

Grant Eligible Conservation Fund
April 2002 - March 2003



Summary Of Activities & Funding Recipient Project Results

Compiled by David Fairless
August 2003



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1. Introduction:

This report summarizes the activities of the Alberta Conservation Association - Grant Eligible Conservation Fund from April 1, 2002 to March 31, 2003. Forty-three conservation projects were approved for funding; a synopsis of their respective objectives and project deliverables is also presented in this document.

A total of 85 proposals were received between January 1 – 31, 2002.

- Wildlife 48
 - Fisheries & Other Conservation projects 37
-
- Funding Request \$3,431,936.90
 - Maximum Funding available \$1, 000, 000.00

2. Funding Allocations:

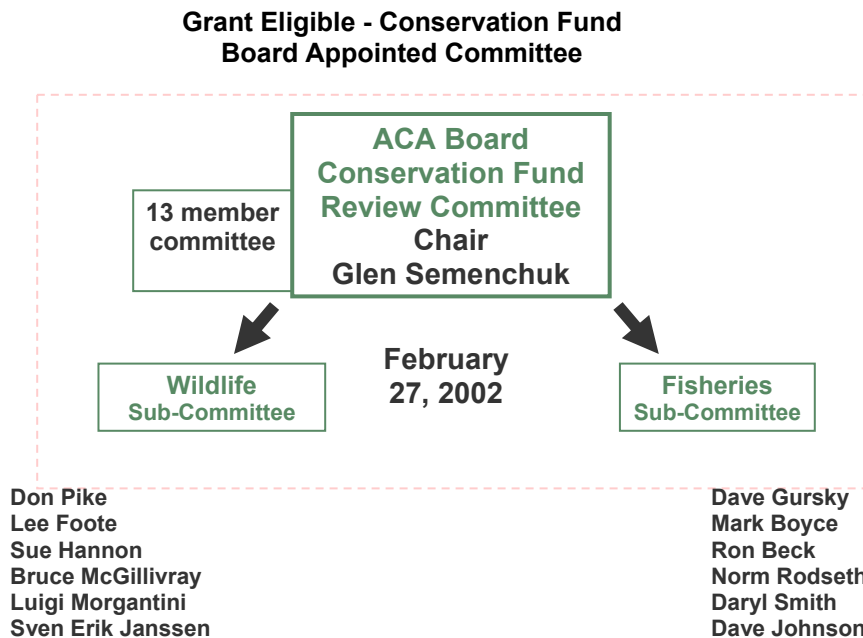
A total of 43 conservation projects with a combined funding allocation of \$999,512.53 were approved by the ACA Board of Directors on March 7, 2002.

3. Purpose:

The Grant Eligible - Conservation Fund aims to aid the Alberta Conservation Association in the delivery of its mission and annual operating plan. Grants made to partners are intended to enhance and supplement ACA activities.

4. Funding Eligibility:

- Any organization or individual may apply to the Grant Eligible - Conservation Fund if they have a suitable project.
- Alberta Conservation Association and Alberta Environment, Sustainable Resource Development staff are not eligible to apply to the fund.



5. Major Funding Goals & Priorities 2002 – 2003:

- To promote enhanced management of wildlife and fish resources by providing scientifically based ecological data.
- To enhance the opportunities that hunters, anglers and non-consumptive users have to enjoy Alberta's wildlife and fish resources in a sustainable manner.
- To develop and enhance partnerships with stakeholder groups and organizations to increase the level of support for conservation efforts.
- To target and secure parcels of land that contain significant wildlife or fish habitat, to promote a habitat conservation ethic and stewardship within the community of landowners and land managers, and to increase the amount of quality conservation lands available to the public for recreational use.
- To enhance or develop existing habitats to increase or improve the production of fish and wildlife resources.
- To develop strategies and deliver products that will inform and educate the fishing, hunting and outdoor community, and the public about Alberta's fish and wildlife resources and their ecology and management

Proposal Evaluation – Timeline

Action	Completion Date
Proposals/Funding Applications received at ACA head office (January 1-31)	16:30 Jan 31, 2002
Determine eligibility for funding review (based on funding eligibility requirements)	February 1, 2002
Evaluation form is generated for that specific project for the respective committee review	February 1, 2002
Copies of the proposal and evaluation form are sent to respective review committee members	February 1, 2002
Respective committee meet to formalize and endorse results of their evaluations	February 27, 2002
Applicants are notified to the status of Application by	March 1, 2002
Project agreements are signed and returned	March 11, 2002
2002/2003 Projects begin	April 1, 2002

6. Proposal Review Process

ACA Board Appointed Proposal Review Meeting:
Wednesday February 27, 2002
Percy Page Centre Edmonton, Alberta.

- Provide rankings for the respective proposals.
- Provide funding recommendations for suitable proposals to the ACA Board for final approval (March 11, 2002).

Proposals are evaluated on their merit and content using a three tiered ranking system:

A: Top proposals, recommend funding in whole or in part.

B: Proposal contains some merit, recommend funding in whole or in part if funds available.

C: Do not recommend funding

7. Project Summary 2002 – 2003

A summary description of each project and the respective objectives and deliverables follows:

Please note that final reports are housed at the ACA Corporate office in Edmonton, Alberta.

Funding Approved by the ACA Board March 11, 2002

43 projects @ \$999,512.53

GECF Project Type	Number of Projects	Funding Allocation
Wildlife Projects	24	\$490,439.50
Fisheries Projects	10	\$201,370.03
Other Conservation Projects	9	\$307,703.00
Total	43	\$999,512.53

Identification of Priority Areas for Breeding Shorebirds and Marshbirds within the Grassland and Parkland of Alberta

Project Location: Grassland and parkland natural regions of Alberta
Code: 030 50 90 001
Funding Allocation: \$5,000.00
Proponent: M. Norton

Status: Complete
Deliverables: Located in Edmonton at ACA corporate office

Canadian Wildlife Service
#200, 4999 - 98 Ave
Edmonton Alberta T6B 2X3 (780) 951-8687 mike.norton@ec.gc.ca

Project Objectives:

1. To delineate priority areas within Alberta's grassland and aspen parkland for marshbirds and breeding shorebirds. Priority areas will be delineated using GIS and available spatial habitat data.
2. To collect survey data on marshbirds and shorebirds at a broad scale in Alberta's grassland and aspen parkland. Survey data will be related to local and landscape level habitat to generate simple habitat use models.
3. To report on habitat relationships of marshbirds and shorebirds.
4. To refine the priority area boundaries using the habitat models generated through field surveys. Priority areas will be made available in GIS format to partners as a working tool. Priority areas will help guide habitat protection and management by identifying those areas within which benefits to waterbirds and shorebirds are expected to be greatest.

Deliverables:

- Draft priority areas for marshbirds and breeding shorebirds.
This will take the form of GIS data layers, including the supporting documentation of the underlying habitat models. Although models, and therefore priority areas, may be modified over time as more data becomes available, the draft areas identified will be immediately useful for planning. The data files will be provided to all relevant ACA regional offices.
- Report on habitat relationships of marshbirds and breeding shorebirds.
Results from field surveys will be presented. The focus of these analyses will be on identifying patterns useful to strategic planning for habitat management and securement activities. Assuming sufficient data are collected, this will also be submitted for publication in the scientific literature.
- Bird data submitted to Federation of Alberta Naturalists

Eastern Irrigation District - Partners in Habitat Development

Project Location: Within the Eastern Irrigation District/County of Newell No. 4, surrounding the town of Brooks, Alberta.
Code: 010 30 90 001
Funding Allocation \$15,000.00
Proponent: Rick Martin
Status: Complete
Deliverables: Located in Edmonton at ACA corporate office

Eastern Irrigation District,
P.O. Bag 8 - 550 Industrial Road
Brooks Alberta T1R 1B2
(403) 362-1414 wildlife@eidnet.org

Project Objective:

The primary objective of the PHD program is to preserve, create and maintain sustainable wildlife habitat within the cultivated regions of the EID to increase wildlife populations to those numbers seen in the late 1960's and early 1970's. Using the Ring-necked pheasant as an indicator species, the long-term goal is to have an increase in spring pheasant populations of at least 50% from 1995 population numbers. The pheasant is used as an indicator species due to the many years of historical data available and the annual monitoring program currently conducted by EID staff. When the pheasant population is healthy throughout the EID, other populations of wildlife are at healthy states also.

Deliverables:

- Between 15,000 - 25,000 trees and shrubs are to be planted in the year 2002.
- Habitat development, planting and maintenance will take place on several project sites in the year 2002.
- Landowners will be encouraged to fence off natural habitat to promote growth and development by limiting livestock access. This will provide protection to newly planted areas or to existing critical wildlife habitat. Every situation is different and each will be reviewed individually to establish the amount of involvement that EID PHD would have in a fencing project. The PHD program will assist with the purchase of fencing materials and in most cases the landowner has volunteered to install the fence.
- The EID PHD program will work cooperatively with the EID engineering staff and landowner during canal reconstruction and underground pipeline installation by providing funds to purchase and install the appropriate delivery service, which will supply water to conserve existing habitat or for future habitat projects.
- Existing wildlife interpretive viewing opportunities will be enhanced and new ones may be created. An increase in wildlife habitat should correlate into increased wildlife populations while providing additional recreational opportunities for hunting and wildlife viewing.
- The EID PHD initiative will provide an opportunity for a number of groups and organizations (many of which have not worked closely together in the past) to work cooperatively for the benefit of wildlife and the environment.
- The media has shown an interest in the PHD project and, as in the past, a number of articles will be written for various newspapers and magazines recognizing project partners. There will also be organized tours of the project sites allowing for further recognition and participation of all contributing groups.
- Landowner recognition signs have been developed and will be installed at sites that will recognize the cooperating landowners.

Conservation of Large Carnivores in Fragmented Landscapes: Using Habitat and Movement Models to Define Wildlife Corridors in the Rocky Mountains

Project Location:

Code: 030 10 90 001

Funding Allocation \$29,340.00

Proponent: Dr. Mark Boyce,

Status: **Complete**

Deliverables: Located in Edmonton at ACA corporate office

University of Alberta

CW 405 Biological Science Bldg. U of A

Edmonton, Alberta T6G 2E9

(780) 492-0081

boyce@ualberta.ca

Project Objectives:

- 1) Develop a habitat quality map for carnivores in the Canmore region of the Bow Valley and Crowsnest.
- 2) Collect data on habitat selection and movement patterns of grizzly bears and cougars in the Canmore region of the Bow Valley and Crowsnest.
- 3) Compile existing telemetry and distribution data for elk and big horn sheep in Canmore region of the Bow Valley and Crowsnest.
- 4) Develop spatially explicit habitat and movement models to map the probability of occurrence of grizzly bears and cougars given current landscape conditions.
- 5) Evaluate the effectiveness of proposed habitat management actions, particularly the location and design of wildlife corridors, in two study areas.

Deliverables:

- Semi annual and annual progress reports
- GIS met-database and detailed data layers
- Base map of study areas
- RSF and movement models
- Scientific publications

Developing a habitat-based population viability model for Sage Grouse in southeastern Alberta

Project Location: South and East of the town of Manyberries, AB
Code: 030 50 90 002
Funding Allocation \$15,000.00
Proponent: Dr. Mark Boyce, (Cam Aldridge)

Status: **Complete**
Deliverables: Located in Edmonton at ACA corporate office

University of Alberta
CW 405 Biological Science Bldg. U of A
Edmonton, Alberta T6G 2E9
(780) 492-0081
boyce@ualberta

The overall goal of this research is to relate habitat characteristics to measures of Sage Grouse productivity, survival, and ultimately, the viability of the population. We will use resource selection functions (RSFs) to develop statistically rigorous habitat models. We then will use measured population parameters to link these habitat models to population models and conduct habitat-based population viability analyses.

Specific Objectives include:

- 1) Monitor population through lek surveys and trapping, as well as reproductive effort, reproductive success, recruitment, and survival, focusing on females and chicks.
- 2) Improve 1999 population model based on variability in these parameters.
- 3) Assess habitat use at various life history stages using RSFs (specifically nesting and brood-rearing periods).
- 4) Assess chick survival (hatch - fledge); combine overwinter survival to estimate recruitment.
- 5) Develop habitat use/probability maps to aid in habitat management for Sage Grouse.
- 6) Develop a habitat-based population viability model for Sage Grouse.
- 7) *Develop active adaptive management strategies for Sage Grouse i.e. We are working with landowners ACA, and ASRD to implement experimental grazing manipulations to increase residual grass and litter cover, increasing moisture retention and forb growth.
- 8) *Ultimately, understand the effects of manipulations; how Sage Grouse respond to/use them (selection of nests/brood sites within manipulations; nesting success/chick survival).

