

2001/02 Annual Report

Funded by Alberta Anglers, Hunters and Other Conservationists



working together
toCONSETVE,
protect
and
enhance...

About our cover photo

The Alberta Conservation
Association's mandate is as
diverse as our province's natural
biological resources. So how to
choose the perfect image to
represent our vision? The ACA
promotes the conservation of
Alberta's wildlife, fisheries and
habitat. The image of a
nurturing nest represents our
commitment to conserve,
protect and enhance these vital
natural resources.

And what better symbol of emergence and growth than an egg incubating new life?

Certainly the ACA is positioned for continuing development in the coming year...

contents

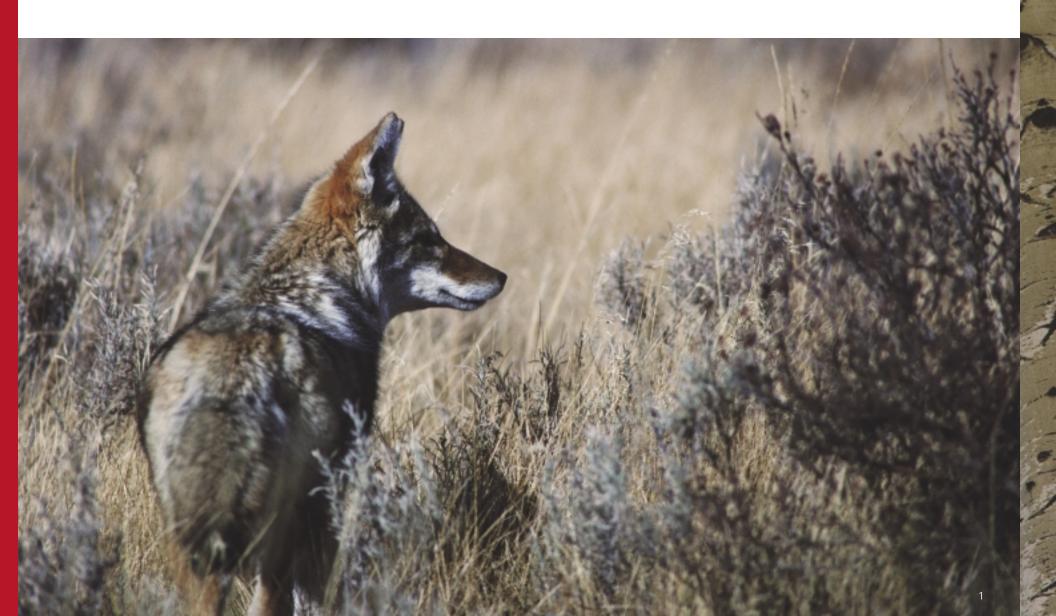
Chairman's Message	2
About the ACA	4
Our Programs	10
Financial Statements	21

Our Mission

To work together with Albertans to conserve, protect and enhance our natural biological resources.

Our Vision

Our vision is an Alberta where citizens understand and support good stewardship of our natural biological resources, where habitat integrity is maintained, where Government, business and citizens work together for nature conservation, and where future generations can value, enjoy and use those natural biological resources.





I am pleased to highlight the achievements of the Alberta Conservation Association's Board of Directors and staff in this, our fifth annual report. The development and changes that have taken place in our organization over the last year have

improved our ability to positively impact conservation. The significant progress we have made confirms my belief in the vital importance of our work in securing a positive future for Alberta's natural biological resources.

I applaud everyone who participated in our development over the past year. Our member groups laid the foundation for change and the Board of Directors, with strong staff support, plunged headlong into redefining the ACA.

The new leadership of an expanded and restructured Board of Directors, combined with a dedicated and energetic new Managing Director, Steven Hull, launched the changes to our

> operations. This reorganization included a first time opportunity for Wildlife Identification Number cardholders and Treaty members to influence the composition of the board through an

internet voting system for four new Public-At-Large members.

Additional changes to the board structure included single representation from the seven ACA member groups and the development of appointed positions from the academic and corporate sector.

While working towards our ambitious conservation goals, we also restructured our annual funding cycle to improve delivery of programs and support of conservation initiatives. We have always worked with an annual budget, but this is the first year that an annual operating plan was also created. This business plan provides written objectives, strategies and evaluation measures that will flow into the development of our three-year strategic plan.

Granting funds to our partners is another of the many ways the ACA positively influences conservation in our province. Our funding allocation process was also revised this year to include criteria more aligned with the ACA's annual operating plan and commitment to accountability. Funds for external programs are now allocated from a new process entitled "The Grant Eligible Conservation Fund". Funding of the ACA's own internal core programs and functions come from the General Operating Plan and are now separate from the GECF grant fund.

One of the most important tasks we completed was the negotiation and development of a Memorandum of Agreement with the Department of Sustainable Resource Development (SRD). This important agreement outlining how the ACA will conduct business with our government partners has now clarified and defined our partnership with SRD. This intensive, but necessary work continues with staff of both organizations working on the mechanics of our delegated programs and clarifying each organization's roles.

This was a year of development and reorganization for the Alberta Conservation Association and I am confident that these changes will provide the ACA with a strong foundation on which to build. I look forward to another productive year, with the support of hard working staff and the direction of a strong and dedicated board. Our work with our many partners to deliver effective conservation programs in Alberta has created a broad base of support and respect on which we will build in the upcoming year. We are defining ourselves as a future leader in the conservation community and will continue to work hard to support what we love and share it with all Albertans.



Terry Birkholz Chairman

2001/2002 ACA Board Directors

Chairman

Mr. Terry Birkholz - Alberta Professional Outfitters Association

Vice-Chairman

Mr. David Gursky - Western Walleye Council

Secretary-Treasurer

Mr. Don Pike - Trout Unlimited Canada

Directors

Mr. Ken Ambrock - Alberta Sustainable Resource Development

Mr. Gerald Gustavson - Alberta Trapper's Association

- * Mr. Jacob (J.J.) Handel Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta
- * Mr. Don Hayden Alberta Fish and Game Association
- * Mr. Vern McIntosh Alberta Fish and Game Association Mr. Robert Scammell - Alberta Fish and Game Association Mr. Glen Semenchuk - Federation of Alberta Naturalists
- * Mr. Bruce Stubbs Alberta Fish and Game Association
- * Mr. Bill Wishart Public At Large

