



## CONSERVATION THROUGH COLLABORATION



wildlife

fish

habitat




## Our Vision

We see an Alberta where there is good stewardship of our natural biological resources; where habitats are maintained and improved; and where people work together so future generations can value, enjoy and use these resources.

## Our Mission

We work to conserve, protect and enhance our natural biological resources.





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Photography: The Alberta Conservation Association wishes to thank the following photographers who contributed to this publication: David Fairless, Kris Kendell, Robert Anderson and Gordon Court.



## Chairman's message

It is no secret that Alberta is a prosperous, rapidly growing province. Nor should it be a surprise to anyone that with this prosperity comes tremendous pressure and increased demands on Alberta's wildlife, fish, and habitat resources.

This combination of rapid population and industrial growth means that Alberta's landscape is constantly evolving with land use priorities as diverse as the landscapes themselves. Part of conservation means balancing these often conflicting demands. As Theodore Roosevelt, America's 26th President and one of the great early conservationists noted, "The conservation of our natural resources and their proper use constitute the fundamental problem which underlies almost every other problem of our national life."

When there are boom times such as what Alberta is going through now, this "fundamental problem" can be greatly exacerbated. It is during such times that there is a need for greater collaboration, increased partnerships, and more intense analysis of what we want for the future of Alberta's wildlife, fish, and habitat resources.

The Alberta Conservation Association is in a unique position to facilitate and develop relationships with a variety of different stakeholders—ranging from government, community groups and NGOs to the academic community and industry to help set in motion innovative approaches to conservation. An important example of this is our partnership with Suncor Energy who committed \$1,000,000 over three years for boreal forest conservation initiatives such as Winagami Lake.

Approximately \$7,000,000 in core funding from annual levies applied to angling and hunting licences along with key partnerships allow us to focus on conserving and restoring our wild resources so that the hunting, angling and recreational opportunities you appreciate today are available in the future.

As an organization we are constantly challenged to do more and, I can promise you, we are doing the best we can with very limited resources. One example of our success is our Grant Eligible Conservation Fund (GECF). Since 2002/2003, we have contributed \$5,400,000 to 286 projects, which in turn have leveraged our contributions to over \$30,000,000 in conservation activity on the ground and in research across the province. With its grass-roots community involvement the GECF is an outstanding example of what can be achieved by working in collaboration with others.

My Dad taught me how to hunt and fish. Going into the field with him, I developed the passion and commitment I have carried my whole life about the importance of fish and game to my humanity. These experiences also instilled in me the belief that if we, as a society, lose our opportunities to provide our children and grandchildren similar choices, we will have failed them. During my tenure on the Board I have been privileged to work with many like-minded people, all of whom share the same passion and commitment that I have about the importance of our wild creatures. There are thousands of us out there—we encourage all of you to become involved in being part of the solution for the future of Alberta's wildlife and fish. Their future is in our hands so let's make the best of our opportunities.

A handwritten signature in brown ink that reads "Don Pike".

Don Pike  
Chairman





## Managing Director's message

Alberta's landscape is a complex and fragile ecosystem representing a wide range of wildlife, fish and habitat. Along with that comes a variety of public values. Those values ecological, cultural, economic and aesthetic have not always been expressed in ways that co-exist easily. Sometimes, they have competed directly. Together, the impact of these values is such that the balance, and therefore the sustainability, of Alberta's wildlife, fish and habitat may be in jeopardy.

Alberta needs a cohesive conservation approach that works for landowners, recreational users, Aboriginal peoples, industry, government and other stakeholders. As in prior years, we started the year by proactively planning our wildlife, fish and habitat priorities and stakeholder engagement approaches. Through this adaptive planning process, we outlined goals, objectives, strategies and key success indicators for the year. These elements came together to help us not only to advance the values we believe in, but also to guide us through the collaborative conservation process.

We are an evolving organization that is continually shifting to meet the demands of the environment, the government, our member groups and our partners.

Our business of conservation is based on collaboration. It is not only the foundation of our business, but also the foundation of our corporate mission, values and objectives. We recognize—and embrace—the fact that through collaboration we can accomplish more together than we could do as a single organization.

On behalf of ACA I extend my sincere thanks to the many outdoor enthusiasts, industry partners and others who fund our work. Thank you also to ACA staff who work across the province to deliver these important programs. We are uniquely positioned in Alberta's conservation community and remain committed to aligning our efforts with only the most beneficial programs and partnerships.

Steven Hull  
Managing Director

# Financial highlights

## AUDITORS' REPORT

To the members of Alberta Conservation Association:

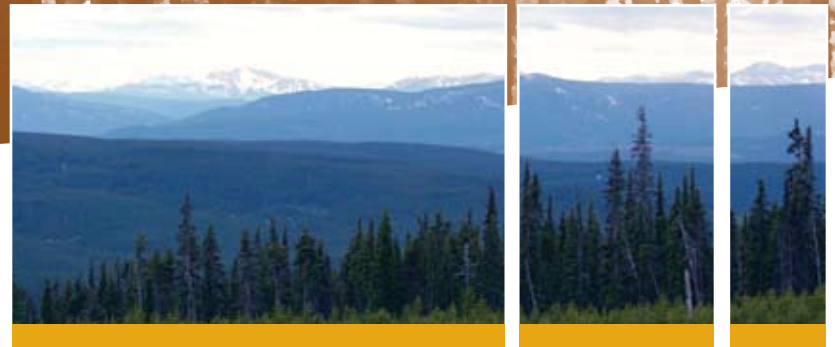
The accompanying summarized statements of financial position and results from the operations are derived from the complete financial statements of Alberta Conservation Association as at March 31, 2006 and for the year then ended. In our auditors' report on the complete financial statements dated May 17, 2006, we expressed a qualified opinion because we are unable to satisfy ourselves concerning the completeness of partner contribution revenue. The fair summarization of the complete financial statements is the responsibility of management. Our responsibility, in accordance with the applicable Assurance Guideline of the Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants, is to report on the summarized financial statements.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements fairly summarize, in all material respects, the related complete financial statements in accordance with the criteria described in the Guideline referred to above.

These summarized financial statements do not contain all the disclosures required by Canadian generally accepted accounting principles. Readers are cautioned that these statements may not be appropriate for their purposes. For more information on the Association's financial position and results of operations, reference should be made to the complete financial statements.

*Kingston Ross Pasnak LLP*

Kingston Ross Pasnak LLP  
Chartered Accountants



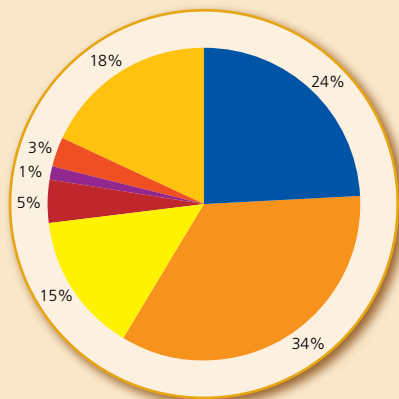


## SUMMARIZED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS'

Alberta Conservation Association—Year Ended March 31, 2006

	2006	2005
<b>RESULTS FROM OPERATIONS</b>		
<b>REVENUES</b>		
Fees and assessments	7,646,963	7,566,707
Partner contributions	1,990,959	2,211,056
Other	792,963	761,403
	10,430,885	10,539,166
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>		
Salaries and benefits	3,914,980	3,931,361
Grants	2,007,850	1,688,372
Contracted services	1,335,852	1,784,436
Rentals	842,360	1,026,575
Office	611,566	598,791
Travel	582,743	508,480
Materials and supplies	390,973	227,691
Amortization	340,762	372,368
Advertising	251,227	204,143
Landowner agreements	97,486	125,357
	10,375,799	10,467,574
<b>EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>55,086</b>	<b>71,592</b>
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Current assets	714,964	1,286,799
Long-term investments (market value - \$9,352,888)	9,015,484	8,997,814
Property and equipment (net of accumulated amortization)	2,089,268	1,898,309
	11,819,716	12,182,922
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
Current liabilities	2,566,868	2,985,160
	2,566,868	2,985,160
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		
Invested in property, plant and equipment	2,089,268	1,898,309
Internally restricted	8,537,074	8,484,681
Unrestricted	(1,373,494)	(1,185,228)
	9,252,848	9,197,762
	11,819,716	12,182,922

