

**Alberta Conservation Association  
2009/10 Project Summary Report**

**Project Name:** *Management Plan Development*

**Land Management Program Manager:** Darren Dorge

**Project Leader:** Roy Schmelzeisen

**Primary ACA staff on project:**

Boreal (Northeast): Roy Schmelzeisen and Stefanie van Huystee; Boreal (Northwest): John Hallett, Ed Kolodychuk and Jennifer Straub; East Slopes: Marco Fontana and Erin Vandermarel; South (Parkland): Andy Murphy and Diana Rung; South (Prairie): Randy Lee, Brad Taylor and Mike Uchikura

**Partnerships**

Alberta Fish and Game Association  
Alberta Sustainable Resource Development  
Ducks Unlimited Canada  
Nature Conservancy of Canada  
Shell Canada Energy  
Suncor Energy Foundation  
Wildlife Habitat Canada

**Key Findings**

- Completed management plans for five titled properties that were acquired in 2009/10.
- Completed draft management plans for 11 titled and three Crown Conservation Sites.
- Began developing management plans for nine other titled and 12 other crown Conservation Sites (expected March 31, 2011).

**Introduction**

Management plan development is an important aspect of effectively managing our conservation assets. The intent of a management plan is to identify defined management objectives and responsibilities for project partners and stakeholders. These plans enable Alberta Conservation Association (ACA) to define future direction and overall management of our Conservation Sites. Emphasis is placed on developing detailed habitat management objectives and identifying compatible land use with the goal of enhancing sustainable recreational opportunities.

Alberta Conservation Association manages both Crown and titled properties. Crown properties that we manage were secured, donated or enhanced for wildlife habitat development under the Buck for Wildlife (BFW) program. Responsibility for these sites was delegated to ACA as part of the Land Management Program Agreement between Alberta Sustainable Resource Development (ASRD) and ACA. In addition, ACA holds title to sites secured via our Habitat Securement Fund, our Corporate Partners program that deals with terrestrial offsets, and lands that are donated to ACA by private individuals. All Conservation Sites acquired by ACA have management obligations as agreed upon by us and our partners, and these are reflected in the management plans developed for these sites.

## **Methods**

The steps for developing a management plan vary slightly depending on whether the site is considered Crown land being managed by ACA in collaboration with ASRD, or whether the site is titled land that was purchased by ACA. The procedures for management plan development for Crown and titled lands are outlined below.

Management plan development for Crown lands that ACA manages:

1. ACA prioritizes properties for management plan development,
2. ACA identifies all partners/stakeholders required to develop the management plan and meets with ASRD and all other partners/stakeholders to develop the plan,
3. ACA writes a draft of the management plan using an ACA provincially-standardized management plan template that has been reviewed by ASRD,
4. ACA submits the draft management plan to ASRD and other partners/stakeholders for review and recommendations until all partners/stakeholders are satisfied with the plan,
5. ACA finalizes the management plan and forwards it to partners/stakeholders for approval and signing, and
6. ACA ensures that copies of the signed management plan are forwarded to the appropriate government officials, partners and stakeholders, and ACA executive assistant (corporate office).

Management plan development for lands that ACA holds title with other organizations or is responsible to stakeholders and that ACA is responsible for developing the management plan:

1. ACA identifies all partners/stakeholders required to develop the management plan and meets with the partners/stakeholders to develop the plan,
2. ACA writes a draft of the management plan using an ACA provincially-standardized management plan template,
3. ACA submits the draft management plan to the partners/stakeholders for review and recommendations until all partners/stakeholders are satisfied with the plan,
4. ACA finalizes the management plan and forwards it to partners/stakeholders for approval and signing, and

5. ACA ensures that copies of the signed management plan are forwarded to partners and stakeholders and ACA executive assistant (corporate office).

## Results

In 2009/10, we completed management plans for five titled sites, draft management plans for 14 sites (11 titled and 3 Crown) and began developing plans for 21 other sites (9 titled and 12 Crown) scheduled for completion by March 31, 2011. All sites are listed in Table 1.

Table 1. Management plan progress in the 2009/10 fiscal year.

<b>Site</b>	<b>Crown/Title</b>	<b>Region</b>	<b>Plan Status</b>
Athabasca Ranch	Crown	East Slopes	in development
Beaver Lake	Crown	East Slopes	in development
Beltz Lake	title	South (Parkland)	complete
Bigelow Reservoir	Crown	South (Parkland)	in development
Bulka	title	South (Parkland)	draft
Cain 3	title	South (Parkland)	in development
Chip Lake (Southeast & Southwest)	Crown	East Slopes	in development
Crowsnest Lake	title	South (Prairie)	draft
Daysland	Crown	Boreal (Northeast)	draft
Dickson Dam Site 7	Crown	South (Parkland)	in development
Eagle Terrace	title	East Slopes	in development
East Hays	title	South (Prairie)	draft
East Oakley Lake	title	Boreal (Northeast)	in development
East South Heart	title	Boreal (Northeast)	complete
Flatbush 4	title	Boreal (Northeast)	in development
Frayn	title	South (Prairie)	draft
Gardenview	Crown	Boreal (Northeast)	in development
Golden Ranches - Parcel 1	title	Boreal (Northeast)	in development

Gouin	title	Boreal (Northeast)	draft
Grieve	title	Boreal (Northeast)	draft
Heninger	Crown	South (Prairie)	in development
Hebert Lake	Crown	South (Parkland)	in development
Kenex	Crown	South (Prairie)	in development
Leavitt	title	East Slopes	in development
Link	title	South (Parkland)	draft
McVinnie	Crown	South (Prairie)	draft
North Fawcett 4	title	Boreal (Northeast)	complete
Schroeder	title	South (Parkland)	draft
Sentinel	title	South (Prairie)	draft
Slack Slough	Crown	South (Parkland)	in development
South Idlewilde	Crown	East Slopes	in development
South Peavine	title	Boreal (Northwest)	complete
Sproule	Crown	South (Prairie)	draft
Spruce Coulee	title	South (Parkland)	in development
Stainbrook Springs	title	East Slopes	in development
Tyrrell	Crown	South (Prairie)	in development
Wild Rose	title	South (Prairie)	in development
Winagami Southwest 2	title	Boreal (Northwest)	complete
Wolters	title	Boreal (Northwest)	draft
Wood Lake	title	South (Parkland)	draft

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## Conclusions

Development of management plans is an important component of effectively managing our conservation assets. The development of management plans for 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. Management plan development is an ongoing activity. We will continue to develop plans for Crown sites that ACA manages and for new Conservation

Sites acquired, and will revise/update plans as required. In the next fiscal year, we will 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.

### **Communications**

- Communications of Conservation Sites is completed through our Conservation Site Management Program.

### **Literature Cited**

None



The Gouin Conservation Site. Alberta Conservation Association is working with the donor to create a management plan for the site. (Photo: Roy Schmelzeisen)



Alberta Conservation Association staff, Chad Croft, inspecting North Fawcett 4 Conservation Site for tree planting viability. Restoration of trees is one of the enhancements that will be identified in the management plan for the site. (Photo: Roy Schmelzeisen)



An excavator on North Fawcett 2 Conservation Site creating a “ditch plug”. This activity was identified in the management plan and was a joint project with Ducks Unlimited Canada to restore wetlands on landscapes that have been drained. (Photo: Stefanie van Huystee)