

Alberta Conservation Association
2022/23 Project Summary Report

Project Name: Fisheries Access Site Management

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Partnerships

Agroforestry and Woodlot Extension

Society

Alberta Fish & Game Association

Alberta Transportation

Alternate Land Use Services Canada

Camrose County

Clearwater County

County of Newell

County of Northern Lights

Cows and Fish

Devon Canada Corporation

Dickson Fish & Game Association

Government of Alberta

Haul-All Equipment Ltd.

Lacombe County

Lacombe Fish & Game Association

Lethbridge County

Lethbridge Northern Irrigation District

Municipal District of Greenview

North Raven River Working Group

Rocky View County

Saddle Hills County

Stettler County

Trout Unlimited Canada – Bow River

Chapter

Trout Unlimited Canada – Central Chapter

Waldron Grazing Co-Op Ltd.

Wetaskiwin County

Key Findings

- Provided access to angling opportunities at two rivers and 21 lakes, ponds, or reservoirs (16 stocked and five stocked and aerated) throughout the province.
- Inspected and maintained 23 fisheries access sites across Alberta.
- Commissioned ten maintenance contracts for services at 19 sites provincially.
- Completed site upgrades and repairs at five fisheries access sites provincially, which included installing a floating dock, constructing a parking area, installing a permanent outhouse, repairing damaged infrastructure, and replacing site signage.
- Moved forward on the process to apply on miscellaneous leases on three fisheries access sites on Crown land.
- Recognized 26 in-kind and financial partnerships in 2022/23 to support management of our fisheries access sites.
- Submitted funding applications to the Minister's Special Licence Program, Red Deer and District Community Foundation, and TC Energy Build Strong Program to complete planned access developments at Boulder Lake.

Abstract

Alberta Conservation Association's (ACA) Land Management Program encompasses activities intended to conserve, protect, and enhance wildlife and fish habitat and to increase sustainable recreational opportunities including angling and hunting. One of the activities of the program is the delivery of the Fisheries Access Site Management Program, which provides angling access to key streams, rivers, and lakes throughout the province. We inspected and maintained 23 fisheries access sites and commissioned ten contracts to maintain 19 sites in 2022/23. We completed upgrades and repairs at five sites with improvements to day-use facilities and access areas including installing a floating dock, constructing a parking area, installing a permanent outhouse, repairing day-use infrastructure, and replacing two damaged project signs. We moved forward on the process to acquire ACA leases on three Crown land sites. We recognized 26 partners in 2022/23 who generously contributed financially or with in-kind assistance. We worked to secure partners and applied on grants to complete final access developments planned at the Boulder Lake site. We continued to strive to ensure anglers have high-quality experiences at ACA fisheries access sites across the province.

Introduction

The focus of Alberta Conservation Association's (ACA) 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 (FAS).

The FAS Management Program is delivered throughout the province and provides sites where anglers can access key streams, stocked ponds, and lakes, thereby increasing recreational opportunities for public use. Specific objectives in 2022/23 were to deliver the project in an efficient and timely manner; to complete inspections and necessary maintenance on all fisheries access sites; to deliver infrastructure improvement projects at priority sites; to identify new FAS development opportunities; and to establish and maintain collaborative partnerships with industry, government, municipalities, and other organizations to discuss management issues and sustainable recreational access opportunities.

Methods

The FAS Management Program is a provincial program that is delivered regionally to maximize partnership opportunities. The LMP manager and FAS project lead are responsible for the provincial organization and direction of this project, while the FAS project coordinators and project staff are responsible for the delivery of each region's annual management and maintenance component.

We completed field inspections on access sites throughout the province, which involved a visual survey of a site to assess any damage to infrastructure, identify concerns (e.g., weeds), ensure contractor compliance, and identify a course of action if required, in addition to identifying enhancement opportunities. We generally completed two to three field inspections of each site per year or monthly if required.

We hired private individuals and companies as contractors or engaged volunteer stewards whenever possible to complete routine maintenance, such as grass cutting, fence repairs, garbage removal, septic services, and weed control. Infrastructure upgrades and replacements are

necessary due to the age of structures. We also installed ACA conservation site signage for FAS as needed, generally at the main access points of each site.

Results

We inspected and maintained 23 FAS with a variety of site infrastructure in three regions throughout Alberta (Table 1). We commissioned ten maintenance contracts to provide services at 19 sites provincially in 2022/23. We completed repairs and installed new facilities at five sites to improve our FAS and enhance anglers' experiences at these sites (Table 2).

Table 1. Facilities inspected and maintained at ACA fisheries access sites in 2022/23.

