

Alberta Conservation Association 2010/11 Project Summary Report

Project Name: *Management Plan Development*

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Partnerships

Alberta Fish and Game Association, Alberta Sustainable Resource Development, Beaver Hills Initiative, Cameron Development Corporation, County of Strathcona, County of Westlock, Ducks Unlimited Canada, Edmonton and Area Land Trust, MULTISAR, Nature Conservancy of Canada, Pheasants Forever – Chinook Chapter and Calgary Chapter, Shell Canada, Suncor Energy Foundation

Key Findings

- Developed 53 management plans. Of these, 19 were “new acquisitions” (sites acquired since 2009) and 34 were sites acquired prior to 2009 that required plan development, revision or update.

Introduction

Alberta Conservation Association (ACA) conducts various activities through the Land Management Program (LMP) aimed at conserving, protecting and enhancing wildlife and fish habitat and increasing recreational opportunities, particularly hunting and angling. One of the major activities of the LMP is the management of ACA Conservation Sites. ACA manages both Crown and titled properties. We manage Conservation Sites on behalf of the Crown, in which the original investment was made via the Buck for Wildlife (BFW) program and administered by Alberta Sustainable Resource Development (ASRD), and we manage sites that we hold either sole or partial title to which we secured via our Habitat Securement Fund, our Corporate Partners Program, or were donated to ACA by private individuals.

Management plan development is an essential aspect of effectively managing our conservation assets. Management plans define the vision, goals and features of the site and identify responsibilities of the project partners. Emphasis is placed on developing detailed habitat management objectives that both maintain the ecological integrity of the Conservation Site and provide complimentary recreational opportunities.

Alberta Conservation Association has identified a need to ensure that existing management plans are updated at a minimum of once every five years and that all new acquisitions have a management plan ready for partner review within six months of acquisition. To accomplish this, we review and prioritize the need for new or updated management plans on ACA Conservation Sites and we co-ordinate with partner organizations and volunteer stewards on these sites to ensure current and accurate management plans are developed.

Methods

First, we prioritize properties for management plan development.

Site prioritization steps:

1. New acquisitions; plans are to be developed within six months of acquisition.
2. Sites with management plans that require extensive or immediate revision.
3. All other sites with management plans requiring update (i.e., have not been revised in the last five years).

The steps for developing a management plan are outlined below.

Management plan development steps:

1. ACA identifies all partners required to develop the management plan and meets with partners to develop the management plan.
2. ACA writes a draft of the management plan using an ACA provincially-standardized management plan template.
3. ACA submits draft management plans to the partners for review until all partners are satisfied with the plan.
4. ACA finalizes the management plan and forwards it to partners for approval and signing.
5. ACA ensures that copies of the signed management plan are kept regionally and copies are forwarded to the appropriate government officials, partners and to ACA’s executive assistant (corporate office).

Prioritizing and developing the management plans is co-ordinated regionally.

Results

In the 2010/11 fiscal year, we developed 53 management plans. Of these, 19 were “new acquisitions”—sites acquired since 2009 and required a management plan to be developed within six months, and 34 of these were sites secured prior to 2009 requiring plan completion, revision or update. These sites are listed in Tables 1 and 2.

Table 1. Alberta Conservation Association Conservation Site, new acquisitions (secured since 2009). We developed new management plans in 2010/11.

Site	Crown/Titled Land	Region
Cameron Development	Titled	Boreal (Northeast)
East Oakley Lake	Crown & Titled*	Boreal (Northeast)

Flatbush 4	Titled	Boreal (Northeast)
Flatbush 5	Titled	Boreal (Northeast)
Golden Ranches	Titled	Boreal (Northeast)
Gouin	Titled	Boreal (Northeast)
Grieve	Titled	Boreal (Northeast)
North Fawcett 4	Titled	Boreal (Northeast)
North Fawcett 5	Titled	Boreal (Northeast)
North Fawcett 7	Titled	Boreal (Northeast)
East South Heart	Titled	Boreal (Northwest)
Winagami Southwest 2	Titled	Boreal (Northwest)
Beltz Lake	Titled	East Slopes
Eagle Terrace	Titled	East Slopes
Thomson Park	Titled	East Slopes
East Hays	Titled	South (Prairie)
Legacy	Titled	South (Prairie)
Silver Sage	Titled	South (Prairie)
Wild Rose	Titled	South (Prairie)

*this site consists of both Crown and titled land.

Table 2. List of ACA Conservation Sites secured prior to 2009 that were selected for management plan completion, revision or update in 2010/11.

Site	Crown/Title	Region
Daysland	Crown	Boreal (Northeast)
Gardenview	Crown	Boreal (Northeast)
Lac Delorme	Crown	Boreal (Northeast)
Therien	Crown & Titled*	Boreal (Northeast)
Nitehawk	Crown	Boreal (Northwest)
Clouston/Little Smoky Uplands	Crown	Boreal (Northwest)
Brooks Aqueduct	Crown	South (Prairie)
Fincastle	Crown	South (Prairie)
Hays Drain C3	Crown	South (Prairie)
Heninger	Crown	South (Prairie)
Inter-Lake	Crown	South (Prairie)
McVinnie	Crown	South (Prairie)
Millicent	Crown	South (Prairie)
Sproule	Crown	South (Prairie)

Tyrrell	Crown	South (Prairie)
Athabasca Ranch	Crown	East Slopes
Beaver Lake	Crown	East Slopes
Bigelow Reservoir	Crown	East Slopes
Blackstone-Wapiabi	Crown	East Slopes
Chip Lake Southeast	Crown	East Slopes
Chip Lake Southwest	Crown	East Slopes
Dickson Dam Site 7	Crown	East Slopes
Kvass Flats	Crown	East Slopes
McKinnon Flats	Crown	East Slopes
Slack Slough	Crown	East Slopes
South Idlewilde	Crown	East Slopes
Bulka	Titled	East Slopes
Caine 3	Titled	East Slopes
Leavitt	Titled	East Slopes
Link	Titled	East Slopes
Schroeder	Titled	East Slopes
Spruce Coulee	Titled	East Slopes
Stainbrook Springs	Titled	East Slopes
Wood Lake	Titled	East Slopes

*this site consists of both Crown and titled land.

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, revise and update plans as required. In the next fiscal year, we will continue to lead the development of management plans on Conservation Sites that we manage or own to ensure that effective and mutually-agreed practices are administered on these lands.

Communications

- Organized and attended 20 Conservation Site Management and working group meetings with other conservation partners across various regions, including four meetings in the Prairie (South), six meetings in the East Slopes, five in the Boreal (Northwest), and five in the Boreal (Northeast).

Literature Cited

None