

Alberta Conservation Association 2011/12 Project Summary Report

Project Name: *Management Plan Development*

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Partnerships

Alberta Fish and Game Association
Alberta Sustainable Resource Development
Beaverhills Initiative
Cameron Development Corporation
County of Strathcona
Ducks Unlimited Canada
Edmonton and Area Land Trust
Glen and Kelly Hall
MULTISAR
Nature Conservancy of Canada
Pheasants Forever, Calgary Chapter and Chinook Chapter
Shell Canada
Suncor Energy Foundation
Robert Gouin
The First St. Paul Beavers, Cubs and Scouts
Town of Canmore

Key Findings

- Developed, revised or updated 53 management plans. Of these, six were for “new acquisitions” (sites acquired since 2010) and 47 were for sites acquired prior to 2011.

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 sustainable 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). We also manage sites that we hold either sole or partial title to, which we secured via our Habitat Securement Fund, our Corporate Partners Program, or that were donated to ACA by private landholders. 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 the 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 objective, we review and prioritize the need for new or updated management plans on ACA Conservation Sites. We then co-ordinate with partner organizations and volunteer stewards of 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., management plans 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 discuss the goals, restrictions and responsibilities that will be identified in the management plan.
2. ACA writes a draft of the management plan using an ACA provincially-standardized management plan template and process.
3. ACA reviews draft management plans for provincial consistency and submits draft management plans to 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 2011/12 fiscal year, we developed 53 management plans. Of these, six plans were for sites newly acquired since 2010, and 47 were for sites acquired prior to 2011 that required management plan development, revision or update. These sites are listed in Tables 1 and 2.

Table 1. List of newly-acquired (secured since 2010) Alberta Conservation Association Conservation Sites that management plans were developed for in 2011/12.

Site	Crown/Titled Land	ACA Region
Flatbush 6	Titled	Northeast
North Fawcett 6	Titled	Northeast
North River	Titled	Northeast
North Vilna	Titled	Northeast
Karvonen 2	Titled	Northeast
Timber Ridge	Titled	South

Table 2. List of Alberta Conservation Association Conservation Sites secured prior to 2011 that were selected for management plan completion, revision or update in 2011/12.

Site	Crown/Titled Land	ACA Region
Batty Lake	Titled	Northeast
Gouin	Titled	Northeast
Golden Ranches	Titled	Northeast
Cameron Development	Titled	Northeast
East Oakley Lake	Crown & Titled*	Northeast
Lac Delorme	Crown	Northeast
Therien	Crown & Titled*	Northeast
Nitehawk	Crown	Northwest
Calahoo Creek	Crown	Northwest
Lac Cardinal Point Uplands	Crown	Northwest
Lot 27 Uplands	Crown	Northwest
Hagan Uplands	Crown	Northwest
Weberville Pond	Crown	Northwest
Lac Magloire Uplands	Crown	Northwest
Bigelow Reservoir	Crown	Central
Chip Lake Southeast	Crown	Central
Hebert Lake	Crown	Central
McKinnon Flats	Crown	Central
Slack Slough	Crown	Central
South Idlewilde	Crown	Central

Beltz Lake	Titled	Central
Bulka	Titled	Central
Caine 3	Titled	Central
Eagle Terrace	Titled	Central
Leavitt	Titled	Central
Link	Titled	Central
Schroeder	Titled	Central
Spruce Coulee	Titled	Central
Stainbrook Springs	Titled	Central
Stonhouse	Titled	Central
Thompson Park	Titled	Central
Wood Lake	Titled	Central
Kingsland	Conservation Easement	Central
Bathing Lake	Crown	South
Burmis Lake	Crown	South
Crowsnest Lake	Titled	South
Frayn	Titled	South
Hays Drain C3	Crown	South
Heninger	Crown	South
Lee Lake	Titled Lease	South
Legacy	Titled	South
McVinnie	Crown	South
Millicent	Crown	South
Sentinel	Titled	South
Silver Sage	Titled	South
Sproule	Crown	South
Tyrrell	Crown	South

* these sites consist 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 goals and objectives are administered on these lands.

Communications

- Organized and attended 24 management plan development meetings with other conservation partners across various ACA regions, including five meetings in the Central region, nine in the Northeast, seven in the Northwest, and three in the South.

Photos



Site Inspection – Bulka (photo: Vicki Heidt)