

Alberta Conservation Association
2024/25 Project Summary Report

Project Name: Management Plan Development

Land Management Program Manager: Robert Anderson

Project Leader: Roy Schmelzeisen

Primary ACA Staff on Project: Meagan Butler, Mandy Couve, Taylor Dickson, Stefanie Fenson, Marco Fontana, John Hallett, Tyler Johns, Garret McKen, Stephen Nadworny, Terri Perron, Diana Rung, Roy Schmelzeisen, Lenore Seward, Dan Sturgess, Clayton Temple, and Erin VanderMarel

Partnerships

Alberta Wildlife Federation

Ducks Unlimited Canada

Government of Alberta

Pheasants Forever – Calgary Chapter

Pheasants Forever – Chinook Chapter

Key Findings

- Developed 28 conservation site management plans in 2024/25.

Details

Alberta Conservation Association (ACA) has management interests on over 220,000 acres of habitat that have been secured to maintain or enhance natural landscape features and provide open access for individuals who wish to experience the outdoors through activities such as hiking, hunting, angling, and foraging. Some of these areas are solely titled to ACA, some we share title with partners, and others are leases or other interests in the land. For those sites in which ACA is the lead management agency or has developed a lease with the Government of Alberta, ACA leads the development of a management plan to ensure that we are effectively delivering on the objectives and agreements on which the property was secured. These plans use

guidelines and specific details regarding site features, objectives for enhancement or restoration, recreational and facility enhancement needs, and other planned activities for the site. On titled lands, management plans are reviewed as required or on a term basis (e.g., after five or ten years). On Crown sites, we develop a management plan for the term of the lease (25 years).

In 2024/25, we developed 28 management plans. Several of these plans are being developed in partnership with Alberta Wildlife Federation (AWF) on properties secured through Wildlife Trust funding many years ago. ACA has recently become a partner on the AWF sites and has taken on the lead management role. Also among the new management plans are public lands originally secured under Buck for Wildlife funding that will now be protected under a lease held by ACA. We have focused our initial efforts on those Crown lands that provide access to quality fishing opportunities at ponds, lakes, and rivers and are managed through our Fisheries Access Site Management project, as well as sites that provide novel hunting opportunities such as pheasant release sites. Management plans were developed for a total of 18 such sites. Eight of these now have dispositions, while the remainder are in the queue for dispositions.

Developing and updating management plans is an important component of caring for our conservation assets. These plans enable ACA and our partners to manage conservation and fisheries access sites using a consistent process that ensures that we are working toward mutually agreed upon goals and objectives.

Table 1. ACA conservation site management plans developed in 2024/25.

Site	Management Partners
Beaver Lake	ACA, GoA
Birch Lake	ACA, GoA
Brooks Aqueduct	ACA, GoA
Dollar Lakes	ACA, GoA
Fiesta Lake	ACA, GoA
Flatbush 2	ACA
Golden Ranches Home Half	ACA
Gordon Leslie Memorial	ACA, AWF
Hansen's Reservoir	ACA, GoA
Hebert Lake	ACA, GoA
Ironside Pond	ACA, GoA
Kerbes Pond	ACA, GoA
Kramer Pond	ACA, GoA
Lac Cardinal Point Uplands	ACA, GoA
Long Pump	ACA, AWF
Manyberries Creek	AWF, PF Calgary, PF Chinook
Milk River Badlands	ACA, AWF
Millicent	ACA, GoA
Namaka Lake	ACA, GoA
North Raven River Parking	ACA, GoA
Nuggent Pond	ACA, GoA
Partridge	ACA, AWF
Raven Ridge	ACA, GoA
Side Family	ACA
South Plain Lake	ACA, AWF, DUC
Sproule	ACA, GoA
Steinbrenner	ACA, AWF
Windsor Lake	ACA, GoA

ACA = Alberta Conservation Association; AWF = Alberta Wildlife Federation; DUC = Ducks Unlimited Canada; GoA = Government of Alberta, PF Calgary = Pheasants Forever – Calgary Chapter, PF Chinook = Pheasants Forever – Chinook Chapter

Photos



Photo 1. Floating dock installed at Windsor Lake. Photo: ACA



Photo 2. Dollar Lakes fishery access. Photo: ACA



Photo 3. One of three constructed wetlands on the Sproule Conservation Site. Photo: Tyler Johns