

# Annual Operating Plan 2023/24









wildlife | fish | habitat

### Our Vision

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

### Our Mission

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

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Cover photo: ACA, Terri Perron  
Project: Lake Aeration

Digital copy of this plan is available on our website:  
[www.ab-conservation.com/aop](http://www.ab-conservation.com/aop)



Project: Taber Pheasant Festival  
photo: ACA, Don Myhre

## 1.0 Introduction

Alberta Conservation Association's (ACA) Annual Operating Plan 2023/24 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 Environment and Protected Areas (EPA).

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, 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 2023/24, we anticipate receiving roughly \$4.8 million in partner (non-levy) and/or in land value. Projected levy revenue from hunting and fishing licenses is \$14.4 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 EPA.

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

## 1.2 Regional Boundary Map



# 2.0 Business Program Areas

## 2.1 Finance and Administration

The Finance and Administration 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 2023/24

Project	Primary Purpose	Expected Outcomes	
<b>Finance</b>	Provide financial services that safeguard company assets.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Manage assets effectively.</li><li>Provide complete and timely legal reporting.</li><li>Support management’s information needs and facilitate effective decision-making.</li></ul>	
ACA	\$791,913		
Partner	\$40,000		
Total	\$831,913		
<b>LL – RA (Regenerative Alberta)</b>	Provide Management support and financial expertise for the Federal LL-RA project in collaboration with Food Water Wellness Foundation (FWWF)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Provide Financial services for the project.</li><li>Oversee cash management &amp; financial reporting.</li><li>Support Management in executing deliverables for project.</li><li>Maximize agricultural climate solutions through integration of beneficial management practices.</li></ul>	
ACA	\$0		
Partner	\$1,039,379		
Total	\$1,039,379		
<b>Administration</b>	Provide administrative support to all areas to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of internal operations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Support Board of Directors, executive, and management.</li><li>Maintain building operations throughout the province.</li></ul>	
ACA	\$1,319,453		
Partner	\$43,588		
Total	\$1,363,041		



Project: SHARP - Species Habitat Assessments and Ranching Partnership  
photo: ACA, Garret McKen



## 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 2023/24, 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 2023/24

Project	Primary Purpose	Expected Outcomes
<b>Business Development Support</b>	Strengthen existing partnerships and develop new relationships that support ACA programs and projects.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>· Increase non-levy revenue by 5 percent minimum above previous fiscal year.</li><li>· Sign on a minimum of five new corporate partners and/or increase contributions or multi-year commitments from five existing Corporate Partners in Conservation.</li></ul>
ACA                      \$297,326		
Partner                      \$0		
Total                      \$297,326		
<b>ACA Store</b>	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"><li>· Increase ACA brand recognition in the public and business community.</li><li>· Maintain employee satisfaction with branded merchandise.</li></ul>
ACA                      \$19,948		
Partner                      \$0		
Total                      \$19,948		

## 2.3 Human Resources

Human Resources implements strategies and policies that meet organizational objectives. In 2023/24, 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 2023/24

Project	Primary Purpose	Expected Outcomes
<b>Program Coordination</b>	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"><li>· Create a corporate culture that attracts and retains employees.</li><li>· Increase job satisfaction to foster a productive work environment with a higher retention rate.</li><li>· Recognize human capital as the resource that drives organizational success.</li><li>· Maintain management system targets and evaluate success and diversity.</li><li>· Maintain a safe and inclusive working environment.</li></ul>
ACA                      \$200,820		
Partner                      \$0		
Total                      \$200,820		

Project	Primary Purpose	Expected Outcomes
<b>Professional Development</b> 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"> <li>Support individuals and organizational effectiveness by offering approved learning and development to support the employee and ensure success.</li> <li>Invest in professional development programs to improve leadership capabilities, job skills, and employee productivity.</li> <li>Maintain a work environment that motivates and inspires.</li> <li>Well-trained employees receive personal satisfaction from a job well done.</li> <li>Enhance capabilities and make the workplace an environment that supports people's initiative, creativity, responsibility, and meaning.</li> </ul>
<b>Professional Memberships</b> 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"> <li>Increase awareness and credibility of ACA and our employees by promoting and maintaining high standards of professional competence and ethics.</li> </ul>
<b>Health and Wellness</b> 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"> <li>Reduce stress among employees to improve mental health by encouraging healthy lifestyle and healthy work-life balance.</li> <li>Invest in employees to ensure an open and friendly culture and employee wellbeing.</li> <li>Encourage social, physical, emotional well-being with a diverse health and wellness program.</li> <li>Workplace well-being relates to all aspects of working life, from the quality and safety of the physical environment, to how employees feel about their work, their working environment, the climate at work, and the work organization.</li> <li>Continue to build and support a positive, fair, and open work environment.</li> </ul>
<b>Service Awards</b> 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"> <li>Provide service awards to employees who reach milestones.</li> <li>Examine and source innovative service awards on an annual basis.</li> </ul>
<b>Online Survey</b> <i>The budget is allocated within Program Coordination.</i>	<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"> <li>Conduct annual employee survey.</li> <li>Identify challenges and develop action plans for improvements.</li> <li>Engaged and motivated employees lead to increased productivity and overall satisfaction.</li> </ul>
<b>Recruitment</b> 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"> <li>Promote ACA as an organization where employees can build their careers and expand their skills.</li> <li>Hire employees with the knowledge, skills, and ability to perform the job and whose beliefs and behaviours fit our organizational culture.</li> <li>Ensure equal opportunities available for all employees.</li> </ul>
<b>Career Fairs</b> 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"> <li>Promote ACA to college and university students.</li> <li>Provide co-op and intern opportunities to students.</li> </ul>



## 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 2023/24, our goal is to ensure employees continue to embrace ACA's Health and Safety Program and are kept safe and healthy. We will foster a company culture and work environment that ensures safety is a company priority, which includes providing employees with the necessary training, equipment, materials, and procedures required to conduct work in a healthy and safe manner. Improvements to the Health and Safety Program are continuous so the program remains comprehensive, efficient, effective, and current.

Table 4: Health and Safety Projects for 2023/24

Project	Primary Purpose	Expected Outcomes
<b>Health and Safety</b>	Foster a company culture and working environment where all employees can work in a safe and healthy manner.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Eliminate workplace injuries as well as loss or damage to property, facilities, materials, and equipment.</li><li>Continue to maintain and improve a Health and Safety Program that integrates workplace safety effectively into ACA operations.</li><li>Provide ACA employees access to health and safety resources (e.g., forms, policies, procedures, and other reference materials).</li><li>Provide employees with the necessary training, equipment, materials, and procedures required to conduct work in a healthy and safe manner.</li><li>Respond to all health and safety incidents, including near misses, develop and implement corrective actions as required, and communicate results to all staff.</li><li>Operate the Health and Safety Program in a transparent and open manner.</li></ul>
ACA	\$136,514	
Partner	\$0	
Total	\$136,514	

## 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 2023/24

Project	Primary Purpose	Expected Outcomes
<b>Information Technology/ Systems</b>	Manage and operate ACA's IT infrastructure on a daily basis.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Maintain security of ACA network and data structures.</li><li>Ensure existing technology provides information in an efficient and effective manner.</li><li>Research and review new technology that supports ACA's strategic goals and objectives.</li><li>Coordinate IT projects and processes with external consultants.</li></ul>
ACA	\$423,999	
Partner	\$0	
Total	\$423,999	



