

The Saskatchewan Prairie Conservation Action Plan Partnership

2016-2017 Annual Report

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Saskatchewan
Prairie Conservation
Action Plan

Front cover photos: Missouri Coteau (top-left, S. Vinge-Mazer); Eastern Yellow-bellied Racer (top-right, J. Ng); Native Prairie Appreciation Week Tour (bottom-left, N. Wilkie); Great Sandhills (bottom-right, K. Connick-Todd).

Introduction

The Saskatchewan Prairie Conservation Action Plan (SK PCAP) Partnership brings together agencies and organizations representing producers, industry, provincial and federal governments, non-government organizations and research and educational institutions (the Partners). Together, the Partners establish a five year Framework for collective action which provides the context for annual work planning.

The 2014-2018 Framework is built on the Partnership's Vision and three Goals:

Our Vision: Healthy native prairie ecosystems as vital parts of our vibrant and strong communities.

Our Ecosystem Goal: Native prairie ecosystem health and biodiversity are conserved and restored as part of a functioning landscape.

Our Economic Goal: Sustainable uses of native prairie improve the livelihoods of Saskatchewan people.

Our Cultural Goal: Native prairie is a valued part of our culture and identity as Saskatchewan people.

In the 2014-2018 Framework (http://www.pcap-sk.org/rsu_docs/documents/PCAP_framework_2014.pdf), the Partnership identified three strategic focus areas to prioritize actions. These are:

1. **Native Prairie Education and Awareness**
2. **Responsible Land Use on Native Prairie**
3. **Native Prairie Ecosystem Management**

Executive Summary

The Saskatchewan Prairie Conservation Action Plan (SK PCAP) celebrated its 18th year in 2016-17. SK PCAP's goals and vision are enduring in an ever-changing landscape as diverse partners and stakeholders continue to come together to support prairie and species at risk conservation efforts in Saskatchewan.

This report indicates the activities undertaken by SK PCAP in the 2016-17 implementation timeframe. Where applicable, these activities are reported to align within the 2014-2018 Framework and work towards our Vision, Goals, and Objectives as they are relevant to each of the three focus areas identified.

SK PCAP continues to have a broad audience and network with which to share information, methodologies, new and applied research, and strategies. SK PCAP endeavours to provide audience-specific information through a variety of forums which includes: public displays, workshops and speaker series; online and social media outlets, such as our website (www.pcap-sk.org), Twitter, Instagram and Facebook; articles in print media and monthly e-newsletters; as well as education programs for students of all ages.

Highlights from this year include SK PCAP hosting the 5th Native Prairie Restoration and Reclamation Workshop in Regina, SK. This workshop is held 2 out of every 3 years and has garnered a positive reputation and dedicated following among restoration and reclamation personnel in Saskatchewan. SK PCAP also hosted two species at risk workshops that led to the development of workbooks that outline habitat targets approved by species experts and will be used by stakeholders involved in species at risk conservation for years to come. In addition, SK PCAP hosted an Ecological Goods & Services Week titled, "Prairie's Got the Goods!"

SK PCAP receives an overwhelming amount of positive feedback on its' programming throughout the year. The following are some recent examples:

"Students have a chance to get hands-on experience which they might have never had. Seeing the ranch first-hand with regards to cattle, grasses, natural habitats, watersheds and meeting an actual rancher is by far the most interesting part of their learning."

- 2016 Adopt a Rancher participant

"The workshop was very informative with good networking and opinions from a wide array of aspects involved in restoration and reclamation. I would recommend this workshop because as a student I was able to be introduced to several new topics and witness industry opinions in a smaller, inviting crowd."

- 2017 NPRRW Participant

"It was really great to learn about the new habitat web-mapping tool developed by the Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment. I had heard about the tool, but was not able to teach myself how to use the website. Thank you for providing the opportunity. "

- 2017 Native Prairie Speaker Series audience member

"The species at risk workshops were very beneficial. Getting to know the species experts, hear the results of recent research, and all of the networking opportunities were great. I hope PCAP is able to continue to offer these workshops."

-Species at Risk Workshop Participant

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1. Native Prairie Education & Awareness

Objective 2014-2018

Increase awareness of the importance of native prairie and species at risk, targeting students, industry and provincial and municipal policy makers.

