



Alberta Conservation
Association

Conserving Alberta's Wild Side



SUNCOR PARTNERSHIP

In 2003 Suncor, Alberta Parks and ACA started the Suncor Boreal Habitat Conservation Initiative.

This pilot project purchased a total of 470 acres (190 ha) of land and was the first voluntary terrestrial conservation offset initiative in Alberta.

Private lands were purchased around Winagami Lake which secured shoreline and riparian habitat.



SUNCOR PARTNERSHIP



In 2005 a 3-year, \$1.05 million agreement between Suncor and ACA was signed to continue to purchase terrestrial conservation offsets. This agreement resulted in an additional 1280 acres (518 ha) of boreal habitat being conserved.

The partnership has continued!



SUNCOR PARTNERSHIP

Both The Pembina Institute and The Canadian Boreal Initiative cited ACA's partnership with Suncor as an example of a conservation offset model that could be adopted by industry in Alberta.

(coarse scale, natural region based, third party review)



TOTAL E&P CANADA LTD.

In 2007 Total E&P Canada Ltd. signed an MoU to provide funds for the purchase of boreal habitat as a partial terrestrial offset to their SAGD development.



SHELL CANADA LIMITED

In 2007 Shell Canada Ltd. (Athabasca Oil Sands Project) signed a 10-year, \$2-million MoU with ACA to purchase terrestrial conservation offsets in the Boreal Region of the Athabasca drainage as partial offset for their project.



In 2011 Shell committed additional funds for the purchase of Shell True North Forest near Spirit River



LAND STEWARDSHIP ACT

The Alberta Land Stewardship Act proclaimed in 2009 slowed interest in “voluntary” offsets.

In 2010, Minister Knight (ASRD) provided assurance:

“I understand that the oil and gas industry is concerned that voluntary conservation offsets may not be recognized under the new regulations. I would like to confirm that voluntary conservation offsets will be recognized under the new regulations if they meet the following criteria:...”



WORKING FRAME WORK

In 2011 ACA release a white paper “Conservation Offsets: A Working Framework for Alberta” based on the experience we had working on voluntary offsets.

The paper provided a basic framework for a conservation offset system based ecosite rarity within a Natural Sub-region.

Well received by industry. Little response from Government.



SOUTHEAST ALBERTA CONSERVATION OFFSET PILOT

In 2011 the SEACOP project attempted to test key principles of a voluntary offset system for grasslands.

In the final report it states: *“Industry collaborators requested written confirmation from government that they would receive credit should offsets become a regulatory requirement in the future...This essentially brought implementation of our pilot to a halt as government was reluctant to provide this guarantee into the future.”*



TRANSCANADA PIPELINES

In 2014 TransCanada provided funds for a grassland offset (320 ha) based on a “local approval” requirement.



CONOCOPHILIPS CANADA

In 2015, Conoco provided funds to help in the purchase of the Junction Lake property east of Edmonton.

This property became the first offset to receive recognition from the provincial government for meeting the “Early Action Process.”



“The GoA review has determined that the Junction Lake project as submitted satisfies the criteria outlined in the Early Action Process outlined in Appendix A. The Junction Lake project is eligible to be evaluated as a conservation offset when a relevant offset program is developed.”



ACA OFFSETS SINCE 2003

Suncor	3,427 ha
Shell	1,108 ha
Total	64 ha
TransCanada	323 ha
Conoco	117 ha

TOTAL OFFSETS 5,039 ha*

*Does not include riparian/fisheries offsets



CONCLUSION

After 16 years of dealing with conservation offsets, ACA sees the need for strong leadership from Government. Industry appears to be willing to participate, but they need something to participate in.

We don't need a perfect system to get started. We just need to get started!



Thank you



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www.ab-conservation.com

