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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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ACA Grants in Biodiversity announces 2015 award recipients

Edmonton – March 23, 2015 – Bees and bears were the species of choice this year as the ACA Grants in Biodiversity program announced the 21 graduate student projects that will share its \$231,575 of funding this year. Projects ranged from bee conservation, to use of a wasp as a biocontrol agent, to the prevention of bear-train collisions. A wide range of other topics were funded including deer mating tactics, optimizing forest harvesting to maintain diversity, and the effect of wastewater on native fish. This year’s grants ranged from \$5,330 to \$19,620 and were distributed to 6 PhD and 15 Masters candidates. Although the field of study must be in Alberta, four of the projects will be conducted by universities out of the province with most of the rest being done by the University of Alberta; the University of Calgary and University of Lethbridge also received grants.

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 21 year old ACA Grants in Biodiversity has now awarded over \$4.5 million dollars to 444 researchers. The research supported by the ACA Grants in Biodiversity ultimately aims to conserve, protect and enhance Alberta's fish, wildlife and natural habitats.

2015 ACA Grants in Biodiversity Recipients

Recipient (Program)	Institution	Supervisor	Project Title
Jason Airst (MSc)	University of Winnipeg	Susan Lingle	Variation in male mating tactics in mule deer and white-tailed deer
Oscar Aleuy (PhD)	University of Calgary	Kathreen Ruckstuhl	Refining and testing predictive models for host-parasite interactions in a changing climate: the case of <i>Marshalllegia marshalli</i> and its latitudinal plasticity in thermal tolerance
Jonathan Backs (PhD)	University of Alberta	John Nychka & Colleen Cassady St. Clair	Development of reliable warning signals for the prevention of bear-train collisions
Zach Dempsey (MSc)	University of Lethbridge	Theresa Burg & Cameron Goater	Phylogeography and systematics of Oreohelid land snails in Southern Alberta
Catherine Denny (MSc)	University of Alberta	Scott Nielsen	Spatial patterns of food resources and the movement patterns of grizzly bears (<i>Ursus arctos</i>)

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Paulson Des Brisay (MSc)	University of Manitoba	Nicola Koper	Determining the effects of oil infrastructure on the demography and stress physiology of the Chestnut-collard Longspur (<i>Calcarius ornatus</i>)
Laureen Echiverri (MSc)	University of Alberta	Ellen Macdonald	Optimizing partial harvesting for understory plant diversity
Barbara Gass (MSc)	University of British Columbia	Amy Angert	Relating needle traits to rust resistance in Limber Pine
Anjolene Hunt (MSc)	University of Alberta	Erin Bayne	Habitat use of Canada Warblers in an extensively managed forest landscape
Stefan Hupperts (MSc)	University of Alberta	Simon Landhausser	Shifts in lifestyles of ectomycorrhizal fungi: Does host tree phenology induce facultative saprotrophy?
Rola Kutby (PhD)	University of Calgary	Ralph Cartar	Determinants of reproductive success in bumble bees of Foothills forests
Analisa Lazaro-Cote (MSc)	University of Calgary	Leland Jackson	The impact of municipal wastewater effluent on the stress response of native fish in the Bow River
Caitlin Mader (MSc)	University of Alberta	Nadir Erbilgin	Ecology and phenology of a resident Aphelinid wasp (<i>Coccophagus sp.</i>) and evaluation of its potential as a biocontrol agent of European elm scale (<i>Eriococcus spurius</i>)
Limoilou-Amelie Renaud (PhD)	Universite de Sherbrooke	Fanie Pelletier	Implications of phenotypic plasticity and maternal effects for the dynamics of a declining population of bighorn sheep
Matthew Robinson (MSc)	University of Alberta	Scott Nielsen	Influence of variable retention timber harvesting on upland habitat and population dynamics of wood frogs (<i>Lithobates sylvaticus</i>)
Zhuoyan Song (PhD)	University of Alberta	Heather Proctor	Disentangling the Gammarus-acanthocephalan system in Edmonton wetlands from ecological and molecular perspectives
Janet Sperling (PhD)	University of Alberta	Katharine Magor	Microbiome diversity of ticks ectoparasitic on Alberta wildlife
Eric Spilker (MSc)	University of Alberta	Evie Merrill	Spatial interactions in multi-carnivore communities in the Rocky Mountains of Alberta
Ashton Sturm (MSc)	University of Alberta	Cameron Carlyle	Bee conservation in Alberta's grasslands; Developing measures of bee diversity and abundance with an indicator taxa
Riley Waytes (MSc)	University of Calgary	Ralph Cartar	Insect-mediated cross-pollination in hybrid seed canola: Contributions of native bees and their influence on managed pollinators
Scott Wilson (MSc)	University of Alberta	Erin Bayne	Monitoring bird use of reclaimed well sites using autonomous recording units