
Conservation Offset Policy for Alberta:

A Progress Report

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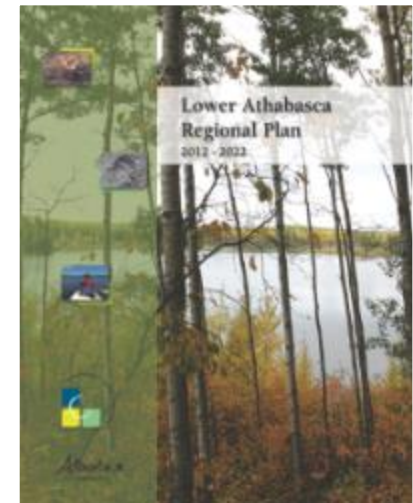
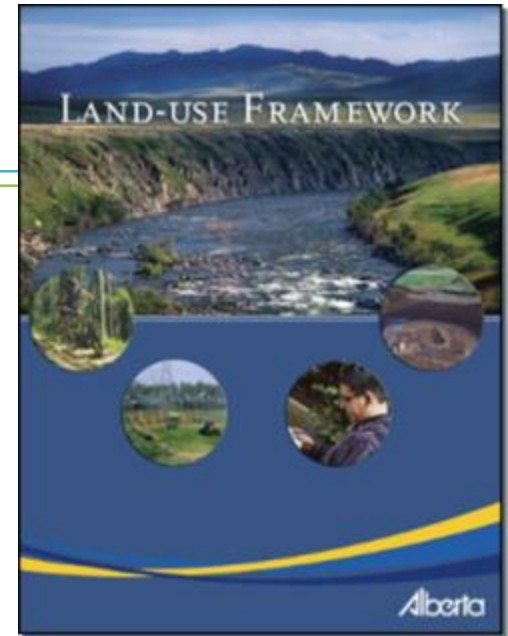
Conservation Offsets

Alberta Policy

- *Land-Use Framework (2008)*
- *Alberta Land Stewardship Act (2009)*
- *Alberta Wetland Policy (2013)*

- References:
 - *Responsible Action (Alberta Oilsands Strategy)*
 - *A Woodland Caribou Policy for Alberta*
 - *Lower Athabasca Regional Plan*
 - *South Saskatchewan Regional Plan*

- Pilot program currently underway in
SE Alberta



Alberta Land Stewardship Act (2009)

- Sets out framework for regional planning
- Opens door to new tools (including market-based instruments) to encourage land stewardship and promote the objectives of regional plans
- ss. 45 – 47 Conservation offset provisions:
 - Authorizes regulations for use of offsets to meet regional or provincial goals.
 - Allows use of a “stewardship unit” as a measure of environmental loss or gain.
 - Allows establishment of an offset credit exchange

Where Are We?

➤ ***Alberta Wetland Policy (2013)***

- To be implemented in white zone June 2015, green zone June 2016
- Waiting for completion of protocols
- Green zone implementation may require new legal tools to secure conservation projects.

➤ **Alberta Conservation Offset Framework**

- Has been circulated in draft form
- Would provide framework which may be adopted in resource programs, but not provide for offsets in itself.

Where Could We Go?

- Caribou habitat
- Native grasslands
- Grizzly bear habitat
- Water quality/nutrient trading

The Big Hurdle - Limits

*“There are more and more people doing more and more activities on the same piece of land. This increases the number of conflicts between competing user groups and often stresses the land itself. **Our land, air and water are not unlimited. They can be exhausted or degraded by overuse.**”*

*Alberta Land-Use
Framework, 2008*