Strategy

Gather and share balanced, science-based information on native prairie and species at risk conservation. Share this information broadly with the public, and specifically, within the Partnership, our networks and with target policy makers.

Measuring success

- Produced and distributed **twelve** electronic newsletters to the SK PCAP distribution list, sending a total of 15,456 e-newsletters.
 - The Battleford News-Optimist (circulation 18,000) published the leafy spurge/Manitou article from March 2017 Beef Business: <http://www.newsoptimist.ca/news/northwest-region/the-manitou-cattle-breeders-co-op-pasture-has-pushed-leafy-spurge-to-the-top-of-their-priority-list-1.11239692>
 - One article was re-printed in the Nature Saskatchewan newsletter (estimated audience of 400).
- Prepared and distributed **five** news releases
 - Native Prairie Speaker Series: Canadian Burrowing Owls Going, Going, G... (released May 2016)
 - General Native Prairie Appreciation Week (NPAW) News Advisory (released June 2016)
 - 5th Native Prairie Restoration and Reclamation Workshop (distributed in October 2016, November 2016).
 - Species at Risk to Headline a Popular Workshop in Regina (released February 6, 2017)

- Prairie Grassland Event Drew a Capacity Crowd (released February 16, 2017)
- Curated web content on our website www.pcap-sk.org
 - 26,270 page views, representing 55% new visitors and 45% returning visitors. This represents an increase in page views from 2015-16, which saw 18,640 total page views.
- SK PCAP was featured on CTV Regina to speak about the state of native prairie in Saskatchewan (estimated audience of 100,000 people). This segment was replayed four times over the course of a week.
- Increased interaction on social media
 - Increased Twitter activity with targeted Species at Risk campaigns during NPAW while liaising with partners including the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture and Parks Canada to increase our overall reach.
 - The SK PCAP Facebook page had a total reach of 532,430 views in 2016/17, up from a reach of 294,247 in 2015/16, and a total of 1485 'likes,' an increase from 838 the previous year.
 - SK PCAP's Twitter account grew from 875 followers in 2015-16 to 1049 current followers who have contributed to an average of 28,200 monthly impressions.
 - SK PCAP started an Instagram Account (@skpcap and #pcaprairie) in November 2015 that currently has 157 followers.
 - SK PCAP posted 29 new videos in 2016-17, including 16 from the Native Prairie Speaker Series, as well as 13 from the Ecological Goods & Services Week that garnered 600 views alone so far. SK PCAP has a total of 5,315 views to date on its YouTube channel, up from 2743 views last year (www.youtube.com/user/SKPCAP).
- Provided displays at **six** urban and **four** relevant producer venues across Saskatchewan:
 - SK PCAP hosted displays at **four** landowner and producer locations in 2016-17, including the Saskatchewan Beef Industry Conference (272 attendees for three days); the

Saskatchewan Stock Growers Annual General Meeting (190 attendees for two days); Agribition (2,000 estimated producer/landowner attendees over six days in the Family Ag Pavilion); Foraging Into the Future (100 attendees over two days, including 60 producer attendees) impacting an estimated total of 2522 producers over 13 days.

- SK PCAP hosted displays at **six** urban venues in 2016-17, including during NPAW at the Regina Farmer's Market (estimated 2000 attendees); Saskatoon Farmer's Market (estimated 2000 attendees); the Swift Current Farmer's Market (estimated 500 attendees). SK PCAP also hosted booths at other urban venues including Agriculture in the City (4000 estimated attendees); Wings over Wascana Festival (250 estimated attendees); Agribition (8,000 estimated public attendees over six days); impacting an estimated total of **16,750** members of the urban public over **11** days.
- Provided nine Native Prairie Speaker Series presentations through public forums and ten webinars across the province for a total of **19** Native Prairie Speaker Series presentations.
 - Impacted a total of **807 people** through in-person and webinar attendance.
 - The Native Prairie Speaker Series presentations generated media communications including an interview with the Prairie Post about the Endangered Gibson's Big Sand Tiger Beetle (circulation of approximately 18,274).
- During Ecological Goods and Services Week, provided two presentations through public forums, 10 webinars across the province, and one radio podcast on The Prairie Naturalist 91.3 FM CJTR, for a total of **13** presentations.
 - Impacted a total of **668 people** through in-person and webinar attendance. The YouTube videos of these presentations have been viewed 510 times to date.
 - Ecological Goods & Services Week presentations generated media communications including 23,200 impressions, 160 retweets, 87 link clicks and 190 'likes' on Twitter. On Facebook, the page grew by 63 'likes' and had a total reach of over 59,000 people.

