

**Alberta Conservation Association
2024/25 Project Summary Report**

Project Name: Fisheries Access Site Management

Land Management Program Manager: Robert Anderson

Project Leader: Marco Fontana

Primary ACA Staff on Project: Andrew Clough, Marco Fontana, John Hallett, David Jackson, Jade Janzen, Tyler Johns, Kade McCormick, Corey Rasmussen, Diana Rung, Roy Schmelzeisen, Dan Sturgess, and Clayton Temple

Partnerships

Alberta Transportation	Government of Alberta
Alberta Wildlife Federation	Haul-All Equipment Ltd.
Alternate Land Use Services Canada	Keyera Corp.
Angling Outfitter & Guide Association of Alberta	Lacombe County
Bettensons Sand and Gravel Co Ltd.	Lacombe Fish & Game Association
Bow River Trout Foundation	Lethbridge County
Camrose County	Lethbridge Northern Irrigation District
Clearwater County	Municipal District of Greenview
County of Newell	Saddle Hills County
County of Northern Lights	Trout Unlimited Canada – Bow River Chapter
Cows and Fish	Trout Unlimited Canada – Central Chapter
De Beers Group	Waldron Grazing Co-Op Ltd.
Dickson Fish & Game Association	Wetaskiwin County
Encore Trucking & Transport Ltd.	

Key Findings

- Inspected and maintained 24 fisheries access sites throughout the province, accessing angling opportunities at three different rivers and 20 lakes, ponds, or reservoirs.
- Commissioned 12 maintenance contracts for regularly scheduled services at 21 sites and hired six contractors to perform other maintenance related upkeep at five sites provincially.
- Entered into an agricultural agreement to allow ecologically sustainable grazing at one site in the Central Region.
- Completed site upgrades and repairs at four fisheries access sites (FAS) provincially, which included improvements to a boat launch, two access roads and parking areas, repairs to a floating dock, installation of two new project signs, as well as the construction of beaver exclusion fencing to stabilize the water levels of a fish pond.
- Applied for miscellaneous leases on four fisheries access sites on Crown land and continued to pursue the development of a new access site near Calgary.
- Recognized 27 in-kind and financial partnerships in 2024/25 to support management of our fisheries access sites.
- Enrolled three new site stewards in Alberta Conservation Association's (ACA) Volunteer Stewardship Program while retaining one existing steward and volunteers from two fish and game clubs to deliver site maintenance activities throughout the province.
- Submitted one successful partner proposal for funding to complete infrastructure improvements at a site in the Central Region.

Details

ACA's 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 such activity is the delivery of the Fisheries Access Site Management project, which provides angling access to key streams, rivers, and lakes throughout the province. In 2024/25, we inspected and maintained 24 FAS. These sites provide access to 20 lakes, ponds, or reservoirs (of which 14 are stocked and six are stocked and aerated), as well as two sites on the North Raven River, one new site on the Bow River, and one site on the Oldman River. We used the results of a contracted range health assessment and grazing plan to enter into an

agreement with a local rancher to sustainably graze the pastures at Boulder Lake, near Red Deer. We also constructed a beaver exclusion fence around the outflow culvert at the site to stabilize the fishpond's water level. We completed upgrades and repairs at four sites with improvements to day-use facilities and access areas. These included the installation of two new picnic tables and a wildlife-proof garbage bin at Boulder Lake, and improvements to the parking lot and boat launch at Legacy Island. We were also successful with a funding application to Clearwater County's Recreation Board Grant to improve the access road and parking lot at Birch Lake. We assisted the Dickson Fish and Game Association in replacing the deteriorated wooden dock at Fiesta Lake with a new floating dock. We applied for four new ACA leases on Crown land. These included Weberville Pond, Nuggent Pond, Ironside Pond, and Windsor Lake. We engaged Rocky View County with a proposal to work with the provincial government and a local landowner on the development of a new FAS and stocked trout fishery east of Calgary, near Chestermere. We recognized 27 partners in 2024/25 who generously contributed financially or with in-kind assistance to help deliver FAS management activities. Volunteer stewards assisted with inspections and maintenance of eight sites across the province with three new stewards enrolled and one on-going volunteer, as well as two active partner clubs retained from previous years. Our success in managing FAS is achieved through the collaboration with valuable partners and a growing number of volunteers as we continue to strive to ensure anglers have high-quality experiences at ACA FAS across the province.

Photos



Photo 1. Beaver exclusion fence constructed at the outflow of Boulder Lake Conservation Site.
Photo: Diana Rung



Photo 2. New picnic table at Boulder Lake. Photo: Jade Janzen



Photo 3. Improvements to the boat launch completed at Legacy Island Conservation Site.
Photo: Diana Rung



Photo 4. Access road and parking lot improvements completed at Birch Lake. Photo: John Hallett



Photo 5. New dock at Fiesta Lake. Photo: Diana Rung



Photo 6. Weberville Pond in the Northwest Region. Photo: Dave Jackson