on loss-prevention techniques and provision of scare-cannons. . These activities complement the joint federal-provincial financial compensation program, which requires that a prevention program be provided in order to qualify for funding. Evaluation of the effectiveness of prevention programs in limiting crop damage from waterfowl is needed. This compensation program is administered in Alberta by Agriculture Financial Services, and has averaged approximately \$1.9 million in payments annually over the past 10 years.

The Wildlife Predator Compensation Program (WPCP) provides financial compensation to agricultural producers who have incurred losses to livestock (cattle, swine, sheep, goats and bison) due to predation by wildlife (bears, wolf, cougar or eagle) as well as veterinary costs for injured animals. A multi-stakeholder compensation committee (Wildlife Predator/Shot Livestock Compensation Committee) reviews compensation appeals and make recommendations regarding livestock value.

The Shot Livestock Compensation Program (SLCP) provides financial compensation to agricultural producers who have incurred losses to livestock due to accidental shooting by third parties, during an open hunting season. Compensation covers horses, in addition to the livestock covered under the predator program, as well as veterinary costs for wounded animals. The same committee responsible for the WPCP provides input to this program.

This Agreement defines the scope of services delegated to the ACA, the roles and responsibilities of the parties, the expected outcomes from this effort and other obligations related to operational conditions and performance measures.

ESRD values an adaptive process in managing Alberta's fish and wildlife resources. A review of landowner compensation and prevention program is currently being conducted to evaluate their ongoing relevance, effectiveness and efficiency. To ensure the delegated Landowner Compensation/Prevention Program continues to provide mutually beneficial outcomes to both parties, this agreement will be managed under the auspices of the ESRD/ACA Joint Program Committee (JPC). Through this committee, ongoing evaluation and adaptation of programs will occur through a collaborative process, as defined in the MOU between the parties.

### **Outcomes**

The following outcomes are expected by ESRD through the implementation of these delegated Programs, and offer metrics to help ensure ongoing program success.

- The WCDPP, WPCP and SLCP programs are fully resourced by existing levy funding.
- Communications between ESRD and ACA are open, balanced and effective in ensuring delegated programs are successfully implemented.

- Agriculture producers are aware of compensation/prevention programs and know how to access them.
- A waterfowl crop damage prevention program is in place, allowing agriculture producers to qualify for funding under the joint Federal-Provincial waterfowl compensation program.
- Agriculture producers qualifying for Wildlife Predator Compensation and Shot Livestock Compensation receive funding in a timely manner.
- Agriculture producers affected by these programs support wildlife management programs.
- The image of resource-users is improved in the eyes of non-resource users.

### **Specific Program Activities**

#### **1. Development and Implementation of WCDPP**

##### ESRD

- tracks progress of implementation and provides advice and support to plan refinement; and
- leads interprovincial planning and coordination of waterfowl crop damage prevention and compensation programs.

##### ACA

- leads implementation of program;
- provides necessary resources for provision of program and ensure program meets requirements for producers to qualify for federal funding;
- ensures Counties have scare cannons available for producer use;
- ensure information on location of cannons and on crop depredation prevention is posted on and ACA webpage and is known and available to producers;
- informs on progress of implementation and identifies opportunities to refine; and
- leads plan refinement.

- 2. Implementation of WCWP** (AJSG is responsible for liaising with claimants through the reporting, investigation and application approval process. The Wildlife Predator/Shot Livestock Compensation Committee (WPSLCC) hears appeals from claimants and makes recommendations for livestock values. CANFAX provides the listing of livestock values for calculation of compensation amounts.)

##### ESRD/AJSG

- is a member on the WPSLCC;

- notifies ACA of any changes to program prior to ACA budget cycle;
- receives and investigates claims for predation incidents ;
- approves claims, calculates claim amounts and notifies ACA of approved claims;
- liaises with claimants through the application approval process and subsequent appeals; and
- ensures funding from the Federal Government is available according to the terms of the Growing Forward 2 bilateral agreement (60% of 80% of livestock value).

#### ACA

- is a member on the WPSLCC;
  - liaises with claimants once the claim has been verified;
  - makes payment to producer for approved claims;
  - informs on progress of implementation and identifies opportunities to refine or issues that emerge; and
  - reports results annually.
- 3. Implementation of SLCP** (The WPSLCC develops the compensation scheme for this program. CANFAX provides the listing of livestock values for calculation of compensation amounts. The RCMP receives and investigates shot livestock incidents, and submits claims to ESRD. AJSGI is responsible for liaising with claimants through the claim approval process. ACA provides payment to valid claims.)

#### ESRD/AJSG

- is a member of WPSLCC;
- notifies ACA of any changes to program prior to ACA budget cycle;
- approves claims, calculates claim amounts and notifies ACA of approved claims; and
- liaises with claimants through the application approval process and subsequent appeals.

#### ACA

- is a member of the WPSLCC;
- liaises with claimants once the claim has been approved;
- makes payment to producer for approved claims;
- informs on progress of implementation and identifies opportunities to refine; and
- reports results annually.

### **Landowner Compensation/Prevention Programs Performance Measures**

ESRD requires an annual report from the ACA at the conclusion of each operating year. This report will contain a synopsis of Compensation/Prevention programs

implementation, including recommendations for improvement, and will be reviewed by the JPC .

The following metrics will be used to track the success of these programs:

- accounting of levy fund allocation by program (WCDPP, WPCP and SLCP);
- percentage of delegated priorities successfully implemented;
- 100% of qualified compensation claims successfully processed within 30 days of receipt;
- increased percent of agriculture producers in support of wildlife management programs; and
- increased percent of agriculture producers with positive image of resource users.

**Program Term**

This Agreement shall commence upon the date of signature and remain in effect until May 20, 2014 and will be extended to 2016, upon finalization of discussions with Agriculture Financial Services Corporation

This Agreement is subject to annual review and may be amended from time to time as outlined in the MOU signed May 20, 2014 between ACA and ESRD.