

# Conservation and Stewardship Tools

---

Agri-Environmental Partnership of  
Alberta - Fall Forum  
November 8, 2012



# Conservation and Stewardship Tools

---

ALSA expands tools box to provide options for decision makers

- Conservation Easements
- Conservation Offsets
- Conservation Directives
- Transferable Development Credits

# Conservation Easements

---

- For 10 years under *Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act*:
  - A **voluntary** agreement between a landowner and qualified organization to protect, conserve, enhance an environment, natural scenic or esthetic values
- Under *Alberta Land Stewardship Act*:
  - will expand to add land for agricultural purposes
- A conservation easement is registered on title

# Conservation Easements

---

- Conservation Easement Registration Regulation enacted and an online Conservation Easement Registry established (managed by the Land Stewardship Centre)
- Conservation Easement Guide for Alberta to be updated to incorporate guidance on the use of conservation easements to conserve agricultural lands

# Conservation Directives

---

- An **express** declaration in a regional plan for **identified** lands for protection, conservation, enhancement of:
  - environment, scenic, aesthetic values
- Describes precise nature of directive, intended purpose, intended protection, conservation or enhancement
- Compensation paid to title holders for reductions in market values
- Land Compensation Board or resolves disputes, or Court of Queen's Bench at landowner's discretion.

# Conservation Offsets

---

- Enabling
- Environmental replacement, restoration or protection to compensate for industrial development
  - e.g. 2003, Suncor, ACA, TPRC created one of Canada's first conservation offsets—1,750 acres boreal habitat
- *Alberta Land Stewardship Act.*
  - general terms: where an offset might be applied
  - provisions for accountability, including monitoring and compliance
  - sets the rules for trading and defining an offset in regulations



Commitment in Land-use Framework and the Oilsands Strategy

# Conservation Offsets

---

- Background research has been completed on the policy framework required to support a market-based offsets program
- A 5 yr. conservation offset pilot project focused on sage grouse habitat has been initiated – involves ARD, ESRD and the Alberta Conservation Association