

## **Alberta Conservation Association 2011/12 Project Summary Report**

**Project Name:** Fisheries Access Site Management

**Land Program Manager:** Darren Dorge

**Project Leader:** Marco Fontana

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### **Partnerships:**

Alberta Environment  
Alberta Fish and Game Association  
Alberta Sustainable Resource Development, Fish and Wildlife Division and Lands Division  
Alberta Tourism, Parks and Recreation  
Clearwater County  
County of Camrose  
County of Newell  
County of Warner  
Daishowa-Marubeni International Ltd.  
Devon Canada  
Grimshaw Agricultural Society  
Hillcrest Fish and Game  
Lamont Fish and Game  
Mancal Energy Inc.  
Municipal District of Rocky View  
Municipal District of Sunrise County  
North Raven River Working Group  
RTC Services Ltd.  
Shell Canada  
Town of Lamont  
Trout Unlimited Canada, Central Chapter and Yellowhead Chapter  
Weyerhaeuser  
Zama Lake Society

### **Key Findings**

- Conducted management, inspections and site maintenance at 31 fisheries access sites across Alberta.
- Completed site upgrades and enhancements at nine fisheries access sites across Alberta.
- Provided access to angling opportunities at four rivers and 27 lakes across Alberta.

- Maintained 25 in-kind and financial partnerships in 2011/12.
- Initiated work on the development of one new fisheries access site in our Central Region and the expansion of another in our Northwest Region.

## **Introduction**

The focus of Alberta Conservation Association's (ACA's) Land Management Program (LMP) is to conserve, protect and enhance wildlife and fish habitat, as well as increase sustainable recreational opportunities, including angling and hunting. One facet of the LMP is the management of ACA fisheries access sites. The Fisheries Access Site Management Program is delivered throughout the province and provides sites for anglers to access key streams, stocked ponds and lakes, thereby increasing recreational opportunities for public use. Specific objectives in 2011/12 included: delivering the project in an efficient and timely manner, completing inspections and necessary maintenance at all fisheries access sites, delivering infrastructure improvement projects at priority sites, establishing and maintaining successful partnerships with industry, government, municipalities and other organizations to discuss management issues and sustainable recreational access opportunities.

## **Methods**

Fisheries Access Site Management is a provincial program that is delivered regionally to maximize local knowledge and partnership opportunities. We completed field inspections on access sites throughout the province, which involved a visual survey of a site to assess damages to infrastructure, identify concerns (e.g., weeds), ensure contractor compliance, and identify a course of action for management. We generally completed two to three field inspections per year or monthly, if required.

We typically hired private individuals and companies as contractors or employed volunteer stewards for routine maintenance, for example, grass cutting, fence repairs, garbage removal and weed control. Infrastructure upgrades and replacements continue to be necessary due to the age of infrastructure. We also installed ACA Conservation Site signage at fisheries access sites, as needed, generally at the main access points to each site.

## **Results**

We managed, inspected and maintained 31 fisheries access sites with a variety of site infrastructure in four ACA regions throughout Alberta (Table 1). We completed enhancements and installed new facilities at nine sites to improve the overall image of our fisheries access sites and enhance the experience of anglers visiting these sites (Table 2).

Table 1. Facilities maintained and inspected at Alberta Conservation Association fisheries access sites.

Site name (region)	Access site type	Facilities maintained/inspected						
		Road access	Parking lot	Washrooms (outdoor)	Garbage disposal bins	Boat launch	Fish cleaning stand	Fences
Lamont Pond (NE)	stocked waterbody	X	X	X	X			X
East Dollar Lake (NW)	stocked waterbody	X	X	X	X		X	
Weberville Pond (NW)	stocked waterbody	X	X		X			
McKinnon Flats (CE)	river access	X	X	X	X	X		X
Bow Site #10 (CE)	river access							X
North Raven River (CE)	river access		X	X	X			X
Ironside Pond (CE)	stocked, aerated waterbody		X					X
Mitchell Lake (CE)	stocked, aerated waterbody	X	X					
Beaver Lake (CE)	stocked, aerated waterbody	X	X	X	X	X		X
Fiesta Lake (CE)	stocked, aerated waterbody	X	X					
Boehlke Pond (CE)	stocked waterbody	X	X	X	X			X

