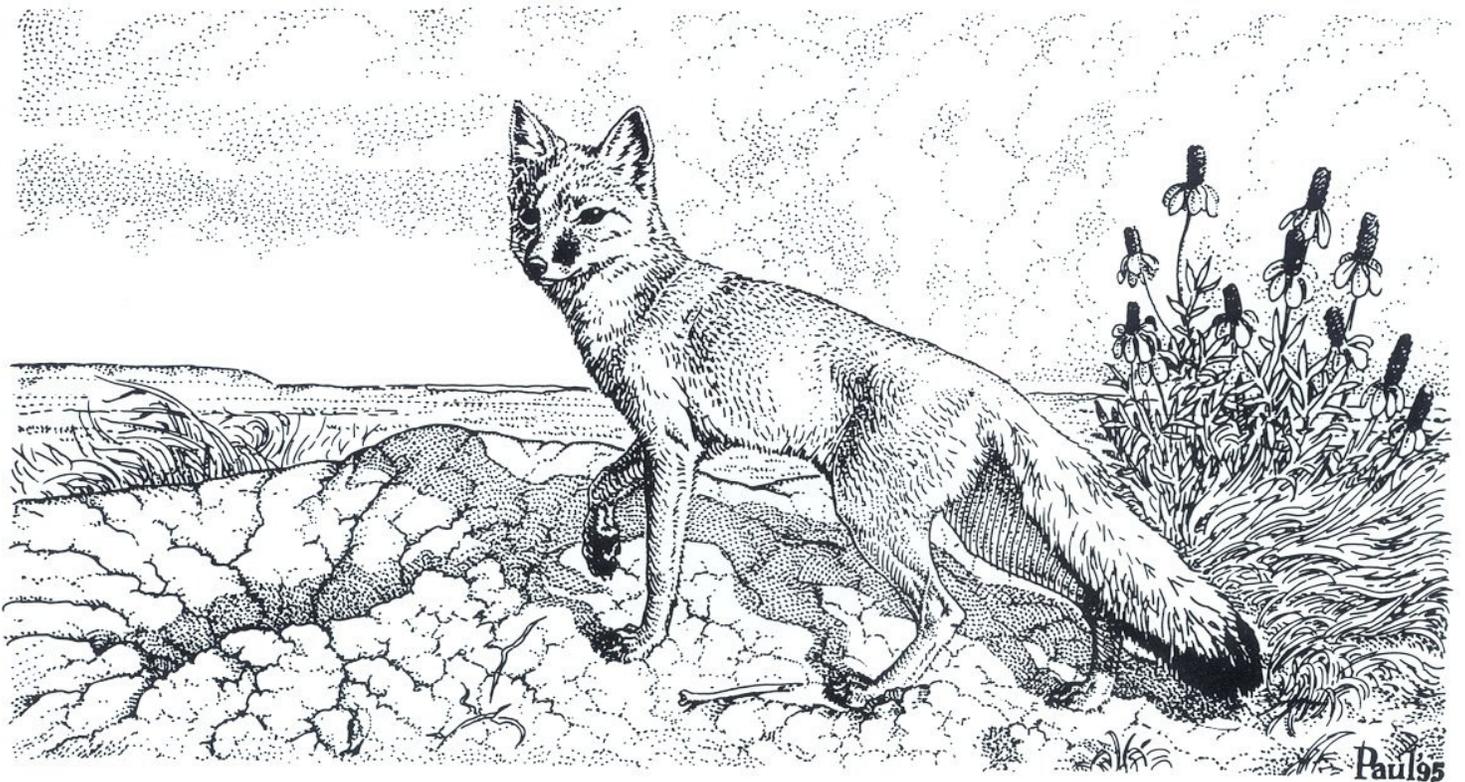


Saskatchewan
PRAIRIE CONSERVATION ACTION PLAN
(PCAP)

Partner Update Number Two

June 2000



*“The native prairie is to be sustained in a healthy state
in which natural and human values are respected”*

**IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY: GOAL 1: TO SUSTAIN A
HEALTHY NATIVE PRAIRIE GRAZING RESOURCE**

