

Alberta Conservation Association
2022/23 Project Summary Report

Project Name: Management Plan Development

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Partnerships

Alberta Fish & Game Association
Ducks Unlimited Canada
Government of Alberta

Key Findings

- Completed 20 conservation site management plans in 2022/23.

Abstract

Alberta Conservation Association (ACA) currently manages 414 sites, 391 conservation sites, and 23 fisheries access sites in Alberta. Of these, three new conservation sites were added in 2022/23 by completing two purchases and one eco-gift donation. To manage our conservation assets effectively, ACA develops management plans for all of our sites. We place emphasis on developing detailed habitat management objectives that maintain the ecological integrity of each site while also providing recreational opportunities to the public. ACA works with our partners to develop management plans that are used as guiding documents for overall site management. These plans provide specific details regarding site features, objectives regarding enhancement or restoration, recreational and facility enhancements, guidelines, and other planned activities for the site. Management plans are reviewed by ACA and our partners as required or on a term basis

(e.g., after five or ten years) to ensure we are meeting our intended goals and objectives. In 2022/23, we developed 20 management plans.

Introduction

Alberta Conservation Association (ACA) conducts various activities through the Land Management Program (LMP) aimed at conserving, protecting, and enhancing wildlife and fish habitat, as well as increasing sustainable recreational opportunities, particularly hunting and angling. ACA currently manages 414 sites in Alberta, 391 as conservation sites and 23 as fisheries access sites. Of these, three new conservation sites were added in 2022/23 by completing two purchases and one eco-gift donation. Approximately half of these sites (236) are managed on behalf of the province, in which the original investment was made via the Buck for Wildlife program and administered by the Government of Alberta (GoA). The remaining sites (178) are held under sole or partial title with other conservation organizations. These sites have been secured through partner collaborations, our Habitat Securement Fund, Corporate Partners in Conservation, or donations to ACA by conservation-minded landowners.

Management plans are essential for effective management of our conservation assets. They define the long-term objectives and features of the site, and identify any enhancement activities that will take place during the term of the plan. Conservation and fisheries access sites are managed both to ensure quality habitat for wildlife species and recreational opportunities for outdoor enthusiasts. Once a new site is secured, ACA works with partners to develop a management plan. Once finalized, ACA and their partners review and update the plan as required or on a term basis (e.g., after five or ten years) to ensure that we are delivering on the objectives identified in the plan.

Methods

The Management Plan Development (MPD) Project is provincially coordinated to ensure provincial standards are adhered to by LMP staff. The LMP manager, project lead, and coordinators are responsible for provincial coordination of this program. Prioritizing and developing management plans is coordinated regionally, with project staff being responsible for meeting with partners and ensuring activities identified in management plans are completed

(completion of these activities is administered through the conservation site management and fisheries access site projects).

First, we prioritize sites for MPD as follows:

1. new acquisitions (management plans are required to be completed within one year of securement)
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 each management plan and works with partners to identify specific goals, restrictions, and responsibilities that will be identified in the management plan.
2. ACA writes a draft management plan using an ACA provincially standardized management plan template and process.
3. ACA reviews the draft management plan for consistency and submits the draft management plan to partners for review.
4. ACA finalizes the management plan and forwards it to partners for final 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 the ACA executive assistant (corporate office).

Results

We completed 20 management plans in 2022/23.

Table 1. ACA conservation sites management plans completed in 2022/23.

Site	Management Partners	Region
Birch Coulee	ACA, AFGA	Northeast
Boulder Lake	ACA, AFGA	Central
East Reno	ACA, AFGA	Northwest
Flatbush 6	ACA	Northeast
George and Joan Mitchell Memorial	ACA, AFGA	Northeast
Grieve	ACA	Northeast
Holden	ACA, AFGA	Northeast
Kotowich	ACA, AFGA	Northeast
Lac Emelien	ACA, AFGA	Northeast
Legacy Island	ACA, GoA	Central
McVinnie	ACA, GoA	South
Milk River Badlands	ACA, AFGA	South
Musidora (Expansion)	ACA, AFGA	Northeast
North Fawcett 7	ACA, AFGA	Northeast
North Vilna	ACA, AFGA	Northeast
Parkland	ACA, AFGA	Central
Redwing	ACA, AFGA, DUC	Northwest
Steinbrenner	ACA, AFGA	Northwest
Walters	ACA, AFGA	Central
Webberville Pond	ACA, GOA	Northwest

ACA = Alberta Conservation Association; AFGA = Alberta Fish and Game Association; DUC = Ducks Unlimited Canada; GoA = Government of Alberta.

Conclusion

Developing management plans is an important component of caring for our conservation assets. These plans enable ACA and our partners to more effectively manage conservation and fisheries access sites using a consistent and clearly defined process. MPD is an ongoing activity in our planning cycle. In 2023/24, we will continue to develop and update plans for sites that we own or manage to ensure that effective and mutually agreed-upon goals and objectives are administered on these lands.

Communications

- Collaborated with project partners to determine roles and responsibilities, and develop management and habitat objectives for management plans on various conservation sites.
- Continued negotiations with GoA to determine requirements for management plans and prioritization of Crown conservation sites.

Literature Cited

Not applicable

Photos

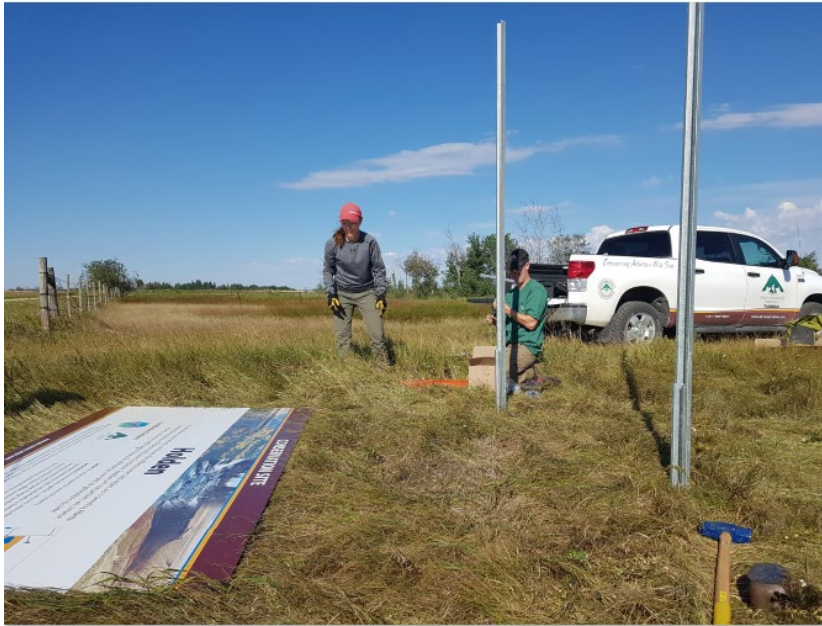


Photo 1. Staff installing project sign at Holden Conservation Site (Northeast Region). Photo: Terri Perron



Photo 2. Installed project sign at Holden Conservation Site (Northeast Region). Photo: Garret McKen



Photo 3. Installing fence posts for a parking area on Walters Conservation Site (Central Region). Photo: John Hallet



Photo 4. Trout pond on McVinnie Fisheries Access Site (South Region). Photo: Mike Jokinen



Photo 5. Coulee on Milk River Badlands Conservation Site (South Region). Photo: Tyler Johns