

Annual Operating Plan

2017/18





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.

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Cover photo: ACA, Colin Eyo
Taber Pheasant Festival

Copies of this plan are available on our website at:
ab-conservation.com/aop



Wolverine project
photo: ACA, Mike Jokinen

1.0 Introduction

Alberta Conservation Association's (ACA) *Annual Operating Plan 2017/18* informs Albertans, our stakeholders and partners about the projects we are undertaking this fiscal year and how we are directing revenue to our various 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 assists us with meeting our delegated responsibilities, through the *Wildlife Act*, to the Minister of Alberta Environment and Parks (AEP).

When reviewing this document, you may notice a discrepancy between the numbers in the program budget and those stated in the Financial Summary (Section 8). This difference is attributed to how costs for activities such as training, planning, professional development and public speaking are budgeted. The budget is typically allocated within the program area and not within 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, Education and Communications, 7) Wildlife, 8) Fisheries, 9) Land Management, 10) Report A Poacher, 11) Grants and 12) Landowner Compensation and Damage Prevention Program.

In 2017/18, we anticipate receiving roughly \$3 million in partner (non-levy) and/or in land value. Projected

levy revenue from hunting and fishing licences is \$13.9 million. Thanks to the efforts of our dedicated employees and the generosity of our various donors and partners, most of this money will be directed back into conservation efforts. It stands as testament to the quality of our conservation work.

A key to the long-term viability of hunting and angling (and therefore conservation) in this province is the recruitment, retention and education of hunters and anglers. Historically, this collective group has been the driving force behind conservation initiatives in Alberta, and its members continue to contribute their time, effort and money (through levies on licences) into conserving Alberta's natural heritage. Considering the role they play in conservation, it is crucial that we continue supporting retention, recruitment and education activities. We will continue to support a range of mentored fishing (National Recreational Fisheries Award-winning Kids Can Catch program) and hunting events and will work on communications campaigns such as "Harvest Your Own" that increase the awareness of opportunities for getting involved in hunting and angling, and of the important role hunters and anglers play in conservation.

In our partnership with Hunting for Tomorrow, we will continue to reimburse the cost of the first WIN card for any youth who successfully completes the Conservation and Hunter Education Training Program. Along with receiving a reimbursement of \$8.40 (cost of the WIN card), each youth receives an information package containing literature on each of our member groups, giving them an opportunity to learn more about Alberta's conservation community.

A significant part of our work involves developing and maintaining partnerships. These partnerships contribute to the success and scope of our conservation work. Our partnerships span across all our program areas, including fisheries, wildlife, land management, communications and administration. We will continue to work closely with our member groups, non-member groups, corporate partners and AEP.

Our most important partners are Alberta's hunters, anglers and trappers, and we expect them, along with our many other partners and stakeholders, to hold us accountable. We expect to hear from you if we do not meet your expectations for the conservation work you have told us you want to see happening in Alberta.

1.1 Linkages 2009 – 2019 Strategic Business Plan

The *2009 – 2019 Strategic Business Plan* includes both a four-year and ten-year business plan. The objectives identified in the four-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 Programs focus on ensuring the smooth day-to-day operation of ACA. Tasks performed in these programs include payroll, payables, receivables and administrative support for our managers and Board of Directors.

Table 1: Finance and Administration Projects for 2017/18

Project	Primary Purpose	Expected Outcomes
Finance	Provide financial services that safeguard company assets.	<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.
ACA \$592,675	Ensure legal and contractual obligations are met.	
Partner \$22,169	Provide accurate and timely information to ACA's decision makers.	
Total \$614,844		
Administration	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.
ACA \$1,853,579		
Partner \$104,921		
Total \$1,958,500		

Drone flight planning
photo: ACA, Kelley Stark



2.2 Business Development

The Business Development Program maintains strong collaborative relations with our existing business partners and fosters new partnerships with companies operating in Alberta. Business Development raises awareness of ACA in the business community and creates opportunities for companies to support our conservation work. We recognize our multi-year business relationships through our Corporate Partners In Conservation program. In 2017/18, we will continue to explore

ways of generating non-levy revenue, which will include: print and digital advertising sales, sponsorship of conservation projects, sponsorship of outreach events such as Kids Can Catch, Taber Pheasant Festival and Waterfowl Warmup, and corporate contributions to ACA grants and terrestrial conservation offsets.

Table 2: Business Development Projects for 2017/18

Project	Primary Purpose	Expected Outcomes
Business Development Support	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 business partners and/or increase contributions or multi-year commitments from five existing Corporate Partners in Conservation.
ACA		
Partner		
Total		
ACA Store	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 general public and business community.· Maintain employee satisfaction with branded merchandise.
ACA		
Partner		
Total		

2.3 Human Resources

Human Resources implements strategies and policies that meet organizational objectives. In 2017/18, our continued focus is on: 1) retention and recruitment, 2) training and development and 3) creating a culture where employees are engaged and enthusiastic. Having the right people with the right skills will help ACA achieve our strategic objectives.

Table 3: Human Resources Projects for 2017/18

Project	Primary Purpose	Expected Outcomes
Program Coordination	Maintain market competitiveness and Human Resources innovation. Deliver services, programs and communications which are valued by prospective and current employees. Commitment to promote and maintain environmentally responsible practices as an integral part of ACA business operations.	<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.· Recognize human capital as the resource that drives organizational success.· Maintain management system targets and evaluate successes.· Engaged employees who practice responsible practices in their work activities.
ACA		
Partner		
Total		

Professional Development <hr/> ACA \$25,606 <hr/> Partner \$0 <hr/> Total \$25,606	<p>Improve the talent development of ACA employees through professional development, career development and improved performance management.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Provide employees with opportunities to grow and take on new challenges through mentoring and training. · Document high level of job satisfaction in the annual staff survey. · Invest in professional development programs to improve leadership capabilities, job skills and employee productivity. · Maintain a work environment that motivates and inspires.
Professional Memberships <hr/> ACA \$4,000 <hr/> Partner \$0 <hr/> Total \$4,000	<p>Encourage employees to contribute to self-regulating professional associations committed to promoting excellence in professional practices.</p>	<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 <hr/> ACA \$43,000 <hr/> Partner \$0 <hr/> Total \$43,000	<p>Promote the achievement of work-life balance and wellness for our employees.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Deliver a broader range of wellness programs and services for improved physical and mental health. · Maintain work-life balance through annual work plans. · Determine employee satisfaction levels through the annual staff survey. · Maintain levels of employee engagement and satisfaction.
Service Awards <hr/> ACA \$5,000 <hr/> Partner \$0 <hr/> Total \$5,000	<p>Recognize employees for their loyalty, commitment and achievements.</p>	<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 <hr/> ACA \$1,000 <hr/> Partner \$0 <hr/> Total \$1,000	<p>Determine level of employee satisfaction with various aspects of ACA.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Conduct annual employee survey. · Identify challenges and develop action plans for improvements. · Review new employee survey format and determine whether questions asked supplied ACA with a good overview of employee satisfaction.
Recruitment <hr/> ACA \$14,412 <hr/> Partner \$0 <hr/> Total \$14,412	<p>Use strategies such as social media, the web, ads and relationships with universities to recruit candidates.</p> <p>Create a corporate culture that attracts and retains employees of all generations.</p>	<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. · Work with universities and colleges to incorporate co-op and intern opportunities.
Career Fairs <hr/> ACA \$2,000 <hr/> Partner \$0 <hr/> Total \$2,000	<p>Hire high-quality students for temporary summer work.</p> <p>Build employment relationships with students.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Promote ACA to college and university students. · Provide co-op and intern opportunities to students.

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 and management 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 2017/18, 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.

A key goal is maintaining our Certificate of Recognition (COR) from Alberta Employment and Immigration.

Table 4: Health and Safety Projects for 2017/18

Project	Primary Purpose	Expected Outcomes
Health and Safety <div> <div>ACA</div> <div>\$141,017</div> </div> <div> <div>Partner</div> <div>\$0</div> </div> <div> <div>Total</div> <div>\$141,017</div> </div>	<div> Foster a company culture and working environment where all employees can work in a safe and healthy manner. </div> <div> Continue to monitor, maintain and improve upon the Health and Safety Program so that it remains comprehensive, efficient, effective and current. </div>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eliminate workplace injuries as well as loss or damage to property, facilities, materials and equipment. Integrate workplace safety into daily 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. Operate the Health and Safety Program in a transparent and open manner. Finalize revisions to health and safety information, manuals and forms based on COR audit reviews, staff suggestions and lessons learned from incidents. Participate in external audit in 2017, complete any auditor recommendations and maintain training to comply with COR requirements. Maintain COR.

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, 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 2017/18

Project	Primary Purpose	Expected Outcomes
Information Technology/ Systems	Manage and operate ACA's IT infrastructure on a daily basis.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Rollout new hardware and migrate to current operating systems.Migrate software to latest version.
ACA \$336,071	Provide technical support to all areas of ACA's information technology and management systems.	<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.
Partner \$0	Provide IT initiatives that reduce costs, environmental impacts and provide future growth.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Research and review new technology that support ACA's strategic goals and objectives.Coordinate IT projects and processes with external consultants.
Total \$336,071		

Kids Can Catch
photo: ACA, Colin Eyo



3.0 Resource Programs

3.1 Information, Education and Communications

The Information, Education and Communications Program is responsible primarily for creating awareness and interest in conservation and in Alberta Conservation Association and its research in fisheries, wildlife and habitat. The resource program uses in-house talent for writing, editing, graphic design, web development and social media to provide creative promotions and profile.

