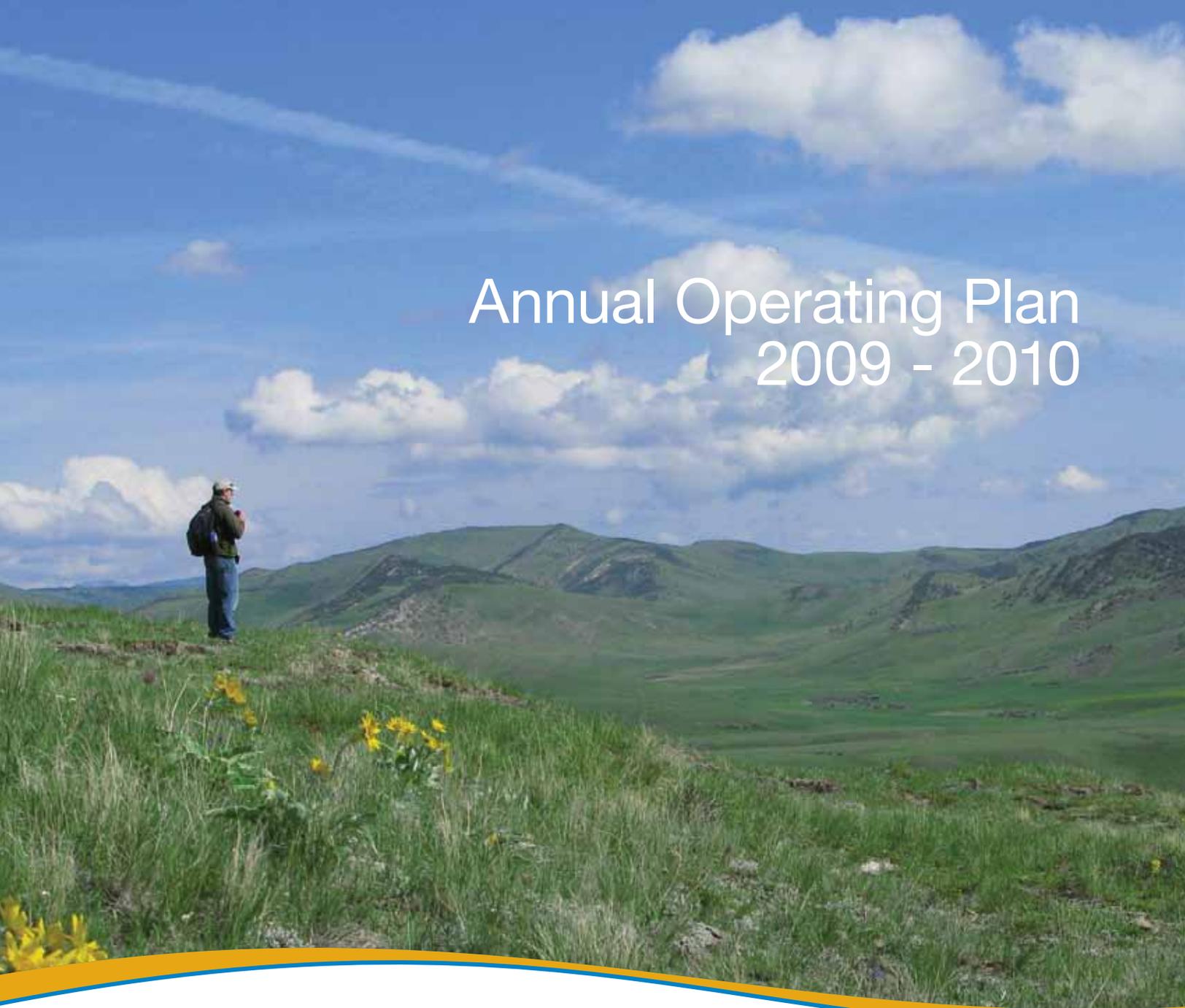


Annual Operating Plan 2009 - 2010



Alberta Conservation
Association

Conserving Alberta's Wild Side

Annual Operating Plan 2009-2010



Our Mission

ACA conserves, protects and enhances fish, wildlife and habitat for all Albertans to enjoy, value and use.

Our Vision

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

For copies of this document, contact:

Alberta Conservation Association

101 – 9 Chippewa Road

Sherwood Park, Alberta T8A 6J7

toll free 1-877-969-9091

fax 780-464-0990

email: info@ab-conservation.com

website: www.ab-conservation.com

Cover: Carla Koenig

Photo Credits:

Dean Bayeens, Darren Dorge, David Fairless, Kevin Gardiner,

Theresa Hannah, Kelly Hooey, Mike Jokinen, Carla Koenig,

Randy Lee, Corey Rasmussen, Roy Schmelzeisen, Jenny Straub,

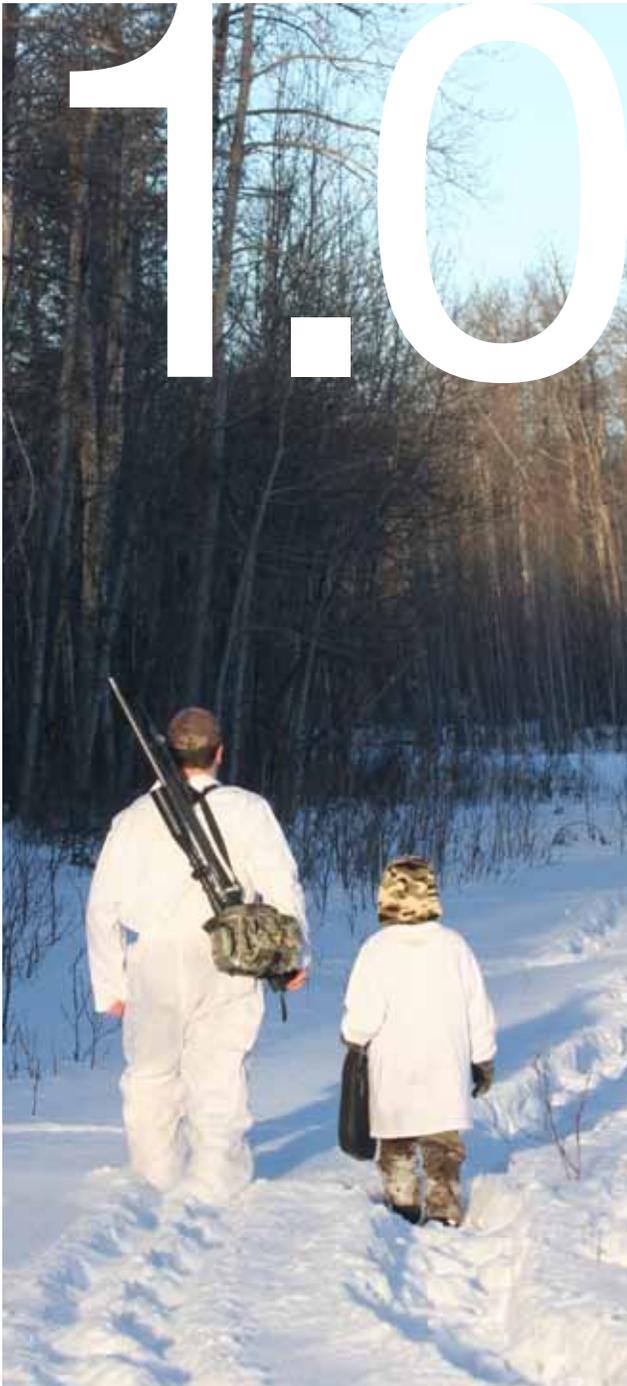
Shevenell Webb



Contents

1.0	Introduction	4
1.1	Linkages to ACA's 2009-2019 Strategic Business Plan	5
2.0	Program Areas	6
2.1	Finance and Administration Program	7
2.2	Communications Program	8
2.3	Human Resources Program	14
2.4	Health and Safety Program	16
2.5	Information Technology Program	17
2.6	Wildlife Program	18
2.7	Fisheries Program	23
2.8	Land Management Program	28
2.9	Report A Poacher and Compensation Programs	31
3.0	Grant Funds	32
3.1	Grant Eligible Conservation Fund	33
3.2	Grants in Biodiversity	33
3.3	Habitat Securement Fund	33
3.4	ACA Chair in Fisheries and Wildlife at the University of Alberta	33
4.0	Monitoring and Accountability	34
5.0	Financial Summary	36

Introduction



For the 2009-2010 fiscal year, all relevant information with respect to the major projects to be undertaken in each program area and their associated budgets are supplied in an abbreviated table format. It is our hope that this format results in greater use not only by our stakeholders who are interested in what projects we are undertaking, but also by our employees.