*Ongoing Process-habitat response may take several years, then we can measure grouse response

Deliverables:

We will provide the ACA with all required quarterly reports and web updates, including a detailed report at the end of each year when data has been compiled and some preliminary analyses performed. We would also be happy to give a presentation each year to share the progress of our current research with ACA personnel. Once Mr. Aldridge has successfully defended his doctorate, the ACA will be provided with a copy of his thesis, as well as any publications emanating from this research.

Elk ecology and management in the Cypress Hills

Project Location: Cypress Hills (SE Alberta, Prairie Region)
Code: 030 10 90 002
Funding Allocation: \$20,000.00
Proponent: Troy Hegel

Status: **Complete**
Deliverables: Located in Edmonton at ACA corporate office

Faculty of Environmental Design, University of Calgary
2500 University Drive NW
Calgary Alberta T2N 1N4
(403) 852-5239 tmhegel@ucalgary.ca

Project Objectives:

The purpose of this study is to provide information and decision support models that will assist resource managers and stakeholder groups in preparing an elk management plan for the Cypress Hills. The project consists of five objectives.

Objective 1 - Identify and map Agricultural Values at Risk (AVR). This will include the type, size, and location of the AVRs, and the season(s) in which they are used by elk.

Objective 2 - Determine the factors affecting seasonal elk distribution and movements in relation to AVRs (e.g. herd size and home range, range condition, forage quality, natural and anthropogenic features on the landscape, snow depth and cover, proximity to AVRs, cover/habitat, hunting activity, and other disturbances).

Objective 3 - Determine the extent of agricultural damage to AVRs. This will include the amount and proportion of use of selected AVRs by cattle, elk and deer and an estimate of the cost of damage by elk.

Objective 4 – Develop a predictive model defining the risk of damage to AVRs in which predictor variables would include habitat factors (proximity of AVRs to cover and other habitat security features), elk sub-population size, and seasonal distribution.

Objective 5 – Provide management recommendations to resource and park managers, and the ranching community, including elk population management alternatives and measures to protect AVRs.

Deliverables to be produced in 2002/03:

- 1) March 30 2002: Agriculture values at risk map; updated hunter kill location database and map.
- 2) March 30 2002: Annual report summarizing activities and data.
- 3) April 2002: Presentation to the Cypress Hills Management Committee and possibly other organizations in Medicine Hat (Grasslands Naturalists and Alberta Fish and Game Association).
- 4) February 6 2002: Presentation to Alberta SRD, Sustainable Ecosystem Research Users Group, Edmonton.
- 5) Presentation to the Alberta Chapter of the Wildlife Society annual conference (March 2002).
- 6) 2003: EVDS Master's Degree Project (T. Hegel).
- 7) 2003: Range Condition Survey West (Sask.) Block of CHIP, to be supervised and funded by SERM.
- 8) October 2003 Project Completion Report to ACA, RMEF and Alberta SRD.

Additionally, we intend to submit 2-3 articles to be published in peer-reviewed journals. Potential topics include a history of elk management in the Cypress Hills, delineating elk-sub-populations using cluster analysis, and landscape friction modeling of elk movements using least-cost pathway analysis as a method to predict the probability of elk reaching individual AVRs.

Predictive models for assessing critical habitat for prairie rattlesnakes in Alberta

Project Location: Prairie – South Saskatchewan and Red Deer River Valleys
Code: 030 50 90 007
Funding Allocation: \$13,937.00
Proponent: Alexis Fast

Status: **Complete**
Deliverables: Located in Edmonton at ACA corporate office

UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY THESIS

A MASTER'S DEGREE PROJECT
SUBMITTED TO THE FACULTY OF ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN
IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE
OF MASTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN (ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE)
FACULTY OF ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN
CALGARY, ALBERTA
JUNE, 2003

Faculty of Environmental Design, University of Calgary
2500 University Drive NW
Calgary Alberta T2N 1N4
403-802-6121
afast@ucalgary.ca

Project Objectives:

1. To develop a model to predict the probability of occurrence of hibernacula based on remotely sensed data along the South Saskatchewan River.
2. To develop a model to predict the probability of occurrence of hibernacula based on ecological land classification along the Red Deer River.
3. To compare the efficacy of these two models for management applications.
4. To develop a habitat selection model for gravid prairie rattlesnakes.

Deliverables:

- Poster presentation to the Alberta Chapter of the Wildlife Society, March 2002, Edmonton.
- Preliminary South Saskatchewan River den selection model will be completed April 2002.
- Remaining field work will be completed in spring/summer 2002.
- The gravid female habitat selection model will be completed in fall 2002.
- Masters degree thesis will be completed and defended by spring 2003.
- A manuscript will be submitted to a peer reviewed journal by summer 2003.

Heritage Farmstead Program “Landowner Recognition & Private Land Stewardship Project”

Project Location: South Eastern Alberta
Code: 010 20 90 001
Funding Allocation: \$1,622.50
Proponent: Yves Ouellette

Status: **Complete**
Deliverables: Located in Edmonton at ACA corporate office

Alberta Fish & Game Association
6924- 104 Street Edmonton Alberta T6H 2L7
780-437-2343
afga-yves@shaw.ca

The Heritage Farmstead Program identifies abandoned farmsteads for their habitat values. This program will:

- Provide recognition to private landowners and encourage them to retain valuable wildlife habitat by maintaining unused farmsteads on their property.
- Ensure the long-term maintenance of the sites and their habitat values.
- Promote both wildlife and wildlife habitat retention at a local level.
- Create awareness for wildlife habitat requirements on a provincial level.
- Deliver fence post signs and wall plaques to landowners for their efforts.
- Recognize the pioneering families of farmsteads.
- Promote the co-operative efforts of the ACA and AFGA within communities throughout Alberta.
- Promote private land stewardship.

Deliverables:

25 new Heritage Farmstead Program members will be signed up in 2002. Ten volunteers from five different Fish & Game Clubs in southern Alberta will assist in delivering this program. The Heritage Farmstead Program will continue to retain significant areas of valuable wildlife habitat on privately held land in the prairie region of southern Alberta. This program is also beneficial in promoting the concept of land stewardship, and promoting conservation organizations such as the Alberta Fish and Game Association, local Fish and Game clubs, and the Alberta Conservation Association.

WILDFILES.TV

Project Location: Province and world wide web
Code: 030 40 90 001
Funding Allocation \$5,000.00
Proponent: Ava Karvonen

Status: **Complete**
Deliverables: Located in Edmonton at ACA corporate office

Reel Girls Media
#204 8407 Argyll Road Edmonton Alberta T6C 4B2
(780)488-0440
ava@reelgirlsmedia.com

Project Objectives:

WILDFILES.TV is an educational interactive nature and wild life website. This active approach will facilitate learning and encourage kids (and families) to get out from in front of the TV and computer to the outdoors and to get in touch with nature. Using the exploratory, interactive nature of the internet, WILDFILES.TV puts education into the user's own hands - empowering and inspiring them to study new things. After learning how to classify and explore nature through its differences, a child might watch and think about animals in a new way. While this online series has a computer user component, it promotes spending time outdoors where children can go and conduct their own wildlife investigations in a safe and ethical manner (including hands on science activities). Provincial

Deliverables:

Preliminary Storyboard – April 2002
Market Research – April 2002
Final Storyboard – April 2002
Prototype – May/June 2002
Beta Testing and Revisions – June 2002
Produce Site – phase 1 – July/August/September 2002
Beta Test and Revisions – October 2002
Launch finished product – November 2002

Effects of hunting on the behavior and demographics of black bears

Project Location: Northeastern Alberta
Code: 030 10 90 003
Funding Allocation: \$30,000.00
Proponent: Dr. Mark Boyce

Status: **Complete**
Deliverables: Located in Edmonton at ACA corporate office

University of Alberta
CW 405 Biological Science Bldg. U of A
Edmonton Alberta T6G 2E9
(780) 492-0081
boyce@ualberta

Project Objectives:

The broad objectives are to document the possible effects of access and hunting on black bear population dynamics. Specifically:

1. Describe habitat use of bears by social status (adult/subadult) and sex. Hunted and un hunted populations will be compared to determine if female bears are actively avoiding habitat used by resident or subadult males.
2. Quantify and compare female reproductive success (age at first reproduction, litter size, interval between litters) and cub survival from birth to age 1 in hunted and un hunted populations.
3. Document female nutritional condition to determine if the physical condition and hence reproductive potential of females

Deliverables:

After the 2002 spring trapping season a total of 23 bears were hunted (16 with collars) and 10 collars that had been dropped since the previous trapping session. During the 2002 fall trapping session we performed 67 bear captures of 39 *new* bears and collared a total of 27 bears. Traps were operational for 38 nights resulting in an average capture rate of 1.76 bears/day (average was reduced due to low trapping success in the CLAWR).

Cumulative Impacts and Management of Industrial and Agricultural Development on Selected Furbearer, Game, and Species-at-Risk in Alberta's Northeast Boreal and Boreal-Parkland Transition Zones

Project Location: Northeast Boreal and Northeast Boreal-Parkland Transition Zone
Code: 010 80 90 001
Funding Allocation: \$25,000.00
Proponent: Phillip Lee

Status: **Complete**
Deliverables: Located in Edmonton at ACA corporate office

Integrated Landscape Management Program
CW 405 Biological Science Bldg. U of A
Edmonton Alberta T6G 2E9
780-492-5766
philipl@ualberta.ca

Project Objectives: (Clearly state the specific objectives or hypothesis(es) to be tested.)

- 1) Establish thresholds in response of selected furbearer, game, and species-at-risk to cumulative types and amounts of industrial and agricultural activities at a regional scale, i.e. township or larger.
- 2) Test and estimate time lags in the response of selected furbearer, game and species-at-risk to levels of industrial and agricultural activities at regional scales, i.e. township or larger.
- 3) Forecast (using ALCES) the impacts of current industrial and agricultural trends on selected furbearer, game and species-at-risk (Program-wide objective).
- 4) Develop and forecast alternative regional management scenarios on selected furbearer, game and species-at-risk (Program-wide objective).

Deliverables:

- Oral presentations (ongoing throughout the life of the project)
- Discussion of results in Committee by Project Managers – Alberta Forest Biodiversity Monitoring Program, Alberta Chamber of Resources - Integrated Landscape Management Group, Alberta-Pacific Forest Management Task Force, Legacy 1 Co-Leader of Sustainable Forest Management Network of Center of Excellence, Alberta Environmental Protection Committee, Wildlife Society Special Service Committee, Alberta Chamber of Resources Integrated Landscape Management Steering Committee, Alberta Boreal Caribou Research Committee
- Stakeholder newsletter (possibly for general distribution)
- Contributions to the Best Practices Manual for Industrial Stakeholders (draft by mid-term, i.e. 3rd year, of program)
- Improvements to the ALCES for running more biologically realistic scenarios (ongoing throughout the life of the project).
- Peer-reviewed scientific article (2003)
- Popular press articles

Effects of introduced fish on the demography and life-history of long-toed salamanders

Project Location: Crowsnest Pass and Waterton National Park
Code: 030 50 90 003
Funding Allocation: \$8,000.00
Proponent: Cam Goater

Status: Complete
Deliverables: Located in Edmonton at ACA corporate office

University of Lethbridge
Department of Biological Sciences,
University of Lethbridge
Lethbridge Alberta T1 K 3M4
(403) 329 2752
goatcp@uleth.ca

Project Objectives:

In Alberta, fish stocking in mid- to high-elevation lakes has been a common practice since the early 1900's. Negative effects on amphibian populations have been proposed as one factor leading to the recent concern over the status of several of our indigenous species (e.g. Columbian Spotted Frog, Boreal Toad, Tiger salamander, Long-toed salamander). However, the evidence is anecdotal and the appropriate tests have not been completed. The purpose of this new initiative is to determine the effect of introduced trout (mostly rainbow, some golden) on the demography and life-history of long-toed salamanders (LTS) in a series of approximately 22 lakes/ponds in the Crowsnest region of Southern Alberta. A further aim is to determine the effect of fish predation on the growth, life-history and survival of populations of larval LTS reared in outdoor experimental ponds.

Deliverables:

Annual reports, journal publications, presentations at scientific conferences

Operation Grassland Community

Project Location: Prairie region of Alberta
Code: 010 20 90 002
Funding Allocation: \$30,000.00
Proponent: Kerry Grisley

Status: **Complete**
Deliverables: Located in Edmonton at ACA corporate office

Alberta Fish & Game Association
6924- 104 Street
Edmonton Alberta T6H 2L7
(780)437-2342
kerry@afga.org January 31, 2002

Project Objectives:

1. Long-term protection of wildlife habitat in the grassland region through promotion of private land stewardship and landholder contact and recruitment
2. Ongoing growth in awareness of prairie wildlife habitat needs, habitat conservation, and sustainable agricultural practices through public awareness and education initiatives.
3. Improve and enhance quality of the land through habitat enhancement activities with landholders
4. Maintain and increase prairie conservation partnerships with private landholders, public, government, non-government groups, and industry concerned with prairie conservation.