Alberta Conservation Association

Mr. Steven Hull - Managing Director

Directors Appointed in January 2002

Dr. Mark Boyce - Public At Large

Dr. Lee Foote - Public At Large, Northeast Region

Mr. Kelsey Kure - Public At Large, Eastern Region

Mr. Don Onofrychuck - Public At Large, Southern Region

Directors Newly Appointed for 2002/2003

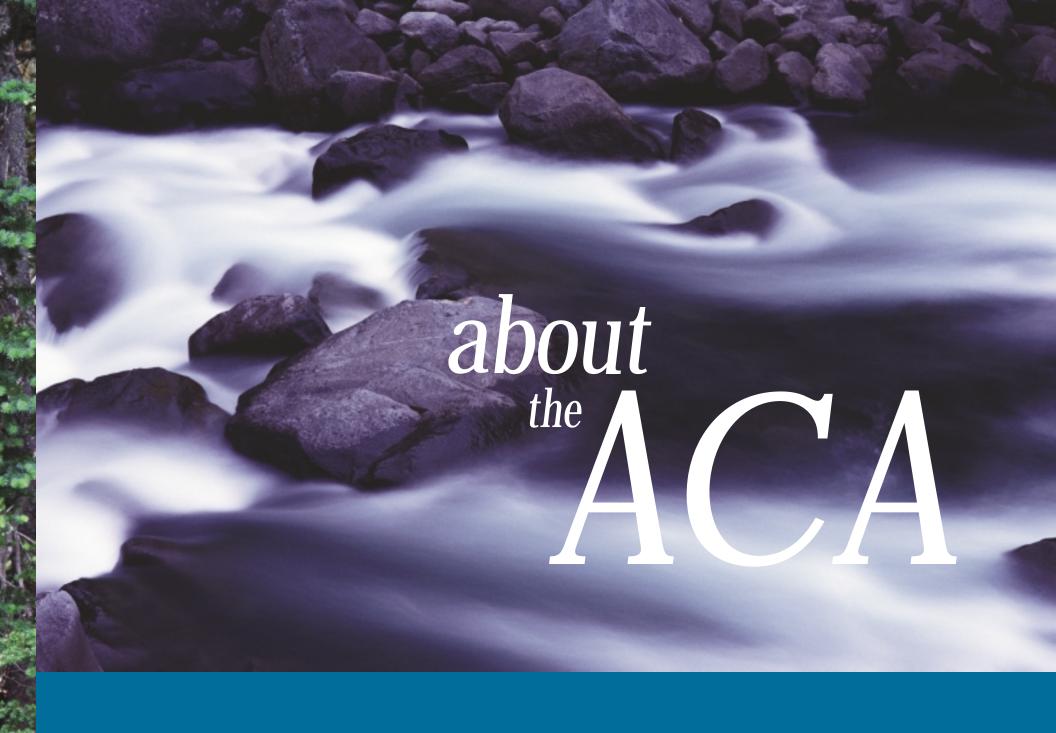
Mr. Brian Bildson - Public At Large, Northwest Region

Mr. David Bissett - Public At Large

At the Annual General Meeting held in August of 2001, members accepted an amendment to the by-laws to restructure the ACA Board of Directors. This positive change in direction resulted in the appointment of four new Directors in January 2002.

By the end of the fiscal year, two additional Directors were appointed and already in place for the upcoming year. The ACA Board of Directors entered the 2002/2003 year with an enhanced, highly effective structure poised for success.

^{*} Indicates Director retired from the Board during the 2001/2002 fiscal year.



WHAT WE DO

The ACA delivers a wide variety of conservation projects and programs across the province and has the flexibility of being a non government organization. Programs and projects focus on wildlife, fisheries and habitat, with priorities determined by provincial and regional action plans and the ACA's annual business plan. The Association often fulfills the role of a facilitator in bringing together partners from government, industry, and the conservation community to assess relevant issues and implement solutions. The ACA also functions as a funding agency providing over one million dollars annually for other conservation initiatives in the province. It is important to recognize that the ACA has no role in regulating land or resource use, and that the Government of Alberta has the ultimate responsibility for management of the province's natural resources.



WHO WE ARE

The Alberta Conservation Association was formed on April 1, 1997, and is a charitable organization committed to the conservation and enhancement of Alberta's natural biological resources. The ACA is a Delegated Administrative Organization under the Alberta Wildlife Act, specifically Section Two (2) of the Wildlife Regulations. The Alberta Wildlife Act provides the ACA with powers, duties and functions enabling the Association to carry out activities related to the development and enhancement of populations and habitats of wildlife, fish and endangered species in Alberta. It also includes the ability to establish and collect levies on hunting and angling licences in support of that work.

In order to preserve the legacy of the Alberta Fish and Wildlife Trust fund, seven founding member groups are represented on the ACA Board of Directors. These member organizations are committed to ensuring that the Province's wildlife and fish resources are well-managed, and that funds gathered through levies on hunting and fishing licences are directed to priority programs. The ACA Managing Director reports directly to the Board of Directors and oversees ACA staff throughout the province. The ACA has approximately seventy full time staff and expands to a complement of over one hundred during the summer months.

WHO WE WORK WITH

The ACA is funded by hundreds of thousands of hunters and anglers. Every time a hunting or fishing licence is purchased in Alberta, or a donation is made by another conservationist, funds are put to work on ACA's wildlife, fish and habitat initiatives. During the current fiscal year, nearly eight million dollars has been generated and committed to conservation efforts in Alberta. These conservation initiatives are often collaborative efforts with ACA stakeholders, and ultimately benefit a wide variety of interest groups as well as benefitting the province's fish and wildlife populations.

ACA stakeholder and member groups:

- · Alberta Fish and Game Association
- Alberta Professional Outfitters Association
- Alberta Professional Trappers Association

- Alberta Sustainable Resource Development
- Federation of Alberta Naturalists
- Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta
- · Trout Unlimited Canada
- Western Walleye Council

ACA programming also benefits:

- Hunters and anglers
- · Alberta Government
- · Alberta Community Development
- Local governments
- Industry
- Other conservation-oriented groups
- Youth and education
- Science and Academic community
- Landowners
- · Citizens of Alberta

the ACA Chair in Fisheries and Wildlife

Dr. Mark Boyce, University of Alberta

As part of the Alberta Conservation Association's commitment to science, research, and education, the Association endows an annual Chairholder position in Fisheries and Wildlife at the University of Alberta. The Chairholder's prime responsibility is to organize and conduct world-class research programs in fisheries and wildlife biology. In July of 1999, Dr. Mark Boyce began his tenure as the ACA Chair in Fisheries and Wildlife at the U of A's Faculty of Science. By addressing issues and problems relevant to Alberta's biological resources, Dr. Boyce supports the ACA's goals for long-term sustainable fisheries and wildlife resources. A contribution to teaching is also an essential duty of the position since the Chairholder is expected to contribute to the activities of the Department of Biological Sciences, and to the University as a whole. Dr. Boyce's internationally recognized expertise has significantly enhanced the ACA's efforts to support the conservation of Alberta's wildlife and fish resources.

