

Annual Operating Plan 2022/23



Alberta Conservation
Association

wildlife | fish | habitat



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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, Corey Rasmussen
Project: SHARP - Species Habitat Assessment and Restoration Partnership. Reptile Amphibian Surveys at Tomahawk Ranch

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



Project: Taber Pheasant Festival
photo: ACA, Sam Vriend

1.0 Introduction

Alberta Conservation Association's (ACA) Annual Operating Plan 2022/23 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) Compensation and Damage Prevention Program.

In 2022/23, we anticipate receiving roughly \$3.4 million in partner (non-levy) and/or in land value. Projected levy revenue from hunting and fishing licenses is \$15.3 million. Thanks to the efforts of our dedicated employees and the generosity of our various donors and partners, the majority of this funding will be directed back into conservation efforts.

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. We will also 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 Wildlife Identification Number (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 wildlife, fisheries, 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'd like 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 to ACA's 2019 – 2029 Strategic Business Plan

The 2019 – 2028 Strategic Business Plan includes both a three-year and ten-year business plan. The objectives identified in the three-year plan are reviewed annually and updated if a significant change in strategic direction is warranted. The Strategic Business Plan is a roadmap that keeps us focused on the strategies that influence our effectiveness. This clear sense of direction enables us to develop the most appropriate means of reaching our goals, which contributes to our success in fulfilling our Mission and achieving our Vision.

1.2 Regional Boundary Map



2.0 Business Program Areas

2.1 Finance and Administration

The Finance and Administration 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 2022/23

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 \$735,464	Ensure legal and contractual obligations are met.	
Partner \$41,000		
Total \$776,464	Provide accurate and timely information to ACA's decision makers.	
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 \$2,265,304		
Partner \$42,560		
Total \$2,307,864		



Project: Kids Can Catch
photo: ACA, Charmaine Brunes

2.2 Business Development

The Business Development Program maintains strong collaborative relations with our existing corporate partners and fosters new partnerships with municipalities and businesses operating in Alberta. Business Development raises awareness of ACA in the corporate community and creates opportunities for municipalities and corporations to support our conservation work. We recognize multi-year business relationships through our Corporate Partners in Conservation program. In 2022/23, we will continue to explore ways of

generating non-levy revenue, which will include print and digital advertising sales; sponsorship of conservation projects in our Wildlife, Fisheries, and Land Management programs; support for outreach events such as Kids Can Catch, Taber Pheasant Festival, and Waterfowl Warmup; and corporate contributions to ACA grants and terrestrial conservation offsets. Business Development also works closely with the Information, Education, and Communications Program to ensure ACA brand identity is maintained internally and externally.

Table 2: Business Development Projects for 2022/23

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 percent minimum above previous fiscal year.· Sign on a minimum of five new corporate partners and/or increase contributions or multi-year commitments from five existing Corporate Partners in Conservation.
ACA \$319,097		
Partner \$0		
Total \$319,097		
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 public and business community.· Maintain employee satisfaction with branded merchandise.
ACA \$19,471		
Partner \$0		
Total \$19,471		

2.3 Human Resources

Human Resources implements strategies and policies that meet organizational objectives. In 2022/23, our focus continues to be the investment of: 1) employee health and wellness, 2) training and development, and 3) creating a culture where

employees are engaged and enthusiastic. Creating an environment conducive to learning through experience, coaching, mentoring, self-learning, as well as through training and development is a must in a well-functioning organization.

Table 3: Human Resources Projects for 2022/23

Project	Primary Purpose	Expected Outcomes
Program Coordination	Explore new ways to keep employees informed, supported, and engaged. Stay informed and up to date on Human Resources issues and best practice strategies. Promote and maintain a safe hassle-free work environment. Maintain the Work Place Harassment and Diversity Committee.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">· Create a corporate culture that attracts and retains employees.· Increase job satisfaction to foster a productive work environment with a higher retention rate.· Recognize human capital as the resource that drives organizational success.· Maintain management system targets and evaluate success and diversity.· Maintain a safe and inclusive working environment.
ACA \$193,277		
Partner \$0		
Total \$193,277		

Project	Primary Purpose	Expected Outcomes
Professional Development ACA \$27,500 Partner \$0 Total \$27,500	<p>Improve the talent development of ACA employees through professional development, career development, and improved performance management.</p> <p>Enhance teamwork and inter-team collaboration.</p> <p>Support employees in academic upgrades.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support individuals and organizational effectiveness by offering approved learning and development to support the employee and ensure success. Invest in professional development programs to improve leadership capabilities, job skills, and employee productivity. Maintain a work environment that motivates and inspires. Well-trained employees receive personal satisfaction from a job well done. Enhance capabilities and make the workplace an environment that supports people's initiative, creativity, responsibility, and meaning.
Professional Memberships ACA \$8,000 Partner \$0 Total \$8,000	<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 ACA \$43,000 Partner \$0 Total \$43,000	<p>Promote the achievement of work-life balance and wellness for our employees, ensuring they are incorporated into the culture of the organization.</p> <p>Promote a healthy workplace both physically and mentally.</p> <p>The aim of measures for workplace well-being is to complement health and safety measures to make sure employees are safe, healthy, satisfied, and engaged at work.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce stress among employees to improve mental health by encouraging healthy lifestyle and healthy work/life balance. Invest in employees to ensure an open and friendly culture and employee wellbeing. Encourage social, physical, emotional well-being with a diverse health and wellness program. Workplace well-being relates to all aspects of working life, from the quality and safety of the physical environment, to how employees feel about their work, their working environment, the climate at work, and work organization. Continue to build and support a positive, fair, and open work environment.
Service Awards ACA \$10,000 Partner \$0 Total \$10,000	<p>Recognize employees for their loyalty, commitment, and achievements.</p> <p>Celebrate the unique skills and contributions of the employee.</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 ACA \$1,200 Partner \$0 Total \$1,200	<p>Determine level of employee satisfaction with various aspects of ACA.</p> <p>Maintain the high level of employee satisfaction.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct annual employee survey. Identify challenges and develop action plans for improvements. Engaged and motivated employees lead to increased productivity and overall satisfaction.
Recruitment ACA \$6,500 Partner \$0 Total \$6,500	<p>Provide the organization with well-trained, well-motivated employees.</p> <p>Create a corporate culture that attracts and retains employees of all generations.</p> <p>Embrace new recruitment technologies.</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. Ensure equal opportunities available for all employees.
Career Fairs ACA \$2,000 Partner \$0 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 2022/23, 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. In response to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and the associated regulations and restrictions of Alberta Health Services (AHS), ACA will continue to implement all AHS measures as well as incorporate best practices wherever possible, to meet or exceed provincial requirements so that ACA work is completed, and everyone's safety is maintained. Improvements to the Health and Safety Program are continuous so the program remains comprehensive, efficient, effective, and current.

Table 4: Health and Safety Projects for 2022/23

Project	Primary Purpose	Expected Outcomes
Health and Safety	Foster a company culture and working environment where all employees can work in a safe and healthy manner.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Eliminate workplace injuries as well as loss or damage to property, facilities, materials, and equipment.Continue to maintain and improve a Health and Safety Program that integrates workplace safety effectively into ACA operations.Provide ACA employees access to health and safety resources (e.g., forms, policies, procedures, and other reference materials).Provide employees with the necessary training, equipment, materials, and procedures required to conduct work in a healthy and safe manner.Respond to all health and safety incidents, including near misses, develop and implement corrective actions as required, and communicate results to all staff.Operate the Health and Safety Program in a transparent and open manner.
ACA	\$135,385	
Partner	\$0	
Total	\$135,385	

2.5 Information Technology

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

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

Table 5: Information Technology Projects for 2022/23

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">Maintain security of ACA network and data structures.Ensure existing technology provides information in an efficient and effective manner.Research and review new technology that supports ACA's strategic goals and objectives.Coordinate IT projects and processes with external consultants.
ACA	\$446,605	
Partner	\$0	
Total	\$446,605	



Project: Waterfowl Warmup
photo: ACA, Charmaine Brunes

3.0 Resource Programs

3.1 Information, Education, and Communications

The Information, Education, and Communications Program is responsible for increasing awareness, supporting education outreach, and generating interest in conservation, ACA, and its work in wildlife, fisheries, and habitat.

Communications is key to conservation’s future by building relationships and partnerships

among our stakeholders, corporate citizens, and the public. This resource program portfolio includes corporate communications, advertising and marketing, social media, brand management, education outreach, and wildlife, fisheries, and land management resource program support.