Objectives	Actions	Timetable	Lead and Supporting Agencies
1. Maintain or adopt sound rangeland practices that are reflective of local conditions.	1. Continue, expand and extend programs that contribute to the proper management of rangeland.		<i>SWWC and PFRA (under NSWCP) are cooperating in delivering Riparian Assessment Workshops, planning and technical assistance for grazing systems; one workshop given in Swift Current, spring 1998, more forthcoming; new demo sites will be developed by SWCC (Contact Tom Harrison or Bill Bristol)</i>
	2. Continue and speed up rangeland inventory and evaluation activities required for range planning on Crown land leases and Community Pastures.	January 1998-2002 (Plan by June 1998)	Saskatchewan Agriculture and Food (SAF); Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration (PFRA)
	3. Continue funding of the Grazing and Pasture Technology Program (GAPT) beyond March 2000.	Report to follow-up Committee by November, 1998.	Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association (SSGA), SAF, <i>Agriculture and Agri-food Canada</i>
	4. Establish a mechanism for providing technical wildlife support to GAPT on an ongoing basis.	Details by March 1998.	GAPT, SERM
2. Foster an increased societal appreciation of the beneficial role played by the livestock industry in the conservation of native prairie.	1. Support programs that increase understanding of the role that management plays in the conservation of native prairie.	January 1998 – March 2002 (detailed plan by June 1998)	
	2. Establish an annual "Prairie Appreciation Week."		SSGA, SAF, GAPT, SERM
	3. Encourage and promote orderly ecotourism as a window into ranching (e.g. technical assistance to interested ranchers, inclusion in tourism publications, marketing plan).		SSGA, <i>Sask Tourism</i> , SERM
	4. Articles and feature in urban newspapers.		SSGA, GAPT, SERM
	5. Support studies of native biodiversity in relation to rangeland health and ecological integrity.		<i>GAPT, Semiarid Prairie Agriculture Research Centre (Agriculture and Agri-food Canada), U of Regina, U of Saskatchewan, WWF, SERM</i>
	6. Create and publicize a high profile corporate/institutional award for outstanding contribution to the conservation of native prairie.		SERM, SSGA, SERM, GAPT, <i>energy corporations</i>
3. Recognize and support the efforts of private and public land managers who conserve native prairie in Saskatchewan.	1. Increase support for, and awareness of, environmental stewardship awards such as SSGA-Royal Bank TESAward, and Society for Range Management Stewardship Award.	January 1998 – 2002 (detailed plan by March, 1998)	SSGA, GAPT, DU, SWCC, SERM, <i>energy corporations</i>
	2. Resource Conservation Publication	December 1998	GAPT, SSGA, DU, SWCC, WWF

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY: GOAL 2: TO CONSERVE THE REMAINING PRAIRIE RESOURCE

Objectives	Actions	Timetable	Lead and Supporting Agencies
1. Identify and monitor the extent and health of the remaining native prairie.	1. Acquire and interpret the recent digital land cover and soils maps for southern Saskatchewan.	December 1998	SERM, Saskatchewan Wetland Conservation Corporation (SWCC), Saskatchewan Conservation Data Centre, Ducks Unlimited, Saskatchewan Soils Resource Centre
	2. Identify areas of high risk for drainage or destruction.	2000	
	3. Determine areas requiring preservation or restoration.	2000	
	4. Utilize maps and map products as tools for landowner negotiation, extension and technology transfer.	2000	
2. Encourage voluntary landowner stewardship to conserve the remaining privately owned native prairie.	1. Develop a communication strategy.	Complete by April 1998.	SWCC, GAPT, SERM
	2. Support private stewardship programs that involve landowner extension work.	Ongoing.	SWCC, GAPT, SERM
	3. Promote public education regarding prairie conservation.	Ongoing.	SWCC, GAPT, SERM
3. Fully explore the potential for the Conservation Easements Act to conserve the native prairie.	1. Determine the types and levels of incentives required for native prairie conservation.	Ongoing.	SERM, Ducks Unlimited Canada, SWCC, Nature Saskatchewan, Nature Conservancy, World Wildlife Fund, Parks Canada.
	2. Determine valuation procedures for CEs and for specific land use rights.		
	3. Develop protocols that simplify the process, agreements and valuation procedures for CEs.		
	4. Develop protocols on the policing of CEs.		
	5. Develop cost/benefit analyses for CEs.		
	6. Seek clarification of CE Act and Regulations in relation to the Tax Enforcement Act.		
4. Ensure that property taxation and assessment policies are at least neutral but, in the longer term, preferably favour the conservation of native prairie.	1. Determine the impact of existing tax assessment policies and land use ratings on conservation of native prairie. Change policies that encourage "development" of land or place an unrealistic value on unimproved land.	Complete by December 1999.	Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association, SERM, SWCC.
	2. Determine costs and benefits of a conservation land tax credit program and other income tax credit programs.		
5. Change regulations, policies, programs and economic instruments that are the most significant in terms of their negative impact on the conservation of prairie areas.	1. Identify and prioritize those regulations, policies, programs and economic instruments that are most significant.	Ongoing	Saskatchewan Stock Growers' Association, SWCC, SERM, SAF.