For more information on Dr. Mark Boyce and the ACA Chair in Fisheries and Wildlife visit: http://www.biology.ualberta.ca/boyce.hp/index.htm

WHERE ARE WE LOCATED?

The ACA is divided into four administrative regions with a central office located in Edmonton. Each region has a team of highly-trained, experienced staff who report to a regional manager. These regional teams work closely with Alberta Sustainable Resource Development and other stakeholders specific to each region. Since each region of the province has its own unique conservation challenges, ACA staff have become respected specialists in managing a wide variety of conservation programs and projects.

Northwest Region

ACA regional office located in Peace River - This large Boreal Forest region comprises nearly 40 per cent of the province with a diverse assemblage of habitat, wildlife and fish species. The Northwest Region is facing particularly rapid increase in industrial and agricultural development combined with population expansion. Due to its geographic location and relatively pristine fisheries and wildlife resources, the Northwest Region is a popular destination for hunters and anglers.

Northeast Region

ACA regional office located in Edmonton - Four major ecoregions are contained within the Northeast Region, providing a wide range of soil, vegetation, habitat zones and wildlife. From north to south they are the Canadian Shield, the Boreal Forest, the Aspen Parkland, and the Prairie. The major concern for this area is the loss or permanent alteration of

habitat due to human disturbance. Forestry, agriculture, and hydrocarbon extraction have effects on the area's watersheds as well as lands.

East Slopes Region

ACA regional office located in Rocky
Mountain House - Located on the
eastern slopes of the Rocky Mountains,
this region contains Prairie Foothills,
Montane, Parkland, and Boreal Forest
ecosystems. The four largest cities in Alberta
are all in close proximity to the East Slopes. The
resulting pressure on natural resources from both
recreational users and industrial economic development
is high. Petroleum extraction, recreational facilities,
timber extraction, agriculture, water storage and urban
sprawl all provide major impact on the East Slopes region.

Southern Region

ACA regional office located in Lethbridge - The Southern Region contains the Prairie Grassland Natural Region of Alberta, an area of rapidly vanishing native prairie habitat. Landscapes within this region also range from wetlands to irrigated farmland to rolling prairie. Eighty-five percent of Alberta's high-rated endangered species inhabit this diverse region. Similar to the East Slopes, this region is impacted by oil and gas development and urban sprawl.



ACA EXTERNAL PROJECTS FUNDING

\$ 1 million cash boost for environmental conservation efforts in Alberta.

"I'm delighted that, once again, we can deliver the funds to the environmental conservation community and equip them with the much needed resources to achieve our mutual ambitions. We only have to look at the quality and range of applications received in recent years to see how promising the conservation future is in Alberta," ACA Chairman Terry Birkholz.

The Alberta Conservation Association believes it is our responsibility to join and support the collective effort to conserve, protect and enhance Alberta's natural biological resources. Funded by the province's anglers, hunters and other conservationists, the ACA administers a grant fund that has been awarding environmental conservation grants since 1997.

Levies, commissions, and handling fees are collected on hunting and fishing licenses in Alberta and distributed among the Alberta Government, Alberta Professional Outfitters Society, Licence Issuers, IBM and the Alberta Conservation Association. Every time a hunting or fishing

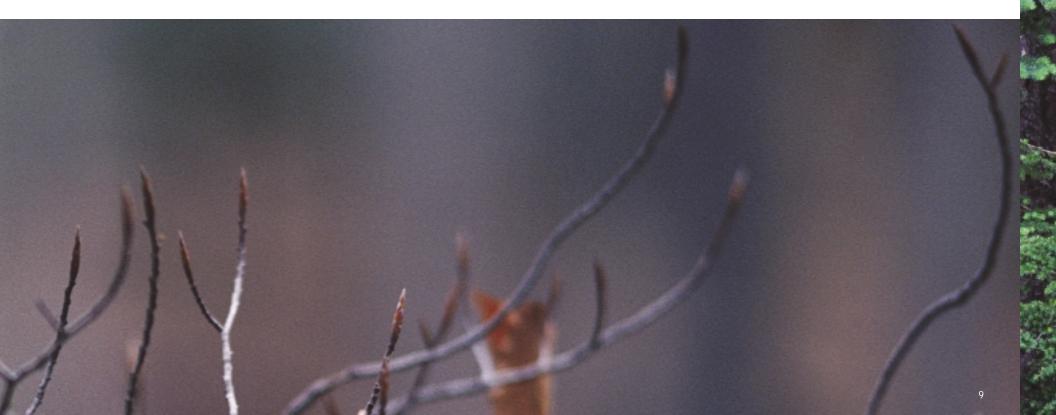


licence is purchased in Alberta, or a donation is made by another conservationist, funds are put to work on hundreds of wildlife, fish, and habitat initiatives.

The Alberta Conservation Association uses this money to administer grants for programs that benefit Alberta's wildlife and fish populations, and the habitat that they depend on. Any individual or group may apply for funding if they have a suitable project. In the 2001/2002 fiscal year, the ACA committed over \$ 940,000 in grant funding to 35 different projects ranging from habitat development, to wildlife and fisheries management enhancement programs.

In December of 2001, the ACA Board approved a restructuring of the fund to create the new Grant Eligible Conservation Fund (GECF). This improved funding program is aligned with the ACA's new mandate and commitment to accountability. New application guidelines were established, and in March the Board approved 43 projects for funding for the upcoming 2002/2003 fiscal year.

For more information on the Alberta Conservation Association's Grant Eligible Conservation Fund, visit the ACA web site **www.ab-conservation.com**.



and species. In the 2001/2002 fiscal year, the category names that described these programs were restructured to more closely align with

The ACA funds, supports and delivers a large number of conservation programs that cover a vast array of services, ecosystems fiscal year, the category names that

the annual operating

plan. Information is presented here as highlights of the ACA's three mandate areas - Wildlife, Fisheries, and Habitat - combined with information on ACA program areas.



• Monitoring, analysis and evaluation

A SANTER STATE OF THE SANT

- Research and data collection
- Program funding
- Facilitation and collaboration of stakeholders
- Industry information and public education
- Administrative services

Many of these programs are partnered or supported by industry, other conservation associations, or the provincial or federal government. Funding and partnership support is also received from outside sources, most notably from Alberta Sustainable Resources Development (SRD). This agency is the ACA's primary partner in many regional projects.

Visit the ACA website www.ab-conservation.com for a complete listing of programs and projects by provincial region.