Communications recognizes opportunities to build positive relationships between hunters, anglers, trappers, our stakeholders, our partners and the general public with the ACA 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.

Projects include: Advertising / Report A Poacher promotions / Social media / Event promotions and support / Media relations / Publications / On-demand services.

Taber Pheasant Festival
photo: ACA, Ken Kranrod



Table 6: Information, Education and Communications Projects for 2017/18

Communications		
Project	Primary Purpose	Expected Outcomes
General Advertising ACA \$21,040 Partner \$0 Total \$21,040	Increase general public awareness of ACA as an organization, key ACA programs and projects, and relevant conservation issues in Alberta.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify key advertising opportunities and implement strategies that align with the Strategic Business Plan's four-year objectives. On-going
Marketing Campaign ACA \$120,000 Partner \$0 Total \$120,000	Create a longer-term approach to ACA branding profile through advertising contemporary lifestyles that include hunting, angling, trapping and conservation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Through this multi-year approach, keeping in step with the Strategic Business Plan timeframe, a consistent advertising campaign using a wider scope of media, including outdoor billboards, will build equity in the ACA brand. On-going
Social Media Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Constant Contact, Pinterest ACA \$47,959 Partner \$0 Total \$47,959	<p>Use social media to connect with our existing stakeholders as well as new audiences by highlighting the projects, events and values of ACA and member groups as well as related conservation issues in Alberta.</p> <p>Assist AEP with promotion of the Aquatic Invasive Species Program, Family Fishing Weekends and Waterfowl Heritage Days youth initiatives.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Produce and deliver monthly <i>Constant Contact</i> e-newsletter as a tool to promote important news and events. Promote various ACA activities and events that occur throughout the year including: tradeshow, peregrine cameras, fish stocking dates, Taber Pheasant Festival, Kids Can Catch, Waterfowl Warmup and provincial pheasant releases. Interact and engage daily with audiences on Facebook and Twitter. Increase awareness of conservation issues such as aquatic invasive species and member group activities. Assist member groups and other organizations and partnerships with social media resources. On-going
Internal Communication Needs ACA \$20,096 Partner \$0 Total \$20,096	<p>Support the ACA President and CEO; Business Development; Human Resources; and Wildlife, Fisheries and Land Management Programs.</p> <p>Work with Program Managers and Regional Managers to ensure wildlife, fisheries and land are represented in all publications, on the web and in social media.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide all planned and approved communication needs as well as address any unforeseen opportunities, whether internally or sourced through third party. Complete online seasonal job postings by mid-December 2017. Post Report Series by the end of April 2018. Improve program representation in all materials by working closely with Program Managers and Regional Managers. Develop key communications materials to ensure appropriate branding and messaging (e.g., media releases, fact sheets, poster templates, presentations). Coordinate and facilitate support for program and project operations such as lake aeration notices and hay tender ads. On-going
Stakeholder Communications ACA \$3,607 Partner \$0 Total \$3,607	Assist member groups and stakeholders in communications support where viable.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide creative and promotional support where possible fostering positive business relationships. On-going
Emerging Issues ACA \$20,769 Partner \$0 Total \$20,769	Provide on-demand communications media.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain ACA as an up-to-date resource within its operations and public relations. On-going

Publications/Print		
Project	Primary Purpose	Expected Outcomes
Conservation Magazine Spring/ Summer Fall/ Winter <hr/> ACA \$91,335 Partner \$16,000 <hr/> Total \$107,335	Provide a vehicle of information that engages multi-interest audiences and connect them with the people and research that impact the conservation of Alberta's wildlife, fish and habitat.	<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. On-going
Alberta Discover Guide <hr/> ACA \$50,306 Partner \$55,000 <hr/> Total \$105,306	Provides a comprehensive reference to several hundred sites conserved for the purpose of habitat protection and made available for recreational use by 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 60,000 hard copies of the Guide with digital versions available online. Foster relationships with conservation partners who are key contributors to the Guide, such as Alberta Fish & Game Association (AFGA) and its affiliated clubs, Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC) and Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC). Promote AEP program messaging such as invasive species. Promote the benefits of habitat conservation and how to make land donations. On-going
Annual Operating Plan <hr/> ACA \$10,531 Partner \$0 <hr/> Total \$10,531	Ensure our stakeholders are aware of how ACA is spending funds, what projects are being undertaken and how our yearly activities link to our Strategic Business Plan.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepare the <i>Annual Operating Plan</i> draft for ACA Board of Directors meeting, December 2017. Coordinate, edit and design the <i>Annual Operating Plan</i>. Complete and post the <i>Annual Operating Plan</i>, after ACA Board of Directors approval, in April 2018, to coincide with the fiscal year. On-going
Annual Report <hr/> ACA \$11,323 Partner \$0 <hr/> Total \$11,323	Show stakeholders how ACA has spent funding, what conservation outcomes have been achieved and how ACA has performed relative to our stated goals.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Produce the <i>Annual Report</i> by September 2017. Report audited financial statements to stakeholders. Coordinate editing and post ~ 45 resource program annual summaries (Wildlife, Fisheries, Land) online by April 15, 2018. On-going
Grant Fund Annual Report <hr/> ACA \$4,415 Partner \$0 <hr/> Total \$4,415	Provide stakeholders information about the ACA Grants Fund projects awarded, allocations and activities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Post and promote interim reports, annual report, grant information and important deadlines. Produce the <i>Grant Fund Annual Report</i> by October 2017 for grant eligible committee meeting in December 2017. On-going
Conservation Site Signs <hr/> ACA \$3,221 Partner \$0 <hr/> Total \$3,221	Work with the land and fisheries teams to produce branded conservation site signs, Fisheries Access Site signs and specialty signs as required. <i>The budget is allocated within the Land Management and Fisheries programs.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Design and coordinate proofing, quotes and printing of signs for placement at conservation sites. Design, produce and coordinate signs as required for all resource programs inclusive of, but not limited to, site boundaries, way-finding, thin ice warning and Use Respect. On-going
Other Publications <hr/> ACA \$23,778 Partner \$0 <hr/> Total \$23,778	Work with Land Management, AEP and Land Stewardship to rewrite and replace existing outdated publications: <i>Caring For Shorelines</i> and <i>On The Living Edge</i> .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Design and coordinate content and editing, proofing, quotes and printing. Publication to become joint resource for ACA, AEP and Land Stewardship. Year 1 of 1

Bats Project ACA \$1,000 Partner \$0 Total \$1,000	Work with the AEP to provide media and promotional support for Alberta Bats program.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promotional opportunities within existing ACA media platforms. On-going
Final Reports ACA \$4,557 Partner \$0 Total \$4,557	Provide publishing support for resource programs within research.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Awareness and accessibility to ongoing project research by ACA. On-going
Guide App		
Project	Primary Purpose	Expected Outcomes
Alberta Outdoor Adventure Guide app ACA \$19,000 Partner \$0 Total \$19,000	Provide digital version of the <i>Guide</i> for mobile devices which makes planning and finding conservation sites to hunt, fish, forage and explore easier.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Notify users through the in-app notification about when ponds and lakes are stocked with trout, ACA events, hunting initiatives and conservation concerns, such as invasive aquatic species information. On-going
Website		
Project	Primary Purpose	Expected Outcomes
Website Maintenance and Development ACA \$47,745 Partner \$0 Total \$47,745	The ACA 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"> 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. Implement search engine optimization practices at all times. On-going

Table 7: Education and Outreach Events for 2017/18

Project	Primary Purpose	Expected Outcomes
Peregrine Cameras ACA \$7,469 Partner \$0 Total \$7,469	Connect with the general public by providing a bird's-eye view into the daily lives of peregrine falcons as they return to Edmonton to secure nesting sites, fight for mates, defend their territory, catch food and raise their young.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain remote camera infrastructure at five sites (Agrium Redwater, Bell Tower, Genesee Power Plant, U of A, Weber Centre). Educate the public about peregrine falcon behaviour, biology and its <i>Threatened</i> status in Alberta and other species of designation such as the ferruginous hawk. Increase traffic to our website and enagage new audiences in ACA projects and events. Explore opportunities for similar remote camera coverage of other species. On-going