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 2023/24

Communications		
Project	Primary Purpose	Expected Outcomes
<b>Advertising and Marketing</b>	Increase awareness of ACA brand recognition and key ACA events, programs, and projects while promoting hunting and fishing in Alberta.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Identify key advertising opportunities and implement strategies that align with the Strategic Business Plan’s four-year objectives.</li><li>Coordinate cross media targeted advertising promoting hunting, angling, and conservation in Alberta.</li></ul> Ongoing
ACA		
Partner		
Total		
<b>Harvest Your Own</b>	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"><li>Provide an educational resource on how to hunt and harvest in Alberta.</li><li>Maintain a viable and interesting resource year-round for hunters in Alberta.</li><li>Positive annual audience growth across all media platforms.</li><li>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.</li></ul> Ongoing
ACA		
Partner		
Total		
<b>Social Media Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube, Constant Contact</b>	Use social media to connect and develop new audiences by highlighting the projects, events, and values of ACA, its member groups, and conservation in Alberta.  Assist Alberta Environment and Protected Areas (EPA) with promotion of various initiatives including the Aquatic Invasive Species Program and Family Fishing Weekends.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Produce and deliver monthly Constant Contact e-newsletters to inform and promote news and events with an annual database supplied by EPA Wildlife Identification Number (WIN) card purchases consent in April 2023.</li><li>Promote various ACA activities and events that occur throughout the year including tradeshow, wildlife cameras, fish stocking dates, grant applications, Taber Pheasant Festival, Kids Can Catch, Waterfowl Warmup, and provincial pheasant releases.</li><li>Interact and engage daily with audiences on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.</li><li>Increase number of followers on social media platforms.</li><li>Increase awareness of conservation issues such as aquatic invasive species, native trout, and member group activities.</li><li>Assist member groups and other organizations and partnerships with social media resources.</li></ul> Ongoing
ACA		
Partner		
Total		



Project	Primary Purpose	Expected Outcomes
<b>Internal Communications</b> ACA \$6,607 Partner \$0 Total \$6,607	Support the ACA President and CEO; Business Development; Human Resources; and Wildlife, Fisheries, and Land Management programs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide all planned and approved communications needs as well as address any unforeseen opportunities, whether internally or sourced through a third party.</li> <li>Complete online seasonal job postings by mid-December 2023.</li> <li>ACA vehicle/asset branding.</li> <li>Develop key communications materials to ensure appropriate branding and messaging (e.g., media releases, fact sheets, poster templates, presentations).</li> </ul> Ongoing
<b>Stakeholder Communications</b> ACA \$3,889 Partner \$0 Total \$3,889	Assist member groups and stakeholders in communications support where viable.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide creative and promotional support where possible fostering positive business relationships.</li> </ul> Ongoing
<b>Publications/Print</b>		
Project	Primary Purpose	Expected Outcomes
<b>Conservation Magazine</b> <b>Spring/Summer</b> <b>Fall/Winter</b> ACA \$106,339 Partner \$6,000 Total \$112,339	Publish a free magazine that engages multi-interest audiences and connects them with ACA and its conservation projects, member groups, stakeholders, and partners.  Promotes the value of habitat conservation and the benefits of securing that habitat for wildlife.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Produce, publish, promote, and deliver 30,000+ hard copies of <i>Conservation Magazine</i>, seasonally in spring and fall, with digital versions available online.</li> <li>Increase subscription base.</li> </ul> Ongoing
<b>Alberta Discover Guide</b> ACA \$105,427 Partner \$10,000 Total \$115,427	Provides a comprehensive reference to several hundred sites conserved for the purpose of habitat protection and made available for recreational use by our stakeholders.  Promotes the value of habitat conservation and the benefits of securing that habitat for wildlife.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Produce, publish, promote, and deliver 35,000 hard copies of the Guide with digital versions available online.</li> <li>Update and refresh the Alberta Discover Guide app annually.</li> <li>Foster relationships with conservation partners who are key contributors to the Guide, such as Alberta Fish &amp; Game Association (AFGA) and its affiliated clubs, Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC), and Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC).</li> <li>Promote EPA and ACA program messaging such as invasive species, the native trout recovery program, and ABHuntLog.</li> <li>Ongoing</li> </ul>
<b>Annual Operating Plan</b> ACA \$5,117 Partner \$0 Total \$5,117	Provide stakeholders with information on ACA resource program projects and operations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prepare the Annual Operating Plan draft for the ACA Board of Directors meeting, December 2023.</li> <li>Coordinate, edit, and design the Annual Operating Plan.</li> <li>Complete and post the Annual Operating Plan, after ACA Board of Directors approval, in April 2023, to coincide with the fiscal year.</li> </ul> Ongoing

Project	Primary Purpose	Expected Outcomes
<b>Annual Report</b> ACA \$6,746 Partner \$0 Total \$6,746	Provide stakeholders financial reporting and transparency in operations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Produce the Annual Report by September 2023.</li> <li>Report audited financial statements to stakeholders.</li> <li>Coordinate editing and post ~ 45 resource program annual summaries (Wildlife, Fisheries, Land, and Communications) online by April 15, 2023.</li> </ul> Ongoing
<b>Grants Reports and Forms</b> ACA \$4,177 Partner \$0 Total \$4,177	Provide stakeholders information about ACA Grants Fund projects awarded, allocations, and activities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Post and promote interim reports, annual report, grant information, and application deadlines.</li> <li>Enhance the Grants Programs communications.</li> <li>Produce the Grants Fund Annual Report by fall 2023 for grant eligible committee meeting in December 2023.</li> </ul> Ongoing
<b>On Site Signage</b> <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"> <li>Design and coordinate proofing, quotes, and printing of outdoor signs.</li> </ul> Ongoing
<b>Other Publications</b> ACA \$2,227 Partner \$0 Total \$2,227	Work with ACA resource programs, EPA, and member groups to update existing publications as determined.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide publishing support through design, editing, proofing, and printing.</li> </ul> Ongoing
<b>ACA Project Reports</b> ACA \$6,985 Partner \$0 Total \$6,985	Provide publishing support for resource programs within research.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Create awareness and accessibility to ongoing project research by ACA.</li> <li>Post ACA Project Reports online by the end of April 2023.</li> </ul> Ongoing
<b>Website</b>		
Project	Primary Purpose	Expected Outcomes
<b>Website Media and Development</b> ACA \$67,549 Partner \$0 Total \$67,549	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"> <li>Provide access and navigation for users to angling and hunting information.</li> <li>Provide ACA conservation projects enhanced profile.</li> <li>Provide online support for donations, event registration, and public engagement.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>Always implement search engine optimization practices.</li> <li>Expand design, navigation, and advertising.</li> </ul> Ongoing
<b>Migratory GPS Project</b> ACA \$0 Partner \$0 Total \$0	ACA's website provides streaming GPS information on collared species to engage hunting and conservation audiences.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Create awareness of harvestable species to a cross interest audience.</li> <li>Create a platform that can expand to other species tracking in Canada and North America.</li> <li>Cultivate new conservation audiences.</li> </ul> Ongoing

