



Alberta Conservation
Association

Annual Operating Plan 2026/27





wildlife | fish | habitat

Our Vision

An Alberta with an abundance and diversity of wildlife, fish, and their habitats; where future generations continue to use, enjoy, and value our rich outdoor heritage.

Our Mission

ACA conserves, protects, and enhances fish and wildlife populations and their habitats for Albertans to enjoy, value, and use.

Abbreviations Index	
ACA	Alberta Conservation Association
AFGA	Alberta Fish & Game Association
AGM	Annual General Meeting
AHEIA	Alberta Hunter Education Instructors' Association
AJSG	Alberta Justice and Solicitor General
APOS	Alberta Professional Outfitters Society
ATA	Alberta Trappers' Association
AVAMP	Alberta Volunteer Amphibian Monitoring Program
AWF	Alberta Wildlife Federation
CCEG	Conservation, Community, and Education Grants
CWD	chronic wasting disease
DO	dissolved oxygen
DUC	Ducks Unlimited Canada
FWMIS	Fisheries and Wildlife Management Information System
FWWF	Food Water Wellness Foundation
GiB	Grants in Biodiversity
GoA	Government of Alberta
HR	Human Resources
IT	Information Technology
LHP	Landowner Habitat Project
LL	Living Labs
MSL RDG	Minister's Special Licence Resident Draw Grants
NCC	Nature Conservancy of Canada
OHV	off-highway vehicle
RA	Regenerative Alberta
RAP	Report A Poacher
RG	Research Grants
SE	southeast
SMRID	St. Mary River Irrigation District
SW	southwest
WIN	Wildlife Identification Number
WМУ	Wildlife Management Units

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Cover photo: ACA, Charmaine Brunus
Project: Kids Can Catch
ACA staff mentoring young angler

Digital copy of this plan is available on our website:
www.ab-conservation.com/aop



Project: Taber Pheasant Festival
photo: ACA, Colin Eyo

1.0 Introduction

Alberta Conservation Association's (ACA) *Annual Operating Plan 2026/27* informs Albertans, our stakeholders, and partners about the projects we are undertaking this fiscal year and how we are allocating revenue to our program areas. The plan guides us in fulfilling our mission to conserve, protect, and enhance fish and wildlife populations and their habitats for all Albertans to enjoy, value, and use. It also supports our delegated responsibilities, through the *Wildlife Act*, to the Government of Alberta (GoA).

When reviewing this document, you may notice a discrepancy between the numbers presented in the program budgets and those stated in the Financial Summary (Section 8). This difference reflects how certain costs for activities such as training, professional development, and public speaking are budgeted. These expenses are typically allocated within the program area rather than attached to a specific project.

We report on budgets within 12 program areas:

1) Finance and Administration, 2) Business Development, 3) Human Resources, 4) Health and Safety, 5) Information Technology, 6) Information, Engagement, and Communications, 7) Wildlife, 8) Fisheries, 9) Land Management, 10) Report A Poacher, 11) Grants, and 12) Compensation and Damage Prevention Program.

In 2026/27, we anticipate receiving approximately \$7.0 million in partner (non-levy) contributions and/or land value. Projected levy revenue from hunting and fishing licences is approximately \$20.8 million. Thanks to the dedication of our staff and the generosity of our various donors and partners, most of these funds will be directed back into conservation efforts.

A key component of long-term conservation success in Alberta is the recruitment, retention,

and education of hunters and anglers. These individuals have historically been the driving force behind conservation in the province, contributing their time, expertise, and licence-levy dollars to sustaining Alberta’s natural heritage. Given the critical role they play, ACA will continue supporting activities that advance hunter and angler recruitment, retention, and education.

We will continue to support a range of mentored fishing and hunting opportunities, such as the National Recreational Fisheries Award-winning Kids Can Catch project and the Taber Pheasant Festival. We will also work on communications initiatives like Harvest Your Own, which raise awareness about how to get involved in hunting and angling, and highlight the important role these communities play in conservation.

Through our partnership with Alberta Hunter Education Instructors’ Association (AHEIA), we will continue reimbursing the cost of the first Wildlife Identification Number (WIN) card for any youth who successfully completes the Conservation and Hunter Education Training Program. In addition to receiving the \$8.40 WIN card reimbursement, each youth receives an information package introducing them to ACA’s member groups and Alberta’s conservation community.

Partnerships remain central to the success and reach of ACA’s work. These partnerships contribute to the success and scope of our conservation work across all our program areas: Wildlife, Fisheries, Land Management, Communications, and Finance and Administration. We will continue to work closely with our member groups, non-member groups, corporate partners, and the GoA. These relationships help expand our impact and ensure conservation efforts are coordinated and effective.

Our most important partners are Alberta’s hunters, anglers, and trappers. We expect them, along with our many other partners and stakeholders, to hold us accountable. If we are not meeting your expectations for the conservation outcomes you want to see in Alberta, we want to hear from you.

1.1 Linkages to ACA’s 2019 – 2029 Strategic Business Plan

The *2019 – 2029 Strategic Business Plan* includes both a three-year and ten-year business plan. The objectives identified in the three-year plan are reviewed annually and updated if a significant change in strategic direction is warranted. The *Strategic Business Plan* is a roadmap that keeps us focused on the strategies that influence our effectiveness. This clear sense of direction enables us to develop the most appropriate means of reaching our goals, which contributes to our success in fulfilling our Mission and achieving our Vision.

1.2 Regional Boundary Map



2.0 Business Program Areas

2.1 Finance and Administration

The Finance and Administration Program focuses on ensuring the smooth day-to-day operation of ACA. Tasks performed in this program include

payroll, payables, receivables, and administrative support for our managers and Board of Directors.

Table 1: Finance and Administration Projects for 2026/27

Project	Primary Purpose	Expected Outcomes
Finance <hr/> ACA \$885,038 Partner \$40,000 <hr/> Total \$925,038	Provide financial services that safeguard company assets. Ensure legal and contractual obligations are met. Provide accurate and timely information to ACA's decision makers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Manage assets effectively. · Provide complete and timely legal reporting. · Support management's information needs, and facilitate effective decision-making.
Living Labs (LL) – Regenerative Alberta (RA) <hr/> ACA \$0 Partner \$1,221,034 <hr/> Total \$1,221,034	Provide management support and financial expertise for the Federal LL-RA project in collaboration with Food Water Wellness Foundation (FWWF).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Provide financial services for the project. · Oversee cash management and financial reporting. · Support management in executing deliverables for project. · Maximize agricultural climate solutions through integration of beneficial management practices.
Administration <hr/> ACA \$1,521,333 Partner \$44,094 <hr/> Total \$1,565,427	Provide administrative support to all areas to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of internal operations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Support Board of Directors, executive, and management. · Maintain building operations throughout the province.

2.2 Business Development

The Business Development Program maintains strong collaborative relations with our existing corporate partners and fosters new partnerships with municipalities, organizations, and businesses operating in Alberta. Business Development raises awareness of ACA in the corporate community and creates opportunities for municipalities and corporations to support our conservation work. We recognize multi-year business relationships through our Corporate Partners in Conservation Program.

In 2026/27, we will continue to explore ways of generating non-levy revenue, which will include

print and digital advertising sales; sponsorship of conservation projects in our Wildlife, Fisheries, and Land Management programs; support for outreach events such as Kids Can Catch and Taber Pheasant Festival; and corporate contributions to ACA grants and terrestrial conservation offsets. Business Development also works closely with the Information, Engagement, and Communications Program to ensure ACA's brand identity is maintained internally and externally, and to manage events and activities that support stakeholder engagement.

Table 2: Business Development Projects for 2026/27

Project	Primary Purpose	Expected Outcomes
Business Development Support <hr/> ACA \$302,219 Partner \$0 <hr/> Total \$302,219	Strengthen existing partnerships and develop new relationships that support ACA programs and projects.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Increase non-levy revenue by 5% minimum above previous fiscal year. · Sign on a minimum of five new corporate partners and/or increase contributions or multi-year commitments from five existing Corporate Partners in Conservation.
ACA Store <hr/> ACA \$17,845 Partner \$0 <hr/> Total \$17,845	Provide opportunities for staff to receive ACA-branded clothing for work (office, field, meetings, and tradeshow), and personal use.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Increase ACA brand recognition in the public and business community. · Maintain employee satisfaction with branded merchandise.
Engagement and Outreach Events		
Project	Primary Purpose	Expected Outcomes
Kids Can Catch <i>The budget is allocated within the Information, Engagement, and Communications Program.</i>	Encourage youth and families in communities across Alberta to get outdoors and enjoy angling.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Promote the Kids Can Catch project as a way for local organizations to introduce youth and adults to fishing, fish conservation, and responsible angling. · Engage local organizations and businesses to support and coordinate family fishing events in communities across Alberta. · Promote Kids Can Catch events through various media outlets to the public. · Help local organizers connect with resources and volunteers to mentor new and young anglers on responsible and ethical angling practices. · Encourage continued interest in angling beyond Kids Can Catch events, including awareness of fishing opportunities at stocked and aerated lakes. · Increase overall number of youth and families fishing each year (increased fishing licence sales). Ongoing
Taber Pheasant Festival <i>The budget is allocated within the Information, Engagement, and Communications Program.</i>	Introduce youth and novice hunters to pheasant hunting, demonstrating responsible and ethical hunting practices. Provide additional pheasant hunting opportunities during this eight-day festival. Promote municipal and farming practices that support wildlife and self-sustaining pheasant populations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Continue to partner with local organizations and businesses to support and coordinate the Taber Pheasant Festival. · Increase awareness of upland game bird habitat requirements and increase landowner participation in habitat enhancement projects. · Encourage continued interest in pheasant and upland game bird hunting beyond the event. · Increase overall number of youth and families hunting upland game birds each year (increased hunting licence sales). · Introduce non-hunters to positive experiences related to hunting through culinary events, education, and entertainment. Ongoing
Waterfowl Warmup <i>The budget is allocated within the Information, Engagement, and Communications Program.</i>	Host an annual corporate sporting clays fundraiser as an opportunity for the public, businesses, and conservation organizations to support the Report A Poacher (RAP) Program.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Increase awareness of and funds for the RAP Program. · Promote responsible and ethical hunting practices. · Strengthen corporate relationships in the pursuit of long-term partnerships in conservation. Ongoing



Project: Taber Pheasant Festival
photo: ACA, Cassandra Hewitt

2.3 Human Resources

Human Resources (HR) implements strategies and policies that meet organizational objectives. In 2026/27, our focus continues to be the investment in 1) the well-being of employees, 2) training and

development, 3) creating a productive and positive work culture, and 4) creating an environment that encourages collaboration, provides growth opportunities, and celebrates achievements.