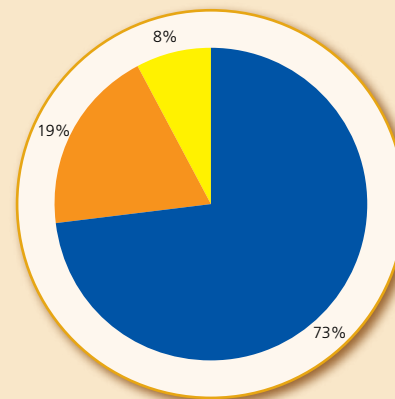
### TOTAL EXPENDITURES



<span style="color: blue;">■</span>	Habitat	\$2,507,623
<span style="color: orange;">■</span>	Wildlife	\$3,560,597
<span style="color: yellow;">■</span>	Fisheries	\$1,530,228
<span style="color: red;">■</span>	Communications	\$469,570
<span style="color: purple;">■</span>	Finance	\$150,634
<span style="color: red;">■</span>	Employees	\$317,725
<span style="color: orange;">■</span>	Administration	\$1,839,422

**TOTAL** **\$10,375,800**

### REVENUE BY SOURCE



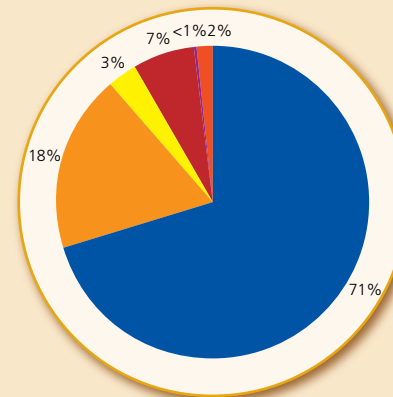
<span style="color: blue;">■</span>	Hunting and Fishing	\$7,646,964
<span style="color: orange;">■</span>	Partner Contributions	\$1,990,959
<span style="color: yellow;">■</span>	Revenue, Other	\$792,962

**TOTAL** **\$10,430,885**





## EXPENDITURES BY BALANCED SCORECARD



Resource	\$7,379,536
Administration	\$1,839,422
Learning and Growth	\$293,662
Customer	\$687,094
Financial	\$3,290
Internal Business Processes	\$172,796
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$10,375,800</b>



## Our story

Imagine an Alberta where citizens understand and support good stewardship of our wildlife, fish and habitat and where environmental integrity is maintained so future generations can value and enjoy Alberta's natural biological resources. The Alberta Conservation Association (ACA) is working hard to make this vision a reality.

We believe that by bringing together common conservation interests of diverse groups, Alberta will continue to excel as a leader in the conservation community.

We are a non-profit organization delivering top-calibre conservation programs across the province. Established in 1997, ACA is recognized for its commitment to maintaining and enhancing Alberta's wildlife, fish and habitat. We fund a wide variety of projects and programs across the province including research, data collection, monitoring, analysis, evaluation and hands-on project delivery. In fact, every time hunting or fishing licences are purchased in the province, we receive a portion of the fees to implement important conservation programs for wildlife, fish and habitat.

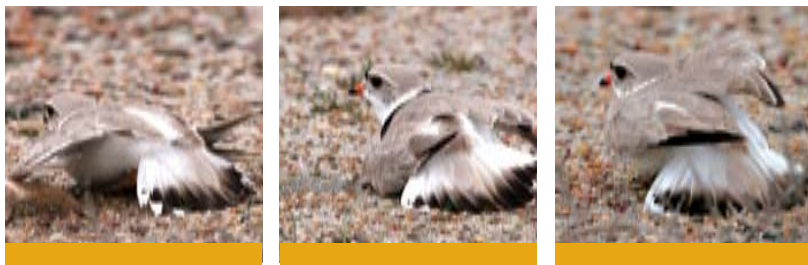


It is important to recognize that we are non-partisan, non-regulatory and have no role in enforcing resource use; the Government of Alberta has the ultimate responsibility for the management and regulation of the province's natural resources.

### WHERE WE ARE LOCATED

We are divided into four administrative regions with a central office in Edmonton.

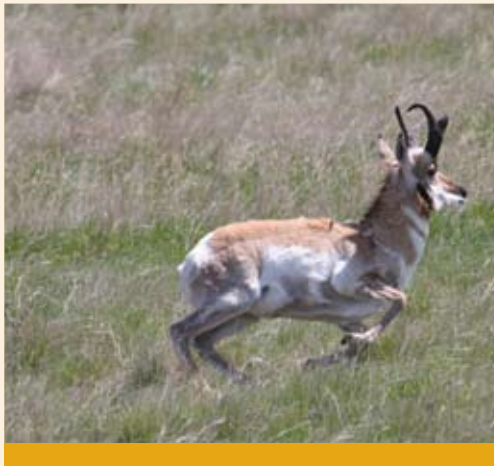
This year, the Rocky Mountain House Office hosted a very successful open house, with the theme *Celebrate Conservation*. In attendance were representatives from the general public, the academic community, industry, government, ACA staff and member groups. Several positive articles and radio interviews resulted from *Celebrate Conservation*, affording us a much larger reach. It was clear through event discussions and post-event evaluation that *Celebrate Conservation* met its objective to inform, educate and engage our target audience on recent conservation efforts.





## Our team

Collectively we can do more than we can individually.



### ACA'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Our Directors come from a variety of backgrounds and include scientists, researchers, farmers, landowners, businessmen and naturalists. They all share a common passion for Alberta's wildlife, fish and habitat. They share a vision for our role in the conservation of these resources.

The contribution of hunters and anglers is always a major consideration for the Board when making decisions and setting policies that govern our conservation programming. They ensure that varied viewpoints are brought to important conservation issues.

ACA's Board is comprised of representatives from ACA's Member Groups, a Government Representative and Public-at-Large Directors.

### EXECUTIVE

**Mr. Don Pike** – Trout Unlimited Canada  
Chairman

**Mr. T.J. Schwanky** – Public-at-Large, East Slopes Region  
Vice-Chairman (April – December)

**Mr. Brian Bildson** – Alberta Trappers' Association  
Vice-Chairman (December – March)

**Mr. Dave Powell** – Alberta Fish and Game Association  
Treasurer

**Dr. Lee Foote** – Public-at-Large, Northeast Region  
Secretary (April – December)

**Mr. Glen Semenchuk** – Federation of Alberta Naturalists  
Secretary (December – March)

**Mr. Terry Birkholz** – Alberta Professional Outfitters Society  
Past Chairman

## **DIRECTORS**

**Mr. T.J. Schwanky** – Public-at-Large, East Slopes Region  
(December – February)

**Dr. Lee Foote** – Public-at-Large, Northeast Region  
(December – March)

**Mr. Gerald Gustavson** – Alberta Trappers' Association  
(April – September)

**Mr. Brian Bildson** – Alberta Trappers' Association  
(September – December)

**Mr. Glen Semenchuk** – Federation of Alberta Naturalists  
(April – December)

**Mr. Bob Byers** – Alberta Professional Outfitters Society  
(September – March)

**Mr. Ken Ambrock** – Minister's Representative  
(April – January)

**Mr. Brad Pickering** – Minister's Representative  
(January – March)

**Mr. J.R. Giroux** – Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta

**Dr. Mark Boyce** – Public-at-Large

**Mr. David Bissett** – Public-at-Large

**Mr. Tom Bateman** – Public-at-Large

**Mr. Patrick Long** – Public-at-Large

Please visit [www.ab-conservation.com](http://www.ab-conservation.com) for more information on the Board of Directors and for full director biographies.

## **OUR MEMBER GROUPS**

Along with the introduction of some new ACA partnerships, there were also some additions and a farewell to a member organization:

- Alberta Fish and Game Association
- Alberta Hunter Education Instructors' Association  
(Joined September 2005)
- Alberta Professional Outfitters Society
- Alberta Trappers' Association
- Federation of Alberta Naturalists
- Pheasants Forever Alberta Council  
(Joined January 2006)
- Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta
- Trout Unlimited Canada
- Western Walleye Council  
(Dissolved in September 2005)





## OUR STAFF

We employ more than 60 full-time and 45 seasonal dedicated professionals to deliver conservation initiatives throughout the province.

In 2004-2005, we launched a comprehensive health and safety program that continues to be monitored and streamlined in order to ensure the optimum health and well being of our employees. Mandatory safety training is combined with a strong commitment to connect conservation values and safety.

Our commitment to enhance the organization's scientific credibility is reflected in the on-going learning and professional development of our employees, which is implemented in their day-to-day activities. Our staff maintains

involvement with various professional organizations. This not only helps to increase our network base, but also offers staff insightful professional development opportunities.

Our employees exemplify excellence and accountability and are becoming both recognized experts and specialists in their various fields.

