

Rare Plants and Ranchers

Stewardship Solutions to
Species at Risk Conservation



Native Plant Society
of Saskatchewan

About the NPSS

- ▶ Provincial, member-driven registered charity.
- ▶ Science-based, nature-focused.
- ▶ Promote understanding and conservation of native plants through communication, research and education.
- ▶ It's our 25th anniversary!!!



About the Program

- ▶ Builds on Nature Saskatchewan's Rare Plant Rescue program by working with their stewardship base.
- ▶ NPSS' role to assist stewards in SAR management.
- ▶ Initiated in 2012.
- ▶ Longest program and largest budget in NPSS history.

About the Program

- ▶ Provincial scope.
- ▶ Directly targets species at risk (SAR) conservation.
- ▶ Works with landowners to develop site specific beneficial management plans for plant (SAR) using an ecosystem-based, multi-species approach.
- ▶ Similar to MultiSAR in Alberta and Mixed Grass Prairie Habitat Stewardship Program in Manitoba.

About the Program

Species addressed:

- ▶ Dwarf woolly-heads
 - ▶ Alkaline Wing-nerved moss
 - ▶ Rusty cord-moss
 - ▶ Buffalograss
 - ▶ Hairy prairie-clover
 - ▶ Slender mouse-ear-cress
 - ▶ Small-flowered sand-verbena
 - ▶ Smooth goosefoot
 - ▶ Tiny cryptantha
 - ▶ Western spiderwort
 - ▶ Yucca
- Ephemeral wetlands
- Sandy soils
-
- ```
graph LR; A[Dwarf woolly-heads] --- B[Ephemeral wetlands]; C[Alkaline Wing-nerved moss] --- B; D[Rusty cord-moss] --- B; E[Slender mouse-ear-cress] --- F[Sandy soils]; G[Small-flowered sand-verbena] --- F; H[Western spiderwort] --- F;
```



The obvious





The not so obvious



# Process

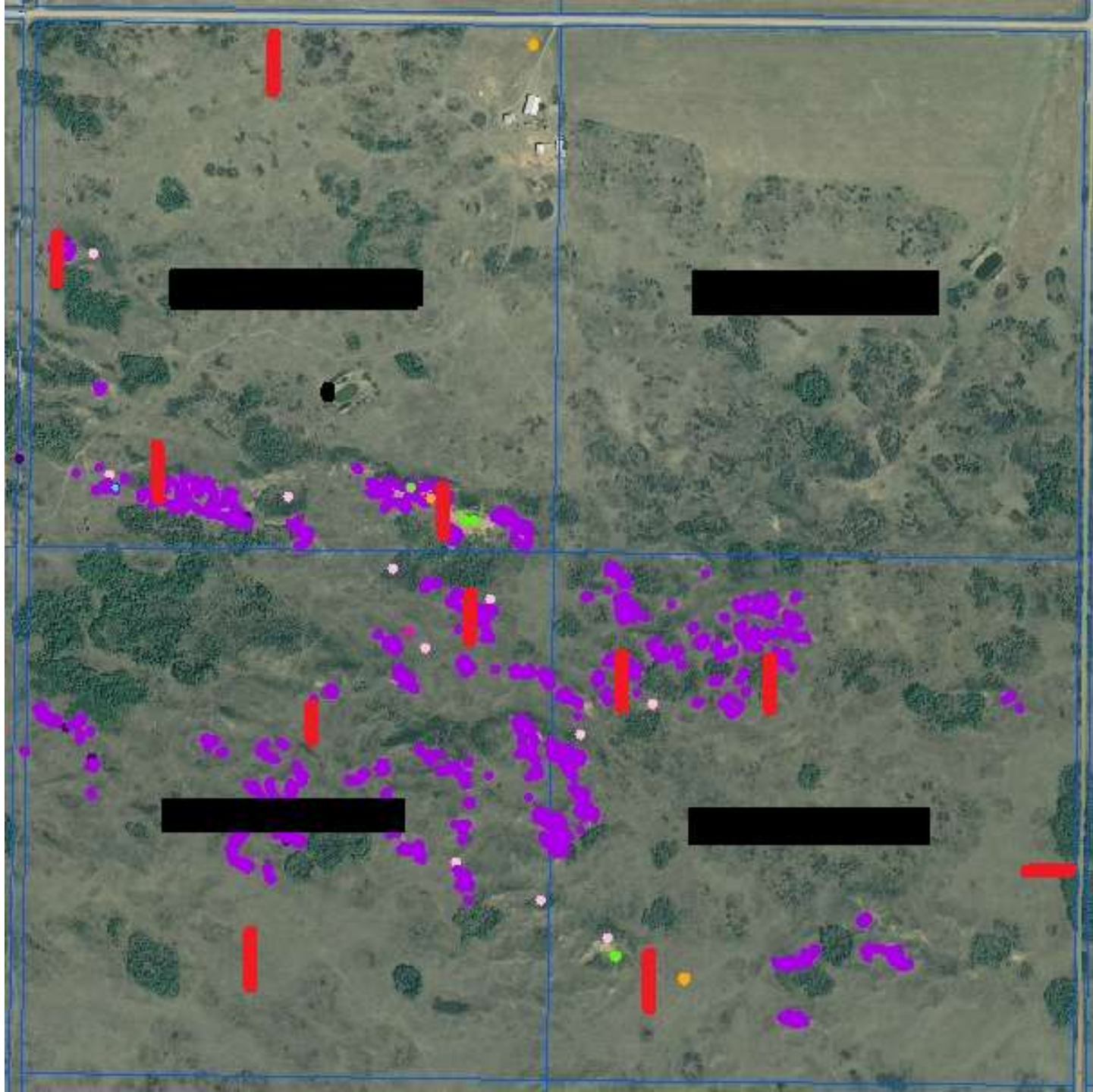
- ▶ Landowners are interviewed.
- ▶ Data is collected on the land:
  - ▶ Known plant SAR plant locations visited.
  - ▶ New plant SAR locations marked/mapped.
  - ▶ Invasive species and other threats marked/mapped.
  - ▶ Range/riparian health assessments.
  - ▶ Linear belt transects - vegetation assessments in SAR and non-SAR native habitat.
  - ▶ Photos taken.