Table 7: Education and Outreach Events for 2023/24

Project	Primary Purpose	Expected Outcomes
<b>Wildlife Cameras</b> ACA \$11,793 Partner \$0 Total \$11,793	Engage the public by providing live-streaming camera feed from nesting peregrine falcons in various locations in Edmonton.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain remote camera infrastructure at existing nest sites.</li> <li>• Educate the public about peregrine falcon behaviour, biology, and its <i>Threatened</i> status in Alberta, and other species of designation such as the ferruginous hawk.</li> <li>• Increase traffic to our website and engage new audiences in ACA projects and events.</li> <li>• Explore opportunities for similar remote camera coverage of other species.</li> </ul> Ongoing
<b>Museum Project</b> ACA \$40,744 Partner \$0 Total \$40,744	Increase awareness of ACA to new audiences as an educational and scientific organization, key ACA programs and projects, and conservation efforts in Alberta working with the Royal Alberta Museum.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Engage and educate audiences in conservation with a focus on youth.</li> <li>• Capitalize on new partnerships and exhibits with the Royal Alberta Museum.</li> <li>• Create new opportunities for conservation awareness and scope of stakeholders.</li> </ul> New
<b>Native Trout Recovery</b> ACA \$1,172 Partner \$4,000 Total \$5,172	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), EPA, Cows & Fish.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote key messaging of <i>Endangered</i> native trout species.</li> <li>• Host the native trout recovery website.</li> <li>• Explore media and point of purchase opportunities for education outreach.</li> <li>• Develop and provide media assets as needed.</li> </ul> Ongoing
<b>Taber Pheasant Festival</b> ACA \$209,521 Partner \$110,200 Total \$319,721	<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"> <li>• Continue to work with local organizations and businesses to support and coordinate the Taber Pheasant Festival.</li> <li>• Increase awareness of upland game bird habitat requirements and increase landowner participation in habitat enhancement projects.</li> <li>• Encourage continued interest in pheasant and upland game bird hunting beyond the event.</li> <li>• Increase overall number of youth and families hunting upland game birds each year (increased hunting licence sales).</li> <li>• Introduce non-hunters to positive experiences related to hunting through culinary events, education, and entertainment.</li> <li>• Continue to partner build with Alberta Hunter Education Instructors' Association (AHEIA), AFGA, Town of Taber, Municipal District of Taber, Heritage Inn, Taber Chamber of Commerce, Taber Economic Development.</li> </ul> Ongoing
<b>Kids Can Catch</b> ACA \$19,057 Partner \$16,500 Total \$35,557	Encourage youth and families in communities across Alberta to get outdoors and enjoy angling.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote the Kids Can Catch Program as a way for local organizations to introduce youth and adults to fishing, fish conservation, and responsible angling.</li> <li>• Engage local organizations and businesses to support and coordinate family fishing events in communities across Alberta.</li> <li>• Public promotion of Kids Can Catch events through various media.</li> <li>• Help local organizers connect with resources and volunteers to mentor new and young anglers on responsible and ethical angling practices.</li> <li>• Encourage continued interest in angling beyond Kids Can Catch events, including awareness of fishing opportunities at stocked and aerated lakes.</li> <li>• Increase overall number of youth and families fishing each year (increased fishing licence sales).</li> </ul> Ongoing



Project		Primary Purpose	Expected Outcomes
<b>Waterfowl Warmup</b>		Host an annual sporting clays fundraiser as an opportunity for the public, businesses, and conservation organizations to support the Report A Poacher (RAP) program.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>· Increase awareness of and funds for the RAP program.</li><li>· Promote responsible and ethical hunting practices.</li><li>· Strengthen corporate relationships in the pursuit of long-term partnerships in conservation.</li></ul> Ongoing
ACA	\$19,190		
Partner	\$23,500		
Total	\$42,690		
WIN card			
Project		Primary Purpose	Expected Outcomes
<b>WIN Card Reimbursement</b>		Encourage recruitment of young people into hunting and allow ACA and our member groups to connect with new hunters when they purchase their first WIN card.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>· Increase the number of youth 12 to 17 years old who complete the AHEIA hunter education program.</li><li>· Introduce and connect young hunters to programs, information, and other groups to enhance their experience.</li></ul> Ongoing
ACA	\$35,150		
Partner	\$0		
Total	\$35,150		



Project: Kids Can Catch  
photo: ACA, Charmaine Brunes





Project: Range Expansion of Wild Turkey  
photo: ACA, Mike Jokinen

### 3.2 Wildlife

ACA’s Wildlife Program takes on a wide range of projects based on the priorities we are provided from conversations with stakeholder groups and the Government of Alberta.

The future of wild turkeys within Alberta is far more optimistic going forward, as we continue with the translocation of wild birds. This long-term endeavour aims to disperse wild turkey groups with each large enough to sustain a breeding population through the tough years. We will continue bringing in wild birds from other jurisdictions, as well as within Alberta where the local population level has built up to allow a surplus for translocation to other areas. This will, in time, provide greater overall population sustainability, and more hunting opportunities for future generations.

Our stewardship activities with producers, counties, irrigations districts, and many others,

continue to thrive! We are working with these partners to improve wildlife habitat on more than 600,000 acres, with common goals that stretch into future decades.

Information from hunters and trappers is vitally important for conserving harvested species into the future. We continue collaborating with trappers and hunters to gather important wildlife metrics from sightings and harvest, that helps to better understand long term trends. The ABHuntLog is going into its third year after doubling participation in 2022, while our work with Alberta Trappers’ Association (ATA) is going into its sixth year. Wildlife populations regularly rise and fall on a local level through time, so its very important to take a long-term view to better understand trends well beyond just one or two years.

Table 8: Wildlife Projects for 2023/24

Wildlife Population Monitoring		
Project	Primary Purpose	Expected Outcomes
<b>Turkey Distribution and Surveys</b>	Identify range and track annual trend of wild turkeys in southwestern (SW) Alberta.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Work with landowners and stakeholders to identify the current range and trend of wild turkeys in SW Alberta.</li><li>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.</li><li>Conduct field surveys in select areas to track range and annual trends.</li><li>Redistribute wild turkeys within SW Alberta from locations with high densities.</li><li>Augment SW population with translocated wild turkeys from other jurisdictions over 10 years.</li></ul> Ongoing
ACA                      \$10,552		
Partner                      \$0		
Total                      \$10,552		
<b>Range Expansion of Wild Turkey</b>	Establish wild turkeys in central Alberta and enhance population in SW Alberta.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Translocate wild turkeys from other jurisdictions to expand their range in SW Alberta, and northward into central Alberta.</li><li>Use a super stocking approach over at least 10 years to establish viable pocket locations of wild turkeys.</li><li>Monitor survival and recruitment.</li><li>Monitor potential conflict with local community.</li></ul> Ongoing
ACA                      \$163,010		
Partner                      \$25,000		
Total                      \$188,010		