- Provided **six** articles in *Beef Business* magazine
 - Topics included Ecomuseums, Snakes and bats, the international piping plover survey, the Native Prairie Restoration and Reclamation Workshop, modelling methods in Saskatchewan and the Manitou Cattle Breeders Co-op Pasture dealing with leafy spurge.
 - One article was reproduced in the Battleford News-Optimist (circ. 18,000).
- Organized annual NPAW events, including **one** tour and workshop.
 - The 18th NPAW workshop and tour was held in Maple Creek, SK in conjunction with the Society for Range Management – Prairie Parkland Chapter with approximately 42 adults in attendance. A youth tour was also initiated which garnered 43 children.
 - The NPAW Tour and workshop generated a total of **four print media** communication pieces including one article in the Southwest Booster (17,282 circ.); one article in the Weyburn Review (4200 circ.); one article in Gull Lake Advance (6,500 circ.); and one mention in an article in the Western Producer (33,000 circ.).
 - NPAW generated one **radio interview** with CKRM 620 (estimated reach of 93,268 listeners) and **one radio interview** with Goldenwest Radio (estimated reach of 150,000 listeners)
 - Information about NPAW activities was shared by a minimum of **six** partners, including the Native Plant Society of Saskatchewan, the Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association, the Saskatchewan Forage Council, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Environment and SaskOutdoors. Information was shared through e-newsletters and upcoming event notices to a minimum of 10,000 in-boxes, including through the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture’s Stay Connected Newsletter and event website.
 - SK PCAP produced a workbook for NPAW called “**Manage it Today - Appreciate it Tomorrow**” that outlines responsible grazing practices, species at risk, range health guidelines, invasive species management, and riparian area

management. This workbook was translated into French to allow for a broader public outreach. This workbook can be found here:

http://www.pcap-sk.org/rsu_docs/documents/107210-PCAP-WORKBOOK_final-web.pdf

- SK PCAP held a Youth Poster contest for children ages 7-16, which received **439 entries**. Three winners were chosen for each category and announced at the 18th NPAW tour.
 - SK PCAP produced a fact sheet about "What is Native Prairie" designed as a teacher resource for classrooms participating in the youth poster contest.
 - In celebration of NPAW, a check list of native prairie activities was produced to raise awareness about the recreational value of native prairie.
- In March 2017, SK PCAP offered a **prairie bird identification course** at the University of Regina. This course covered visual and auditory identification and included prairie bird species at risk. **55 people** were in attendance including representatives from naturalist groups, government, non-government organizations, consultants, and students.
- A prairie bird identification tool will be developed on the SK PCAP website in 2017.
 - SK PCAP recognizes the demand for such training workshops and plans to continue to offer similar workshops in the future.

Strategy

Continue to provide Saskatchewan students with information about native prairie and species at risk conservation.

Measuring success

Our education coordinator, Kerry Gaillard, promotes and delivers SK PCAP education programming as well as assesses the current programs to ensure they are meeting curriculum needs.

Teachers were recruited mainly by word of mouth, with multiple teachers participating in the program for a second or third time. Numerous education/science forums were attended to promote SK PCAP's education programs.