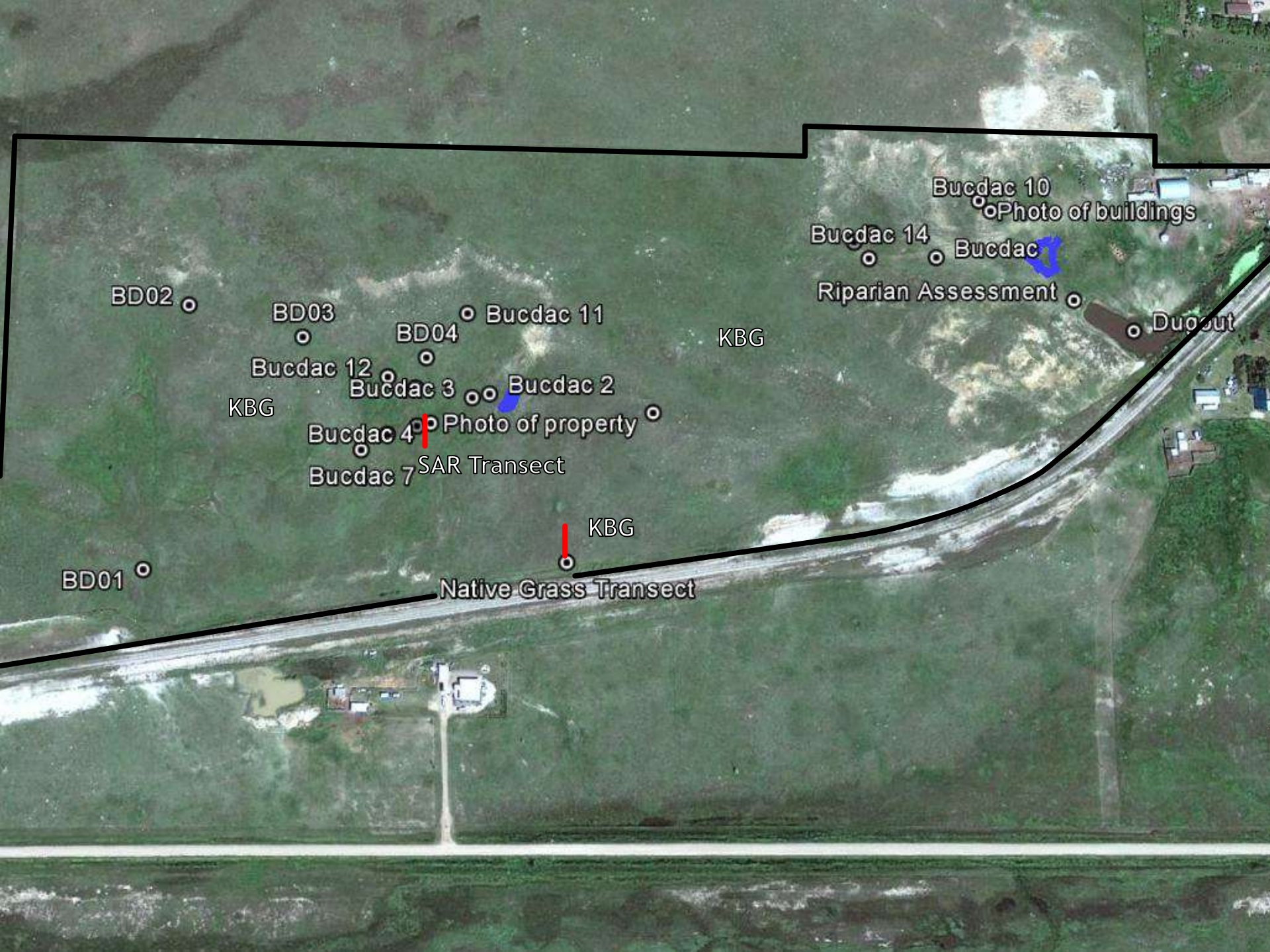


○ BD01

○ BD02

○ BD03

○ BD04



BD02

BD03

BD04

Buccdac 11

KBG

Buccdac 10

Photo of buildings

Buccdac 14

Buccdac

Riparian Assessment

Dugout

Buccdac 12

KBG

Buccdac 3

Buccdac 2

Buccdac 4

Photo of property

Buccdac 7

SAR Transect

KBG

BD01

Native Grass Transect

# Result

- ▶ Site specific beneficial management plan is written and given to the landowner for review; final version incorporates landowner's input.
- ▶ Plan contains all data collected and recommendations to benefit the plant SAR.
- ▶ Dollar matching (up to \$10,000) helps stewards implement recommendations.



# Monitoring

- ▶ Every 5 years, properties are monitored
- ▶ All data re-collected using same protocols and compared to baseline data to identify trends
- ▶ Depending on findings, stay the course or tweak aspects of management plan
- ▶ Maintain dialogue with stewards - have they changed their operations, what have they noticed, how is their experience with our program, etc.

# Results 2012-2019

- ▶ 25 participating landowners
- ▶ 835 plant SAR occurrences found or monitored
- ▶ 323 occurrences of 13 provincially rare plant species found
- ▶ 294 occurrences of 15 invasive species found