We continue to make strides in developing and fostering a team-based environment. Enhancement of the "competency tool" in its first year of implementation enables us to strengthen our abilities to recruit and retain highly credible professionals who are the foundation of our organization.

## OUR ALLIANCES

Conservation of Alberta's natural resources is a huge undertaking. One way to make progress is through mutually-beneficial partnerships with organizations and individuals who already have some direct involvement in natural resources.

Partnerships promote stewardship among agencies and stakeholders. We work successfully on a number of conservation initiatives throughout Alberta with a variety of partners from government to industry and from academic alliances to other non-profit organizations.

Most of our projects are supported either through financial contributions, gifts-in-kind, or gifts-of-service. It is important to note that these are only examples of our partnerships. A complete list of our partners can be found on page 37. Our partnerships create a collaborative approach to the delivery of conservation initiatives.

### LANDOWNERS

We have strong relationships with many landowners across the province who work with us to secure important habitat and to sustain recreational opportunities.

### COMMUNITY INITIATIVES

Through the year, we support a number of community-based initiatives either through cash donations, gifts-in-kind, or gifts-in-service. It is important that we align with opportunities that have a direct role in shaping ideas and information related to conservation. Oftentimes these initiatives help us reach a broader audience and serve as education opportunities. Some of the initiatives we supported in 2005-2006 include:

- Royal Alberta Museum – Wild Alberta Gallery;
- Emerald Award Foundation;



- 2006 Canadian Conference for Fisheries Research;
- WISE Foundation;
- Alberta Bowhunters;
- The Second Annual Banff Conference on Agriculture, Food and the Environment.

### ACADEMIC ALLIANCES

Collaboration with the scientific community is key to science-based programs. We are dedicated to achieving the highest standards of scientific credibility, transparency and accountability. To demonstrate this commitment, we support a variety of academic initiatives, including:

- ACA Chair in Fisheries and Wildlife;
- Alberta Cooperative Conservation Research Unit;
- Integrated Landscape Management;
- University of Lethbridge – Dave MacLean Memorial Award;
- Alberta Biodiversity Monitoring Program.



### CONSERVATION AFFILIATES

We collaborate with several conservation groups in the province at a project level. These collaborative efforts help to ensure a provincial level of coordination in achieving common conservation goals. Examples of these efforts follow.

- The Pronghorn Antelope Working Group demonstrates the impact of positive interactions between ACA, academics (University of Calgary) and management agencies (ASRD Fish and Wildlife Division). All members benefit professionally and the energy created enhances conservation.
- Delta Waterfowl helped us build and deploy nest tunnels.
- The Partners in Habitat Development Program helps develop and enhance wildlife habitat throughout the cultivated regions of Alberta, primarily on privately owned land.

### INDUSTRY

By working with industry partners we can try to offset disturbances and protect habitat. We have the ability to design flexible partnerships that not only align with corporate objectives, but that can also brand organizations as the driving force behind high-profile environmental initiatives. Conservation does not necessarily have to impede industry's progress. A few examples of these partnerships are:

- TD Friends of the Environment contribution to our species-at-risk projects.
- Kakwa Bull Trout Stock Assessment: a partnership with oil, gas and timber-harvest sectors.
- Diashowa – Marubeni International (DMI): a strong supporter of the Sulphur Lake Aeration Program since 1989.



### PARTNERSHIP PROTECTS BOREAL HABITAT

Alberta's northern forests will be protected through a unique, privately driven partnership between Suncor Energy Foundation, the Alberta Conservation Association (ACA) and the Alberta Government.

The Boreal Habitat Conservation Initiative is a three-year commitment to protect boreal forest habitat in Alberta, supported with a \$1-million commitment from the Suncor Energy Foundation.

The investment and partnership will help us identify and acquire ecologically significant parcels of boreal habitat for public conservation.

The lake and its surrounding watershed are home to ungulates, bears, other small animals and more than 200 species of birds. Future work is expected to focus on the Winagami Lake Plain area in the Peace River district.



## GOVERNMENT

Working closely with all levels of government brings different viewpoints to policy and regulators. It also provides opportunities for proactive decision making. Key partnerships include:

- Department of Fisheries and Oceans;
- Fish and Wildlife Division;
- Heritage Protection and Recreation Management Branch;
- Environment Canada;
- Municipalities;
- Government of Canada: Habitat Stewardship Program for Species at Risk;
- Department of National Defence (CFB Wainwright).

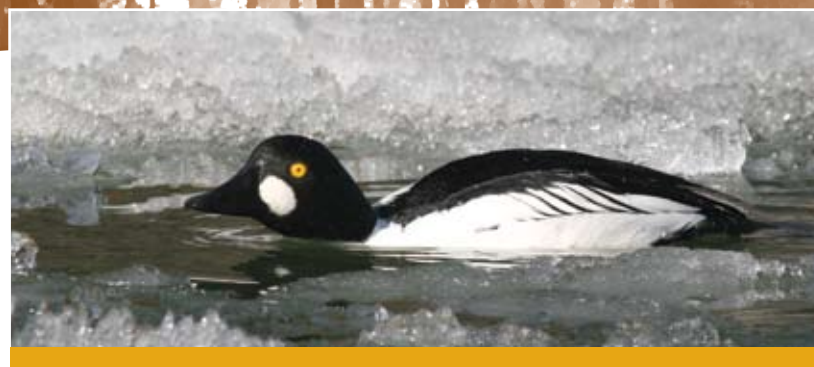
For a complete list of our partners, please refer to page 37.

## ACA AND SRD

We are a Delegated Administrative Organization under the Alberta Wildlife Act, specifically Section Two (2) of the Wildlife Regulations. The Alberta Wildlife Act provides us 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.

As a Delegated Administrative Organization, we are in the unique position of being able to work collaboratively with the Ministry of Sustainable Resource Development, enhancing its ability to manage these resources.

Our programs fulfill a number of legal, ethical and moral obligations that the Association inherited through the legacy of the Alberta Fish and Wildlife Trust



Fund. These include private landowner agreements, and maintenance of fish access sites, dams, weirs, water control structures, dugouts, and capital control structures that were funded through the Buck for Wildlife program.

## MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU)

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) outlines the function of ACA and Alberta Sustainable Resource Development in relation to a number of common activities. The following Program Agreements included in the MOU specify each organization's roles and responsibilities with respect to program planning, implementation and reporting:

- Fisheries and Wildlife Habitat Development Program Agreement;
- Wildlife Management Enhancement Program Agreement;
- Fisheries Management Enhancement Program Agreement;
- Waterfowl Crop Damage Prevention Program Agreement;
- Predator Compensation Program Agreement;
- Shot Livestock Program Agreement;
- Enhanced Fish Stocking Program Agreement;
- Report A Poacher Program Agreement;
- Information and Communications Program Agreement;
- Shared Services Program Agreement.



## Our strategies

Our conservation programs are innovative, efficient and scientifically credible. The programs cover a vast array of services, ecosystems and species. Each program aligns with our strategic direction and has key priority areas. We are proud of our recent accomplishments that demonstrate success across a balance of important sectors, while maintaining an emphasis on meaningful conservation work. Our Wildlife, Fisheries and Habitat Teams work in collaboration, resulting in a highly effective provincial planning perspective.

For a complete list of our projects visit: [www.ab-conservation.com](http://www.ab-conservation.com).





## WILDLIFE TEAM

### Delivering wildlife programs that positively influence the resources and its users

Working collaboratively, our Wildlife Program collects information on the distribution and abundance of many of Alberta's wildlife species. The Wildlife Program focusses on inventory, conservation, and applied ecological studies relating to populations of wild species throughout Alberta. It includes consideration of all non-fish taxa with a strong focus on harvested species and species at risk. Inventory which is necessary to determine both the status and trends of wild populations and their habitats, and assessment and evaluation of the success of conservation activities, are key program elements. Our Wildlife Program team also collaborate with a number of organizations to support the recovery of Alberta's species at risk.

The following sample of projects highlights some of the goals and priorities of the Wildlife Program in 2005-2006.