Taber Pheasant Festival		<p>Introduce youth and novice hunters to pheasant hunting, demonstrating to them responsible and ethical hunting practices.</p> <p>Provide additional pheasant hunting opportunities during this week-long festival.</p> <p>Provide a culinary feature during the week, which includes bringing in chefs to show hunters what they can do with pheasant meat.</p> <p>Promote municipal and farming practices that support wildlife and self-sustaining pheasant populations.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Continue to work with local organizations and businesses to support and coordinate the Taber Pheasant Festival.Promote Taber Pheasant Festival through various media.Design event materials (e.g., signs, banners, tickets, posters, presentations).Manage the online registration system and questions.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).Provide opportunity for non-hunters to experience and sample dishes created from pheasant meat. <p>On-going</p>
ACA	\$228,396		
Partner	\$50,000		
Total	\$278,396		
Kids Can Catch		<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 Program as a way for local organizations to introduce youth and adults to fishing, fish conservation and responsible angling.Work with local organizations and businesses to support and coordinate family fishing events in communities across Alberta.Promote Kids Can Catch events through various media.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). <p>On-going</p>
ACA	\$16,467		
Partner	\$14,000		
Total	\$30,467		
Waterfowl Warmup		<p>Host an annual sporting clays fundraiser as an opportunity for the general public, businesses and conservation organizations to support the Report A Poacher program.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Increase awareness and funds for the Report A Poacher program.Promote responsible and ethical hunting practices.Strengthen corporate relationships in the pursuit of long-term partnerships in conservation. <p>On-going</p>
ACA	\$2,699		
Partner	\$15,000		
Total	\$17,699		
WIN card			
Project		Primary Purpose	Expected Outcomes
WIN Card Reimbursement		<p>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.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Increase the number of youth 12 to 17 years old who complete the Alberta Hunter Education Instructors' Association hunter education program.Introduce and connect young hunters to programs, information and other groups to enhance their experience. <p>On-going</p>
ACA	\$19,250		
Partner	\$0		
Total	\$19,250		



Collecting hair from a bear-rub tree
photo: ACA, Mike Jokinen

3.2 Wildlife

Stakeholders and support from citizen scientists and volunteers enables our Wildlife Program to undertake much more than we could do on our own. We work with a broad diversity of groups and partners that are making meaningful long-term contributions to conservation in both the planning and delivery stages of projects.

Our work with pronghorn conservation shares support and effort with a variety of groups. We continue to support AFGA with their wildlife-friendly fencing efforts to enhance the movement of pronghorn across the landscape. While the process is quite straightforward, the sheer extent and density of fences that need modification remains vast. We're also working with partners to identify road crossing bottlenecks along Hwy 3, and the migration pathways for obligate grassland species in the Northern Sage Steppe. The MULTISAR project has been very successful in developing long-lasting relationships within the ranching community to deliver practices that benefit both wildlife and profitable cattle operations. We work with grassland operations on over 400,000 acres in the Milk River and South Saskatchewan River drainages, and will intensify our focus in the county of Taber in 2017/18 to overlap with other programming efforts.

For the past five years, we've been working with the County of Warner and AEP to improve water quality, wildlife connectivity and hunter access on Ridge Reservoir. With the support of many funding partners, this collaborative group has improved over 27 km of shoreline with a habitat buffer established between the reservoir and crop, as well as the establishment of a large wetland. Hunting access has greatly improved in this same area. In 2017/18, we will also work with new partners in the County of Taber looking for similar opportunities.

Our upland gamebird program seeks to improve habitat on a working landscape in collaboration with farmers, ranchers, counties and many other partners. The Enchant Project is a demonstration farm where we're partnered with a farming operation to trial approaches for improving upland bird densities and biodiversity while maintaining a profitable intensive farming operation. Water is the key to life across the landscape and we're trialing methods to

gain more value for wildlife in irrigated systems. We're also delivering the Alberta pheasant release program where we provide hunting opportunity across an expanding geographic area. We've recently established a pheasant release site in the Peace area and will continue these efforts in 2017/18. AFGA members continue to play an important role with weekly delivery of pheasants to many sights in southern Alberta. Our partnership with 4-H Alberta continues to gain interest. We have expanded the program into the Peace district and will be working with 4-H members to raise pheasants to support the Pheasant Release Program in the area.

In spring 2017, we'll be switching locations and partnering with AEP to deliver a grizzly bear inventory in Bear Management Area 1 (Chinchaga area). This will involve 220 remote lure sites designed to collect hair samples that identify individuals from DNA. The study area is vast, covering over 22,000 km², and will require extensive rotary wing aircraft support.

Our long standing partnership with the Alberta Trappers' Association (ATA) will continue with wolverine, but will also explore approaches for indexing trends with other furbearers. This grassroots effort involves dozens of trappers volunteering their time and expertise to collect field data in the backcountry. We also work with hundreds of volunteers who provide location sightings of amphibians across the province through the Alberta Volunteer Amphibian Monitoring Program. In 2017/18, we will work with AEP to survey the current use of historic snake hibernacula. Snakes often use the same hibernacula year after year so conserving these areas is important for snake species.

Table 8: Wildlife Projects for 2017/18

Wildlife Population Monitoring		
Project	Primary Purpose	Expected Outcomes
Surveying Grizzly and Black Bear Numbers in Priority Landscapes – BMA 5 ACA \$5,026 Partner \$0 Total \$5,026	Estimate grizzly and black bear numbers using DNA from hair samples at rub sites.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Estimate minimum number of grizzly bears and black bears using DNA from hair samples taken from rub objects in BMA 5. Year 4 of 4
Surveying Grizzly and Black Bear Numbers in Priority Landscapes – BMA 1 ACA \$181,626 Partner \$0 Total \$181,626	Estimate grizzly and black bear numbers using DNA from hair samples at lure sites.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plan routes, set up lure stations and conduct repeat sampling at remote locations using rotary aircraft in BMA 1. Plan routes and conduct repeat sampling at lure stations using ground crews in BMA 1. Estimate minimum number of grizzly bears using DNA from hair samples taken from barbed wire corral trap lure sites in BMA 1. Partner with DMI, Miistakis and AEP on citizen science app for sightings of grizzly bears (<i>Grizz-Tracker</i> App). Survey effort is also collected from users with track logs. Year 1 of 2
Snake Hibernaculum Monitoring ACA \$20,627 Partner \$0 Total \$20,627	Survey the present use or non-use of historic snake hibernaculum.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Design approach for surveying historic snake hibernacula throughout Alberta. Pilot survey methods at select sites to enable larger scale survey in following year. Investigate historic den locations in databases to plan and deliver province wide survey in 2018 and beyond.
Alberta Volunteer Amphibian Monitoring Program (AVAMP) ACA \$16,403 Partner \$0 Total \$16,403	Volunteer collection of amphibian location data throughout Alberta.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordinate volunteer collection of amphibian data from across Alberta (AVAMP). On-going
Ungulate Recruitment Assessment with Citizen Scientists ACA \$15,578 Partner \$0 Total \$15,578	Scope approaches for monitoring annual recruitment of ungulate species.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initial scoping to develop an approach to efficiently monitor ungulate recruitment in select WMUs. Determine the recruitment metrics needed in consultation with AEP. Interact with stakeholders to determine how citizen scientists may assist with data collection including potential for an app.
Development of Detailed Status Reports		
Project	Primary Purpose	Expected Outcomes
Alberta Wildlife Status Reports ACA \$29,131 Partner \$12,200 Total \$41,331	Coordinate and develop detailed status reports.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initiate new status reports. Complete and publish status reports initiated in previous year. Provide data to AEP for entry in Fisheries and Wildlife Management Information System (FWMIS) or to Alberta Conservation Information Management System (ACIMS) (for plants). On-going

MULTISAR		
Project	Primary Purpose	Expected Outcomes
MULTISAR – Milk River	Engage landowners with planning and implementation of habitat strategies along the Milk River Basin.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initiate habitat conservation strategies at three to four ranches. Evaluation of habitat conservation strategies on select properties. Consultation and relationship building with landowners and stakeholder community. On-going
ACA \$161,456		
Partner \$178,977		
Total \$340,433		
MULTISAR – South Sask	Engage landowners with planning and implementation of habitat strategies through the South Saskatchewan Basin.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initiate habitat conservation strategies at three to four ranches. Evaluation of habitat conservation strategies on select properties for wildlife. Collaborate with fisheries and LM to implement habitat restoration for west slope cutthroat on select properties. Ongoing consultation and relationship building with landowners and stakeholder community. On-going
ACA \$3,206		
Partner \$377,925		
Total \$381,131		
MULTISAR – Taber	Engage landowners, county and irrigation districts and other stakeholders in Taber county to develop and implement habitat strategies that benefit wildlife.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scope, build relationships and plan during this first year to find common ground with partners and develop a strategy to restore wildlife habitat within the county. On-going
ACA \$19,094		
Partner \$20,000		
Total \$39,094		