Table 6: Information, Education, and Communications Projects for 2022/23

Communications		
Project	Primary Purpose	Expected Outcomes
Advertising and Marketing	Increase awareness ACA brand recognition, key ACA events, programs, and projects while promoting hunting and fishing in Alberta.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Identify key advertising opportunities and implement strategies that align with the Strategic Business Plan’s 4-year objectives.Coordinated cross media targeted advertising promoting hunting and angling in Alberta. Ongoing
ACA \$68,018		
Partner \$0		
Total \$68,018		
Harvest Your Own	Develop and maintain a hunting focused multi-media resource to retain and recruit hunters while building a positive profile of hunting to non-hunting demographics.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Provide an educational resource on how to hunt and harvest in Alberta.Maintain a viable and interesting resource year-round for hunters in Alberta.Positive annual audience growth across all media platforms.Research a series of three studies over 4 years completed by a PhD student at the University of Alberta. Overall research goal: Identify food-related benefits of hunting that resonate with the core values of ambivalent hunters in Alberta to strengthen the appeal of hunting wild game for food. Ongoing
ACA \$170,872		
Partner \$2,625		
Total \$173,497		
The Philip J. Currie Dinosaur Museum Display	Increase awareness of ACA as an educational and scientific organization, key ACA programs and projects, and conservation efforts in Alberta.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Engage student audiences in conservation issues.Increase public awareness of conservation and its scope of stakeholders. Year 5 of 5
ACA \$52,007		
Partner \$0		
Total \$52,007		

Project	Primary Purpose	Expected Outcomes						
<div>Social Media</div> <div>Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube, Constant Contact</div> <table><tr><td>ACA</td><td>\$54,046</td></tr><tr><td>Partner</td><td>\$0</td></tr><tr><td>Total</td><td>\$54,046</td></tr></table>	ACA	\$54,046	Partner	\$0	Total	\$54,046	<div>Use social media to connect and develop new audiences by highlighting the projects, events, and values of ACA and member groups as well as related conservation issues in Alberta.</div> <div>Assist Alberta Environment and Parks (AEP) with promotion of the Aquatic Invasive Species Program, Family Fishing Weekends, youth hunting, and other initiatives.</div>	<div><ul style="list-style-type: none">Produce and deliver monthly Constant Contact e-newsletters to inform and promote news and events.Promote various ACA activities and events that occur throughout the year including trade shows, wildlife cameras, fish stocking activities, grant applications, Taber Pheasant Festival, Kids Can Catch, Waterfowl Warmup, and provincial pheasant releases.Interact and engage daily with audiences on Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, and Twitter.Increase number of followers on social media platforms.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.</div> <div>Ongoing</div>
ACA	\$54,046							
Partner	\$0							
Total	\$54,046							
<div>Internal Communications Needs</div> <table><tr><td>ACA</td><td>\$16,851</td></tr><tr><td>Partner</td><td>\$0</td></tr><tr><td>Total</td><td>\$16,851</td></tr></table>	ACA	\$16,851	Partner	\$0	Total	\$16,851	<div>Support the ACA President and CEO; Business Development; Human Resources; and Wildlife, Fisheries, and Land Management programs.</div>	<div><ul style="list-style-type: none">Provide all planned and approved communications needs as well as address any unforeseen opportunities, whether internally or sourced through a third party.Complete online seasonal job postings by mid-December 2022.Post the Report Series by the end of April 2022.Assist with ACA vehicle/asset branding.Develop 25th Anniversary media and materials.Develop key communications materials to ensure appropriate branding and messaging (e.g., media releases, fact sheets, poster templates, presentations).</div> <div>Ongoing</div>
ACA	\$16,851							
Partner	\$0							
Total	\$16,851							
<div>Stakeholder Communications</div> <table><tr><td>ACA</td><td>\$3,888</td></tr><tr><td>Partner</td><td>\$0</td></tr><tr><td>Total</td><td>\$3,888</td></tr></table>	ACA	\$3,888	Partner	\$0	Total	\$3,888	<div>Assist member groups and stakeholders in communications support where viable.</div>	<div><ul style="list-style-type: none">Provide creative and promotional support where possible fostering positive business relationships.</div> <div>Ongoing</div>
ACA	\$3,888							
Partner	\$0							
Total	\$3,888							
Publications/Print								
Project	Primary Purpose	Expected Outcomes						
<div>Alberta Discover Guide</div> <table><tr><td>ACA</td><td>\$80,871</td></tr><tr><td>Partner</td><td>\$10,000</td></tr><tr><td>Total</td><td>\$90,871</td></tr></table>	ACA	\$80,871	Partner	\$10,000	Total	\$90,871	<div>Provides a comprehensive reference to several hundred sites conserved for the purpose of habitat protection and made available for recreational use by our stakeholders.</div> <div>Promotes the value of habitat conservation and the benefits of securing that habitat for wildlife.</div>	<div><ul style="list-style-type: none">Produce, publish, promote, and deliver 35,000 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 and the native trout recovery program.</div> <div>Ongoing</div>
ACA	\$80,871							
Partner	\$10,000							
Total	\$90,871							
<div>Annual Operating Plan</div> <table><tr><td>ACA</td><td>\$8,700</td></tr><tr><td>Partner</td><td>\$0</td></tr><tr><td>Total</td><td>\$8,700</td></tr></table>	ACA	\$8,700	Partner	\$0	Total	\$8,700	<div>Provide stakeholders with information on ACA resource program projects and operations.</div>	<div><ul style="list-style-type: none">Prepare the Annual Operating Plan draft for the ACA Board of Directors meeting, December 2022.Coordinate, edit, and design the Annual Operating Plan.Complete and post the Annual Operating Plan, after ACA Board of Directors approval, in April 2023, to coincide with the fiscal year.</div> <div>Ongoing</div>
ACA	\$8,700							
Partner	\$0							
Total	\$8,700							

Project	Primary Purpose	Expected Outcomes
Annual Report ACA \$9,457 Partner \$0 Total \$9,457	Provide stakeholders financial reporting and transparency in operations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Produce the Annual Report by September 2022. Report audited financial statements to stakeholders. Coordinate editing and post ~ 45 resource program annual summaries (Wildlife, Fisheries, Land, and Communications) online by April 15, 2022. Ongoing
Conservation Magazine Spring/ Summer Fall/ Winter ACA \$97,141 Partner \$6,000 Total \$103,141	Publish a free, biannual magazine that engages multi-interested audiences and connects them with ACA and its conservation projects, member groups, stakeholders, and partners.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Produce, publish, promote, and deliver 30,000 hard copies of Conservation Magazine, seasonally in spring and fall, with digital versions available online. Ongoing
Final Reports ACA \$9,526 Partner \$0 Total \$9,526	Provide publishing support for resource programs within research.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Awareness and accessibility to ongoing project research by ACA. Ongoing
Grants Reports and Forms ACA \$6,872 Partner \$0 Total \$6,872	Provide stakeholders information about ACA Grants Fund projects awarded, allocations, and activities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Post and promote interim reports, annual report, grant information, and application deadlines. Redesign the Grants in Biodiversity website. Enhance the Grants Programs communications. Produce the Grants Fund Annual Report by fall 2022 for grant eligible committee meeting in December 2022. Ongoing
On Site Signage <i>The budget is allocated within the Land Management and Fisheries programs.</i>	Work with the land and fisheries teams to produce branded conservation site signs, Fisheries Access Site signs, and specialty signs as required.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Design and coordinate proofing, quotes, and printing of outdoor signs. Ongoing
Other Publications ACA \$9,779 Partner \$0 Total \$9,779	Work with ACA resource programs, AEP, and member groups to update existing publications as determined.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide publishing support through design, editing, proofing, and printing. Ongoing
Strategic Business Plan ACA \$4,314 Partner \$0 Total \$4,314	Provide an update and review of business plan objectives and goals completed since 2019.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Post and publish the Strategic Business Plan April 2022. Ongoing

Website		
Project	Primary Purpose	Expected Outcomes
Website Media and Development <hr/> ACA \$77,090 Partner \$0 Total \$77,090	ACA's external websites provide an accessible information gateway that engages users and profiles our conservation projects, member groups, Corporate Partners in Conservation, events, and publications.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide access and navigation for users to angling and hunting information including streaming GPS information on collared species by the Government of Canada. Provide ACA conservation projects enhanced profile. Provide online support for donations, event registration, and public engagement. Continually monitor and update website content to ensure the most recent and accurate information is provided and that all links, downloads, and postings are valid and functional. Implement search engine optimization practices at all times. Expand design, navigation, and advertising. Ongoing