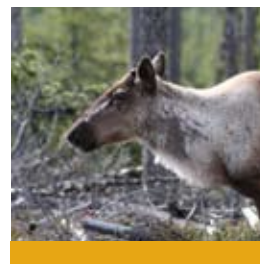
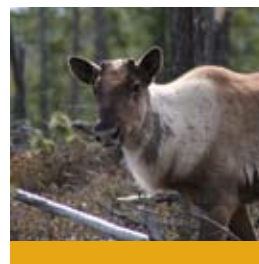
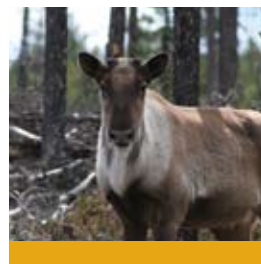
#### UPLAND GAME BIRD WORKING GROUP

Alberta has a diversity of game birds including 7 grouse species, ring-necked pheasant, gray partridge and Merriam's Turkey. Broad scale changes in habitat during the past century have undoubtedly affected game birds, but not necessarily in a consistent pattern among species. We initiated a multi-stakeholder working group in 2005 to identify issues pertinent to grouse in Alberta. This group used expert opinion to prioritize conservation issues based on their perceived urgency. Interest in maintaining the momentum for grouse conservation was widespread within the group, and led to the formation of the Alberta Grouse Technical Council (AGTC). This group has received

formal endorsement from the North American Grouse Partnership, Ducks Unlimited and ACA, and functions as a resource and catalyst for science-based conservation efforts directed towards grouse and their habitats.

#### HAY-ZAMA LAKES WATERFOWL STAGING AND RAPTOR NESTING MONITORING PROGRAM

The Hay-Zama Lakes complex is a large collection of lakes, rivers and wetlands characterized by extreme seasonal and annual water level fluctuations. The complex and its surrounding area host a variety of user groups with significant interests in the wetland's resources. Recognizing the ecological importance of this site, and the threat of an expanding energy industry, a specific management plan for the wildlife in this sensitive area needs to be developed.



Alberta Energy and Utilities Board (AEUB) monitors industrial activity on the complex, and requires industry to monitor waterfowl at active well sites during spring and fall migration periods. Although well-site monitoring meets the basic requirements of the AEUB, it is not comprehensive enough to evaluate population trends for the complex as a whole, and does not provide baseline data on current use of this area by breeding waterfowl.





As a first step towards evaluating the importance of the complex to breeding waterfowl, a breeding waterfowl study was initiated by us in 2005. Intentions of this survey are to develop population trends of breeding and moulting waterfowl through a series of aerial surveys, conducted over multiple years. This survey is complementary to, but separate from, current well-site monitoring activities.

- Six detailed waterfowl population surveys were completed during breeding, moulting, and fall staging seasons in 2005.
- 23 well sites were monitored during spring and fall migration in 2005.

#### **2005 NATIONAL PEREGRINE FALCON SURVEY**

In 2005, we worked with the Alberta Fish and Wildlife Division and volunteers from the Alberta Falconry Association to conduct the Southern Alberta component of the national survey. The primary objective was to survey all known historical nesting sites and suitable habitat associated with these areas.

- Surveys were conducted from May to mid-July to correspond with key breeding events.
- Subsequent nest visits were conducted at all occupied sites to determine breeding and fledging success, band young and collect addled eggs.

- The 2005 survey located 21 occupied sites in Southern Alberta; 16 pairs were successful in breeding.
- Of the 16 pairs, four were located in rural nesting areas and 12 were located in urban or industrial sites.
- The 16 pairs produced 42 natural young and three additional captive-raised young were fostered into suitable nest sites.

#### **ECOSYSTEM PLANNING TOOL DEVELOPMENT (RSF VALIDATION)**

Industrial operators, government and individuals are expected by their stakeholders to consider the potential impacts of their activities on wildlife habitat. In order to set measurable objectives for wildlife management and to establish habitat targets at a landscape level, habitat supply and suitability should be assessed. Predictive models, such as the Resource Selection Functions (RSFs), can monitor the responses to habitat change, as well as identify the prosperity and pattern of key habitat. These models can aid companies and resource managers to map changes in habitat supply under different development scenarios. When linked to survival or abundance models, RSFs can be used to identify critical areas necessary for species persistence and to predict population trends.

We partnered with ASRD in 2005 to develop RSFs for moose, barred owls and goshawks for use in a landscape-level planning tool. Alberta-Pacific Forest Industries has demonstrated leadership in the forest industry by agreeing to incorporate these wildlife values into the landscape planning process for timber harvest within their Forest Management Agreement area.



#### **HABITAT SELECTION BY PRONGHORN ANTELOPE**

The purpose of the project is to determine what habitat (native pasture or agricultural farm land) pronghorn antelope are using in Alberta. Based on the results of this research and additional work being completed by the University of Calgary, we will evaluate the appropriateness of the pronghorn antelope as a natural indicator for environmental land management planning in the Grasslands Natural Region. In 2005-2006:

- 25 pronghorn antelope fitted with GPS collars were monitored throughout the year.
- Collars were retrieved and data downloaded from 22 GPS collars for analysis.
- Collars were refurbished and redeployed in March 2006 in the Brooks/Suffield area. Continued monitoring will occur throughout 2006 and into 2007.

#### **GENERAL STATUS OF ALBERTA WILD SPECIES**

In Alberta, seven species of small mammals are considered status “undetermined”. Previous analyses of owl diets within Alberta have been successful in increasing our knowledge about these seven poorly understood mammals. Pellets are undigested materials, such as bones and hair, spit out

by an owl. Our researchers sorted through these “pellets” providing some indication of the abundance of certain small mammals within the owls’ feeding range. In 2005-2006:

- Staff have examined animal remains from 212 collection sites located in the Alberta Prairie and Parkland natural regions.
- More than 14,000 individual specimens of varying taxonomic orders have been examined. Among these, more than 10,000 specimens of 24 mammalian species have been recorded.
- At least one species, the prairie vole, will have its status changed from “undetermined” to “secure” based on information from this program.

In 2005-2006, our Wildlife Team started the following projects:

#### **SHARP-TAILED GROUSE HABITAT PLANNING TOOL**

We consulted with members of Alberta Grouse Technical Council to identify important information needs related to grouse in Alberta. This led to the development of a program initiative to understand the distribution of sharp-tailed grouse and relate this distribution to habitat features.



Historical information was used to develop a mathematical model to predict the likely use of habitat by sharp-tailed grouse over a broad area of southeastern Alberta.

Survey protocols were developed to test the predictive accuracy of the model from data collected in spring 2006 and for future years. These models can be used to predict the impact of future land use on sharp-tailed grouse in the region.

#### **WILDLAND PARKS NATURAL HERITAGE**

In 2005-2006 the delineation of landscape and specific habitat features were completed and base maps were created for three study areas. Some "ground-truthing" was completed including some classification of Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) trail disturbances.

Our Provincial Wildlife Team reviewed this project and provided recommendations on protocol for evaluation of ungulate responses to disturbances in the study areas.

In 2005-2006, our Wildlife Team completed the following projects:

#### **FOOTHILLS MODEL FOREST GRIZZLY PROJECT SUPPORT**

While we were not involved in the field sampling or data analysis, our staff assisted with field planning for the 2005 grizzly bear census by:

- Coordinating a planning meeting, and
- Working on the identification of appropriate field sites for DNA-based census.

#### **BUFFALO LAKE BIRD STUDY**

The Buffalo Lake Moraine is an important resource for waterfowl in central Alberta. Our staff are measuring the benefit of using man-made nest boxes for producing cavity-nesting waterfowl and they are assessing the behavioural response of other duck species to the influx of cavity-nesting species.

#### **NORTHWESTERN ALBERTA AMPHIBIAN SURVEY**

While providing public education about amphibians and wetland conservation, this project addressed the need to gather data on amphibian presence, distribution, and habitat requirements in the northwest.

- 26 sites were sampled north of Peace River.
- No salamanders were found.

#### **NORTHWEST SHARP-TAILED GROUSE INVENTORY**

This program gathered information on sharp-tailed grouse population trends and an inventory of their associated habitats to establish a baseline for future inventories.

- 48 leks were visited.
- Eight leks were found to be active, with 7 to 13 grouse present at each lek.
- Active leks were surrounded by more perennial cover than non-active leks.



## FISH TEAM

### Insuring responsible participation in the use of fish and aquatic resources

Our Fish Program is designed to implement fish conservation efforts in an effective, and credible manner that will sustain or improve Alberta's fish population. Part of this includes monitoring and understanding the levels of angler use on priority fish populations. The Fish Team also assesses and reports on the overall health of fish populations and watersheds and works collaboratively to monitor, assess and understand conservation issues specific to fish populations and watersheds.

The following sample of projects highlights some of the goals and priorities of the Fish Program in 2005-2006.