Wildlife Program Highlights

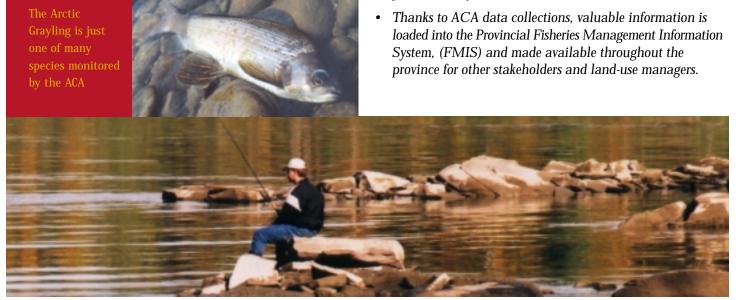
- The ACA contributed nearly one million dollars to support a variety of important ungulate surveys completed this year in several Wildlife Management Units. These surveys are vital for predicting future ungulate populations, monitoring harvest quotas, and planning future management policies.
- The Cross Elk Re-location Project saw approximately 127 elk relocated to areas west of Rocky Mountain House and Kananaskis Country. The Central Alberta Elk Study is another multi-partner initiative which involves monitoring a number of collared elk west of Rocky Mountain House.
- The ACA funds and supports several projects designed to enhance grizzly bear management and monitoring across several regions in the province. ACA funds supported a program to radio collar grizzly bears to study movement patterns in the Northwest Region. The Northern East Slopes Grizzly Bear Project works with the Foothills Model Forest to conduct grizzly bear research, and the South Western Alberta Grizzly Bear Strategy supports Alberta Sustainable Resource Development in their grizzly bear management initiatives. The ACA also funds the Partners in Life Bear Shepherding Project, providing conditioning for bears to avoid human conflict areas.
- The ACA also supported a study on the demographics and behavior of black bears in response to hunting. This study provides important information to assist wildlife managers in predicting bear movement and population analysis for future bear management planning.

- As part of the Peregrine Falcon Recovery Program, ACA staff conducted a census of historical and suspected nest sites in order to monitor reproductive trends and growth patterns among this important bird population.
- ACA staff also completed Sharp-tailed Grouse inventories on 33,000 acres of private ranch land this year.
- The ACA provides funding support to several excellent projects carried out by the Provincial Museum of Alberta including the Flycatcher Status Update and a study on Human Disturbance and Genetic Integrity of Populations.

A report, entitled Industrialization in Alberta's Boreal
Forest and it's Effect on Wildlife, was completed. The ACA
was a funding partner in this study, led by Alberta-Pacific
Forest Industries Inc. and initiated by a need for such info
expressed by ACA in regional priority documents.

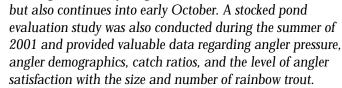
Fisheries Program Highlights

 ACA staff monitor sport fisheries in lakes and streams in order to provide valuable information to government fisheries staff to assess current and proposed management strategies. Surveys, population estimates, and monitoring studies were conducted at a variety of sites throughout the province this year.



- Fishery and population assessments were conducted at dozens of lakes and flowing water sites, including several small, remote-access lakes in the back-country. These surveys revealed that even "remote" lakes are experiencing increasing angling pressure, with many anglers using ATV's to travel ever-increasing distances in search of good fishing. This information is key to avoiding the collapse of fish populations in these small and vulnerable lakes.
- The ACA also funds stream assessment studies throughout the province. For example, this year's survey work on the Artic Grayling population in the House River provided insights into the year-to-year variability in response to major environmental factors, such as drought and fire.
- In cooperation with Sustainable Resources Development, the ACA funds and delivers a number of cooperative fish population and habitat inventory projects, most involving industry and government partners. These studies involve sampling at a number of priority streams. ACA staff perform fisheries inventories in collaboration with industry and government partners. This year, inventories were conducted in all four regions of the province.
- The Kakwa River Bull Trout Study is a long term, bench mark study that provides valuable information on spawning frequency, timing and fidelity of the bull trout population located in this northern river tributary. The research defines critical spawning areas and contributes a considerable amount of bull trout life history data for the provincial stock/recruitment model developed by the University of Calgary. The density of juvenile bull trout is also estimated

- annually to track changes in environmental quality.
- The ACA's Enhanced Fish Stocking (EFS) Program stocked 68 water bodies with over 131,000 rainbow trout. The majority of rainbow trout stocking occurs May long weekend



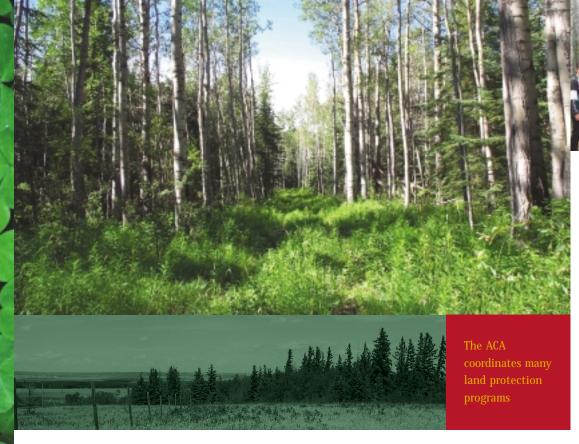


Habitat Program Highlights

ACA habitat projects can be categorized as either Retention/ Securement activities, or Enhancement/Maintenance programs. These programs focus on healthy ecosystem support for fish and wildlife. Regional staff collaborate with a variety of industry, government, or conservation partners to improve habitat health. Since this ACA program area focuses so closely on land and water issues, staff also works closely with public and private landowners to coordinate conservation efforts.

Habitat Retention and Securement

Retention programs identify opportunities and take actions to control or limit activities on high quality landscapes for the ultimate benefit of fish and wildlife. During the 2001/02 fiscal year the ACA was actively involved in securing



important habitat throughout all four regions of Alberta. Land is secured for conservation by several means, including conservation easements, retention agreements, and outright purchase. ACA staff also conduct inventories to determine potential locations sites, investigate acquisition/securement opportunities, and negotiate with landowners to ensure protection and education.

 Through partnerships with other non government organizations, the ACA was involved in securing over 900 acres through seven land acquisitions. Three of these purchases were completed through involvement in the Parkland Conservation Group, which includes the ACA, Ducks Unlimited and The Nature Conservancy of Canada. These land acquisition supplemented previous land

- purchases of 2,442 acres of important fish and wildlife habitat. Through involvement with the Parkland Conservation Group, the ACA has now secured over 3,200 acres of valuable wildlife habitat in the Central Parkland eco-region.
- The ACA was also involved in four other land acquisitions. In partnership with Ducks Unlimited, the Batty Lake property was purchased involving 142 acres near St. Paul. The Griffin Property near Manning was purchased in partnership with the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation and the Nature Conservancy of Canada, which permanently secured 160 acres of native upland habitat. During 2001/02, the ACA permanently secured two key parcels of fish habitat on the Raven River. Both the Lipka and Leavitt Properties contain key spawning areas for Brown and Brook Trout. Thanks to collaborative partnerships with Trout Unlimited and the Alberta Fish and Game Association, the biological integrity of these headwater springs will be preserved.
- The ACA successfully completed its first **Conservation Easement** with a private landowner in 2001/02. This
 Conservation Easement will allow the landowner to retain
 ownership while ensuring that natural habitat is secured in
 perpetuity. Currently, the ACA is pursuing numerous
 Conservation Easements and will likely use this tool with
 greater frequency in the future for other successful
 securement programs.
- This past year, several new habitat retention agreements were signed, others renewed, and administration of over 500 existing agreements continued. Staff from each region also

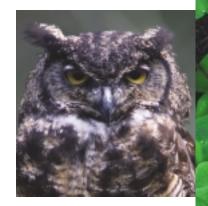
assisted with the development of a provincial ACA Habitat Securement Strategy and an evaluation of the Landowner Habitat Retention Program. Numerous stakeholder and public education opportunities (workshops, one-on-one meetings, production of printed materials) were capitalized on throughout the year.

