



wildlife | fish | habitat



Alberta Conservation Association's Grants in Biodiversity selects 19 recipients from the 2021 competition

Alberta-based research projects, led by outstanding graduate students, will benefit the province's wildlife and fish populations, and the habitat they depend on.

For Immediate Release

Edmonton (March 4, 2021) – Invasion is a common theme that many of this year's Alberta Conservation Association (ACA) Grants in Biodiversity selected projects will be studying. From parasites that don't quite kill to invasive sportfish to the exotic sounding Chinese mystery snail, Alberta's biodiversity is under threat from invaders. ACA Grants in Biodiversity-funded research will shed light on the impacts of these species.

Other funded projects include the effects of municipal wastewater on rainbow trout, aversive conditioning of urban coyotes, and the impact of wildfire on forest biodiversity. ACA is proud to announce that 19 student projects will share \$211,000 of funding this year. This year's grants range from \$2,140 to \$17,160 and will be distributed to 14 Masters and five PhD candidates. Alberta's largest research institutions: University of Alberta, University of Calgary and the University of Lethbridge are well represented amongst this year recipients. Awards are also given to candidates from Université Laval and McGill University in Quebec.

ACA and Syncrude funds the Grants in Biodiversity program. With this year's awards, ACA Grants in Biodiversity will have awarded \$5.8 million dollars to 567 researchers over 27 years. The research supported by ACA Grants in Biodiversity ultimately aims to conserve, protect, and enhance Alberta's fish, wildlife and natural habitats as well as develop biodiversity professionals for the future.

The table at the end lists the outstanding graduate students and their valuable projects.

About Us

Alberta Conservation Association is a non-profit association that conserves, protects, and enhances fish and wildlife populations and their habitats for Albertans to enjoy, value, and use. Find ACA on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

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ACA Grants in Biodiversity 2021 Recipients

Recipient (Program)	Institution	Supervisor	Project Title
Emily Baumgartner (PhD)	University of Calgary	Steven Vamosi	On the population health and persistence of long-toed salamanders, <i>Ambystoma macrodactylum</i> , in the Bow River Corridor
Chloe Christenson (MSc)	University of Alberta	Mark Poesch	Assessing the potential impacts of whirling disease along a temperature and elevation gradient in the Bow River basin
Hayley Drapeau (MSc)	University of Alberta	Suzanne Tank	Impacts of glaciers on microbial biodiversity, food webs, and carbon cycling in Banff and Jasper National Parks
Priyanka Dutt (MSc)	University of Lethbridge	Robert Laird	The Lansing Effect in <i>Lemna turionifera</i> (Lemnoideae)
Megan Edgar (MSc)	University of Alberta	Mark Poesch	Effects of invasive Chinese mystery snail and Northern crayfish in food webs in southern Alberta reservoirs
Kaitlin Holden (MSc)	University of Alberta	Viktoria Wagner	A cross-habitat comparison of nutrient availability and levels of invasion in Central Alberta
Gabrielle Lajeunesse (MSc)	University of Alberta	Colleen Cassady St. Clair	Community-based aversive conditioning of urban coyotes in Edmonton
Brianna Lorentz (MSc)	University of Alberta	Colleen Cassady St. Clair	Bridging the gap between pest management and conservation through the development of an effective translocation protocol for Columbian ground squirrels (<i>Urocitellus columbianus</i>)
Brooke McPhail (PhD)	University of Alberta	Patrick Hanington	Using digenean trematodes as a surrogate for host biodiversity in reclaimed wetland habitats in Alberta
Shannon Meadley Dunphy (PhD)	McGill University	Anna Hargreaves	How do positive and negative interactions with neighbours affect elevation gradients in fitness and species range limits?
Benjamin Mercer (MSc)	University of Alberta	Rolf Vinebrooke	Cumulative impacts of invasive sportfish and rising temperatures on alpine stream ecosystems.
Raytha Murillo (PhD)	University of Alberta	Viktoria Wagner	Quantifying the role of soil disturbance and propagule pressure as drivers of invasion across three habitat types in central Alberta
Bukola Oguntuase-Osagie (MSc)	University of Lethbridge	Theresa Burg	Genetic basis for the population differentiation and local adaptation of White-crowned sparrows (<i>Zonotrichia leucophrys</i>) to different forest habitats
Marcel Schneider (MSc)	University of Alberta	Charles Nock	Comparing vascular plant species and functional diversity in forest remnants of harvested and wildfire disturbed stands
Kyle Shanebeck (PhD)	University of Alberta	Stephanie Green & Clement Lagrue	What doesn't kill you may not make you stronger: Sub-lethal effects of parasites on body condition and heavy metals in river otter and mink
Marcus Sommers (MSc)	University of Alberta	Charles Nock	Comparing structural complexity and tree attributes in fire and harvest remnants
Roxanne Turgeon (MSc)	Université Laval	Sandra Hamel & Fanie Pelletier	Relative influence of the drivers of population dynamics in mountain ungulates
Emma Vaasjo (MSc)	University of Calgary	Doug Whiteside	Gastrointestinal microbiome development, diversity, and its potential relationship to captivity and antibiotic use in a captive population of endangered greater sage-grouse (<i>Centrocercus urophasianus</i>)
Graham Young (MSc)	University of Calgary	Mathilakth Vijayan	Effects of municipal wastewater and stormwater effluents on the metabolic performance in Rainbow trout (<i>Oncorhynchus mykiss</i>)