Table 3: Human Resources Projects for 2026/27

Project	Primary Purpose	Expected Outcomes
Program Coordination <hr/> ACA \$213,305 Partner \$0 <hr/> Total \$213,305	Explore new ways to keep employees informed, supported, and engaged. Ensuring workforce effectiveness and employee well-being. Promote and maintain a safe hassle-free work environment. Maintain the Workplace Harassment and Diversity Committee.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Create a corporate culture that attracts and retains employees. · Increase job satisfaction to foster a productive work environment with a higher retention rate. · Regular reviews and adjustments to policies to be able to adapt to evolving organizational and employee requirements. · Manage system targets and evaluate success and diversity. · Maintain a supportive and inclusive workplace.
Professional Development <hr/> ACA \$25,000 Partner \$0 <hr/> Total \$25,000	Improve the talent development of ACA employees through professional development, career development, and improved performance management. Enhance teamwork and inter-team collaboration. Support employees in academic upgrades.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Support individuals and organizational effectiveness by offering approved learning and development to support the employee and ensure success. · Invest in professional development programs to improve leadership capabilities, job skills, and employee productivity. · Maintain a work environment that motivates and inspires. · Well-trained employees receive personal satisfaction from a job well done. · Enhance capabilities and make the workplace an environment that supports people's initiative, creativity, responsibility, and meaning.

Project	Primary Purpose	Expected Outcomes
Professional Memberships ACA \$15,000 Partner \$0 Total \$15,000	Encourage employees to contribute to self-regulating professional associations committed to promoting excellence in professional practices.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Increase awareness and credibility of ACA and our employees by promoting and maintaining high standards of professional competence and ethics.
Health and Wellness ACA \$62,250 Partner \$0 Total \$62,250	Promote the achievement of work-life balance and wellness for our employees, ensuring they are incorporated into the culture of the organization. Promote a healthy workplace both physically and mentally. The aim of measures for workplace well-being is to complement health and safety measures to make sure employees are safe, healthy, satisfied, and engaged at work.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Reduce stress among employees to improve mental health by encouraging healthy lifestyle and healthy work-life balance. · Invest in employees to ensure an open and friendly culture and employee well-being. · Encourage social, physical, and emotional well-being with a diverse health and wellness program. · Workplace well-being relates to all aspects of working life, from the quality and safety of the physical environment, to how employees feel about their work, their working environment, the climate at work, and the work organization. · Continue to build and support a positive, fair, and open work environment.
Service Awards ACA \$4,000 Partner \$0 Total \$4,000	Recognize employees for their loyalty, commitment, and achievements. Celebrate the unique skills and contributions of the employee.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Provide service awards to employees who reach milestones. · Examine and source innovative service awards on an annual basis.
Online Survey <i>The budget is allocated within Program Coordination.</i>	Determine level of employee satisfaction with various aspects of ACA. Maintain the high level of employee satisfaction.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Conduct annual employee survey. · Identify challenges and develop action plans for improvements. · Engaged and motivated employees lead to increased productivity and overall satisfaction.
Recruitment ACA \$5,500 Partner \$0 Total \$5,500	Provide the organization with well-trained, well-motivated employees. Create a corporate culture that attracts and retains employees of all generations. Embrace new recruitment technologies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Promote ACA as an organization where employees can build their careers and expand their skills. · Hire employees with the knowledge, skills, and ability to perform the job and whose beliefs and behaviours fit our organizational culture. · Ensure equal opportunities available for all employees.
Career Fairs ACA \$1,400 Partner \$0 Total \$1,400	Hire high-quality students for temporary summer work. Build employment relationships with students.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Promote ACA to college and university students. · Provide co-op and intern opportunities to students.



Project: Lake Aeration
photo: ACA

2.4 Health and Safety

Our Health and Safety Program is an integral part of our operations, ensuring all work is conducted in a healthy and safe manner, regardless of the working environment or situation. Administered by ACA's Health and Safety Committee, the program relies on input from staff so that principles and practices remain current, comprehensive, easy to apply, and relevant for day-to-day operations. Maintaining the best possible Health and Safety Program requires constant feedback through internal reviews of program materials and an emphasis on incident reporting and tracking.

In 2026/27, our goal is to ensure employees continue to embrace ACA's Health and Safety Program and are kept safe and healthy. We will foster a company culture and work environment that ensures safety is a company priority, which includes providing employees with the necessary training, equipment, materials, and procedures required to conduct work in a healthy and safe manner. Improvements to the Health and Safety Program are continuous so the program remains comprehensive, efficient, effective, and current.

Table 4: Health and Safety Projects for 2026/27

Project	Primary Purpose	Expected Outcomes
Health and Safety	Foster a company culture and working environment where all employees can work in a safe and healthy manner.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eliminate workplace injuries as well as loss or damage to property, facilities, materials, and equipment. Continue to maintain and improve a Health and Safety Program that integrates workplace safety effectively into ACA operations. Provide ACA employees access to health and safety resources (e.g., forms, policies, procedures, and other reference materials). Provide employees with the necessary training, equipment, materials, and procedures required to conduct work in a healthy and safe manner. Respond to all health and safety incidents, including near misses, develop and implement corrective actions as required, and communicate results to all staff. Operate the Health and Safety Program in a transparent and open manner.
ACA	\$156,263	
Partner	\$0	
Total	\$156,263	
	Continue to monitor, maintain, and improve upon the Health and Safety Program so that it remains comprehensive, efficient, effective, and current.	

2.5 Information Technology

The Information Technology (IT) Program is responsible for the day-to-day operation, management, and strategic direction of ACA's information technology services. The program's primary activities and applications include network and data security and backup, corporate

telephone systems, intranet website, financial applications, payroll system, GIS applications, and several other applications and services. Core responsibilities also include ensuring workstation and network functionality, providing end-user support, and data recovery.

Table 5: Information Technology Projects for 2026/27

Project	Primary Purpose	Expected Outcomes
Information Technology/ Systems	Manage and operate ACA's IT infrastructure daily.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain security of ACA network and data structures. Ensure existing technology provides information in an efficient and effective manner. Research and review new technology that supports ACA's strategic goals and objectives. Coordinate IT projects and processes with external consultants.
ACA	\$605,200	
Partner	\$0	
Total	\$605,200	
	Provide technical support to all areas of ACA's information technology and management systems.	
	Provide IT initiatives that reduce costs, environmental impacts, and provide future growth.	



Project: Harvest Your Own presence at Waterfowl Warmup
photo: ACA, Charmaine Brunos

3.0 Resource Programs

3.1 Information, Engagement, and Communications

The Information, Engagement, and Communications Program is responsible for increasing awareness, engaging with stakeholders, and generating interest in conservation, ACA, and our work in wildlife, fisheries, and habitat. This year, our focus expands from traditional education toward broader stakeholder engagement to better support conservation outcomes across Alberta.

The program supports conservation by providing clear, consistent communication and by strengthening relationships with stakeholders, corporate partners, and the public.

This resource program portfolio includes corporate communications; advertising and marketing; social media; brand management; stakeholder engagement through events and activities; and support for Wildlife, Fisheries, and Land Management resource programs.

In partnership with the GoA, ACA has launched a conservation licence plate project that enables Albertans to support conservation through vehicle registration. The majority of plate fees will directly fund conservation initiatives. After initial development costs in year one, ongoing program expenses are expected to decrease by approximately \$180,000.

New this year, the Economic Impact Assessment of Hunting and Angling in Alberta project will evaluate the broader value these activities provide to the province. The results will demonstrate their economic and social contributions, and inform conservation planning and government investment decisions.