Habitat Enhancement and Maintenance

Enhancement programs evaluate habitats and implement interventions or treatments to maintain or improve the health and integrity of the land for the benefit of fish and wildlife.

- In the Northeast Region, the declining health of lakeshores is a preservation risk to the fish resources. As a result, the **Riparian Health Assessment Project** was implemented in partnership between the ACA and Alberta Sustainable Resource Development. Through low-level aerial videography, the ACA is documenting and assessing the quality and quantity of riparian and littoral habitats on lakes in this region. The aerial images create data files and maps that track changes in response to conservation efforts over time, as well as facilitate public education. This project was featured in the ACA sponsored television documentary titled "Stewardship of the Land".
- The Shoreline Conservation and Education Strategy focuses on working with landowners on lake shorelines that have been degraded through human activities or are likely to be impacted in the future. Through on-site consultation and the distribution of educational material this project seeks to educate landowners regarding healthy shorelines

- and the importance in preserving the riparian areas of lakes. This project also provides technical expertise to landowners, municipalities and lakeshore associations in restoring shorelines to a healthy state. Preserving a healthy shoreline is essential in maintaining a balance in a lakes ecosystem and ensuring sustainable fish populations.
- The ACA is also involved in numerous upland habitat evaluation and assessment programs, including the **Peace Parkland Native Grasslands Stewardship Project**. Land development has severely altered the abundance and distribution of native vegetation throughout much of the settled areas in Alberta. Fragmentation is recognized as the most significant threat to the biological integrity and diversity of the Peace Parkland. The ACA is identifying remaining parcels of native grasslands in the region through air photo interpretation and is working with landowners to preserve these parcels. Conservation Easements, management agreements and other stewardship activities will be used to preserve these unique sites.
- Maintenance of over seventy existing habitat conservation sites is a function that demands a considerable amount of ACA's attention. Activities include weed control, fence maintenance, regular inspections, and signage maintenance. This year, the ACA revised and managed site plans for numerous properties; in addition to supervising the activities of over twenty non-ACA volunteer site stewards. ACA staff also provided expertise and guidance to industrial partners working on these properties on how to avoid negative effects on wildlife and habitats.





• The ACA also works with provincial government agencies and other partners to protect and enhance habitat on public lands designated for wildlife conservation. For example, last year, protective notations were submitted to the provincial government's land use registry system for a block of 13 quarter-sections of land in the Bolloque Lake area. Habitat enhancement projects, such as installation and monitoring of nest structures, mechanical tree-clearing (forage enhancement) and grazing-exclusion fencing are conducted on conservation lands, depending on objectives stated in site management plans. Nest-building workshops were also held with special interest groups.

Other habitat enhancement projects include

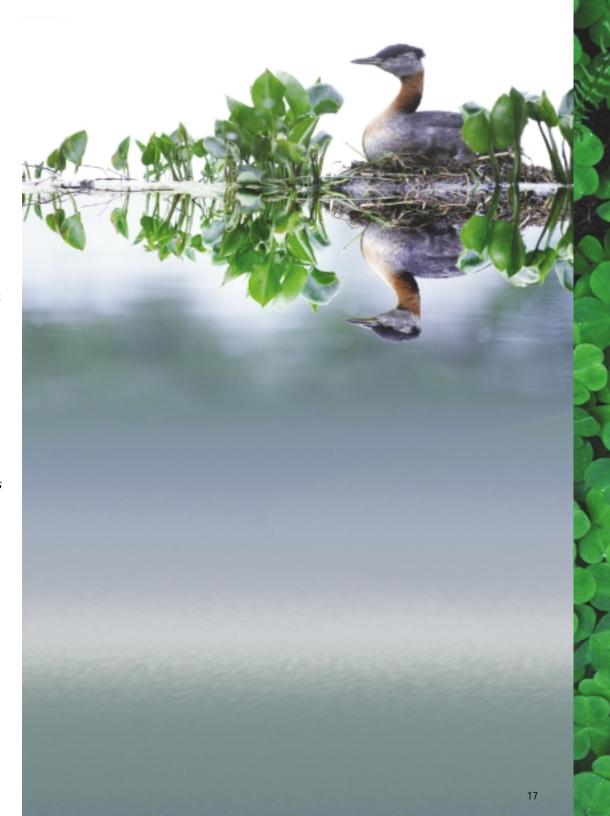
- The ACA funds and coordinates a major Lake Aeration
 Program throughout the province. The objective of the
 program is to continue to create and maintain year round
 fishing opportunities in various locations throughout the
 province. This will help reduce the angling pressure on our
 native fish populations and provide communities and areas
 with new angling opportunities. The aeration program
 annually influences over 14 17 sites throughout the
 province including provincial parks and recreational
 campgrounds.
- Waterfowl conservation is another high priority in the southern portions of the region. The annual **Duck Box Project** in the Buffalo Lake Moraine has resulted in the installation and maintenance nearly 1,200 nest boxes for cavity-nesting waterfowl in the aspen-parkland.

- A multi-partner **Conservation Working Group** was established and supported by ACA to guide joint habitat conservation efforts in the aspen-parkland eco-region.
- Stocked trout ponds provide additional recreational opportunities for anglers. The ACA is the lead organization involved in the maintenance of these pond sites, carrying out enhancement activities at over twenty ponds every year.
- A comprehensive vegetation inventory and mapping effort was coordinated in the aspen parkland eco-region. This work will identify and categorize habitat features in order to identify focus areas and targets for habitat conservation work, and direct large-scale land-use planning.
- The ACA also funds and coordinates enhancement of wildlife habitat through prescribed burning. This program also involves thousands of trees and shrubs planted on a variety of ACA projects and properties to enhance vegetation for wildlife.
- The Northern Watershed Project is a multi-stakeholder habitat initiative created to help both government and industry understand the role of disturbances on the forest and fish resources of north western Alberta. Initiated in April of 1999, the four-year long project is a collaborative research venture between the Alberta Research Council and the Alberta Conservation Association. It provides information to address immediate conservation concerns, and also contributes to long term planning and management of northern Alberta's forest and aquatic resources.