Table 7: Education and Outreach Events for 2022/23

Project	Primary Purpose	Expected Outcomes
Wildlife Cameras <hr/> ACA \$10,000 Partner \$5,000 Total \$15,000	Engage the public by providing live-streaming camera feed from nesting peregrine falcons in various locations in Edmonton.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain remote camera infrastructure at existing nest sites. Educate the public about peregrine falcon behaviour, biology, and its threatened status in Alberta, and other species of designation such as the ferruginous hawk. Increase traffic to our website, and engage new audiences in ACA projects and events. Explore opportunities for similar remote camera coverage of other species. Ongoing
Native Trout Recovery <hr/> ACA \$0 Partner \$18,000 Total \$18,000	Engage and educate public audiences to the Alberta Native Trout Recovery Program, and support media efforts of the project partners: Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society (CPAWS), Trout Unlimited Canada (TUC), AEP, Cows & Fish	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote key messaging of endangered native trout species. Host the native trout recovery website. Explore media and point of purchase opportunities for education outreach. Develop and provide media assets as needed. Ongoing
Taber Pheasant Festival <hr/> ACA \$237,042 Partner \$64,500 Total \$301,542	<p>Introduce youth and novice hunters to pheasant hunting, demonstrating responsible and ethical hunting practices.</p> <p>Provide additional pheasant hunting opportunities during this week-long festival.</p> <p>Promote municipal and farming practices that support wildlife and self-sustaining pheasant populations.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to work with local organizations and businesses to support and coordinate the Taber Pheasant Festival. Increase awareness of upland game bird habitat requirements and increase landowner participation in habitat enhancement projects. Encourage continued interest in pheasant and upland game bird hunting beyond the event. Increase overall number of youth and families hunting upland game birds each year (increased hunting licence sales). Introduce non-hunters to positive experiences related to hunting through culinary events, education, and entertainment. Ongoing

Project	Primary Purpose	Expected Outcomes	
Kids Can Catch	Encourage youth and families in communities across Alberta to get outdoors and enjoy angling.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Promote the Kids Can Catch Program as a way for local organizations to introduce youth and adults to fishing, fish conservation, and responsible angling.• Engage local organizations and businesses to support and coordinate family fishing events in communities across Alberta.• Public promotion of 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). Ongoing	
ACA			\$23,705
Partner			\$18,500
Total			\$42,205
Waterfowl Warmup	Host an annual sporting clays fundraiser as an opportunity for the public, businesses, and conservation organizations to support the Report A Poacher program.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Increase awareness of 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. Ongoing	
ACA			\$14,662
Partner			\$21,500
Total			\$36,162
WIN card			
Project	Primary Purpose	Expected Outcomes	
WIN Card Reimbursement	Encourage recruitment of young people into hunting and allow ACA and our member groups to connect with new hunters when they purchase their first Wildlife Identification Number (WIN) card.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Increase the number of youth ages 12 to 17 who complete the Alberta Hunter Education Instructors' Association (AHEIA) Hunter Education Program.• Introduce and connect young hunters to programs, information, and other groups to enhance their experience. Ongoing	
ACA			\$35,150
Partner			\$0
Total			\$35,150



Project: Kids Can Catch
photo: ACA, Charmaine Brunes



Project: SHARP - Species Habitat Assessment and Restoration Partnership
photo: ACA, Amanda Rezansoff

3.2 Wildlife

We have all heard anecdotal stories of the increasing difficulty for the average hunter to gain access on private land. We initiated a survey in early 2021 asking landowners for their perspective with hunter interactions and followed this up with a second survey in late 2021 asking hunters to share their opinions on this same topic. We will synthesize and compare results in 2022 and provide findings to all interested stakeholders.

Forest harvest and reforestation practices influence a great many species. We are partnering with the forest industry and Alberta Trappers Association (ATA) in a new initiative to develop and test an approach to track the response of select species in relation to tree harvest and reforestation. A key component is developing a monitoring protocol that directly engages trappers in collecting standardized data that provides a voice with the forest industry.

The opportunity to hunt turkeys is one of the most highly sought draws annually, although at the current allocation rate most hunters will never be drawn. We look to expand the range of

wild turkey into central Alberta by translocating birds. This is a long-term endeavour that we anticipate will increase hunting opportunity in 8 to 15 years. The long-term outlook for spruce grouse has also become a concern; therefore, we are engaging public participation to better understand population trends and where they may be vulnerable.

Albertans take to the field each year spending countless days hunting and viewing wildlife. We have partnered with iHunter and the University of Alberta (U of A) to develop a tool within the iHunter app for users to track wildlife sightings that both enhances their personal experience and provides supplemental population data. All personal data is secure and summed to the Wildlife Management Unit (WMU) or broader geographic level.

We continue to develop long-lasting relationships with producers and other landowners that benefit wildlife and habitat. This often focuses within low-lying riparian zones that serve as the lifeblood for many species, as well as providing habitat pathways that connect the greater landscape.

Table 8: Wildlife Projects for 2022/23

Wildlife Population Monitoring		
Project	Primary Purpose	Expected Outcomes
Turkey Distribution and Surveys	Identify range and track annual trend of wild turkeys in southwestern Alberta.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Work with landowners and stakeholders to identify the current range and trend of wild turkeys in southwestern Alberta.Develop data set to assess annual recruitment using poult to hen ratios contributed by citizen scientists. Detect change in recruitment among years as data set grows.Conduct field surveys in select areas to track range and annual trends.Augment southwestern population with translocated wild turkeys from other jurisdictions over 5 to 10 years. Ongoing
ACA \$66,993		
Partner \$5,000		
Total \$71,993		
Alberta Volunteer Amphibian Monitoring Program	Volunteer collection of amphibian location data throughout Alberta. Alberta Volunteer Amphibian Monitoring Program (AVAMP).	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Coordinate volunteer collection of amphibian data from across Alberta. Ongoing
ACA \$11,442		
Partner \$0		
Total \$11,442		

Project	Primary Purpose	Expected Outcomes						
ABHuntLog <table><tr><td>ACA</td><td>\$58,824</td></tr><tr><td>Partner</td><td>\$10,000</td></tr><tr><td>Total</td><td>\$68,824</td></tr></table>	ACA	\$58,824	Partner	\$10,000	Total	\$68,824	Tool within iHunter app for users to track wildlife sightings that both enhances their personal experience and provides supplemental population data.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Refine app-based tool that will be valued by hunters to track their wildlife sightings (i.e., moose, elk, deer, bear, game birds).Develop functionality of the app over 3 years.Develop partnership with Métis community.Ensure personal data is secure.Develop metrics from hunters for ungulates to help guide conservation and allocation (gender ratios, age ratios, effort info, etc.).Explore and test approaches for tracking game birds and metrics to indicate trends. Ongoing
ACA	\$58,824							
Partner	\$10,000							
Total	\$68,824							
Hunting Opportunities and Recruitment								
Project	Primary Purpose	Expected Outcomes						
Landowner Hunting Access Survey <table><tr><td>ACA</td><td>\$38,787</td></tr><tr><td>Partner</td><td>\$0</td></tr><tr><td>Total</td><td>\$38,787</td></tr></table>	ACA	\$38,787	Partner	\$0	Total	\$38,787	Assess potential access issues perceived by landowners related to hunters.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Complete publication of survey results focusing on if/how private land access varies regionally and which issues increase/decrease the likelihood of a property being available for hunting by the public.Share results with stakeholders and conservation community. Year 3 of 3
ACA	\$38,787							
Partner	\$0							
Total	\$38,787							
Hunter Perceived Access Survey <table><tr><td>ACA</td><td>\$45,331</td></tr><tr><td>Partner</td><td>\$3,000</td></tr><tr><td>Total</td><td>\$48,331</td></tr></table>	ACA	\$45,331	Partner	\$3,000	Total	\$48,331	Assess potential access issues perceived by hunters.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Undergo analysis and interpretation of results to identify access issues as perceived by hunters: how their experiences vary by type of land designation, region, and target species (e.g., waterfowl vs big game vs upland game birds)? Does a participant’s gender, age, experience, or ethnic background influence their satisfaction with gaining access?Publish survey results and share with stakeholders, public, and conservation community. Year 2 of 3
ACA	\$45,331							
Partner	\$3,000							
Total	\$48,331							
Pheasant Releases to Enhance Hunting Opportunities <table><tr><td>ACA</td><td>\$845,583</td></tr><tr><td>Partner</td><td>\$5,765</td></tr><tr><td>Total</td><td>\$851,348</td></tr></table>	ACA	\$845,583	Partner	\$5,765	Total	\$851,348	Enhance hunting opportunity by releasing pheasants in select locations (provincial).	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Manage and coordinate the pheasant release program within Alberta.Engage volunteer groups to assist with delivery of pheasants at sites.Update and maintain web-based platform to inform hunters of all release sites including detailed maps. Ongoing
ACA	\$845,583							
Partner	\$5,765							
Total	\$851,348							
Upland Gamebird Fall Forecast <table><tr><td>ACA</td><td>\$9,360</td></tr><tr><td>Partner</td><td>\$0</td></tr><tr><td>Total</td><td>\$9,360</td></tr></table>	ACA	\$9,360	Partner	\$0	Total	\$9,360	Survey upland game birds to track population trends.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Engage citizen scientists to count game birds (e.g., pheasant and grey partridge) to detect annual trends to promote hunter recruitment.Publish early fall breeding season recruitment results on our website (and partner websites) to encourage hunter interest. Ongoing
ACA	\$9,360							
Partner	\$0							
Total	\$9,360							
Upland Gamebird 4-H Initiative <table><tr><td>ACA</td><td>\$21,886</td></tr><tr><td>Partner</td><td>\$11,000</td></tr><tr><td>Total</td><td>\$32,886</td></tr></table>	ACA	\$21,886	Partner	\$11,000	Total	\$32,886	Engage and educate 4-H clubs and volunteers to value and raise upland birds (provincial).	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Communicate importance of suitable habitat with 4-H participants to foster long-term interest in habitat.Engage 4-H clubs and volunteers enabling them to raise and sell pheasants.Birds may be sold for hunting opportunities. Ongoing
ACA	\$21,886							
Partner	\$11,000							
Total	\$32,886							

