



EcoServices
NETWORK

PROJECT PROFILE: SUPPORTING CONSERVATION OFFSET MARKETS IN ALBERTA

INVESTING IN ADMINISTRATIVE AND MARKET INFRASTRUCTURE

This white paper was developed to identify and assess how the impact of investments in wetland restoration and retention could be significantly increased if coordinated with investments from offsets and other conservation programs.

PROJECT LEADS

Innotech Alberta

OVERVIEW

A multi-stakeholder partnership with a significant conservation budget, Alberta NAWMP has the opportunity to champion the development of a conservation clearinghouse and exchange for Alberta and take a leadership role in educating stakeholders about the value of coordinated conservation investment. To better understand the extent and design of market-based instruments practices in Canada and to populate this information repository, Innotech Alberta conducted a scan of how pre-compliance offsets are handled in other jurisdictions and applying lessons learned to the Alberta context.

OUTCOMES

The final report included a discussion of the administrative and market infrastructure required to coordinate and pool conservation investments from multiple private and public (government or regulatory) funding sources in order to maximize their economic efficiency and their ecological

impact. Recommendations in the white paper included NAWMP championing a conservation clearinghouse to standardize the assessment and tracking of conservation investments and championing a conservation exchange to coordinating the decisions of multiple buyers and sellers of ecosystem services.

THE ESN CONNECTION

The certainty and transparency of a standardized accounting system could encourage complimentary investments for activities not required under the wetland policy, such as conservation of surrounding uplands and wetland retention by NAWMP or other organizations. To benefit from a coordinated approach, it is important the administrative requirements and market infrastructure developed to support the wetland policy are consistent with approaches proposed by this paper.

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