Long-term protection of wildlife habitat in the grassland region

- Renewal of 19 OGC memberships (remaining 200 OGC members are renewed over the next four years). June-August 2002
- 60-90 new voluntary habitat stewardship agreements obtained (these memberships will be renewed in 2007-08). April 2002-March2003
- 6,000 - 9,000 new acres protected under voluntary agreements. April 2002-March2003
- 3-5 conservation easements referred to SALTS and NCC (impacting additional 1200 to 3000 acres). April 2002-March2003
- 4 Environmental On-Farm Planning Workshops, impacting 30-35 farms and/or ranches. October 2002-March 2003
- 2 Holistic Management/Range Management workshops, impacting 20-30 ranches. July 2002-March 2003
- 3-5 ranchers referred to ACA's Native Prairie Stewardship Program for implementation of complete Range Management Plans. July 2002-March 2003
- 90 AFGA "Heritage Farmstead" stewards contacted for assessment of habitats, and possible membership with OGC. April 2002-March2003
- Annual census of Burrowing Owl populations. July-September 2002

Parkland Stewardship Program – Community-based Conservation Planning

Project Location: Parkland Natural Region
Code: 010 20 90 003
Funding Allocation: \$38,200.00
Proponent: Andrew Schoepf

Status: **Complete**
Deliverables: Located in Edmonton at ACA corporate office

Alberta Fish & Game Association,
6924- 104 Street, Edmonton Alberta T6H 2L7
780-437-2343 andrew@afga.org

Project Objectives:

- To promote participation in private land stewardship and a commitment to habitat conservation.
- To develop a community-based strategy for identifying and prioritising landscapes for focused local conservation strategies.
- To link farm-based conservation efforts with community-based conservation goals.
- To protect and enhance locally significant habitats through voluntary conservation agreements, conservation easements, and through farm and municipal based conservation plans.
- To raise the awareness of local conservation priorities, species at risk, and sustainable land management techniques within the parkland ecosystem to rural landowners, community groups and local municipalities.
- To foster cooperative action in conservation by developing new partnerships between individuals, community groups, industry, government and non-government organizations.

Deliverables:

- 2 GIS based Municipal Ecological Inventories with specific references to existing conservation efforts, known distributions of species at risk, and a priority rating to identify the top Ecologically Significant Areas for conservation program delivery. Final presentation of the Inventory will be made to the respective county councils in January of 2003.
- A database of all ecologically significant privately owned LLD's ranked by their importance in maintaining local/region conservation values within two municipalities. Database to be completed by September 2002.
- A database of 100 ecologically significant private land parcels surrounding 20 Wildlife Trust Fund properties for locally focused farm-based planning, and specific conservation activities. Database to be completed by June 2002.
- A social survey of locally important conservation priorities/values expressed by 3500 members in 20 fish and game clubs, and over 2000 residents within 2 municipalities. Club survey to be completed by June 2002, municipal based surveys to be completed by September 2002
- A critical evaluation of the Municipal Development Plans and Area Structure Plans within the counties of Wetaskiwin and Parkland to determine whether land use planning policy reflects the conservation values expressed by local residents, and is complementary to the conservation of locally significant environmental resources. Final report presented to the respective county council in March of 2003.

- 20 local fish and game club presentations involving more than 200 club members in the identification of local conservation priorities and program delivery strategies. Presentations will be completed by June 2002.
- The establishment of an environmental stewardship support network for landowners within landscapes surrounding the Wildlife Trust Fund properties. Five support meetings/workshops will be held in January of 2003.
- The completion of 100 natural resource inventories and farm conservation plans representing 32,000 acres of agricultural lands will be completed between June 2002 and February 2003.
- The securing of 100 voluntary conservation agreements representing 16,000 acres of locally significant habitats.
- The securing of 2 conservation easements formally protecting over 200 acres of native parkland habitat by February 2003. Three additional candidates will be supported to complete their conservation easements in 2003/2004.
- The enhancement and protection of long term ecological integrity for over 5,500 acres of formerly secured habitat on 20 Wildlife Trust Fund properties through the development of a conservation buffer involving the active stewardship of 100 private landowners.
- Support 20 program members in specific farm/habitat improvement projects by linking participants to additional resources of financial and/or technical support. Project proposals to be completed by February 2003. Actual projects to commence during the 2003 field season.
- The formalization of a community based delivery model to incorporate conservation priorities within the land use policies governing over 1.4 million acres of central Alberta parkland landscapes.
- Increased public awareness of conservation issues and greater recognition of program partners through the development of 5 factsheets, a web page, 6 feature articles in local print media, a program presentation at the annual AFGA conference, and an agricultural trade show tour within 15 communities. Total readership is over 20,000. Direct program exposure made to over 30,000 individuals. Public relations activities will be concentrated within the first half of the 2002/2003 fiscal year.
- Public recognition of 100 new program members and financial partners coordinated with the annual AFGA Dinner Auction in October of 2002 and the Trophy Ball in March 2003.
- The development of a program Advisory Council will shape future program growth, and integrally link the products and services of the Parkland Stewardship Program to other conservation initiatives within the Parkland region. Meetings will be held quarterly.

Implementing Prototypes for the Alberta Forest Biodiversity Monitoring Program

Project Location: Provincial – All Forested Regions of Alberta
Code: 020 80 90 001
Funding Allocation: \$25,000.00
Proponent: Stan Boutin

Status: **Complete**
Deliverables: Located in Edmonton at ACA corporate office

Integrated Land Management, Department of Biological Sciences,
University of Alberta CW 405 Biological Science Bldg. Edmonton Alberta T6G 2E9(780)
492-1297 Stan.Boutin@ualberta.ca

Project Objectives:

Implement the AFBMP data collection protocols at two locations in Alberta's forest as prototypes for the larger AFBMP.

- Test and refine logistical aspects of recommended survey protocols.
- Determine the feasibility and costs of the recommended survey protocols.
- Determine statistical power that will be achieved from the recommended survey protocols.
- Provide information about biodiversity status and change within the prototype areas.

Develop a platform for data management and specimen storage.

- Working from existing data management systems, develop and implement a data management system that will facilitate data verification, storage, sorting, and retrieval within the AFBMP.
- Develop and implement a system for long-term storage of biological specimens and archived materials.

Develop capabilities for data sharing and communication.

- Working from existing web based communication systems, create a web-based delivery system for the AFBMP data and project information.
- Develop appropriate hardcopy information media and distribution.
- Develop reporting procedures for periodic data summaries.

Secure partnerships to allow project expansion to additional prototype areas.

The AFBMP is a long-term, broad-scale biodiversity monitoring program that has been designed in collaboration with industry, government and non-government organizations, and researchers. Broad collaboration during implementation of the prototypes proposed here will ensure that the final protocols achieve the needs of all these management organizations. Results from this project will be distributed widely to managers and planners throughout Alberta's forests.

- Progress reports will be produced yearly and distributed to funding organizations and collaborators.
- Results from the prototype tests will be presented to local audiences throughout the forested regions of Alberta.
- Results from the prototype tests will be presented at local and international conferences and workshops.
- Results from the prototype tests will be presented in scientific manuscripts.

2002/ 03

- Select geographic areas, and sites within geographic areas, for implementation of AFBMP prototypes.
- Prepare manuals describing field protocols for staff to use during data collection and laboratory analyses.
- Review data management and web-based information sharing systems that other organizations have created.
- Secure funding and expand the prototype implementation to other forest areas.

West Central Alberta Caribou Research Project

Project Location: (Narraway, Redrock/Prairie Creek, A la Peche, Little Smoky, Jasper and Banff)
Code: 030 90 90 001
Funding Allocation: \$30,000.00
Proponent: Luigi Morgantini

Status: **Complete**
Deliverables: Located in Edmonton at ACA corporate office

West Central Alberta Caribou Standing Committee (WCACSC) - Research Subcommittee
Weyerhaeuser 11553 - 154 Street
Edmonton Alberta T5M 3N7
(780) 453 – 9782 Luigi.morgantini@weyerhaeuser.com

Project Objectives:

This project will contribute to the long-term conservation of threatened woodland caribou in west central Alberta. Woodland caribou are listed as Threatened under the Alberta Wildlife Act, and are listed as Threatened nationally by COSEWIC. Research will enable the WCACSC to continue to make knowledge-based decisions, which will help to mitigate negative impacts of industrial and recreational activities on caribou populations. In addition, research and management for caribou will benefit other wildlife species by ensuring that high habitat quality is maintained throughout Alberta's northern foothills. Since caribou require large tracts of relatively undisturbed habitat, management for caribou will also contribute to the conservation of sensitive species that may be at risk, including grizzly bears and bull trout.

Deliverables:

Newsletters (prepared regularly by the WCACSC research subcommittee to update broader WCACSC membership)

Journal publications (graduate students through the U of A)

Master's theses (2-3 master's theses will be completed in 2002-03)

Peace Grassland Endemic Butterfly Survey

Project Location: Based out of Grande Prairie, survey sites along the Peace River between BC and the town of Peace River.
Code: 030 50 90 004
Funding Allocation: \$19,500.00
Proponent: M. Hervieux

Status: **Complete**
Deliverables: Located in Edmonton at ACA corporate office

Grande Prairie Alberta
hervieux@telusplanet.net

Project Objectives:

The remnant native grasslands of the Peace River region contain an assemblage of plants and animals unique in Alberta. This habitat continues to be threatened by agricultural expansion, overgrazing and forest encroachment. Six butterfly populations that are endemic to these native grasslands have been listed by the provincial government as “may be at risk” or “sensitive” and Peace region populations for three additional species are undetermined. More intensive surveying is required to fully assess the status of these species. Additional information on habitat use is also needed to assist with land use planning and conservation. (see background attached)

- 1) Establish monitoring sites to assess population trends for nine butterfly sub-species or populations that are endemic to the native grasslands of the Peace River region.
- 2) Identify potential new sites along the Peace River and associated tributaries for these endemic butterflies using air photo interpretation and begin to verify sites on the ground.
- 3) Assess habitat use by endemic butterflies through flowering plant surveys and observations of butterfly nectaring and egg laying.

Deliverables:

- A summary report will be produced by October 31, 2002 based on the data collected.
- The sites identified through air photo interpretation will be shared with the Peace Native Grassland Project, ANHIC and Alberta Fish & Wildlife for use in developing land use management strategies.
- Specimens will be collected during the survey for use by the University of Alberta for genetic taxonomy work on the populations of concern (see attached letter of support). Results of that work will be incorporated into future recommendations for status designation and management.

Education and Interpretation at Beaverhill Lake

Project Location: Beaverhill Lake
Code: 010 90 90 001
Funding Allocation: \$6,800.00
Proponent: Chuck Priestley

Status: **Complete**
Deliverables: Located in Edmonton at ACA corporate office

Beaverhill Bird Observatory
Box 1418
Edmonton Alberta T5J 2N9
(780) 719-9803 chuckpriestley@hotmail.com

Project Objectives:

The focus of this project is to increase awareness of the biodiversity and work being conducted at the Beaverhill Lake Natural Area through the BBO. Visitation has been relatively low (apart from the Snow Goose Festival). Interpretive signage will be placed in and around the natural area to inform the public about the BBO and the wildlife and plant species that occur there. Various talks will be given throughout the year to schools, parks, and other natural history related groups about the Beaverhill Bird Observatory, the projects the group is involved with, and the importance of the long-term research.

Deliverables:

- Species checklist
- Pamphlets
- Signage
- Presentations

Boreal Caribou Research Program (BCRP)

Project Location: Boreal caribou ranges in northeastern and northwestern Alberta
Code: 030 90 90 002
Funding Allocation: \$30,000.00
Proponent: Jack Nolan

Status: **Complete**
Deliverables: Located in Edmonton at ACA corporate office

Boreal Caribou Research Program (BCRP)

Vegreville, AB

(780) 525-8393

jack_nolan@transcanada.com

Project Objectives:

The BCC is embarking on a new phase of its Strategic Plan. New general operating guidelines have been adopted for all boreal caribou ranges in northern Alberta, and the BCC is now beginning to develop specific Range Plans for each caribou range. Range Plans will fine tune the operating guidelines based on individual range conditions and detailed cumulative effects assessment.

To support Range planning and cumulative effects modeling, the BCRP will conduct three major projects in 2002-2003 – Population Monitoring, Evaluation of Low Impact Seismic Operations, and The Influence of Fire on Woodland Caribou Habitat Selection.

