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Saskatchewan Prairie Conservation Action Plan Partnership Kicks off New 5-year Strategic Plan

Carolyn Gaudet

Since 1998, Saskatchewan Prairie Conservation Action Plan (SK PCAP) has been bringing Saskatchewan's prairie grassland conservation organizations together through the PCAP Partnership. It started as a collection of 16 partners as a subcommittee of Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association; and since then, it has grown into a decades-long commitment that has sparked numerous resources, high-profile events, education and awareness campaigns and a current partnership made up of 35 organizations.

In 2023, the SK PCAP Partnership met to discuss and develop a five-year strategic plan. The 2024-2028 PCAP Strategic Plan marks the sixth consecutive five-year plan developed by its partners. The Partnership chose to realign the vision, update the mission, significantly refine the five-year goals, and identify key actions to advance the mission.

The PCAP Partnership's shared mission is to facilitate the conservation, enhancement, and restoration of Saskatchewan native prairie ecosystems for all living things; including, the people whom derive cultural and socio-economic value from these lands, through our core strategies of:

- A. Collaborating for and promoting the maintenance and enhancement of native prairie; which includes promoting and participating in the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists in 2026, continuing to build capacity for prairie conservation through in-person events.
- B. Enabling the current and next generation through education, knowledge transfer and innovation; which includes collaborating to promote alignment of the K-12 curriculum with PCAP's mission, maintaining and improving SK PCAP's hub of relevant and up-to-date information, developing a mechanism for collaboration to facilitate more effective data sharing and increasing intergenerational engagement and connection to native prairie.
- C. Supporting land users to continue beneficial land practices; including, maintaining and enhancing SK PCAP's land users' section of the website with relevant programming and promoting and supporting knowledge transfer and mentorship amongst land users.

Most of the 35 SK PCAP Partners have signed on to support the five-year

strategic plan, as they recognize the critical importance of preserving the prairie ecosystems in Saskatchewan, which are not only of local significance but also contribute to the broader global effort to address climate change and protect at risk species.

"It is an outstanding achievement that in Saskatchewan we have conservation groups working in partnership with farmers, ranchers, and government," says Kelly Williamson, PCAP Chair. "The formal PCAP Partnership has been going strong for over 25 years and will continue into the future to bring awareness of the value of native prairie to Saskatchewan residents and beyond."

The SK PCAP's strategic approach to increasing awareness about habitat restoration, species-at-risk protection, and community engagement resonates with PCAP Partner values and aspirations for a sustainable future. In November 2024, the PCAP Partnership gathered for a Signing Ceremony to kick off the new plan and to discuss the new strategies.

For more information on SK PCAP and to view the 2024-2028 PCAP Strategic Plan, please visit our website at www.pcap-sk.org.