2. Promote adherence to provincial wetland policies.
3. Work to change regulations that are in conflict with stated government policies and laws.
4. Encourage more multiple use projects.
5. Promote the development of watershed conservation and/or restoration plans and improve watershed management.

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY: GOAL 3: TO MAINTAIN SASKATCHEWAN'S NATIVE PRAIRIE BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

Objectives	Action	Timetable	Lead and Supporting Agencies
1. Ensure that the remaining native prairie is protected from cultivation.	1. Obtain the Crown's commitment to maintaining native prairie under its control.	June 1998	SWCC, conservation groups
	2. Promote the use of conservation easements to maintain native prairie on private lands.	Ongoing	SERM, SWCC
2. Complete the Representative Areas Network in the prairie Ecoregions.	1. Develop an implementation strategy.	January 1998	SERM
	2. Secure a network of areas which represent the natural biodiversity of the native prairie.	January 2001	SERM, DU
3. Minimize the threat of introduced and invasive species to native prairie.	1. Promote awareness of the threats of introduced species to native prairie.	Jan 1998 – Feb 2001	All participants
	2. Investigate and promote methods to manage and control introduced species.	Ongoing.	SERM, SAF, Agriculture and Agri-food Canada (AgCan), Universities, GNP, SWCC, SERM, SWCC, SAF, GNP
	3. Encourage the use of native seed mixes in permanent cover and restoration programs, along highways, and in cities and towns.	February 2001	
	4. Develop restoration guidelines which minimize the use of non-native species.	February 2001	SERM
	5. Discourage the introduction of additional non-native species.	Ongoing	SERM, SAF, AgCan
4. Pursue the restoration of degraded prairie ecosystems.	1. Encourage the continued adoption of conservation tillage practices.	Ongoing	SAF, PFRA
	2. Develop a long-term plan to increase the connectivity of native prairie areas at the landscape level with key restoration projects.	February 2001	SERM, SWCC, GNP
	3. Promote research which will refine restoration techniques.	Ongoing	Universities
5. Encourage and support the development of indicators of native prairie health.	1. Convene a research and management group to complete the development of indicators.	January 1999	GNP, SERM, SAF All participants
	2. Implement a monitoring program based on the appropriate indicators.	February 2001	SERM, GNP, universities

6. Recover species and ecological communities at risk.	1. Ensure that species at risk legislation is implemented in an inclusive fashion, utilizing the best available scientific and local knowledge.	January 1999	SERM
	2. Continue management efforts to restore species at risk.	Ongoing	SERM, GNP, WWF, NCC, NS
	3. Ensure that the functions of the Saskatchewan Conservation Data Centre continue.	Ongoing	SERM
	4. Ensure that the functions of the Native Prairie Stewardship Program continue.	Ongoing	SWCC
7. Improve our understanding of native biodiversity.	1. Promote concepts of biodiversity through educational programs.	Ongoing	All participants
	2. Increase the coordination between agencies conducting research on native prairie.	March 1999	SERM, universities, GAPT, GNP, WWF, NCC, GNP
	3. Respect the different ways of understanding the scientific, local and traditional	Ongoing	All participants
8. Minimize the impacts of industrial developments on native prairie.	1. Encourage industry to adopt less invasive technologies when working on native prairie.	Ongoing	SERM, SAF, PFRA
	2. Encourage industry to minimize the number and extent of roads and other linear developments	Ongoing	SERM, SAF, PFRA