Table 6: Information, Engagement, and Communications Projects for 2026/27

Communications		
Project	Primary Purpose	Expected Outcomes
Advertising and Marketing ACA \$50,191 Partner \$0 Total \$50,191	Increase awareness of ACA brand recognition and key ACA events, programs, and projects while promoting hunting and fishing in Alberta.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify key advertising opportunities and implement strategies that align with the <i>Strategic Business Plan's</i> four-year objectives. Coordinate cross-media targeted advertising promoting hunting, angling, and conservation in Alberta. Ongoing
Conservation Licence Plates ACA \$250,000 Partner \$0 Total \$250,000	Support and promote the conservation licence plate project in Alberta.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In partnership with the GoA, support, launch and promote a conservation licence plate. Funding from the Conservation License Plate goes towards enhancing conservation projects. Ongoing
Economic Impact Assessment of Hunting and Angling in Alberta ACA \$200,000 Partner \$50,000 Total \$250,000	Assess and communicate the economic, social, and conservation value of hunting and angling in Alberta.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evaluate the economic and social impacts of hunting and angling across Alberta. Provide evidence-based information to support conservation project planning. Complete and post the report findings after ACA Board of Directors approval, in April, to coincide with the fiscal year. Ongoing
Harvest Your Own ACA \$92,898 Partner \$0 Total \$92,898	Develop and maintain a hunting-focused multimedia resource to retain and recruit hunters while building a positive profile of hunting to non-hunting demographics.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide an informative resource on hunting and harvesting in Alberta and encourage engagement within the online community. Maintain a viable and interesting resource year-round for hunters in Alberta. Encourage positive annual audience growth across all media platforms. Ongoing

Project	Primary Purpose	Expected Outcomes
Internal Communications <hr/> ACA \$14,012 Partner \$0 <hr/> Total \$14,012	Support ACA's President and CEO; Business Development; Human Resources; and Wildlife, Fisheries, and Land Management programs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide all planned and approved communications needs as well as address any unforeseen opportunities, whether internally or sourced through a third party. Complete online seasonal job postings by mid-December. Provide ACA vehicle/asset branding. Develop key communications materials to ensure appropriate branding and messaging (e.g., media releases, fact sheets, poster templates, presentations). Ongoing
Social Media Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, YouTube, X, and digital newsletter <hr/> ACA \$74,330 Partner \$0 <hr/> Total \$74,330	Use social media to connect and develop new audiences by highlighting the projects, events, and values of ACA, its member groups, and conservation in Alberta. Promote ACA and member groups' projects on social media platforms and digital newsletters. Assist the GoA with promotion of various initiatives including the Aquatic Invasive Species Program and Family Fishing Weekends.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Produce and deliver monthly digital newsletters (i.e., e-newsletter) to inform and promote news and events to subscribers. The GoA provides the subscriber database, updated each April, with WIN card purchasers who have provided consent. Promote various ACA activities and annual events including tradeshow, wildlife cameras, fish stocking dates, grant applications, Taber Pheasant Festival, Kids Can Catch, and provincial pheasant releases. Interact and engage daily with audiences on Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, and X. Increase number of followers and encourage engagement on social media platforms. Increase awareness of conservation issues such as aquatic invasive species, native trout, and member group activities. Assist ACA's member groups and partners with social media resources. Ongoing
Publications/Print		
Project	Primary Purpose	Expected Outcomes
Alberta Discover Guide <hr/> ACA \$119,986 Partner \$15,000 <hr/> Total \$134,986	Provides a comprehensive reference to hundreds of sites that conserve habitat and offer recreational opportunities for our stakeholders. Promotes the value of habitat conservation and the benefits of securing that habitat for wildlife.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Produce, publish, promote, and deliver 30,000+ hard copies of the Guide with digital versions available online. Update and refresh the <i>Alberta Discover Guide</i> app annually. Foster relationships with conservation partners who are key contributors to the Guide, such as Alberta Wildlife Federation (AWF) and its affiliated clubs, Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC), and Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC). Promote the GoA and ACA program messaging such as invasive species and the native trout recovery project and ABHuntLog. Ongoing
Annual Operating Plan <hr/> ACA \$5,309 Partner \$0 <hr/> Total \$5,309	Provide stakeholders with information on ACA resource programs' projects and operations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepare the <i>Annual Operating Plan</i> draft for the ACA Board of Directors meeting in December. Complete and post the <i>Annual Operating Plan</i>, after ACA Board of Directors approval, in April, to coincide with the fiscal year. Ongoing
Annual Report <hr/> ACA \$7,691 Partner \$0 <hr/> Total \$7,691	Provide stakeholders financial reporting and transparency in operations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepare the <i>Annual Report</i> for approval at ACA's Annual General Meeting (AGM) in August. Complete and post the <i>Annual Report</i>, after approval at ACA's AGM, in September. Report audited financial statements to stakeholders. Ongoing

Project	Primary Purpose	Expected Outcomes
Conservation Magazine ACA \$124,109 Partner \$10,000 Total \$134,109	Publish a biannual free magazine that engages multi-interest audiences and connects them with ACA and its conservation projects, member groups, stakeholders, and partners.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Produce, publish, promote, and deliver 30,000+ hard copies of <i>Conservation Magazine</i>, seasonally in spring and fall, with digital versions available online. Increase subscription base. Ongoing
Final Reports ACA \$10,045 Partner \$0 Total \$10,045	Provide publishing support for resource programs within research.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support awareness and accessibility to ongoing project research by ACA. Coordinate editing and post online ~ 70 resource program annual summaries (Wildlife, Fisheries, Land, and Communications) and ACA Project Reports by April 30. Ongoing
Grants Reporting ACA \$488 Partner \$0 Total \$488	Provide stakeholders information about ACA Grants Fund projects awarded, allocations, and activities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Post and promote interim and final reports, grant information, and application deadlines online. Enhance the Grants Program communications. Ongoing



Project: On Site Signage
 photo: ACA, Terri Perron

Project	Primary Purpose	Expected Outcomes						
On Site Signage <i>The budget is allocated within the Land Management and Fisheries programs.</i>	Work with the Land and Fisheries resource programs to produce branded conservation site signs, Fisheries Access Site signs, and specialty signs as required.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Design and coordinate proofing, quotes, and printing of outdoor signs. Ongoing						
Website								
Project	Primary Purpose	Expected Outcomes						
Website Maintenance and Development <table border="1"> <tr> <td>ACA</td> <td>\$101,263</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Partner</td> <td>\$0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>\$101,263</td> </tr> </table>	ACA	\$101,263	Partner	\$0	Total	\$101,263	ACA's external websites provide an accessible information gateway that engages users and profiles our conservation projects, member groups, Corporate Partners in Conservation, events, and publications.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide access and navigation for users to angling and hunting information. Provide ACA conservation projects enhanced profile. Provide online support for donations, event registration, and public engagement. Continually monitor and update website content to ensure the most recent and accurate information is provided and that all links, downloads, and postings are valid and functional. Always implement search engine optimization practices. Expand design, navigation, and advertising. Ongoing
ACA	\$101,263							
Partner	\$0							
Total	\$101,263							
Engagement and Outreach Events								
Project	Primary Purpose	Expected Outcomes						
Kids Can Catch <table border="1"> <tr> <td>ACA</td> <td>\$31,443</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Partner</td> <td>\$27,500</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>\$58,943</td> </tr> </table>	ACA	\$31,443	Partner	\$27,500	Total	\$58,943	<p>Work with Business Development to manage events and activities that support stakeholder engagement.</p> <p>Encourage youth and families in communities across Alberta to get outdoors and enjoy angling.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote the Kids Can Catch project as a way for local organizations to introduce youth and adults to fishing, fish conservation, and responsible angling. Engage local organizations and businesses to support and coordinate family fishing events in communities across Alberta. Promote Kids Can Catch events through various media outlets to the public. Help local organizers connect with resources and volunteers to mentor new and young anglers on responsible and ethical angling practices. Encourage continued interest in angling beyond Kids Can Catch events, including awareness of fishing opportunities at stocked and aerated lakes. Increase overall number of youth and families fishing each year (increased fishing licence sales). Ongoing
ACA	\$31,443							
Partner	\$27,500							
Total	\$58,943							
Taber Pheasant Festival <table border="1"> <tr> <td>ACA</td> <td>\$234,152</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Partner</td> <td>\$189,625</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>\$423,777</td> </tr> </table>	ACA	\$234,152	Partner	\$189,625	Total	\$423,777	<p>Work with Business Development to manage events and activities that support stakeholder engagement.</p> <p>Introduce youth and novice hunters to pheasant hunting, demonstrating responsible and ethical hunting practices.</p> <p>Provide additional pheasant hunting opportunities during this eight-day festival.</p> <p>Promote municipal and farming practices that support wildlife and self-sustaining pheasant populations.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to partner with local organizations and businesses to support and coordinate the Taber Pheasant Festival. Increase awareness of upland game bird habitat requirements and increase landowner participation in habitat enhancement projects. Encourage continued interest in pheasant and upland game bird hunting beyond the event. Increase overall number of youth and families hunting upland game birds each year (increased hunting licence sales). Introduce non-hunters to positive experiences related to hunting through culinary events, education, and entertainment. Ongoing
ACA	\$234,152							
Partner	\$189,625							
Total	\$423,777							

Project	Primary Purpose	Expected Outcomes
Waterfowl Warmup ACA \$12,919 Partner \$24,150 Total \$37,069	Work with Business Development to manage events and activities that support stakeholder engagement. Host an annual corporate sporting clays fundraiser as an opportunity for the public, businesses, and conservation organizations to support the RAP Program.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Increase awareness of and funds for the RAP Program. · Promote responsible and ethical hunting practices. · Strengthen corporate relationships in the pursuit of long-term partnerships in conservation. Ongoing
Wildlife Cameras ACA \$14,329 Partner \$0 Total \$14,329	Engage the public by providing live-streaming camera feeds featuring Species at Risk from various locations in Edmonton and area.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Install and maintain remote camera infrastructure at new and existing sites. · Educate the public about peregrine falcon behaviour, biology, and its <i>Threatened</i> status in Alberta, and other species with this designation such as the ferruginous hawk. · Educate the public about bats (little brown myotis and northern myotis), their <i>Endangered</i> status in Alberta, and their impact to our ecosystem. · Increase traffic to our website and engage new audiences in ACA projects and events. · Explore opportunities for similar remote camera coverage of other species. Ongoing
WIN Card		
Project	Primary Purpose	Expected Outcomes
WIN Card Reimbursement ACA \$35,150 Partner \$0 Total \$35,150	Encourage recruitment of young people into hunting and allow ACA and our member groups to connect with new hunters when they purchase their first WIN card.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Increase the number of youths, ages 12 to 17, who complete the AHEIA Hunter Education program. · Introduce and connect young hunters to programs, information, and other groups to enhance their experience. Ongoing



Project: Waterfowl Warmup
 photo: ACA, Charmaine Brunes



Project: MULTISAR – Milk River
photo: ACA, Dayce Rhodes

3.2 Wildlife

We’ve teamed up with the Alberta Professional Outfitters Society (APOS) and the GoA on an engaging project to better understand our local mule deer. ACA’s focus is on their movement and where they travel, identifying longer distance migration patterns, as well as their favorite spots to hang out during different seasons.