Species At Risk and Biodiversity Projects

Renamed halfway through the year, this valuable group of ACA programs focuses on Alberta's threatened wildlife and species at risk. This program not only delivers research data, but promotes information and education through status reports, brochures and a series of information leaflets. Project highlights include

- The Piping Plover Predator Exclosure Project: This year 32 nests were found and ACA staff reported an 80% hatch rate with exclosures versus a 50% hatch rate without exclosures.
 95 adults were counted during the surveys and 67 young were banded.
- The Alberta Volunteer Amphibian Monitoring Program: This year 274 volunteer participants contributed 522 amphibian observations in Alberta. Data on all 10 species of amphibians that occur in the province was recorded. This popular program was promoted through a series of talks, poster displays, field trips and scientific conferences.
- Researching Amphibian Numbers in Alberta (RANA)
 Program: Operated six sites in 2001, collecting information
 on six species of amphibians including several species of
 concern. Apart from the RANA ponds, an additional 180
 ponds were surveyed with six species of amphibians
 recorded at these sites.
- The Northern Leopard Frog Reintroduction Program: Captive reared and released close to 3,000 Leopard frogs into the wild at two sites. The Northern Leopard Frog Inventory Program completed its survey work, this year





investigating 49 historic leopard frog sites. These two programs produce valuable data showing there has been no range recovery of the leopard frog since its dramatic decline during the late 1970s.

- ACA staff completed an inventory of rattlesnakes as part
 of the Lethbridge Rattlesnake Stewardship Project. The
 annual spring search for additional hibernaculae was
 carried out as well as construction of snake fencing at
 strategic locations to reduce human/snake conflicts. ACA
 staff also coordinated arrangements to construct a new
 rattlesnake hibernaculum, and transplanted approximately
 twenty snakes.
- The Biodiversity Grant Fund is a University of Alberta grants program designed to increase knowledge of Alberta's heritage of living resources, specifically the flora and fauna, and promote the development of highly qualified, Albertabased conservation biologists. The ACA provides up to

\$250,000 annually for support of graduate student research in Alberta in the areas of biodiversity, conservation biology, and ecology.

Report A Poacher Program

The ACA's Report A Poacher (RAP) Program provides Albertans with an opportunity to participate in the detection and apprehension of resource law violations. The RAP Program also promotes the value and importance of conservation of Alberta's native flora and fauna, and of compliance with wildlife and fish legislation.

A toll-free phone line number enables the public to report suspected resource-related violations. The ACA then works with the Alberta Government to investigate each report. Monetary rewards are paid for confirmed violation reports, with reward amounts determined by the quality of information provided.

In the past year, the RAP Program received 3,779 phone calls. Of these, 206 files were approved for a reward, an increase over the 181 files approved in 2000. This year, 161 rewards were paid for a value of \$48,850, an increase of over 20% over the previous year. RAP also received over \$7,000 in donations this year, mostly coming from concerned citizens who were eligible for a reward but decided to donate the monies back into the program. The Report A Poacher toll free phone line is 1-800-642-3800.

Predator Compensation Program

The ACA's Predator Compensation Program is funded by hunting licence levies and is intended to reduce the financial burden incurred by livestock producers as a result of wildlife predation. Producers that have livestock killed or injured through predation by wolves, grizzly bears, black bears, cougars, and eagles are eligible to make a claim. Livestock eligible for compensation include cattle, sheep, goats, bison and hogs. During the year, 128 claims were approved and over \$ 82,000 was paid to livestock producers.

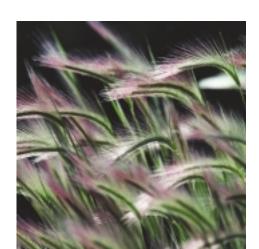
Shot Livestock Program

The Shot Livestock Program is designed to compensate farmers and ranchers who have livestock killed or injured from accidental or negligent actions resulting from individuals using a weapon. Through this ACA program, livestock owners can apply for compensation if their animal was killed or injured during game bird or big game hunting season. Livestock that qualify for program

eligibility included cattle, sheep, goats, bison, hogs, and horses. This year, eight eligible claims for compensation were received with just over \$ 10,000 compensated to livestock producers.

Crop Damage Control Program

The ACA co-ordinates delivery of the Waterfowl Crop Damage Control (CDC) Program. This program provides waterfowl damage prevention measures including alternate feeding sites for waterfowl and the provision of scare cannons. With the assistance of Alberta Sustainable Resource Development and Environment Canada, the CDC Program identifies areas of actual or potential operation, develops operational policies, and provides ongoing evaluation. The annual operating cost is shared on an equal basis with Environment Canada. Thanks to this program, some form of waterfowl damage prevention measure is available to all grain producers throughout the province. This year, CDC dealt with 159 cases of potential waterfowl depredation on more than 250 different quarter sections of cropland.





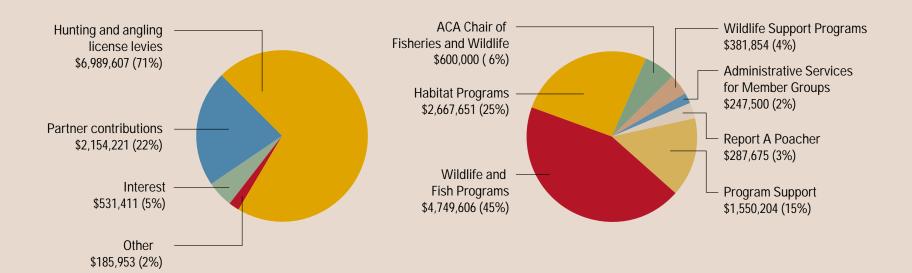
Dollars at Work

Revenue

During the 2001/2002 fiscal year, the Alberta Conservation Association received \$ 9,861,192 from all sources combined. The major portion of this revenue, \$ 6,989,607 was derived from the ACA's share of the levy on hunting and fishing licenses. The total levy is shared among the Alberta Government, Alberta Professional Outfitters Society, licence issuers, IBM and the ACA. The ACA's share of this revenue, 40 percent, was leveraged to generate an additional \$ 2,154,221 in contributions from individuals, corporations and government departments. These funds were augmented by an additional \$ 531,411 in interest earned by long term investment.

Expenditures

Total annual expenditures were \$ 10,484,490 for this fiscal year. These funds were used to support a variety of programs, with priorities set by regional plans and the ACA's annual operating plan. The Program Support category includes a variety of items that support year round delivery of programs throughout the province such as fixed asset amortization, insurance, audit and legal costs.