Ferruginous hawk
photo: ACA, Brad Downey



Implementation of Population Recovery and Management Plans		
Project	Primary Purpose	Expected Outcomes
Alberta Piping Plover Recovery ACA \$62,437 Partner \$31,000 Total \$93,437	Assist recovery of piping plovers through habitat enhancements, and report on success of recovery efforts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement enhancements, including fencing, educational sanctuary signage and vegetation reduction, at select properties. On-going <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct inventory of plovers at select lakes. On-going <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submit peer-reviewed paper focused on the success of population recovery using nest exclosures. Year 4 of 4
Pronghorn Movement Enhancement and Monitoring ACA \$69,329 Partner \$8,000 Total \$77,329	Enhance pronghorn movement by assisting AFGA to identify and then modify fences.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide key information to key partner (AFGA) for ranking where fence enhancements need to occur. Assist AFGA with removal of barbed or page wire and replace with smooth wire at 46 inches above the ground targeting 45 km per year modified. On-going
Pronghorn Fence Crossing Enhancement ACA \$8,987 Partner \$21,358 Total \$30,345	Develop standards for multi-species wildlife-friendly fence design.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evaluate the response of pronghorn to fence enhancement techniques proposed for upland game birds and other ungulates to determine standards for wildlife-friendly fences. Year 7 of 8
Pronghorn Road Crossing Enhancement ACA \$28,912 Partner \$0 Total \$28,912	Identify crossing hot spots along Hwy 3 near Medicine Hat.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scope and build partnerships with key stakeholders to identify key crossing locations and pronghorn road mortalities. Work with partners to improve road crossing movement and reduce mortalities along Hwy 3. Year 1 of 3
Pronghorn as a Grassland Indicator ACA \$17,512 Partner \$119,233 Total \$136,745	Determine applicability of using pronghorn to conserve connectivity for multiple species.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Test suitability of pronghorn as an umbrella species for conserving habitat and seasonal / migratory pathways for grassland obligate species within the Northern Sage Steppe (sage grouse, grassland birds and waterfowl). Year 1 of 2
Restoring Natural Habitat for Wildlife ACA \$20,258 Partner \$500 Total \$20,758	Work with LM to plan habitat restoration on ACA managed properties.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with LM to identify and plan habitat restoration on old-age aspen dominated properties managed by ACA. On-going
Upland Game Bird Enhancement Program		
Project	Primary Purpose	Expected Outcomes
Upland Bird 4-H Raise and Release Initiative ACA \$98,256 Partner \$50,000 Total \$148,256	Engage 4-H clubs and volunteers to raise upland birds (provincial).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engage 4-H clubs and other volunteers, enabling them to raise and release upland birds (pheasants) in select locations. Target 11,000 chicks with 90 4-H members. Communicate importance of suitable habitat with 4-H participants to foster long-term interest in habitat. On-going

<div>Upland Gamebird Studies</div> <table><tr><td>ACA</td><td>\$31,001</td></tr><tr><td>Partner</td><td>\$0</td></tr><tr><td>Total</td><td>\$31,001</td></tr></table>	ACA	\$31,001	Partner	\$0	Total	\$31,001	<div>Trial pheasant release techniques to improve survival and reduce costs for pen-reared birds. Survey upland birds to better understand upland population trends.</div>	<div><ul style="list-style-type: none">• Trial pheasant release techniques to improve survival of released pheasants. Work with stakeholders to trial and compare soft release methods with poults released at 5-7 weeks compared to 14+ weeks. Evaluate cost and benefit.</div> <div>Year 3 of 5</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">• Evaluate approaches for re-establishing upland birds (pheasants, grey partridge) in areas with suitable habitat.</div> <div>Year 3 of 10</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">• Survey pheasant and grey partridge populations to look at populations trends to promote hunter recruitment and evaluate habitat treatments.</div> <div>On-going</div>
ACA	\$31,001							
Partner	\$0							
Total	\$31,001							
<div>Habitat Legacy Partnership</div> <table><tr><td>ACA</td><td>\$118,797</td></tr><tr><td>Partner</td><td>\$5,000</td></tr><tr><td>Total</td><td>\$123,797</td></tr></table>	ACA	\$118,797	Partner	\$5,000	Total	\$123,797	<div>Enhance upland and riparian habitat for upland birds and decrease need for pheasant put-and-take release program in areas with suitable habitat.</div>	<div><ul style="list-style-type: none">• Implement and monitor habitat enhancements on select properties to improve upland bird densities and assess benefits for wider range of species (biodiversity). Monitor upland bird trends and provide annual prospectus on our website in early fall.</div> <div>On-going</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">• Facilitate landowner advisory workshops to convey practical advice for enhancing upland bird habitat or populations.</div> <div>On-going</div>
ACA	\$118,797							
Partner	\$5,000							
Total	\$123,797							
<div>Habitat Connectivity and Access</div> <table><tr><td>ACA</td><td>\$22,038</td></tr><tr><td>Partner</td><td>\$0</td></tr><tr><td>Total</td><td>\$22,038</td></tr></table>	ACA	\$22,038	Partner	\$0	Total	\$22,038	<div>Improve hunter access and habitat connectivity in collaboration with irrigation districts, counties, AEP and other stakeholders.</div>	<div><ul style="list-style-type: none">• Continue to build working partnerships with key stakeholders in Warner county.</div> <div>Year 5 of 8</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">• Work with partners to plan and enhance habitat, water quality and improve hunter access along public right-of-ways along Ridge Reservoir.</div> <div>Year 5 of 8</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">• Find common ground and develop new partnerships within County of Taber to scope opportunities to enhance habitat, water quality and improve hunter access along public right-of-ways.</div> <div>Year 1 of 8</div>
ACA	\$22,038							
Partner	\$0							
Total	\$22,038							
<div>Demonstration Farm for Restoring Upland Bird Densities and Biodiversity</div> <table><tr><td>ACA</td><td>\$112,622</td></tr><tr><td>Partner</td><td>\$0</td></tr><tr><td>Total</td><td>\$112,622</td></tr></table>	ACA	\$112,622	Partner	\$0	Total	\$112,622	<div>Collaborate with demonstration farm partners to evaluate approaches for improving upland bird densities on modern profitable farms.</div>	<div><ul style="list-style-type: none">• Evaluate approaches for improving recruitment and density of upland birds (pheasants, grey partridge) and other species (song birds, amphibians, invertebrates) on modern profitable farms.</div> <div>On-going</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">• Baseline inventory and monitoring upland birds and biodiversity (song birds, amphibians, invertebrates) to assess if treatments for upland birds also benefit other species.</div> <div>On-going</div>
ACA	\$112,622							
Partner	\$0							
Total	\$112,622							
<div>Pheasant Releases to Enhance Hunting Opportunities</div> <table><tr><td>ACA</td><td>\$749,971</td></tr><tr><td>Partner</td><td>\$0</td></tr><tr><td>Total</td><td>\$749,971</td></tr></table>	ACA	\$749,971	Partner	\$0	Total	\$749,971	<div>Enhance hunter opportunity by releasing pheasants in select locations and, in particular, in areas with limited opportunity for native upland birds (provincial).</div>	<div><ul style="list-style-type: none">• Manage and coordinate pheasant release program within Alberta. Target 25,000 roosters.• Engage volunteer groups to assist with delivery of pheasants at sites.• Evaluate the efficiency of program and satisfaction of hunters through a hunter survey (hardcopy or smartphone).• Update and maintain web-based platform to inform hunters of all release sites including detailed maps.• Identify and initiate sites in new areas in proximity to major urban areas (i.e., Edmonton and Calgary).• Evaluate and work with stakeholders to change historic release sites where additional hunting pressure may hinder self-sustaining populations of sharp-tail, pheasants or grey partridge.</div> <div>On-going</div>
ACA	\$749,971							
Partner	\$0							
Total	\$749,971							

Sharp-tailed Grouse Stewardship	Assess and recommend habitat enhancements that benefit sharp-tailed grouse.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Develop enhancement actions and habitat plans that benefit sharp-tailed grouse nesting habitat on select public grazing reserves in NW Alberta. Monitor/identify lek activity in select locations (NW, South). On-going
ACA	\$15,529	
Partner	\$500	
Total	\$16,029	

Applied Research and Ecological Studies		
Project	Primary Purpose	Expected Outcomes
Wolverine Occupancy in a Changing Landscape (ACA/ATA partnership)	Identify distribution and habitat associated with wolverine occupancy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Final report and research articles prepared from trail camera data collected by trappers.A strong working relationship maintained with ATA and other stakeholders with interest in wolverines and other furbearers.Communicate concept of unique contribution that trappers are making to science-based conservation to local and international audiences (provincial and international). Year 6 of 6
ACA	\$10,575	
Partner	\$0	
Total	\$10,575	

Working with Trappers to Monitor Furbearer Trends (ACA/ATA partnership)	Develop a method for trappers to produce an index of furbearer population trends across the province.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Assist ATA and AEP with summarizing information collected to date as part of their log book evaluation project.Scope a go-forward approach that assists trappers with collecting key data from traplines that 1) assists AEP with tracking furbearer trends and 2) assists trappers with managing their traplines. Year 1 of 5
ACA	\$ 137,122	
Partner	\$15,000	
Total	\$152,122	

Effect of Industrial Disturbance on Wolverine near Rainbow Lake. (ACA/U of A partnership)	Identify if boreal wolverines are affected by industrial disturbance.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Collaborate with U of A and key members of trapping community to publish research articles and final report on results. Year 5 of 5
ACA	\$3,838	
Partner	\$0	
Total	\$3,838	

Wolverine density, movement, and denning in the Birch Mountains	Provide information on boreal wolverine density and habitat use in an area with little industrial disturbance.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Evaluate wolverine movement and den site selection in presumed high-quality habitat at the western edge of the Birch Mountains.Evaluate energy expended as wolverines interact with their environment to gather resources and then reproduce.Provide a density estimate for wolverines that can be used as part of a status assessment. Year 3 of 4
ACA	\$215,248	
Partner	\$20,000	
Total	\$235,248	

Amphibian Monitoring Using Environmental DNA	Develop monitoring tool to detect amphibians (10 species) using a DNA-based sampling method.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Refine collection method for water and sediment samples to improve consistency for detecting amphibians using eDNA. On-going
ACA	\$18,185	
Partner	\$15,000	
Total	\$33,185	



Muir Lake aeration project
photo: ACA, Colin Eyo

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.

