

Alberta Conservation Association (ACA)

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Project Name: Management Plan Development

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Partnerships

- Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development
- Alberta Fish & Game Association
- ConocoPhillips
- Ducks Unlimited Canada
- Nature Conservancy of Canada
- Pheasants Forever – Calgary and Chinook Chapters
- Shell Canada Energy
- Western Sky Land Trust Society
- Wild Elk Federation

Key Findings

- Reviewed and updated 27 management plans.
- Developed 12 new management plans for sites acquired since 2013.

Introduction

Alberta Conservation Association (ACA) conducts various activities through the Land Management Program (LMP) aimed at conserving, protecting and enhancing wildlife and fish habitat and increasing sustainable recreational opportunities, particularly hunting and angling. We manage and maintain 195 Conservation Sites, which we have secured with the help of a variety of partners. Some of these sites are managed on behalf of the Crown, in which the original investment was made via the Buck for Wildlife program and administered by Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development. On other sites, we hold sole or partial title; these sites were secured via our Habitat Securement Fund, our Corporate Partners Program, or were donated to ACA by conservation-minded landowners.

Management plans define the vision, goals and features of the site and identify responsibilities of project partners. They are essential to effectively manage our conservation assets. Emphasis is placed on developing detailed habitat management objectives and activities that maintain the ecological integrity of the Conservation Site and provide complementary recreational opportunities.

Once a new acquisition is secured, we work with partners to develop a management plan for the Conservation Site. Once finalized, we and our partners review and update the plan as required or on a term basis (e.g., after five years) to ensure that we are delivering on the goals and activities identified in the plan.

Methods

Prioritizing and developing management plans is coordinated regionally.

First, we prioritize Conservation Sites for management plan development as follows:

1. New acquisitions requiring a management plan.
2. Sites that require extensive or immediate revisions.
3. All other sites requiring updates (i.e., have not been revised within the term period).

Second, we develop management plans using the following steps:

1. ACA identifies all partners required to develop or review the management plan and meets with partners to discuss the goals, restrictions and responsibilities that will be identified in the management plan.
2. ACA writes a draft of the management plan using an ACA provincially standardized management plan template and process.
3. ACA reviews draft management plans for provincial consistency and submits draft management plans to partners for review until all partners are satisfied with the plan.
4. ACA finalizes the management plan and forwards it to partners for approval and signing.
5. ACA ensures that copies of the signed management plan are kept regionally and are forwarded to the appropriate government officials, partners and to the ACA executive assistant (corporate office).

Results

In 2014/15, we developed 12 new management plans for sites secured since 2013 (Table 1) and reviewed and updated 27 management plans (Table 2).

Table 1. Management plans developed in 2014/15 for Alberta Conservation Association Conservation Sites secured since 2013.

Site	Crown/Titled	Region
Bull Trail	Titled	Southern
Escape Coulee	Titled	Southern
Flatbush 7	Titled	Northeast
Junction Lake	Titled	Northeast
Lac Cardinal West	Titled	Northwest
Larches	Titled	Central
Leddy	Titled	Northwest
North Kamisak Lake	Titled	Northwest
Salt Creek	Titled	Northwest
Sundew	Titled	Northwest
Sylvan Glen	Titled	Northeast
Whispering Timber	Titled	Northwest

Table 2. Management plans for Alberta Conservation Association Conservation Sites reviewed and updated in 2014/15.

Site	Crown/Titled	Region
Allen	Titled	Central
Caine 3	Titled	Central
Crowsnest Lake	Titled	Southern
East Deadwood	Titled	Northwest
East Hays	Titled	Southern
East South Heart	Titled	Northwest
Frayn	Titled	Southern
Grantham Lake	Titled	Southern
Joussard	Titled	Northwest
Joussard 2	Titled	Northwest
Kneehill Creek	Titled	Central
Legacy	Titled	Southern
Musidora 3	Titled	Northeast
North Fawcett 2	Titled	Northeast
North Fawcett 6	Titled	Northeast
North Rabbit Lake	Titled	Northwest

Ross Creek	Titled	Southern
Rudakevich I	Titled	Northwest
Rudakevich II	Titled	Northwest
Sentinel	Titled	Southern
Silver Sage	Titled	Southern
South Plain Lake	Titled	Northeast
Stonhouse	Titled	Central
Thompson Park	Titled	Central
Timber Ridge	Titled	Southern
Walters	Titled	Central
Warrensville	Titled	Northwest

Conclusions

Developing management plans is an important component of effectively managing our conservation assets. These plans enable ACA and our partners to more effectively manage the sites using a clearly defined process and with mutual intent. Management plan development is an ongoing activity. In 2015/16, we will continue to develop and update plans for Conservation Sites that we manage or own to ensure that effective and mutually agreed upon goals and objectives are administered on these lands.

Communications

- Organized and attended management plan meetings with our partners.

Literature Cited

N/A

Photos



White spruce planted at the Shell True North Forest Conservation Site. Several thousand trees have been planted at this site. Photo: Garret Mcken



Alberta Conservation Association staff altering a fence along the Silver Sage Conservation Site to make the fence more wildlife friendly. Photo: Paul Jones



Parking area developed on the Walters Conservation Site. This parking area will help facilitate and control recreational access to this site. Photo: Andy Murphy



Alberta Conservation Association staff at the North Fawcett 6 Conservation Site completing habitat inventories that provide information on species and conditions at the site and assist with identifying potential habitat enhancements. Photo: Roy Schmelzeisen