This year, we are getting innovative with survey methods and testing new ways to count our ungulates. We’re starting with road-based surveys for pronghorn as well as exploring remote-sensing technology for mule deer.

We’re studying how things like snow conditions and the spring “green up” affect their movements and survival.

For the fifth year, we are giving Alberta’s wild turkey population a lift! We are translocating birds from other areas to strengthen our numbers here at home. We’re using transmitters on both the new arrivals and our local hens to compare their survival rates,

breeding success, and movements. We are especially excited to introduce the Eastern subspecies from Quebec into central Alberta. We’re again fitting some of these birds with satellite “backpacks” to track their progress as they establish themselves in their new environment.

Our collaborative efforts with producers, counties, irrigation districts, and many others are thriving. Together, we are working to improve wildlife habitat on more than 600,000 acres of land across the province. These are long-term commitments for a healthy future. Improving habitat for sage-grouse remains a top priority for our work in southeastern (SE) Alberta. We are working with dozens of landowners to heighten the odds for their future.

The information we receive from Alberta’s trappers is incredibly important for the long-term conservation of furbearers. We rely on trapper input to calculate vital harvest metrics as a means of monitoring long-term trends.

Table 7: Wildlife Projects for 2026/27

Wildlife Population Monitoring		
Project	Primary Purpose	Expected Outcomes
Turkey Distribution and Expansion <hr/> ACA \$451,386 <hr/> Partner \$134,000 <hr/> Total \$585,386	Monitor turkey distribution and translocate wild turkeys to enhance Alberta’s population.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Work with landowners and stakeholders to identify the current range and trend of wild turkeys in southwestern (SW) Alberta. · Translocate wild turkeys from other jurisdictions to expand their range in SW Alberta, and northward into central Alberta. · Translocate eastern wild turkeys from other jurisdictions and release in central Alberta. · Redistribute wild turkeys within SW Alberta from problem locations and those with high densities. · Monitor survival and recruitment of wild turkeys. · Monitor potential conflict with local community. Ongoing
Alberta Volunteer Amphibian Monitoring Program <hr/> ACA \$15,452 <hr/> Partner \$0 <hr/> Total \$15,452	Volunteer collection of amphibian (and reptile) location data throughout Alberta. Alberta Volunteer Amphibian Monitoring Program (AVAMP).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Coordinate volunteer collection of amphibian (and reptile) data from across Alberta. · Submit data to the GoA’s Fisheries and Wildlife Management Information System (FWMIS) database. Ongoing
Wildlife Inventory <hr/> ACA \$1,000,000 <hr/> Partner \$0 <hr/> Total \$1,000,000	Conduct ungulate inventory assessments of selected WMUs across Alberta.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Develop a comprehensive ungulate inventory database for WMUs in Alberta. Ongoing

Project	Primary Purpose	Expected Outcomes
ABHuntLog <hr/> ACA \$43,026 <hr/> Partner \$49,325 <hr/> Total \$92,351	Tool within iHunter Alberta app for users to voluntarily track wildlife observations. Designed to enhance users' personal experience and provide supplemental population data.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Continue to refine app-based tool that is valuable for hunters to track harvestable wildlife sightings and summarize observations in a personal dashboard. · Continue to develop partnership with Métis community. · Continue to ensure personal data are secure. · Develop metrics from hunters for ungulates (e.g., gender ratios, age ratios, effort information) to help guide conservation and allocation in Wildlife Management Units (WMUs). Ongoing
Mule Deer Collaring <hr/> ACA \$352,927 <hr/> Partner \$50,000 <hr/> Total \$402,927	In collaboration with GoA, APOS and other parties, lead the investigation related to movement, migration patterns and habitat selection of mule deer to enhance mule deer management.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Lead investigation to better understand movement and migration of mule deer. · Lead investigation to better understand the seasonal resource selection of mule deer and how this relates to movement and migration patterns. Year 2 of 5
Ungulate Inventory Development <hr/> ACA \$60,757 <hr/> Partner \$103,000 <hr/> Total \$163,757	Investigate methods to survey ungulates other than those using personnel in aircraft.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Develop and trial road-based survey to track pronghorn trends across all pronghorn management zones in Alberta. · Investigate approaches to track mule deer trends. Year 1 of 5



Project: Turkey Distribution and Expansion
photo: ACA, Mike Verhage

Hunting Opportunities and Recruitment		
Project	Primary Purpose	Expected Outcomes
Pheasant Releases to Enhance Hunting Opportunities <hr/> ACA \$977,618 <hr/> Partner \$5,765 <hr/> Total \$983,383	Enhance hunter opportunity by releasing pheasants in select locations (provincial).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Manage and coordinate pheasant release program within Alberta. · Engage volunteer groups to assist with delivery of pheasants at sites. · Update and maintain web-based platform to inform hunters of all release sites including detailed maps. Ongoing
Upland Game Bird Fall Forecast <hr/> ACA \$10,041 <hr/> Partner \$0 <hr/> Total \$10,041	Survey upland game birds to track population trends.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Engage citizen scientists to count game birds (e.g., pheasant, grey partridge, sharp-tailed grouse) to detect annual trends and promote hunter recruitment. · Publish early fall recruitment results on our website (and partner websites) to encourage hunter interest. Ongoing
Upland Game Bird 4-H Initiative <hr/> ACA \$20,457 <hr/> Partner \$6,750 <hr/> Total \$27,207	Engage and educate 4-H clubs and volunteers to value and raise upland game birds (provincial).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Communicate importance of suitable habitat with 4-H participants to foster long-term interest in habitat. · Engage 4-H clubs and volunteers enabling them to raise and possibly sell pheasants for hunting opportunities. Ongoing
Habitat Stewardship and Enhancement		
Project	Primary Purpose	Expected Outcomes
MULTISAR – Milk River <hr/> ACA \$112,280 <hr/> Partner \$550,000 <hr/> Total \$662,280	Engage landowners with planning and implementation of habitat strategies along the Milk River Basin.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Enhance habitat on collaborating ranch lands (eight to ten) including habitat to benefit greater sage-grouse. · Evaluation of habitat conservation strategies on select properties. · Consultation and relationship building with landowners and stakeholder community. Ongoing
MULTISAR – West <hr/> ACA \$45,523 <hr/> Partner \$217,500 <hr/> Total \$263,023	Engage landowners with planning and implementation of habitat strategies west of Highway 22 in South Saskatchewan River Basin.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Enhance habitat at two or three ranches. · Initiate habitat conservation strategies for one to two ranches. · Evaluation of habitat conservation strategies on select properties. · Consultation and relationship building with landowners and stakeholder community. Ongoing
MULTISAR – South Saskatchewan <hr/> ACA \$279,300 <hr/> Partner \$216,602 <hr/> Total \$495,902	Engage landowners with planning and implementation of habitat strategies through the South Saskatchewan Basin.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Initiate habitat conservation strategies for one to two ranches. · Enhance habitat at three to six ranches. · Monitor a subset of habitat enhancements every year. · Evaluation of habitat conservation strategies on select properties for wildlife (reassessments). · Consultation and relationship building with landowners and stakeholder community. Ongoing