The lake aeration and Enhanced Fish Stocking (EFS) 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 the winter of 2016/17, we expanded our aeration activities to include Police Outpost Lake, resulting in a total of 18 lakes that we will aerate in 2017/18. In addition, we continue to work with Mountainview County and the Municipal District of Greenview toward developing aeration facilities at Winchell and West Dollar lakes.

Alberta has a long history of fish culture and stocking; brook trout were introduced to the Bow River system as early as 1910 and the first fish hatchery was constructed in Banff National

Park in 1913. Fish stocking remains an important component of Alberta's recreational angling experience. Through EFS, we stock approximately 120,000 catchable-sized (i.e., 20 cm) trout into 60 ponds each year, creating "put-and-take fisheries" that allow anglers to harvest up to five fish per day. Most EFS ponds are close to towns and cities, making them popular family destinations and ideal for the recruitment of new anglers. In addition to the rainbow trout, we stock brown and brook trout into seven ponds to provide anglers with greater diversity in their fishing experience. Other supporting projects are designed to identify new EFS waterbodies, assess the field performance of stocked rainbow trout strains, and evaluate the performance of existing EFS fisheries.

Effective management of recreational fisheries requires accurate information from resource users. Our angler surveys describe angler demographics, effort, catch and harvest at popular Alberta fisheries. This information is required by AEP fisheries managers and forms the basis for fishing regulation

changes. For 2017/18, our surveys focus on select northern pike, walleye, brown trout and mountain whitefish fisheries. In the Angler Recruitment and Retention project, we collaborate with Alberta’s social science research community and AEP to analyse angling licence sales data toward a better understanding of the factors influencing recent trends in angler recruitment and retention in the province.

A necessary component of the adaptive management process employed by AEP requires science-based research, designed to answer specific questions relevant to fisheries policy, management and conservation. Our related projects generate pertinent information required for the development of provincial and federal conservation initiatives, with emphasis on sport fishery restoration, development of the Alberta Fish Sustainability Index (FSI), and Species Recovery and Management Plans. The fishery restoration projects at Isle and Hasse lakes seek to restore once popular walleye and trout fisheries, respectively, that collapsed in recent years due to accelerated eutrophication. This initiative involves numerous partnerships with stakeholders throughout the watersheds.

Projects that investigate overwintering habitat and water quality contribute to the development of instream flow-needs criteria that help protect fish habitat from winter water withdrawals and other human-caused impacts. Projects in the Kakwa, Brazeau, and Ram river watersheds will feed directly into FSIs and management plan development for priority species, including Arctic grayling, mountain whitefish, and native trout. Partnerships developed

with West Fraser Mills (Hinton and Sundre) companies in support of the Brazeau and Ram river projects, in particular, offer unique opportunities between the forestry industry and government land use planners to pool resources to address fish conservation issues of mutual interest. Similarly, the Owl River partnership project with Syncrude Canada Ltd. seeks to protect and conserve walleye spawning habitat. Our Pekisko Creek and fish passage barrier projects directly address native westslope cutthroat recovery plan recommendations. These projects will help identify critical westslope cutthroat habitat for potential protection and restoration, as well as conservation potential of instream fish passage barriers. Paradoxically, recovery of westslope cutthroat trout is dependent on both reconnecting fragmented habitats and isolating strongholds where populations remain genetically pure, primarily because of barriers that impede upstream invasion by non-native species.

Overall, the preponderance of projects designed to expand and diversify our fish stocking activities, ensure year-round survival of stocked fish, and restore collapsed sport fisheries reflects our emphasis on the enhancement and development of recreational fishing opportunities across the province. While the fish population structure, abundance, distribution, life history and habitat, as well as the sport fishery data collected through our projects are valuable in themselves, it is the diverse ways in which our results translate into meaningful management and conservation actions that our stakeholders and staff find most rewarding.

Table 9: Fisheries Projects for 2017/18

Development and Implementation of Aeration and Enhanced Fish Stocking Plans		
Project	Primary Purpose	Expected Outcomes
Lake Aeration	Create or enhance recreational angling opportunities for Albertans by aerating lakes to promote year-round survival of stocked fish.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce risk of summer and winter kills of stocked trout in 18 waterbodies distributed within ACA regional boundaries as follows: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Northwest Region (six waterbodies): Cecil Thompson Pond and Figure Eight, Swan, Sulphur, East Dollar and Spring lakes. Central Region (six waterbodies): Beaver, Mitchell, Fiesta, Birch and Ironside lakes and Hansen’s Reservoir. Southern Region (two waterbodies): Coleman Fish and Game Pond and Police Outpost Lake (POL); POL is new addition beginning winter 2016/17. Northeast Region (four waterbodies): Muir, Spring, and Millers lakes and Radway Pond.
ACA		
Partner		
Total		
		On-going

<div><div>New Lake Aeration Development</div><table><tr><td>ACA</td><td>\$37,274</td></tr><tr><td>Partner</td><td>\$37,021</td></tr><tr><td>Total</td><td>\$74,295</td></tr></table></div>	ACA	\$37,274	Partner	\$37,021	Total	\$74,295	Use aeration as habitat enhancement technique to facilitate year-round survival of stocked fish.	<div><ul style="list-style-type: none">Develop surface aeration facilities at Winchell Lake and upgrade facilities at Hansen’s Reservoir from windmill driven to electrically-powered surface aerators.Continue to work with AEP and the Municipal District of Greenview toward expanding aeration from East to West Dollar Lake.</div> <div>On-going</div>
ACA	\$37,274							
Partner	\$37,021							
Total	\$74,295							
<div><div>Enhanced Fish Stocking (EFS)</div><table><tr><td>ACA</td><td>\$347,566</td></tr><tr><td>Partner</td><td>\$19,500</td></tr><tr><td>Total</td><td>\$367,066</td></tr></table></div>	ACA	\$347,566	Partner	\$19,500	Total	\$367,066	Stock trout into waterbodies to provide Albertans with recreational angling opportunities in areas of the province where such fishing opportunities do not otherwise exist.	<div><ul style="list-style-type: none">Stock 120,000 (20 cm) trout, consisting of 110,000 rainbow trout and 5,000 each of brown and brook trout into 60 waterbodies. The brown trout will be stocked in addition to rainbow trout in seven select waterbodies to provide anglers with a diverse fishing experience.</div> <div>On-going</div>
ACA	\$347,566							
Partner	\$19,500							
Total	\$367,066							
<div><div>Fish Stocking Expansion – New Lakes</div><table><tr><td>ACA</td><td>\$26,666</td></tr><tr><td>Partner</td><td>\$0</td></tr><tr><td>Total</td><td>\$26,666</td></tr></table></div>	ACA	\$26,666	Partner	\$0	Total	\$26,666	Identify and evaluate new waterbodies for stocking to increase recreational fishing opportunities, particularly close to urban areas; rehabilitate existing ponds.	<div><ul style="list-style-type: none">Conduct first-time trout stocking and develop Durda Pond into an EFS site.Evaluate, and where suitable, develop EFS at candidate waterbodies identified in 2016/17 (i.e., Crosslink, LaFarge, Taber Irrigation District and town of Taber ponds).Continue to evaluate new candidate ponds received through referral.Assess feasibility of alum, aeration and dredging treatments on select existing EFS ponds.Explore partnership opportunities with local communities and organizations such as Alberta Transportation, EPCOR, AFGA, etc. to identify and enhance existing waterbodies or construct new ones for recreational fishing.</div> <div>On-going</div>
ACA	\$26,666							
Partner	\$0							
Total	\$26,666							
<div><div>Fish Stocking Expansion – Strains Evaluation</div><table><tr><td>ACA</td><td>\$56,947</td></tr><tr><td>Partner</td><td>\$0</td></tr><tr><td>Total</td><td>\$56,947</td></tr></table></div>	ACA	\$56,947	Partner	\$0	Total	\$56,947	Expand scope and diversity in fish stocking activities: investigate suitability of new fish species/ strains to complement currently stocked rainbow trout under the ACA fish stocking project.	<div><ul style="list-style-type: none">Compare relative performance of two strains of cultured rainbow trout (i.e., Silver Steelhead and Lyndon rainbow trout strains) in select EFS ponds.Compare growth and survival (natural vs. fishing mortality) of the Silver Steelhead and Lyndon rainbow trout strains.Increase angler awareness of the EFS project and develop a cost-effective method of assessing exploitation of stocked trout at EFS fisheries.</div> <div>Year 2 of 2</div>
ACA	\$56,947							
Partner	\$0							
Total	\$56,947							
Assessment of Angler Demographics, Effort, Catch and Harvest								
Project	Primary Purpose	Expected Outcomes						
<div><div>Pike and Walleye Fisheries Angler Surveys</div><table><tr><td>ACA</td><td>\$94,963</td></tr><tr><td>Partner</td><td>\$15,000</td></tr><tr><td>Total</td><td>\$109,963</td></tr></table></div>	ACA	\$94,963	Partner	\$15,000	Total	\$109,963	Provide information to aid sport fisheries management.	<div><ul style="list-style-type: none">Describe angling effort, harvest and associated fisheries demographics at Snipe and Gull lakes.Use of data by AEP to formulate fisheries management plans.</div> <div>1 year</div>
ACA	\$94,963							
Partner	\$15,000							
Total	\$109,963							
<div><div>Angler Survey on Upper Bow River tributaries</div><table><tr><td>ACA</td><td>\$160,759</td></tr><tr><td>Partner</td><td>\$0</td></tr><tr><td>Total</td><td>\$160,759</td></tr></table></div>	ACA	\$160,759	Partner	\$0	Total	\$160,759	Provide information to aid sport fisheries management.	<div><ul style="list-style-type: none">Describe angling effort, harvest and associated fisheries demographics in Upper Bow River tributaries (i.e., Highwood River and Sheep Creek).Use of data by AEP to formulate fisheries management plans.</div> <div>Year 2 of 2</div>
ACA	\$160,759							
Partner	\$0							
Total	\$160,759							