- Delivered and planned *Adopt a Rancher* Grade 10 curriculum-supported program.
 - In 2016-17, *Adopt a Rancher* was delivered to **10** schools reaching **219** students and **18** adults.
 - AAR produced **one radio interview** with Goldenwest Radio (estimated reach of 150,000 listeners)
 - Pre and post-program evaluation surveys are given to all participating students, teachers and ranchers to gauge knowledge uptake and to garner suggestions to make the program more effective. All students evaluations indicated increased knowledge of native prairie grasslands and an improved knowledge of the function of native prairie grasslands. Overwhelmingly, the students indicated an improvement in their attitudes towards the importance of native prairie. Teachers indicated an enthusiasm about the program and its value to the students. All teachers and ranchers indicated that they agreed with the components and delivery of the program and would participate again, stating that students discovered a link between the natural environment and economics.
 - Evaluations also provided constructive feedback about ideas to improve the program. As such, this year a glossary of terms was included in the workbook, links to educational resources were updated, and improvements were made to the style of the post-program evaluations for students.
 - Guides were also translated to French to allow for broader program outreach.
 - The *Adopt a Rancher* program currently has **seven** classes from **five** schools signed up for May/June delivery.
- Delivered *Taking Action for Prairie* programming
 - Unfortunately, *Taking Action for Prairie* was not offered in 2016-17 due to lack of funding. Funding has since been raised for this program and will be offered in 2017-18.
- Provided Canadian Western Agribition with Agri-Ed programming at the Family Ag Pavilion with **five** days of class-specific programming and **one** interactive booth display.

- Provided class-specific *Pitch it for Pipits and Plovers* programming to **32 classes from 16 schools, impacting 592 students and 135 adults.**
- Provided an interactive booth display featuring a Species at Risk slideshow with traffic estimated at **8100 registered students**, impacting an additional estimated **5000 members of the public.**
- Participated in **two** external prairie and species at risk conservation education opportunities
 - SK PCAP participated in Saskatoon's **Ag in the City** event in April 2016, sharing information about native prairie and SK PCAP education programs to an audience estimated at **4000 participants.**
 - SK PCAP participated in the **Sciematics** convention in June 2016, showcasing native prairie and species at risk conservation and promoting SK PCAP educational opportunities to an audience of over **200 attendees.**
 - SK PCAP participated in the **Regina Teacher's Convention** in March 2017, showcasing native prairie and species at risk conservation and promoting SK PCAP educational opportunities to an audience of over **1,000 attendees.**

Strategy

Maintain positive relationships that are inclusive of all Saskatchewan native prairie and species at risk partners, stakeholders, and users.

Measuring success

- SK PCAP hosted **three** PCAP Steering Committee meetings.
- SK PCAP hosted **three** PCAP Executive Committee meetings.
- SK PCAP is continuing to look for ways to improve the partnership, including new ways to actively engage partners, such as regular partner presentations at Steering Committee meetings, as well as continually looking for new partners to join the PCAP partnership.
- This year, SK PCAP welcomed the South of the Divide Conservation Action Program Inc. into the Partnership.
- SK PCAP participated in **ten** native prairie stakeholder meetings and workshops, including the Grasslands Transboundary Initiative Workshop,

the South of the Divide Conservation Action Plan AGM, the Saskatchewan Stock Growers Annual General Meeting, the Saskatchewan Forage Council's semi-annual meetings, the Nature Conservancy of Canada's Cypress Uplands Natural Area Conservation Plan Stakeholder Workshop, two Saskatchewan Forage Network meetings and the International Rangeland Congress. SK PCAP also attended the Saskatchewan Advisory Council on Forage Crop meeting in which PCAP organized three presentations about native rangeland research and conservation efforts. SK PCAP also presented at the 6th Annual Matador Ranch Science and Land Management Symposium where the presentation included the history of PCAP from its formation to the present work being done.

2. Responsible Land Use on Native Prairie

Objective 2014-2018

Guide native prairie land users with balanced, evidence-based information about ecological footprints and best practises to sustain healthy native prairie and species at risk populations while mitigating human impact.

Strategy

Identify and understand the current types of development and land-uses of native prairie in Saskatchewan, and associated monitoring, management and risk of these developments.

Measuring success

- This strategy will continue to be reviewed in the future.

Strategy

Engage and interact with key policy makers, stakeholders and the public about the value of native prairie in Saskatchewan.

Measuring success

- Hosted the **5th Native Prairie Restoration and Reclamation Workshop (NPRRW): “Reclaiming Spaces, Restoring Species.”** Information was presented to **237** stakeholders/interest groups related to native prairie and Species at Risk conservation. Themes included; range health and soil remediation, restoration of wildlife and plant species at risk, and the power of partnerships.
 - **Three case studies** were provided regarding riparian area restoration, invasive species management in an urban area, and accounting for plant species at risk in mine reclamation.
 - **16 tradeshow booths** representing native seed providers, land conservation groups, nature groups, consulting companies and government agencies were in attendance.