Project	Primary Purpose	Expected Outcomes
Piping Plover Recovery ACA \$43,613 Partner \$15,000 Total \$58,613	Assist recovery of piping plovers through habitat enhancements and potential research initiatives, and report on success of these recovery efforts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Implement enhancements including fencing, educational signage, and vegetation reduction at select properties. Ongoing
Pronghorn Fence Enhancement Partnership ACA \$5,799 Partner \$92,060 Total \$97,859	Enhance pronghorn movement by assisting AWF to identify and modify fence lines.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Provide planning map to partner (AFGA) that highlights fences with greater likelihood of limiting pronghorn movement. · Assist AFGA to coordinate the removal of barbed or page wire by volunteers, replacing it with smooth wire at 46 inches above the ground; targeting 45 kilometres per year modified. Ongoing
SHARP – Species Habitat Assessments and Ranching Partnership ACA \$153,391 Partner \$34,000 Total \$187,391	Engage landowners, county, and other stakeholders to develop and implement habitat strategies that benefit sharp-tailed grouse, ruffed grouse, moose, and other wildlife in central and northwestern Alberta.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Initiate habitat conservation strategies for two to three ranches. · Initiate inventories at two to three new ranches. · Enhance habitat at two to three ranches. · Consultation and relationship building with new landowners and stakeholder community. · Foster wetland retention and restoration. Ongoing
Pronghorn Road Crossing Enhancement ACA \$4,445 Partner \$83,600 Total \$88,045	Citizen Science approach to identify crossing barrier hot spots along highways near Medicine Hat.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Work with key partners (Miistakis Institute, the GoA, Alberta Transportation, Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment, and Saskatchewan Government Insurance) to prioritize road crossing enhancement sites along the Trans-Canada Highways in Alberta (and Saskatchewan). Develop rationale for support of road crossing structures. · Work with Miistakis Institute to assess traditional knowledge of pronghorn migration pathways in Alberta and Saskatchewan. Year 6 of 10
Upland Game Bird Enhancement		
Project	Primary Purpose	Expected Outcomes
Habitat Connectivity and Access ACA \$105,449 Partner \$394,160 Total \$499,609	Improve habitat connectivity for upland game birds and hunter access.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Continue to build relationships with irrigation districts and counties to enhance habitat and water quality and improve hunter access. · Enhance coulee habitat and retain ecological goods and service benefits with long-term payment scheme through the GoA grant. Identify up to 2,000 acres among 5–10 landholders to be enrolled over next four years. · Work with St. Mary River Irrigation District (SMRID) to design and enhance wildlife habitat on 158 acres on Sauder Reservoir. Engage additional project partners in the delivery of habitat plan. Ongoing
Demonstration Farm for Restoring Upland Bird Densities and Biodiversity ACA \$74,631 Partner \$0 Total \$74,631	Collaborate with demonstration farm partners to evaluate approaches for improving upland bird densities on modern profitable farms.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Evaluate approaches for improving recruitment and density of upland birds (e.g., pheasants, grey partridge) and other species (e.g., songbirds, amphibians, invertebrates) on modern profitable farms. · Demonstrate value of perennial habitat including wetlands within farmed systems. Ongoing

Applied Research and Ecological Studies		
Project	Primary Purpose	Expected Outcomes
Pronghorn Survival and Movement <hr/> ACA \$267,530 <hr/> Partner \$542,716 <hr/> Total \$810,246	Investigate the barriers to ungulate movement in SE Alberta and identify mitigation opportunities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Develop snowscape layers and assess relative association with movement and survival. · Evaluate seasonal movement and assess if migration pathways are negatively affected by linear infrastructure. · Assess and predict the long-term risk to the annual north and south migration and the likelihood of northern herds becoming isolated from southern gene flow. · Evaluate the environmental drivers of pronghorn migration and the potential impacts on connectivity of movement pathways. · Identify potential mitigation efforts that would improve north-south migration. · Compare the survival of pronghorn between migrant and resident herds within and among years. Year 2 of 10
Furbearer Trends (ACA/ATA Partnership) <hr/> ACA \$44,328 <hr/> Partner \$0 <hr/> Total \$44,328	Provide annual update for furbearer trends from data collected from Alberta Trappers' Association (ATA) logbooks.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Liaise with ATA to support collection of logbooks. · Update annual data collected from ATA trapper logbooks. Ongoing



Project: Pronghorn Survival and Movement
photo: Bighorn Helicopters/ACA



Project: Lake Aeration
photo: ACA, Andrew Clough

3.3 Fisheries

Our Fisheries Program helps sustain the ecological integrity of Alberta fish populations and their habitats, while ensuring recreational angling opportunities are maintained for future generations. Lake aeration and fish stocking projects create recreational fisheries in areas of the province where such opportunities do not otherwise exist.

The lakes we aerate are prone to both summer and winter fish kills due to low dissolved oxygen (DO) but through aeration, we maintain DO at levels that promote year-round survival of stocked trout. In 2026/27, we will stock over 107,000 catchable-sized (i.e., 20 cm) rainbow, brown, brook, and tiger trout into 63 ponds, creating “put-and-take fisheries.” Most stocked ponds are close to towns and cities, making them popular family destinations and ideal for the recruitment of new anglers. Other projects are designed to improve water quality and determine angler use at stocked ponds, identify new waterbodies for stocking, and enhance select walleye fisheries.

The mobile fish hatchery was a new addition to our toolkit in 2025 to support recreational fisheries enhancements across the province.

This specialized trailer brings advanced, carefully controlled fish incubation and rearing technology on site at Alberta lakes.

Over the past several decades, various anthropogenic activities have resulted in habitat degradation and population declines for many of Alberta’s sport fish species. ACA’s membership in the Native Trout Collaborative, a provincial stakeholder group led by the GoA that determines priorities for native trout conservation and recovery, ensures that our projects generate key data to aid in the implementation of the provincial Native Trout Recovery Program. Other projects generate data to facilitate Arctic grayling conservation and to guide the development of management plans for historically overlooked recreational fish species.

Overall, our project complement reflects the emphasis of our Fisheries Program on the enhancement and diversity of recreational fishing opportunities across the province, as well as generating information required for the implementation of provincial and federal conservation initiatives, particularly targeted at sport fish species.

Table 8: Fisheries Projects for 2026/27

Development and Implementation of Aeration and ACA Fish Stocking Plans		
Project	Primary Purpose	Expected Outcomes
Lake Aeration <hr/> ACA \$433,421 Partner \$40,450 <hr/> Total \$473,871	Create or enhance recreational angling opportunities for Albertans by aerating lakes to promote year-round survival of stocked fish.	· Reduce risk of summer and winter kills of stocked trout in 23 waterbodies distributed within ACA regional boundaries as follows: 1. Northwest Region (eight waterbodies): Cecil Thompson and Shell True North ponds; and Figure Eight, Swan, Sulphur, Spring, East Dollar, and West Dollar lakes. 2. Central Region (eight waterbodies): Beaver, Mitchell, Fiesta, Birch, Ironside, and Winchell lakes; Hansens Reservoir; and Kerbes Pond. 3. Southern Region (one waterbody): Coleman Fish and Game Pond. 4. Northeast Region (six waterbodies): Radway Pond; and Muir, Millers, Hasse, Peanut, and Little Bear lakes. Ongoing

Project	Primary Purpose	Expected Outcomes
New Lake Aeration Development <hr/> ACA \$12,355 Partner \$0 Total \$12,355	Explore additional lake aeration opportunities across the province to promote year-round survival of stocked fish.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify and investigate potential aeration opportunities in stocked waterbodies to enhance year-round fish survival. Conduct pilot study on use of solar-powered diffuser aeration systems to improve water quality and overwintering potential of lakes. Ongoing
Fish Stocking <hr/> ACA \$346,620 Partner \$43,230 Total \$389,850	Stock trout into waterbodies to provide Albertans with recreational angling opportunities in areas of the province where such fishing opportunities do not otherwise exist.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stock approximately 107,000 (20-centimetre) trout, consisting of rainbow, brook, brown, and tiger trout into 63 waterbodies. Install and update signage at stocked waterbodies to acknowledge ACA and its partners. Ongoing
Fish Stocking Expansion – New Lakes <hr/> ACA \$47,054 Partner \$0 Total \$47,054	Expand scope and diversity in fish stocking activities to complement currently stocked trout.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to search for new ponds and collect data on previously identified ponds (i.e., City of Red Deer ponds) to determine their suitability for fish stocking. Continue to evaluate water quality in Whitewood Lakes Complex and develop type of fishery and list of fish species suitable for each waterbody. Ongoing
Fish Inventory <hr/> ACA \$625,000 Partner \$0 Total \$625,000	Conduct inventory assessments of selected waterbodies across Alberta, including lakes and rivers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a comprehensive fish inventory database for Alberta waterbodies. Ongoing
Fish Stocking Expansion – Yellow Perch <hr/> ACA \$20,627 Partner \$0 Total \$20,627	Expand scope and diversity in fish stocking activities to complement currently stocked trout.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stock yellow perch into select ACA stocked ponds with marginal trout habitat – candidate is Two Hills Pond, subject to increased water level. Use trail cameras to determine angling effort and presence of avian predators at select stocked ponds. Monitor water quality at stocked ponds. Ongoing
Assessment of Angler Demographics, Effort, Catch, and Harvest		
Project	Primary Purpose	Expected Outcomes
Fish Stocking Evaluation <hr/> ACA \$38,910 Partner \$0 Total \$38,910	Evaluate fish population demographics, fishing effort, and habitat quality at ACA-stocked ponds.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use trail cameras to estimate angler effort at select stocked ponds. Determine yellow perch abundance and population structure at Legal Reservoir and Taber Community Pond. Ongoing
Low Profile Game Species Fisheries <hr/> ACA \$105,884 Partner \$0 Total \$105,884	Determine current and potential recreational fishing opportunities for lower profile game species focusing on burbot.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct population estimate for burbot in Ghost Lake. Engage citizen scientists via use of Angler's Atlas app to collect burbot catch-rate data on ACA-surveyed lakes for population monitoring. Ongoing