Project	Primary Purpose	Expected Outcomes
<b>Alberta Volunteer Amphibian Monitoring Program</b> ACA \$11,241 Partner \$0 Total \$11,241	Volunteer collection of amphibian (and reptile) location data throughout Alberta. Alberta Volunteer Amphibian Monitoring Program (AVAMP).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Coordinate volunteer collection of amphibian (and reptile) data from across Alberta.</li> <li>Submit data to the Alberta Government's Fisheries and Wildlife Management Information System (FWMIS) database.</li> </ul> Ongoing
<b>ABHuntLog</b> ACA \$49,321 Partner \$5,000 Total \$54,321	Tool within iHunter Alberta app for users to voluntarily track wildlife observations. Designed to enhance users' personal experience and provide supplemental population data.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to refine app-based tool that will be valued by hunters to track harvestable wildlife sightings and summarize observations in a personal dashboard.</li> <li>Continue to develop partnership with Métis community.</li> <li>Continue to ensure personal data are secure.</li> <li>Develop metrics from hunters for ungulates (gender ratios, age ratios, effort info, etc.) to help guide conservation and allocation in Wildlife Management Units (WMUs).</li> <li>Explore and test approaches for tracking game birds and metrics to indicate trends.</li> </ul> Ongoing
<b>Sturgeon River Wetland</b> ACA \$0 Partner \$22,945 Total \$22,945	Habitat improvements on Sturgeon River Wetland property.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Complete baseline wildlife inventories prior to the development of an engineered wetland on the Sturgeon River Wetland property.</li> <li>Provide information on wildlife habitat requirements to help inform the design and function of the engineered wetland.</li> </ul> New
<b>Hunting Opportunities and Recruitment</b>		
Project	Primary Purpose	Expected Outcomes
<b>Hunter Perceived Access Survey</b> ACA \$46,510 Partner \$0 Total \$46,510	Assess potential private land access issues perceived by hunters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Complete publication of survey findings, focusing on identifying access issues as perceived by hunters: how does their experience vary by type of land designation, region, and target species (e.g., waterfowl vs big game vs upland birds)? Does a participant's age, experience, or ethnic background influence their success and satisfaction with gaining access?</li> <li>Share results with stakeholders, the public, and the conservation community.</li> </ul> Year 3 of 3
<b>Pheasant Releases to Enhance Hunting Opportunities</b> ACA \$930,404 Partner \$5,765 Total \$936,169	Enhance hunter opportunity by releasing pheasants in select locations (provincial).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Manage and coordinate pheasant release program within Alberta.</li> <li>Engage volunteer groups to assist with delivery of pheasants at sites.</li> <li>Update and maintain web-based platform to inform hunters of all release sites including detailed maps.</li> </ul> Ongoing
<b>Upland Game Bird Fall Forecast</b> ACA \$8,004 Partner \$0 Total \$8,004	Survey upland gamebirds to track population trends.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Engage citizen scientists to count gamebirds (e.g., pheasant, grey partridge, sharp-tailed grouse) to detect annual trends and promote hunter recruitment.</li> <li>Publish early fall recruitment results on our website (and partner websites) to encourage hunter interest.</li> </ul> Ongoing

Project	Primary Purpose	Expected Outcomes
<b>Upland Game Bird 4-H Initiative</b>	Engage and educate 4-H clubs and volunteers to value and raise upland birds (provincial).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Communicate importance of suitable habitat with 4-H participants to foster long-term interest in habitat.</li><li>Engage 4-H clubs and volunteers enabling them to raise and sell pheasants.</li><li>Birds may be sold for hunting opportunities.</li></ul> Ongoing
ACA                      \$17,531		
Partner                      \$15,500		
Total                      \$33,031		
<b>Habitat Stewardship and Enhancement</b>		
Project	Primary Purpose	Expected Outcomes
<b>MULTISAR – Milk River</b>	Engage landowners with planning and implementation of habitat strategies along the Milk River Basin.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Enhance habitat on collaborating ranch lands (eight to ten) including habitat to benefit sage grouse.</li><li>Evaluation of habitat conservation strategies on select properties.</li><li>Consultation and relationship building with landowners and stakeholder community.</li></ul> Ongoing
ACA                      \$52,510		
Partner                      \$300,000		
Total                      \$352,510		
<b>MULTISAR – West</b>	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"><li>Enhance habitat at two or three ranches.</li><li>Initiate habitat conservation strategies for one to two ranches.</li><li>Evaluation of habitat conservation strategies on select properties.</li><li>Consultation and relationship building with landowners and stakeholder community.</li></ul> Ongoing
ACA                      \$68,817		
Partner                      \$100,000		
Total                      \$168,817		
<b>MULTISAR – South Saskatchewan</b>	Engage landowners with planning and implementation of habitat strategies through the South Saskatchewan Basin.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Initiate habitat conservation strategies for one to two ranches.</li><li>Enhance habitat at three to six ranches.</li><li>Monitor a subset of habitat enhancements every year.</li><li>Evaluation of habitat conservation strategies on select properties for wildlife (reassessments).</li><li>Consultation and relationship building with landowners and stakeholder community.</li></ul> Ongoing
ACA                      \$164,081		
Partner                      \$450,000		
Total                      \$614,081		
<b>Piping Plover Recovery</b>	Assist recovery of piping plovers through habitat enhancements, and report on success of recovery efforts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Implement enhancements including fencing, educational signage, and vegetation reduction at select properties.</li><li>Conduct inventory of plovers at select lakes.</li></ul> Ongoing
ACA                      \$29,760		
Partner                      \$15,000		
Total                      \$44,760		
<b>Pronghorn Fence Enhancement Partnership</b>	Enhance pronghorn movement by assisting AFGA to identify and modify fence lines.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Provide planning map to partner (AFGA) that highlights fences with greater likelihood of limiting pronghorn movement.</li><li>Assist AFGA to coordinate the removal of barbed or page wire by volunteers, replacing it with smooth wire at 46 inches above the ground; targeting 45 km per year modified.</li></ul> Ongoing
ACA                      \$6,741		
Partner                      \$56,225		
Total                      \$62,966		
<b>SHARP – Species Habitat Assessments and Ranching Partnership</b>	Engage landowners, county, and other stakeholders to develop and implement habitat strategies that benefit sharp-tailed grouse, ruffed grouse, moose, and other wildlife in central and northwestern Alberta.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Initiate habitat conservation strategies for two to three ranches.</li><li>Initiate inventories at two to three new ranches.</li><li>Enhance habitat at two to three ranches.</li><li>Consultation and relationship building with new landowners and stakeholder community.</li><li>Foster wetland retention and restoration.</li></ul> Ongoing
ACA                      \$164,986		
Partner                      \$45,000		
Total                      \$209,986		