Population Monitoring

The research program is continuing to monitor the population trends in 5 northern ranges and will be initiating new monitoring programs in the Chinchaga and Slave Lake caribou ranges.

Evaluation of Low Impact Seismic Operations

A key role of the research program is to evaluate innovative industrial practices and document their effectiveness for protecting caribou. An important change is the implementation of maximum 3 meter wide seismic lines in several caribou ranges. It is anticipated that this practice will result in lines that provide less benefit for predators, and revegetate more quickly. The main objectives of this research project are to:

1. Compare relative wolf use of traditional, LIS, and obstructed lines:
 - (i) determine if wolves generally use traditional lines more than LIS and obstructed lines because they are easier to travel through and facilitate increased encounter rates with prey.
 - (ii) determine if use changes seasonally, such that LIS lines are used more than traditional lines in winter because snow depth is less on LIS lines.
 - (iii) determine if wolf use of LIS is high in regions where LIS is the dominant line type.
2. Compare relative caribou use of traditional, LIS, and obstructed lines:
 - (i) determine if caribou are generally less likely to avoid LIS and obstructed lines than traditional lines because they are used less by wolves and alternative prey.
 - (ii) determine if avoidance of LIS depends on (a) season, such that avoidance is higher in winter because snow depth on LIS is less and thus more likely to be used by wolves and (b) relative LIS density, such that avoidance is still high if LIS is the dominant line type and attracts wolves.
3. Determine if wolf and caribou use of any line type changes:
 - (i) as proximity to human infrastructure increases.
 - (ii) if humans use the line for travel, recreation, and/or hunting.
4. Compare field data to a model that predicts wolf habitat use and movement in landscapes composed of differing line densities, widths, and structures and the density of prey.

Deliverables:

Range Plans (including cumulative effects assessment and modified industrial operating guidelines) will be completed for the Chinchaga and East-Side-of-the-Athabasca River (ESAR) caribou ranges in 2002-2003.

Annual BCRP Newsletter

Master's thesis and publications on the Influence of Fire on Woodland Caribou Habitat Selection will be completed in 2002-03

Ph. D. dissertation and publications on the use of low impact, obstructed, and traditional seismic lines by wolves and woodland caribou in northern Alberta will be completed in 2004-2005.

Important Bird Areas (IBA) Program, Alberta

Project Location: FAN offices in Edmonton
Code: 030 50 90 005
Funding Allocation: \$35,000.00
Proponent: George Newton

Status: **Complete**
Deliverables: Located in Edmonton at ACA corporate office

Federation of Alberta Naturlists
11759 Groat Road
Edmonton Alberta T5M 3K6
(780) 422-5582 georgen@fanweb.ca

Project Objectives:

1. Develop appropriate site-specific conservation plans for four (4) additional high-priority Alberta Important Bird Areas, through partnerships of local stakeholders at the sites. This will bring the total number of Alberta IBAs with conservation plans to twenty (20).
2. Continue to assist in the implementation of priority conservation actions at established Alberta IBAs by: (a) determining whether or not the IBA volunteer stewards require assistance, and, if so, what kind(s) of assistance; and (b) where help is required, assisting in the building each group's capacity for conservation success.
3. Continue, at select IBAs, to assist with the networking and education required to (a) increase stakeholder participation in conservation at the site, and/or (b) expand the IBA's geographical boundaries.
4. Further ensure Alberta IBA program continuity by providing ongoing coordination, facilitation, communication, outreach, and information and resource sharing among the grassroots stewardship groups working on IBA habitat conservation.
5. Further ensure continuity with the IBA Canada Program through communications and information sharing with Canada's national IBA partners, the Canadian Nature Federation and Bird Studies Canada.

Deliverables:

- 4 new IBA sites identified and selected for conservation planning.
- Newly-identified or newly-formed local IBA stakeholder groups for the 4 new sites.
- The production and publication of IBA conservation plans for the 4 new IBA sites (completed IBA conservation plans have already been submitted to ACA and are available for review).
- National IBA conservation database populated with information on Alberta IBAs ongoing – began in April 1999).
- Articles on Alberta IBA program and sites published in Canadian IBA news and Alberta Naturalist (on-going).
- Maps and information from selected IBA sites uploaded on the national IBA and FAN websites (on-going).
- The implementation of priority actions at existing sites.
- Expanded stakeholder involvement at select IBAs.
- Expanded landowner participation in conservation within select IBAs.
- A systematic review of the progress to date at each of Alberta's participating IBAs.
- An assessment of the capacity (to implement priority conservation actions) of the IBA lead stakeholders/groups at each participating IBA site.
- Enhanced capacity among participating IBA stakeholders to implement priority conservation actions and advocate on behalf of the birds.

Atlas of Breeding Birds of Alberta: Update Project

Project Location: Province Wide
Code: 030 40 90 002
Funding Allocation: \$56,250.00
Proponent: Greg Wagner

Status: **Complete**
Deliverables: Located in Edmonton at ACA corporate office

Federation of Alberta Naturalists
11759 Groat Road
Edmonton Alberta T5M 3K6
(780) 427-8127 philipp@fanweb.ca

Province-wide Project Objectives:

The following are the four main objectives of this project:

- To involve the community in a conservation project while increasing public awareness and understanding of Alberta's natural history;
- To gain current data on the distribution and relative abundance of Alberta's breeding bird species;
- To conduct data analysis to determine recent changes and patterns in the distribution and abundance of breeding birds species in Alberta;
- To provide baseline data for research, wildlife management plans, and environmental impact assessments.

Deliverables:

The major deliverable for this project will be a soft-covered atlas produced after field studies have been completed in 2004 that will describe the current distribution and abundance of breeding birds in Alberta, document changes in bird distribution over time (particularly since the 1987-1991 when bird distribution and abundance was documented for the first atlas project), and relate changes in bird distribution and abundance to environmental and anthropogenic factors, particularly changing land use patterns.

All records collected during the atlas project, as well as by other FAN initiatives, will be entered into a database and will be available for use by naturalists, researchers, government and non-government organizations, consultants and industry. It is hoped that over the course of the project, volunteers will become familiar with the Alberta Birdlist software developed by FAN and use it to submit natural history records to the FAN basis on an ongoing basis. FAN has made a commitment to have its natural history database available on the web in 2002.

Several journal publications will also be prepared describing the use of atlas data and other bird censusing techniques to develop predictive models in the boreal forest relating bird distribution and abundance to environmental and anthropogenic factors. These models will also be available to northern resource development companies to assist them in the development of forestry management plans, and the planning of oil and gas, and oil sands exploration and development activities.

Promoting the Coexistence of Human Interests, Wolves and Livestock in Southern Alberta: Understanding and Preventing Depredation

Project Location: Foothills of Southern Alberta, between Highway 1 and Canada/US Border
Code: 030 90 90 003
Funding Allocation: \$38,000.00
Proponent: Marco Musiani

Status: **Complete**
Deliverables: Located in Edmonton at ACA corporate office

Southern Alberta Conservation Cooperative, Central Rockies Wolf Project
The Central Rockies Wolf Project
713 Main Street, Suite 6
Canmore Alberta T1W 2B2
(403) 283 6803 mmusiani@ucalgary.ca

Project Objectives:

The primary purpose of the project is to reduce conflicts between ranchers and wolves, and thereby increase tolerance for wolves in southern Alberta. Thus, we believe that the project meets and further the ACA mission: to conserve, protect and enhance Alberta's biological natural resources, including wildlife and human resources. The ultimate goal of our project and NGO is to help develop a wolf conservation and management strategy that adequately takes into account human and wildlife interests. Therefore, we believe that our project meets ACA funding criteria and demonstrates initiatives, which are likely to have a wider relevance and further the practice of biodiversity conservation.

The project involves the following objectives:

1. Determine the factors that contribute to wolf depredations on livestock. Identify effective depredation avoidance practices.
2. Protect livestock from wolves making use of anti-wolf barriers (i.e., fladry). Test fladry's capability to impede wolves' access to food.
3. Collaborate with ranchers, ACA and Alberta Government to evaluate the depredation compensation program. Assist in the development of a wolf management plan that incorporates human interests.

Deliverables:

1. We will produce a manuscript analysing of wolf depredation in Southern Alberta by January 2003. This project will deal with predictive models for wolf depredation occurrence in the western US and Canada. The manuscript will be submitted to Conservation Biology.
2. We will produce bimonthly reports on the project and in particular on results of ongoing tests using anti-wolf-barriers (i.e., fladry) to protect livestock.
3. We will produce quarterly updates on activities related to the project by July 1, October 1, and January 1. We will also produce a comprehensive interim report in July 2002. This will be sent to ACA, other partners, stakeholders, and all interested individuals.
4. In July, we will attend the 2002 meeting of the Society for Conservation Biology, University of Kent, UK, <http://www.conbio.net/SCB/Activities/Meetings/>. We were invited to present our results at the conference.
5. In 2002, we will submit for publication in the Wildlife Society Bulletin a paper about fladry and its field applications.
6. We will prepare a comprehensive final project report on or before March 15, 2003.

Alberta Hunters Who Care Deer For the Food Bank

Project Location: Province wide
Code: 030 90 90 004
Funding Allocation: \$7,500.00
Proponent: Jim Thomson

Status: **Complete**
Deliverables: Located in Edmonton at ACA corporate office

Alberta Hunters Who Care Association
22 Lindsay Cres.
Spruce Grove Alberta T7X 3W8
(780) 960-7744 James_w_Thomson@transalta.com

Project Objectives:

The Alberta Hunters Who Care Foodbank Program's primary purpose is to provide a high quality food source to those in need. This is accomplished by encouraging hunters to donate deer not only taken with their general deer tags, but also to fill supplemental tags that are issued for high deer density areas. The idea for this project was developed from similar programs that occur in two other Canadian provinces and in all 50 lower states of the USA. Harvested venison is inspected and processed, and the meat is then sent to the Edmonton Foodbank for distribution. The Foodbank has indicated a strong need for meat, and this product is a high quality, nutritious source of protein. The benefits of the project are threefold: (1) provincial wildlife managers reach their deer population targets when more deer are harvested out of high density areas; (2) hunters get to spend more time in an activity that they enjoy; and (3) the foodbank can provide an important, and normally under-donated, type of food to those in need.

Deliverables:

Although volunteers perform much of the work for this project, and some materials are donated, funding is required to pay for meat processing, advertising and some operational costs. Funds have been provided by the Alberta Conservation Association, the Alberta Fish and Game Association, Alberta Bowhunting Association, Safari Club International, Alberta Professional Outfitters Association and private donations.

Southern Alberta Partners in Life Program

Project Location: SW Alberta
Code: 030 40 90 003
Funding Allocation: \$10,000.00
Proponent: Jay Honeyman

Status: **Complete**
Deliverables: Located in Edmonton at ACA corporate office

Partners-in-Life - Canada
3621 - 7th Street SW Calgary Alberta T2T 2Y2
403-243-3614
jayh@telusplanet.net

Project Objectives:

1. To develop long-term solutions for the conservation of grizzly bears by proactively reducing bear human conflicts through the teaching of humans and bears correct behaviors, so that initial or subsequent conflicts are prevented;
2. To prevent or reduce the incidence of the three principal situations that cause the majority of bear conflicts: close encounters, bear habituation to humans, and bear use of human associated food resources;
3. To prevent effective habitat loss and the occurrence of source-sink population dynamics in areas of human development by teaching bears distinct boundaries, and by educating people to reduce attractants that cause bears to cross boundaries.
4. To offer public education programs that identify preventative actions and behaviors that humans can employ to reduce potential bear conflict situations;
5. To determine bear personality types cross-indexed with bear problem types that can be effectively dealt with using this program's techniques;
6. To develop agency personnel education programs, "bear shepherding" and KBD training and certification courses that promote effective implementation of this methodology;
7. To proceed with the development of a long-term program to provide the necessary structure and funding for a financially sustainable bear shepherding and aversive conditioning program in southern Alberta.

Deliverables:

- Copies of bear team field notes will be given to the Agency representatives as requested.
- It is anticipated that each agency and partner will provide a final report on their assessment of the program for their management staff each year.
- Interim and final reports will be provided to the ACA as required.
- Data from this work will be used in a journal publication by the Wind River Bear Institute.
- Bear shepherding typically generates considerable favorable media coverage from national
- T.V. programs, to articles in local newspapers. Several network videos are anticipated, including BBC. In addition, WRBI will have a professional video photographer film
- components of the work for educational purposes and use in documentaries. With the
- anticipated media coverage, funding partners are easily acknowledged and promoted.
- If a partnership with Nature Conservancy, Canada can be cemented, a permanent "home base" for the Bear Shepherding Team and dogs may be established.