Applied Research		
Project	Primary Purpose	Expected Outcomes
Walleye Fisheries Enhancement <hr/> ACA \$200,824 <hr/> Partner \$0 <hr/> Total \$200,824	Enhance walleye fisheries at select lakes using various tools in support of the Fish Stocking project.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to operate a mobile walleye hatchery at Travers Reservoir to rear and stock fry into the reservoir. Grow walleye fingerlings in the Forty Mile Coulee Reservoir rearing pond and stock into the reservoir. Assist the GoA in conducting walleye spawn camps to collect gametes in support of the Walleye Stocking Program; ACA staff acquire skills to conduct future egg-takes to support the mobile hatchery. ACA acquires a second mobile walleye hatchery for deployment in partnership with a stakeholder group. Ongoing
Owl River Fish Habitat Protection <hr/> ACA \$0 <hr/> Partner \$74,640 <hr/> Total \$74,640	Restoration and protection of Owl River riparian and fish habitat.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct fish community composition and habitat assessment in the Owl River—deferred from 2025/26 due to low water level. Year 1 of 1
Arctic Grayling Conservation <hr/> ACA \$131,171 <hr/> Partner \$0 <hr/> Total \$131,171	Determine Arctic grayling abundance, distribution, and habitat in data-deficient watersheds of mutual interest to provincial resource managers and industrial partners to provide current information to aid development of conservation and management plans.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe Arctic grayling abundance, distribution, and habitat characteristics in the Hotchkiss River watershed to aid in development of conservation and management plans. Watersheds for subsequent years to be determined. Tool development: investigate potential use of eDNA as a measure of Arctic grayling relative abundance. Year 1 of 3
Implementation of Approved Fish Species Recovery and Management Plans		
Project	Primary Purpose	Expected Outcomes
Native Trout Recovery Evaluation <hr/> ACA \$105,484 <hr/> Partner \$81,760 <hr/> Total \$187,244	Evaluate native trout recovery efforts in focal watersheds of the Native Trout Recovery project.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe abundance, distribution, and habitat for at-risk native trout species to enable assessment of stream habitat remediation and other recovery initiatives. Focal areas for 2026/27 include the upper Clearwater and Oldman river watersheds. Evaluate use of redd surveys for monitoring abundance of fluvial bull trout populations in Alberta. Year 3 of 5
Conservation Stocking of Native Trout <hr/> ACA \$76,472 <hr/> Partner \$10,000 <hr/> Total \$86,472	Support conservation stocking of native trout through the Native Trout Recovery project.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assist with translocation of bull trout from lower Fall Creek into upper Fall Creek above a waterfall. Assess angler effort in Waiparous Creek watershed using trail cameras. Conduct targeted fish barrier assessments in the upper Oldman River watershed to support westslope cutthroat trout recovery stocking. Year 1 of 5
Native Trout Habitat Remediation <hr/> ACA \$138,091 <hr/> Partner \$0 <hr/> Total \$138,091	Mitigate threats to native trout in support of the Native Trout Recovery project.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Emphasis on remediating impacts to critical native trout habitats; focal watersheds for 2026/27 include the upper McLeod River, Fallentimber Creek, and Livingstone River. Evaluate mechanical removal of brook trout to facilitate bull trout recovery in the headwaters of Fallentimber Creek. Reclaim off-highway vehicle (OHV) trails in McLeod River watershed. Year 1 of 5



Project: Fisheries Access Site Management
photo: ACA, Diana Rung

3.4 Land Management

Our Land Management Program focuses on conserving, protecting, and enhancing wildlife and fish habitat. We also promote the recreational value associated with conserved land. We recognize the importance of collaborative partnerships and consider our partners an integral component of our Land Management Program. These partnerships require ongoing communication with a variety of conservation organizations and stakeholder groups.

The main components of ACA's Land Management Program are securement and management of wildlife and fish habitat, including inventory, assessment, enhancement, and monitoring of conservation sites and other habitat initiatives. We use several methods to conserve land including direct purchase, land donations, and private land habitat agreements.

We currently manage over 220,000 acres of habitat within Alberta. This includes fisheries access sites, managed Crown properties, ACA-titled lands, lands with conservation easements, and other habitat retention projects. Management involves restoring and enhancing a variety of habitats, controlling invasive species, maintaining infrastructure, addressing industrial referrals, and providing information to users through signage on all ACA conservation sites. Management of our conservation sites is directed through detailed management plans that provide short- and long-term objectives to achieve our conservation goals.

Protection of water quality and riparian habitat is another focus of our Land Management Program. We use a variety of tools to restore and enhance habitat in priority drainages, including streambank fencing, off-channel watering, bank stabilization, education and outreach, and habitat retention agreements. Success of our riparian work is attributed to collaborative partnerships with private landowners; watershed groups; industry; federal, provincial, and municipal governments; and a variety of granting agencies and other stakeholders.

Securement, enhancement, and management of recreational opportunity initiatives are an integral component of our Land Management Program. We currently manage and maintain 23 fisheries access sites across the province, providing angling opportunities at a variety of rivers, lakes, and stocked ponds. Our Recreational Opportunity Enhancement project works to increase and enhance hunting and angling opportunities, while fostering positive relations with landowners. A key component of this project is providing landowners with tools that assist with managing hunter access.

The *Alberta Discover Guide* and associated iPhone and Android apps, developed with ACA's Information, Engagement, and Communications Program, are important tools that highlight the value of habitat conservation and the diversity of recreational opportunities available to Albertans. The 2026 edition is the 18th installment and features over 797 ACA and partner-owned sites across the province, including 303 sites managed separately by DUC and eight by AWF.

Another focus is the Use Respect – Ask First message, which fosters respect between land users and landowners by offering signage and increasing responsible access to privately owned lands. This initiative is delivered under our various Land Management projects.

Our conservation efforts focus on habitat conservation as well as an added benefit of providing a diversity of recreational opportunities such as hunting, fishing, photography, hiking, berry picking, and wildlife viewing for Albertans and our visitors.

Table 9: Land Management Projects for 2026/27

Securement, Enhancement, and Management of Fish and Wildlife Habitat (includes Inventory, Assessment, and Monitoring)								
Project	Primary Purpose	Expected Outcomes						
<p>Conservation Site Management</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>ACA</td> <td>\$598,753</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Partner</td> <td>\$401,225</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>\$999,978</td> </tr> </table>	ACA	\$598,753	Partner	\$401,225	Total	\$999,978	<p>Manage, maintain, and enhance ACA conservation sites to provide a diversity of habitat for a variety of wildlife and fish species and provide recreational opportunities on ACA and partner-owned conservation sites.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Manage, maintain, and enhance over 220,000 acres of habitat on over 400 conservation sites in the province. · Complete annual inspections on at least 60% of ACA-owned and managed conservation sites. · Maintain and develop collaborative partnerships that assist with achieving management goals on conservation sites. · Retain existing volunteer land stewards assigned to help with minor maintenance and inspections of 65 sites, and pursue additional volunteer steward assistance when and where the need is identified. · Educate volunteer land stewards about the ABHuntLog tool within the iHunter App and its utility for contributing wildlife observation information helpful for land and wildlife managers (see associated project within the Wildlife section). · Continue to work collaboratively with the GoA on the completion of long-term ACA dispositions for priority Crown conservation sites. · Maintain wildlife and fish habitat on conservation sites that benefits harvestable (game) species and/or species at risk (e.g., invasive vegetation control, beaver management, environmentally sustainable livestock grazing and haying, and natural disturbance emulation). · Enhance wildlife habitat on ACA conservation sites (e.g., tree/shrub planting; fence removal or upgrade to wildlife-friendly fence, native grassland restoration for greater sage-grouse, pronghorn, mule deer, and sharp-tailed grouse). · Enhance hunting, angling, and other sustainable recreational opportunities on ACA-owned and managed sites (e.g., block unauthorized access, parking area and trail maintenance, pedestrian gates, pheasant release sites, and signage). <p>Ongoing</p>
ACA	\$598,753							
Partner	\$401,225							
Total	\$999,978							
<p>Biophysical Inventories and Monitoring</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>ACA</td> <td>\$96,514</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Partner</td> <td>\$25,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>\$121,514</td> </tr> </table>	ACA	\$96,514	Partner	\$25,000	Total	\$121,514	<p>Provide baseline information on new properties and pretreatment conditions for habitat work, followed by assessment of treatment/management success and habitat change over time.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Baseline report prepared for each new property, which will inform management plan development. · Monitoring and reporting on key management plan indicators and habitat enhancement objectives (e.g., list of species at risk found on a property, level of recreational use, and habitat condition change). · Provide habitat monitoring information to the GoA for prescribed burns conducted on Crown conservation sites. <p>Ongoing</p>
ACA	\$96,514							
Partner	\$25,000							
Total	\$121,514							

Project	Primary Purpose	Expected Outcomes
Habitat Securement <hr/> ACA \$447,931 Partner \$1,015,475 <hr/> Total \$1,463,406	Identify and conserve high- priority wildlife and fish habitat using ACA's Habitat Securement Fund and through collaboration with other conservation partners.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Secure an additional 320 acres of habitat that benefits harvestable wildlife and fish species and/or species at risk, through land purchase and land donations within focal areas. · Maintain a collaborative partnership with Environment and Climate Change Canada to conserve carbon and species at risk habitat in Central Parkland and Grassland natural regions. · Maintain and expand current corporate partnerships. · Maintain, enhance, and expand other securement partnerships to conserve important habitat within focal areas across Alberta. · Increase hunting, angling, and other sustainable recreational opportunities across the province. · Apply to applicable grants to enhance securement opportunities (e.g., Land Trust Grant). Ongoing
Landowner Habitat Project (LHP) <hr/> ACA \$88,357 Partner \$49,271 <hr/> Total \$137,628	Conserve important habitat and increase recreational opportunities on privately owned lands through habitat retention agreements and Use Respect – Ask First signage.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Conserve an additional 160 acres of habitat that benefits harvestable wildlife and fish species and/or species at risk, using five- to 20-year term habitat retention agreements. · Continue to work with participating landowners that support conservation and recreation through LHP renewal agreements. · Continue to inspect and monitor existing LHP agreements. · Enhance hunting, angling, and other sustainable recreational opportunities on deeded lands with reasonable public access requirements. · Foster respect between land users and landowners. · Increase awareness and enhance hunting and angling opportunities on privately owned lands across Alberta by distributing Use Respect – Ask First signage. · Display Use Respect – Ask First banners within ACA Regions to promote Use Respect – Ask First (e.g., government and municipality offices, and trade shows). Ongoing
Riparian Conservation Project (RCP) <hr/> ACA \$185,184 Partner \$112,119 <hr/> Total \$297,303	Continue to enhance, restore, and protect riparian habitat through collaboration with private landowners, watershed groups, government, industry, and other stakeholders.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Establish new riparian conservation projects and associated landowner agreements (e.g., fencing, off-channel watering, habitat retention agreements, tree planting, bank stabilization). · Continue to inspect and monitor existing riparian agreements. · Explore opportunities to expand riparian conservation programming in the various regions. · Increase public interest and awareness of riparian conservation through community outreach, public presentations, direct contact with key landowners, signage, and advertisements. · Complete riparian health assessments and inventories at new and existing project locations and conduct water sampling to monitor water quality. · Participate in watershed groups, councils, and stewardship networks. · Increase access to angling opportunities across private lands with reasonable public access requirements. Ongoing