Auditors' Report

To The Members of Alberta Conservation Association

We have audited the statement of financial position of Alberta Conservation Association as at March 31, 2002 and the statements of changes in net assets and operations for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Association's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform an audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation.

In common with many not-for-profit organizations, the Association derives a portion of its revenue from partner contributions and donations, the completeness of which is not susceptible to satisfactory audit verification. Accordingly,

our verification of these revenues was limited to the amounts recorded in the records of the Association and we were unable to determine whether any adjustments to partner contribution revenue, donation revenue, excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses, assets, deferred revenue and net assets might be necessary.

In our opinion, except for the effect of adjustments, if any, which we might have determined to be necessary had we been able to satisfy ourselves concerning the completeness of the revenues referred to in the preceding paragraph, these financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Association as at March 31, 2002 and the changes in its net assets and the results of its operations for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles.

Meyers Novis Penny LCP

June 3, 2002

Edmonton, Alberta Chartered Accountants

Statements of Financial Position

For the Year Ended March 31, 2002

	2002	2001
	2002	
Assets		
Current assets		
Cash (Note 4)	239,895	124,964
Accounts receivable	718,880	637,791
Goods and services tax receivable	39,606	66,691
Prepaid expenses	15,939	80
	1,014,320	829,526
Long-term investments (Notes 2 and 4)	8,479,091	9,064,300
Capital assets (Note 3)	1,609,647	1,365,160
	11,103,058	11,258,986
Liabilities		
Current		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	832,960	622,782
Accrued vacation payable	206,943	179,820
Funds held for affiliated organizations	_	3,811
Deferred revenue (Note 4)	810,116	672,232
Security deposits	7,510	5,340
	1,857,529	1,483,985
Net investment in capital assets	1,609,647	1,365,160
Unrestricted net assets	7,635,882	8,409,841
	9,245,529	9,775,001
	11,103,058	11,258,986

	2002	2001
Net investment in capital assets		
Opening balance Add: Net additions in year	1,365,160 585,236	1,128,299 552,816
Less: Amortization expense	340,749	315,955
Ending balance	1,609,647	1,365,160
Unrestricted net assets		
Opening balance	8,409,841	9,380,792
Add: Net deficiency of revenue over expenditures	(529,472)	(734,090)
Amortization expense	340,749	315,955
Less: Net assets purchased in year	585,236	552,816
Ending balance	7,635,882	8,409,841

Statements Changes in Net Assets

For the Year Ended March 31, 2002

Statements of Operations For the Year Ended March 31, 2002

	2002	2001
Revenue		
Fees and assessments	6,989,607	6,730,366
Partner contributions	2,154,221	1,725,199
Interest	531,411	604,283
Miscellaneous	134,821	54,508
Donations	25,907	34,500
Conservation subscriptions	18,225	25,471
Government of Canada	7,000	57,080
Total revenue	9,861,192	9,231,407
Expenses		
Salaries and benefits	3,257,736	3,052,746
Grants	2,407,196	2,520,760
Contracted services	1,401,395	1,356,781
Rentals	1,321,754	1,061,986
Materials and supplies	407,721	448,873
Amortization	340,749	315,955
Advertising	228,518	225,701
Travel	191,328	164,957
Fuel and lubricants	190,136	184,302
Landowner agreements	172,017	136,202
Repairs and maintenance	139,175	129,294
Office	96,170	74,786
Shot and predator claims	92,719	-
Insurance	66,036	59,646
Telephone and communications	59,341	48,992
Hosting and conferences	39,449	80,429
Bank charges and interest	32,492	44,954
Utilities	19,241	24,613
Freight and postage	15,474	15,422
Fees, licenses and permits	5,497	5,058
Property taxes	346	492
Miscellaneous	-	13,458
Data processing services		90
Total expenses	10,484,490	9,965,497
Other income		
Gain on sale of investments	94,599	-
Loss on disposal of capital assets	(773)	-
	93,826	-
Net deficiency of revenues over expenses	(529,472)	(734,090)

1. Nature of operations

Alberta Conservation Association is incorporated under the Alberta Societies Act as a not-for-profit organization. Effective April 1, 1998, the Alberta Conservation Association was registered as a charitable organization under Section 149(1)(f) of The Income Tax Act. Its mission is to work together with Albertans to conserve, protect and enhance our province's natural resources.

2. Significant accounting policies

The Association follows accounting policies generally accepted in Canada in preparing the financial statements. The significant accounting policies are as follows:

Amortization

Capital assets are recorded at cost. Amortization is provided annually at rates calculated to write-off the assets over their estimated useful lives as follows:

Item	Diminishing Balance
	20%
Office equipment	
Automotive	30%
Computer hardware	33%
Computer software	100%
Boats	15%
Trailers	20%
Communication equipment	10%
Other equipment	10%

Revenue recognition

Alberta Conservation Association follows the deferral method of accounting for contributions. Restricted contributions are recognized as revenue in the year in which the related expenses are incurred. Unrestricted contributions are recognized as revenue when received or receivable if the amount to be received can be reasonably estimated and collection is reasonably assured.

Long-term investments

Long-term investments are carried at cost net of accumulated amortization of premiums and discounts purchased. The market value is \$8,512,422 at March 31, 2002 (2001-\$9,250,994). Premiums or discounts paid on purchase are amortized on a straight-line basis over the term of the instrument. This amortization is recorded as an adjustment to interest earned.

3. Capital assets

		2002		2001
	Cost	Accumulated Amortization	Net Book Value	Net Book Value
Land	415,045	_	415,045	306,378
Automotive	1,113,847	521,173	592,674	561,224
Trailers	168,063	68,051	100,012	98,490
Aircraft	40,569	16,417	24,152	27,383
Boats	71,835	22,924	48,911	50,829
Computer hardware	336,611	168,626	167,985	109,642
Computer software	43,266	41,421	1,845	840
Office equipment	6,218	2,015	4,203	3,296
Communication equipment	33,894	8,107	25,787	22,973
Other equipment	314,083	85,050	229,033	184,105
	2,543,431	933,784	1,609,647	1,365,160

4. Deferred revenue

Deferred revenue represents unspent resources from external sources such as government, not-for-profit organizations and industry and are restricted by the contributor for carrying out specific conservation projects. The restricted amounts held by the Association are included in cash and long-term investments.

	2002	2001
Deferred revenue, beginning of year Add: contributions Less: amounts recognized as revenue	672,232 2,292,105 (2,154,221)	859,794 739,280 (926,842)
Deferred revenue, end of year	810,116	672,232

5. Related party transactions

The Alberta Government provides the Association with space for its premises at no cost to the Association. The estimated value to the Association is \$160,000 annually.