#### STREAM MONITORING MCLEOD RIVER

The McLeod River Watershed study is intended to identify protocols and direction for future fish monitoring at the watershed scale in Alberta's eastern slopes. Both ACA and ASRD desire a watershed-scale monitoring program that can cost-effectively describe the status of priority sport fish populations. In 2005-2006:

- 126 first-to-fourth-order stream sites were visited;
- 83 of the sites were backpack electrofished;
- No bull trout were captured at any of the first-and-second-order sites;
- Efficiency of backpack electrofishing gear for capturing bull trout was estimated.



#### LESSER SLAVE LAKE ANGLER SURVEY

Angler efforts, catch and harvest, as well as other sport fishery parameters, were collected to evaluate current management strategies and sustainability of the fishery at Lesser Slave Lake.

- A substantial decrease in the mean monthly northern pike catch rates between 1999 and 2005 was noted in this year's study.
- Walleye catch per unit effort (CPUE) increased 62% from 1999 to 2005.

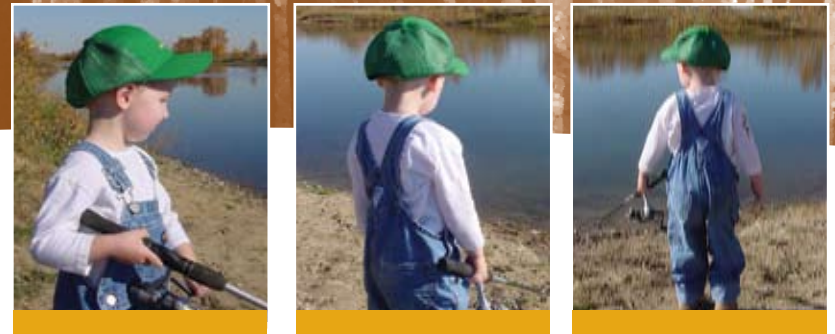
#### KAKWA RIVER WATERSHED STREAM CROSSING ASSESSMENT

Data were collected on culvert crossings to evaluate their potential to impede fish passage and deliver sediment to adjacent streams:

- 75 culvert crossings were assessed;
- 43 of 75 culverts had hanging outlets;
- 36 crossings scored a very high sediment delivery potential.

#### BATTLE RIVER INDEX OF BIOTIC INTEGRITY (IBI)

The cumulative effects of human activities on the lower Battle River have been substantial, caused by flows being altered by the dam at Forestburg, water being withdrawn, navigational barriers installed (weirs, crossings) and general land use. Agricultural activity along most of the Battle River and its tributaries has resulted in degraded riparian areas in many places. The distributions of walleye, goldeye, mooneye and shorthead redhorse have been affected by these activities.



For this project, sample sites will be chosen throughout the length of the Battle River. The fish information collected will include numbers of species, age and growth data on key species. Density estimates will be calculated for indicator and key species. The information will be summarized and presented on both a spatial (by reach) and overall basis. The primary objective of this project is to assess the current biotic integrity of the fish community along the Battle River, relative to factors discernible at the watershed- or landscape-level and includes measuring changes in fish community integrity (in relation to undisturbed measures) and relating these changes to development (particularly weirs and angler access).

- Preliminary data collected on five reaches of the Battle River will be used to evaluate survey procedures and feasibility of methodologies for the IBI in 2006/2007.

In 2005-2006, our Fish Team started the following projects:

#### **BEARBERRY CREEK FISH AND HABITAT INVENTORY**

For the first time in 25 years, fish passage into the Bearberry Creek watershed from the Red Deer River was made possible with installation of a fishway around an impassible weir located near the mouth of the creek. Land use in the settled area of the watershed includes cattle grazing and the production of forage crops. Both land-use practices can result in the removal of riparian vegetation and the de-stabilization of stream banks.

Fisheries work was required in the Bearberry Creek watershed to characterize the present status of fish populations, fish-community structure, and the condition of fish habitat. The 2005 study was designed as a preliminary assessment tool, allowing broad conclusions to be drawn regarding the fish populations and habitat within the watershed and to provide guidance for more detailed inventory and restoration efforts by our staff in subsequent years. In 2005-2006,

- 12 sites were backpack electrofished;
- 9 fish species were documented within the watershed;
- Brook trout were the only sport species captured above the weir in appreciable numbers.

#### **NORTH RAVEN FISH ASSESSMENT**

Sport fish populations at four sections of the North Raven River have been assessed since the mid-1970s to evaluate habitat protection and enhancement efforts. The purpose of this project was to estimate sport fish abundance (absolute, density, biomass) and size structure at four previously identified study sections in the North Raven River drainage using methods comparable to those used in previous assessments.

- Mark-recapture population estimates for brook trout and brown trout were performed at the four study sites;
- Preliminary analyses indicate trout numbers have declined or remained the same since the last survey in 1995.

#### KAKWA GIS WATERSHED ASSESSMENT

Using Ecosystem Management Decision Support System software and Netweaver, a watershed health assessment was conducted on the Kakwa River watershed. The analysis and results of the assessment were based on the landscape disturbances (e.g., roads, cut blocks).

- Watershed was aggregated into three functional units;
- Model output indicated the greatest landscape disturbances are in the Eastern portion of the watershed.

#### LESSER SLAVE LAKE STOCK ASSESSMENT

Index netting was completed on Lesser Slave Lake to quantify size, age structure and growth of walleye, northern pike, lake whitefish and yellow perch:

- 771 walleye were captured with a mean CPUE of 14.38/100m<sup>2</sup>/24h.
- The largest size class of walleye was 400-420 mm.
- 116 northern pike were captured with a mean CPUE of 2.16/100m<sup>2</sup>/24h.
- The largest size class of northern pike was 500-520 mm.

#### KAKWA RIVER PHASE I STOCK ASSESSMENT

Data were collected on bull trout to quantify catchability (q) in 2<sup>nd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> order streams in the Kakwa River watershed:

- 25 reaches were electrofished.
- Catchability could not be calculated for 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> order streams due to the low numbers of bull trout.



#### ALBERTA BIODIVERSITY MONITORING PROTOCOL TESTING

In 2005-2006, our Northwest Fish Team was tasked with field testing the aquatic monitoring protocols development for the Alberta Biodiversity Monitoring Program.

- Fish, water physiochemistry, phytoplankton, zooplankton and macroinvertebrates were sampled in 5 lakes and 3 rivers;
- Field testing recommendations were delivered to the Alberta Research Council.

In 2005-2006, our Fish Team completed the following projects:

#### CLEARWATER BULL TROUT MONITORING

It has been nearly a decade since the last status update for Clearwater River bull trout. Results from studies like the Upper Clearwater Bull Trout Status Assessment are critical for evaluation of the effectiveness of regulation changes, provide valuable insight into regional variations in bull trout biology, and enable provincial fisheries managers to make informed, proactive fisheries management decisions.

- Bull trout abundance and distribution were assessed at three previously identified reaches in the river and numerous tributaries to the Clearwater River;
- Results indicate that bull trout numbers within the study area have moderately increased or remained comparable to those documented in the 1990s.



#### OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLE REMEDIATION PLAN

Our staff collected data from off-highway vehicle crossings from two localized areas west of Calgary, the Ghost-Waiparous and MacLean creeks, qualitatively documenting the level of use and associated problems with fish habitat.

The focus of this work was to advise stakeholders regarding the issue and facilitate development of a strategy to remediate the problem locally.

- Results of the data collection effort were communicated to local and provincial stakeholders in a summary report, several oral presentations, on-site field days and a magazine article.

#### WALLEYE STUNTING RESEARCH

A recent concern of managers and recreational anglers in Alberta is the lack of large walleyes in fisheries with minimum-size regulations. Anglers believe that the fisheries have become stunted.

We conducted sport fishery assessments on four lakes with truncated walleye size distributions. Management regulations were manipulated to change angling effort, and thus, walleye densities. An analysis confirms anglers were quickly able to reduce walleye densities and further truncate the population size structure. Compensatory population responses to reduced density were overwhelmed by this increase in harvest. Conversely, the lakes with reduced angling effort had increased numbers and survival of larger walleyes. This study suggests that the dominant effect of minimum-size limits in low productivity walleye lakes with high angling effort is to truncate population size structure.

#### WABAMUN LAKE WINTER SPORT FISHERY ASSESSMENT

Wabamun Lake is one of the most accessible lake whitefish fisheries in Alberta. According to the Area Fisheries Biologist, anglers were concerned about a lack of winter angling success. The Area Biologist has observed a drastic decrease in the commercial harvest of lake whitefish. At the same time he recognized an increase in angler pressure during the winter sport fishery. The focal question for fisheries management was: what is the quantified angler effort and harvest of the winter Wabamun fishery?

- The catches of lake whitefish and their condition factor indicated a low density;
- The size distribution was broad with weak cohort representation;
- The catch of northern pike was moderate with few anglers successful in harvesting a northern pike.