<div>Pronghorn Road Crossing Enhancement</div> <table><tr><td>ACA</td><td>\$18,887</td></tr><tr><td>Partner</td><td>\$45,301</td></tr><tr><td>Total</td><td>\$64,188</td></tr></table>	ACA	\$18,887	Partner	\$45,301	Total	\$64,188	<div>Citizen Science approach to identify crossing barrier hot spots along highways near Medicine Hat.</div>	<div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Work with key partners (Miistakis, Environment and Protected Areas [EPA]), 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).</li><li>Assess feasibility of constructing an overpass at each pinch point and then prioritize the pinch points for mitigation strategies.</li><li>Assess the ability of pronghorn to cross fence lines within the vicinity of Highway 1 and secondary highways.</li><li>Manuscript on approach of using citizen science to ground truth connectivity for pronghorn and identify pinch points along highways where movement is hindered.</li></ul></div> <div>Year 5of 5</div>
ACA	\$18,887							
Partner	\$45,301							
Total	\$64,188							
Upland Game Bird Enhancement								
Project	Primary Purpose	Expected Outcomes						
<div>Habitat Connectivity and Access</div> <table><tr><td>ACA</td><td>\$119,287</td></tr><tr><td>Partner</td><td>\$5,000</td></tr><tr><td>Total</td><td>\$124,287</td></tr></table>	ACA	\$119,287	Partner	\$5,000	Total	\$124,287	<div>Improve habitat connectivity for upland game birds and hunter access.</div>	<div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Continue to build relationships with irrigation districts and counties to enhance habitat and water quality, and improve hunter access.</li><li>Map range and riparian health surrounding irrigation reservoirs and develop recommended management actions for improvement (three to four reservoirs/year).</li><li>Collaborate with partners to enhance range and riparian habitat around reservoirs (13 reservoirs).</li><li>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.</li></ul></div> <div>Ongoing</div>
ACA	\$119,287							
Partner	\$5,000							
Total	\$124,287							
<div>Habitat Legacy Partnership</div> <table><tr><td>ACA</td><td>\$22,843</td></tr><tr><td>Partner</td><td>\$0</td></tr><tr><td>Total</td><td>\$22,843</td></tr></table>	ACA	\$22,843	Partner	\$0	Total	\$22,843	<div>Enhance upland and riparian habitat for upland game birds and other wildlife species</div>	<div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Maintenance of existing habitat enhancements.</li><li>Work with partners toward completion of enhancements in the remaining unfinished zone of the ridge reservoir including boundary surveys, fencing, and implement habitat enhancements.</li><li>Monitor success of habitat enhancements on select properties designed to improve upland bird densities.</li><li>Continue working with partnerships in Warner and Cardston counties.</li></ul></div> <div>Ongoing</div>
ACA	\$22,843							
Partner	\$0							
Total	\$22,843							
<div>Demonstration Farm for Restoring Upland Bird Densities and Biodiversity</div> <table><tr><td>ACA</td><td>\$55,803</td></tr><tr><td>Partner</td><td>\$0</td></tr><tr><td>Total</td><td>\$55,803</td></tr></table>	ACA	\$55,803	Partner	\$0	Total	\$55,803	<div>Collaborate with demonstration farm partners to evaluate approaches for improving upland bird densities on modern profitable farms.</div>	<div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Evaluate approaches for improving recruitment and density of upland birds (pheasants, grey partridge) and other species (songbirds, amphibians, invertebrates) on modern profitable farms.</li><li>Design approaches to improve water regulation and runoff control, while buffering nutrients and sediment.</li><li>Demonstrate value of perennial habitat including wetlands within farmed systems.</li></ul></div> <div>Ongoing</div>
ACA	\$55,803							
Partner	\$0							
Total	\$55,803							



Applied Research and Ecological Studies		
Project	Primary Purpose	Expected Outcomes
<b>Forest Grouse Monitoring Initiative</b> ACA \$8,140 Partner \$0 Total \$8,140	Monitor forest grouse (especially spruce grouse) among WMUs to detect concerning trends.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assess annual harvest metrics to detect trends in forest grouse (particularly spruce grouse) among years and WMUs.</li> <li>Work with EPA to obtain hunter metrics that will assist with calculating trends of forest grouse.</li> </ul> Year 3 of 5
<b>Furbearer Trends (ACA/ATA Partnership)</b> ACA \$69,939 Partner \$0 Total \$69,939	Refine approach for trappers to produce an index of furbearer population trends. (provincial)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Data report produced on our efforts to assist ATA and EPA in developing a tracking system for marten harvest and trapping effort that provides reliable population indices.</li> <li>Marten harvest parameters (e.g., age class and trapping effort) used to model population trend over six trapping seasons.</li> <li>Recommendations provided for adjusting the logbook program to maximize data quality, as well as research needs for testing assumptions used by the model (e.g., harvest susceptibility and natural mortality rate).</li> <li>Assessment of initial quota species data (wolverine, otter, lynx, and fisher), investigating the potential to use a similar modelling approach as was developed for marten.</li> </ul> Year 6 of 7, followed by assessment
<b>Pronghorn Movement Enhancement</b> ACA \$30,716 Partner \$0 Total \$30,716	Develop standards for multi-species wildlife-friendly fence design.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Book chapter titled "Road ecology: synthesis and perspectives on fences and roads, similarities and differences."</li> <li>Assess the temporal patterns and interspecific competition of ungulates and predators from existing camera trap data.</li> </ul> Year 5 of 5



Project: Connectivity Project (Habitat enhancement at active an Ferruginous hawk nest)  
photo: ACA, Samuel Vriend



Project: Effectiveness of Walleye-Pike Fishing Regulations  
photo: ACA, Charmaine Brunet





Project	Primary Purpose	Expected Outcomes	
<b>New Lake Aeration Development</b>	Explore additional aeration opportunities across the province.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Screen new candidate lakes for potential aeration: Blue Ridge Pit and Chatwin lakes.</li></ul> Ongoing	
ACA			\$11,554
Partner			\$0
Total			\$11,554
<b>Fish Stocking</b>	Stock trout into waterbodies to provide Albertans with recreational angling opportunities in areas of the province where such fishing opportunities do not otherwise exist.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Stock approximately 112,000 (20 cm) trout, consisting of rainbow, brook, brown, and tiger trout into 65 waterbodies.</li></ul> Ongoing	
ACA			\$347,620
Partner			\$34,850
Total			\$382,470
<b>Fish Stocking Expansion – New Lakes</b>	Expand scope and diversity in fish stocking activities to complement currently stocked trout.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Continue to search for new ponds and develop previously identified ponds for inclusion in the fish stocking project.</li><li>Candidate waterbodies currently under consideration include Chestermere Pond (Highways 1 and 9) and a borrow pit along Highway 63 near Fort McMurray; additional ponds are under discussions with the towns of Westlock, Carstairs, and Rimbey.</li></ul> Ongoing	
ACA			\$19,223
Partner			\$0
Total			\$19,223
<b>Fish Pond Rehabilitation</b>	Improve water quality and physical characteristics of select stocked ponds. Examine potential of alum to improve dissolved oxygen conditions in treated ponds.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Conduct pilot study at Westlock Pond to examine potential of alum treatment to control phosphorus levels, as well as improve summer and winter dissolved oxygen conditions.</li><li>Monitor water quality in Westlock and two untreated control ponds.</li></ul> Ongoing	
ACA			\$84,003
Partner			\$0
Total			\$84,003
Assessment of Angler Demographics, Effort, Catch, and Harvest			
Project	Primary Purpose	Expected Outcomes	
<b>Effectiveness of Walleye-Pike Fishing Regulations</b>	Evaluate effect of different harvest strategies at select walleye and northern pike fisheries.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Analyze data from previous three years and produce final report on impacts of angling effort, harvest, and angler perspective on walleye fisheries under different harvest regimes at Lac Ste. Anne, Pigeon, Buck, and Gull lakes.</li></ul> Year 3 of 3	
ACA			\$7,196
Partner			\$0
Total			\$7,196
<b>Fish Stocking Evaluation</b>	Evaluate fish population demographics and fishing effort at ACA-stocked ponds.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Use trail cameras to estimate angler effort at select stocked ponds; candidates for 2023/24 are Hansen's and Foremost reservoirs.</li><li>Screen select ACA-stocked ponds, primarily in the southern irrigation district region, as potential waterbodies for development of stocked-pike fisheries.</li></ul> Ongoing	
ACA			\$36,078
Partner			\$0
Total			\$36,078
<b>Low Profile Game Species Fisheries</b>	Determine current and potential recreational fishing opportunities for lower profile game species: burbot, goldeye, and mooneye.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Conduct population estimates for burbot at Musreau Lake.</li><li>Promotion and public education: work with ACA Communication to promote angling of these species based on 2022 social science survey findings.</li><li>Create interactive data interface and map with species and abundance/population structure depending on data availability.</li></ul> Ongoing	
ACA			\$65,951
Partner			\$0
Total			\$65,951



