

The Saskatchewan Prairie Conservation Action Plan Partnership

Annual Workplan 2011

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. Together, the Partners establish a five year Framework for collective action which acts as the context for annual work planning.

The 2009-2013 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 2009-2013 Framework*, the Partnership also identifies five areas of strategic action to meet these Goals and work towards the Vision. These are:

- **At Home on the Prairie:** Connecting to Native Prairie
- **Prospering with Prairie:** Sustainable Land Use and Development
- **Caring for Prairie:** Managing Invasive Alien Plant Species
- **Accounting for Prairie:** Valuing Ecological Goods and Services
- **A Working Prairie:** Grazing Management in Prairie Ecosystems

This 2011 Annual Workplan indicates what specific actions the Partnership will take in year three of the Framework working towards our Vision, Goals, and Objectives relevant to each of the five focus areas. A new Workplan will be developed in 2012, incorporating new ideas, new understanding, and continuously building toward successful prairie conservation.

This Workplan will be updated mid-year and reported on at year end through the 2011 PCAP Update available on the PCAP website. The greyed areas are actions that the focus group will complete in subsequent workplans.

* please refer to the PCAP website at www.pcap-sk.org under Action Plans for a copy of the 2009-2013 Framework

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At Home on the Prairie

Connecting to Native Prairie

Objective 2009-2013

More people are aware of and appreciate native prairie ecosystems and support and are engaged in sustainable, prairie related activities.

Measuring success 2009-2013

- Comparison of knowledge, attitudes and behaviours in people who have participated in prairie education programs vs. those who have not
- Target-group appreciation of prairie and support for prairie conservation
- Educational partnerships formed by promoting prairie-related activities
- Visitors to prairie sites promoted by the PCAP

Strategies

I. Continue to educate Saskatchewan youth and teachers about prairie ecosystems and prairie species at risk.

| actions 2011 | deliverables | involved partners |
|--|---|---|
| a. Develop a new action-orientated environmental education program, <i>Taking Action For Prairie</i> and pilot 2 weeks of programming in October-November 2011 at 10-20 urban and rural schools in Regina, SK, targeting Grades 6-8 students and their teachers. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Number of schools visited➤ Number of students & teachers engaged through program➤ Teacher / student evaluation/feedback➤ Web Portal on PCAP website for action project updates | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- PCAP staff (lead)- Ducks Unlimited Canada- Nature Saskatchewan- Royal Saskatchewan Museum- Saskatchewan Ministry of Education |

II. Target communication about and promotion of native prairie to an urban audience.

| actions 2011 | deliverables | involved partners |
|---|---|---|
| b. Develop a communications plan to link prairie issues to an urban audience. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Identification of target audiences➤ Key messages➤ Identification of | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- PCAP (lead)- Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada – Agri-Environment Services Branch |

| actions 2011 | deliverables | involved partners |
|--|--|--|
| | Partners and existing programs with similar mandate to explore possibility of collaboration ➤ Implementation strategy | - Nature Saskatchewan - Parks Canada - Grasslands National Park of Canada - Prairie Learning Centre - Royal Saskatchewan Museum - Saskatchewan Burrowing Owl Interpretive Centre - Saskatchewan Environmental Society - Saskatchewan Outdoor and Environmental Education Association - Saskatchewan Watershed Authority |
| c. Coordinate a week long celebration of native prairie through workshops and events hosted by PCAP partners that are targeted towards urban & rural residents, students & teachers, naturalists, technical and industry agency staff and producers, during Native Prairie Appreciation Week 2011. | ➤ Identification of partners and level of involvement ➤ Identification of sponsors ➤ Festival agenda | - PCAP staff (lead) - Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada – Agri-Environment Services Branch - Parks Canada - Grasslands National Park of Canada - Royal Saskatchewan Museum - Saskatchewan Outdoor and Environmental Education Association - Saskatchewan Watershed Authority |