#### LAKE MINNEWANKA SPORT FISHERY ASSESSMENT

In the assessment of Banff's Lake Minnewanka lake trout sport fishery, we participated in the design of the survey, the digitizing and analyses of the data and the writing of the report. This creel survey was successful at evaluating angling pressure, harvest of lake trout, and the size distribution of the catch on Lake Minnewanka in 2005 in a quantitative way:

- Very complex creel survey design (3 sub-surveys: access point, dam and guided fishery).
- Nonparametric statistics made it possible to combine surveys and extrapolate to unsurveyed strata. This technique provided a measure of uncertainty around parameter estimates that may be used in the future to identify areas that may require more or less sampling effort in addition to their applications to fisheries management.



## HABITAT TEAM

### Maintaining habitat for priority species and providing recreational opportunities

The expansion of multiple industrial sectors combined with urban sprawl, subdivision development and other incompatible land use are reducing the quality and quantity of native habitat. Sustainable land management is crucial if Alberta is to address seriously the long-term protection of wildlife, fish, and habitat. Part of this includes a comprehensive habitat program focussing on securing land. In partnership with various stakeholders, we work hard to secure, protect and enhance critical parcels of native habitat. This will help reduce the trend of habitat loss, protect various wildlife populations, and maintain recreation opportunities.

The following sample projects highlight some of the goals and priorities of the Habitat Program in 2005-2006.

## PROVINCIAL LAKE AERATION PROGRAM

The goal of the Lake Aeration Program is to develop, conserve and maintain habitats that add value to recreational fishing opportunities for all Albertans. This is accomplished by implementing a cost effective and efficient lake aeration program throughout the province.

Aeration projects reduce winter and summer kills at a number of lakes; maintaining dissolved oxygen levels in these stocked lakes ensures the survival of trout throughout the year, thus allowing fish to live longer, grow larger providing new and better fishing opportunities. Alberta trout lakes that are currently being aerated include:

- Sulphur Lake, Figure Eight Lake, Cecil Thompson Pond, Cummings Lake, Moonshine Lake, Spring Lake, Swan Lake and East Dollar Lake in the Northwest Region,
- Spring Lake in the Northeast Region,
- Millers Lake, Ironside Pond, Mitchell Lake and Beaver Lake in the East Slopes Region,
- Hansen Reservoir and Coleman Fish and Game Pond in the Southern Region.



#### PROVINCIAL RIPARIAN CONSERVATION PROGRAM

This provincial program is directed at protecting and enhancing Alberta's lotic and lentic habitats. Conservation efforts are undertaken through on-the-ground enhancements such as exclusion fencing as well as providing technical support and expertise to local watershed groups. In addition we are directly involved with local landowners, who are interested in riparian habitat protection, to implement new riparian habitat enhancement projects at priority watercourses.

- In 2005, two riparian protection projects were developed on the South Heart River, two on Lesser Slave Lake and four in the Beaver Lodge Drainage of the Northwest Region.
- Three projects were initiated on the Little Red Deer River and Dogpound Creek in the East Slopes Region.
- Three projects were also implemented at Todd Creek, Red Deer River and Buffalo Lake in the Southern Region.
- Our staff are involved with a variety of local, community-based watershed groups that develop land stewardship initiatives, and ecologically-minded management projects focussed on improving riparian habitat along priority Alberta streams and lakes. Watershed groups involved with our Habitat Program include:

- » Lesser Slave Lake Watershed Committee, West County Watershed Group and the Nine Mile Community group in the Northwest Region;
- » Beaverhills Lake Initiative Community Watershed Group in the Northeast Region;
- » The Rocky Riparian Group and the Little Red Deer River Watershed Initiative in the East Slopes Region;
- » Beaver Creek Watershed Group, Lyndon Creek Watershed Group, Todd Creek Watershed Group and the Battle River Watershed Group in the Southern Region.

- Riparian zone health of Moose Lake and Lac La Biche.
- The lack of current and comprehensive information on the status of riparian and littoral areas on entire lakes, and the extent of human disturbance, are formidable obstacles hampering the management of the sustainability of Alberta lakes.

In 2005, aerial videography was used to capture digital video of riparian zones at Moose Lake and Lac La Biche. Video footage was used to assess and rank the quality of the riparian habitat (healthy, moderately impaired, highly impaired). The information was used as a pilot study to stimulate the development of a community-based riparian conservation group in the region.



## RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

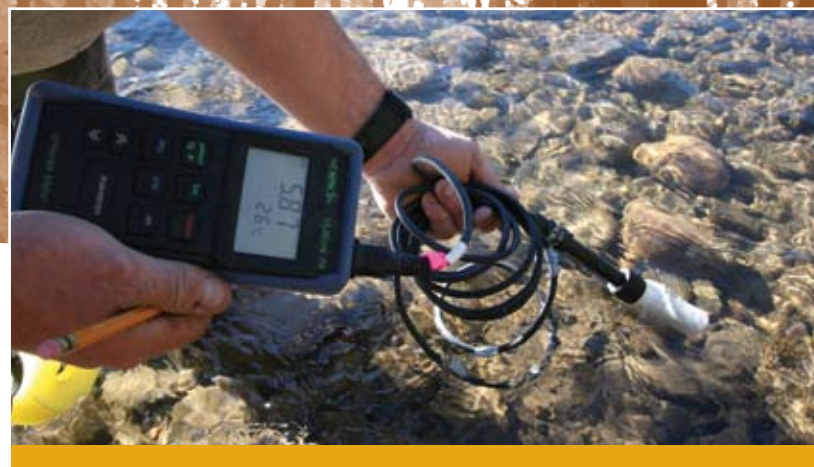
- **Provincial Core Habitat Enhancement Program**

Dedicated funds, equipment and manpower resources are directed towards the operation and maintenance of a variety of fisheries and wildlife habitat protection and enhancement projects. Projects include but are not limited to managing conservation properties containing important fish and wildlife habitat, stream bank fencing/livestock watering site and fencing enhancements on priority fisheries streams and maintaining angler access sites on public water bodies.

- **Landowner Habitat Retention Program**

The Landowner Habitat Retention Program was created to reverse the severe trend of habitat loss and promote the retention of fish and wildlife habitat on private land throughout the settled regions of Alberta. LHP agreements also provide increased recreational opportunities.

Under an LHP agreement, landowners receive an annual financial incentive payment, in return for long term (usually 20 years) retention of wildlife



habitat on their land. Securement of large, contiguous blocks of wildlife habitat is a major criterion for the program. Currently there are:

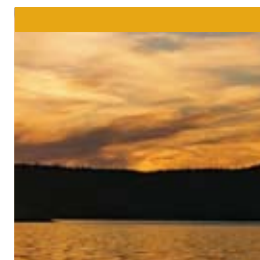
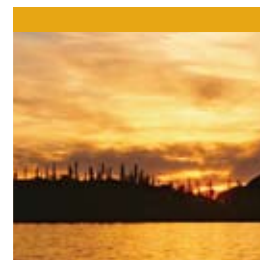
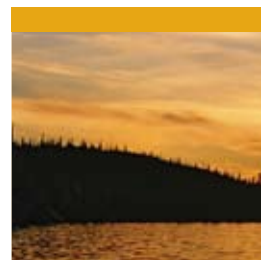
- » 38 agreements in place protecting 5,933 acres in the Northeast Region;
- » 10 ongoing agreements in the Northwest Region protecting both upland and riparian habitat;
- » 200 active LHP agreements in the Southern Region.

- **Our Conservation Properties**

Our conservation programs focus on wildlife, fish and habitat while increasing recreational opportunities such as hiking, fishing, hunting, and wildlife viewing. In 2005-2006, we developed some of the management plans outlining objectives, land-use restrictions and guidelines for the inherited Buck For Wildlife properties. Property field inspections are completed to document information such as identifying dominant ecosystems, vegetation, industrial and recreational activities, and recording wildlife use. These inspections are used to write the conservation property management plan:

- » 51 conservation property draft management plans have been completed and are in the process of being reviewed by relevant partners.





In 2005-2006, our Habitat Team started the following projects:

#### **MALLARD NEST TUNNELS**

Nesting structures have demonstrated to be an effective tool in enhancing localized mallard populations by increasing nest success. We installed 100 mallard nesting tunnels, with the support of Delta Waterfowl. We monitor the occupancy and productivity of these structures. If these structures are not being utilized in existing locations, they will be removed and placed in locations that provide benefit to nesting mallard.