Habitat Stewardship and Enhancement								
Project	Primary Purpose	Expected Outcomes						
MULTISAR – Milk River <table><tr><td>ACA</td><td>\$64,440</td></tr><tr><td>Partner</td><td>\$121,000</td></tr><tr><td>Total</td><td>\$185,440</td></tr></table>	ACA	\$64,440	Partner	\$121,000	Total	\$185,440	Engage landowners with planning and implementation of habitat strategies along the Milk River Basin.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Enhance habitat on collaborating ranch lands (eight to ten) including habitat to benefit sage grouse.Evaluate habitat conservation strategies on select properties.Consult and build relationships with landowners and stakeholder community. Ongoing
ACA	\$64,440							
Partner	\$121,000							
Total	\$185,440							
MULTISAR – West <table><tr><td>ACA</td><td>\$71,218</td></tr><tr><td>Partner</td><td>\$75,000</td></tr><tr><td>Total</td><td>\$146,218</td></tr></table>	ACA	\$71,218	Partner	\$75,000	Total	\$146,218	Engage landowners with planning and implementation of habitat strategies west of Highway 22 in the South Saskatchewan River Basin.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Enhance habitat at two or three ranches.Initiate habitat conservation strategies for one to two ranches.Evaluate habitat conservation strategies on select properties.Consult and build relationships with landowners and stakeholder community. Ongoing
ACA	\$71,218							
Partner	\$75,000							
Total	\$146,218							
MULTISAR – South Saskatchewan <table><tr><td>ACA</td><td>\$158,379</td></tr><tr><td>Partner</td><td>\$358,525</td></tr><tr><td>Total</td><td>\$516,904</td></tr></table>	ACA	\$158,379	Partner	\$358,525	Total	\$516,904	Engage landowners with planning and implementation of habitat strategies through the South Saskatchewan River Basin.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Initiate habitat conservation strategies for one to two ranches.Enhance habitat at three to six ranches.Evaluate habitat conservation strategies on select properties for wildlife.Consult and build relationships with landowners and stakeholder community. Ongoing
ACA	\$158,379							
Partner	\$358,525							
Total	\$516,904							
Alberta Piping Plover Recovery <table><tr><td>ACA</td><td>\$39,698</td></tr><tr><td>Partner</td><td>\$15,000</td></tr><tr><td>Total</td><td>\$54,698</td></tr></table>	ACA	\$39,698	Partner	\$15,000	Total	\$54,698	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.Conduct inventory of plovers at select lakes. Ongoing
ACA	\$39,698							
Partner	\$15,000							
Total	\$54,698							
Pronghorn Fence Enhancement Partnership <table><tr><td>ACA</td><td>\$8,957</td></tr><tr><td>Partner</td><td>\$26,000</td></tr><tr><td>Total</td><td>\$34,957</td></tr></table>	ACA	\$8,957	Partner	\$26,000	Total	\$34,957	Enhance pronghorn movement by assisting AFGA to identify and modify fence lines.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Provide planning map to partner (AFGA) that highlights fences with greater likelihood of limiting pronghorn movement.Assist AFGA coordinate the volunteer removal of barbed or page wire and replace with smooth wire at 46 inches above the ground targeting 45 kilometres per year modified. Ongoing
ACA	\$8,957							
Partner	\$26,000							
Total	\$34,957							
SHARP - Species Habitat Assessment and Restoration Partnership <table><tr><td>ACA</td><td>\$179,603</td></tr><tr><td>Partner</td><td>\$30,000</td></tr><tr><td>Total</td><td>\$209,603</td></tr></table>	ACA	\$179,603	Partner	\$30,000	Total	\$209,603	Engage landowners, county, and other stakeholders to develop and implement habitat strategies that benefit sharp-tailed grouse, ruffed grouse, moose, and other wildlife.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Initiate new habitat conservation strategies at two to three ranches.Initiate inventories at two to three new ranches.Initiate enhancement activities at two to three ranches.Consult and build relationships with new landowners and stakeholder community.Foster wetland retention and restoration. Ongoing
ACA	\$179,603							
Partner	\$30,000							
Total	\$209,603							
Pronghorn Road Crossing Enhancement <table><tr><td>ACA</td><td>\$16,305</td></tr><tr><td>Partner</td><td>\$33,488</td></tr><tr><td>Total</td><td>\$49,793</td></tr></table>	ACA	\$16,305	Partner	\$33,488	Total	\$49,793	Citizen Science approach to identify crossing barrier hot spots along highways near Medicine Hat.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Work with key partners (Miistakis, AEP, Alberta Transportation, Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment, and Saskatchewan Government Insurance) on the Pronghorn Xing citizen science project to identify pronghorn pinch points along highways in Alberta (and Saskatchewan).Assess feasibility of constructing an overpass at each pinch point and then prioritize the pinch points for mitigation strategies.Assess the ability of pronghorn to cross fence lines within the vicinity of Highway 1 and secondary highways.Manuscript on approach of using citizen science to ground truth connectivity for pronghorn, and identify pinch points along highways where movement is hindered. Year 4 of 5
ACA	\$16,305							
Partner	\$33,488							
Total	\$49,793							

Upland Game Bird Enhancement		
Project	Primary Purpose	Expected Outcomes
Habitat Connectivity and Access <hr/> ACA \$194,257 <hr/> Partner \$5,000 <hr/> Total \$199,257	Improve habitat connectivity for upland game birds and hunter access.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to build relationships with irrigation districts and counties to enhance habitat and water quality and improve hunter access. Map range and riparian health surrounding irrigation reservoirs and develop recommended management actions for improvement (three to four reservoirs/year). Collaborate with partners to enhance range and riparian habitat around reservoirs (three to four reservoirs). Work with St. Mary River Irrigation District (SMRID) to design and enhance wildlife habitat on 158 acres on Sauder Reservoir. Engage additional project partners in the delivery of habitat plan. Ongoing
Habitat Legacy Partnership <hr/> ACA \$30,914 <hr/> Partner \$0 <hr/> Total \$30,914	Enhance upland and riparian habitat for upland game birds and other wildlife species.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain existing habitat enhancements. Work with partners toward completion of enhancements in the remaining unfinished zone of the ridge reservoir including boundary surveys, fencing, and implement habitat enhancements. Monitor success of habitat enhancements on select properties designed to improve upland game bird densities. Monitor success of habitat enhancements on select properties designed to improve upland bird densities. Continue working with partnerships in Warner and Cardston counties. Ongoing
Demonstration Farm for Restoring Upland Bird Densities and Biodiversity <hr/> ACA \$77,783 <hr/> Partner \$0 <hr/> Total \$77,783	Collaborate with demonstration farm partners to evaluate approaches for improving upland game bird densities on modern profitable farms.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evaluate approaches for improving recruitment and density of upland game birds (pheasants and grey partridge) and other species (songbirds, amphibians, and invertebrates) on modern profitable farms. Design approaches to improve water regulation, runoff control, while buffering nutrients and sediment. Demonstrate value of perennial habitat including wetlands within farmed systems. Ongoing
Applied Research and Ecological Studies		
Project	Primary Purpose	Expected Outcomes
Forest Grouse Monitoring Initiative <hr/> ACA \$8,410 <hr/> Partner \$0 <hr/> Total \$8,410	Pilot approaches to monitor and map forest grouse (especially spruce grouse) and identify knowledge gaps.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pilot approaches to monitor forest grouse (spruce, dusky, and ruffed) and potentially sharp-tailed grouse, with citizen scientists including ATA trappers. Develop metrics for monitoring presence/absence and trends in registered fur management area (RFMA; trappers) and with broader citizen science community. Develop questions for inclusion in wildlife app. Year 2 of 5

