

## **Alberta Conservation Association 2013/14 Project Summary Report**

**Project Name:** Fisheries Access Site Management

**Land Management Program Manager:** Darren Dorge

**Project Leader:** Marco Fontana

### **Primary ACA staff on project:**

Mandy Couve, Marco Fontana, David Jackson, Emily Kabotoff, Ed Kolodychuk, Randy Lee, Garret Mcken, Andy Murphy, Jim Potter, Diana Rung, Brad Taylor, Vanessa Uschenko, Jon Van Dijk and Erin VanderMarel

### **Partnerships**

Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development  
Alberta Fish and Game Association  
Clearwater County  
County of Newell  
County of Warner  
Devon Canada Corporation  
Municipal District of Greenview  
Municipal District of Northern Lights  
Municipal District of Rocky View  
North Raven River Working Group  
Peace County Flyfishers  
Shell Canada Energy  
Trout Unlimited Canada – Central and Yellowhead Chapters  
Wetaskiwin County

### **Key Findings**

- Inspected and maintained 28 fisheries access sites across Alberta.
- Completed site upgrades and enhancements at five fisheries access sites in our Central Region and one site in our Southern Region, including access improvements; installation of new project signs, floating docks/casting platforms, and outhouses; and fence repairs.
- Provided access to angling opportunities at 4 rivers and 24 lakes (19 stocked and 5 stocked and aerated) throughout the province.
- Engaged 16 in-kind and financial partnerships in 2013/14, and used an additional \$1,000 in external funds to support improvement projects.

## **Introduction**

The focus of our Land Management Program is to conserve, protect and enhance fish and wildlife habitat, and to increase sustainable recreational opportunities, including angling and hunting. One facet of the program is the management of our 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 2013/14 were to deliver the project in an efficient and timely manner; complete inspections and necessary maintenance on all fisheries access sites; deliver infrastructure improvement projects at priority sites; and establish and maintain successful partnerships with industry, government, municipalities and other organizations to discuss management issues and sustainable recreational access opportunities.

## **Methods**

The Fisheries Access Site Management Program 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. We generally completed two to three field inspections per year or monthly if required.

We hired private individuals and companies as contractors or engaged volunteer stewards whenever possible for routine maintenance, such as grass cutting, fence repairs, garbage removal, septic services and weed control. Infrastructure upgrades and replacements are necessary given the age of structures. We also installed Alberta Conservation Association Conservation Site signage at fisheries access sites, as needed, generally at the main access points of each site.

## **Results**

We inspected and maintained 28 fisheries access sites with a variety of site infrastructure in three regions in Alberta (Table 1). We completed enhancements and installed new facilities at six sites to improve our fisheries access sites and enhance anglers' experiences at these sites (Table 2).

Table 1. Facilities inspected and maintained at Alberta Conservation Association fisheries access sites in 2013/14.

| Site Name<br>(Region <sup>1</sup> ) | Access<br>Site Type        | Facilities Present (X) |                |           |                             |                |                           |        |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------|----------------|-----------|-----------------------------|----------------|---------------------------|--------|
|                                     |                            | Road<br>Access         | Parking<br>Lot | Washrooms | Garbage<br>Disposal<br>Bins | Boat<br>Launch | Fish<br>Cleaning<br>Stand | Fences |
| East Dollar Lake (NW)               | stocked waterbody          | X                      | X              | X         | X                           |                | X                         |        |
| Weberville Pond (NW)                | stocked waterbody          | X                      | X              |           | X                           |                |                           |        |
|                                     |                            |                        |                |           |                             |                |                           |        |
| Birch Lake (CE)                     | stocked, aerated waterbody | X                      | X              | X         |                             |                |                           | X      |
| McKinnon Flats (CE)                 | river access               | X                      | X              | X         | X                           | X              |                           | X      |
| Bow Vista (CE)                      | river access               |                        | X              |           |                             |                |                           | 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              | 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            | stocked waterbody               | X | X | X | X |   |   | X |

|                           |                   |   |   |   |   |   |  |   |
|---------------------------|-------------------|---|---|---|---|---|--|---|
| (SO)                      |                   |   |   |   |   |   |  |   |
| Heninger Reservoir (SO)   | stocked waterbody | X | X | X | X | X |  |   |
| Tyrrell Lake (SO)         | stocked waterbody | X | X |   | X | X |  | X |
| Brooks Aqueduct Pond (SO) | stocked waterbody | X | X | X | X |   |  |   |
| Kenex Trout Pond (SO)     | stocked waterbody | X | X |   |   |   |  | X |
| McVinnie Trout Pond (SO)  | stocked waterbody | X | X | X | X |   |  | X |

<sup>1</sup>Regions: NW = Northwest Region, CE = Central Region, SO = South Region

Table 2. Enhancements completed at Alberta Conservation Association fisheries access sites in 2013/14.

| Site Name (Region <sup>1</sup> ) | Enhancement   |
|----------------------------------|---|
| East Dollar Lake (NW)            | Improved parking lot and areas around washrooms                   |
| Birch Lake (CE)                  | Gravelled and graded parking lot                                  |
| Fiesta Lake (CE)                 | Repaired floating dock  |
| Mitchell Lake (CE)               | Improved trail and installed two floating docks/casting platforms |
| Windsor Lake (CE)                | Repaired fence  |
| Brooks Aqueduct (SO)             | Installed new project sign  |

<sup>1</sup>Regions: NW = Northwest Region, CE = Central Region, SO = South Region

We maintained 16 collaborative partnerships in 2013/14. This generous financial and in-kind support assisted with site upgrades and enhancements at various fisheries access sites.

## Conclusions

We successfully inspected and maintained 28 fisheries access sites across the province to provide enhanced angling opportunities on 24 lakes and four rivers. We completed upgrades and enhancements at six sites to improve recreational access, address concerns over aging infrastructure and provide additional amenities. We maintained 16 partnerships to assist with the delivery of this program. We continue to strive to ensure anglers have high-quality experiences

at our fisheries access sites, and we continually pursue additional funding to enhance facilities in the future.

## Communications

- Posted fisheries access site locations and descriptions on our website and listed them in our *Discover Alberta's Wild Side: Annual Outdoor Adventure Guide*.
- Held meetings with Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development to discuss dock installation and shoreline maintenance at Weberville Pond.
- Continued to pursue a partner agreement with Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development to facilitate investment in the improvement of McKinnon Flats.

## Literature Cited

N/A

## Photo Captions



Contractor using a bobcat to spread gravel in the parking lot area at East Dollar Lake. Photo: Alberta Conservation Association

[filename: Photo1\_FAS\_2013-14\_Alberta Conservation Association.jpg]





Alberta Conservation Association staff member Dave Jackson cleaning outlet structure at Weberville Pond. Photo: Jon Van Dijk  
[filename: Photo2\_FAS\_2013-14\_Jon Van Dijk.jpg]



Floating dock/casting platform installed at Mitchell Lake. Photo: Andy Murphy  
[filename: Photo3\_FAS\_2013-14\_Andy Murphy.jpg]





Trail improvements at Mitchell Lake. Photo: John Hallett  
[filename: Photo4\_FAS\_2013-14\_John Hallett.jpg]





Conservation Site sign at Lee Lake. Photo: Brad Taylor  
[filename: Photo5\_FAS\_2013-14\_Brad Taylor.jpg]