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# BACKGROUND

The Parkland Conservation Site was secured through AFGA Wildlife Trust Fund and ACA Habitat Securement Program. The purpose of the partnership is to maintain critical fish and wildlife habitat in perpetuity. With this as a guiding principle, the goals and objectives for this property will be:

Conserve and maintain the native forest cover, wetland, and riparian habitat for wildlife.

Conserve and maintain the diversity of habitats for the benefit of numerous wildlife species.

To use this parcel of property to discourage future intensive development to maintain a suitable habitat base for local fish and wildlife populations.

Provide consumptive and non-consumptive recreational opportunities such as hunting, fishing, wildlife viewing, hiking, berry picking, etc.

Prohibit the use of unauthorized OHV and motorized vehicular access

## MANAGEMENT PLAN

**Vegetation Management:** As a parcel of habitat within the transitional zone of the Mixed-Wood Forest and Boreal Ecosystems, the property is to contain the vegetative characteristics typical of this ecosystem wherever possible. The property will be managed in a manner that deemed appropriate for wildlife in the area. The property will be left idle and maintained in its natural state.

**Woodland Management:** A variety of tree species can be found on the Parkland Property. Trembling aspen, balsam poplar, tamarack, willow species, white birch, and white and black spruce are present on the property. These tree species are utilized by wildlife in the area for thermal and security cover, forage, and nesting and bedding sites. Woodlands on this property require little maintenance and will be retained as native forest cover. The under-story consisting of willow, alder, wild rose, dogwood and saskatoon will provide browse for ungulates and berries for songbirds, as well as excellent cover for many species of small furbearers.

### **Uplands Management:**

The goal for upland areas, although sparse, is to provide cover for nesting birds and to provide high quality forage for wintering ungulates.

**Riparian Area Management:** The wetlands should be used as an educational tool to promote environmentally friendly land use, and wildlife habitat conservation. All wetlands on the Property should be managed as sensitive areas.

**Wildlife Management:** Wildlife management goals for the Property are based upon maintaining maximum wildlife species diversity within the landscape, which encompasses the property. Maintaining and enhancing the existing habitat wherever possible facilitate this goal.

Conservation and enhancement of the habitat will likely improve game and non-game populations on the property. Wildlife and vegetation inventories should be conducted on the property. These surveys would provide valuable information for the development of future management goals for the Property. Additionally, periodic surveys may aid in assessing the effectiveness of existing management activities.

**Public Use Management:** Opportunities for public use in the forms of non-consumptive activities such as hiking, berry picking and wildlife viewing currently exist on the Property. Hunting is also permitted on the property during legal seasons. With written consent of AFGA and ACA, group camping may be allowed for educational purposes. This allows the public to enjoy the wildlife and the habitat found on the Property.

**Wildlife Viewing:** Foot access will be permitted to all areas of the Property, year round, to facilitate wildlife viewing opportunities. This type of year round access will continue, as it will have little or no impact on the site.

**Hunting:** Opportunities currently exist to hunt upland game birds and big game at the site during legal hunting seasons. These hunting opportunities will continue to be available to the public. AFGA and ACA strongly believe in maintaining access and hunting opportunity throughout the province of Alberta.

**Trapping:** Opportunities to trap fur-bearers exist on the Property. If a trapper expresses interest in setting up a trap line on the property, he/she must obtain written permission from the AFGA to do so. This will allow the WTF to identify any concerns associated with this activity. Written permission should be obtained on a yearly basis.

**Off-Highway Vehicle Use:** Unauthorized Off-highway vehicle (OHV) access to the Property could damage its sensitive wetland areas. Additionally, OHV traffic could disturb wildlife and other individuals using the Property. Signage designating the area as foot access only will be placed and the responsibility will be on the public to respect these wishes. Additionally, Fish and Wildlife officers in the area will be made aware that vehicle access to this area is prohibited. If vehicular access becomes a problem for management of this Property, physical barriers such as locked gates or fences will be constructed at all access points.