Region	Site Name	Site Type	Facilities
Central	Beaver Lake	Stocked, aerated waterbody	Parking lot, outhouses, garbage bins, boat launch, and fences
Central	Birch Lake	Stocked, aerated waterbody	Parking lot, outhouses, fences, and floating dock
Central	Boulder Lake	Stocked waterbody	Floating dock, casting platforms, temporary parking area, portable outhouse, and garbage bin
Central	Coulson	River access	Parking lot, outhouse, garbage bin, and picnic table
Central	Fiesta Lake	Stocked, aerated waterbody	Parking lot, outhouses, and floating dock
Central	Hansens Reservoir	Stocked waterbody	Parking lot, outhouses, garbage bins, fish-cleaning stand, fences, and floating docks
Central	Ironside Pond	Stocked, aerated waterbody	Parking lot and fences
Central	Kerbes Pond	Stocked waterbody	Parking lot, outhouses, garbage bins, and fences
Central	Kramer Pond	Stocked waterbody	Parking lot, outhouses, garbage bins, fish-cleaning stand, and fences
Central	Mirror Reservoir	Stocked waterbody	Parking lot, outhouses, garbage bins, and fences
Central	North Raven River	River access	Parking lot, outhouses, garbage bins, and fences
Central	Nuggent Pond	Stocked waterbody	Parking lot, garbage bins, fences, wheelchair-friendly outhouses, trail, and floating dock
Central	Pleasure Island Fish Pond	Stocked, aerated waterbody	Parking lot, outhouses, garbage bins, and floating dock/casting platforms
Central	Shuster Lake	Stocked waterbody	Parking lot
Central	Windsor Lake	Stocked waterbody	Parking lot, outhouses, garbage bins with fish-cleaning area, boat launch, fences, and floating dock
Northwest	Dollar Lakes	Stocked waterbody	Parking lot, outhouses, garbage bins, gravel walking trail, floating docks, and picnic tables
Northwest	Shell True North Pond	Stocked waterbody	Access road, parking lot, garbage bins, picnic tables, and floating docks
Northwest	Weberville Pond	Stocked waterbody	Parking lot, garbage bins, picnic tables, and floating docks

Region	Site Name	Site Type	Facilities
Southern	Brooks Aqueduct	Stocked waterbody	Parking lot, garbage bins, and boat launch
Southern	Burmis Lake	Stocked waterbody and river access	Parking lot, outhouses, garbage bins, and fences
Southern	Lee Lake	Stocked waterbody	Parking lot, outhouses, garbage bins, boat launch, floating dock, and fences
Southern	McVinnie Reservoir	Stocked waterbody	Parking lot, outhouses, garbage bins, floating dock, and fences
Southern	Waldron Falls	River access	Parking lot and outhouses

Table 2. Enhancements completed at existing ACA fisheries access sites in 2022/23.

Region	Site Name	Enhancement
Central	Boulder Lake	Installed a permanent outhouse and developed upper parking area.
Central	Mirror Reservoir	Repaired hail-damaged skylights on outhouse.
Central	Nuggent Pond	Replaced project sign.
Central	Windsor Lake	Replaced project sign.
Northwest	Shell True North Pond	Installed a second casting dock.

We began the process of applying on new ACA leases on Crown land for Legacy Island in the Central Region, McVinnie Reservoir in the South Region, and Weberville Pond in the Northwest Region. We collaborated with Lacombe Fish and Game Association to develop access and day-use infrastructure for the Boulder Lake site (i.e., development of the upper parking lot and installation of a permanent outhouse). We maintained 26 collaborative partnerships in 2022/23. We were unsuccessful in applications to Red Deer and District Community Foundation, and TC Energy Build Strong Program for the funds to complete planned access developments at Boulder Lake. We submitted a third application to the Minister's Special Licence Program, for which the results are still pending. We received financial support from Saddle Hills County to maintain Shell True North Pond.

Conclusions

We successfully inspected and maintained 23 FAS across the province to provide enhanced angling opportunities on two rivers and 21 lakes, ponds, or reservoirs. We commissioned ten maintenance contracts to provide services at 19 sites provincially. We completed repairs and upgrades at five sites to improve recreational access, specifically to address infrastructure needs

and access management. We initiated ACA lease applications for three sites on Crown land. We maintained 26 partnerships providing generous financial and in-kind support, which assisted with site maintenance and enhancements at various sites. We submitted three applications for funds needed to complete access development at the FAS at Boulder Lake. We continue to strive to ensure anglers have high-quality experiences at ACA FAS, and we continually pursue additional funding to enhance facilities in the future.

Communications

- Posted FAS locations and descriptions on our website and in the *Alberta Discover Guide*.
- Continued negotiations with the Government of Alberta to determine long-term roles and responsibilities at FAS provincially.

Literature Cited

Not Applicable

Photos



Photo 1. New dock installed at Shell True North Pond. Photo: Jon Van Dijk



Photo 2. Permanent outhouse constructed at Boulder Lake. Photo: Marco Fontana



Photo 3. New project sign installed at Windsor Lake. Photo: John Hallett



Photo 4. Overview of McVinnie Reservoir. Photo: Mike Jokinen