III. Promote and provide opportunities to participate in prairie-related activities.

| actions 2011 | deliverables | involved partners |
|---|---|---------------------|
| d. Continue to update the PCAP website with current information for use by partners, technical delivery staff, urban/rural residents, teachers, students, consultants, etc. | ➤ List of new items/activities posted on website ➤ Number of hits per month on the new website | - PCAP staff (lead) |
| e. Develop and distribute a monthly PCAP electronic newsletter to promote communication among Partners, affiliates, and other stakeholders/organizations/individuals including partner and affiliate updates, research, upcoming events and prairie-related initiatives. Each issue to be posted on the PCAP website. | ➤ Number of newsletters distributed ➤ Distribution list | - PCAP staff (lead) |

| actions 2011 | deliverables | involved partners |
|---|---|---|
| f. Deliver 1-2 speaker series each month from September 2011 to March 2012 including one luncheon presentation with a technical focus (i.e. technical delivery staff) and an evening presentation with a general awareness focus (i.e. urban residents) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Number of people in attendance at each speaker series ➤ Number of people viewing the presentations via the live web cast each speaker series ➤ Number of people viewing the presentations on-line at a later date | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - PCAP staff (lead) - Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada – Semiarid Prairie Agricultural Research Centre - Royal Saskatchewan Museum - University of Saskatchewan – College of Agriculture & Bioreources - Western Development Museum |

Prospering with Prairie

Sustainable Land Use and Development

Objective 2009-2013

PCAP Partners identify, adopt, implement, and promote best management practices, planning processes, policies and/or regulatory requirements, important for the conservation and sustainable use of native prairie in Saskatchewan.

Measuring success 2009-2013

Native prairie – its extent, functions, and biodiversity – is conserved or restored as part of land use and development activities in Saskatchewan.

Strategies

I. Increase awareness of how Partners currently conserve and restore native prairie, and document progress in this area.

| action 2011 | deliverables | involved partners |
|---|---|---|
| a. Annually prepare and distribute a dynamic inventory of Partner programs, best management practices, planning processes, policies, and regulatory requirements that affect or influence the conservation and sustainable use of native prairie. | ➤ 2011 inventory to PCAP Partners and interested stakeholders | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada – Agri-Environment Services Branch- Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society- Ducks Unlimited Canada- Environment Canada- Nature Conservancy of Canada- Nature Saskatchewan- Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture- Saskatchewan Ministry of Energy and Resources- Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment- SaskPower- Saskatchewan Watershed Authority |

II. Exchange ideas and new knowledge with Partners and other stakeholders about ways to successfully conserve and restore native prairie at each stage of a land use or development activity.

| actions 2011 | deliverables | involved partners |
|---|---|--|
| b. Co-deliver with the Caring For Prairie Focus Group a Native Prairie Restoration/Reclamation workshop targeted towards oil/gas & power/right of way representatives, technical delivery staff, consultants and government officials from the three Prairie Provinces with a focus on how to manage restored/reclaimed native prairie. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Number of people in attendance at workshop ➤ Number of materials distributed | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - PCAP staff (lead) - Nature Conservancy of Canada - Nature Saskatchewan - Native Plant Society of Saskatchewan - Parks Canada – Grasslands National Park - Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment - SaskPower - The Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities |
| c. Meet to discuss and identify strengths and weaknesses of programs, best management practices, planning processes, policies, and regulatory requirements that affect or influence the conservation and sustainable use of native prairie. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Minimum of two Prospering with Prairie Focus Group (PPFG) meetings ➤ A summary of 2011 discussions and suggested improvements (prepared by PPFG) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada – Agri-Environment Services Branch - Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society - Ducks Unlimited Canada - Environment Canada - Nature Conservancy of Canada - Nature Saskatchewan - Redberry Lake Biosphere Reserve Association - Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture - Saskatchewan Ministry of Energy and Resources - Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment - SaskPower - Saskatchewan Watershed Authority |

| actions 2011 | deliverables | involved partners |
|---|--|---|
| d. Disseminate information regarding new and innovative technologies, best management practices, planning process, policies and regulatory requirements to partner organizations through partner representatives and newsletters. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Prepare articles for inclusion in PCAP newsletter (1-4 articles) ➤ Feedback to Partner organizations ➤ Partners incorporate learning and new information into their activities on or with native prairie | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada – Agri-Environment Services Branch - Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society - Ducks Unlimited Canada - Environment Canada - Nature Saskatchewan - Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture - Saskatchewan Ministry of Energy and Resources - Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment - SaskPower - Saskatchewan Watershed Authority |