The budget numbers may not coincide with the amount stated in the summary budget in Section 5. The reason for the discrepancy is related to costs for activities such as training, professional development, planning, public speaking, etc. that are directly related to the program area, but not necessarily attributable to a specific project.

As of September 2007, Alberta Conservation Association (ACA) moved to a provincially based program model. As such, programs and budgets are no longer reported on a regional basis. All projects are now within nine program areas: 1) Finance and Administration, 2) Communications, 3) Human Resources, 4) Health and Safety, 5) Information Technology, 6) Wildlife, 7) Fisheries, 8) Land Management, and 9) Report A Poacher and Compensation (formerly Human Interaction). This programming model helps to ensure projects within a single program area are standardized throughout the province and circumvents regionally specific issues taking precedent over provincial priorities.

In 2008, ACA's Board of Directors, our member groups and the Provincial Government (ASRD) all made strong statements with respect to the importance of retention and recruitment of hunters, anglers and trappers in Alberta. It is recognized that hunters, anglers and trappers are the backbone of conservation efforts in Alberta, and without these dedicated people much of Alberta's natural heritage would be lost. Owing to the concern raised over the retention and recruitment of hunters, anglers and trappers, ACA has implemented a new retention and recruitment

project beginning in 2009-2010. This three-year pilot project will commit \$500,000 per year towards retention and recruitment. The project, funded through operational funds is budgeted through our Communications program area (as a result, you will note a significant increase in the Communications budget this year). The retention and recruitment project is unique in that the majority of the projects funded are delivered by ACA's member groups. In 2009-2010 these groups include Alberta Hunter Education Instructors' Association, Alberta Trappers' Association and various local Alberta Fish and Game Association clubs.

ACA is continuing to make a concerted effort to interact more with our stakeholders by attending more tradeshows and providing presentations to local groups wherever possible. We are increasing our communication with our member groups to keep them informed of what ACA is doing and where partnership opportunities exist. We are also planning for more media advertising to ensure the general public is aware of the important work hunters, anglers and trappers do for the conservation efforts in Alberta.

Once again, ACA has made a concerted effort to reduce administrative costs to ensure funds are spent on "direct conservation efforts." The budget for 2009-2010 allocates \$8,799,890 into the Fisheries, Wildlife and Land Management programs. This amount is equal to 85.4% of the levy revenue value that is expected to be collected. Given the importance of retention and recruitment of hunters, anglers and trappers to the future of conservation, our Communications program should also be considered "direct conservation efforts," and with this program added to Fisheries, Wildlife and Land Management ACA's total expenditure on "direct conservation efforts" is equal to \$10,557,637, or 103 % of the levy revenue value.

ACA's capacity to put more into the resource than what we collect in levies is a direct result of our ability to acquire

partner funding for many of our projects. In 2009-2010 we anticipate receiving over \$4 million in partner funds. Our success in obtaining partner funding is a direct result of our quality conservation work and the efforts of our dedicated employees.

1.1 Linkage to ACA's 2009-2019 Strategic Business Plan

In 2009-2010, ACA adheres to the goals and objectives articulated in our 2009-2019 Strategic Business Plan. We use the Strategic Business Plan as a roadmap to maintain direction and to remain focused on the strategies that influence our effectiveness. Having this clear sense of direction, we are able to develop the most appropriate means to reach our goals, which contributes to our success.

Each program manager has reviewed the goals and objectives laid out in the Strategic Business Plan and incorporated these into their respective program plans for the 2009-2010 Annual Operating Plan.





Program Areas

2.0

2.1

Finance and Administration Programs

The Finance and Administration programs focus on ensuring smooth, day-to-day operations of ACA. Tasks undertaken in these programs include payroll, payables, receivables and providing administrative support for ACA management and Board of Directors.

Table 1: Finance and Administration Programs for 2009-10

Project Name	Primary Purpose	Expected Outcomes	ACA	Partner	Total
Finance	Provide financial services that safeguard the assets of the company, ensure legal and contractual obligations are met and provide accurate and timely information to the decision makers of ACA.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Effectively manage assets. · Completed, on-time legal reporting. · Meet management's information needs; facilitate effective decision making. 	\$548,447	\$12,000	\$560,447
Administration	Provide administrative support to all areas to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of internal operations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Support given to Board of Directors, executive and management. · Maintain building operations. 	\$246,349	\$1,180,749	\$1,427,098

2.2 Communications Program



The Communications program focuses on the mechanisms necessary to increase the profile and awareness of programs we deliver in our role as a non-profit registered charity and as a Delegated Administrative Organization (DAO) for Alberta Sustainable Resource Development (ASRD).

The Communications program is responsible for: 1) advertising, 2) internal and external communications, 3) outreach, 4) print and publications, 5) the external website, 6) media relations, 7) graphic design and 8) messaging and brand management. This year, new activities are included within the Communications program, although the delivery is co-ordinated by Business Support Services staff. They are Business Development Support, and Retention and Recruitment. In addition to these responsibilities, we maintain a cost-efficient program through partnerships, advertising revenue and in-kind support, and by establishing other revenue-generating opportunities.

We are also guided by the Public Information, Education and Communication Operations Agreement, which outlines the activities, roles, and responsibilities required for ACA and ASRD to work together to provide Alberta's hunters and anglers with information related to conservation.

All aspects of the Communications program work to incorporate messaging that assists with increasing the:

- reputation of ACA as a world-class conservation organization known for integrating high-quality research and on-the-ground conservation projects;
- general public's recognition of ACA and its Member Groups; acceptance of hunting, fishing and trapping within the general public; and
- recognition of the positive role hunters, anglers and trappers play in the conservation of wildlife, fish and habitat.

The major activities that we will implement this year are:

- The production, publication and distribution of the Annual Report, Strategic Business Plan, Annual Operating Plan, two issues of *Conservation Magazine* and the second edition of the *Guide to Outdoor Adventure*.
- Ensure all communications materials created by ACA staff are reviewed by Communications so they adhere to brand identity guidelines.
- Provide expertise and support for approved communications needs from the Wildlife, Fisheries and Land Management programs as well as requests from the President and CEO, and Vice President.
- Implement a secure, online donation system that allows individuals to donate to conservation work conducted by ACA. In conjunction with Business Development Support we will prepare a list of conservation giving opportunities for individual donors.
- Provide Alberta's hunters and anglers with effective and current information and communications related to conservation and how levy dollars from licence sales are spent.
- Connect with stakeholders via our e-subscriber database with a quarterly conservation e-flash, which highlights the latest ACA happenings.
- Increase the overall level of corporate involvement in ACA programs by strengthening existing relationships and developing new corporate partnerships.
- Roll out an internally funded Retention and Recruitment program delivered by our member groups to increase hunter, angler and trapper retention and recruitment program.