- **16 poster presentations** were present including projects about invasive species management, prescribed burning, seed mixtures, restoration of industrial development on native prairie, and species at risk conservation.
- Distributed **two new awards** – the Native Prairie Restoration and Reclamation Award, and the Native Prairie Stewardship Award to highlight the importance of responsible stewardship and the value of native prairie in Saskatchewan.
- Initiated planning of the **6th Native Prairie Restoration and Reclamation Workshop** to be held in Saskatoon in February 2018.
- Provided event participants with **six** formal opportunities to share feedback through an evaluation of PCAP informational events, including NPRRW, Adopt a Rancher, Native Prairie Speaker Series, the NPAW tour with SRM, the bird identification workshop, as well as the species at risk workshops.
- Expressed intent in being on the planning committee for the **12th Prairie Conservation and Endangered Species Conference that will be held in Manitoba in 2019**, ensuring that the planning committee, invited speakers and audience is comprised of a diverse group of stakeholders representing multiple interests.
- SK PCAP is planning a tour during NPAW in 2017-18 in which policy makers will be invited. Another legislative reception is also being planned for the upcoming programming year.
- Attended the **Grasslands Transboundary Initiative Workshop** in January in Swift Current with over 30 stakeholder and interest group representatives from Alberta, Saskatchewan and Montana to discuss a collaborative approach to native prairie conservation across borders. SK PCAP continues to be part of the core planning team on this initiative. More information about this initiative can be found online: <http://www.albertapcf.org/grassland-events/transboundary>

Strategy

Communicate best management practises, planning processes, policies and regulatory requirements for sustainable and responsible land uses of native prairie in Saskatchewan.

Measuring success

- Hosted the **5th Native Prairie Restoration and Reclamation Workshop (NPRRW): “Reclaiming Spaces, Restoring Species.”** The workshop included panel discussions, break-out sessions, poster presentations and trade show opportunities. For more details on NPRRW, contact the PCAP Manager for the report.
 - A total of **237** people, representing a variety of sectors, from the western provinces and states participated at the NPRRW conference and heard **35** concurrent presentations, **5** plenary presentations, and viewed **16** posters. These presentations and posters explored best management practices, planning processes, policies and regulatory requirements for sustainable and responsible land uses of native prairie. In addition, workshop participants participated in one of three case studies. Over **70 different organizations and disciplines** came together to learn, engage, share ideas and develop calls to action and collaboration.
 - The Gull Lake Advance published a media release “Saskatchewan Prairie Restoration and Species at Risk event draws capacity crowd” February 21, 2017 (circulation 6500).
 - One online article was produced by INKonline at the University of Regina (approximate reach of 3000 visitors per month).
 - **At least 20** partners and affiliates shared information about the event through their media outlets, including Nature Saskatchewan, Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association, Manitoba Forage and Grassland Association, Native Plant Society of Saskatchewan, Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture, Alberta Invasive Species Council, Saskatchewan Forage Council, Saskatchewan Archeological Society, Manitoba Institute of Agrologists, and the Saskatchewan Eco-Network (estimated total reach of 200,000).
- Hosted a Native Prairie Speaker Series on February 27 to an audience of **92 people**, sharing information on the online mapping program HABISask to connect citizen scientists, researchers and land managers to help consolidate new and existing species and habitat data.
- Hosted a Native Prairie Speaker Series on January 23 to an audience of **93 people**, sharing information about current Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment land cover and habitat monitoring initiatives.
- Hosted an in-person Native Prairie Speaker Series presentation in Val Marie on October 26 to an audience of **33 people**, sharing information

on multiple species management with regards to cattle grazing and songbird abundance.

- One presentation at NPRRW 2017 focused on a site-specific **Species at Risk Decision Support Tool** being developed by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada.

Strategy

Support Ecosystem Goods and Services (EGS) research and knowledge transfer of values and benefits derived from native prairie in Saskatchewan and other jurisdictions.