Project: Conservation Site Management
photo: ACA, Tyler Johns

Development and Implementation of Habitat Management Plans		
Project	Primary Purpose	Expected Outcomes
Management Plan Development <hr/> ACA \$141,161 <hr/> Partner \$0 <hr/> Total \$141,161	Develop management plans for conservation sites ACA owns or manages.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Develop habitat management and enhancement objectives and identify project partner roles and responsibilities for priority conservation sites. · Complete management plans on any properties recently secured through the Habitat Securement project in which ACA is the project lead. · Prioritize and develop management plans for priority Crown conservation sites (where a disposition is being applied for). · Work with partners and update management plans as required. Ongoing
Securement, Enhancement, and Management of Recreational Access Sites		
Project	Primary Purpose	Expected Outcomes
Fisheries Access Site Management <hr/> ACA \$182,783 <hr/> Partner \$11,980 <hr/> Total \$194,763	Maintain and enhance fisheries access sites that support and increase recreational angling opportunities across the province.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Continue providing access for anglers to key streams, rivers, lakes, and trout ponds. · Manage and maintain 23 fisheries access sites across the province. · Maintain and develop collaborative partnerships to assist with maintenance costs associated with managing fisheries access sites. · Retain existing volunteer land stewards assigned to help with minor maintenance, clean up and site inspections of nine sites, and pursue additional volunteer steward assistance when and where the need is identified. · Continue to complete minor maintenance on agreed-to water control structures. · Continue to work collaboratively with the GoA on Crown Fisheries Access Site dispositions. Ongoing
Recreational Opportunity Enhancement <hr/> ACA \$22,766 <hr/> Partner \$0 <hr/> Total \$22,766	Increase opportunities for hunting and angling, as well as other non-consumptive activities such as hiking, canoeing, or photography.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Expand the access sign-in process currently employed in southern Alberta. Ongoing
Alberta Discover Guide <i>The budget is allocated within the Information, Engagement, and Communications Program.</i>	Promote the value of habitat conservation and the diversity of recreational opportunities available on ACA-owned and partner conservation sites.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Continue to promote and distribute the <i>Alberta Discover Guide</i>. · Review and update the conservation site database with new ACA conservation sites and partner-owned properties for the 2027 edition of the <i>Alberta Discover Guide</i>. Ongoing

4.0 Report A Poacher

As part of the Report A Poacher (RAP) Program, we work with Alberta Justice and Solicitor General (AJSG) – Fish and Wildlife Enforcement Services – Sheriffs Branch, as well as other departments within the GoA to ensure RAP retains a high profile and remains an important resource for the public. As such, ACA is responsible for administering program funds and promotional activities. We also partner with AHEIA to aid in delivering the program through operation of the RAP education trailer and

interacting with the public at tradeshow and other public events.

As such, in 2026/27, we will continue to: 1) identify ways to educate the public about poaching in Alberta; 2) improve public awareness of, and access to, the program; 3) support AJSG with funding; 4) continue to partner with AHEIA on the RAP education trailer; and 5) provide funds for cash rewards to members of the public who help in charging poachers.

Table 10: Report A Poacher Projects for 2026/27

Project	Primary Purpose	Expected Outcomes
Report A Poacher Promotion <hr/> ACA \$140,214 Partner \$0 <hr/> Total \$140,214	Continue promotion of the RAP Program. Provide support for the RAP toll-free phone line.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Increase public awareness and understanding of poaching and maintain/increase use of RAP Program by the public through: · Using various media to increase the general exposure of the RAP Program. · Working with AHEIA to operate the RAP education trailer and making it available for use by AJSG and the GoA. · Maintaining sufficient stock of promotional items used for trade shows and community/stakeholder events, as well as researching new items that maximize exposure. · Ensuring the RAP toll-free line always has an operator available, with increased capacity during peak periods.
Enforcement Funding <hr/> ACA \$80,000 Partner \$0 <hr/> Total \$80,000	Provide funding to AJSG.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Assist in maintaining effectiveness of AJSG.
RAP Rewards <hr/> ACA \$80,000 Partner \$0 <hr/> Total \$80,000	Provide funding for rewards paid to members of the public who provide information leading to a poaching-related conviction.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Increase public participation in the RAP Program through monetary incentives.

5.0 ACA Grants

The ACA Grants Program offers four separate grants available through open competition.

ACA Conservation, Community, and Education Grants (CEEG) support conservation activities in Alberta by individuals (with appropriate insurance coverage), organizations, and communities that contribute 1) to fish and wildlife population conservation and the conservation or enhancement of wildlife and fish habitats; or 2) to the understanding, appreciation, and use of the natural environment. Projects that increase participation in, and awareness of, outdoor opportunities, while developing knowledge and respect for conservation, are funded through this grant program.

ACA Research Grants (RG) fund high-quality research projects on wildlife, fish, and habitat that inform the effective management of wildlife and fish populations or habitat in Alberta. These grants are generally applied for by professional researchers, but are available to any individual, organization, or community, apart from federal or provincial government employees and ACA staff, which can provide a high-quality research proposal.

ACA Grants in Biodiversity (GiB) provide research funds to outstanding graduate students doing Alberta-based research. The mandate of the program is to increase knowledge of the flora and fauna of Alberta, covering broadly the fields of biodiversity, conservation biology, ecology, and social sciences. By enabling graduate students in these areas, the program also trains future conservation professionals. This grant is available only to master's and doctorate students undertaking research within Alberta (they may be attending universities outside of the province, but their research must be Alberta-based).

The Minister's Special Licence Resident Draw Grants (MSL RDG; formerly known as the MSL Raffle Funds Grants) are funds raised from the 2025 Minister's Special Licence Draw (administered by ACA under contract with the GoA) for special tags for nine species (bighorn sheep, cougar, elk, moose, mountain goat, mule deer, pronghorn, white-tailed deer, and wild turkey). These funds will be awarded to projects that can demonstrate how their project or program conserves, protects, and enhances wildlife populations and their habitats. The money raised through the MSL Draw funds projects that directly benefit bighorn sheep, cougar, elk, moose, mountain goat, mule deer, pronghorn, white-tailed deer, and wild turkey, as well as education programs and habitat enhancements. The MSL program provides funding for conservation activities that benefit all Albertans.

A fifth grant, the ACA Chair in Fisheries and Wildlife Grant, is made available to ensure the ACA Chair in Fisheries and Wildlife can provide a link between academic research and ACA and other resource management personnel.