Table 2: Communication Projects for 2009-10

Project Name	Primary Purpose	Expected Outcomes	ACA	Partner	Total
Advertising	Identify key advertising opportunities and implement strategies that align with and support ACA's organizational objectives to increase program and brand recognition.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Place ads in both the <i>Alberta Sportfishing and Hunting Regulations</i> and other print, radio, TV and website mediums. · Partnership growth. · Complete truck fleet branding. 	\$64,100	\$0	\$64,100
Bateman Prints	Explore new avenues/partners to help promote and sell the remaining inventory of Robert Bateman special-edition prints.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Print inventory is sold. 	\$0	\$4,200	\$4,200
Branded Merchandise	Provide support, brand management advice and creative expertise for promotional materials and the development of an ACA store.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · A cohesive line of recognizable branded materials. 	\$72,000	\$0	\$72,000

Internal and Regional Communications	Provide communications advice and support to the President and CEO, VP and Wildlife, Fisheries and Land Management programs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Pre-identified and approved program communications needs are completed. · Develop key communications (media releases, PSAs, etc.). · Program representation continues on the <i>Conservation Magazine</i> editorial committee. · Collaborative delivery of <i>Use Respect-Ask First</i> program and the Conservation Sites. 	\$12,052	\$0	\$12,052
Outreach	Increase visibility among stakeholders and the general public.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Connect with stakeholders via our e-subscriber database with a quarterly conservation e-flash, which highlights the latest ACA happenings. · Trade shows and events are attended and equipped with viable promotional materials in co-ordination with the RAP Co-ordinator. · Respond to requests for promotional items for stakeholder events (i.e. silent auction items). · Create a visual media display. · Submit key award applications. 	\$56,595	\$0	\$56,595
Print and Publications	To enhance visibility and recognition among stakeholders, partners, the general public and the media. This includes providing brand management, design and quality review of all material created for external audiences.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · All materials adhere to organizational brand guidelines. · Publish and distribute two issues of <i>Conservation Magazine</i>. · Co-ordinate, develop and produce the delivery of 100,000 copies of the second edition of <i>Discover Alberta's Wild Side – Guide to Outdoor Adventure</i> in conjunction with the Land Management program. · Co-ordinate, develop, design and produce the Annual Report. · Co-ordinate, design and print the Strategic Business Plan, Annual Operating Plan and the Grant Eligible Conservation Fund Annual Report. · Pre-identified program communications needs for print materials are completed. · Design and co-ordinate printing of Conservation Site property signs. 	\$430,098	\$25,000	\$455,098

Program Co-ordination	To increase employee learning through professional and academic development. This also includes memberships with marketing groups who aid in the promotion and distribution of materials and the ability to work with stakeholders.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Employees improve skill base and knowledge, and continue to deliver a well-recognized and high-quality Communications program. 	\$166,743	\$0	\$166,743
Truck Raffle	Raffle a 2010 Camry Hybrid with the support of our <i>Corporate Partner in Conservation</i> , Sherwood Park Toyota; to increase awareness of ACA and our CPIC program.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Co-ordinate raffle and promotional materials; sell 5,000 tickets, generate revenue and awareness of ACA and our programs. 	\$0	\$65,000	\$65,000
Website	Provide an easily accessible location to interact with our stakeholders.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement monthly website updates. Implement a secure online donation system. Research and integrate interactive children's component. Upgrade Conservation Site database and update information as requested. 	\$54,435	\$2,000	\$56,435
Marketing Campaign	The goal of this marketing campaign is to increase public awareness of ACA, our member groups and the important role that hunting, fishing and trapping play in conservation. To accomplish this we will work with <i>Let's Go Outdoors</i> and <i>WildTV</i> to employ a variety of media (TV, radio and social media).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> June 2011 survey indicates an increase in public recognition of ACA, our member groups and important role hunting, fishing and trapping play in conservation. 	\$112,459	\$0	\$112,459

Business Development Support

Project Name	Primary Purpose	Expected Outcomes	ACA	Partner	Total
Business Development Support	To support increasing the level of corporate involvement in ACA programs by strengthening existing relationships and developing new corporate partnerships.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concerted business development and marketing efforts, emphasizing promotion of the <i>Corporate Partners in Conservation</i> program. Increase the number of ACA corporate partner donors from 9 to a minimum of 12 that are participating in conservation-related projects. Increase the amount of non-levy revenue relative to levy funds by a minimum 5% of total ACA funds. 	\$189,167	\$0	\$189,167

Retention and Recruitment					
Project Name	Primary Purpose	Expected Outcomes	ACA	Partner	Total
ATA School Resource Kits (delivered by ATA)	Provide 25 complete kits (furs, skulls, resource materials) to schools throughout Alberta.	· Extensive use of these kits by schools to meet curriculum requirements to teach the history of trapping in Alberta and Canada.	\$35,000	\$0	\$35,000
Trapping DVD for Schools (delivered by ATA)	Produce 100 DVDs for distribution to schools throughout Alberta.	· Extensive use of these DVDs by schools to meet curriculum requirements to teach the history of trapping in Alberta and Canada.	\$132,000	\$0	\$132,000
“Take a Kid Fishing” Program (delivered by AHEIA)	Provide a great opportunity for youth to experience the fun of fishing.	· Increase numbers of youth enjoying fishing.	\$15,000	\$0	\$15,000
Outdoor Bound! Mentorship (to be delivered by AHEIA)	Provide mentored hunting experiences to youth and first-time hunters.	· Identification of 250 mentors and 500 youth/first-time hunters that participate.	\$98,600	\$0	\$98,600
Outdoor Women’s Program (delivered by AHEIA)	Provide outdoor education specifically for women.	· Increase in the number of women with an interest in participating in outdoor activities, including hunting, angling and trapping.	\$86,000	\$0	\$86,000
Urban Fishing Initiative (delivered by AHEIA)	Provide mentored fishing trips for youth and first-time anglers.	· 15 mentor fishing trips provided.	\$18,000	\$0	\$18,000
Wildlife Workbook (delivered by AHEIA)	Provide a learning resource for youth.	· Printing of 50,000 copies that include information on conservation, fishing, hunting and trapping issues.	\$35,000	\$0	\$35,000
Youth Camps and Seminar (5 in total) (delivered by AHEIA)	Provide training and education to youth.	· A total of 225 participants leaving the camps and seminar with great knowledge of the outdoors and the species that live there.	\$66,000	\$0	\$66,000

Alberta Junior Pheasant Project (delivered by Sarcee Fish and Game)	Provide training and mentored upland game hunting opportunities to youth.	· Provide up to 80 youth with the opportunity to hunt upland game with a mentor.	\$3,500	\$0	\$3,500
Hunter Education and Novice Shoot (delivered by Brooks and Area Fish and Game)	Provide training for youth and first-time shooters.	· A minimum of 1 women's and 2 youth shoots throughout the summer.	\$2,500	\$0	\$2,500
Training new archers, big game hunters and upland game bird hunters (delivered by Lethbridge Fish and Game)	Provide training for new hunters in archery, big game and upland game hunting; provide mentored hunts.	· A minimum of 85 new hunters participating in training and mentored hunts.	\$5,700	\$0	\$5,700
Bird Hunting Promotion (delivered by New Dayton Rod and Gun Club)	Provide shooting training to youth.	· Increase the number of youth interested in participating in bird hunting.	\$2,700	\$0	\$2,700



2.3 Human Resources Program

The Human Resources program focuses primarily on employee retention and recruitment through a number of different projects. Key to this program is the yearly online survey that allows for: 1) the identification of challenges within the organization, and 2) management to develop appropriate projects to improve or eliminate these challenges.

In 2009-10, the Human Resources program will focus on keeping up with the current economic trends, technologies, social and legal concerns and to support the managers as they manage their employees to achieve organizational goals.

Priority is given to building a skilled and motivated workforce that ensures ACA projects are completed “on-time, on-budget, of high quality and done safely.”