Measuring success

- SK PCAP planned a **rangeland research update** as part of the Saskatchewan Advisory Council on Forage Crops that took place in November 2016. Presentations about the International Drought Experiment, the Beef and Biodiversity project, and native plant genetic resource research were presented to an audience of approximately **40 representatives** from government, industry, academic institutions, and ENGO's.
- **Two presentations** at NPRRW 2017 discussed the importance of native pollinators on the prairie landscape.
- SK PCAP hosted Ecological Goods & Services Week – **“Prairie's Got the Goods!”** on March 12th – 18th.
 - 10 webinars, two in-person presentations and one radio podcast were organized to highlight the wide range of ecological goods & services that native prairie provides. Topics included carbon storage, wetlands, biodiversity, beef production, and pollination.
 - There were 638 people registered for webinars and 31 people present at in-person presentations.
 - A podcast featuring five guest speakers about Ecological Goods & Services were featured on an episode of The Prairie Naturalist, a live bi-weekly radio show on CJTR 91.3 FM in Regina (estimated audience of 5000 people).
 - A social media campaign took place on SK PCAP's Facebook, Twitter and Instagram accounts. Facts and resources were shared multiple times a day on social media.

Ecological Goods & Services Week social media campaign resulted in 23,200 impressions, 160 retweets, 87 link clicks and 190 'likes' on Twitter. On Facebook, the page grew by 63 'likes' and had a total reach of over 59,000 people.

- An Ecological Goods & Services webpage was created on the SK PCAP website to provide links to all of the presentations and to serve as a hub for information about Ecological Goods and Services.
- SK PCAP aims to organize this week on an annual basis in order to continue to educate the public and share research about the goods and services that native prairie provides.

3. Native Prairie Ecosystem Management

Objective 2014-2018

Promote the importance of land management knowledge and adoption of practices that have a positive impact on biodiversity, species at risk, and prairie ecosystem health.

Strategies

Increase knowledge among native prairie land managers regarding the function of grazing management and the relationship between healthy prairie ecosystems and economic returns.

Promote access to balanced, evidence-based information and decision-making tools for native prairie land owners and managers through regular communication channels including newsletters and the website.

Measuring success

- In November 2016, SK PCAP hosted two **species at risk workshops**; one for **Piping Plover** and one for **Burrowing Owl**. These workshops were designed to summarize and update species management strategies and research for stakeholders involved in their conservation.
 - **19** stakeholders participated in the Piping Plover workshop and **27** stakeholders participated in the Burrowing Owl workshop.
 - A workbook outlining habitat requirements and habitat targets was developed by workshop participants and species experts. An **Environmental Benefits Index** was developed for each species that will aid stakeholders in evaluating the suitability of a given piece of land for each species.
 - SK PCAP aims to continue to develop species at risk workbooks in coming years.

- Hosted **11** speaker series highlighting conservation of prairie species (including species at risk and rare species) in a variety of land-use settings, including rangeland and industrial activity.
- SK PCAP hosted Ecological Goods & Services Week – “**Prairie’s Got the Goods!**” on March 12th – 18th. Through 10 webinars, two in-person presentations and one radio podcast, the relationship between healthy prairie ecosystems and economic returns was
 - There were 637 people registered for webinars and 31 people present at in-person presentations. The Ecological Goods & Services Week social media campaign resulted in 23,200 impressions, 160 retweets, 87 link clicks and 190 ‘likes’ on Twitter. On Facebook, the page grew by 63 ‘likes’ and had a total reach of over 59,000 people.
 - An **EG&S webpage** was also created on the SK PCAP website to serve as a resource hub for land managers for years to come.
- Participated in and engaged with prairie land managers at **three** producer or land-user events, including the Saskatchewan Stock Growers Annual General Meeting, the Saskatchewan Beef Industry Conference, and the Saskatchewan Forage Council biannual meetings.
- Shared **six** articles in the *Beef Business* magazine, designed to share information and awareness about prairie and species at risk conservation as it relates to producers.
- Shared at least **three** articles related to ranchers and rare species, including rare plants and species at risk in SK PCAP’s monthly e-newsletter.

Strategy

Among stakeholders, increase knowledge and use of current and proposed data collection and monitoring methods and facilitate entry of data into applicable databases (range health, invasive species occurrences, and species at risk occurrences).

Measuring success

- Through the 2017 NPRRW, participants were afforded the opportunity to learn about many new initiatives, databases, programs and

concepts through the plenary speakers, oral presentations, poster and trade show presentations.