<div>ACA Fish Stocking Evaluation</div> <table><tr><td>ACA</td><td>\$36,700</td></tr><tr><td>Partner</td><td>\$0</td></tr><tr><td>Total</td><td>\$36,700</td></tr></table>	ACA	\$36,700	Partner	\$0	Total	\$36,700	Evaluate angling effort at ACA stocked ponds.	<div><div><div>· Use trail cameras to estimate angler effort at select ACA stocked ponds.</div></div><div>On-going</div></div>
ACA	\$36,700							
Partner	\$0							
Total	\$36,700							
<div>Angler Recruitment and Retention Trends in Alberta</div> <table><tr><td>ACA</td><td>\$2,608</td></tr><tr><td>Partner</td><td>\$0</td></tr><tr><td>Total</td><td>\$2,608</td></tr></table>	ACA	\$2,608	Partner	\$0	Total	\$2,608	Collaborate with Alberta's recreational angling and social sciences research community and Government of Alberta fisheries managers toward a better understanding of trends in angler recruitment and retention in the province.	<div><div><div>· Quantify trends in recruitment and retention of licenced Alberta anglers over the timeframe for which digital licence sales data are available (circa 1998).</div><div>· Identify major demographic, environmental and social factors impacting current trends.</div></div><div>Year 2 of 3</div></div>
ACA	\$2,608							
Partner	\$0							
Total	\$2,608							
Applied Research								
Project	Primary Purpose	Expected Outcomes						
<div>Kakwa River Adult Arctic Grayling Density</div> <table><tr><td>ACA</td><td>\$177,335</td></tr><tr><td>Partner</td><td>\$0</td></tr><tr><td>Total</td><td>\$177,335</td></tr></table>	ACA	\$177,335	Partner	\$0	Total	\$177,335	Collect information to address data deficiencies identified by AEP for Arctic grayling FSI development.	<div><div><div>· Determine distribution, abundance and population structure of adult Arctic grayling in the Kakwa River watershed (i.e., tributaries and mainstem).</div></div><div>Year 3 of 3</div></div>
ACA	\$177,335							
Partner	\$0							
Total	\$177,335							
<div>North Saskatchewan River Drainage FSI Data Gaps</div> <table><tr><td>ACA</td><td>\$78,621</td></tr><tr><td>Partner</td><td>\$30,000</td></tr><tr><td>Total</td><td>\$108,621</td></tr></table>	ACA	\$78,621	Partner	\$30,000	Total	\$108,621	Describe fish distribution and stream habitat in areas of mutual interest to provincial resource managers and industrial partners with emphasis on priority species for FSI development.	<div><div><div>· Describe fish abundance, distribution, and stream habitat in watersheds within Hinton Wood Products (West Fraser Mills) Forest Management Areas to aid in development of management plans and address FSI data deficiencies. Focal area is the Brazeau River watershed.</div></div><div>Year 2 of 3</div></div>
ACA	\$78,621							
Partner	\$30,000							
Total	\$108,621							
<div>Winter Dissolved Oxygen Conditions in Running Waters</div> <table><tr><td>ACA</td><td>\$54,367</td></tr><tr><td>Partner</td><td>\$0</td></tr><tr><td>Total</td><td>\$54,367</td></tr></table>	ACA	\$54,367	Partner	\$0	Total	\$54,367	Determine potential for winter dissolved oxygen as a limiting factor to fish production in running waters identified by AEP.	<div><div><div>· Determine spatial and temporal patterns in winter dissolved oxygen in select watersheds. Candidate rivers to be determined in March 2017 in consultation with AEP, and contingent upon results from 2016/17 winter surveys.</div></div><div>Year 2 of 2</div></div>
ACA	\$54,367							
Partner	\$0							
Total	\$54,367							
<div>Lake Isle Sport Fishery Restoration</div> <table><tr><td>ACA</td><td>\$14,642</td></tr><tr><td>Partner</td><td>\$85,417</td></tr><tr><td>Total</td><td>\$100,059</td></tr></table>	ACA	\$14,642	Partner	\$85,417	Total	\$100,059	Restore native sport fishery at Lake Isle through improvements in lake and watershed health.	<div><div><div>· Expand on stakeholder and local community partnerships/support established in previous years including: Sturgeon River Watershed Alliance, Parkland County ALUS (Alternative Landuse Services), Lac Ste. Anne ALUS, Lake Isle/Lac Ste. Anne Water Quality Management Society, Lakes of Parkland County and North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance.</div><div>· Continue to deliver on-the-ground landscape and riparian restoration projects in partnership with Municipal ALUS programs, landowners and partners.</div></div><div>Year 3 of 5</div></div>
ACA	\$14,642							
Partner	\$85,417							
Total	\$100,059							

Hasse Lake Sport Fishery Restoration <table><tr><td>ACA</td><td>\$28,497</td></tr><tr><td>Partner</td><td>\$0</td></tr><tr><td>Total</td><td>\$28,497</td></tr></table>	ACA	\$28,497	Partner	\$0	Total	\$28,497	Re-establish sport fishery at Hasse Lake through improvements in lake and watershed health.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Expand on stakeholder and local community partnerships/support established in previous years, including Parkland County Recreation and Culture, ALUS and Lakes of Parkland County.Continued technical support to partners for on-the-ground riparian restoration activities.Work with AEP area biologist to develop FMO for the lake.Pursue experimental stocking of rainbow trout.Develop lake aeration infrastructure to support stocked fish and address water quality issues.Monitor water quality and biota.Continue to pursue strategies to reduce phosphorus loading within the lake basin. Year 3 of 5
ACA	\$28,497							
Partner	\$0							
Total	\$28,497							
Owl River Walleye Spawning Habitat <table><tr><td>ACA</td><td>\$17,748</td></tr><tr><td>Partner</td><td>\$21,005</td></tr><tr><td>Total</td><td>\$38,753</td></tr></table>	ACA	\$17,748	Partner	\$21,005	Total	\$38,753	Assess use of Owl River as spawning system for Lac La Biche walleye. Phase 3/3 of DFO compensation project in partnership with Syncrude initiated in 2011/12.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Monitor known walleye spawning areas for use.Determine availability and use of additional spawning sites, water quality, instream habitat and macro-invertebrates along a 40-km section of the Owl River. 1 Year
ACA	\$17,748							
Partner	\$21,005							
Total	\$38,753							
Mountain Whitefish Overwintering Habitat <table><tr><td>ACA</td><td>\$94,428</td></tr><tr><td>Partner</td><td>\$25,000</td></tr><tr><td>Total</td><td>\$119,428</td></tr></table>	ACA	\$94,428	Partner	\$25,000	Total	\$119,428	Collect data to support on-going AEP work to determine sensitivity of mountain whitefish (MNWH) overwintering habitat to winter water withdrawals.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Describe MNWH movement, habitat use and habitat availability during under-ice conditions.Develop a resource selection function model for MNWH and identify preferred under-ice habitat and flow velocities.Data to contribute to validating AEP instream flow needs model. Year 1 of 2
ACA	\$94,428							
Partner	\$25,000							
Total	\$119,428							
Implementation of Approved Fish Species Recovery and Management Plans								
Project	Primary Purpose	Expected Outcomes						
Conservation Potential of Fish Passage Barriers for Westslope Cutthroat Trout <table><tr><td>ACA</td><td>\$73,743</td></tr><tr><td>Partner</td><td>\$5,500</td></tr><tr><td>Total</td><td>\$79,243</td></tr></table>	ACA	\$73,743	Partner	\$5,500	Total	\$79,243	Develop a standard approach for assessing potential of man-made and natural barriers to mitigate hybridization risk of westslope cutthroat trout (WSCT) with non-natives.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Develop a standardized protocol and manual for assessing upstream invasion risk and conservation potential of natural and man-made fish passage barriers for WSCT.Identify, classify and rank passage barriers to help prioritize WSCT sub-populations for instream recovery actions.Compile existing and new data sets, including photos, on fish passage barriers into a single database. Year 1 of 2
ACA	\$73,743							
Partner	\$5,500							
Total	\$79,243							
Pekisko Creek Trout Recovery <table><tr><td>ACA</td><td>\$52,350</td></tr><tr><td>Partner</td><td>\$13,750</td></tr><tr><td>Total</td><td>\$66,100</td></tr></table>	ACA	\$52,350	Partner	\$13,750	Total	\$66,100	Collect data to update status of both WSCT and bull trout in the Pekisko/Stimson creeks watershed, to support recovery activities and FSI development. Complements both MULTISAR and ACA riparian restoration activities in the watershed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Determine distribution, abundance and population structure of WSCT and bull trout, as well as the distribution of bull trout spawning habitat.Identify critical habitat for potential protection and restoration as part of MULTISAR and riparian projects. 1 Year
ACA	\$52,350							
Partner	\$13,750							
Total	\$66,100							
East Slopes Trout and Mountain Whitefish Recovery <table><tr><td>ACA</td><td>\$84,591</td></tr><tr><td>Partner</td><td>\$10,000</td></tr><tr><td>Total</td><td>\$94,591</td></tr></table>	ACA	\$84,591	Partner	\$10,000	Total	\$94,591	Conduct watershed-scale (HUC 8) assessments of trout and mountain whitefish populations in areas of mutual interest to provincial resource managers and industrial partners.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Describe fish abundance, distribution and stream habitat in watersheds within Sundre Forest Products (West Fraser Mills) to aid in development of management plans and address FSI data deficiencies. Focal areas are the Ram and Brazeau river watersheds. Year 1 of 5
ACA	\$84,591							
Partner	\$10,000							
Total	\$94,591							



