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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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ACA Grants in Biodiversity announces 2011 award recipients

Edmonton – March 16, 2011 – The projects funded by this year’s ACA Grants in Biodiversity are as wide and varied as the complex environments found across Alberta. A sampling of the subjects the ACA is supporting include bighorn sheep, bumble bees, sportfish, urban coyotes and bison . Biodiversity Grants totaling \$215,810 will be divided amongst 20 graduate students for the purposes of increasing the knowledge of flora and fauna in Alberta. The University of Alberta received 11 awards this year, with the University of Calgary claiming six prizes. Single awards also went to the University of Lethbridge, the University of British Columbia and the University of Montana.

The ACA Grants in Biodiversity program is funded by the Alberta Conservation Association and operated through the Alberta Cooperative Conservation Research Unit – a partnership between the University of Alberta, the University of Calgary and the University of Lethbridge. With this year’s awards, the 17 year old ACA Grants in Biodiversity has now awarded over \$3.6 million dollars to 361 researchers. The research supported by the ACA Grants in Biodiversity ultimately aims to conserve, protect and enhance Alberta’s fish, wildlife and natural habitats.

2011 ACA Grants in Biodiversity Recipients

Recipient	Supervisor(s)	Institution	Project Title
Nils Anderson	Cynthia Paszkowski	University of Alberta	Does the presence of beavers increase biodiversity within wetlands in central Alberta?
Daniel Andres	Kathreen Ruckstuhl	University of Calgary	Mate choice in the Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep
Tanner Broadbent	Edward Bork	University of Alberta	Does variable devoliation and moisture interact to alter grass growth and subsequent native grassland diversity?
Julian Dupuis	Felix Sperling	University of Alberta	Landscape as a determinant of population structure, hybridization, and conservation in a species complex of charismatic butterflies in Alberta
Scott Eggeman	Mark Hebblewhite	University of Montana	Population dynamics of a partially migratory elk herd in a multi-predator ecosystem
Alexandria Farmer	Ralph Cartar	University of Calgary	Landscape effects on the distribution of bumble bees across their floral resources in response to clearcut logging, and their reproductive consequences
Taya Forde	Karen Orsel	University of Calgary	The role of Mycobacterium avium subspecies paratuberculosis in conservation herds of wood bison
Kathryn Kuchapski	Joseph Rasmussen	University of Lethbridge	Selenium exposure in streams draining reclaimed coal mines: Toxicity and effects on fish community composition
Seung-il Lee	John Spence	University of Alberta	The influence of aggregated retention patches on saproxylic beetle communities in boreal white spruce stands

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Jamie McEwen	Sean Rogers and Jana Vamosi	University of Calgary	The environmental genomics of allopolyploidy in <i>Anemone multifida</i>
Jordan Messner	Rolf Vinebrooke	University of Alberta	Community recovery of mountain lakes stocked with exotic sportfish in the Canadian Rocky Mountains
Joshua Miller	David Coltman	University of Alberta	A conservation genomic assessment of bighorn sheep harvesting
Andrea Morehouse	Mark Boyce	University of Alberta	Manipulating ecological traps for grizzly bears in southwestern Alberta using attractive management
Maureen Murray	Colleen Cassidy St. Clair	University of Alberta	Habitat selection, diet, mange (<i>Sarcoptes scabiei</i>), and conflict behaviour in urban coyotes (<i>Canis latrans</i>)
Jessica Reilly	Lee Foote	University of Alberta	Conservation genetics and population modeling of Alberta Arctic Grayling (<i>Thymallus arcticus</i>)
Crisia Tabacaru	Nadir Erbilgin	University of Alberta	Playing with fire: The effect of prescribed burns on mountain pine beetle populations
Kristine Teichman	Scott Nielsen and Jens Roland	University of Alberta	Trophic cascades in the Aspen Parkland: Effects of high ungulate density on focal plant, butterfly, bee pollinator and bird species
David Toews	Darren Irwin	University of British Columbia	Migratory orientation in a "migratory divide": The yellow-rumped warbler hybrid zone
Guiherme Verocai	Susan Kutz	University of Calgary	Biodiversity of protostrongylidae nematodes in threatened woodland caribou (<i>Rangifer tarandus caribou</i>) in Alberta
Lindsay Zink	Ralph Cartar	University of Calgary	Native pollinators in the southern Alberta irrigated agricultural landscape: Concurrent effects of habitat availability and competition with managed bees