Identifying Species-Habitat Linkages for Priority Landbirds, Shorebirds, and Species at Risk in Alberta's Grasslands

Project Location: Grassland Natural Region of Alberta
Code: 030 50 90 006
Funding Allocation: \$11,200.00
Proponent: Troy Wellicome

Status: **Complete**
Deliverables: Located in Edmonton at ACA corporate office

Canadian Wildlife Service
#200, 4999 - 98 Ave Edmonton Alberta T6B 2X3
(780) 951-8671 troy.wellicome@ec.gc.ca

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

- Collect, collate, and synthesize new and existing data from >10,000 point-counts for upland birds (Landbirds, Shorebirds, Species at Risk, and to a minor extent Waterbirds; see Table 1) within the prairie biome of Alberta. Ensure that the above data are geo-referenced, incorporated into a GIS environment, and submitted to the provincial Biodiversity Species Observation Database.
- Use the above data to evaluate grassland bird communities inside and outside of previously identified potential Native Prairie Conservation Areas (Fig. 1).
- Calculate population estimates for most of the focal species in this study.
- Determine the relative influences of a variety of habitat and physiographic features on the presence and relative abundance of grassland birds (at both the point and landscape levels) by performing multivariate analyses on the above bird data in combination with several ground-truthed GIS habitat and physiographic layers.

DELIVERABLES

- *Point-location data for all species.* These data will contribute substantially to Alberta Environment's Biodiversity Species Observation Database. The data will thus be available to all people that use this well-known database. (BSOD does not provide the public with exact locations for certain species that they deem to be extremely sensitive).
- *Population estimates for most study species.* Population estimates, based on habitat-stratified random sampling (Saunders 2001), along with accompanying measures of estimate precision, will be provided to ACA, to Alberta Sustainable Resource Development personnel, and where appropriate, to members of the Species at Risk Scientific Sub-committee and the Endangered Species Conservation Committee.
- *Maps of bird distribution and critical habitat for all study species.* These will be based on species-habitat relationships uncovered in our multi-variate analyses, and distribution of habitats according to the Alberta Native Vegetation Inventory and other GIS layers assembled in this project (see above methods). This will involve modeling the landscape's potential for individual species and species groups, yielding detailed predictive maps that can be used to guide regional planning & conservation. Corresponding GIS shape files will also be made available to all relevant ACA regional offices, and to SAR Provincial and National Recovery Team chairs.
- *Final report.* Will include detailed descriptions of methods and results, as well as conclusions and recommendations for species and habitat conservation measures suggested by this work.
- *Peer-reviewed journal publication.* Within one year of project completion, we will submit the results of this project in the form of a publishable scientific manuscript. Although this deliverable will not be within the funding time-frame, it will follow directly from the proposed project.

Boreal Forest Landbird and Waterfowl Monitoring Project

Project Location: Lesser Slave Lake Provincial Park and Lesser Slave Lake Watershed
Code: 030 90 90 005
Funding Allocation: \$10,000.00
Proponent: Frank Fraser

Status: **Complete**
Deliverables: Located in Edmonton at ACA corporate office

Lesser Slave Lake Bird Observatory (LSLBO)
P.O. Box 1076 Slave Lake Alberta T0G 2A0
(780) 849-7117 birds@lslbo.org

Project Objectives:

Our research goals are to document population status and trends. Changes in distribution, status, productivity and survivorship serve as an "early-warning system" for environmental problems and as an indication of general trends in biological diversity.

Declines in populations, detected through monitoring, focus research on causation and the development of conservation initiatives. We are committed to the Canadian Landbird Monitoring Strategy, which is designed to meet the needs of Canada's *National Framework for the Conservation of Species at Risk* for periodic reporting on the status of landbird species.

Deliverables:

Data will be evaluated according to a standard set of criteria developed in consultation with the Canadian Wildlife Service and Bird Studies Canada. This evaluation is based upon the station's ability to monitor adequate samples of each bird species, over an adequate sampling period. As part of the evaluation process, the species themselves are individually prioritized (against nationally approved criteria) in terms of our "need" to monitor them and changes in distribution, status, productivity and survivorship serve as an "early-warning system" for environmental problems and as an indication of general trends in biological diversity. Data analysis is done by Dr. Charles Francis, Bird Studies Canada, and his team and available on their website and in hard copy for all Canadian Migration Monitoring Network stations across Canada.

A comprehensive technical report will be published and available in late March 2003.

Alberta's Fish Diversity: Implications for Conservation

Project Location: NE Alberta
Code: 020 40 90 001
Funding Allocation: \$21,828.00
Proponent: Mark Steinhilber

Status: **complete**
Deliverables: Located in Edmonton at ACA corporate office

Provincial Museum of Alberta
12845-102 Avenue
Edmonton Alberta T5N 0M6
(780) 453-9189

mark.steinhilber@gov.ab.ca

Project Objectives:

The objective is to acquire high quality images of Alberta fish species for the primary purpose of presenting educational information relating to current issues in the management of provincial fisheries resources. Emphasis will be placed on capturing images of species for which few, if any, quality photographs of local forms exist. Production of a feature exhibit at the Provincial Museum of Alberta will provide a unique strategy for delivering important messages concerning the biological basis for current conservation concerns. The goal is to reach a wide audience through visually attractive and entertaining presentations that appeal to anglers and non-consumptive users alike. A web presentation will further expand the dissemination of information through image-based interpretation. Production of educational media by other interested parties (brochures, reports, books, etc.) can also be enhanced by incorporating the images obtained as a result of this project.

Deliverables:

- 1) High quality digital photographs of most of Alberta's fish species (December 2002)
- 2) Web site on the diversity of Alberta fishes (March 2003)
- 3) Feature exhibit at the Provincial Museum (Spring/Summer 2003)

Tide Creek Beaver Control Project

Project Location: 15-47-2 -W5 (Pigeon Lake)

Code: 090 20 90 001

Funding Allocation: \$1,553.28

Proponent: Yves Ouellette

Status: **Complete**

Deliverables: Located in Edmonton at ACA corporate office

Alberta Fish and Game Association
6924- 104 Street Edmonton Alberta T6H 2L8
780-437-2343

Project Objectives:

The objective of this project is to limit the number of beaver and dams in the portion of Tide Creek that runs through the AFGA Wildlife Trust Fund Property at this location. These control measures are designed to minimize obstructions to spawning walleye and pike, and maximize the fisheries value of this creek. Specific objectives include:

- Controlling beaver numbers and removal of dams by hiring a trapper.
 - Supervision of the site and spawning beds through regular volunteer visits.
 - Increased walleye and pike accessibility to spawning habitat.
 - Minimizing flooding of the Tide Creek Property.
 - Creating better fishing opportunities within Pigeon Lake.
 - Promoting awareness of AFGA and ACA partnerships that improve fish and wildlife habitat.
 - Maintaining a sustainable fishery in Pigeon Lake.
- Increasing the awareness of fish habitat requirements

Deliverables:

- Enhance and maintain access for walleye and pike from Pigeon Lake to spawning beds in Tide Creek.
- Maintain or enhance the populations of walleye and pike in Pigeon Lake.
- Maintain a clear channel so walleye and pike fry can return successfully to Pigeon Lake from Tide Creek.
- Reduce flooding on lands adjacent to Tide Creek.
- Maintain beaver populations at a manageable level. The first year Mr. Abercrombie was hired to remove beaver in this area there were 85 beavers removed along with several dams.
- Assist AFGA in managing the Pigeon Lake properties, by maintaining spawning habitat for pike and walleye as well as upland habitat for other wildlife species.
- Promote the goals and initiatives of ACA and AFGA
- Promote land use activities that affect fish habitat

Sheep River Fencing Project

Project Location: NE-1-19-20-W5M
Code: 090 20 90 002
Funding Allocation: \$688.75
Proponent: Yves Ouellette

Status: **Complete**
Deliverables: Located in Edmonton at ACA corporate office

Alberta Fish & Game Association
6924- 104 Street
Edmonton Alberta T6H 2L7
780-437-2343
afga-yves@shaw.ca

Project Objectives:

The objective of this project is to secure and maintain wildlife and fisheries habitat by upgrading the fence surrounding a 10-acre parcel of land, known as the Sheep River Property. Trespassing livestock has become a problem that's jeopardizing the natural state of this critical riparian area. Eliminating cattle from the property will prevent them from overgrazing and causing siltation problems from riverbank erosion. This project addresses wildlife and fisheries habitat needs along a half-mile stretch of the Sheep River. These needs include an important wintering area for ungulates, a critical trout-spawning river and providing nesting sites for a variety of bird species. This project secures the investment made in habitat through the AFGA, ACA and conservation partners. It also creates awareness for fish & wildlife habitat with surrounding landowners that impact riparian habitat along the Sheep River.

Deliverables:

Critical riparian habitat along the Sheep River will be secured and maintained in its natural state. New partnerships will be created between the ACA, AFGA, affiliated clubs, and Spray Lake Sawmills. More than 400 meters of fence will be repaired and installed surrounding the Sheep River Property.

North Raven River Beaver Management Project

Project Location: North Raven River
Code: 090 20 90 003
Funding Allocation: \$7,500.00
Proponent: Barry Mitchell

Status: **Complete**
Deliverables: Located in Edmonton at ACA corporate office & Rocky Mountain House

Trout Unlimited - Central Alberta Chapter
6C, 5571 - 45 Street Red Deer Alberta T4N 1L2
(403) 347-5079

Project Objectives:
Remove beavers from North Raven and Clear Creek.
Remove beaver dams from North Raven and Clear Creek.

Deliverables:
The removal of beavers from North Raven and Clear Creek.
The removal of beaver dams from North Raven and Clear Creek.

Attwood Project - Red Willow River

Project Location: NE 30-70-11-W6
Code: 090 20 90 004
Funding Allocation: \$2,800.00
Proponent: Bonnie Clease

Status: **Complete**
Deliverables: Located in Edmonton at ACA corporate office

West County Watershed Group
8611-108th Street
Grande Prairie Alberta T8V 4C5
(780) 532-9722 agr@countygp.ab.ca

Project Objectives:

1. To relocate winter-feeding site that presently is situated on the banks of the Red Willow River.
2. Redirect runoff from new feeding site by way of a berm.
3. Exclusion fencing of riparian area.
4. Placement of culvert.
5. Implement trees for filtration purposes.
6. Reclamation of old winter-feeding site.
7. Improvement of critical sport fishery, spawning areas and water quality in the Red Willow River.

Deliverables:

- Monthly update reports will be submitted, as well as a final report.
- Before photos have been taken, these will be used to compare to once project is completed.
- Photos will also be taken though out the duration of the project.
- Publications concerning the project shall be submitted.
- Signage at site will acknowledge ACA's support to the project.
- West County Watershed's newsletter highlights ACA support.

Crowsnest River Stewardship and Conservancy Project

Project Location: (Part of N½ 11-1-3-W5) Coadale area
Code: 090 20 90 005
Funding Allocation: \$4,000.00
Proponent: Clive Schaupmeyer

Status: **Complete**
Deliverables: Located in Edmonton at ACA corporate office

Oldman River Basin Chapter Trout Unlimited Canada
2207 16 Avenue Coaldale Alberta T1M 1N7
403-345-6457 clives@shaw.ca

Project Objectives:

The OMRBC proposes to acquire a 20-year "conservancy" lease from "Alberta Lands" on approximately 50 ha of land in the Crowsnest River valley. (Part of N½ 11-1-3-W5) The lease gives the members of the OMRBC responsibility to ensure the land and river is maintained in a sustainable manner. The Chapter will be responsible to maintain the "natural state" of the property and will be responsible for removal of garbage along and in the river and riparian area; removal intrusive weeds; and maintenance of property fencing. The lease ensures that the land, riparian areas and river and sustained and protected from development.

Deliverables:

The project is a low-key **conservancy and educational project**. Success will be measured by sustainability and diversity of flora and fauna, cleanliness of the property, freedom from intrusive weed species, participation by OMRBC members in environmental activities, participation by "students" in out-of-classroom opportunities, and by public use for nature viewing, recreational fishing, and environmental/educational activities.

Alberta Riparian Habitat Management Program-Cows and Fish

Project Location: Province of Alberta
Code: 090 20 90 006
Funding Allocation: \$80,000.00
Proponent: N. Ambrose

Status: **Complete**
Deliverables: Located in Edmonton at ACA corporate office

Alberta Cattle Commission/Trout Unlimited Canada
216, 6715-8th Street N.E
Calgary Alberta T2E 7H7
403-381-5538 nambrose@telusplanet.net

Project Objectives:

1. Deliver riparian awareness messages to a significant portion of Alberta's agricultural producers, as well as other rural landowners, the general public and resource staff.
2. Create a better understanding of range and pasture management principles, providing options for management, leading to sustainable grazing practices.
3. Increase the understanding by the agriculture sector and rural communities of the importance of riparian health and the need to improve current and future management practices.
4. Increase adoption rates of a community-based, landowner-driven process and tools by individuals, communities and agencies to ensure long-term commitment and involvement.
5. Foster and support a strong stewardship ethic by influencing positive, measurable shifts in attitudes about riparian values that are followed by actions that result in improved riparian health.

