

**Alberta Conservation Association
2024/25 Project Summary Report**

Project Name: Fish Stocking Expansion – New Lakes

Fisheries Program Manager: Peter Aku

Project Leader: Scott Seward

Primary ACA Staff on Project: Kevin Fitzsimmons, Troy Furukawa, David Jackson, Diana Rung, Ariel Schlereth, and Scott Seward

Partnerships

Alberta Transportation

Alberta Wildlife Federation

County of Grande Prairie

Evelyn and Leslie Wadey

Government of Alberta

Lacombe Fish & Game Association

Saddle Hills County

Taber Irrigation District

Town of Taber

TransAlta

Key Findings

- We investigated four ponds west of Edmonton, on the TransAlta Whitewood Mine property and found that three of those ponds have potential to support a stocked fishery and will be developed in the near future.
- A candidate pond first assessed in 2017, Chestermere Pond near Chestermere, has fisheries potential but creating public access remains an issue. We are working with the local municipality to determine next steps.

Details

Stocked trout fisheries are popular in Alberta, with rainbow trout being the third most sought-after fish by anglers in Alberta. Given the popularity of stocked trout fisheries in Alberta, this project seeks to expand the number of stocked ponds through identification and screening of ponds with potential to support a stocked trout fishery. We evaluated four new ponds west of Edmonton, within the Whitewood Lakes complex, during the 2024 field season, and determined that three met Alberta Conservation Association's (ACA) criteria (e.g., water depth, dissolved oxygen, temperature, conductivity, pH, water clarity, absence of invasive species, barriers to prevent fish escapement, etc.) for a stocked fishery. These three ponds are on land owned by TransAlta, which is in the process of donating the land to ACA. The ponds will be developed over the next few years to create additional angling opportunities in the Edmonton area. In addition to new ponds, we are working with the Government of Alberta and the local municipality to develop access to Chestermere Pond as a prerequisite for ACA to establish a new fishery at the pond.

Photos



Photo 1. ACA staff member David Jackson preparing to deploy an Eckman dredge to quantify benthic invertebrate density as a forage base for stocked fish. Photo: Scott Seward



Photo 2. ACA staff members Scott Seward and Holly Reid retrieving gill nets to determine fish presence/absence at a waterbody in the Whitewood Lakes Complex. Photo: David Jackson