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY: GOAL 4: TO PROMOTE THE SUSTAINABLE USE OF NATIVE PRAIRIE TO ENHANCE THE QUALITY OF LIFE.

Objectives	Actions	Timetable	Lead and Supporting Agencies
1. Promote the economic advantages of good range management on remnant native prairie.	1. Target information flow to those areas that are not dominated by ranching, where less value is placed on the benefits of sound range management.	Ongoing	SWCC, GAPT, SERM
2. Identify and promote native prairie and its associated heritage resources as ecotourism destinations.	1. Include specific consideration of native prairie within the provincial ecotourism strategy.	Ongoing	SWCC, DU, SERM, SaskTourism
3. Encourage the development of native plant ecovars and a native seed production industry, including attention to wild-type seed production.	1. Support and promote organizations with activities in this area.	Ongoing	DU, Agriculture and Agri-food Canada (AgCan), SAF, Saskatchewan Native Plant Society
	2. Increase research funding for ecovar development.	Ongoing	DU, SAF, AgCan
	3. Add ecovars and wild-type seed to the Canada Seeds Act.	December 2002	AgCan, Canadian Seed Growers Association
	4. Promote the use and production of wild-type seed, especially for use where biodiversity conservation is the central goal of the restoration process.	Ongoing	DU, SWCC, GAPT
	5. Develop reclamation guidelines that require disturbed native areas to be restored to the pre-existing native plant community.	2002	SERM, SWCC, DU, SAF
4. Advance the exploration of native prairie for new genetic, biochemical, pharmaceutical and other resources of potential value to humans.	1. Ensure that part of any increase in the economic benefits derived from native prairie goes to support research and conservation.	Ongoing	Saskatchewan Native Plant Society, SAF
	2. Develop guidelines and management plans for the harvest of native prairie species whose populations are at risk.	Ongoing	SERM, Saskatchewan Native Plant Society
5. Recognize and quantify the economic contribution of conserved native prairie and expanded perennial grasslands.	1. Survey the literature regarding ecological services provided by grasslands, including carbon sequestering, oxygen production, and nutrient cycling.	February 2000	SWCC
	2. Coordinate this information gathering with other agencies, identify gaps in research, and communicate the findings.	January 2000	SWCC, Saskatchewan Native Plant Society

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY: GOAL 5: TO PROMOTE EDUCATION AND DEVELOP COMMUNICATION PROGRAMS REGARDING THE CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE USE OF NATIVE PRAIRIE

Objectives	Actions	Timetable	Lead and Supporting Agencies
1. Encourage the adoption of an ecosystem management approach to land across the prairie ecozone.	1. Create a partnership that facilitates the exchange of information regarding the conservation of native prairie.	Formal Committee to be established by April 1998	<i>University of Regina, University of Saskatchewan, PFRA, SWCC, Nature Saskatchewan, SERM, WWF</i>
	2. The partnership formed through Action 1 will develop and deliver a communications strategy that increases awareness of native prairie conservation and its sustainable use within the context of ecosystem management.	Develop communications strategy by September 1998 with proposal for implementation plan.	Nature Saskatchewan <i>As above and including Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association, Saskatchewan Agriculture and Food, SERM, SWCC and Ducks Unlimited</i>
	3. The communications strategy will define the process and mechanisms to develop and promote resource materials that illustrate the principles of prairie ecosystem management.	Initial publication on ecosystems available by April 1998; initial ecosystem management publications by August 1998. Ongoing activities to be defined in the communications strategy.	SERM, The Prairie Ecosystem Sustainability (PECOS) Study of the University of Saskatchewan and the University of Regina, <i>others as above.</i>