The following member organizations are entitled to appoint representatives to the Board of the Association:

Organization	Number of Appointees
Alberta Fish and Game Association	1
Trout Unlimited Canada	1
Alberta Professional Outfitters Society	1
Federation of Alberta Naturalists	1
Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta	1
Western Walleye Council	1
Alberta Trappers Association	1

The Minister of Sustainable Resource Development continues to appoint a Director, and these eight Directors elect six public at large Directors.

The configuration of the Board of Directors was changed as a result of by-law amendments approved at the Annual General Meeting held August 9, 2001.

The following is a summary of the contributions made during the year by the Association to member organizations to carry out projects approved by the Board of Directors. These transactions are in the normal course of business and are measured at the exchange amount.

Organization	Amount Contributed	
	2002	2001
Alberta Fish and Game Association Trout Unlimited Canada (Includes \$122,300 for Cows & Fish) Federation of Alberta Naturalists Alberta Professional Outfitters Society	352,295 231,052 22,500	559,611 118,293 30,000
Alberta Professional Outfitters Society	-	4,000

Included in accounts payable and accrued liabilities at March 31, 2002 are the following amounts payable to member organizations:

Organization	Amount Contributed	
	2002	2001
Alberta Fish and Game Association Trout Unlimited Canada	4,646	72,708
(Includes \$20,700 for Cows & Fish) Federation of Alberta Naturalists	58,317 7,500	37,273 -

6. Financial instruments

Interest rate risk

The Association holds bonds purchased at premiums and discounts, thus exposing the Association to fluctuations in interest rates. The actual value of the bonds may be more or less than their carrying value.

7. Statement of cash flows

A statement of cash flows has not been prepared since it will not provide any additional meaningful information.

8. Remuneration of directors and senior management

The following amounts were paid to directors and senior management personnel who report directly to the Directors during the fiscal year:

Mr. Glen Semenchuk	1,874
Mr. Bill Wishart	504
Mr. Don Pike	4,893
Mr. Bob Scammell	3,862
Mr. David Gursky	2,856
Mr. Gerald Gustavson	3,031
Mr. Don Hayden	2,928
Mr. Terry Birkholz	5,362
Mr. Ken Ambrock	_
Mr. Kelsey Kure	252
Mr. Donald Onofrychuk	404

Dr. Mark Boyce	157
Dr. Lee Foote	_
Mr. Jacob Handel	_
Mr. Bruce Stubbs	_
Mr. Vern McIntosh	-

Senior management personnel Salary and benefits

Previous Managing Director (Resigned July 2001)	36,875
Managing Director (Commenced March 2002)	7,867

Total	70,865

The Managing Director position was vacant from August 2001 through February 2002. During this period, the Managing Director's responsibilities were fulfilled by the Manager of Accounting and the Director of Operations and Strategy and, as a result, they received additional compensation of \$2,000 per month.

9. Comparative figures

Certain comparative figures have been adjusted to conform with the presentation adopted in the current year.



OUR PARTNERS

The Alberta Conservation Association extends its gratitude to the following partners for their support and contribution during 2001/2002:

Alberta Agriculture Alberta Antelope Fun

Alberta Association Of Summer Villages

Alberta Cattle Commission

Alberta Community Development

Alberta Ecotrust Alberta Environment

Alberta Fish and Game Association Local

Clubs

Alberta Pacific Forest Industries

Alberta Plywood Limited

Alberta Professional Outfitters Society Alberta Recreation Parks and Wildlife

Foundation

Alberta Research Council

Alberta Sustainable Resource Development

Alberta Trappers Association

Alberta Watersheds **Anonymous Donations**

Barrhead Agriculture Services Board

Barrhead Fish and Game Boreal Forest Research Centre **Bow River Irrigation District** Canadian Forest Products Limited

City of Calgary City of Edmonton City of Lethbridge **Clearwater County**

Crispin Resources

Connor Creek Grazing Association

Corridor Pipeline County of Grande Prairie County of Lac Ste. Anne County of Mountainview Country of Newell County of St. Paul County of Wetaskiwin Cows and Fish Program

Daishowa-Marubeni International

Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Department of Education **Ducks Unlimited Canada**

Environmental Research Advisory Council

Eastern Irrigation District Edmonton Trout Fishing Club

Environment Canada

Federation of Alberta Naturalists

Federation of North American Wild Sheep

Fishin' Hole

Fishing Alberta Television Program

Foothills Model Forest

Government of Alberta Summer Temporary

Employment Program

Government of Canada Habitat Stewardship

Program for Species at Risk

Harry Tyrell Hay Zama Group Husky Oil Limited **Individual Volunteers**

Jackfish Lake Management Association

King Motion Pictures

Landowners and Leaseholders Let's Go Outdoors Radio Lethbridge Community College Lethbridge Fish and Game Lethbridge Naturalists Society Living By Water Program

Manning Diversified Forest Products Millar Western Forest Products

Millet Fish and Game

Municipal District of Big Lakes Municipal District of Bighorn Municipal District of Bonneyville Municipal District of Pincher Creek Municipal District of Rockyview Municipal District of Taber Municipal District of Willow Creek Nature Conservancy of Canada

Navigo Energy

North American Waterfowl Management

Program

North Saskatchewan River Watershed

Alliance

Prairie Farm Rehabilitation

Administration

Parks Canada

Peace Country Fly Fishers Peace Parkland Naturalists

Peter Mapplebeck

Pheasants Forever Calgary Chapter

Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration

Pro Max Energy

Provincial Museum of Alberta

Real Estate Board of Alberta

Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation Rural Municipality of Wood Buffalo

Slave Lake Pulp

Society for Range Management

Spring Lake Resort

Spruce Grove Fish and Game Stony Plain Fish and Game

Suncor Energy

Sunpine Forest Products

Sylvan Lake Stewardship Association

Town of Fairview

TransAlta Utilities Corporation Transcanada Pipelines Limited

Treaty 8 First Nations Trout Unlimited University of Alberta University of Calgary University of Lethbridge Vincent Lake Working Group

Volunteer Stewards W.I.N. Cardholders Wabamun Gun Club

Walleye Unlimited Calgary Chapter Water's Edge Resource Group Western Walleye Council

Wetaskiwin Fish and Game Weyerhaeuser Canada Woodland Tall Cree Yellowhead County

Contact Information

Alberta Conservation Association Charitable Registration # 88994 6141 RR0001

Toll Free:1-877-969-9091 Tel: (780) 427-5192

Fax: (780) 422-6441

Email: info@ab-conservation.com

Website: www.ab-conservation.com

Delivery Address:

6th floor, 9920-108 Street

Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 2M4

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 40027

Baker Centre Postal Outlet Edmonton, Alberta, T5J 4M9

Photo Credits

David Fairless Kevin Gardiner Kris Kendell Ed Kolodychuk David Parks