Project	Primary Purpose	Expected Outcomes						
<div>Furbearer Trends (ACA/ ATA Partnership)</div> <table><tr><td>ACA</td><td>\$77,493</td></tr><tr><td>Partner</td><td>\$0</td></tr><tr><td>Total</td><td>\$77,493</td></tr></table>	ACA	\$77,493	Partner	\$0	Total	\$77,493	Refine approach for trappers to produce an index of furbearer population trends. (province-wide).	<div><ul style="list-style-type: none">Assist ATA and AEP to develop a tracking system for marten harvesting and trapping effort that provides reliable population indices.Produce marten harvest parameters that could be used for population modelling (e.g., age class, sex ratio, harvest effort; 5+ years of data needed).Determine if similar data could be provided for quota species (wolverine, otter, lynx, and fisher).</div> <div>Year 5 of 6</div>
ACA	\$77,493							
Partner	\$0							
Total	\$77,493							
<div>Wildlife Response to Forest Harvest Design</div> <table><tr><td>ACA</td><td>\$84,234</td></tr><tr><td>Partner</td><td>\$0</td></tr><tr><td>Total</td><td>\$84,234</td></tr></table>	ACA	\$84,234	Partner	\$0	Total	\$84,234	Develop approach to track wildlife response to forest harvest and reforestation.	<div><ul style="list-style-type: none">Develop a monitoring protocol using trapper-collected data that assesses wildlife (furbearer) response to forest design.Strengthen the credibility of ATA and trapper-based monitoring.Supplement our understanding of furbearer trends with primary information collected from trapper harvest logbooks by adding wildlife response to habitat-based predictors.Track patterns of furbearer metrics (and possibly other key wildlife indicators such as spruce grouse) associated with forestry approaches to harvest design and reforestation.Develop monitoring approach that directly engages trappers in collecting standardized data on furbearer and key wildlife indicators enabling them a voice with forest operators.</div> <div>New</div>
ACA	\$84,234							
Partner	\$0							
Total	\$84,234							
<div>Pronghorn Movement Enhancement</div> <table><tr><td>ACA</td><td>\$32,979</td></tr><tr><td>Partner</td><td>\$0</td></tr><tr><td>Total</td><td>\$32,979</td></tr></table>	ACA	\$32,979	Partner	\$0	Total	\$32,979	Develop standards for multi-species wildlife-friendly fence design.	<div><ul style="list-style-type: none">Assess if goat-bars or clips on the top two wires allows easier passage over the fence by deer and elk, while not interfering with the passage by pronghorn. Manuscript is in progress and will be submitted early 2022.Book chapter being completed titled “Pronghorn” with a second chapter titled “Road ecology: synthesis and perspectives on fences and roads, similarities and differences”.Assess the temporal patterns and interspecific competition of ungulates and predators from existing camera trap data.</div> <div>Year 5 of 5</div>
ACA	\$32,979							
Partner	\$0							
Total	\$32,979							



Project: Pronghorn Fence Enhancement Partnership
photo: ACA, Amanda MacDonald



Project: Westslope Cutthroat Trout Population and Habitat Monitoring
photo: ACA, Logan Redman

3.3 Fisheries

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

The lakes we aerate are prone to both summer and winter fish kills due to low dissolved oxygen (DO) but through aeration, we maintain DO at levels that promote year-round survival of stocked trout. We currently aerate 22 lakes, including Peanut Lake, which we began aerating in the fall of 2021. Each year, ACA receives several requests for new aeration projects across the province. Given the substantial cost associated with aeration, we carefully screen requests, including field surveys where data is lacking, to ensure that we address AEP provincial-level priorities. In 2022/23, we will begin screening three new lakes, as well as developing infrastructure and establishing partnerships toward aeration of Little Bear Lake. In addition, we provide technical and material support to the County of Two Hills for aeration of Jackfish Lake.

Stocked fish populations are an important component of Alberta's recreational angling experience. In 2022/23, we will stock over 122,000 catchable-sized (i.e., 20 cm) rainbow, brown, brook, and tiger trout into 65 ponds, creating "put-and-take fisheries" that allow anglers to harvest up to five fish per day. Most stocked ponds are near urban areas, making them popular family destinations and ideal for the recruitment of new anglers. In collaboration with AEP, we continue to explore the feasibility of stocking sterile hybrid channel catfish in Alberta for recreational fisheries. Some of the ponds we stock do not support trout survival beyond mid-summer due to poor water quality, particularly low DO and high temperatures. From an extensive review of cool- and warm-water sport fish candidates we undertook in 2020, we identified channel catfish as the best alternative species for such ponds (i.e., ponds with marginal trout habitat). Channel catfish do not currently occur in Alberta, so the cultural, social, and ecological implications of their introduction are being carefully assessed.

Effective management of recreational fisheries requires accurate information on resource use. 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 management and fishing regulation changes. This year's surveys evaluate the effects of various harvest manipulations and fishing regulation changes at select walleye and northern pike fisheries.

Over the past several decades, various anthropogenic activities have resulted in habitat degradation and population decline for most sport fish species across the province of Alberta, including native trout and Arctic grayling. Several of our projects in 2022/23 aid in implementing the provincial Native Trout Recovery Program, as well as support the development of management plans for priority species. Projects in the Clearwater, Ram, McLeod, Wildhay, Oldman, and Livingston river systems variously determine the distribution, abundance, spawning, and habitat of native trout species; the potential of fish passage barriers to serve as conservation agents for native trout; the potential for streams and lakes to support westslope cutthroat trout (WSCT) range expansion, and on the ground remediation of point source sedimentation to native trout streams. The Beaverlodge River project fills in data gaps to support Arctic grayling restoration in that system.

Overall, our project complement reflects the emphasis of our Fisheries Program on the enhancement and diversity of recreational fishing opportunities across the province. It also generates information required for the development of provincial and federal conservation initiatives, particularly targeted at sport fish species. Successful implementation of Fisheries Program activities involves the support of numerous partnerships consisting of provincial and federal governments, industry, non-governmental organizations, counties/municipalities, and other interested groups.

Table 9: Fisheries Projects for 2022/23

Development and Implementation of Aeration and ACA Fish Stocking Plans								
Project	Primary Purpose	Expected Outcomes						
<div>Lake Aeration</div> <table><tr><td>ACA</td><td>\$426,154</td></tr><tr><td>Partner</td><td>\$30,265</td></tr><tr><td>Total</td><td>\$456,419</td></tr></table>	ACA	\$426,154	Partner	\$30,265	Total	\$456,419	Create or enhance recreational angling opportunities for Albertans by aerating lakes to promote year-round survival of stocked fish.	<div><ul style="list-style-type: none">Reduce risk of summer and winter kills of stocked trout in 22 waterbodies distributed within ACA regional boundaries as follows:<ol style="list-style-type: none">Northwestern Region (seven waterbodies): Cecil Thompson Pond; and Figure Eight, Swan, Sulphur, Spring, East Dollar, and West Dollar lakes.Central Region (eight waterbodies): Beaver, Mitchell, Fiesta, Birch, and Winchell lakes; Hansens Reservoir; and Ironside and Kerbes ponds.Southern Region (one waterbody): Coleman Fish and Game Pond.Northeastern Region (six waterbodies): Radway Fish Pond; and Muir, Spring, Millers, Hasse, and Peanut lakes. Peanut Lake is a new addition from the fall of 2021.</div> <div>Ongoing</div>
ACA	\$426,154							
Partner	\$30,265							
Total	\$456,419							
<div>New Lake Aeration Development</div> <table><tr><td>ACA</td><td>\$41,782</td></tr><tr><td>Partner</td><td>\$2,000</td></tr><tr><td>Total</td><td>\$43,782</td></tr></table>	ACA	\$41,782	Partner	\$2,000	Total	\$43,782	Explore additional aeration opportunities across the province.	<div><ul style="list-style-type: none">Screen three new candidate lakes for potential aeration: Blue Ridge Pit, Petite, and Chatwin lakes.Develop infrastructure and establish partnerships to aerate Little Bear Lake.Provide technical support to the County of Two Hills for winter aeration on Jackfish Lake.</div> <div>Ongoing</div>
ACA	\$41,782							
Partner	\$2,000							
Total	\$43,782							
<div>Fish Stocking</div> <table><tr><td>ACA</td><td>\$355,940</td></tr><tr><td>Partner</td><td>\$30,776</td></tr><tr><td>Total</td><td>\$386,716</td></tr></table>	ACA	\$355,940	Partner	\$30,776	Total	\$386,716	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 approximately 122,000 (20 cm) trout, consisting of rainbow, brook, brown, and tiger trout into 65 waterbodies.</div> <div>Ongoing</div>
ACA	\$355,940							
Partner	\$30,776							
Total	\$386,716							
<div>Fish Stocking Expansion – Channel Catfish Ponds</div> <table><tr><td>ACA</td><td>\$131,150</td></tr><tr><td>Partner</td><td>\$0</td></tr><tr><td>Total</td><td>\$131,150</td></tr></table>	ACA	\$131,150	Partner	\$0	Total	\$131,150	Expand scope and diversity in fish stocking activities to complement currently stocked trout.	<div><ul style="list-style-type: none">Provide ongoing support for the proposal submitted to AEP to import hybrid channel catfish into Alberta for recreational fisheries enhancement.Pending approval, obtain sterile, disease-free hybrid channel catfish and assess suitability for stocking. Fish will be held and evaluated at the biosecurity facility of Aquaculture Centre of Excellence in Lethbridge.Identify ponds suitable for field evaluation of experimental stocking of hybrid channel catfish.</div> <div>Ongoing – new focus</div>
ACA	\$131,150							
Partner	\$0							
Total	\$131,150							
<div>Fish Stocking Expansion – New Lakes</div> <table><tr><td>ACA</td><td>\$23,355</td></tr><tr><td>Partner</td><td>\$0</td></tr><tr><td>Total</td><td>\$23,355</td></tr></table>	ACA	\$23,355	Partner	\$0	Total	\$23,355	Identify and evaluate new waterbodies for stocking to increase recreational fishing opportunities, particularly close to urban areas.	<div><ul style="list-style-type: none">Evaluate, and where suitable, stock candidate waterbodies identified in 2021/22, including Chestermere Pond (Highways 1 and 9) and Rotary Park Pond (Westlock).Collaborate with local AEP biologists to develop one borrow pit along Highway 63 near Fort McMurray.Continue to identify potential candidate waterbodies for screening.Continue partnership discussions with local communities and organizations such as Alberta Transportation, AFGA, etc. to identify and enhance existing waterbodies or construct new ones for recreational fishing.</div> <div>Ongoing</div>
ACA	\$23,355							
Partner	\$0							
Total	\$23,355							

