



News Release

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For Immediate Release

Speaker Line Up Announced For ACA's Partners In Conservation Conference

The Alberta Conservation Association (ACA) has announced an impressive roster of more than 30 presenters, panelists and keynote speakers appearing at the Partners In Conservation Conference **January 27 and 28, 2005** at Calgary's Glenmore Inn and Convention Centre. This popular conference will be of interest to the media, conservation groups, science and research, government staff, outdoor education programs, fish and game associations, and corporate conservationists.

This year's conference has a practical, working focus designed to create an environment where a wide variety of conservation organizations can share knowledge and success stories related to habitat work in Alberta. The goal is to address Alberta's habitat needs by identifying priorities and facilitating cooperation among the various organizations. The highlight of the conference is the **Round Table Session**, a professionally facilitated discussion organizers hope will generate enough interest for attendees to consider forming a collaborative habitat-working group continuing after the conference ends.

In addition to the Round Table Session, the conference is divided into three main sessions, each examining a specific perspective of habitat challenges. Each session features presentations from noted experts in the field complete with audience question and answer opportunities.

Speaking on current habitat needs in Alberta:

Jack Imhof of Trout Unlimited Canada
Ron Bennett of the Canadian Wildlife Service
Bob Demulder of Alberta Chamber of Resources
Christyann Olson of the Alberta Wilderness Association
Greg Hale of Alberta Agriculture
Mark Spafford of ALPAC
Dr. Mark Boyce, University of Alberta

Speaking on habitat programs from other geographical jurisdictions:

Jim Fisher, Delta Waterfowl Foundation
Craig Roberts of Pheasants Forever
Dave White of BC Wildlife Federation
Kevin Teneycke of Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation

Speaking on the future of habitat programming in Alberta:

Brad Stelfox of Forem Technologies Inc.
Kim Ogilvie of Department of Fisheries and Oceans
Dave Kay of Ducks Unlimited Canada
Nic DeGama-Blanchet of Nature Conservancy of Canada
Ken Crutchfield of Alberta Sustainable Resources Development
Petra Rowell of Alberta Environment
Garry Scrimgeour of Alberta Conservation Association

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Conference keynote speakers include **James Gladen** of the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, **Connie Bresnahan** and **Don Podlubny** of the Foothills Model forest, and **Martin von Mirbach** of the Sierra Club of Canada. Panelists have also been announced for the conference's highly anticipated Round Table Session that will focus on developing working collaborative habitat strategies for Alberta.

Visit the conference website for detailed schedule information and register today! In addition to 18 different session topics, the conference also features a Wednesday evening reception, Thursday banquet, and Poster Sessions Awards program. Tickets for the full two days are only \$180 regular admission and \$150 for students, including breakfasts, luncheons, coffee service and banquet. One day tickets prices are also available.

For more information and to register online visit www.ab-conservation.com.

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Backgrounder

About the Alberta Conservation Association

The Alberta Conservation Association is a non-profit, non-government association funded by hunters and anglers in partnership with other conservationists and working collaboratively to conserve and enhance Alberta's wildlife, fish and habitat. This is the third Partners In Conservation conference produced by ACA; the popular event was last held in Edmonton in 2003. For comprehensive coverage of ACA activities and programs visit www.ab-conservation.com.

About the Conference Keynote Speakers

“Collaborative Efforts, Key to Habitat Conservation”, James Gladen, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation - Opening Breakfast, January 27

James Gladen will describe his experiences working both with the United States Forest Service and the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation pursuing habitat conservation through collaboration. He will explain why he believes it is critical for the future of habitat conservation that people find common ground rather than resolving issues through conflict. Examples of failures and successes will be provided and a description of how the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation has adopted strategies for collaboration that work. He will end by providing some provocative thoughts on the requirements for a successful collaboration. As Vice President

of Lands and Conservation Programs, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Mr. Gladen leads the mission work for the Foundation-ensuring the future of elk, other wildlife, and their habitat. His focus is on permanent land protection, habitat improvement, and conservation/hunting heritage education. The Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation over its relatively young history has conserved or enhanced over four million acres of habitat and successfully restored elk to native ranges in the States of Wisconsin, Kentucky, North Carolina, and Tennessee. Mr. Gladen is well known for his leadership in bringing people together in a collaborative atmosphere to work out solutions to complex resource competing issues.

“The Power of Partnerships: Hardisty Creek”, Don Podlubny & Connie Bresnhan, Foothills Model Forest - Thursday evening Banquet, January 27

An inspiring case study in success will be presented illustrating how a local watershed group developed a habitat philosophy and put it into action, working together with a research organization and jointly bringing together governments, industries, and the public in the restoration of Hardisty Creek, Alberta.

“Title TBA”, Martin vonMirbach, Sierra Club of Canada - Friday Breakfast, January 28

As the National Conservation Director with the Sierra Club of Canada, Mr. VonMirbach is well positioned to speak to habitat needs in Alberta and the need for collaboration. Martin von Mirbach received his Masters degree in Philosophy from York University. He lived in Newfoundland throughout the 1990s, where he was active as an environmentalist and facilitator, focusing on forest management issues. He was a member of the Newfoundland and Labrador Round Table on the Environment and the Economy, and Chair of the Management Group of the Western Newfoundland Model Forest. Mr. Von Mirbach has worked with both Canadian and International model forests networks to develop local level indicators of sustainable forest management. He led workshops on the topic across Canada, as well as in Japan and China, and is the author of the Network’s “Users’ Guide to Local Level Indicators.” He has been active on issues pertaining to forest certification, and led the initiative to develop a National Boreal Standard for the Forest Stewardship Council, currently being applied by Alpac on 6 million hectares of forest in Alberta. Since 1998 he has also been involved in discussions of the role of forests and forestry in Canada’s climate change strategy and the Kyoto Protocol.