Applied Research								
Project	Primary Purpose	Expected Outcomes						
<b>Oxygen-Temperature Trends in the Beaverlodge Redwillow River Watershed</b> <table><tr><td>ACA</td><td>\$13,277</td></tr><tr><td>Partner</td><td>\$0</td></tr><tr><td>Total</td><td>\$13,277</td></tr></table>	ACA	\$13,277	Partner	\$0	Total	\$13,277	Fill-in data gaps to support Arctic grayling restoration in the Beaverlodge River system.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Analyze data and report on spatial and temporal trends of dissolved oxygen and temperature in the Beaverlodge-Redwillow River watershed in relation to suitability for Arctic grayling reintroductions.</li><li>In collaboration with EPA, determine next steps based on results of the oxygen and temperature trend analyses.</li></ul> Year 2 of 2
ACA	\$13,277							
Partner	\$0							
Total	\$13,277							
<b>Walleye Fisheries Enhancement</b> <table><tr><td>ACA</td><td>\$38,491</td></tr><tr><td>Partner</td><td>\$0</td></tr><tr><td>Total</td><td>\$38,491</td></tr></table>	ACA	\$38,491	Partner	\$0	Total	\$38,491	Enhance walleye fisheries at select lakes using various tools.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Reactivate Forty Mile Coulee Reservoir walleye rearing pond and grow fingerlings for stocking into the reservoir.</li><li>In collaboration with EPA identify walleye fisheries that require enhancement to sustain populations.</li></ul> New
ACA	\$38,491							
Partner	\$0							
Total	\$38,491							
<b>Sturgeon River Wetland (Fisheries)</b> <table><tr><td>ACA</td><td>\$0</td></tr><tr><td>Partner</td><td>\$102,644</td></tr><tr><td>Total</td><td>\$102,644</td></tr></table>	ACA	\$0	Partner	\$102,644	Total	\$102,644	Habitat improvements on Sturgeon River Wetland property.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Complete a baseline fish community and water quality survey on the Sturgeon River from Matchayaw (aka Devil's) Lake to Lac Ste. Anne, prior to the development of an engineered wetland on the Sturgeon River Wetland property.</li><li>Complete a baseline fish community and water quality survey in Matchayaw Lake.</li></ul> New
ACA	\$0							
Partner	\$102,644							
Total	\$102,644							



Project: Lake Aeration (Dissolved oxygen monitoring and site inspection at Coleman Fish and Game Pond)  
photo: ACA, Logan Redman

Implementation of Approved Fish Species Recovery and Management Plans								
Project	Primary Purpose	Expected Outcomes						
<div>Native Trout Recovery Evaluation</div> <table><tr><td>ACA</td><td>\$35,345</td></tr><tr><td>Partner</td><td>\$43,155</td></tr><tr><td>Total</td><td>\$78,500</td></tr></table>	ACA	\$35,345	Partner	\$43,155	Total	\$78,500	Evaluate native trout recovery efforts in focal watersheds of the Native Trout Recovery Program.	<div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Describe abundance, distribution, and habitat for at-risk native trout species to enable assessment of stream habitat remediation and other recovery initiatives.</li><li>Focal watershed for 2023/24 – Wild Hay River; additional watersheds under discussion.</li></ul></div> <div>Year 2 of 4</div>
ACA	\$35,345							
Partner	\$43,155							
Total	\$78,500							
<div>Conservation Stocking of Native Trout</div> <table><tr><td>ACA</td><td>\$158,813</td></tr><tr><td>Partner</td><td>\$53,443</td></tr><tr><td>Total</td><td>\$212,256</td></tr></table>	ACA	\$158,813	Partner	\$53,443	Total	\$212,256	Support conservation stocking of native trout through the Native Trout Recovery Program.	<div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Emphasis on native westslope cutthroat trout range expansion in focal watersheds.</li><li>Determine overwintering and spawning potential at priority candidate streams, for range expansion suitability.</li><li>Identify a gamete source in the Bow River watershed for development of a conservation broodstock.</li><li>Determine conservation stocking potential of select high mountain lakes.</li></ul></div> <div>Year 1 of 3 – New Focus</div>
ACA	\$158,813							
Partner	\$53,443							
Total	\$212,256							
<div>Native Trout Habitat Remediation</div> <table><tr><td>ACA</td><td>\$57,097</td></tr><tr><td>Partner</td><td>\$33,402</td></tr><tr><td>Total</td><td>\$90,499</td></tr></table>	ACA	\$57,097	Partner	\$33,402	Total	\$90,499	Mitigate threats to native trout in support of the Native Trout Recovery Program.	<div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Emphasis on remediating impacts to critical native trout habitats where degradation is a result of public use; includes stream temperature and crossing evaluation to prioritize remediation effort.</li><li>Focal watersheds (HUC10) include upper Clearwater River and upper Little Red Deer River.</li></ul></div> <div>Year 2 of 4</div>
ACA	\$57,097							
Partner	\$33,402							
Total	\$90,499							
<div>West-Central Culvert Remediation</div> <table><tr><td>ACA</td><td>\$44,727</td></tr><tr><td>Partner</td><td>\$59,500</td></tr><tr><td>Total</td><td>\$104,227</td></tr></table>	ACA	\$44,727	Partner	\$59,500	Total	\$104,227	Inspect and evaluate watercourse crossings in west-central Alberta in support of the Native Trout Recovery Program.	<div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Identify publicly owned watercourse crossings requiring remediation.</li><li>Evaluate effectiveness of completed remediation projects for recovery of native trout.</li><li>Promote awareness of watercourse crossing remediation as a tool for native trout recovery.</li></ul></div> <div>New</div>
ACA	\$44,727							
Partner	\$59,500							
Total	\$104,227							





Project: Fish Stocking (Tiger trout)  
photo: ACA, Diana Rung





Project: Conservation Site Management (newly planted tree at Camp Creek Conservation Site)  
photo: ACA, Garret McKen

## 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 with an emphasis on lands closer to large urban centers. 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 24 fisheries access sites across the province, providing angling opportunities to a variety of rivers, lakes, and stocked ponds. We are also in our sixth 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 to assist with managing hunter access. Our 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 2023 edition is the 15th installment and features over 790 ACA and partner-owned sites across the province including 299 sites owned by DUC and 10 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 2023/24