Project	Primary Purpose	Expected Outcomes	
Fish Pond Rehabilitation	Improve water quality and physical characteristics of select stocked ponds. Examine potential of alum to improve DO conditions in treated ponds.	Obtain necessary Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act permits from AEP to conduct pilot alum treatment on Westlock Pond to examine potential of alum to control phosphorus levels, as well as improve summer and winter DO conditions. Ongoing	
ACA			\$19,317
Partner			\$0
Total			\$19,317
Assessment of Angler Demographics, Effort, Catch, and Harvest			
Project	Primary Purpose	Expected Outcomes	
Effectiveness of Walleye-Pike Fishing Regulations	Evaluate effect of different harvest strategies at select walleye and northern pike fisheries.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Assess impacts of angling effort, harvest, and angler perspective on fisheries under different harvest regimes. Candidate lakes are Lac Ste. Anne, Pigeon, Buck, and Gull.Use of data by AEP to inform evaluation of harvest management strategies for walleye and pike fisheries. Year 2 of 3	
ACA			\$96,446
Partner			\$0
Total			\$96,446
Fish Stocking Evaluation	Evaluate fish population demographics and fishing pressure at ACA stocked ponds.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Use trail cameras and citizen science to estimate angler effort and catch at select stocked ponds.Determine abundance and size structure of stocked fish in Windsor Lake and Mirror Reservoir.Collect data and produce bathymetric maps for County Sportsplex and Shell True North ponds. Ongoing	
ACA			\$32,390
Partner			\$0
Total			\$32,390
Assessment of Lower Profile Game Species	Determine current and potential recreational fishing opportunities for lower profile game species: burbot, goldeye, and mooneye.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Conduct social survey to determine current angler perspectives and potential interests in these species.Determine state of current information and data gaps on these species to develop a more comprehensive study plan for subsequent years.Create interactive data interface and map with species and abundance/population structure depending on data availability.Conduct pilot survey to verify burbot capture technique (cod traps); candidate lakes are Peerless and/or Musreau. Year 1 - new	
ACA			\$43,318
Partner			\$0
Total			\$43,318



Project: Lake Aeration
photo: ACA, Dave Jackson

Applied Research								
Project	Primary Purpose	Expected Outcomes						
<div>Oxygen-Temperature Trends in the Beaverlodge Redwillow River Watershed</div> <table><tr><td>ACA</td><td>\$32,078</td></tr><tr><td>Partner</td><td>\$0</td></tr><tr><td>Total</td><td>\$32,078</td></tr></table>	ACA	\$32,078	Partner	\$0	Total	\$32,078	Fill-in data gaps to support Arctic grayling restoration in the Beaverlodge River system.	<div><div><div>· Determine spatial and temporal trends of DO and temperature in the Beaverlodge Redwillow River watershed.</div></div><div>Year 1 of 2 - new</div></div>
ACA	\$32,078							
Partner	\$0							
Total	\$32,078							
<div>Owl River Fish Habitat Protection</div> <table><tr><td>ACA</td><td>\$0</td></tr><tr><td>Partner</td><td>\$59,260</td></tr><tr><td>Total</td><td>\$59,260</td></tr></table>	ACA	\$0	Partner	\$59,260	Total	\$59,260	Restoration and protection of Owl River riparian and fish habitat.	<div><div><div>· Determine fish community composition in the Owl River.</div></div><div>1 Year – component deferred from last year.</div></div>
ACA	\$0							
Partner	\$59,260							
Total	\$59,260							
Implementation of Approved Fish Species Recovery and Management Plans								
Project	Primary Purpose	Expected Outcomes						
<div>Upper McLeod River Native Trout Inventory</div> <table><tr><td>ACA</td><td>\$62,359</td></tr><tr><td>Partner</td><td>\$39,301</td></tr><tr><td>Total</td><td>\$101,660</td></tr></table>	ACA	\$62,359	Partner	\$39,301	Total	\$101,660	Determine abundance, distribution, and stream habitat to provide current information to aid the Native Trout Recovery Program.	<div><div><div>· Describe abundance, distribution, and habitat for at-risk native trout species in the Upper McLeod River watershed.</div></div><div>Year 2 of 2</div></div>
ACA	\$62,359							
Partner	\$39,301							
Total	\$101,660							
<div>Westslope Cutthroat Trout Population and Habitat Monitoring</div> <table><tr><td>ACA</td><td>\$62,387</td></tr><tr><td>Partner</td><td>\$21,675</td></tr><tr><td>Total</td><td>\$84,062</td></tr></table>	ACA	\$62,387	Partner	\$21,675	Total	\$84,062	Monitor WSCT population responses in priority Hydraulic Unit Code (HUC) 10 watersheds to land use management changes under the new Livingstone-Porcupine Hills Recreation Management Plan.	<div><div><div>· Determine distribution, abundance, and population structure of WSCT in four high priority HUC10 watersheds in the upper Oldman system: upper Oldman and Livingstone rivers and Dutch and Hidden creeks.</div></div><div>Year 5 of 5</div></div>
ACA	\$62,387							
Partner	\$21,675							
Total	\$84,062							
<div>Ram River Bull Trout Assessment</div> <table><tr><td>ACA</td><td>\$53,319</td></tr><tr><td>Partner</td><td>\$13,995</td></tr><tr><td>Total</td><td>\$67,314</td></tr></table>	ACA	\$53,319	Partner	\$13,995	Total	\$67,314	Determine abundance of native trout in response to management actions in priority HUCs as part of the Native Trout Recovery Program.	<div><div><div>· Estimate the number of adult (i.e., >249 mm FL) bull trout exiting Fall Creek post-spawn.</div><div>· Estimate the number of bull trout redds and associated observer error in Fall Creek.</div></div><div>Year 5 of 5</div></div>
ACA	\$53,319							
Partner	\$13,995							
Total	\$67,314							
<div>Westslope Cutthroat Trout Range Expansion</div> <table><tr><td>ACA</td><td>\$261,033</td></tr><tr><td>Partner</td><td>\$92,309</td></tr><tr><td>Total</td><td>\$353,342</td></tr></table>	ACA	\$261,033	Partner	\$92,309	Total	\$353,342	Evaluate streams and lakes above fish passage barriers for potential WSCT range expansion.	<div><div><div>· Provide AEP managers with a master table that ranks feasibilities of WSCT translocation sites based on habitat and community metrics.</div><div>· Use range expansion rankings to identify data gaps, and guide stream water quality and temperature monitoring in candidate watersheds.</div><div>· Conduct Remote Streamside Incubations (RSI) to help establish new WSCT populations at select streams.</div><div>· Determine overwintering and spawning potential at priority candidate streams and high mountain lakes, for range expansion suitability.</div><div>· Use trail cameras to estimate angler use at popular WSCT and select high mountain lakes.</div></div><div>Year 3 of 4 – new focus</div></div>
ACA	\$261,033							
Partner	\$92,309							
Total	\$353,342							

Project	Primary Purpose	Expected Outcomes
Wildhay River Native Trout Inventory ACA \$44,327 Partner \$67,680 Total \$112,007	Determine abundance, distribution, and stream habitat to provide current information to aid the Native Trout Recovery Program.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe abundance, distribution, and habitat for at-risk native trout species in the Wild Hay River watershed. Year 1 of 2 - new
Upper Clearwater River Native Trout Recovery ACA \$34,724 Partner \$15,040 Total \$49,764	Mitigate threats to native trout in support of the Native Trout Recovery Program.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify spawning habitat for bull trout in Elk, Pepper, and Cutoff creeks. Remediate point-source sedimentation to Elk, Pepper, and Cutoff creeks. Year 1 - new



Project: Ram River Bull Trout Assessment
photo: ACA, Chad Judd



Project: Conservation Site Management
photo: ACA, Sarah Bradley

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, enhancement, 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 conserve land including direct purchase, land donations, and habitat lease agreements.

