

**Alberta Conservation Association
2008/09 Project Summary Report**

Project name: *Management Plan Development*

Land Management Program Manager: Darren Dorge

Project leader: Roy Schmelzeisen (Boreal NE), Ed Kolodychuk (Boreal NW), Brad Taylor (Prairie SO), Diana Rung (Parkland SO), Marco Fontana (East Slopes ES)

Primary ACA staff on this project:

Boreal (NE): Roy Schmelzeisen

Boreal (NW): John Hallett, Ed Kolodychuk, Jennifer Straub

East Slopes: Marco Fontana

South (Parkland): Diana Rung, Andy Murphy

South (Prairie): Brad Taylor, Randy Lee, Mike Uchikura

Partnerships:

Alberta Fish & Game Association

Alberta Sustainable Resource Development

- Fish & Wildlife Division

- Public Lands Division

Bow River Irrigation District

County of Newell

Ducks Unlimited Canada

Suncor Energy Foundation

Trout Unlimited Canada

Nature Conservancy of Canada

Partners in Habitat Development

Pheasants Forever

Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation

Sandstone Ranch Grazing Cooperation

Shell Canada Energy

Key findings

- We completed management plans to guide future management of conservation sites for seven titled properties that were acquired in 2008/09.
- We developed a draft management plan template, in collaboration with ASRD Fish and Wildlife and Public Lands, for crown owned properties that ACA manages.

Abstract

Alberta Conservation Association (ACA) is dedicated to efficiently managing Conservation Sites that we either hold title to or manage on behalf of the Crown. Development of management plans ensures that there are clear objectives and guidelines for these properties that are agreed upon and understood by ACA and our partners. In the 2008/09 fiscal year, we developed a standardized management plan template with Alberta Sustainable Resource Development (ASRD), Public Lands and Fish and Wildlife divisions, to ensure consistency in individual plan development on crown owned properties that ACA manages. Management plans were completed for 7 titled properties, which include East Hays, Flatbush 3, Joussard 2, Karvonen, Linder, North Fawcett 2 and North Fawcett 3. In addition, we have worked with partners to develop plans for another 16 sites; Batty Lake, Beaver Lake, Beltz Lake, Blind Canyon, Crow's Nest Lake, Frayne, Lac Delorme, Leavitt, Rice, Sandstone Ranch, Schroeder, Sentinel, South Idlewilde, Spruce Coulee, Stainbrook Springs, and Therien. In the coming year we plan to continue to lead the development of management plans on conservation sites we manage or own to ensure that effective and mutually agreed practices are administered on these lands.

Introduction

Management plan development is an important aspect of effectively managing properties. The intent of management plans is to have defined management objectives and responsibilities identified between project partners and stakeholders. These documents enable Alberta Conservation Association (ACA) to define habitat management objectives and compatible land uses with the goal of enhancing recreational opportunities.

ACA manages both crown and titled properties. Crown properties that ACA manages were secured, donated or enhanced for wildlife habitat development under the Buck for Wildlife (BFW) program. Responsibility for these sites is delegated to ACA as part of the Land Management Program Agreement between Alberta Sustainable Resource Development (ASRD) and ACA. ACA also holds title on properties secured under our Habitat Securement Program and Boreal Habitat Conservation Program. All properties purchased under these programs have management obligations as agreed upon by ACA and our partners and are reflected in the management plans developed for these sites.

Methods

ACA worked with ASRD staff to develop a standardized and workable management plan template. The management plan template was developed with five primary functions identified.

These functions include the following: an outline of roles and responsibilities for each of the partners, a guide to acceptable activities on the property as agreed upon by all partners, a template for maintenance and enhancement activities, a historic and physical description of the property, and a source of contact information for each of the partners. We then followed several steps from the initiation to completion of individual plans. First, ACA led the development of management plans for individual properties by meeting with the associated partners and determining the specific requirements of the plan. Once the requirements were addressed, ACA wrote and submitted draft management plans to partners for review and recommendations. Upon reaching a desired final draft of the plan, the plan was signed and copies are supplied to each of the partners.

Results

In the 2008/2009 fiscal year, we worked with ASRD to develop a draft management plan template for crown owned conservation sites that ACA manages. The draft template is not formerly approved by ASRD therefore plans developed on crown lands are considered to be draft until formerly endorsed by ASRD.

We completed management plans for seven titled conservation sites acquired in the 2008/2009 fiscal year. These include East Hays, Flatbush 3, Joussard 2, Karvonen, Linder, North Fawcett 2 and North Fawcett 3. These management plans identify habitat and recreational objectives for the properties and maintenance responsibilities for all partners involved. We are currently developing management plans for Batty Lake, Beaver Lake, Beltz Lake, Blind Canyon, Crow's Nest Lake, Frayne, Lac Delorme, Leavitt, Rice, Sandstone Ranch, Schroeder, Sentinel, South Idlewilde, Spruce Coulee, Stainbrook Springs, and Therien. Once drafts are completed, they will be circulated to partners for comment.

Conclusions

Development of management plans is an important part of effective wildlife habitat management. The completion of a standardized management plan template will allow ACA to more effectively develop future management plans that have consistent and thorough content. The development of management plans for all of our Conservation Sites will enable ACA and our partners to more effectively direct our management practices in a clearly outlined manner and with mutual intent. In the coming year, ACA will continue to develop management plans as we secure habitat and will seek to review and update our plans and our plan templates as necessary.

Communications

- Communications at properties is done in conjunction with the Conservation Site Management Program.

Literature cited

None



Aerial photo of South Idlewilde, a Crown Conservation Site. (Photo: Robert Anderson)



ACA staff, Thomas Winter, with signage at ACA owned Conservation Site. (Photo: Chad Judd)



ACA staff, Jennifer Straub, with signage at ACA owned Conservation Site. (Photo: Roy Schmelzeisen)