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>\$535,322</td></tr><tr><td>Partner</td><td>\$279,790</td></tr><tr><td>Total</td><td>\$815,112</td></tr></table>	ACA	\$535,322	Partner	\$279,790	Total	\$815,112	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"><li>Manage, enhance, and maintain over 220,000 acres of habitat on over 400 conservation sites in the province.</li><li>Complete inspections on at least 60 percent of ACA-owned and managed conservation sites.</li><li>Install new signage on 18 ACA conservation sites.</li><li>Enhance wildlife habitat on eight ACA conservation sites (tree/shrub planting, grass reseeding, fence removal/wildlife-friendly fence installation).</li><li>Enhance sustainable recreational opportunities on ACA-owned and managed sites (barriers to unauthorized access, parking areas, v-gates, pheasant release sites).</li><li>Maintain and develop collaborative partnerships that assist with achieving management goals on conservation sites.</li><li>Continue to work collaboratively with EPA on a disposition process for management of priority Crown conservation sites (title/dispositions/divestment).</li><li>Continue to develop guideline documents for permitted and non-permitted activities on conservation sites.</li><li>Develop a better understanding of carbon sequestration and wetland replacement opportunities on ACA lands, as well as associated offset market opportunities.</li><li>Continue to advertise and promote conservation sites to stakeholders and the public using print and electronic newsletter (e.g., ACA website, <i>Conservation Magazine</i>, <i>Alberta Discover Guide</i>, electronic newsletter, social media, and conservation site signage).</li></ul> Ongoing
ACA	\$535,322							
Partner	\$279,790							
Total	\$815,112							
<div>Habitat Securement</div> <table><tr><td>ACA</td><td>\$432,136</td></tr><tr><td>Partner</td><td>\$1,000,000</td></tr><tr><td>Total</td><td>\$1,432,136</td></tr></table>	ACA	\$432,136	Partner	\$1,000,000	Total	\$1,432,136	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"><li>Secure 640 acres of important wildlife and/or fish habitat through land purchase and land donations within focal areas.</li><li>Maintain a collaborative partnership with Environment and Climate Change Canada to conserve carbon and Species at Risk habitat in Central Parkland and Grassland natural regions.</li><li>Work with landowners and other partners to complete the donation of 143 acres along the Sturgeon River to ACA through the federal Ecological Gifts Program; this land will ultimately support the development of an engineered wetland to help improve wildlife and fish habitat, water quality, and riparian health.</li><li>Maintain, enhance, and expand other securement partnerships, and conserve important habitat within focal areas across Alberta.</li><li>Increase sustainable recreational opportunities across the province.</li><li>Collaborate with government on conservation offset program where applicable.</li><li>Apply to applicable grants to enhance securement opportunities (e.g., Land Trust Grant).</li></ul> Ongoing
ACA	\$432,136							
Partner	\$1,000,000							
Total	\$1,432,136							
<div>Corporate Partners (Securement)</div> <table><tr><td>ACA</td><td>\$19,270</td></tr><tr><td>Partner</td><td>\$0</td></tr><tr><td>Total</td><td>\$19,270</td></tr></table>	ACA	\$19,270	Partner	\$0	Total	\$19,270	Conserve, enhance, and restore priority wildlife and fish habitat with corporate partners.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Secure 320 acres of important wildlife and/or fish habitat through direct land purchase within focal areas.</li><li>Maintain and expand current corporate partnerships.</li><li>Increase the number of corporate partners actively donating to ACA.</li><li>Increase sustainable recreational opportunities across the province.</li></ul> Ongoing
ACA	\$19,270							
Partner	\$0							
Total	\$19,270							



Project	Primary Purpose	Expected Outcomes						
<div><div><div>Landowner Habitat Program (LHP)</div><table><tr><td>ACA</td><td>\$120,496</td></tr><tr><td>Partner</td><td>\$45,066</td></tr><tr><td>Total</td><td>\$165,562</td></tr></table></div></div>	ACA	\$120,496	Partner	\$45,066	Total	\$165,562	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"><li>Conserve 320 acres of important wildlife and fish habitat using 5- to 20-year term habitat retention agreements.</li><li>Continue to work with participating landowners that support conservation and recreation through LHP renewal agreements.</li><li>Continue to inspect and monitor existing LHP agreements.</li><li>Enhance sustainable recreational opportunities on deeded lands with reasonable public access requirements.</li><li>Foster respect between land users and landowners.</li><li>Increase awareness and enhance hunting and angling opportunities on privately owned lands across Alberta by distributing Use Respect–Ask First signage.</li><li>Display Use Respect–Ask First banners within ACA Regions to promote Use Respect–Ask First signage (government and municipality offices, trade shows, etc.)</li></ul></div> <div>Ongoing</div>
ACA	\$120,496							
Partner	\$45,066							
Total	\$165,562							
<div><div><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>\$172,539</td></tr><tr><td>Partner</td><td>\$219,321</td></tr><tr><td>Total</td><td>\$391,860</td></tr></table></div></div>	ACA	\$172,539	Partner	\$219,321	Total	\$391,860	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"><li>Establish new riparian conservation projects and associated landowner agreements (e.g., fencing, off-channel watering, habitat retention agreements, tree planting, bank stabilization, etc.).</li><li>Continue to inspect and monitor existing riparian agreements.</li><li>Explore opportunities to expand riparian conservation programming in the various regions.</li><li>Increase public interest and awareness of riparian conservation through community outreach, public presentations, direct contact with key landowners, signage, and advertisements.</li><li>Complete riparian health assessments and inventories at new and existing project locations and conduct water sampling to monitor water quality.</li><li>Participate in watershed groups, councils, and stewardship networks.</li><li>Continue to explore the option of ACA becoming involved in wetland restoration and examine the opportunity of a wetland banking system.</li><li>Increase angling opportunities on private lands with reasonable public access requirements.</li></ul></div> <div>Ongoing</div>
ACA	\$172,539							
Partner	\$219,321							
Total	\$391,860							
Development and Implementation of Habitat Management Plans								
Project	Primary Purpose	Expected Outcomes						
<div><div><div>Management Plan Development</div><table><tr><td>ACA</td><td>\$95,839</td></tr><tr><td>Partner</td><td>\$0</td></tr><tr><td>Total</td><td>\$95,839</td></tr></table></div></div>	ACA	\$95,839	Partner	\$0	Total	\$95,839	Develop management plans for conservation sites ACA owns or manages.	<div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Develop habitat management and enhancement objectives and identify project partner roles and responsibilities for priority conservation sites.</li><li>Complete management plans on any properties recently secured through the Habitat Securement Program or Corporate Partners Program in which ACA is the project lead.</li><li>Prioritize and develop management plans for priority Crown conservation sites (sites with dispositions).</li><li>Work with partners and update management plans as required.</li></ul></div> <div>Ongoing</div>
ACA	\$95,839							
Partner	\$0							
Total	\$95,839							



Securement, Enhancement, and Management of Recreational Access Sites								
Project	Primary Purpose	Expected Outcomes						
<div>Fisheries Access Site Management</div> <table><tr><td>ACA</td><td>\$153,293</td></tr><tr><td>Partner</td><td>\$78,730</td></tr><tr><td>Total</td><td>\$232,023</td></tr></table>	ACA	\$153,293	Partner	\$78,730	Total	\$232,023	Maintain and enhance fisheries access sites that support and increase recreational angling opportunities across the province.	<div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Manage and maintain 25 fisheries access sites across the province.</li><li>Continue with maintenance contracts at fisheries access sites.</li><li>Continue to work on the development of the fisheries access site facilities at Boulder Lake.</li><li>Continue to work on securing access to Chestermere Pond and Women's Coulee Reservoir to develop future fisheries access sites.</li><li>Continue to work collaboratively with EPA on Crown Fisheries Access Site dispositions.</li><li>Continue providing access for anglers to key streams, rivers, lakes, and trout ponds.</li><li>Maintain and develop collaborative partnerships to assist with maintenance costs associated with managing fisheries access sites.</li><li>Collaborate with EPA and ACA's Fisheries team to identify and create new angling opportunities and develop new fisheries access sites.</li><li>Continue to complete minor maintenance on agreed-to water control structures.</li></ul></div> <div>Ongoing</div>
ACA	\$153,293							
Partner	\$78,730							
Total	\$232,023							
<div>Recreational Opportunity Enhancement</div> <table><tr><td>ACA</td><td>\$36,307</td></tr><tr><td>Partner</td><td>\$0</td></tr><tr><td>Total</td><td>\$36,307</td></tr></table>	ACA	\$36,307	Partner	\$0	Total	\$36,307	Increase opportunities for hunting and angling, as well as other non-consumptive activities such as hiking, canoeing, or photography.	<div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Expand the access sign-in process currently employed in southern Alberta.</li><li>Explore the use of seasonal or permanent leases to allow for access to Crown waterbodies across private land.</li><li>Collaborate with EPA, AFGA, landowners, and other stakeholders.</li></ul></div> <div>Ongoing</div>
ACA	\$36,307							
Partner	\$0							
Total	\$36,307							
<div>Alberta Discover Guide</div> <div>The budget is allocated within the Communications Program.</div>	Promote the value of habitat conservation and the diversity of recreational opportunities available on ACA-owned and partner conservation sites.	<div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Continue to promote and distribute the <i>Alberta Discover Guide</i>.</li><li>Review and update the conservation site database with new ACA conservation sites and partner-owned properties for the 15<sup>th</sup> edition of the <i>Alberta Discover Guide</i> (2022).</li></ul></div> <div>Ongoing</div>						