Deliverables:

- Deliver riparian awareness messages. Annually, interact with an estimated 4,000 individuals. Presentations: we will do an estimated 40/yr on riparian form and function, 10/yr on riparian grazing, 15/yr on Cows and Fish process and program
- Create a better understanding of range and pasture management principles, leading to sustainable grazing practices. Annually, provide grazing and riparian management options through extension materials and 15 riparian activities (presentations, workshops, field days, and tours)
- Increase the understanding of the importance of riparian health and the need to improve management practices. Each year, conduct 15 riparian activities on riparian health and riparian health assessment. Working with communities and landowners, complete riparian health assessment and inventory work on 150 riparian sites (based on the average over the past 3 years), providing summary reports to individuals and communities regarding their riparian areas.
- Increase adoption rates of a community-based process and tools. Based on interest expressed by communities and groups, we annually expect to see an estimated 30 groups actively working on riparian issues through the community-based approach.
- Influence positive, measurable shifts in attitudes, followed by actions. Based on re-evaluating the knowledge and practices of producers, we expect to see improvements in knowledge and the use of environmentally sustainable agricultural practices.

Northern Watershed Project

Project Location: Northwest Alberta
Code: 020 50 90 001
Funding Allocation: \$25,000.00
Proponent: Garry Scrimgeour

Status: **Complete**
Deliverables: Located in Edmonton at ACA corporate office

Forest Resources Business group, Alberta Research Council
Bag 4000
Vegreville Alberta T9C 1T4
780 632 8307 gscrimgeour@arc.ab.ca

Project Objectives:

During the last several decades the boreal forest natural regions of Alberta have undergone significant changes with the development and continued expansion of forestry, oil and gas, agriculture, mining and human-related infrastructure (e.g., towns, roads, electrical). These anthropogenic disturbances combined with natural disturbances of fire, flooding, wind events, and pest outbreaks dramatically alter the landscape and the biotic communities that it supports.

If one accepts that ecological integrity of terrestrial and aquatic systems are tied to an appropriate frequency, intensity and scale of perturbations, it becomes important to understand how disturbances drive forest succession, how patterns in forest attributes are distributed across the landscape and whether forest attributes are linked with aquatic communities. The ability to quantify the ecological effects of anthropogenic and natural disturbances within appropriately large spatial scales and long time frames would greatly assist with the management of Alberta's boreal.

Deliverables:

A final report on each study component
Technology Transfer Plan that includes:

- Production of the 3rd Northern Watershed Project Newsletter
- Fourteen presentations to funding stakeholders and selected target audience
- Interviews for Radio and television programs
- National and Provincial Press release
- Article in "The Edge" (scheduled for April 2002).
- Production of three scientific articles in peer-reviewed scientific journals

Effects of land use and angling on fish populations within selected watersheds in the Foothills Model Forest

Project Location: Foothills Model Forest (Hinton)
Code: 020 10 90 002
Funding Allocation: \$30,000.00
Proponent: Richard McCleary

Status: **Complete**
Deliverables: Located in Edmonton at ACA corporate office

Foothills Model Forest
Box 6330 Hinton Alberta T7V 1L2
(780) 865-8381 Richard.McCleary@gov.ab.ca

Project Objectives:

Continue with collection of monitoring data within identified watersheds to maintain the continuity of trend data. This will be done in consultation with Alberta Conservation Association and Alberta Sustainable Resource Development staff to ensure that efforts are not duplicated.

1. Undertake and complete analyses for identification of data gaps and links for fish, habitat, and watershed interactions.
2. Develop a study plan for monitoring water quality for use by this and other similar projects in future years. This plan will be developed in consultation with government, industry, and academia to ensure that the plan is meaningful and scientifically credible.
3. Review the existing monitoring program and make recommendations for changes to improve efficiencies of this and similar fish monitoring programs based on results from analyses of existing data.

Deliverables:

- Relevant data that are collected as part of study will be entered into the appropriate load-forms and provided to Sustainable Resource Development (Edson) for entry into the provincial Fisheries Management Information System. This deliverable will be complete December 2002.
- Standard Foothills Model Forest output reports and associated maps will be prepared and delivered to partners. This deliverable will be complete December 2002.
- Report that describes analyses performed and identification of data gaps. This deliverable may be one or more reports depending on the analyses performed and results achieved. Analyses for this deliverable will be complete December 2002. Reports written in journal format will be complete March 2003.
- Literature review of relevant water quality monitoring programs. This may be a database and library of articles and/or an annotated bibliography. This deliverable will be complete July 2002.
- A detailed study plan for monitoring water quality. This deliverable will be complete August 2002.
- Report describing recommendations for altering existing monitoring program and rationale for suggested changes. These recommendations will be based on relevant literature and analyses of existing data. This deliverable will be complete December 2002.

Invasion Biology of Exotic Brook Trout in Alberta

Project Location: Rocky Mountain House
Code: 020 10 90 001
Funding Allocation: \$28,000.00
Proponent: John Volpe

Status: Incomplete (Funding Terminated)
Deliverables: Partial - located in Edmonton at ACA corporate office

University of Alberta
Dept. of Biological Sciences U of A
Edmonton Alberta T6G 2E9
492 4637 jvolpe@ualberta.ca

Project Objectives: (Clearly state the specific objectives or hypothesis(es) to be tested.)

An integrated understanding and conservation of the biological and physical processes structuring natural aquatic ecosystems is essential to the conservation of native species diversity, but not necessarily to the maintenance of recreational fisheries. Bruce Rieman 2001

These disparate quotes highlight the shortcomings of species specific management protocols applied in a conservation perspective. Research addressing the potential genetic and ecological effects of brook trout has focussed almost entirely on the native [sport] species putatively being affected (i.e. bull trout and cutthroat trout) and have largely viewed brook trout ecology and community level processes as invariable. This approach severely limits the informative value of the data since they are only valid for the time and place of collection. Despite many years of research, answers to fundamental management questions remain unclear. Perhaps the largest of these questions is "What are the effects of brook trout? – does the species represent risk to native species and how so?". Associated with this are more narrow issues such as "Why are brook trout present in some habitats and absent in others? – Is it just a matter of time or are some habitats naturally resistant to invasion? Why?", "How are limited mitigation funds best spent?" and "How can the angling public employed in removal projects?" Resolution of these and other questions are fundamental to **cost-effective conservation and management of native east slope salmonids and their environment**. What is clear is that brook trout mature at a much younger age and smaller size and don't live as long as bull trout or cutthroat trout. Therefore, brook trout don't have the potential to grow as big as can bull trout or cutthroat trout. Furthermore, brook trout are harder to catch than bull trout and cutthroat trout (J. Stelfox, unpub. data). When we introduced brook trout into this watershed, we upset the balance of nature. For this reason, we have a responsibility to try to restore the balance.

Deliverables: (Document anticipated products (and completion dates) from your project, including reports, videos, journal publications, structures built, promotional material, etc.)

The proposed funding will significantly assist in the support of one Ph.D. and two M.Sc. students. As graduate students in my laboratory each will;

- Produce at least one (M.Sc.) or three (Ph.D.) articles published in peer refereed primary scientific journals (2004-2005).
- Present his/her results at one (M.Sc.) or two (Ph.D.) national / international scientific conferences (2003-2004).
- Engage in outreach activities (talks, seminars, workshops etc.) with the public and stakeholders whenever appropriate or requested (2002-2005).

Additional deliverables include;

- A web page will be designed and maintained throughout the project and beyond. This will be *the* web page addressing brook trout in the Rockies. Not only will research products be posted here (or information on how they may be accessed), but will also be a teaching tool aimed at the informed lay person. Principles of ecological and genetic integrity, cumulative effects and cryptic nature of exotic species effects will be covered. These pages will be linked to my lab's home page, which is currently being produced by a professional web designer to ensure maximum exposure and impact.
- Each student, as part of their graduate work in the first year will conduct an exhaustive literature review (brook trout population ecology / stable isotope analysis; brook trout competitive ability; brook trout / hybrid reproductive ecology). These reviews will be posted on the project web page for the benefit of all concerned and made freely available to the public.

Fish, Fur and Feathers – The History of Alberta’s Fish and Wildlife Resource - Book Project

Project Location: St. Albert
Code: 030 40 90 004
Funding Allocation: \$5,000.00
Proponent: Petra Rowell

Status: **Complete**
Deliverables: Located in Edmonton at ACA corporate office

The Fish and Wildlife Historical Club
4 Morgan Crescent
St. Albert Alberta T8N 2E2
(780) 458-5560
prowell@telusplanet.net

Project Objectives:

The project objective is to produce a visually appealing and informative book that celebrates Alberta’s rich and varied history of management of its fish and wildlife resource. Specific goals for 2002 include conducting approximately 30 interviews, collecting and processing approximately 500 photographs relevant to the text, and producing a complete first draft by December 31.

Deliverables: Our most anticipated product will be the book, which we plan to publish in early 2005 (in conjunction with the province’s centennial celebrations). All sponsors will be acknowledged in the book and will have the opportunity to place a logo in the front pages. As well, any reports, media products, or events will include sponsors and sponsor acknowledgement.

Alberta Fish and Game Association Program Facilitators

Project Location: Province Wide
Code: 010 60 90 001
Funding Allocation: \$120,000.00
Proponent: Dave Nelson

Status: **Complete**
Deliverables: Located in Edmonton at ACA corporate office

Alberta Fish and Game Association
6924- 104 Street Edmonton Alberta T6H 2L7
780-437-2342 office@afga.org

Project Objectives:

The Habitat Coordinator will:

- Provide technical advice and guidance to The Alberta Fish and Game Association's (AFGA) affiliate clubs with their involvement in fisheries and wildlife habitat retention, development, and enhancement programs available in Alberta.
- Work as a liaison between volunteers, SRD staff, ACA staff, and other organizations.
- Facilitate fund raising initiatives to augment funding from established sources in order to maintain current programs.
- Represent the AFGA on provincial issues concerning the fisheries and wildlife resources.
- Take an active role in education and public relations as it relates to resource issues.
- Solicit volunteers and promote programs funded through the Fish and Wildlife Trust Funds administered by the ACA, like the Wildlife Management Enhancement and Fisheries Management Enhancement Program, as well as several internal AFGA programs.
- Oversee the AFGA's Wildlife Trust Fund land purchase and management program. Develop and maintain the habitat on Wildlife Trust Fund lands.
- Oversee and administer four full-time and four seasonal staff members, delivering 10 habitat programs.
- Set long-term strategic plans for program delivery and oversee administration of their delivery.

Deliverables:

The Habitat Coordinator will provide the following deliverables:

1. Technical advice and guidance to The Alberta Fish and Game Association's (AFGA) affiliate clubs. This volunteer assistance from AFGA club members will contribute to fisheries and wildlife habitat retention, development, and enhancement programs in Alberta.
2. Generate additional dollars to augment funding from established sources. These funds will be used to develop and maintain current programs.
3. Contribute to the positive management of our wildlife resources by speaking on behalf of the AFGA on provincial issues concerning the fisheries and wildlife.
4. Educate members and the public on issues related to our natural resources.
5. Generate over \$30,000.00 of in-kind support from volunteers towards land securement in Alberta.
6. Process up to 30 AFGA's Wildlife Trust Fund habitat referrals; manage 30,000 acres of Wildlife Trust Fund habitat, secure up to 3,000 acres of new habitat through joint purchases and easements.

Innovation Alberta Omnimedia Project

Project Location: Province Wide
Code: 030 40 90 005
Funding Allocation: \$5,000.00
Proponent: Cheryl Croucher

Status: **Complete**
Deliverables: Located in Edmonton at ACA corporate office

Porcupine Stone Productions
8552 - 79 Avenue Edmonton Alberta T6C 0R4
780-465-0791 porcston@compusmart.ab.ca

Project Objectives:

To research and produce a minimum of five audio documentaries on research in which the ACA is involved for *Innovation Alberta*, a program about science, research and invention. There are 44 episodes in a program season. The programs will be posted to *the Innovation Alberta Omnimedia Project* website and archived along with transcriptions and other material, including photographs and possibly video clips. Through a syndication arrangement with CKUA Radio, the programs will also be broadcast on the CKUA Radio Network.

