

Alberta Conservation Association 2013/14 Project Summary Report

Project Name: Management Plan Development

Land Management Program Manager: Darren Dorge

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Primary ACA staff on project:

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Partnerships

Albert and Pirkko Karvonen
Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development
Alberta Fish and Game Association
Ducks Unlimited Canada
Pheasants Forever – Chinook Chapter
Shell Canada Energy
Strathcona Wilderness Centre
Suncor Energy Foundation
Wild Elk Federation

Key Findings

- Reviewed and updated 30 management plans.
- Developed five new management plans for sites acquired since 2012.

Introduction

Alberta Conservation Association (ACA) conducts various activities through the Land Management Program aimed at conserving, protecting and enhancing wildlife and fish habitat and increasing sustainable recreational opportunities, particularly hunting and angling. One activity of the program is management of ACA Conservation Sites on Crown and titled land. We manage Conservation Sites on behalf of the Crown, in which the original investment was made via the Buck for Wildlife program and administered by Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development. We also manage sites that we hold sole or partial title to, which were secured via our Habitat Securement Fund or our Corporate Partners Program or were donated to ACA by 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 maintain the ecological integrity of the Conservation Site and provide complementary recreational opportunities.

Once a new acquisition is secured, ACA works with partners to develop a management plan for the Conservation Site. Once finalized, ACA and our partners review and update the plan as required or on a term basis (e.g., after five years) to ensure that we are delivering on the goals and activities identified in the plan.

Methods

First, we prioritize Conservation Sites for management plan development as follows:

1. New acquisitions requiring a management plan.
2. Sites that require extensive or immediate revisions.
3. All other sites requiring updates (i.e., have not been revised within the term period).

Second, we develop management plans using the following steps:

1. ACA identifies all partners required to develop or review 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 a standardized management plan template and process.
3. ACA reviews the draft management plans for provincial consistency and submits the draft 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 forwards copies to the appropriate government officials, partners, and to the ACA executive assistant (corporate office).

Prioritizing and developing the management plans is coordinated regionally.

Results

We developed five new management plans for sites secured since 2012 (Table 1) and reviewed and updated 30 management plans (Table 2).

Table 1. Management plans developed in 2013/14 for Alberta Conservation Association Conservation Sites secured since 2012.

Site	Crown/Titled	Region
Albright	Titled	Northwest

Bull Trail	Titled	South
Leddy	Titled	Northwest
Northstar	Titled	Northwest
Parkland	Titled	Central

Table 2. Management plans for Alberta Conservation Association Conservation Sites reviewed and updated in 2013/14.

Site	Crown/Titled	Region
Bulka	Titled	Central
East Deadwood	Titled	Northwest
East Hays	Titled	South
East South Heart	Titled	Northwest
Grantham Lake	Crown	South
Joussard	Titled	Northwest
Joussard 2	Titled	Northwest
Karvonen 2	Titled	Northeast
Legacy	Titled	South
Link	Titled	Central
Musidora 2	Titled	Northeast
Musidora 3	Titled	Northeast
North Fawcett 6	Titled	Northeast
North Rabbit Lake	Titled	Northwest
North Vilna	Titled	Northeast
Reiner Homestead	Titled	Northwest
Robert Bateman	Lease	Northeast
Ross Creek	Titled	South
Rudakevich	Titled	Northwest
Rudakevich 2	Titled	Northwest
Sandstone Ranch	Titled	South
Schroeder	Titled	Central
Shell True North Forest	Titled	Northwest
Silver Sage	Titled	South
South Plain Lake	Titled	Northeast
Spruce Coulee	Titled	Central
Stonhouse	Titled	Central
Timber Ridge	Titled	South

West Neerlandia	Titled	Northeast
Wood Lake	Titled	Central

Conclusions

Developing management plans is an important component of effectively managing our conservation assets. These plans enable ACA and our partners to more effectively manage the sites using a clearly defined process and with mutual intent. Management plan development is an ongoing activity. In 2014/15, we will continue to develop and update plans for Conservation Sites that we manage or own to ensure that effective and mutually agreed upon goals and objectives are administered on these lands.

Communications

- Organized and attended management plan meetings with our partners.
- Hosted a tree-planting event with Shell Canada Energy staff, TreeCanada representatives and the County of Saddle Hills at the Shell True North Forest Conservation Site.
- Profiled the Reiner Homestead Conservation Site in the “Meet the Landowner” feature in the Fall/Winter issue of *Conservation Magazine*.
- Profiled the North Rabbit Lake Conservation Site in the “Conservation Site Getaways” feature of the Spring/Summer issue of *Conservation Magazine*.

Literature Cited

N/A

Photo Captions



A field crew removing an old fence on the Northstar Conservation Site to facilitate wildlife movement and recreational use. Photo: Jon Van Dijk
[filename: Photo1_MPD_2013-14_Jon Van Dijk.jpg]



A meeting of partners at the Parkland Conservation Site. Photo: Lisa Monsees
[filename: Photo2_MPD_2013-14_Lisa Monsees.jpg]



A wetland restored in 2009 on North Fawcett 2 that was previously drained for ranching activities. Photo: Roy Schmelzeisen
[filename: Photo3_MPD_2013-14_Roy Schmelzeisen.jpg]