Table 3: Human Resources Projects for 2009-10

Project Name	Primary Purpose	Expected Outcomes	ACA	Partner	Total
Professional and Academic Development	Develop plans for employees to identify courses needed to advance their career. Identify, track and promote participation in professional conferences. Encourage presentations at conferences.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Improve professional knowledge and skill base. · Increase employee satisfaction with opportunities to develop in their career. · Increase professional knowledge and skill base. · Increase recognition of ACA through posters and oral presentations. 	\$104,000	\$0	\$104,000
Professional Memberships	Encourage ACA staff 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 ACA staff through the promotion and maintenance of high standards of professional competence and ethics. 	\$15,400	\$0	\$15,400
Health and Wellness	Provide an extra level of health benefits to our employees.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Increase employee satisfaction with benefits plan. · Create healthier employees. 	\$38,500	\$0	\$38,500
Awards	Create a method to effectively recognize employees for long-term employment and other work-related achievements.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Recognize employees for their loyalty and commitment to the organization. · Recognize employees for their achievements. · Increase employee satisfaction. 	\$28,100	\$0	\$28,100
Online Survey	Determine level of employee satisfaction with various aspects of ACA.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Identify challenges and develop action plans for improvements. 	\$15,555	\$0	\$15,555
Recruitment	Recruit the best possible candidates for ACA job postings.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Hire high-quality employees that fit ACA culture. 	\$32,105	\$0	\$32,105
Career Fairs	Promote ACA to current college and university students.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Future hires of high-quality employees. 	\$4,266	\$0	\$4,266
Microsoft Navigation Program	Automation of employee files.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Greater convenience for managers to access current information on employee qualifications and training needs. · Maintain the inventory of talent in the organization. · Ability to produce reports for benchmarking purposes. 	\$105,739	\$0	\$105,739

2.4 Health and Safety Program

ACA recently revised its Health and Safety program to update the content and organization, as well as improve the implementation and integration of health and safety into ACA operations. In particular, the program was made more comprehensive, yet also streamlined to provide a useful and effective tool for ACA staff that work in a wide variety of environments and situations.

The program includes a strong emphasis on reporting incidents, implementing solutions or improvements and then tracking the results in order to continually adapt and improve the program. The overall goal is to ensure employees understand: 1) the importance of working safely and 2) ACA's commitment to providing a work environment where employees do not have to conduct work that they feel is unsafe or unhealthy.



Table 4: Health and Safety Program for 2009-10

Project Name	Primary Purpose	Expected Outcomes	ACA	Partner	Total
Health and Safety	Provide an environment and culture where all employees feel they can work in a safe and healthy manner.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and implement a Health and Safety program that integrates effectively with ACA operations so that working safely becomes a natural and integral part of working at ACA. Provide all the necessary training, equipment, materials, staff and procedures to enable all ACA employees to work safely. Minimize or eliminate workplace injuries. Minimize loss/damages to property, facilities, materials and equipment. Effectively respond to any and all health and safety incidents, including near misses. Effectively manage all health and safety records as a means of continually improving the program. 	\$114,436	\$0	\$114,436



2.5 Information Technology Program

The Information Technology (IT) program is responsible for the day-to-day management and operation, as well as the strategic direction of ACA's information technology services. The Information Technology programs primary activities and applications include: network and data security, corporate telephone systems, intranet website, financial applications, payroll system, GIS applications and several other applications and services. Core daily responsibilities also include ensuring workstation and network functionality, providing end-user support, data recovery and securing corporate data.

Table 5 : Information Technology Projects for 2009-10

Project Name	Primary Purpose	Expected Outcomes	ACA	Partner	Total
Information Technology/ Systems	<p>Responsible for the day-to-day management and operations of ACA's IT infrastructure.</p> <p>Provide technical support to all areas of ACA's information technology systems.</p> <p>Meet high level of network and data security for ACA's IT environment.</p> <p>Evaluate and improve ACA's information systems.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Timely resolutions of any critical server and network problems. · Maintain daily backups of ACA's servers and data. · Operate efficient information systems. · ACA network and data structures are kept secure. · Ensure existing technology provides information in an efficient and effective manner. 	\$361,540	\$0	\$361,540



2.6 Wildlife Program

The Wildlife program focuses on the following four thematic areas: 1) ungulates, 2) upland game birds, 3) waterfowl and 4) species at risk. Program objectives are prioritized at the provincial level through strategic and operational planning into the following nine possible categories: (1) Species/Population Inventory, (2) Plan Development and Implementation, (3) Species Management and Enhancement, (4) Aerial Ungulate Surveys, (5) Applied Research/Ecological Studies, (6) Status Assessment, (7) Habitat Inventory and Enhancement, (8) Recreation Opportunities and (9) Education and Outreach. A pivotal step in our program development is ongoing discussion with ASRD and other external experts and stakeholders to gain insight into current wildlife priorities and to build opportunities for collaboration.

For 2009-2010, ACA's Wildlife program will focus on delivering aerial ungulate surveys, identifying habitat limitations for a variety of ungulates and implementing associated habitat enhancement activities. Other components of the program will include habitat enhancement for pheasants and cavity-nesting waterfowl, refining a sharp-tailed grouse inventory tool, carrying out recovery actions outlined in approved provincial recovery plans, assisting with assessing the status of Alberta's wildlife and contributing to education and outreach initiatives. The Wildlife program will also provide input into ACA's Land Management program to ensure effective linkages between these two programs.

Table 6: Wildlife Projects for 2009-10

Ungulates					
Project Name	Primary Purpose	Expected Outcomes	ACA	Partner	Total
Aerial Ungulate Surveys	Provide information on ungulate population size, trends, demographics and reproductive outputs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collect and report population information for approximately 25 to 30 of ASRD's priority survey units. 	\$920,697	\$50,000	\$970,697
Elk Habitat Planning Tool	Deliver planning input for managers in the Foothills Natural Region to evaluate alternative industrial disturbance scenarios and to identify habitat compensation/restoration opportunities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Users of the tool are provided with technical support and assistance in interpreting model output. 	\$10,329	\$0	\$10,329
Elk Sightability in the SW Montane Area	Develop a correction function to assess the detectability of male vs. female elk to better determine gender and age structure in population estimates.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Correction functions that more accurately estimate the proportion of males vs. females in winter trend surveys. Provide data to ASRD for entry to FWMIS. 	\$64,736	\$20,000	\$84,736
Pronghorn Antelope Habitat Selection	Produce information on key habitat needs for pronghorn that contribute towards management in the Grassland Natural Region.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete analysis of seasonal habitat use and movement patterns of pronghorn. Collaborate with ASRD, academic partners, WWF, Montana and Saskatchewan representatives to identify priority needs for pronghorn conservation in the Northern Sage Steppe. Assist ASRD with collection of data to explain relationship between horn size and age of male pronghorn. Provide data to ASRD for entry to FWMIS. 	\$76,474	\$0	\$76,474
Ungulate Winter Range Restoration	Restore natural disturbance patterns in low-disturbance watershed sub-basins by providing planning support to ASRD's prescribed burn program and using mechanical clearing means where deemed appropriate to environmental and social conditions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wildlife habitat needs are incorporated into one ASRD burn plan. Baseline habitat information is collected for two proposed treatment areas. Two prescribed burns occur in ungulate winter range portions of the Bighorn Backcountry (R11 FMU). Outstanding mechanical treatment obligations are completed. One new sub-basin planning document is developed. 	\$106,039	\$111,000	\$217,039

