

ACA Grants in Biodiversity 2026 Allocation List



Institution	Recipient	Supervisor(s)	Project Title	Funding
McGill University	James Connolly (MSc)	Anna Hargreaves	Quantifying abundance patterns and long-distance dispersal rates of plant communities along their elevational range limits	\$3,440
University of Alberta	Ang Thompson (MSc)	Maya Evenden & Jaime Pinzon	The effect of mountain pine beetle (<i>Dendroctonus ponderosae</i> Hopkins) disturbance on spider and rove beetle communities	\$6,750
University of Alberta	Heather Anderson (PhD)	J.C. Cahill	What grass is in the gut? Using DNA metabarcoding to identify grazing induced diet shifts in <i>Melanoplus bivittatus</i> (Orthoptera: Acrididae)	\$17,325
University of Alberta	Isaac Peetoom Heida (PhD)	J.C. Cahill	The role of plant roots in structuring small-scale differences in diversity and function of soil communities in grasslands	\$14,225
University of Alberta	Jacob Beauregard (PhD)	Justine Karst	Assessing fungal biodiversity, dispersal, and community composition 30 years following forest disturbance	\$10,875
University of Alberta	Jenelle McCuaig (PhD)	Tamzin Blewett	Understanding the impacts of wildfire ash on Alberta salmonoid species	\$9,750
University of Alberta	Katrine Guse (MSc)	Erin Bayne & Elly Knight	Comparing the detection accuracy of point counts and passive acoustic monitoring of bird species	\$13,050
University of Alberta	Leonard Patterson (MSc)	Erin Bayne	Assessing the role of forest understory structure in boreal bird-habitat selection using LiDAR	\$12,675
University of Alberta	Lindsay Ellis (MSc)	Olav Rueppell	Quantifying the spread of honeybee (<i>Apis mellifera</i>) viruses to other pollinators	\$11,875
University of Alberta	Megan LaRocque (PhD)	Kimberley Mathot	Does increased predation risk favour reduced sampling behavior? A field experiment in black-capped chickadees	\$14,675
University of Alberta	Samantha Pedersen (MSc)	Erin Bayne	Management tools for native rangeland conservation: evaluating the effects of adaptive multi-paddock grazing on nest success and habitat quality for declining grassland birds in Southern Alberta	\$12,000
University of Alberta	Shawn Brescia (MSc)	Felix Sperling	Biodiversity assessment of Villa bee flies to support conservation of Alberta's threatened prairies	\$13,125
University of Alberta	Stephanie Petrone (MSc)	Charles Nock & David Olefeldt	Quantifying and scaling tree methane flux in the boreal forest of Alberta	\$8,400
University of Calgary	Laura Budd (PhD)	Mathieu Pruvot	Managing for disease regulation: Linking agriculture land use, rodent populations and disease regulation	\$12,450
University of Calgary	Parker Makkreel (MSc)	Benjamin Barst & Benjamin Kissinger	Field and analytical models of critical habitat of at-risk stream fishes for recovery strategies	\$12,000
University of Lethbridge	Jaden Griffiths (MSc)	Steve Wiseman	Effects of tire-wear particles on development of rainbow and brown trout	\$7,310
University of Montana	Jonathan Farr (PhD)	Mark Hebblewhite	How does bison ecosystem engineering affect forage in mountain meadows?	\$17,775
University of Saskatchewan	Erin Henderson (PhD)	Ryan Brook	The relationship between harvest pressure and the genetic spatial structure of large carnivore populations in Alberta	\$13,300

TOTAL FUNDING: GRANTS IN BIODIVERSITY	\$211,000
--	------------------