- In 2005-2006, the Northeast Region installed 65 nest tunnels with the help of many volunteers.

#### **MULTI-YEAR HABITAT PROGRAMS**

- **Provincial Ungulate Winter Range Restoration Project**

The focus of this program is on restoring the value of ungulate winter range in areas that have aged beyond the natural range of variability. The focus of the program includes testing and fine-tuning a revised planning and monitoring process, conducting mechanical treatments to restore moose and elk wintering habitat, and working with ASRD to





conduct previously approved prescribed burns that target habitat for elk, sheep and moose. In 2005-2006:

- » Fire regime and fire pattern information for natural subregions within priority sub-basins was collected and analyzed.
- » A sampling protocol that collects data for landscape, ecosystem, and species-level indicators was developed.
- » A fire history workshop was hosted to discuss the use of fire for ecosystem restoration in the Central East Slopes.
- » Landscape objectives were developed for the Subalpine, Alpine, Montane, Upper Foothills, and Lower Foothills natural regions.
- » Potential treatment areas in the Cline River sub-basin were identified.
- » Re-clearing was completed on 14 moose blocks (90 acres) in the Chain Lakes area in the Southern Business Unit (SBU).
- » An elk habitat disturbance-modelling tool was also developed to assess response of elk habitat to enhancements was initiated.

- **Cavity Nesting Waterfowl Program (Duck Nest Box Program)**

Cost-effective nest boxes were designed to provide secure nesting locations to habitat-limited species in order to increase the population of cavity-nesting waterfowl. An ongoing educational component of this program delivers the pertinent information to land managers, various clubs, interested groups and individuals. Since its inception more than 1200 nest boxes have been installed and continue to be maintained through the Cavity Nesting Waterfowl Program.

- » In 2005-2006 there were 15 new nest boxes installed.
- » Maintenance was completed on 90 boxes.





## SUPPORT PROGRAMS

Our Support Programs are comprised of five different provincial programs that deal with mitigating or preventing abuses to Alberta's wildlife, fish and habitat.

### REPORT A POACHER PROGRAM

Our Report A Poacher program provides Albertans with the opportunity to report suspected violations using a 24-hour, toll-free number: 1-800-642-3800 or #3800 on the TELUS Mobility network (courtesy TELUS Mobility). Fishing or hunting out of season, night hunting, exceeding bag limits, illegal sale of fish and wildlife and deposit of harmful substances in lakes and rivers are violations that seriously affect fish and wildlife in Alberta.

- Approximately 3,432 reports are made per year;
- \$42,000 in rewards were paid in 2004 -2005, resulting in 1,391 charges and warnings;
- \$7,000 in donations were received from rewards donated back into the program.

### SHOT LIVESTOCK PROGRAM

Shot Livestock Program is designed to compensate farmers and ranchers whose livestock is killed or injured from accidental or negligent discharge of weapons.

- 18 eligible claims for compensation were received;
- Over \$16,000 was paid to livestock producers.

### PREDATOR COMPENSATION PROGRAM

The Predator Compensation Program is funded by hunting licence levies and its goal is to reduce the financial burden incurred by livestock producers as a result of wildlife predation.

- There were 124 claims;
- Over \$95,000 was paid to livestock producers.

### CROP DAMAGE CONTROL PROGRAM

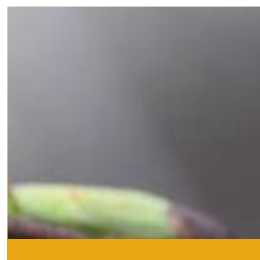
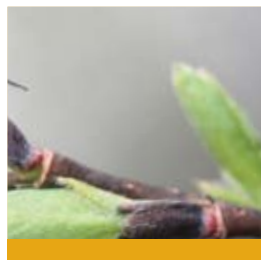
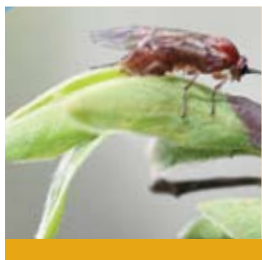
A major focus of the CDC Program is to help reduce the amount and severity of waterfowl damage to cereal crops during the fall migration period. Alberta Sustainable Resource Development, Environment Canada, and the ACA work together to develop program activities and areas of operation. Program components include operation of alternate feeding areas (bait stations)

and provision of waterfowl-scaring equipment and advice to Alberta grain producers. In 2005-2006, the CDC program:

- Assisted producers with 139 potential cases of waterfowl crop damage;
- Provided more than 2 million days of duck feeding at 10 bait stations and 1 lure crop;
- Introduced a new webpage for waterfowl enthusiasts highlighting areas of potential waterfowl concentrations.

#### ENHANCED FISH STOCKING PROGRAM

The stocking of rainbow trout enhances and increases fishing for Alberta anglers by providing opportunities to catch rainbow trout in areas of the province where otherwise they could not exist. All stocked water bodies under the program are put-and-take ponds. All water bodies are outside the green zone to prevent interaction with native stocks. The majority of stockings occur in the Prairie, Parkland, and Northeast Boreal regions. In 2005, approximately 122,000 rainbow trout (20 cm) were stocked into 66 water bodies.





## Our granting programs

We support conservation efforts by acting as a funding agency through three distinctive funding programs. The goal is to enable and support others who conduct work that conserves and enhances our wildlife, fisheries and habitat. In fact, applications are received from a diverse cross-section of the population including: ordinary Albertans, community groups, conservation organizations and leading-edge scientific researchers. The conservation community is responding to these funding opportunities very positively by submitting funding requests for vital conservation work. The increasing numbers of applicants shows that our programs are becoming widely known and that the funds are contributing to conservation efforts in Alberta.

In 2005-2006, up to \$1,925,000 was made available for conservation initiatives in Alberta.

Funding Program	Available Funds
Grant Eligible Conservation Fund	\$1,200,000.00
Habitat Securement Fund	\$ 500,000.00
ACA Grants in Biodiversity	\$ 225,000.00



## GRANT ELIGIBLE CONSERVATION FUND

The ACA Board of Directors appoints a Granting Committee comprised of three board members and ten citizens of Alberta to assess, on a yearly basis, grant applications submitted to the Grant Eligible Conservation Fund.

Grant allocations are determined by established funding criteria and value to wildlife, fish populations and/or the habitat in which they live.

### Annual Funding Cycle Dates

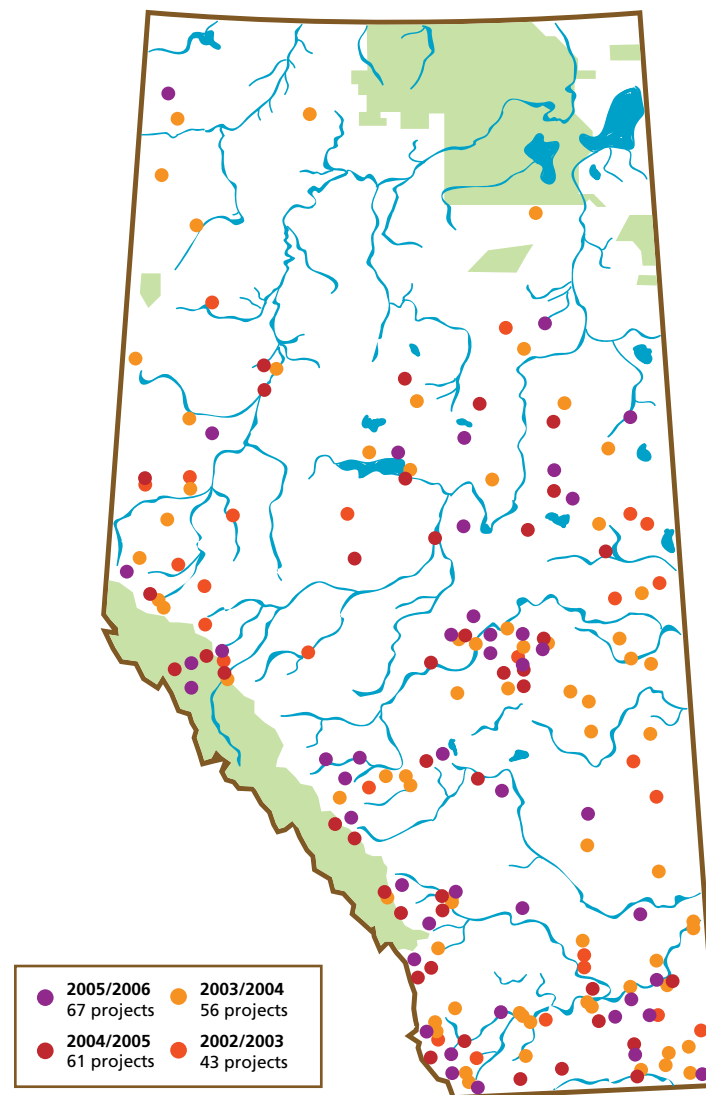
Website Posting of the Guidelines and Application Forms	December 15
Window to receive completed applications	January 1-31
Proposal Review Committee Adjudication Meeting	February
Notification of Applicants as to Funding Status	March
Projects Begin	April through March

## KEY HIGHLIGHTS - GRANT ELIGIBLE CONSERVATION FUND

- Range of project funding allocation is \$300 to \$60,000.
- GEFC formally began in 2002/2003 and, as a result, a wide range of projects was initiated with far-reaching benefits.
- Since 2002, 229 projects have been funded.
- \$4 million in funding over the years has leveraged over \$24 million in conservation work across Alberta.