Wildlife and Fire Interpretive Hike	Develop an educational interpretive hike within a prescribed burn to be used by the general public and schools. Emphasize the importance of fire disturbance for wildlife habitat and in particular for ungulates.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop long-term acceptance of natural and prescribed fire for enhancing wildlife (ungulate) habitat. Create effective outreach tool for educating the public. If prescribed burn is undertaken in spring 2009 (weather dependent), implement partnerships to input infrastructure for trail area (signs, benches, outhouse). 	\$40,748	\$15,141	\$55,889
Species at Risk					
Project Name	Primary Purpose	Expected Outcomes	ACA	Partner	Total
Alberta Piping Plover Recovery Program	Implement select productivity enhancement, monitoring, habitat enhancement and public education initiatives detailed in Alberta Piping Plover Recovery Plan.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Predator exclosures applied to as many plover nests as possible. Adult plover surveys conducted at 25+ core breeding lakes in Alberta. Monitor, initiate and complete habitat stewardship initiatives on private land. Provide data to ASRD for entry to FWMIS. 	\$127,715	\$48,050	\$175,765
Alberta Northern Leopard Frog Recovery (NLFR) Program	Implement select productivity enhancement, monitoring, habitat enhancement and public education initiatives detailed in Alberta Northern Leopard Frog Recovery Plan.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assist with location and collection of egg mass and reintroduction of NLFR. Survey 20 historical and recent NLFR sites and assess for habitat threats. Implement habitat stewardship initiatives at one site. Provide data to ASRD for entry to FWMIS. 	\$37,859	\$34,000	\$71,859
Alberta Wildlife Status Reports	Co-ordinate and develop detailed status reports.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Publish four detailed Alberta Wildlife Status Reports. Provide data to SRD for entry to FWMIS or ANHIC (for plants). 	\$29,300	\$0	\$29,300
Petro-Canada Sustainable Grasslands Applied Studies	Collaborative grasslands-applied program that seeks designs and land-use actions that contributes to sustainable grasslands.	<p>Four applied projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Conservation design for energy development and sage grouse recovery in southeastern Alberta (action in recovery plan). 2) Silver sagebrush reclamation and best management practices for southeastern Alberta (action in recovery plan). 3) Cumulative effects of development on pronghorn distribution and movements in the Northern Sage Steppe. 4) Relationship between forest encroachment and loss of grassland in the southern Montane. 	\$15,000	\$137,480	\$152,480

Alberta Volunteer Amphibian Monitoring Program	Engage volunteers to report sightings of amphibians and reptiles in Alberta.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recruit 50+ new volunteers to the program. Submit all contributed occurrence data for entry to FWMIS. Give presentations on the program to at least 5 groups/schools/organizations. 	\$27,334	\$5,588	\$32,922
MULTISAR	Engage landowners in stewardship activities to help conserve species at risk in the Milk River Basin.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a Habitat Conservation Strategy for one to two ranches (~ 40,000 acres). Incorporate recovery actions from Alberta recovery plans into habitat conservation strategies and implement the identified habitat enhancement initiatives. 	\$48,392	\$480,525	\$528,917
Upland Game Bird Program					
Project Name	Primary Purpose	Expected Outcomes	ACA	Partner	Total
Sharp-tailed Grouse Habitat and Lek Inventory	Estimate sharp-tailed grouse lek densities over broad spatial areas, and relate these densities with habitat characteristics (land use).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refine reliable tool for estimating sharp-tailed grouse habitat and lek density trends at broad regional extents. Scope new area for testing method. Provide data to ASRD for entry to FWMIS. 	\$128,494	\$30,000	\$158,494
Sharp-tailed Grouse Habitat Stewardship	Enhance public and landowner awareness of the habitat needs for sharp-tailed grouse. Develop best management practices (BMP) that will be implemented on public grazing reserves to enhance upland bird habitat.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop information package for landowners to identify stewardship practices for sharp-tailed grouse. Identify habitat features important for sharp-tailed grouse on one grazing reserve. Develop BMPs for grazing reserve managers that focus on upland birds. 	\$23,528	\$3,000	\$26,528
Upland Habitat Enhancement	Enhance upland and riparian habitat in collaboration with Pheasants Forever and private landowners.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and implement enhancement plans with two co-operating landowners that focus on nest, brood or winter habitat important for upland birds, in particular pheasants. Collaborate with ACA Land Management program to design one habitat enhancement on ACA-managed properties. 	\$64,573	\$40,000	\$104,573

Waterfowl Program					
Project Name	Primary Purpose	Expected Outcomes	ACA	Partner	Total
Hay-Zama Waterfowl Monitoring	Monitor staging waterfowl number on Hay-Zama complex during spring and fall, and identify periods when high concentrations near industrial activities exceed guidelines.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitor numbers for five weeks in spring and eight weeks in fall. Notify EUB if threshold waterfowl numbers are reached. 	\$4,209	\$66,000	\$70,209
Waterfowl Crop Damage Control	Provide assistance to farmers experiencing waterfowl-related crop damage.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scare cannons are available for farmers through much of white zone. Landowners wishing to use hunting as a deterrent for waterfowl are connected to willing hunters. 	\$116,210	\$0	\$116,210
Waterfowl Nesting Habitat Enhancement	Secure nesting locations for duck species limited by nesting cavities (Goldeneye, Bufflehead) and for mallards in areas with limited ground cover.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual maintenance of all mallard nest tunnels and 20 % of installed cavity boxes (~ 250 annually). Increase nesting success of targeted species in specific locations. Increase landowner awareness of importance of retaining old trees and nesting cover around wetlands. 	\$34,022	\$11,000	\$45,022



2.7

Fisheries Program

The Fisheries program supports and delivers conservation activities that maintain and improve the diversity and abundance of fish populations, communities and the biological processes and habitats that support them. It is designed to support fishing as a recreational use by Alberta anglers and to implement fish conservation efforts in an effective, credible and collaborative manner that will sustain or improve Alberta's fish populations. Program priorities are developed and reviewed annually in collaboration with ASRD and other stakeholders. Program activities are organized into five thematic areas: 1) Aeration, 2) Enhanced Fish Stocking, 3) Lotic (running water bodies), 4) Lentic (standing water bodies) and 5) Riparian Conservation.

ACA uses aeration as a fishery enhancement technique to develop and maintain lake habitats and to promote year-round survival of sport fish, thereby creating or enhancing recreational angling opportunities that would not have otherwise existed. Similarly, through stocking

of 20-cm rainbow trout, the Enhanced Fish Stocking program provides angling opportunities in areas of the province where such fishing opportunities would not have otherwise existed.

Activities under the Lotic and Lentic themes are complementary and include inventories and monitoring of priority fish species. The objective is to provide timely and scientifically credible information on species composition, population structure, abundance, distribution and reproductive biology, as well as to monitor angler use, harvest and associated fisheries demographics in priority waters.

The riparian program uses beneficial management tools such, as streambank fencing, bank stabilization, provision of off-channel watering for cattle, education and outreach to enhance, maintain and protect riparian habitats and ecosystem health through collaborations with private landowners, watershed groups, government, industry and other stakeholders.

Table 7: Fisheries Projects for 2009-10

Aeration					
Project Name	Primary Purpose	Expected Outcomes	ACA	Partner	Total
Lake Aeration	Create or enhance recreational angling opportunities for Albertans by developing and maintaining fish habitats to ensure year-round survival of stocked fish populations.	<p>Ensure over-wintering survival and prevention of summerkill of stocked trout in 18 water bodies distributed as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Northwest Region, 8 water bodies: Moonshine, Cummings, Figure Eight, Swan, Sulphur, East Dollar, Cecil Thompson and Spring lakes. · East Slopes, 6 water bodies: Beaver, Mitchell, Millers, Ironside and Fiesta lakes. Commence access site development on Birch Lake. · Southern Region, 3 water bodies: Boehlke's Pond, Hansen's Reservoir, and Coleman Fish and Game Pond. · Northeast Region, 1 water body: Muir Lake. 	\$188,702	\$55,200	\$243,902