Project: Riparian Conservation Program  
photo: ACA, Erin VanderMarel

# 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 EPA 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 2023/24, 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 2023/24

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



# What's in your tacklebox?

Licences are cheaper than fines. Fish Responsibly.



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





Project: ACA Grants in Biodiversity  
photo: Emily Smith



## 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 Conservation, Community, and Education Grants  
photo: Nicole Lavigne



Table 12: Grants Program for 2023/24

Project	Primary Purpose	Expected Outcomes						
<b>ACA Conservation, Community, and Education Grants</b> <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"><li>• Increase in quality and quantity of habitat available for wildlife, especially Alberta’s endangered species and fish populations.</li><li>• Engagement of Albertans in stewardship activities.</li><li>• Increase in fishing opportunities in Alberta.</li><li>• Greater understanding of the impact of non-native species on native species in Alberta.</li><li>• Increase in numbers of active hunters, anglers, and trappers and increased awareness of hunting/fishing/trapping opportunities in Alberta.</li><li>• Increase in awareness of conservation issues in Alberta and the relationship between conservation and hunting, fishing, and trapping.</li></ul>
ACA	\$970,000							
Partner	\$0							
Total	\$970,000							
<b>ACA Research Grants</b> <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"><li>• 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.</li></ul>
ACA	\$330,000							
Partner	\$0							
Total	\$330,000							
<b>ACA Grants in Biodiversity</b> <table><tr><td>ACA</td><td>\$180,226</td></tr><tr><td>Partner</td><td>\$50,000</td></tr><tr><td>Total</td><td>\$230,226</td></tr></table>	ACA	\$180,226	Partner	\$50,000	Total	\$230,226	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"><li>• Increase in knowledge of Alberta’s heritage of living resources, specifically the flora and fauna.</li><li>• Promote the development of highly qualified, Alberta-based conservation biologists and researchers.</li><li>• Support high-quality research and study in Alberta by graduate students, with an average of 20 students supported annually.</li></ul>
ACA	\$180,226							
Partner	\$50,000							
Total	\$230,226							
<b>ACA Chair in Fisheries and Wildlife at the U of A</b> <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"><li>• Maintain a close connection between the ACA Chair and ACA programs.</li><li>• Ensure research knowledge is being transferred to biologists involved in conservation, management, and policy development.</li></ul>
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 2023/24

Project	Primary Purpose	Expected Outcomes
<b>Waterfowl Crop Damage Prevention</b>	Provide assistance to agricultural producers in preventing crop depredation losses as a result of waterfowl.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>· Provide access to information on techniques for reducing crop depredation to agricultural producers.</li><li>· Ensure the prevention program meets requirements so that Alberta's agricultural producers qualify for the joint federal-provincial compensation program.</li></ul>
ACA                      \$2,791		
Partner                      \$0		
Total                      \$2,791		
<b>Wildlife Predator Compensation</b>	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"><li>· Provide compensation payments within 30 days of receiving processed claims from EPA.</li></ul>
ACA                      \$150,000		
Partner                      \$150,000		
Total                      \$300,000		
<b>Shot Livestock Compensation</b>	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"><li>· Provide compensation payments within 30 days of receiving processed claims from EPA.</li></ul>
ACA                      \$15,000		
Partner                      \$0		
Total                      \$15,000		



Project: MULTISAR (Riparian assessment)  
photo: ACA



## 7.0 Monitoring and Accountability

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

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

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

Our Annual Report is released each September to EPA, 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: Alberta Volunteer Amphibian Monitoring Program  
photo: ACA, Garret McKen

# 8.0 Financial Summary

Our 2023/24 operating budget, including projected land donations and funds donated for land purchase, is \$19,274,126.

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 2023/24 budget is based on a levy revenue projection of \$14,396,782 (established from prior year levy revenue.), a projection of partner (non-levy) revenue for projects of \$3,877,344 and a projection of partner (non-levy) donations of land or funds for land purchase of \$1,000,000.

\$14,849,187 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 103.1% percent of the levy revenue value collected from hunters and anglers being put directly back into our natural resources.

Table 14: Summary Budget for 2023/24

Program	ACA (Levy Funds)	Partner Funds	Total Budget
Administration	\$1,319,453	\$43,588	\$1,363,041
Finance	\$795,913	\$1,080,379	\$1,876,292
Business Development	\$317,274	-	\$317,274
Human Resources	\$307,820	-	\$307,820
Health and Safety	\$136,514	-	\$136,514
Information Technology	\$423,999	-	\$423,999
Information, Education, and Communications	\$1,231,140	\$170,200	\$1,401,340
Wildlife	\$3,013,124	\$1,182,403	\$4,195,526
Fisheries	\$2,261,679	\$457,986	\$2,719,665
Land Management	\$2,244,631	\$742,789	\$2,987,420
Report A Poacher (RAP)	\$302,079	-	\$302,079
Compensation and Damage Prevention	\$167,791	\$150,000	\$317,791
Grants	\$1,575,367	\$50,000	\$1,625,367
Subtotal Budget	\$14,096,782	\$3,877,344	\$17,974,126
Land Donations and Funds for Land Purchases	\$300,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,300,000
TOTAL BUDGET	\$14,396,782	\$4,877,344	\$19,274,126



Project: Furbearer Trends (ACA/ATA Partnership)  
photo: ACA, Robert Anderson





## Board of Directors

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Bill Abercrombie, Chairman  
– Alberta Trappers’ Association

Robert Gruszecki, Vice Chair  
– Alberta Hunter Education Instructors’ Association

Sandra Mellon, Treasurer  
– Public At Large, Northwest Region

Chuck Priestley, Secretary  
– Public At Large, Northeast Region

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Ken Bailey – Pheasants Forever

Robin Barnes – Public at Large, Northwest Region

Tom Bateman – Director Emeritus

Tony Blake – Nature Alberta

Rick Blakeley – Alberta Fish & Game Association

Dr. Mark Boyce – ACA/University of Alberta  
Chair in Fisheries and Wildlife

Gordon Burton (Interim Representative) – Alberta  
Professional Outfitters Society

Fred Calverley – Trout Unlimited Canada

Randy Collins – Northern Board Liaison

Neil Keown – Backcountry Hunters & Anglers  
– Alberta Chapter

Patrick Long – Director Emeritus

Richard Mellon – Wild Sheep Foundation Alberta

Richard Stamp – Public At Large, Southern Region

Brent Watson – Alberta Bowhunters Association

Vacant – Minister’s Representative

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







wildlife | fish | habitat

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