Deliverables:

- produced programs posted to IA website and aired on CKUA Radio
- written transcripts posted to IA website
- web links between IA website and ACA and other appropriate sites
- mention of ACA as sponsor on all 44 programs and on the IA website
- use of ACA logo or name on IA website
- two 15 second visual promos on IA website

Pearce Estate Park Interpretive Wetland (PEPIW)

Project Location: Pearce Estate Park, Calgary, Alberta
Code: 010 30 90 003
Funding Allocation: \$30,000.00
Proponent: Dave dePape or S. Witham

Status: **Complete**
Deliverables: Located in Edmonton at ACA corporate office

Sam Livingston Fish Hatchery Volunteer Society
SLFH 1440 17a Street SE
Calgary Alberta T2G 4T9
(403) 297-7066 403 297-2839
danjarrell@hotmail.com

Project Objectives: (Clearly state the specific objectives or hypothesis(es) to be tested.)

1. To provide the services of a Wetland Development Specialist to complete the final phase of the Pearce Estate Park Interpretive Wetland.
2. To create a site where students and the visiting public can view and learn about typical prairie foothills aquatic ecosystems, identify native fish and wildlife species, and understand the importance of fish habitat.
3. To create an outdoor classroom that will function to illustrate the theme and messages of Bow Habitat Station in a natural environment
4. To develop and implement interpretive and educational programs that carry the messages of habitat protection, conservation and enhancement in a healthy urban landscape
5. To model different aquatic ecosystems to demonstrate important habitat conservation and protection techniques
6. To provide research opportunities to better understand how these systems polish/treat water and are utilized by various fish and wildlife species
7. To conserve, restore and protect valuable riparian habitat in Pearce Estate Park along the shores of the Bow River, and
8. To provide a safe, stimulating and educational site within the City of Calgary that meets the Calgary Board of Education's requirements to deliver programs to students and other community groups.

Deliverables:

- Project management of the two capital development projects.
- Completion of the construction of the Sub Surface Flow Wetland –September 2002
- Secure funding and needed resources for 2003-04 wetland development
- Development of the information kiosk and landscaping to support the Alberta Urban Fishing Education Program that will be delivered at the Rod Lodge site
- Creation of new fish and wildlife habitat
- Development of an outdoor classroom that will support environmental education programs

Trout Unlimited Canada Support Staff

Project Location: Province Wide
Code: 020 00 90 001
Funding Allocation: \$50,000.00
Proponent: Kerry Brewin

Status: **Complete**
Deliverables: Located in Edmonton at ACA corporate office

Alberta Council, Trout Unlimited Canada
Box 6270, Station D
Calgary Alberta T2P 2C8
403-221-8369
kbrewin@tucanada.org

Project Objectives:

The purpose of this proposal is to optimise the benefits of TUC fisheries-related activities in Alberta. Funds received will be used to provide support staff for the Alberta Council of TUC. In the past TUC has received funds from Fisheries Management Enhancement Program and the Fisheries Habitat Development Program for its Provincial Biologist/Manager position, which was responsible for managing the Alberta Council and TUC's Fisheries Conservation Program in Alberta. Beginning in 1998, it became clear that the Alberta Council required two staff people to manage their activities in Alberta. Consequently, TUC has been directly funding the second position since 1998. TUC will continue to provide funding support for equivalent of the second position and requests the balance of funding from the ACA (i.e., the equivalent of the original position).

The specific objectives of these positions are to: 1) provide professional biological advice and guidance to TUC and its affiliated chapters and members in the development, coordination, implementation and management of fishery/habitat projects and programs; 2) ensure appropriate authorizations and permits are obtained for work conducted by TUC staff and volunteers; 3) work with, train, and coordinate TUC volunteers in the planning, implementation and management of projects; 4) liaison, and develop and/or strengthen partnerships, with various government agencies, industry and conservation organizations in activities that promote the conservation and wise management of Alberta's coldwater resources; 5) assist TUC in the development of policy, strategy, and positions concerning various issues related to Alberta's coldwater fisheries, and their habitats; 6) represent TUC on various issues and committees; 7) supervise staff hired for TUC projects in Alberta; and 8) manage various contracts associated with TUC projects.

Deliverables:

With funding from the ACA for this position, TUC will continue to implement, and where possible, expand its conservation activities in Alberta. Anticipated deliverables for 2002 include: 1) Jumpingpound Creek and Middle Bow River Literature Review (report – Feb., 2002); 2) 2001 Fish Monitoring in Southern Alberta Diversion Canals (report - March, 2002); 3) Salmonid Identification Course for Alberta (printed fish identification test and salmonid key – Jan., 2002); 5) Online Salmonid Identification Test (website – March, 2002); 6) Alberta Council website (website – Feb., 2002); 7) 2001 Howard Creek Turbidity Monitoring (report – March, 2002); and other materials resulting from committee initiatives TUC is involved in or projects initiated in 2002.

Block Funding for Province-Wide AFGA Club Projects

Project Location: Province-Wide
Code: 010 30 90 002
Funding Allocation: \$9,703.00
Proponent: AFGA

Status: **Complete**
Deliverables: Located in Edmonton at ACA corporate office

Alberta Fish and Game Association
6924- 104 Street
Edmonton Alberta T6H 2L8
780-437-2343 office@afga.org

Project Objectives:

To promote and increase AFGA volunteer participation in habitat projects by making some funds available throughout the year. In addition this fund would:

- Promote initiatives that enhance and maintain fish and wildlife habitat in Alberta.
- Encourage more AFGA clubs to be involved in habitat enhancement and development projects.
- Increase the number of habitat projects that are completed by AFGA clubs each year.
- Increase the number of habitat projects that are developed and co-ordinated by AFGA Facilitators each year.
- Promote the co-operative efforts of the ACA and the AFGA within communities throughout Alberta.
- Create an awareness of wildlife habitat requirements throughout the province.
- Increase co-operation and communication between clubs and participating conservation organizations.
- Increase community and public awareness in regards to fish and wildlife and their habitat requirements through Block Funding projects.

Deliverables:

This Block Funding account will involve more clubs in habitat projects and will ultimately:

- Increase the number of habitat projects that are completed by AFGA clubs and volunteers each year.
- Generate more volunteer interest, activity and knowledge towards habitat projects in Alberta.
- Increase the number of habitat projects that are developed and co-ordinated by AFGA Facilitators each year.
- Increase the number of nesting structures, hand cuts, and recognition signs that are completed annually.
- Promote the co-operative efforts of the ACA and the AFGA within communities throughout Alberta.

To date, Alberta Fish and Game clubs participated in a variety of initiatives using the Block Funding account. Some of these projects include the construction, placement and maintenance of over 600 nesting structures for waterfowl and songbirds, ungulate forage enhancements, and an off-site water project designed to protect habitat to name a few. Since funding requests come from AFGA clubs across the province the list of potential projects completed each year varies.

Urban Wetland Initiative

Project Location: Lethbridge
Code: 010 30 90 004
Funding Allocation: \$18,000.00
Proponent: Dave Mitchell

Status: **Complete**
Deliverables: Located in Edmonton at ACA corporate office

City of Lethbridge
910 4th Ave S Lethbridge Alberta T1J 0P6
(403)320- 3019 dmitchell@city.lethbridge.ab.ca

Project Objectives:

In 1999 the City of Lethbridge purchased the property adjacent to the Elizabeth Hall Wetlands and the Oldman River. The City asked a stakeholders committee to assess how this land could be incorporated into the "River Valley Parks System".

The Elizabeth Hall Wetlands is a nature reserve used by many people from the community including nearly 500 grade 5 students every spring. As a natural area, certain issues surrounding the use of the Elizabeth Hall Wetlands were identified:

- Ecological damage to the sensitive wetland vegetation and wildlife caused by the volume of educational and community groups accessing the wetlands.
- No access to the water's edge for pond study
- No washrooms or shelter from the elements for groups and individuals visiting the area.
- No formal entrance to the park incorporating the newly purchased property into this natural area would help alleviate some of these issues. The committee then identified planning goals for the property in relation to the Elizabeth Hall Wetlands.

Planning goals for the Urban Wetland Initiative include:

- Enhance wildlife viewing opportunities and nature interpretation at the wetland for groups and individuals.
- Provide a suitable and robust area for more intensive activities, thereby supporting and maintaining the conservation mandate of the Elizabeth Hall Wetlands.
- Conserve existing ecological values on the site (e.g. cliff used by kingfishers and swallows.)
- Reclaim the area to a more natural and visually pleasing state, using native plants.
- Create an attractive, inviting and welcoming entrance to the Elizabeth Hall Wetlands that can also serve as a trail node in the future.
- Provide an ecological buffer between the highway and the wetlands
-

Deliverables:

- Park entrance will welcome visitors to the Wetlands and provide future trail users with a rest /orientation area. This park entrance would include the following:
- entrance sign (move existing Elizabeth Hall Wetlands sign) □ park gate (will be locked at night)
- parking lot (space for 21 cars and one school bus)
- gathering or orientation area for groups as they arrive for programs
- Washrooms and picnic tables
- orientation map/sign
- A **pond** would be built so that educational and community groups would conduct lessons and tours from the new pond. The new pond would decrease the impact the heavy use is having on the existing oxbow, thus improving the ecological integrity of the Elizabeth Hall Wetlands.

Topographical variety on the site. Excavated material or fill from the pond would be used to provide the site with berms. Topographical variety aids in the diversity of species and places for wildlife. The fill will also cover the debris and weeds on the site. Depending on the design the increased elevation may also provide better viewing of the pond from a distance.

Trails and benches throughout the park will allow visitors to travel through the Wetlands and provide the users with trails and opportunities to view wildlife. This trails and viewing would include the following:

- Pond viewing areas complete with benches and railings.
- Interpretive and educational panels.
- Uniform paved surface for the ease of all customers (Disabled and Senior Citizens)
- Easy access to pond viewing from parking lot
- Beaver Fence to protect the site
- Bike Racks to encourage people to park their bikes and walk the trails and Bike Barriers to deter cyclists from entering the Nature Reserve

Hunting For Tomorrow Foundation – Working Group Deliverables

Project Location: Province Wide
Code: 030 40 90 006
Funding Allocation: \$50,000.00
Proponent: Kelly Semple

Status: **Complete**
Deliverables: Located in Edmonton at ACA corporate office

Hunting For Tomorrow Foundation
87, 4003 – 98th Street Edmonton
Alberta T6E 6M8
(780) 462-2444 ksemple@huntingfortomorrow.com

Project Objectives:

The **Vision** for HFTF is: *“An Alberta where hunting continues to be a respected, traditional outdoor activity that remains a substantial and integral part of Alberta’s heritage, culture and environment.”*

The **Mission** for HFTF is: *To increase the level of public understanding, involvement and support of hunting and to increase opportunities for every Albertan to hunt within a management system that conserves the wildlife resource.*

HFTF has three primary **Goals** that all activities are focused towards achieving:

1. To increase the number of people participating in hunting and it’s associated activities within the limits of sustainable wildlife conservation;
2. To maintain and enhance hunting opportunities and experiences in the Province such that hunters are encouraged to stay in the activity and new participants are attracted to it;
3. To increase public acceptance of hunting as a traditional outdoor activity that improves awareness of our natural environment, and serves as an important wildlife management tool.

Appendix 1.

Funding Guidelines

Alberta Conservation Association

Grant Eligible - Conservation Fund

Project Submission Guidelines For Funding in 2002 - 2003

At the **Alberta Conservation Association (ACA)**, we believe it is our responsibility to join and support the collective effort to conserve, protect and enhance Alberta's natural biological resources. One of the ways in which we do this is to make grants to our partners. Grants made to partners are intended to enhance and supplement ACA activities.

The ACA is a Delegated Administrative Organization incorporated under the Societies Act of Alberta. The Alberta - Minister of Environment has delegated the operation of certain programs to the ACA. Powers, duties and responsibilities are as indicated in the Wildlife Act, Part 9, 97(1) and AR 143/97 Wildlife Regulation, Schedule 2. One of the ways in which we achieve these goals is to work in partnership with many other organizations and individuals.

Last year, we contributed more than **\$1 million dollars** to organizations and individuals through environmental grants and project funding. The ACA has been awarding environmental conservation grants since 1997 and is proud to enter into its 6th year of Conservation Funding.

This Project Submission Guidelines packages contains the following information listed below to help you apply for funding to the Alberta Conservation Association - Grant Eligible Conservation Fund.

- Section A: About This Grant**
- Section B: Eligibility**
- Section C: Major Funding Goals & Priorities 2002 – 2003**
- Section D: Grant Application Screening & Decision Process**
- Section E: Application Form**
- Section F: Cooperative Project Agreement**



Section A: About This Grant

Purpose:

The **Grant Eligible - Conservation Fund** aims to aid the Alberta Conservation Association in the delivery of its mission and annual operating plan. Grants made to partners are intended to enhance and supplement ACA activities.