# Recent Achievements

- ▶ 133,022 acres (53,832 ha) of habitat with SAR management plans; 5,280 acres (2,136 ha) added in 2019
- ▶ 11,861 acres (4,800 ha) of SAR habitat monitored in 2019
- ▶ Nominated by Environment and Climate Change Canada as one of their national submissions to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, highlighting achievements that celebrate 2020 as the International Year of Plant Health.

# Looking Forward

- ▶ Recently applied to provincial and federal funding sources to continue the program.
- ▶ Add new stewards and acreage each year, increased monitoring workload as program grows.
- ▶ Targeting neighbouring properties also with plant SAR, new areas as well.



# Thank-you!

This project was undertaken with the financial support of:  
Ce projet a été réalisé avec l'appui financier de :



Environment and  
Climate Change Canada

Environnement et  
Changement climatique Canada



**Saskatchewan  
Ministry of  
Environment**

In-kind project partner:

*Nature*  
SASKATCHEWAN

Special thanks to Hilary Pinchbeck and our amazing ranchers!

# Questions?

Chet Neufeld P.Ag.  
Executive Director  
Native Plant Society of  
Saskatchewan  
(306) 668-3940  
[info@npss.sk.ca](mailto:info@npss.sk.ca)  
[www.npss.sk.ca](http://www.npss.sk.ca)