Table 11: Grants Program for 2026/27

Project	Primary Purpose	Expected Outcomes						
<p>ACA Conservation, Community, and Education Grants</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>ACA</td> <td>\$970,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Partner</td> <td>\$35,866</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>\$1,005,866</td> </tr> </table>	ACA	\$970,000	Partner	\$35,866	Total	\$1,005,866	<p>ACA CCEGs fund conservation activities by individuals (with appropriate insurance coverage), organizations, and communities that contribute to healthy wildlife and fish populations, to a healthy environment for wildlife and fish in Alberta, and to the understanding, appreciation, and use of that environment. This grant program will also fund projects that increase the level of attendance and awareness of outdoor opportunities, while developing knowledge and respect for conservation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Increase in quality and quantity of habitat available for wildlife, especially Alberta's Endangered species and fish populations. · Engagement of Albertans in stewardship activities. · Increase in fishing opportunities in Alberta. · Greater understanding of the impact of non-native species on native species in Alberta. · Increase in numbers of active hunters, anglers, and trappers and increased awareness of hunting/fishing/trapping opportunities in Alberta. · Increase in awareness of conservation issues in Alberta and the relationship between conservation and hunting, fishing, and trapping.
ACA	\$970,000							
Partner	\$35,866							
Total	\$1,005,866							
<p>ACA Research Grants</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>ACA</td> <td>\$330,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Partner</td> <td>\$0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>\$330,000</td> </tr> </table>	ACA	\$330,000	Partner	\$0	Total	\$330,000	<p>ACA RG funds high-quality research projects on wildlife, fish, and habitat that inform the effective management of wildlife and fish populations, and habitat in Alberta.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Provide a scientific basis for natural resource management in Alberta, including: aiding the recovery of Alberta's <i>Endangered</i> species and clarifying the status of data-deficient species; developing inventory tools to determine relative density and range of wildlife and fish species; assessing impact of non-native species on native species; evaluating the social demographics of hunting and angling; and investigating methods to reduce spread/impact of wildlife or fish related diseases, to name a few.
ACA	\$330,000							
Partner	\$0							
Total	\$330,000							
<p>ACA Grants in Biodiversity</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>ACA</td> <td>\$234,727</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Partner</td> <td>\$0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>\$234,727</td> </tr> </table>	ACA	\$234,727	Partner	\$0	Total	\$234,727	<p>ACA GiB support the training of future professional researchers and facilitate graduate student research that focuses on the conservation of Alberta's biological diversity.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Increase in knowledge of Alberta's heritage of living resources, specifically the flora and fauna. · Promote the development of highly qualified, Alberta-based conservation biologists and researchers. · Support high-quality research and study in Alberta by graduate students, with an average of 14 students supported annually.
ACA	\$234,727							
Partner	\$0							
Total	\$234,727							
<p>ACA Chair in Fisheries and Wildlife at the U of A</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>ACA</td> <td>\$20,500</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Partner</td> <td>\$0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>\$20,500</td> </tr> </table>	ACA	\$20,500	Partner	\$0	Total	\$20,500	<p>Provide educational initiatives to wildlife professionals through the ACA Chair.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Maintain a close connection between the ACA Chair and ACA programs. · Ensure research knowledge is being transferred to biologists involved in conservation, management, and policy development.
ACA	\$20,500							
Partner	\$0							
Total	\$20,500							
<p>Minister's Special Licence Resident Draw Grant Fund</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>ACA</td> <td>\$0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Partner</td> <td>\$520,149</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>\$520,149</td> </tr> </table>	ACA	\$0	Partner	\$520,149	Total	\$520,149	<p>MSL RDGs fund conservation activities in Alberta by individuals (with appropriate insurance coverage), organizations, and communities that contribute to healthy wildlife populations, conservation, or enhancement of habitat that wildlife depend on, as well as education and training programs for hunters.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Increase in quality and quantity of habitat in Alberta available for wildlife, especially bighorn sheep, cougar, elk, moose, mountain goat, mule deer, pronghorn, white-tailed deer, and wild turkey populations. · Monitor and develop mechanisms to reduce the spread of <i>Mycoplasma ovipneumoniae</i> in bighorn sheep and chronic wasting disease (CWD) in elk, moose, or mule deer in Alberta. · Identify mortality factors for Alberta's bighorn sheep, elk, moose, mule deer, pronghorn, or wild turkey populations. · Increase in numbers of hunters and hunting mentors in Alberta. · Increase awareness of the positive impact hunters have on conservation of wildlife and habitat in Alberta.
ACA	\$0							
Partner	\$520,149							
Total	\$520,149							

5.1 Government of Alberta Directed Grants

As part of our Memorandum of Understanding with the GoA, ACA provides grants to the following organizations.

Table 12: Grants Program for 2026/27

Project	Primary Purpose	Expected Outcomes
Alberta Hunter Education Instructors' Association ACA \$350,000 Partner \$0 Total \$350,000	This grant is used to fund Conservation Education Programs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide funding for programs including but not limited to Hunter Education Certification, Fishing Education, Boat Safety Certification, Bear Safety, National Archery in the Schools, and Outdoor Women's and Youth programs.
Alberta Professional Outfitters Society ACA \$1,000,000 Partner \$0 Total \$1,000,000	This grant funds the Wildlife Management Fund administered by APOS.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Wildlife Management Fund supports a wide range of research and conservation projects, including the ongoing mule deer collaring project, predator management projects, and the start-up of the Wildlife Analytics Lab at Lethbridge Polytechnic.
Alberta Trappers Association ACA \$225,000 Partner \$0 Total \$225,000	This grant helps with the education and conservation programming.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide funding for trapper education programs and ongoing conservation education.
Alberta Wildlife Federation ACA \$100,000 Partner \$0 Total \$100,000	This grant is used to fund ongoing conservation education.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide funding for conservation education programs and public awareness campaigns.



Project: ACA Conservation, Community, and Education Grant (Connect to Conserve: Bridging the Gap to Conservation Science)
 photo: Multicultural Trail Network

6.0 Compensation and Damage Prevention

Compensation and Damage Prevention consists of the Waterfowl Crop Damage Prevention Program, the Wildlife Predator Compensation Program, and the Shot Livestock Compensation Program. ACA is responsible for the administration and implementation of these programs in Alberta.

Waterfowl Crop Damage Prevention Program

This program assists agricultural producers to help prevent depredation losses to crops caused by waterfowl, by providing information on loss-prevention techniques and scare cannons. These activities complement the joint federal-provincial financial compensation program, which requires that a prevention program be

provided for agricultural producers to qualify for compensation funding.

Shot Livestock Compensation Program

This program provides financial compensation to agricultural producers who have incurred losses to livestock because of accidental shooting by third parties during an open hunting season. Compensation covers losses of horses and livestock covered under the predator program, as well as veterinary costs for wounded animals. Assessment of the losses is undertaken by AJSJG, while ACA is responsible for making the compensation payments to the agricultural producers as per a set payment schedule.

Table 13: Compensation and Damage Prevention Projects for 2026/27

Title		
Project	Primary Purpose	Expected Outcomes
Waterfowl Crop Damage Prevention <hr/> ACA \$2,393 Partner \$0 <hr/> Total \$2,393	Provide assistance to agricultural producers in preventing crop depredation losses as a result of waterfowl.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Provide access to information on techniques for reducing crop depredation to agricultural producers. · Ensure the prevention program meets requirements so that Alberta's agricultural producers qualify for the joint federal-provincial compensation program.
Shot Livestock Compensation <hr/> ACA \$15,000 Partner \$0 <hr/> Total \$15,000	Reimburse livestock producers for losses or injury to specified livestock as a result of accidental shooting by a third party during an open hunting season.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Provide compensation payments within 30 days of receiving processed claims from the GoA.

7.0 Monitoring and Accountability

On time, on budget, highest quality, and done safely continue to be the cornerstones by which we measure every project.

Project leads are responsible for providing monthly updates to their manager who reports results to the Management Team, ensuring projects are on track. These updates allow us to address and resolve any issues in a timely manner. In addition, project leads prepare annual summary reports that are posted on our website by April 30 each year. These summary reports are reviewed as part of an internal quality control process. Posting our reports on the website allows our stakeholders to assess the quality of our work. Whether praise for a job well done or constructive criticism on how to improve our work, we encourage stakeholder feedback.

We assure financial accountability through a number of processes, including internal controls and a yearly external audit. We also make all financial statements available to the public on our website.

Our Annual Report is released each September to the GoA, our member groups, and to the public. This document clearly and concisely outlines the projects we have completed, the funds we have spent, and the results we have produced. It is this document that our stakeholders should review to ensure that we are providing good conservation value.

The most important monitoring and accountability process is our staff, who are always willing to engage with our partners, stakeholders, and the public about our organization, our work, and our projects. We pride ourselves on being open, transparent, and willing to answer questions about any of our projects.



Project: Biophysical Inventories and Monitoring
photo: ACA, Erin VanderMarel

8.0 Financial Summary

Our 2026/27 operating budget, including projected land donations and funds donated for land purchase, is \$27,796,274.

In accordance with the Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants Standards and Collection Handbook, our year-end financial statements for land donations and funds donated for land purchase are presented as assets, rather than revenue. However, showing these partner donations in our annual budget fairly represents the next 12 months of work and our efforts to increase conservation activities through non-levy funding.

Our 2026/27 budget is based on a levy revenue projection of \$20,819,597 (established from prior year levy revenue plus an anticipated levy increase), a projection of partner (non-levy) revenue for projects of \$5,976,678 and a projection of partner (non-levy) donations of land or funds for land purchase of \$1,000,000.

In all, \$22,661,793 is allocated to Wildlife; Fisheries; Land Management (including land purchase and donations); Information, Engagement, and Communications; RAP; ACA Grants; and Compensation programs. This amount is equivalent to 108.8% percent of the levy revenue value collected from hunters and anglers being put directly back into our natural resources.

Table 14: Summary Budget for 2026/27

Program	ACA (Levy Funds)	Partner Funds	Total Budget
Administration	\$1,521,333	\$44,094	\$1,565,427
Finance	\$889,038	\$1,262,034	\$2,151,072
Business Development	\$320,064	\$0	\$320,064
Human Resources	\$336,455	\$0	\$336,455
Health and Safety	\$156,263	\$0	\$156,263
Information Technology	\$605,200	\$0	\$605,200
Information, Engagement, and Communications	\$1,884,432	\$322,285	\$2,206,717
Wildlife	\$5,182,667	\$2,586,145	\$7,768,812
Fisheries	\$3,489,091	\$381,747	\$3,870,838
Land Management	\$2,499,487	\$724,358	\$3,223,845
Report A Poacher (RAP)	\$300,214	\$0	\$300,214
Compensation and Damage Prevention	\$17,393	\$0	\$17,393
Grants	\$3,317,958	\$656,015	\$3,973,974
Subtotal Budget	\$20,519,597	\$5,976,678	\$26,496,274
Land Donations and Funds for Land Purchases	\$300,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,300,000
TOTAL BUDGET	\$20,819,597	\$6,976,678	\$27,796,274



Project: Walleye Fisheries Enhancement
photo: ACA, Kevin Fitzsimmons



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– Alberta Hunter Education Instructors' Association

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– Public At Large – Business Representative

Vince Aiello – Secretary
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Brent Watson – Alberta Bowhunters Association

Vacant – Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta

Dr. Todd Zimmerling (non-voting) – ACA, President and CEO

Member Groups

Alberta Bowhunters Association

Alberta Fish & Game Association o/a Alberta Wildlife Federation

Alberta Hunter Education Instructors' Association

Alberta Professional Outfitters Society

Alberta Trappers' Association

Backcountry Hunters & Anglers – Alberta Chapter

Freshwater Conservation Canada

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