- Through 2017 NPRRW, **13 oral presentations** and **11 poster presentations** were focused on range health, invasive species occurrences and species at risk occurrences.
- Hosted a Native Prairie Speaker Series on February 27 to an audience of **92** people, sharing information on the online mapping program **HABISask** to connect citizen scientists, researchers and land managers to help consolidate new and existing species and habitat data.
- Hosted a Native Prairie Speaker Series on January 23 to an audience of **93** people, sharing information on about current Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment **land cover and habitat monitoring initiatives**.
- SK PCAP facilitated a Steering Committee discussion in September 2016, whereby partners shared information related to their own species at risk conservation programs, monitoring, activities and initiatives, increasing comprehension of overall SK PCAP partnership efforts towards species at risk conservation.
- SK PCAP plans to create a webpage on our website to serve as a hub with links to data collection and monitoring methods to facilitate the entry of data into the applicable databases.

Strategy

Identify best practices to sustain resilient native prairie ecosystems that are able to support multiple species at risk, minimize threats of invasive species, maintain biodiversity, and withstand extreme weather events (such as droughts or floods).

Measuring success

- In November 2016, SK PCAP hosted two **species at risk workshops**; one for **Piping Plover** and one for **Burrowing Owl**. These workshops were designed help sustain landscapes that are able to support multiple species at risk and maintain biodiversity.
 - **19** stakeholders participated in the Piping Plover workshop and **27** stakeholders participated in the Burrowing Owl workshop.

- An **Environmental Benefits Index** was developed for each species that will aid stakeholders in evaluating the suitability of a given piece of land for each species. Targets include considerations for multiple species at risk.
 - We are currently waiting for the experts to review the documents before they can be distributed.
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- SK PCAP plans to host themed weeks (similar to Ecological Goods and Services Week) and day-long workshops to promote minimizing the threat of invasive species and supporting practices that allow native prairie to withstand extreme weather events.

Appendix 1: 2016-17 SK PCAP Partnership

Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada – Science and Technology Branch
Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society
Ducks Unlimited Canada
Environment Canada – Canadian Wildlife Service
Ministry of Agriculture (SK)
Ministry of Environment (SK)
Ministry of Parks, Culture and Sport (SK) – Royal Saskatchewan Museum
Ministry of the Economy (SK)
Native Plant Society of Saskatchewan Inc.
Nature Conservancy of Canada
Nature Saskatchewan
Parks Canada – Grasslands National Park
Prairie Wind & Silver Sage – Friends of the Grasslands
Redberry Lake Biosphere Reserve Association Inc.
Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities
Saskatchewan Burrowing Owl Interpretative Centre
Saskatchewan Environmental Society
Saskatchewan Forage Council
Saskatchewan Research Council
Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association
Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation
SaskOutdoors
SaskPower
Society for Range Management – Prairie Parkland Chapter
South of the Divide Conservation Action Program Inc.
University of Regina – Prairie Adaptation Research Collaborative
University of Saskatchewan – College of Agriculture and Bioresources
Water Security Agency

Appendix 2: 2016-17 Financial & In-Kind Support

SK PCAP gratefully acknowledges financial support in 2016-2017 from:

Affinity Credit Union, Crescent Point Energy Corp., Ducks Unlimited Canada, Enbridge Pipelines Inc., Faculty of Science – University of Regina, Husky Energy, Parks Canada – Grasslands National Park, Saskatchewan Cattlemen's Association – Saskatchewan Beef Industry Development Fund, Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture, Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture – Agriculture Awareness Initiative Fund, Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment - Fish and Wildlife Development Fund, Saskatchewan Indian Gaming Authority, SaskPower, SaskTel, SaskWater, Simply Agriculture Solutions Inc., The Mosaic Company, Trace Associates Inc., TransCanada Pipelines Limited, University of Saskatchewan - College of Agriculture and Bioresources, Water Security Agency of Saskatchewan, Westmoreland Coal Company - Poplar River Mine, This project was undertaken with the financial support of the Government of Canada through the federal Department of the Environment. Ce projet a été réalisé avec l'appui financier du gouvernement du Canada agissant par l'entremise du ministère fédéral de l'Environnement.

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