

Antelope Creek Ranch 2012 Annual Report



Native prairie grasslands were in prime condition on the Antelope Creek Ranch in 2012.

Composition of the Antelope Creek Ranch (ACR) Management & Technical Committees:

Management Committee Representatives

- Chairperson: Ron Bjorge (Executive Director of the Wildlife Branch)
- Ducks Unlimited Canada: Perry McCormick
- Wildlife Habitat Canada: Doug Stewart
- ACR Finance Chair: R. Wayne Lowry
- Alberta Fish and Game Association (AFGA): Duane Radford

Note: *Perry McCormick replaced Dave Kay; R. Wayne Lowry replaced Andy Von Busse in 2012.*

Technical Committee Representatives

- Chairperson of the Technical Committee: Joel Nicholson (Medicine Hat Non-Game Biologist, Fish and Wildlife Management Division)
- AFGA: Colin Kure
- Ducks Unlimited Canada: Morgan Stromsmoe
- Public Lands Division: Jennifer Richman (nee *Carlson*)



ACR Technical Committee and Ranch Manager: front row – Jennifer Richman (L) and Colin Kure (R); back row Joel Nicholson (L) and Neal Wilson (R).

Ranch Mangers

- Neal Wilson and Shannon Burnard remained as the Ranch Managers



Ron Bjorge is the Chairperson of the Antelope Creek Ranch.

Lease Management Agreement and General Agreement

All revenues received from the ranch operations by the lessee (i.e., the AFGA) are to be held in trust and are not to be disposed of except in accordance with the original *Lease*

Management Agreement. These revenues were originally deemed to be held in a separate account called the Alberta Habitat Trust Account which has since morphed into an “Investment Account” for the ACR, officially known as the Antelope Creek Habitat Development Area account. The lease remains subject to agreements with then Pan Canadian (currently Cenovus) oil and gas interests in place as of the signing date. At the April 11th Management Committee meeting the committee endorsed KRP as the accountant for the financial report for 2010. This followed a teleconference of management committee representatives on February 11, 2012 where it was agreed that Antelope Creek Management Committee would use the same accountant as AFGA, which is KRP.



Revenue sources for the ACR are from cattle grazing and oil and gas activities.

The income from investments in 2011 was 3.27%. As per the ACR investment policy, there is a mix of bonds, equities, interest bearing accounts, and mutual funds which create some more diversity currently being managed by *Edward Jones*. The investment policy is subject to a yearly review by the ACR Management Committee which was done on June 28th. It is incumbent on the ACR Finance Chair, R. Wayne Lowry, to review the portfolio on at least a once a year basis with an investment advisor, and more often if either the investment advisor, or Mr. Lowry, deems it necessary. There are well defined “Investment Policy” goals, respecting *Fund Objectives and Liquidity Requirements* which were achieved in 2010. It has been estimated earlier that about \$3 million will be required to sustain operations, within the context of present-day ranch operations.

Financial Management

A goal of the Management Committee is to contribute a minimum of \$50,000 in revenue annually towards the ACR Investment Account – the intent is for the Investment Account to support ranch operations when oil and gas revenues come to an end. The *ACR Habitat Development Area Investment Policy* was approved by the Management Committee in

2005 and remains in place today with no real changes since its inception. As of 2010, a “review” rather than an “audit” of financial accounts has been undertaken as a cost saving measure, as per recommendations submitted by the auditor. An “audit” of oil and gas leases is recommended every three years, with the next “audit” scheduled for the 2011 calendar year. Earlier concerns expressed by AFGA that the amount provided to AFGA by the Antelope Creek Management Committee for the accounting services provided was inadequate has been satisfactorily addressed.

Recent Issues and Activities

All minutes are being circulated and a Minute Book has been established by the Department of Sustainable Resources Development. An ACR Management Committee meeting was held on April 11th and another meeting and tour of the ACR occurred on June 27th and 28, 2012 respectively. There was no ranch tour in 2011. There have been two major power line proposals that would have bisected the ranch, including a huge ATCO 500 KV line. Neither of these routes will cross the ACR. *Cenovus Energy* plans to reclaim 10 of 25 abandoned well sites in 2012. There are plans by Peggy Desserud, University of Calgary professor, working with *Cenovus Energy* to reclaim disturbed well sites on the ranch with native “hay” baled from native grasslands when in seed, on an experimental basis.



Well site reclamation on the Antelope Creek Ranch is progressing faster than anticipated.



Alberta Biodiversity Monitoring Institute staff were being trained in biodiversity monitoring on the Antelope Creek Ranch in June, 2012.



Ranch Manager, Neal Wilson with an access control sign on the Antelope Creek Ranch.