



ALBERTA INNOVATES

AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

ENVIRONMENTAL INNOVATION

LAND MANAGEMENT SOLUTIONS

FUNDING DETAILS

Enhancing Effectiveness of Private Land Conservation in the White Area: Targeted Research and Awareness-raising

Working with land trust, industry, and government partners, Corvus will undertake research on species-at-risk and private land conservation in the white area. This will include assessing demand for conservation easements, land trust capacity, and accounting of private protected areas (PPAs). The project will also: i) develop guidance for siting of renewables; ii) develop internal assessment of tools, including application of carbon markets; and iii) create PLC resources for municipalities, real estate agents, government, and landowners. Outputs will include documents, datasets, web resources, web tools, and fact sheets, all of which will be publicly available and distributed based on target audiences.



RECIPIENT:

**Corvus Centre for
Conservation Policy**

Guy Greenaway



PARTNERS:

**Alberta Real Estate
Foundation**

**Regional Land Trusts of
Alberta**



TOTAL BUDGET:

\$332,460



AI FUNDING:

\$137,090



PROJECT DATES:

**AUG 2024 –
NOV 2026**



PROJECT TRL:

**Start: N/A
End: N/A**

APPLICATION

Critical ecological habitats that remain in the white area are difficult to protect because they occur mostly on private land where competing land uses often take priority. Private Protected Areas (PPAs) can help address this issue, but face challenges in establishment despite interest from sympathetic landowners, due to a lack of data and information. By identifying and addressing these gaps, the project can remove barriers to establishing PPAs and thus lead to improved biodiversity outcomes.



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PROJECT GOALS

Compile data and information to support improvements in the effectiveness of private land conservation in the White Area. This will include improved correlation with species at risk ranges, clarity on landowner demand profiles, financial impact assessment tools, and improved ability to align their work with available securement tools and national designations. This will be used to:

- i) Support Alberta land trusts in delivering their mandate to conserve critical ecological habitats on private land in the White Area.
- ii) Assess pros and cons of using conservation tools (e.g. easements) in regards to potential economic opportunities from renewable energy development and theoretical carbon market revenues.
- iii) Improve the understanding of municipal leaders of the relationship between private land conservation and local planning and opportunities for consideration/integration.

BENEFITS TO ALBERTA

The project will improve the understanding of landowners, land managers, real estate professionals and others of private land conservation tools and their application. This will help to address knowledge gaps, increase the area of critical habitats protected by private land initiatives, and facilitate alignment between public and private land conservation systems to better ensure environmental outcomes.



12 Practices/Policies Informed



11 Publications



1 Student Trained

CURRENT
STATUS

MAR 2026 - IN PROGRESS

The project is nearing completion with the final report expected to be submitted at the end of 2026.