

Alberta Conservation Association 2007/08 Project Summary Report

Project Name: ACA Conservation Site Management Plan Development

Project Leader: Randy Lee

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Partnerships:

Alberta Sustainable Resource Development
Ducks Unlimited Canada
Nature Conservancy of Canada

Key Findings

Introduction

In 1997, the Alberta Conservation Association (ACA) assumed the responsibility of managing properties purchased under the Buck for Wildlife (BFW) Program. In 2006, the ACA and Alberta Sustainable Resource Development (ASRD) drafted the *Land Management Program Agreement* (2006) which outlined the roles and responsibilities of the ACA and ASRD as they pertained to the management, maintenance and divestment of Crown BFW properties or to the purchase of ACA titled lands under the *Habitat Securement Fund*. Under the Agreement, the ACA is required to develop management plans for all such ACA lands that fall under the ACA Conservation Sites Maintenance and Management Program.

Our primary objectives for the 2007/2008 fiscal year were to complete a detailed list of BFW Crown properties for which ACA has a vested interest and those that the ACA would like to divest interest, and to write management plans for two ACA managed titled lands. These plans are to be completed for Batty Lakes (titled land in partnership with Ducks Unlimited Canada) and the Therien Addition (titled land in partnership with the Nature Conservancy of Canada).

Methods

ACA Conservation Sites are managed for conservation, protection, or enhancement of wildlife and fisheries habitat resources and for such recreational uses as wildlife viewing, hunting and fishing. Management plans are developed for ACA Conservation Sites and are designed:

1. to clearly outline the roles and responsibilities of each of the partners involved;
2. to act as a guide to what the partners consider acceptable activities on the property;
3. to act as a template for maintenance and enhancement activities on the property;
4. to provide a history and description of the property; and

5. to provide contact information for each of the partners.

The *ACA Land Management Conservation Planning Document* outlines the steps needed to develop and implement management plans for ACA Conservation Sites. The development of these management plans is a collaborative effort between ACA and our partners and is conducted through the following process:

1. ACA leads the development of management plans on all ACA Conservation Sites (draft);
2. ACA submits the draft management plan to our partners for review and recommendations;
3. ACA completes a final draft of the management plan for final review by our partners; and
4. ACA finalizes the management plan and forwards it to our partners for approval and signing.

Management plans are forwarded to the appropriate source(s) for regional and provincial compilation based on the terms of reference defined above.

Results

The following activities were undertaken in 2007/2008:

- A detailed list was produced and provided to ASRD of “Buck for Wildlife” Crown properties for which ACA has a vested interest in, and those that the ACA wants to transfer or divest interest.
- Draft management plans were produced for the Batty Lakes and Therien Addition ACA Conservation Sites but still require final review before they are submitted to partners.

Once negotiations are complete for the resolution of the BFW properties, ASRD will review the existing management plan template. If required we will then revise the management plan template as requested by ASRD and continue developing management plans for all ACA Conservation Sites.

Conclusion

Communications:

- Over the last year, representatives from the ACA and ASRD have met to negotiate which Buck for Wildlife properties. The resolution is ongoing and is expected to be resolved in 2008-09.

Literature Cited

Land Management Program Agreement. 2006. Alberta Sustainable Resource Development and Alberta Conservation Association, Unpublished Report. 7 pp.



An aerial view of the Therien Addition property. (Photo: Biota Consultants)