We currently manage over 220,000 acres of habitat within Alberta. This includes fisheries access sites, managed Crown properties, ACA-titled lands, lands with conservation easements, and other habitat 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 that provide short- and long-term objectives to achieve our conservation goals.

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, 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 23 fisheries access sites across the province, providing angling opportunities to a variety of rivers, lakes, and stocked ponds. We are also in our fifth year of our Recreational Opportunity Enhancement project which looks at increasing and enhancing hunting and angling opportunities. A key component of this project is to improve access to Crown waterbodies and 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, and expand the program to other areas of the province.

The Alberta Discover Guide, and iPhone and Android apps, developed with ACA's Communications Program, are important tools that highlight the value of habitat conservation and the diversity of recreational opportunities available to Albertans. The 2022 edition is the 14th installment and features over 786 ACA and partner-owned sites across the province including 339 sites owned by DUC and 112 by AFGA.

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

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

Table 10: Land Management Projects for 2022/23

Securement, Enhancement, and Management of Fish and Wildlife Habitat (includes Inventory, Assessment, and Monitoring)								
Project	Primary Purpose	Expected Outcomes						
<div>Conservation Site Management</div> <table><tr><td>ACA</td><td>\$462,099</td></tr><tr><td>Partner</td><td>\$202,780</td></tr><tr><td>Total</td><td>\$664,879</td></tr></table>	ACA	\$462,099	Partner	\$202,780	Total	\$664,879	Manage, enhance, and maintain ACA conservation sites to provide a diversity of habitat for a variety of fish and wildlife species and provide recreational opportunities on ACA and partner-owned conservation sites.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Manage, enhance, and maintain over 220,000 acres of habitat on over 380 conservation sites in the province.Complete inspections on at least 60 percent of ACA-owned and managed conservation sites.Install new signage on five ACA conservation sites.Enhance wildlife habitat on nine ACA conservation sites (tree/shrub planting, grass re-seeding, and wildlife friendly fencing).Enhance sustainable recreational opportunities on seven ACA-owned and managed sites (barriers to unauthorized access, parking areas, v-gates, and pheasant release sites).Maintain and develop collaborative partnerships that assist with achieving management goals on conservation sites.Continue to work collaboratively with AEP on a disposition process for management of priority Crown conservation sites (title/dispositions/divestment).Continue to develop guideline documents for permitted and non-permitted activities on conservation sites.Continue to advertise and promote conservation sites to stakeholders and the public using print and digital media (e.g., ACA website, Conservation Magazine, Alberta Discover Guide, electronic newsletter, social media, and conservation site signage). Ongoing
ACA	\$462,099							
Partner	\$202,780							
Total	\$664,879							
<div>Habitat Securement</div> <table><tr><td>ACA</td><td>\$847,242</td></tr><tr><td>Partner</td><td>\$1,035,000</td></tr><tr><td>Total</td><td>\$1,882,242</td></tr></table>	ACA	\$847,242	Partner	\$1,035,000	Total	\$1,882,242	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 1,000 acres of important wildlife and/or fish habitat through land purchase and land donations within focal areas.Maintain a collaborative partnership with Environment Canada's Habitat Stewardship Program (Species at Risk and Prevention Stream) to conserve species at risk (SAR) habitat in the South Saskatchewan River Watershed.Maintain, enhance, and expand other securement partnerships, and conserve important habitat within focal areas across Alberta.Increase sustainable recreational opportunities across the province.Collaborate with government on conservation offset program where applicable.Apply to applicable grants to enhance securement opportunities (e.g., Land Trust Grant). Ongoing
ACA	\$847,242							
Partner	\$1,035,000							
Total	\$1,882,242							
<div>Corporate Partners (Securement)</div> <table><tr><td>ACA</td><td>\$27,872</td></tr><tr><td>Partner</td><td>\$0</td></tr><tr><td>Total</td><td>\$27,872</td></tr></table>	ACA	\$27,872	Partner	\$0	Total	\$27,872	Conserve, enhance, and restore priority wildlife and fish habitat with corporate partners.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Secure 320 acres of important wildlife and/or fish habitat through direct land purchase within focal areas.Maintain and expand current corporate partnerships.Increase the number of corporate partners actively donating to ACA.Increase sustainable recreational opportunities across the province. Ongoing
ACA	\$27,872							
Partner	\$0							
Total	\$27,872							

Project	Primary Purpose	Expected Outcomes						
<div>Landowner Habitat Program (LHP)</div> <table><tr><td>ACA</td><td>\$153,899</td></tr><tr><td>Partner</td><td>\$33,999</td></tr><tr><td>Total</td><td>\$187,898</td></tr></table>	ACA	\$153,899	Partner	\$33,999	Total	\$187,898	Conserve important habitat and increase recreational opportunities on privately owned lands through habitat lease agreements and Use Respect – Ask First signage.	<div><ul style="list-style-type: none">Conserve an additional 320 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 deeded lands with reasonable public access requirements.Foster respect between land users and landowners.Increase awareness and enhance hunting and angling opportunities on privately owned lands across Alberta by distributing Use Respect–Ask First signage.Display Use Respect–Ask First banners within ACA Regions to promote Use Respect–Ask First signage (government and municipality offices, trade shows, etc.).</div> <div>Ongoing</div>
ACA	\$153,899							
Partner	\$33,999							
Total	\$187,898							
<div>Riparian Conservation Program (RCP)</div> <div><div>1. NE Riparian Program</div><div>Owl River</div><div>2. NW Riparian Program</div><div>Beaverlodge River</div><div>3. South Riparian Program</div><div>Beaver, Callum, and Todd Creeks, Milk River Ridge Reservoir</div><div>4. Central Riparian Program</div><div>North Raven and Raven Rivers, Dogpound Creek</div></div> <table><tr><td>ACA</td><td>\$163,271</td></tr><tr><td>Partner</td><td>\$377,064</td></tr><tr><td>Total</td><td>\$540,335</td></tr></table>	ACA	\$163,271	Partner	\$377,064	Total	\$540,335	Continue to enhance, restore, and protect riparian habitat through collaboration with private landowners, watershed groups, government, industry, and other stakeholders.	<div><ul style="list-style-type: none">Establish new riparian conservation projects and associated landowner agreements (e.g., fencing, off-channel watering, habitat retention agreements, tree planting, and bank stabilization).Continue to inspect and monitor existing riparian agreements.Explore opportunities to expand riparian conservation programming in the various regions.Increase public interest and awareness of riparian conservation through community outreach, public presentations, direct contact with key landowners, signage, and advertisements.Complete riparian health assessments and inventories at new and existing project locations and conduct water sampling to monitor water quality.Participate in watershed groups, councils, and stewardship networks.Continue to explore the option of ACA becoming involved in wetland restoration and examine the opportunity of a wetland banking system.Increase angling opportunities on private lands with reasonable public access requirements.</div> <div>Ongoing</div>
ACA	\$163,271							
Partner	\$377,064							
Total	\$540,335							



Project: Riparian Conservation Program
photo: ACA, Erin Vandermarel

Development and Implementation of Habitat Management Plans			
Project	Primary Purpose	Expected Outcomes	
Management Plan Development	Develop management plans for conservation sites ACA owns or manages.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Develop habitat management and enhancement objectives and identify project partner roles and responsibilities for priority conservation sites.Complete management plans on any properties recently secured through the Habitat Securement Program or Corporate Partners Program in which ACA is the project lead.Prioritize and develop management plans for priority Crown conservation sites (sites with dispositions).Work with partners and update management plans as required. Ongoing	
ACA			\$113,310
Partner			\$0
Total			\$113,310
Securement, Enhancement, and Management of Recreational Access Sites			
Project	Primary Purpose	Expected Outcomes	
Fisheries Access Site Management	Maintain and enhance fisheries access sites that support and increase recreational angling opportunities across the province.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Manage and maintain 23 fisheries access sites across the province.Continue with maintenance contracts at fisheries access sites.Continue to work on the development of the fisheries access site facilities at Boulder Lake.Continue to work on securing access to Chestermere Pond and Women's Coulee Reservoir to develop future fisheries access sites.Continue to work collaboratively with AEP on Crown Fisheries Access Site 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 to identify and create new angling opportunities and develop new fisheries access sites.Continue to complete minor maintenance on agreed-to water control structures. Ongoing	
ACA			\$186,825
Partner			\$41,525
Total			\$228,350
Recreational Opportunity Enhancement	Increase opportunities for hunting and angling, as well as other non-consumptive activities such as hiking, canoeing, or photography.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Expand the access sign-in process currently employed in southern Alberta.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. Ongoing	
ACA			\$39,790
Partner			\$0
Total			\$39,790
Alberta Discover Guide <i>The budget is allocated within the Communications Program.</i>	Promote the value of habitat conservation and the diversity of recreational opportunities available on ACA-owned and partner conservation sites.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Continue to promote and distribute the Alberta Discover Guide.Review and update the conservation site database with new ACA conservation sites and partner-owned properties for the 14th edition of the Alberta Discover Guide (2022). Ongoing	

4.0 Report A Poacher

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

As such, in 2022/23, we will continue to: 1) identify ways to educate the public about poaching in Alberta; 2) refine various promotional aspects of the program; 3) improve public awareness of, and access to, the program; 4) support AJSG with funding; 5) continue to partner with AHEIA on the RAP education trailer; and 6) provide funds for cash rewards to members of the public who help in charging poachers.