- Read the *Project Submission Guidelines* carefully to determine if your project is eligible for funding prior to preparing a formal submission to the Alberta Conservation Association.
- Use the form provided, and ensure that all sections of the application are complete, clear and thorough. Attach any relevant supporting documents or materials.

Who Can Apply:

Any organization or individual can apply if they have a suitable project.

Note: Alberta Conservation Association and Alberta Environment, Sustainable Resource Development staff are not eligible to apply to the fund.

How to Apply:

Applications need to be submitted on the, Grant Eligible - Conservation Fund application form, together with any appropriate supporting information.

Where to Apply:

Submit completed **Grant Eligible - Conservation Fund** applications to:

Alberta Conservation Association,
P. O. Box 40027, Baker Centre Postal Outlet
Edmonton, AB
T5J 4M9.

Attention: Grants Officer
Telephone: 780.427.5192
Facsimile: 780.422.6441
Email: info@ab-conservation.com

In an effort to reduce paper consumption, we appreciate your effort to provide your completed application electronically. Upon receiving your proposal, we will send you an acknowledgment receipt by e-mail or telephone, within **three** business days.

When to Apply:

The ACA will receive applications from January 1 to 31, 2001 for funding consideration in the 2002/2003 fiscal year. Applications received after **16:30** on **January 31, 2001** will not be accepted.

Section B: Funding Eligibility

Any organization or individual may apply to the **Grant Eligible - Conservation Fund** if they have a suitable project.

Note: Alberta Conservation Association and Alberta Environment, Sustainable Resource Development staff are not eligible to apply to the fund.

Grants Are Available For:

- Projects that meet and further the ACA mission: to conserve, protect and enhance Alberta's biological natural resources;
- Projects that contribute to the priorities as outlined in the ACA Annual Operating Plan; please refer to Section C: Major Funding Goals & Priorities 2002 – 2003;
- Priority is given to projects that demonstrate a "self help" attitude. i.e. Partner contributions and matched funding dollars;
- Research (academic) projects that clearly meet ACA funding criteria and demonstrate initiatives, which are likely to have a wider relevance and further the practice of *conservation*;
- Consideration may be given to funding "project staff" wages to a maximum of two years. (project staff wage money must clearly demonstrate a "self help" attitude)

Grants Are Not Available For:

For a variety of considerations, support will not be provided in response to the following types of requests:

- Funding for regular ongoing staff salary positions;
- Grants are not normally offered towards profit-making activities;
- Grants are not normally available for ongoing administration costs or for the funding of administrative staff;
- Emergency funds or deficit financing;
- Conferences and seminars, unless part of a larger project supported by the Association;
- Travel costs, unless part of a larger project supported by the Association;
- Publication costs are not normally funded, unless part of a larger project supported by the Association;
- General fundraising.

Important Granting Information:

- Payment of grants is normally made quarterly or entirely;
- Project activities must occur between April 1 and March 31, 2002/2003;
- Grants cannot be made retrospectively, that is for works started prior to the current fiscal year April 1 to March 31;
- The ACA may charge an administration fee for any monies held in trust;
- Capital equipment purchases remain the property of the ACA upon project completion.

Your information will be used only for the purpose for which it was originally collected, and it will be disclosed only on a strict "need-to-know" basis. Be assured that we manage the information contained in your submission in manner commensurate with its sensitivity.

Section C: Major Funding Goals & Priorities 2002 – 2003

- To promote enhanced management of wildlife and fish resources by providing scientifically based ecological data.
- To enhance the opportunities that hunters, anglers and non-consumptive users have to enjoy Alberta's wildlife and fish resources in a sustainable manner.
- To develop and enhance partnerships with stakeholder groups and organizations to increase the level of support for conservation efforts.
- To target and secure parcels of land that contain significant wildlife or fish habitat, to promote a habitat conservation ethic and stewardship within the community of landowners and land managers, and to increase the amount of quality conservation lands available to the public for recreational use.
- To enhance or develop existing habitats to increase or improve the production of fish and wildlife resources.
- To develop strategies and deliver products that will inform and educate the fishing, hunting and outdoor community, and the public about Alberta's fish and wildlife resources and their ecology and management.

Please review the complete 2002 – 2003 Annual Operating Plan for greater detail.

Section D: Grant Application Screening & Decision Process:

The Alberta Conservation Association receives funding requests far in excess of our financial resources and often must decline worthy projects and programs. This does not in any way reflect the value of the organization/individual involved.

The ACA Board of Directors appoints a Granting Committee comprised of **13** members who referee and assess the grant applications based on the established funding criteria. This committee is composed of a chairperson plus two (6-member) sub-committees including chairpersons for each committee who is also a Board Director. These two sub-committees will be orientated toward Fisheries and Wildlife projects respectively.

Applicants will be notified of status of their submission by March 1, 2002. Successful grant applicants will normally be expected to follow the ACA Cooperative Project Agreement.

Alberta Conservation Association Grant Eligible - Conservation Fund

Application Form 2002 - 2003

For Office Use Only

Business Unit
Center Code
ACA Region

CONTACT INFORMATION

Principal Applicants Name:
Organization:
Mailing Address:
Email Address:
Telephone Number:
Facsimile Number:
Project Manager/coapplicants: (if different than applicant)

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title:
Project Location:
Area of Project Influence: <small>(please use one of the following: Local, Regional, Provincial)</small>
Project Duration: <small>(planned start/end date(dd/mm/yyyy))</small>
Has this project received financial or administrative support from ACA in the past? <small>(If yes, please highlight the results of the work supported by ACA. How does the present funding request build on that work?)</small>
Long Term Requirements: <small>(If appropriate, explain how this project will continue after being funded by ACA.)</small>

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Project Objectives: (Clearly state the specific objectives or hypothesis(es) to be tested.)

State how this project meets the goals/priorities of the ACA 2002 – 2003 Annual Operating Plan:

Activities/Methodology:

Deliverables: (Document anticipated products (and completion dates) from your project, including reports, videos, journal publications, structures built, promotional material, etc.)

List Project Partners:

What amount of funding support are you applying for?

PROJECT BUDGET

Category	Description	Amount Requested From ACA	External Funds Administered By ACA	Total
Materials & Supplies				
Equipment				
Salaries & Wages				
Contract Services				
Travel				
Honorariums				
Capital Assets				
Other				
TOTAL COSTS				

Capital Assets are items >\$500 that can be reused on other projects. Capital equipment purchases remain the property of the ACA upon project completion.

PROJECT BUDGET COMMENTARY

BUDGET COMMENTARY:

Provide details on capital expenditures >\$500, and provide breakdown of salary costs (number of staff, associated person-hours, etc. Include other details that may assist with the evaluation of your budget.

Summarize any Partner Funding Dollars:

PROJECT COMMUNICATION

How will the ACA be recognized for its funding support:

How will you share the results of the project with others:

Does your organization have a web page:

(If yes, please provide web address)

Alberta Conservation Association **Grant Eligible - Conservation Fund**

Cooperative Project Agreement

Between

ALBERTA CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION

-and-

Successful Applicant to the
Grant Eligible - Conservation Fund

Project Title:

Project Code: 000-00-00-000

ACA Project Contact

The Alberta Conservation Association Grant Eligible - Conservation Fund, has funded **project name** and the signing authority for all contracts, purchase orders, expense claims and other financial documents will be **David Fairless**: (hereafter referred to as the "ACA Contact").

Alberta Conservation Association,
P. O. Box 40027, Baker Centre Postal Outlet
Edmonton, AB
T5J 4M9.

Attn: **David Fairless**

Ph: 780.422.3319
Fax: 780.422.6441
Email: dfairless@ab-conservation.com

The Alberta Conservation Association Agrees to:

Provide a maximum contribution of **\$ 0.00 dollars** during 2002-2003 to support this project. Payments will be made as per Schedule B, attached.

The Grant Recipient Agrees to:

1. Conduct the project according to the plan specified in the project proposal submitted to ACA (Schedule A).

2. Obtain ACA's approval on any departures from the project proposal (Schedule A) that alter the potential for achieving the objectives and deliverables of the project.
3. Provide ACA with the reports specified in Section E.
4. Acknowledge the contributions of Alberta Conservation Association in all reports, presentations and publications resulting from the project.
5. Use these funds exclusively on direct expenses associated with this project as identified in the project proposal submitted to ACA (Schedule A).
6. Include with the final report (due on or before March 15, 2003) a financial accounting of all expenditures of these funds.
7. Assume responsibility for any expenditure of funds beyond those approved in Section B of this agreement.

BUDGET EXPENDITURES

1. Funds provided by the ACA must be spent in accordance with the budget contained in the project proposal (Schedule A) that was submitted to, and approved by the ACA. Deviations from this budget must be discussed with, and approved by the ACA Contact.
2. All assets (items with a useful life greater than one year) purchased for your project with ACA funds are the property of the ACA, and, accordingly the ACA must be made aware of any assets purchased. Assets purchased with ACA funds are to be returned to the ACA Contact upon completion of the project.

REPORTING

1. ***A one-page project summary (max. 250 words) and at least two photographs (print, slide or jpeg scan at 75 dpi) must be submitted to the ACA Contact along with this agreement.*** This summary is to be presented according to the Web Page Project Summary Format (Schedule C) and will be uploaded to the ACA web site. Please send both a hardcopy and an electronic copy of the summary. Photographs need to be well labeled and can be returned to you if required. If this is a new project and photographs are not yet available, please forward the photographs with your first quarterly report.
2. ***Quarterly updates on activities related to the project will be required on or before July 1, October 1, and January 1.*** These updates should follow the Web Page Project Summary Format and should include a separate accounting of the funds spent to date. Quarterly reports will be used to update your project information on the ACA website, therefore it is suggested that you send updated photographs whenever possible. Please send both a hardcopy and an electronic copy of all reports.
3. ***The final project report is required on or before March 15, 2003.*** Included in this report should be a detailed accounting of how ACA funds were expended including receipts, if applicable. Please include both a hardcopy and an electronic copy and good quality photographs that can be included on the ACA website or on other printed material.
4. Any other reports or deliverables required, as specified in the project proposal (Schedule A).
5. At the request of the ACA Contact, you may be invited to make an oral presentation of the project.

Note: Payment of the final 25% of the project grant and future funding by ACA is contingent upon meeting all of the reporting requirements listed above. Failure to comply with these conditions may impact future funding.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Grant recipients are expected to acknowledge Alberta Conservation Association in all reports, presentations, publications and press releases concerning the project. Whenever possible the ACA logo should appear along with the acknowledgement. The ACA Contact can send you a copy of the ACA logo in an electronic format at your request.

EXTERNAL FUNDS

The ACA will receive and administer external funds for your project, if requested. Cheques must be made payable to the Alberta Conservation Association and should be accompanied by a letter from the donor specifying the amount of the donation, and the project to which funds should be directed. Donors may be eligible to receive a tax receipt from the ACA, if specifically requested. If external funds are expected to be administered by ACA, please list below.

Source	Amount	Date of Payment
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ADDITIONAL SPECIFICATIONS

I. SIGNATURES

I acknowledge that I have read, understand, and will comply with the terms of this agreement. I understand that failure to comply with the terms of this agreement will result in the holdback of funds and may negatively impact receipt of future funding.

_____ Project Manager (Printed Name)	_____ Signature	_____ Date
_____ Witness (Printed Name)	_____ Signature	_____ Date
_____ Alberta Conservation Association	_____ Signature	_____ Date

SCHEDULE A

PROPONENT'S PROJECT PROPOSAL

The attached proposal, "" serves as a description of the Project.

SCHEDULE B

PAYMENT SCHEDULE

The Alberta Conservation Association will disburse the funds according to the following schedule. **Please note that an invoice for each scheduled payment must be submitted to the Alberta Conservation Association before payment will be processed. Please ensure that the Project Code is clearly identified on each invoice.**

The maximum contribution of for the 2002-2003 fiscal year will be divided into payments, as follows:

- An initial contribution of, will be forwarded to you following receipt of this agreement signed by all parties identified in Section I.
- will be paid upon receipt of a quarterly report on or before
- The remaining of the total grant, will be forwarded to you following the receipt of the final report on or before and upon approval of all other reporting requirements by the ACA Contact.

Please refer to Section E of the Project Agreement for details on reporting requirements.

SCHEDULE C

ACA WEB PAGE PROJECT SUMMARY FORMAT

Please submit project summaries and updates as per the following format.

- Project Title
- Short background and/or rationale for the project (200-250 words).
- Description of the project.
- Update and/or current status of the project.
- Project partners
- Lead Agency and/or Project Manager
- Reports available
- Contact Information
- Reciprocal Links