Dickson Trout Pond (CE)	stocked waterbody	X	X	X	X			
Hansen Reservoir (CE)	stocked waterbody	X	X	X	X		X	X
Kerbes Pond (CE)	stocked waterbody	X	X	X	X			X
Kramer Pond (CE)	stocked waterbody	X	X	X	X		X	X
Mirror Reservoir (CE)	stocked waterbody	X	X	X	X			X
Nuggent Pond (CE)	stocked waterbody	X	X	X	X			X
Shuster Lake (CE)	stocked waterbody	X	X					
Windsor Lake (CE)	stocked waterbody	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Lees Lake (SO)	stocked waterbody	X	X	X	X	X		X
Burmis Lake (SO)	stocked waterbody river access	X	X	X	X			X
Waldron Falls (SO)	river access	X	X	X				
Bathing Lake (SO)	stocked waterbody	X	X	X	X			X
Butcher Lake (SO)	stocked waterbody	X	X					
Dipping Vat Lake (SO)	stocked waterbody	X	X	X	X	X		
Heninger Reservoir (SO)	stocked waterbody	X	X	X	X	X		

Tyrrell Lake (SO)	stocked waterbody	X	X	X	X	X		X
Brooks Aqueduct Pond (SO)	stocked waterbody	X	X	X	X			
Lake McQuillan (SO)	stocked waterbody							
Kenex Trout Pond (SO)	stocked waterbody	X	X					X
McVinnie Trout Pond (SO)	stocked waterbody	X	X	X	X			X

Table 2. Enhancements completed and new facilities installed at Alberta Conservation Association fisheries access sites in 2011/12.

Site name (Region)	Type of enhancement completed, infrastructure installed/upgraded
Birch Lake (CE)	Installed new outhouse and improved parking facilities and trail.
Dickson Trout Pond (CE)	Constructed a wheelchair-accessible dock.
Fiesta Pond (CE)	Constructed a floating dock and installed a new outhouse.
Kerbes Pond (CE)	Installed new project signage.
Mirror Reservoir (CE)	Removed dilapidated outhouse and installed new project signage.
Nuggent Pond (CE)	Installed new project signage.
Bathing Lake (SO)	Installed new project signage and bear-proof garbage bin.
Burmis Lake (SO)	Installed bear-proof garbage bin.
Heninger Reservoir (SO)	Installed new project signage.

We were unsuccessful with an application to the Alberta Lottery Fund's Community Facility Enhancement Program for \$66,523 to complete 16 improvement projects across Alberta. However, we maintained 25 collaborative partnerships in 2011/12. This financial and in-kind support is a valuable resource that assisted with site upgrades and enhancements at various fisheries access sites.

## **Conclusions**

We successfully managed 31 fisheries access sites across the province to provide enhanced angling opportunities on 27 lakes and four rivers. We completed upgrades and enhancements at nine sites to improve recreational access, address concerns over aging infrastructure and provide additional amenities. We inspected all sites and completed all routine maintenance tasks. We maintained 25 partnerships to assist with the delivery of this project, but we were unsuccessful with a large grant application to fund improvements at 16 sites across the province. Our goal is to continue to ensure anglers have high-quality experiences at ACA fisheries access sites, and we continue to pursue additional funding for future enhancements to facilities.

## **Communications**

- Posted fisheries access site locations and descriptions on ACA's website and listed sites in *Discover Alberta's Wild Side: Annual Outdoor Adventure Guide*.
- Held meetings and site tours with Alberta Sustainable Resource Development partners to discuss ongoing management issues at McKinnon Flats and Boehlke Pond.
- Met with Alberta Sustainable Resource Development partners to discuss the potential development of Lambert Pond in Edson and the potential expansion and development of East Dollar Lake to include West Dollar Lake.

## Photos



ACA staff member Dave Jackson removing debris around outlet structure at Weberville Pond.  
(Photo Jon Van Dijk)





Conservation Site sign at Kerbes Pond. (Photo Vicki Heidt)





Fisheries Access Site in SW Alberta – Bathing Lake. (Photo Brad Taylor)





Site upgrade (concrete picnic table) at East Dollar Lake. (Photo Dave Jackson)