



Department of Renewable Resources
 751 General Services Building
 University of Alberta
 Edmonton, Alberta T6G 2H1
 Phone: (780) 445-9145 Fax: (780) 492-4323
 E-mail: tracy.stewart@ualberta.ca
<http://www.acabiodiversity.ca>

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Contact: Tracy Stewart, Administrator
 E-mail: tracy.stewart@ualberta.ca
 Phone: 780-445-9145

Lee Foote, Director
 OR E-mail: lee.foote@ualberta.ca

ACA Grants in Biodiversity announces 2014 award recipients and new Director

Edmonton – March 26, 2014 – The ACA Grants in Biodiversity program is pleased to announce that 21 graduate student projects will share \$224,122 of funding this year. The projects include studies on the effects of industrial noise on owls, toad classification, detecting plant biodiversity, respiration in the Bow River, the foraging patterns of grizzlies, and fish restoration. Universities across Canada and even the United States will benefit from the ACA Grants In Biodiversity this year. Twelve of the awards went to students working towards Masters degrees, with the remaining nine awards going to PhD candidates.

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 20 year old ACA Grants in Biodiversity has now awarded over \$4.3 million dollars to 423 researchers. The research supported by the ACA Grants in Biodiversity ultimately aims to conserve, protect and enhance Alberta's fish, wildlife and natural habitats.

2014 ACA Grants in Biodiversity Recipients

Recipient (Program)	Supervisor	Institution	Project Title
Brandon Allen (MSc)	Sean Rogers	University of Calgary	Integration of genetics into adaptive management strategies: Genetic population responses to size-selective harvest pressures in Alberta Walleye (<i>Sander vitreus</i>)
Natasha Annich (MSc)	Cynthia Paszkowski	University of Alberta	Utility of Ducks Unlimited's Wetland Classification for predicting amphibian distribution and abundance with an emphasis on Canadian toads
Vincent Del Bel Belluz (MSc)	John Spence	University of Alberta	Effects of disturbance and recovery of lodgepole pine forest on carabid and staphylinid assemblages (Coleoptera: Carabidae, Staphylinidae)
Mallory Hazell (MSc)	John Gamon	University of Alberta	Detecting functional plant biodiversity via airborne imaging spectrometry
Cheryl Hojnowski (PhD)	Justin Brashares	University of California, Berkeley	Assessing recreation impacts on large mammal ecology in Kananaskis Country, Alberta
Gregory Holmes (MSc)	Robert Laird	University of Lethbridge	Interactions of the leaf galling wasp <i>Aulacidea pilosellae</i> , rust fungus <i>Puccinia hieracii</i> and their invasive hawkweed host, <i>Pilosella caespitosa</i> , and their impact on plant growth and reproduction

Con't...



Mark Hornsby (PhD)	Andrew Hurly	University of Lethbridge	Spatial orientation and navigation in fathead minnows: Impacts from ecological conditions and naturally- and antropogenically-induced perturbations
Joseph Kermish-Wells (MSc)	Marco Musiani	University of Calgary	Human and natural factors influencing foraging patterns and kill rate of grizzly bears
Jamie Lantz (MSc)	Shelley Alexander	University of Calgary	Interactions amongst humans, domestic dogs (<i>Canis familiaris</i>), livestock and coyotes (<i>Canis latrans</i>) on Glenbow Ranch Provincial Park, Alberta
Preston Lennox (PhD)	Joseph Rasmussen	University of Lethbridge	Establishing the link between fish biodiversity and biomass production in freshwater ecosystems
Yan Liu (PhD)	Jana Vamosi	University of Calgary	Genetic diversity of <i>Mimulus guttatus</i> from putative Pleistocene refugia in Alberta
Brian Meagher (MSc)	Sean Rogers	University of Calgary	Collaborative phased fish restoration project in the Hidden Lake and Corral Creek drainage of Banff National Park
Ahmed Najjar (PhD)	Nadir Erbilgin	University of Alberta	Alberta's Achilles heel: An investigation of the features of susceptibility of Albertan balsam poplar to <i>Septoria musiva</i>
Eric Neilson (PhD)	Stan Boutin	University of Alberta	Wolf-mediated effects of oil sands development on moose survival and abundance
Jennine Pedersen (MSc)	Scott Nielsen and Ellen MacDonald	University of Alberta	Use of assisted migration to mitigate the effects of climate change on rare plants in Alberta
Gabriel Pigeon (PhD)	Fanie Pelletier	Universite de Sherbrooke	Constraints to the recovery of a population of bighorn sheep
Heather Polan (MSc)	Rebecca Rooney	University of Waterloo	Biodiversity and abundance of waterbirds and aquatic invertebrates for the assessment and conservation of non-permanent marshes in the Northern Prairie and Parkland Region of Alberta
Julia Shonfield (PhD)	Erin Bayne	University of Alberta	Effects of industrial noise on owls in northeastern Alberta
Jarvis Singer (MSc)	Leland Jackson	University of Calgary	Role of nitrogen and phosphorus in photosynthesis-respiration in the Bow River, Alberta
Linhao Wu (PhD)	John Spence	University of Alberta	Influences of habitat heterogeneity and disturbance on temporal variability of ground beetle assemblages in the mixedwood boreal forest
Daniel Yip (MSc)	Erin Bayne	University of Alberta	Understanding detection distances of rare nocturnal and diurnal animals using automated recording units

After 11 years of leading the ACA Grants in Biodiversity, Lee Foote will be passing the Director's reins over to John Pattison. John is a researcher and instructor at the University of Alberta, an economist, an international development manager, and a member of the ACA Board of Directors. John is a consummate horseman, an avid outdoorsman who hikes and hunts on his family property near Ministik.