III. Assist Partnership with monitoring and communicating trends in native prairie conservation.

| actions 2011 | deliverables | involved partners |
|--|--|---|
| e. Work with other Focus Groups, and possibly other stakeholders, to conduct and assess a literature review to estimate the amount of native prairie remaining in Saskatchewan including, if possible, the distribution of remaining native prairie, how it is being used and all native prairies altered or broken during the year, related to Partner activities. Discuss how to proceed once assessment of literature review is complete. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Conduct literature review to estimate amount of native prairie in Saskatchewan ➤ Inclusion of applicable information gathered through PPFG's 2010 inventory (a) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - PCAP staff (lead) - Ducks Unlimited Canada - Environment Canada - Nature Conservancy of Canada - Nature Saskatchewan - Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture - Saskatchewan Ministry of Energy and Resources - Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment - Saskatchewan Watershed Authority - University of Saskatchewan – College of Agriculture & Bioresources |

Caring for Prairie

Managing Invasive Alien Plant Species

Objective 2009-2013

Prairie land managers understand the importance of managing alien plant species on the prairie landscape and Saskatchewan has a coordinated approach to invasive alien plant species management.

Measuring success 2009-2013

- Target-audience knowledge of invasive alien plant issues
- Collaborative invasive alien plant management initiatives

Strategies

I. Educate public and private land managers about the threats of invasive alien plants to native prairie.

| action 2011 | deliverables | involved partners |
|---|--|---|
| a. Develop and promote educational activities and materials about invasive alien plants for use within existing PCAP education and information programs. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Number of activities developed and delivered➤ Number of people reached | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Nature Conservancy of Canada- Native Plant Society of Saskatchewan- Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture- The Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities |
| b. Co-deliver with the Prospering with Prairie Focus Group, a Native Prairie Restoration/Reclamation workshop targeted towards oil/gas & power/right of way representatives, technical delivery staff, consultants and government officials from the three Prairie Provinces with a focus on how to manage restored/reclaimed native prairie. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Number of people in attendance at workshop➤ Number of materials distributed | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- PCAP staff (lead)- Nature Conservancy of Canada- Nature Saskatchewan- Native Plant Society of Saskatchewan- Parks Canada – Grasslands National Park- Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment- SaskPower- The Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities |

II. Implement collaborative Invasive Alien Plant Species prevention and control measures.

| action 2011 | deliverables | involved partners |
|---|--|---|
| c. Support the Saskatchewan Invasive Species Council by providing technical advice and technical support. | ➤ Number of Partners involved in the Council | - Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada – Semiarid Prairie Agricultural Research Centre - Nature Conservancy of Canada - Native Plant Society of Saskatchewan - Prairie Adaptation Research Collaborative (UofR) - Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture - Saskatchewan Research Council |
| d. Participate in Saskatchewan Invasive Species Council planning and priority setting exercises. | ➤ Number of PCAP Partners and other stakeholders participating ➤ Number of exercises underway | - Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada – Semiarid Prairie Agricultural Research Centre - Nature Conservancy of Canada - Native Plant Society of Saskatchewan - Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture - Saskatchewan Research Council |

III. Monitor the occurrence of alien invasive plants in the Prairie Ecoregion.

| action 2011 | deliverables | involved partners |
|--|--|--|
| e. Begin development of a coordinated weed monitoring standard, procedure and program. | ➤ Number of organizations participating in process | - Native Plant Society of Saskatchewan - Nature Conservancy of Canada - Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture - The Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities |

IV. Coordinate research and development activities.

| action 2011 | deliverables | involved partners |
|--|---|--|
| h. Facilitate and advocate invasive alien plant research activities (e.g., biological controls, replacement species) | ➤ Invasive alien plant research activities, relevant to prairie systems (a) underway and (b) completed | - Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada – Semiarid Prairie Agricultural Research Centre |
| i. Establish priorities for R&D activities for research agency consideration. | ➤ Identification of what is needed to increase effort ➤ Development of a list of priority species for research | - Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada – Semiarid Prairie Agricultural Research Centre |

Accounting for Prairie

Valuing Ecological Goods and Services

Objective 2009-2013

More people are aware of the ecological goods and services provided by native prairie ecosystems and begin to account for them in decision making.