## GRANT ELIGIBLE CONSERVATION FUND PROJECT LOCATIONS

Our GEFC projects cover a wide range of the province. Many of the projects have a provincial scope and therefore are not geographically represented on the map.





### HABITAT SECUREMENT FUND

Acquiring parcels of land or protecting large tracts of land via other means is a very effective method of conserving critical habitats. The goal of our Habitat Securement Fund is to conserve critical habitats in Alberta. A preliminary Habitat Securement Strategy that guides all aspects related to the acquisition or securement of critical habitats was approved as part of the 2005-2006 Strategic Business Plan.

Habitat acquisition proposals are submitted to our Board of Directors for review and consideration. The preliminary Habitat Securement Strategy guides the allocation of funds to acquire parcels of land for conservation purposes.

Recent Property Acquisitions:

- Kneehill Creek
- Buffalo Meadows
- Sherwood Park Property
- Murdoch Property
- Wagner Natural Area
- Suncor purchases at Winagami Lake

### ACA GRANTS IN BIODIVERSITY

The ACA Grants in Biodiversity program provides research funds to outstanding graduate students and postdoctoral fellows doing research in Alberta. The mandate of the program is to increase knowledge of the flora and fauna of Alberta.

The program supports research in fields of biodiversity, conservation biology, and ecology, all broadly construed; all kinds of organisms are covered. Although graduate students do not have to attend universities in Alberta, their thesis research must be Alberta-based. Most recipients go on to careers in environmental and conservation biology. Many recipients remain in Alberta after completing their degree programs.

Graduate students and postdoctoral fellows are invited to submit applications. Successful applicants will receive grants of up to \$20,000 in support of field and research expenses. Grant applications are adjudicated once each year with results released in March.

ACA's Grants in Biodiversity Program is run in collaboration with the Alberta Cooperative Conservation Unit, which represents a consortium of Alberta universities including: University of Alberta, University of Calgary and the University of Lethbridge. Our annual financial contribution to the fund is \$225,000.00.

For more information on current projects visit the ACA Grants in Biodiversity Program website at:

<http://www.biology.ualberta.ca/biodiversity/>







## Conserve Alberta's Future, Today!

We are currently funded in part through enhancement levies on hunting and fishing licences and through corporate and individual financial assistance.

We value the contributions and investments that our partners make towards achieving our mission. You, too, can sustain and support the wildlife, fish and habitats that help make Alberta a special place by donating land for conservation purposes, volunteering on short-term projects and program delivery.

For more information about us, visit [www.ab-conservation.com](http://www.ab-conservation.com) where you can also register to receive a free subscription of our official publication, Conservation Magazine.



## 2005-2006 partners in conservation

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada  
 Alberta Agriculture – Alberta  
 Environmentally Sustainable Alliance  
 Alberta Commercial Fisherman's Association  
 Alberta Community Development, Parks  
 and Protected Areas Division  
 Alberta Community Lottery Board  
 Alberta Environment  
 Alberta Fish and Game Association  
 Alberta Fish and Game Association – Zone 1  
 Alberta Human Resources and Employment  
 - Summer Temporary Employment  
 Program  
 Alberta Hunter Education Instructors'  
 Association  
 Alberta Lotteries  
 Alberta Municipal Affairs - Special Areas  
 Board  
 Alberta Pacific Forest Products  
 Alberta Professional Outfitters Society  
 Alberta Provincial Rural Crime Watch  
 Association  
 Alberta Sport, Recreation, Parks and Wildlife  
 Foundation  
 Alberta Research Council  
 Alberta Sustainable Resource Development,  
 Fish and Wildlife Division  
 Alberta Sustainable Resource Development,  
 Public Lands and Forest Division  
 Alberta Trappers' Association  
 Atlas Energy  
 ATCO  
 Atlas Lumber (Alberta) Ltd.  
 Anderson Resources  
 Banff National Park  
 Beaverhill Bird Observatory

Black Dog Outfitters  
 Brightbank Lions Club  
 Boehlke Pond Recreation Board  
 Boreal Forest Research Centre  
 Canadian Forces Base Suffield  
 Canadian Wildlife Service  
 Cardinal River Coals Limited  
 Cavern Oil Limited  
 Center for Wildlife Conservation - USA  
 City of Edmonton  
 City of Lethbridge  
 Clearwater County  
 County of Barrhead, Agriculture Services  
 Board  
 County of Grande Prairie  
 County of Lethbridge  
 County of Newell  
 County of Warner  
 Cows and Fish Program  
 Crispin Energy Services  
 Cypress Hills Interprovincial Park  
 Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada  
 Department of National Defence  
 Delta Waterfowl  
 Devlan Exploration Inc.  
 Ducks Unlimited Canada  
 Edmonton Trout Fishing Club  
 Edmonton Old Timers Fishing Club  
 Environment Canada  
 ESPRIT Exploration  
 Federation of Alberta Naturalists  
 Foundation for North American Wild Sheep  
 (FNAWS)  
 Fishin' Hole  
 Foothills Model Forest  
 Fort Macleod Fish and Game

Friends of Fish Creek Provincial Park  
 Friends of the Sam Livingston Fish Hatchery  
 Friends of Saskatoon Island Provincial Park  
 Government of Canada Habitat Stewardship  
 Program for Species at Risk  
 Gregg River Resources Ltd.  
 Habitat Resource Development Canada  
 Harry Tyrrell  
 Hay-Zama Committee  
 Hinton Fish and Game Association  
 Human Resources and Skills Development  
 Canada – Summer Career Placement  
 Program  
 Hunting For Tomorrow Foundation  
 Lehigh Inland Cement Ltd.  
 Jack Alstad  
 Jasper National Park  
 Lamont Fish and Game Association  
 Len Thompson Lures  
 Lesser Slave Lake Provincial Park  
 Let's Go Outdoors Radio Program  
 Lethbridge Community College  
 Living By Water Program  
 McNeil Island Correctional Centre,  
 GeoAnalytic Inc.  
 Millet Fish and Game Association  
 Millar Western  
 Moonshine Lake Provincial Park  
 Municipal District #14  
 Municipal District #17  
 Municipal District #131  
 Municipal District of Bighorn  
 Municipal District of Rockyview  
 Nature Conservancy of Canada  
 NAV Energy Trust  
 North American Waterfowl Management  
 Program

North Saskatchewan Fish and Game Club  
 Northern Alberta Chapter of Safari Club  
 International  
 Pheasants Forever  
 Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration  
 Royal Alberta Museum  
 Red Deer River Naturalists  
 Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation  
 Royal Canadian Mounted Police  
 Shell Canada Limited  
 Suncor Energy Foundation  
 Sundance Forest Products  
 Talisman Energy  
 TD Friends of the Environment Foundation  
 Town of Fairview  
 TransCanada Pipelines Limited  
 Treaty 8 First Nations  
 Trout Unlimited Canada  
 Trout Unlimited, Central Chapter  
 University of Alberta  
 University of Calgary  
 University of Lethbridge  
 Village of Spring Lake  
 Waterton Lakes National Park  
 Wetaskiwin Fish and Game Association  
 Weyerhaeuser Canada  
 Willow Valley Trophy Club  
 Wildlife Society – Students Chapter  
 Lethbridge Community College  
 World Wildlife Fund Canada  
 Yellowstone to Yukon Science Grant  
 Y2Y Initiative – Wilberforce Foundation  
 Zama Community Society



Alberta Conservation  
Association

toll free: 1-877-969-9091

ph: (780) 644-5079

fax: (780) 422-6441

email: [info@ab-conservation.com](mailto:info@ab-conservation.com)

website: [www.ab-conservation.com](http://www.ab-conservation.com)

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