

- Conservation Easements: What you need to know -
- Saskatchewan Prairie Conservation Action Plan -
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A Conservation Easement is a voluntary legal agreement between a landowner and conservation agency to preserve land in its natural state in perpetuity in order to protect endangered species, a historical site or to preserve the biological, physical and cultural attributes of the land for future generations. The easement provides entrusted protection so that the land will never be altered by development that may cause harm to the natural attributes of the land. A Conservation Easement is prepared by a conservation agency following regulations set forth by the Conservation Easement Act and the agreement applies to current and all future owners. The terms of a conservation easement are **negotiable** and must **be agreed on by both parties** before the agreement is signed.

Easements can either be donated or purchased; in either case they are considered a capital gain and not income. Conservation agencies including Ducks Unlimited Canada, Nature Conservancy of Canada and the Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation have extensive knowledge and experience working with easements and would be more than happy to answer any questions you may have. One thing to keep in mind is that these agencies have target areas where they focus their easement efforts so the first agency you contact may not be able to assist you but may be able to give you the name of an agency that can.

Due to the complex nature of a Conservation Easement it is important to seek legal and/or professional advice when considering an easement on the land as each Conservation Easement is unique and can be made to have its own set of restrictions and conditions. Restrictions that can be outlined in the agreement include the restriction of chemical usage, cultivation or development of natural areas. Easement agreements can be seen in a positive light as they may actually increase the value of the land or can be seen in a negative light as they may affect the future sale of the land.

The holder (conservation agency) of the easement is required to monitor the easement and the grantor (landowner) is required to abide by the restrictions of the easement. Monitoring requirements extend past the original landowners making Conservation Easements a way of ensuring that a part of Saskatchewan's natural heritage will be left to be enjoyed by future generations.

For conservation agency contact information or more information on Conservation Easements, please feel free to contact the PCAP Office at (306) 352-0472 or pcap@sasktel.net.

Sources:

Native Prairie Stewardship – Conservation Easements

Saskatchewan Watershed Authority (formerly Saskatchewan Wetland Conservation Corporation)

<http://www.swa.ca/Publications/Documents/NativePrairieStewardship8FactSheetsConservationEasements.pdf>

Conservation Easements Fact Sheet - PCAP

http://www.pcap-sk.org/docs/5_resandlit/CE_FactSheet_16Dec08.pdf

Government of Saskatchewan – Conservation Easements

<http://www.environment.gov.sk.ca/Default.aspx?DN=e2f08f2b-1b48-4f7a-8f86-90d60d665c2b>

The SK PCAP gratefully acknowledges funding/in-kind support from Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) through Agri-Environment Services Branch (AESB) and Semiarid Prairie Agricultural Research Centre (SPARC), the Carl Block Memorial Stewardship Education Fund (CBMSEF), Cattle Marketing Deductions Fund (CMDf), Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC), EnCana Corporation, Environment Canada (EC) through the Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS), Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO), Government of Canada Habitat Stewardship Program for Species at Risk (HSP), Horned Cattle Purchases Fund (HCPF), Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC), Nature Saskatchewan (NS), Parks Canada - Grasslands National Park of Canada (PC-GNP), Penn West Energy Trust, Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities (SARM), Saskatchewan Burrowing Owl Interpretive Centre (SBOIC), Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture (SMA), Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment (SME), Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment – Fish and Wildlife Development Fund (FWDF), Saskatchewan Ministry of Tourism, Parks, Culture and Sport – Royal Saskatchewan Museum (RSM), Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association (SSGA), Saskatchewan Watershed Authority (SWA), SaskEnergy, SaskPower, TransCanada Corporation, the University of Regina (UofR) and the University of Saskatchewan – College of Agriculture and Bioresources (UofS).