Table 11: Report A Poacher Projects for 2022/23

Project	Primary Purpose	Expected Outcomes
Report A Poacher Promotion	Continue promotion of the RAP Program.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">· Increase public awareness and understanding of poaching and maintain/increase use of RAP Program by the public through:<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Using various media to increase the general exposure of the RAP Program.- Working with AHEIA to operate the RAP education trailer and making available for use by AJSG and AEP.- Maintaining sufficient stock of promotional items used for trade shows and community/stakeholder events, as well as research new items that maximize exposure.- Ensure the RAP toll-free line has an operator available at all times, with increased capacity during peak periods.
ACA	\$142,055	
Partner	\$0	
Total	\$142,055	
Enforcement Funding	Provide funding to AJSG.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">· Assist in maintaining effectiveness of AJSG.
ACA	\$80,000	
Partner	\$0	
Total	\$80,000	
RAP Rewards	Provide funding for rewards paid to members of the public who provide information leading to a poaching-related conviction.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">· Increase public participation in the RAP Program through monetary incentives.
ACA	\$80,000	
Partner	\$0	
Total	\$80,000	



Know the regulations.

Not knowing is not an excuse. Hunt Responsibly.

REPORT A POACHER
www.reportapoacher.com
1-800-642-3800





Project: ACA Grants (ACA Grants in Biodiversity)
photo: Benjamin Larue

5.0 ACA Grants

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

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

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

ACA Grants in Biodiversity (GiB) provide research funds to outstanding graduate students doing Alberta-based research. The mandate of the program is to increase knowledge of the flora and fauna of Alberta, covering broadly the fields of biodiversity, conservation biology, ecology, and social sciences. By enabling graduate students in these areas, the program also trains future conservation professionals. This grant is available only to masters and doctorate 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.



Project: ACA Grants (ACA Conservation, Community, and Education Grants)
photo: Northern Sunrise County

Table 12: Grants Program for 2022/23

Project	Primary Purpose	Expected Outcomes						
<div>ACA Conservation, Community, and Education Grants</div> <table><tr><td>ACA</td><td>\$970,000</td></tr><tr><td>Partner</td><td>\$0</td></tr><tr><td>Total</td><td>\$970,000</td></tr></table>	ACA	\$970,000	Partner	\$0	Total	\$970,000	ACA CCEGs fund conservation activities by individuals (with appropriate insurance coverage), organizations, and communities that contribute to healthy wildlife and fish populations, to a healthy environment for wildlife and fish in Alberta, and to the understanding, appreciation, and use of that environment. This grant program will also fund projects that increase the level of attendance and awareness of outdoor opportunities, while developing knowledge and respect for conservation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Increase in quality and quantity of habitat available for wildlife, especially Alberta’s endangered species and fish populations.• Engagement of Albertans in stewardship activities.• Increase in fishing opportunities in Alberta.• Greater understanding of the impact of non-native species on native species in Alberta.• Increase in numbers of active hunters, anglers, and trappers and increased awareness of hunting/fishing/trapping opportunities in Alberta.• Increase in awareness of conservation issues in Alberta and the relationship between conservation and hunting, fishing, and trapping.
ACA	\$970,000							
Partner	\$0							
Total	\$970,000							
<div>ACA Research Grants</div> <table><tr><td>ACA</td><td>\$330,000</td></tr><tr><td>Partner</td><td>\$0</td></tr><tr><td>Total</td><td>\$330,000</td></tr></table>	ACA	\$330,000	Partner	\$0	Total	\$330,000	ACA RG funds high-quality research projects on wildlife, fish, and habitat that inform the effective management of wildlife and fish populations, and habitat in Alberta.	<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	\$330,000							
Partner	\$0							
Total	\$330,000							
<div>ACA Grants in Biodiversity</div> <table><tr><td>ACA</td><td>\$175,749</td></tr><tr><td>Partner</td><td>\$50,000</td></tr><tr><td>Total</td><td>\$225,749</td></tr></table>	ACA	\$175,749	Partner	\$50,000	Total	\$225,749	ACA GiB support the training of future professional researchers 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 and researchers.• Support high-quality research and study in Alberta by graduate students, with an average of 20 students supported annually.
ACA	\$175,749							
Partner	\$50,000							
Total	\$225,749							
<div>ACA Chair in Fisheries and Wildlife at the U of A</div> <table><tr><td>ACA</td><td>\$20,500</td></tr><tr><td>Partner</td><td>\$0</td></tr><tr><td>Total</td><td>\$20,500</td></tr></table>	ACA	\$20,500	Partner	\$0	Total	\$20,500	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.
ACA	\$20,500							
Partner	\$0							
Total	\$20,500							

6.0 Compensation and Damage Prevention

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

Waterfowl Crop Damage Prevention Program

This program assists agricultural producers to help prevent depredation losses to crops caused by waterfowl, by providing information on loss-prevention techniques and scare cannons. These activities complement the joint federal-provincial financial compensation program, which requires that a prevention program be provided 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 AJSG. ACA is responsible for making the compensation payments to the agricultural producers as per a set payment schedule. In 2022/23, the federal government will continue to supply 48 percent 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: Compensation and Damage Prevention Projects for 2022/23

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 processed claims from AEP.
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 processed claims from AEP.
ACA		
Partner		
Total		



Project: Alberta Hunt Log
photo: ACA, Sue Peters

7.0 Monitoring and Accountability

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

Project leads are responsible for providing monthly updates to their manager who reports results to the Management Team, ensuring projects are on track. These updates allow us to address and resolve any issues in a timely manner. In addition, project leads prepare annual summary reports that are posted on our website by April 30 each year. These summary reports are reviewed as part of an internal quality control process 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.

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

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



Project: MULTISAR – Milk River
photo: B. Moltzahn

8.0 Financial Summary

Our 2022/23 operating budget, including projected land donations and funds donated for land purchase, is \$18,718,522.

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

Our 2022/23 budget is based on a levy revenue projection of \$15,324,158 (established from historical levy revenues over the past 5 years), a projection of partner (non-levy) revenue for projects of \$2,394,364 and a projection of partner (non-levy) donations of land or funds for land purchase of \$1,000,000.

\$14,412,158 is allocated to Wildlife, Fisheries, Land Management (including land purchase and donations), Information, Education, and Communications, RAP, Grant, and Compensation programs. This amount is equivalent to 94 percent of the levy revenue value collected from hunters and anglers being put directly back into our natural resources.

Table 14: Summary Budget for 2022/23

Program	ACA (Levy Funds)	Partner Funds	Total Budget
Administration	\$2,265,304	\$42,560	\$2,307,864
Finance	\$735,464	\$41,000	\$776,464
Business Development	\$338,568	\$0	\$338,568
Human Resources	301,477	\$0	\$301,477
Health and Safety	135,385	\$0	\$135,385
Information Technology	\$446,605	\$0	\$446,605
Information, Education, and Communications	\$1,389,404	\$146,125	\$1,535,529
Wildlife	\$2,773,560	\$757,111	\$3,530,671
Fisheries	\$2,255,561	\$438,784	\$2,694,346
Land Management	\$2,040,004	\$768,783	\$2,808,787
Report A Poacher (RAP)	\$302,055	\$0	\$302,055
Compensation and Damage Prevention	\$169,880	\$150,000	\$319,880
Grants	\$1,570,890	\$50,000	\$1,620,890
Subtotal Budget	\$14,724,158	\$2,394,364	\$17,118,522
Land Donations and Funds for Land Purchases	\$600,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,600,000
TOTAL BUDGET	\$15,324,158	\$3,394,364	\$18,718,522



Project: Fish Stocking
photo: ACA, Charmaine Brunes



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Travis Ripley – Minister's Representative, Alberta Environment and Parks

Jeana Schuurman – Alberta Professional Outfitters Society

Richard Stamp – Public At Large, Southern Region

Brent Watson – Alberta Bowhunters Association

Vacant – Northern Board Liaison

Vacant – Public At Large, Business Representative

Vacant – Public At Large, Indigenous Board Liaison

Vacant – Treaty 8

Member Groups

Alberta Bowhunters Association

Alberta Fish & Game Association

Alberta Hunter Education Instructors' Association

Alberta Professional Outfitters Society

Alberta Trappers' Association

Backcountry Hunters & Anglers - Alberta Chapter

Nature Alberta

Pheasants Forever, Alberta Council

Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta

Trout Unlimited Canada

Wild Sheep Foundation Alberta