Summerkill Prevention Investigation	Monitor key water quality variables to determine a course of action to prevent summerkill on lakes aerated during the winter.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collect data on key water quality variables from Swan, Figure Eight, Moonshine, Beaver, Fiesta, Ironside and Mitchell lakes. Identify appropriate summer aeration techniques and infrastructures for each summerkill-prone lake. 	\$39,156	\$5,000	\$44,156
Enhanced Fish Stocking					
Project Name	Primary Purpose	Expected Outcomes	ACA	Partner	Total
Enhanced Fish Stocking	Provide anglers with increased angling opportunity to catch and creel more fish while maintaining the integrity of Alberta's natural waters and fish populations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stock 131,100 twenty-cm trout into designated water bodies. 	\$213,911	\$37,400	\$251,311
Lotic Fisheries Inventory and Monitoring					
Project Name	Primary Purpose	Expected Outcomes	ACA	Partner	Total
Beaver River Drainage Fish-based Index of Ecological Integrity	Develop a fish-based index of ecological integrity for the Beaver River.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Field data collected at 30 to 40 sites. Document fish species composition, relative abundance, water chemistry and local habitat features in the Beaver River. Collect and assess land-use data in the Beaver River drainage using GIS. Enter data in the Provincial Fisheries Management database. 	\$65,097	\$42,600	\$107,697
Castle River Drainage Cutthroat Trout Population Assessment	Assess the status of the cutthroat trout population in the Castle River drainage.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Document distribution, abundance, density and size-structure of cutthroat trout population in the drainage. Enter data into the Provincial Fisheries Management database. 	\$110,193	\$10,000	\$120,193
Upper Oldman Drainage Bull Trout Population Assessment	Assess the status of the bull trout population in the upper Oldman River drainage.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Document migratory adult bull trout population size, redd abundance and distribution in four tributaries to the Oldman River. Assess the prevalence and distribution of migratory and stream-resident bull trout life history forms in the upper Oldman River drainage. Enter data into the Provincial Fisheries Management database. 	\$72,224	\$10,000	\$82,224

Ram River Drainage Bull Trout Spawning Stock Distribution and Abundance	Document and report on characteristics of bull trout spawning activity in the Fall Creek drainage (tributary to the Ram River) and relatedness of the Fall Creek stock to bull trout in the Ram and North Saskatchewan rivers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Determine the relatedness of the Fall Creek bull trout spawning stock to stocks in the Bighorn, Ram and North Saskatchewan rivers. Enter data into the Provincial Fisheries Management database. 	\$82,974	\$5,998	\$88,972
Arctic Grayling Population Fragmentation in Athabasca River Drainage	Examine effects of stream crossings (i.e., roads, bridges etc.) on the distribution, connectivity and abundance of Arctic grayling populations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Generate data on spatial trends in abundance of Arctic grayling and influences of road crossings on movements and population viability in watersheds of varying levels of disturbance. Provide results to ASRD for input on reviewing provincial legislation on ground rules and codes of practices for road/stream crossings. Provide input to informational posters. Field data entered into the Provincial Fisheries Management database. Prepare final report for ACA and manuscript for peer-reviewed publication. 	\$45,116	\$19,000	\$64,116
Upper McLeod River Bull Trout Population Assessment	Report on the status of bull trout population in the upper McLeod River drainage.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Produce report on the distribution, abundance, density and size-structure of the bull trout population in the drainage. Information available for managers to support decisions regarding management of the upper McLeod River bull trout population. 	\$20,035	\$0	\$20,035
Lower Notikewin River Drainage Inventory-Phase 1	Collect preliminary data and prepare detailed study design and proposal.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposal with detailed study design to assess sport fish species composition, movement and life history in the lower Notikewin River drainage. 	\$8,151	\$0	\$8,151
Upper Clearwater River Drainage Bull Trout Population Assessment-Phase 1	Collect preliminary data and prepare detailed study design and proposal.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposal with detailed study design to assess distribution, abundance, density, size-structure and relatedness of bull trout stocks in the upper Clearwater River drainage. 	\$8,816	\$0	\$8,816
Crowsnest River Fishery Assessment-Phase 1	Collect preliminary data and prepare detailed study design and proposal.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposal with detailed study design to assess the Crowsnest River sport fishery. 	\$4,618	\$0	\$4,618

Lentic Fisheries Inventory and Monitoring					
Project Name	Primary Purpose	Expected Outcomes	ACA	Partner	Total
Sport Fishery Angler Surveys	Provide information on sport fisheries to aid fisheries management at priority water bodies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe angling effort, harvest and associated fisheries demographics at Christina, Grist, Shiningbank and Fickle lakes using reduced effort creel surveys. Collect angling effort data at Hilda and Ethel lakes using effort cameras. Produce sport fishery assessment reports for walleye, northern pike and yellow perch. Complete sport fishery assessment report for the winter creel survey at Gull Lake (2009-2010). Data used by ASRD to formulate fisheries management plans. 	\$148,950	\$10,000	\$158,950
Stocked Trout Fisheries Evaluation	Evaluate the efficacy of stocked trout fisheries at meeting management goals and recreational angler expectations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Generate data on angler use, angler satisfaction and fishing quality. Generate data on abundance and population structure of stocked trout. Develop stocked trout fishery assessment tool. 	\$106,206	\$5,000	\$111,206
Wabasca Lakes Walleye Movements	Determine the spatial and temporal bounds of spawning walleye in North and South Wabasca lakes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide information to ASRD for the evaluation and/or adjustments to current conservation closure to protect spring spawning walleye. 	\$91,115	\$15,000	\$106,115
Walleye Stock Assessments	Assess walleye populations at priority water bodies to aid fisheries management.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Generate data on abundance and population structure of walleye in North Buck, Gods, Graham and Chin lakes. Produce stock assessment reports describing each population. Data used by ASRD to formulate fisheries management plans. 	\$78,971	\$0	\$78,971



Riparian Conservation					
Project Name	Primary Purpose	Expected Outcomes	ACA	Partner	Total
Riparian Conservation in: 1) Beaverlodge River 2) South Heart River/Lesser Slave Lake 3) Todd/Beaver Creek 4) Battle/Red River 5) Bearberry Creek drainages	Contribute to enhancement, restoration and protection of priority riparian habitat through collaboration with private landowners, watershed groups, government, industry and other stakeholders. Develop and implement a protocol for evaluating and monitoring effectiveness of ACA riparian conservation projects.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Increase public interest and awareness in riparian conservation in focal watersheds through community outreach, public presentations and direct contact with key shoreline property owners through signage, advertisements, etc. · Initiate long-term monitoring of water quality, stream discharge and temperature (using data logger) downstream of select project locations. · Establish a comprehensive database for assessing the effectiveness of riparian conservation projects. · Pilot study conducted on Bearberry Creek to assess use of benthic macro-invertebrate data as part of monitoring tool development. · Establish 1 to 3 new riparian conservation projects and associated agreements (fencing agreements, alternate water sources, land acquisition, etc.) in each of the five drainages listed. · Complete annual field inspection and riparian health site assessments (Cows and Fish - short form assessment) for existing and new project sites. · Complete 'Cows and Fish inventories' and USEPA rapid habitat assessments at new project locations (pre-project). · Participate in watershed groups/ councils/stewardship networks in all five drainages. · Low-level videography data collected for quantifying the riparian conditions in selected basins. · Complete 4,000 m² bank stabilization (i.e., soil bio-engineering) project on Bearberry Creek. 	\$195,534	\$49,000	\$244,534
South Heart River Riparian Assessment - Phase 1	Preliminary assessment of low-level videography data collected along the South Heart River.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Determine whether additional regions of riparian zone require coverage (i.e., flights). Calculate preliminary scores on the health of the riparian zone. 	\$18,755	\$5,000	\$23,755
*Alberta Biodiversity Monitoring Institute (ABMI)	To generate data that will aid in proper management and conservation of biodiversity and ecological integrity in Alberta.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Provide data on physical characteristics, physiochemistry, and biota for 8 river systems and 8 lakes for input to the ABMI. 	\$0	\$312,572	\$312,572

* At the time of printing, funding issues have made this project doubtful for 2009-10.



2.8 Land Management Program

The Land Management program encompasses activities intended to conserve, protect and enhance fish and wildlife habitat and to increase recreational opportunities including angling and hunting. The major activities of this program for 2009-10 are: 1) Habitat Securement, 2) ACA Conservation Site Management and 3) Recreational Opportunity Initiatives.

Habitat securement initiatives are used to secure important wildlife and fisheries habitats within focal areas across the province. The program also enhances recreational opportunities for both consumptive and non-consumptive users. Securement methods used are direct purchase, land donations, donated conservation easements, habitat lease agreements through the Landowner Habitat/Access Program (LHAP) and protective notations to protect ACA investments on Crown-owned lands.