Silver Sage Conservation Site
photo: ACA, Kelley Stark

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, enhancement and management of fish and wildlife habitat, including inventory, assessment and monitoring of conservation sites and other habitat initiatives. We secure important wildlife and fish habitat within 28 focal areas in Alberta—for our enjoyment now, and for generations to come. We use several methods to secure land including direct purchase, land donations and habitat lease agreements.

We currently manage over 209,000 acres of habitat within Alberta. This includes fisheries access sites, managed Crown properties, ACA-titled lands, lands with conservation easements and other habitat type projects. Management involves restoring and enhancing a variety of habitat, controlling invasive species, maintaining infrastructure, addressing industrial referrals and installing new signage on all ACA conservation sites. Management of our conservation sites is directed through detailed management plans providing short- and long-term objectives and actions to achieve these objectives.

Enhancement of riparian habitat is another focus of our Land Management Program, using techniques to restore and enhance riparian habitat in priority drainages. We use a host of tools to enhance and protect riparian habitat, including streambank fencing, off-channel watering for livestock, bank stabilization, education and outreach, and habitat retention agreements. Success of our riparian program 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 26 Fisheries Access Sites across the province, providing angling opportunities at a variety of rivers, lakes and stocked ponds. We are also in our second year of a new project, "Recreational Opportunity Enhancement," which looks at increasing hunting and angling opportunities. A key component of this project is to explore opportunities to connect hunters with landowners who experience elk or deer depredation. Another focus is to expand a hunter access sign-in system in Southern Alberta, with a goal of expanding the program to other areas of the province. The *Alberta Discover Guide* and *Discover Guide* iPhone and Android app, developed with ACA's Information, Education and Communications Program, are important tools that highlight the value of habitat conservation and the diversity of recreational opportunities available to Albertans. The 2017 edition is the tenth instalment and features over 775 ACA and partner-owned sites across the province including 339 sites owned by Ducks Unlimited Canada and 81 by Alberta Fish & Game Association. Another focus is the "Use Respect – Ask First" program that fosters respect between land users and landowners, increasing responsible access to privately owned lands.

Our conservation efforts provide a diversity of recreational opportunities such as hunting, fishing, photography, hiking, berry picking and wildlife viewing for Albertans and our visitors.

Table 10: Land Management Projects for 2017/18

Securement , Enhancement and Management of Fish and Wildlife Habitat (includes Inventory, Assessment and Monitoring)		
Project	Primary Purpose	Expected Outcomes
Conservation Site Management <hr/> ACA \$479,539 Partner \$185,431 Total \$664,970	Manage, enhance and maintain ACA conservation sites to provide a diversity of habitat for a variety of fish and wildlife species.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Manage, enhance and maintain over 209,000 acres of habitat on over 300 conservation sites in the province. Complete inspections on 50% of ACA managed conservation sites. Install new signage on 16 ACA conservation sites. Complete baseline inventories on four conservation sites and Range Health Assessments on six sites. Enhance wildlife and fish habitat on 13 conservation sites. Maintain and develop collaborative partnerships that assist with achieving management goals on conservation sites. Enhance sustainable recreational opportunities on ACA-owned and managed sites (access barriers, parking areas, v gates, etc.) Continue to work collaboratively with AEP on a disposition process for management of priority Crown conservation sites. Continue to develop guideline document for permitted and non-permitted activities on conservation sites. Continue to advertise and promote conservation sites to stakeholders and general public using print and electronic newsletter (e.g. ACA web, <i>Conservation Magazine</i>, <i>Alberta Discover Guide</i>, electronic newsletter, social media and conservation site signage).
Habitat Securement <hr/> ACA \$158,679 Partner \$0 Total \$158,679	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 750 acres of habitat through land purchases and land donations within focal areas. Maintain a collaborative partnership with Environment Canada's Habitat Stewardship Program (Species at Risk and Prevention Stream). Maintain, enhance and expand other securement partnerships and conserve important habitat within focal areas across Alberta. Increase sustainable recreational opportunities across the province.
Corporate Partners (Securement) <hr/> ACA \$40,573 Partner \$0 Total \$40,573	Conserve, enhance and restore priority wildlife and fish habitat with corporate partners.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Secure 320 acres of habitat through direct purchase within focus areas. Maintain and expand current corporate partnerships. Increase the number of corporate partners actively donating to ACA (one new corporate partner). Conserve important wildlife and fisheries habitat within focal areas. Increase sustainable recreational opportunities across the province.
Landowner Habitat Program (LHP) <hr/> ACA \$142,849 Partner \$22,904 Total \$165,753	Conserve important habitat on privately owned lands through habitat lease agreements.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect an additional 500 acres of important wildlife and fish habitat using 5- to 20-year term habitat retention agreements. Continue to inspect and monitor existing LHP agreements. Enhance sustainable recreational opportunities on private lands.

Riparian Conservation 1) Owl River 2) Beaverlodge River 3) Edson River 4) South Riparian conservation expansion to Milk River Ridge 5) North Raven and Raven Rivers	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 10 to 15 new riparian conservation projects and associated landowner agreements (e.g. fencing, off-channel watering, habitat lease agreements, tree planting, bank stabilization, etc.) Continue to inspect and monitor existing riparian agreements. Increase public interest and awareness of riparian conservation through community outreach, public presentations and direct contact with key landowners, signage, advertisements, etc. Complete Cows and Fish 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. Continue to explore the option of ACA becoming a certified wetland restoration agency.
ACA	\$281,696	
Partner	\$54,903	
Total	\$336,599	

Development and Implementation of Habitat Management Plans

Project	Primary Purpose	Expected Outcomes
Management Plan Development ACA \$104,056 Partner \$0 Total \$104,056	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 100% of titled lands acquired in 2016/17. Prioritize and develop management plans for priority Crown conservation sites (sites with dispositions). Work with partners and update management plans as required.

Securement, Enhancement and Management of Recreational Access sites

Project	Primary Purpose	Expected Outcomes
Fisheries Access Site Management ACA \$278,035 Partner \$22,500 Total \$300,535	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 26 fisheries access sites across the province. Install new infrastructure (e.g. floating docks, garbage cans and picnic tables) at three fisheries access sites. Complete site upgrades and repairs at two sites (e.g. gate installation and fence repairs). Maintain infrastructure at all fisheries access sites. Continue to work collaboratively with AEP on Crown Fisheries Access sites (dispositions). Continue providing access for anglers to key streams, rivers, lakes and trout ponds. Maintain and develop collaborative partnerships to assist with maintenance costs associated with managing fisheries access sites. Collaborate with AEP and ACA's Fisheries Team on the identification of creating new angling opportunities and development of new Fisheries Access sites.