ACA conservation site management includes a number of programs and activities that are the responsibility of the ACA. This includes maintenance and management of fisheries access sites, managed Crown properties, ACA-titled lands, lands with conservation easements, riparian streambank fencing projects and properties involved in the Abandoned Farmstead program. Management plan

development for all conservation sites that ACA owns and manages is an activity that ACA will be focusing on in 2009-10 and for several years after.

Recreational opportunity initiatives on private land focus on communication tools and activities required to promote and increase public access to wildlife and fisheries habitat resources where stewardship of conservation-rich habitat is recognized. This includes the communication and delivery of the revitalized *Use Respect – Ask First* program aimed at increasing access to privately owned lands. Other activities associated with this program include new signage on conservation sites, ACA's Conservation Site database and the *Discover Alberta's Wild Side – Guide to Outdoor Adventure* that promotes ACA and partner-owned properties that bring awareness of the tremendous recreational opportunities available across the province.

Partnership collaboration is an integral component of ACA's Land Management program. This involves ongoing discussion with other conservation organizations, member groups, ASRD, ACA's Wildlife and Fisheries Resource teams and other stakeholders including hunters and anglers.

Table 8: Land Management Projects for 2009-10

Habitat Securement					
Project Name	Primary Purpose	Expected Outcomes	ACA	Partner	Total
Habitat Securement Fund	Provide sustainable recreational opportunities by securing, protecting and maintaining high-priority wildlife and fish habitat.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Secure and protect 1,500 acres of wildlife and fish habitat through land purchase, donated lands and donated conservation easements. Maintain existing partnerships with key conservation partners that actively secure habitat. Increase sustainable recreational opportunities across the province. 	\$576,725	\$0	\$576,725 (includes \$500,000 in non-operational funds ACA's Habitat Securement Fund)
Corporate Partner Habitat Securement, Enhancement and Management Fund	Through strategic corporate partnerships; secure, protect and maintain important native habitat.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Secure 1,500 acres of habitat through direct purchase within identified focal areas. Maintain existing corporate partnerships that are currently working with ACA. Increase the number of corporate partnerships by five in 2009-10 that are actively donating to the ACA. Increase sustainable recreational opportunities across the province. 	\$95,149	\$750,000	\$845,149
Landowner Habitat/Access Program (LHAP)	Protect and retain important habitats and enhance recreational opportunities on privately owned lands through habitat lease agreements.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect a minimum of 900 acres under habitat lease agreements in 2009-10 over a 10-year term. Important wildlife and/or fish habitat is retained and protected. Sustainable recreational opportunities are increased on privately owned lands across the province. 	\$99,530	\$0	\$99,530



Conservation Site Maintenance and Management					
Project Name	Primary Purpose	Expected Outcomes	ACA	Partner	Total
Conservation Site Management	Manage and maintain a priority conservation site that supports a diversity of fish and wildlife species and enhances sustainable recreational opportunities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Manage, enhance and maintain over 200,000 acres of habitat on nearly 300 conservation sites throughout the province. Install new signage on ACA Conservation Sites. Update the <i>Discover Alberta's Wild Side – Guide to Outdoor Adventure</i> and Conservation Site database to promote recreational opportunities across the province. Maintain and develop collaborative partnerships to enhance management of conservation sites. Sustainable recreational opportunities are increased and enhanced on ACA-owned and managed properties. 	\$651,579	\$39,500	\$691,079
Management Plan Development	Develop management plans for ACA Conservation Sites that ACA owns and/or manages.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete management plans on 100% of titled lands acquired in 2009-10. Complete management plans on 33% of Crown-ACA conservation sites that ACA actively manages. Habitat management and enhancement objectives are defined for individual conservation sites. Identify management objectives, roles and responsibilities between project partners and other stakeholders. 	\$132,589	\$0	\$132,589
Fisheries Access Site Management	Maintain and enhance fisheries access sites that support and increase recreational angling opportunities across the province.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Manage and maintain 30 fisheries access sites across the province. Install new ACA signage at 30 fisheries access sites. Provide access for anglers to key streams, rivers, lakes and trout ponds throughout the province. Maintain and develop collaborative partnerships to assist with maintenance costs associated with managing fisheries access sites. 	\$130,466	\$15,500	\$145,966
Streambank Fencing Strategy	Develop a strategy to renegotiate long-term and eternal Buck for Wildlife (BFW) agreements to ensure that riparian protection benefits achieved in the past are maintained on priority water bodies while reducing annual streambank fence maintenance costs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop strategy that outlines options for reducing annual maintenance costs and ensures continued stewardship of riparian habitat. Develop new ACA riparian project agreements to replace inherited BFW eternal agreements on priority water bodies. 	\$55,448	\$0	\$55,448

Recreational Opportunity Initiatives					
Project Name	Primary Purpose	Expected Outcomes	ACA	Partner	Total
<i>Use Respect- Ask First</i>	To increase recreational access opportunities on privately owned lands through renewed promotion of the <i>Use Respect</i> Program.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and distribute signage as part of the revitalization of the <i>Use Respect</i> program. Deliver program in collaboration with other conservation partners. Increase awareness of hunting and angling opportunities on privately owned lands across Alberta. 	\$10,000	\$0	\$10,000

2.9

Report A Poacher and Compensation Programs

This program area deals with three projects: 1) Shot Livestock, 2) Predator Compensation and 3) Report A Poacher. Through renewed negotiations with ASRD enforcement, we plan to reduce ACA's role in all three of these programs, only to promote and administer the funds. Of the three projects, Report A Poacher is the most widely known and most widely used. ACA will continue to work closely with ASRD to ensure Report A Poacher continues to have a high profile with the general public.



Table 9: Report A Poacher and Compensation Programs for 2009-10

Project Name	Primary Purpose	Expected Outcomes	ACA	Partner	Total
Shot Livestock	Reimburse Alberta livestock producers for losses or injury to specified livestock as a result of being shot by a person during an open big game or game bird hunting season.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Make compensation payments as approved claims are received from ASRD. 	\$15,000	\$0	\$15,000
Predator Compensation	Reimburse Alberta livestock producers for losses or injury to specified livestock due to predation by wolf, cougar, grizzly bear, black bear or eagles.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Make compensation payments as approved claims are received from ASRD. 	\$120,000	\$0	\$120,000
Report A Poacher	Provide administrative and promotional support to maintain the high profile and effectiveness of the Report A Poacher program. This program has shared responsibilities with ASRD, who handle the investigation and enforcement side of the program.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue promotional and educational activities to maintain public awareness and understanding. Manage funds for the program, which are used by ASRD as payments to those persons qualifying for a reward. 	\$95,000	\$5,100	\$100,101

Grant Funds

3.0



Each grant fund addresses a particular conservation priority. This ranges from a vast array of general conservation initiatives with the Grant Eligible Conservation Fund, support of graduate students interested in conservation issues through the ACA Grants in Biodiversity to the Habitat Securement Fund, which is designed to support the protection and acquisition of critical parcels of habitat throughout the province.

3.1 Grant Eligible Conservation Fund

In 2008, the Grant Eligible Conservation Fund (GECF) made \$1 million available from levies on fishing, hunting and trapping licences for conservation work across Alberta. All proposals must be able to demonstrate how the project assists ACA in meeting its mission; to conserve, protect and enhance wildlife, fish and habitat for all Albertans to enjoy value and use. Priority funding areas are established annually; projects addressing these priorities have a higher probability of being funded than those that do not.

As part of the annual planning process, ACA reviews the criteria for this fund and reaffirms or adjusts the criteria included in that year's Annual Operating Plan. Applications are accepted in January of each year, and proposal reviews occur during the month of February.

ACA's Board of Directors appoints a Granting Committee comprised of three board members and ten citizens of Alberta who referee and assess the grant applications based on the established funding criteria. ACA administers the Grant Eligible Conservation Fund. Applicants are notified of the status of their submission by mid-March of each year.

Historically, for every dollar ACA grants through the GECF, another \$6.30 in conservation work is leveraged by grant recipients from other funding sources. Stated in different terms, on average the \$1 million GECF results in \$7.3 million worth of conservation work occurring in Alberta each year.

3.2 Grants in Biodiversity

ACA, in collaboration with the Alberta Co-operative Conservation Research Unit, administers the ACA Grants in Biodiversity program. This program facilitates graduate student research on the conservation of Alberta's biological diversity. ACA makes an annual contribution of \$225,000 to this program and participates as a member of the Grants Program Committee that awards these funds to selected graduate students.

3.3 Habitat Securement Fund

The aim of the Habitat Securement Fund (HSF) is to assist ACA's Land Management program in obtaining its goal of conserving high value habitat. Although ACA's Land Management Program uses the HSF, the fund is open to receive applications from anyone or any group interested in obtaining funds for habitat securement. All applications are assessed by the Land Management Program to determine a ranking of the proposed purchase based on both conservation values and recreational values.

3.4 ACA Chair in Fisheries and Wildlife at the University of Alberta

The ACA Chair position was established through an endowment to the University of Alberta. On a yearly basis, ACA allocates \$20,000 to educational initiatives for wildlife professionals through the ACA Chair, thereby ensuring a close connection between the ACA chair and ACA biologists.



4.0

Monitoring and
Accountability

For 2009-2010, on-time, on-budget, high quality and done safely will continue to be the cornerstones on which every project is measured. To this end in 2009-2010, ACA will make changes to the way projects are tracked and managed by implementing a new accounting and tracking system that allows project leads to monitor project budgets and timelines more effectively. Project leads are required to provide monthly updates to ensure projects are kept on time and on budget. Where issues are identified in a project, actions are implemented immediately to bring the project back on time or on budget. In addition, all yearly project summary reports are required to be posted as a finished product on our website no later than April 30 of each year. Although our summary reports will go through our internal quality control, including review by an external reviewer, posting our report to the website in a timely manner will allow our stakeholders the ability to assess the quality of our projects as well. We encourage feedback from our stakeholders whether it is praise for a job well done or constructive criticism on how things can be improved.

In addition to our operational controls, ACA will continue to take advantage of the expertise and knowledge of our Board of Directors through the use of our Standards Review Committee. This committee is tasked with selecting a group of projects or programs and reviewing the merits of scientific credibility and efficiency to produce results that positively impact conservation in Alberta. Recommendations of the Standards Review Committee are brought to the Board of Directors and passed on to Management for immediate implementation as required.





Financial Summary

5.0

The 2009-2010 budget is balanced based on the assumption that levy revenue is \$10,300,000. This levy projection is based on 2008-2009 actual receipts. The revenue allocated in this budget consists of levy and planned revenues generated from external sources such as grants and partnerships. The summary budget also includes interest generated from the Reserve Fund that is being allocated to the Habitat Securement Fund and Grants in Biodiversity.

ACA administration expenses for 2009-2010 are projected to be 18% of our total budget, which is comparable to previous years. Administration expenses include the Finance, Administration, Human Resources and Information Technology programs (Table 9).

Looking at what has been historically referred to as the “resource programs” (wildlife, fisheries, land management plus \$500,000 from the Habitat Securement Fund), the budget for 2009-2010 allocates \$8,828,234 or 85.7% of the levy revenue value directly back to the Wildlife, Fisheries and Land Management programs. Given the importance of hunter, angler, and trapper retention and recruitment outlined in ACA’s Strategic Business Plan, our Communications program should be considered part of our “resource programs” providing “on-the-ground results.” With Communications added in, the total allocation in “resource programs” is \$10,585,981, which amounts to 103% of levy revenue value. It is important to realize that it is only because of ACA’s ability to raise funds outside of the levy revenue that we are able to allocate more than the levy amount directly into the resource.



Table 9: Summary Budget 2009-10

Program	ACA (Levy Funds)	Partner Funds	Total Budget
Administration Program	\$246,349	\$1,180,749	\$1,427,098
Finance Program	\$548,447	\$12,000	\$560,447
Communications Program	\$1,411,547	\$346,200	\$1,757,747
Human Resources Program	\$343,774	\$0	\$343,774
Information Technology Program	\$361,540	\$0	\$361,540
Wildlife Program	\$2,342,786	\$1,072,734	\$3,415,520
Fisheries Program	\$1,867,746	\$629,345	\$2,497,091
Land Management Program	\$1,585,084	\$830,539	\$2,415,623 ¹
Report A Poacher (RAP) and Compensation Programs	\$230,001	\$5,100	\$235,101
Health and Safety Program	\$114,436	\$0	\$114,436
ACA Chair in Fisheries and Wildlife at the University of Alberta	\$20,000	\$0	\$20,000
Grant Eligible Conservation Fund	\$1,000,000	\$0	\$1,000,000
Grants in Biodiversity	\$0	\$225,000 ²	\$225,000
Regional Program Planning and Support	\$228,290	\$0	\$228,290 ³
TOTAL BUDGET	\$10,299,962	\$4,301,667	\$14,601,629

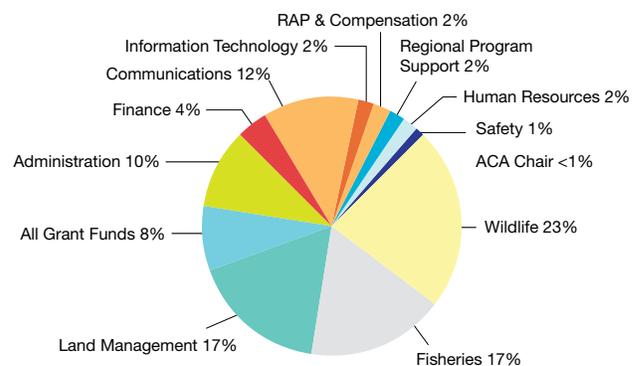
Budget notes:

¹ The Land Management program’s total budget does not include \$500,000 in non-operational funds from the Habitat Securement Fund.

² The “partner funds” in the Grants in Biodiversity are from ACA’s investment account that are used to top up these funds on an annual basis.

³ Regional Support applies to resource team planning costs. This includes activities such as priority planning, budgeting, project development and other resource related activities.

Figure 1: 2009-10 Budget Breakdown





Conserving Alberta's Wild Side

Board of Directors

Executive

Brian Bildson, Chairman
Alberta Trappers' Association
Randy Collins, Vice Chairman
Alberta Fish & Game Association
Patrick Long, Secretary
Foundation for North American Wild Sheep
Ward McLean, Treasurer
Pheasants Forever Alberta Council
Don Pike, Past Chair
Trout Unlimited Canada

Directors

Tom Bateman - Alberta Hunter Education Instructors' Association
Dr. Mark Boyce - ACA University of Alberta Chair in Fisheries and Wildlife
Bob Byers - Alberta Professional Outfitters Society
Ken Crutchfield - Alberta Sustainable Resource Development, Minister's Representative
Dr. Lee Foote - Public At Large, Academic Representative
Sandra Foss - Federation of Alberta Naturalists
J.R. Giroux - Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta
Colin Gosselin - Public At Large, Northeast Region
Calvin Rakach - Public At Large, Eastern Region
Layne Seward - Public At Large, Northwest Region
Jeff Smith - Public At Large, Southern Region
Dr. Roger Smith - Public At Large, Industry Representative

Alberta Conservation Association

Member Groups:

Alberta Fish and Game Association
Alberta Hunter Education Instructors' Association
Alberta Professional Outfitters Society
Alberta Trappers' Association
Federation of Alberta Naturalists
Foundation for North American Wild Sheep
Pheasants Forever Alberta Council
Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta
Trout Unlimited Canada





Alberta Conservation
Association

Conserving Alberta's Wild Side

www.ab-conservation.com