Recreational Opportunity Enhancement <table> <tr> <td>ACA</td><td>\$48,291</td></tr> <tr> <td>Partner</td><td>\$0</td></tr> <tr> <td>Total</td><td>\$48,291</td></tr> </table>	ACA	\$48,291	Partner	\$0	Total	\$48,291	<p>Increase opportunities for hunting and angling, as well as other non-consumptive activities such as hiking, canoeing or photography.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop an online service that connects hunters with landowners who experience elk or deer depredation (NW AB, Grande Prairie area). Expand the access sign-in process (seven new landowners and/or 5,000 acres) currently employed in Southern Alberta. Explore the use of seasonal or permanent leases to allow for access to Crown waterbodies across private land. Collaborate with AEP, AFGA, landowners and other stakeholders.
ACA	\$48,291						
Partner	\$0						
Total	\$48,291						
Use Respect – Ask First <table> <tr> <td>ACA</td><td>\$0</td></tr> <tr> <td>Partner</td><td>\$1,000</td></tr> <tr> <td>Total</td><td>\$1,000</td></tr> </table>	ACA	\$0	Partner	\$1,000	Total	\$1,000	<p>Increase recreational access opportunities on privately owned lands by promoting the <i>Use Respect – Ask First</i> program.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to distribute signage to increase awareness of the Use Respect program. Foster respect between land users and landowners. Deliver program in collaboration with other conservation partners. Increase awareness and enhance hunting and angling opportunities on privately owned lands across Alberta.
ACA	\$0						
Partner	\$1,000						
Total	\$1,000						



Drake Conservation Site
photo: ACA

4.0 Report A Poacher

As part of the Report A Poacher (RAP) Program, we work with Alberta Justice and Solicitor General, Fish & Wildlife Enforcement Branch (AJSG) as well as AEP to ensure RAP retains a high profile and remains an important resource for the general public. As such, ACA is responsible for administering program funds and promotional activities. In 2017/18, we will continue to: 1) identify ways to educate the public about poaching in Alberta, 2) refine various promotional aspects such as the RAP education trailer, 3) improve public awareness of, and access to, the program, 4) support AJSG with funding and 5) provide funds for cash rewards to members of the public who help in charging poachers.

Table 11: Report A Poacher Projects for 2017/18

Project	Primary Purpose	Expected Outcomes
Report A Poacher Promotion <div> <div>ACA</div> <div>\$124,086</div> </div> <div> <div>Partner</div> <div>\$0</div> </div> <div> <div>Total</div> <div>\$124,086</div> </div>	Continue promotion of anti-poaching campaign. Provide support for the RAP toll-free phone line.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased public awareness and understanding of poaching and maintain/increase use of RAP program by the general public through: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Using various media to increase RAP program exposure and use. Completing update of RAP education trailer. Maintaining sufficient stock of promotional items used for trade shows and community/stakeholder events, as well as research new items that maximize exposure. RAP toll-free line has an operator available at all times, with increased capacity during peak periods.
Enforcement Funding <div> <div>ACA</div> <div>\$80,000</div> </div> <div> <div>Partner</div> <div>\$0</div> </div> <div> <div>Total</div> <div>\$80,000</div> </div>	Provide funding to Alberta Justice and Solicitor General, Fish and Wildlife Enforcement Branch.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved effectiveness of Alberta Justice and Solicitor General, Fish and Wildlife Enforcement Branch.
RAP Rewards <div> <div>ACA</div> <div>\$60,000</div> </div> <div> <div>Partner</div> <div>\$0</div> </div> <div> <div>Total</div> <div>\$60,000</div> </div>	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"> Increased public participation in the RAP program through monetary incentives.



5.0 ACA Grants

ACA has three separate grants that are available through open competition:

ACA Conservation, Community and Education Grants support conservation activities by individuals (with appropriate insurance coverage), organizations, and communities that contribute 1) to fish and wildlife population conservation and the conservation or enhancement of fish and wildlife 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.

ACA Research Grants 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 that can provide a high-quality research proposal.

ACA Grants in Biodiversity provide research funds to outstanding graduate students doing Alberta-based research. The mandate of the program is to train future conservation professionals, while at the same time increasing knowledge of the flora and fauna of Alberta, covering broadly the fields of biodiversity, conservation biology and ecology. This grant is administered in collaboration with the Alberta Cooperative Conservation Research Unit, which represents a consortium of Alberta universities, including University of Alberta, University of Calgary and the University of Lethbridge. This grant is available only to graduate students undertaking research within Alberta (they may be attending universities outside of the province, but their research must be Alberta-based).

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



Wood frog (*Lithobates sylvaticus*)
photo: ACA, Kris Kendall

Table 12: Grants Program for 2017/18

Project	Primary Purpose	Expected Outcomes
ACA Conservation, Community and Education Grants ACA \$970,000 Partner \$0 Total \$970,000	ACA Conservation, Community and Education Grants fund conservation activities by individuals (with appropriate insurance coverage), organizations, and communities that contribute to healthy fish and wildlife populations, to a healthy environment for fish and wildlife in Alberta, and to the understanding, appreciation and use of that environment. This grant program will also fund projects which increase the level of attendance and awareness of outdoor opportunities, while developing knowledge and respect for conservation.	<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 urban 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 Research Grants ACA \$330,000 Partner \$0 Total \$330,000	ACA Research Grants funds high-quality research projects on wildlife, fish and habitat which inform the effective management of wildlife, fish populations, and habitat in Alberta.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Provide a scientific basis for natural resource management in Alberta, including: aiding the recovery of Alberta's endangered species and clarifying the status of data deficient species; developing inventory tools to determine relative density and range of ungulates; 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 Grants in Biodiversity (administered by U of A. ACA/Syncrude Partnership) ACA \$175,000 Partner \$50,000 Total \$225,000	ACA Grants in Biodiversity support the training of future professional biologists and facilitate graduate student research that focuses on the conservation of Alberta's biological diversity.	<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. · Support high-quality research and study in Alberta by graduate students, with at least 20 students supported annually.
ACA Chair in Fisheries and Wildlife at the U of A ACA \$20,500 Partner \$0 Total \$20,500	Provide educational initiatives to wildlife professionals through the ACA Chair.	<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.

6.0 Landowner Compensation and Damage Prevention

Landowner 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 in order for agricultural producers to qualify for compensation funding.

Wildlife Predator Compensation Program

This program provides financial compensation to agricultural producers who have incurred losses to livestock (cattle, swine, sheep, goats and bison)

because of predation by wildlife (bears, wolves, cougars or eagles). Assessment of losses is undertaken by Alberta Justice and Solicitor General, Fish and Wildlife Enforcement Branch (AJSG). ACA is responsible for making the compensation payments to the agricultural producers as per a set payment scheduled. In 2017/18, the federal government will continue to supply 48 per cent of the funding required for compensation payments.

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 AJSG, while ACA is responsible for making the compensation payments to the agricultural producers as per a set payment schedule.

Table 13: Landowner Compensation and Damage Prevention Projects for 2017/18

Project	Primary Purpose	Expected Outcomes
Waterfowl Crop Damage Prevention	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.
ACA		
Partner		
Total		
Wildlife Predator Compensation	Reimburse livestock producers for losses or injury to specified livestock because of predation by wolves, cougars, grizzly bears, black bears or eagles.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Provide compensation payments within 30 days of receiving claims.
ACA		
Partner		
Total		
Shot Livestock Compensation	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 claims.
ACA		
Partner		
Total		



Snow geese
photo: Brad Fenson

7.0 Monitoring and Accountability

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

Project leads are responsible for providing monthly updates, 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 and then are reviewed externally. 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.

In addition to our operational controls, we continue to involve our Board of Directors in our monitoring and accountability process, through the Standards Review Committee. This committee selects a group of projects or programs and reviews their merits for scientific credibility, efficiency and ability to positively impact conservation in Alberta. The Standards Review Committee's recommendations are brought to the Board of Directors and are given to management for immediate implementation, as required.

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 Alberta Environment and Parks (AEP), our member groups and to the general 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.

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



Sulpher Lake
photo: ACA, Garret McKen

8.0 Financial Summary

Our 2017/18 operating budget, including projected land donations and funds donated for land purchase, is \$17,553,963.

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. 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 2017/18 budget is based on a levy revenue projection of \$14,542,787, established from 2016/17 actual receipts, a projection of partner (non-levy) revenue for projects of \$2,267,702 and a projection of partner (non-levy) donations of land or funds for land purchase of \$743,474.

\$13,648,734 is allocated to Wildlife, Fisheries, Land Management (including land purchase and donations), and Information, Education and Communications programs. This amount is equivalent to 93.86 per cent of the levy revenue value collected from hunters and anglers.

Table 14: Summary Budget for 2017/18

Program	ACA (Levy Funds)	Partner Funds	Total Budget
Administration	\$1,853,579	\$104,921	\$1,958,500
Finance	\$592,675	\$22,169	\$614,844
Business Development	\$130,477	\$173,084	\$303,561
Human Resources	\$267,883	\$0	\$267,883
Health and Safety	\$141,017	\$0	\$141,017
Information Technology	\$336,071	\$0	\$336,071
Information, Education and Communications	\$1,044,498	\$150,000	\$1,194,498
Wildlife	\$2,883,625	\$895,192	\$3,778,817
Fisheries	\$2,335,449	\$272,693	\$2,608,142
Land Management	\$2,162,808	\$249,643	\$2,412,451
Report A Poacher (RAP)	\$283,353	\$0	\$283,353
Landowner Compensation and Damage Prevention	\$365,000	\$350,000	\$715,000
Grants	\$1,546,352	\$50,000	\$1,596,352
Subtotal Budget	\$13,942,787	\$2,267,702	\$16,210,489
Land Donations and Funds Donated for Land Purchases	\$600,000	\$743,474	\$1,343,474
TOTAL BUDGET	\$14,542,787	\$3,011,176	\$17,553,963



Upland game bird retention surveys
photo: ACA, Layne Seward



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Alberta Professional Outfitters Society

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Nature Alberta

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Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta

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