Measuring success 2009-2013

- Target-group awareness of native prairie ecological goods and services [EGS] and threats to them
- EGS-based programs that support prairie conservation
- Acres of prairie influenced by EGS-based programs

Strategies

I. Communicate to target groups about the ecological goods and services provided by native prairie.

| actions 2011 | deliverables | involved partners |
|---|---|--|
| a. Identify examples of people valuing EGS in Saskatchewan for use in marketing and educational materials. | ➤ Distribution of marketing and educational materials | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ducks Unlimited Canada - Prairie Trust - Saskatchewan Watershed Authority - Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation |
| b. Produce an annual report on the state of Saskatchewan's natural capital and the threats to it, including habitats important to Species at Risk (SAR). This will be based in part on the findings of the Prospering with Prairie Focus Group. | ➤ Distribution of report | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society - Ducks Unlimited Canada - Saskatchewan Forage Council - Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture |

| actions 2011 | deliverables | involved partners |
|---|---|---|
| c. Create and distribute educational material and programs about EGS targeted to each of the following: school children; educational institutions; government; industry; special interest groups; urban; rural; RM's/SARM/SUMA; planners. Materials will also highlight EGS in SAR habitats. These efforts will utilize existing Partner marketing and education programs where feasible. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Distribution of materials to target groups ➤ Produce at least one article in the PCAP newsletter annually ➤ Develop a fact sheet for the PCAP website | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ducks Unlimited Canada - Prairie Trust |
| d. Conduct baseline survey of awareness and practices, evaluate results, and adjust strategies where needed. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Completion of survey | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ducks Unlimited Canada - Prairie Trust |

II. Identify and communicate to Partners the program and policy options that support the consideration and maintenance of ecological goods and services.

| actions 2011 | deliverables | involved partners |
|--|---|---|
| e. Develop a method to annually survey / measure / track landowners, industry, planners, and government's inclusion of EGS in their decision making processes and land use planning. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Implementation of tracking system | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society - Ducks Unlimited Canada - Redberry Lake Biosphere Reserve Association |
| f. Collaborate with Prospering with Prairie Focus Group to review programs, policies and legislation to identify those that place natural capital and ecological goods and services at risk. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Completion of reviews | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society - Ducks Unlimited Canada - Nature Conservancy of Canada - Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture - Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation |

A Working Prairie

Grazing Management in Prairie Ecosystems

Objective 2009-2013

Increased land manager knowledge and adoption of grazing management practices that benefit both prairie ecosystems and economic returns, improved understanding of current range health and range health trends in Saskatchewan, and improved scientific understanding of the role of grazing management in prairie ecosystem health and biodiversity.

Measuring success 2009-2013

- Public and private land manager knowledge of best grazing management practices and their benefits
- Coverage and frequency of range health monitoring
- New knowledge of relationship between grazing management and prairie ecosystems

Strategies

I. Communicate with public and private grazing land managers about grazing management practices and their benefits.

| actions 2011 | deliverables | involved partners |
|--|-----------------------|---|
| a. Assist in planning the Society for Range Management Workshop & Tour held in conjunction with Native Prairie Appreciation Week Tour 2011 in the Moosomin, SK area. | ➤ Workshop attendance | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Society for Range Management (lead) - Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada – Agri-Environment Services Branch - Ducks Unlimited Canada - Nature Saskatchewan - PCAP - Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture - Saskatchewan Watershed Authority |
| b. Deliver a PFRA Patron day in the Southwest, focusing on pasture management. | ➤ Workshop attendance | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada – Agri-Environment Services Branch (lead) - Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture - Saskatchewan Watershed Authority |

| actions 2011 | deliverables | involved partners |
|--|--|---|
| c. Assist with Semiarid Prairie Agricultural Research Centre Field Day in Swift Current to showcase grazing and forage research. | ➤ Workshop attendance | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada - Semiarid Prairie Agricultural Research Centre (lead) - Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada – Agri-Environment Services Branch - Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture - Saskatchewan Watershed Authority |
| d. Explore options to reprint popular, out-of-print, producer-friendly publications. Seek funding from outside sources to reprint. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Prioritized list of out-of-print publications ➤ Selected publications reprinted or made available on PCAP website | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Saskatchewan Watershed Authority (lead) - Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada – Agri-Environment Services Branch - Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada - Semiarid Prairie Agricultural Research Centre - Saskatchewan Forage Council - Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture - Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association |

II. Facilitate integrated approaches to program and policy development related to grazing management.

| actions 2011 | deliverables | involved partners |
|--|--|---|
| e. Review existing educational material available to determine if there is a need to create a new learning experience. | ➤ Working group established among Partners | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ducks Unlimited Canada (lead) - Saskatchewan Forage Council (lead) - Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada – Agri-Environment Services Branch - Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment - Society of Range Management - Saskatchewan Watershed Authority - The Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities |

III. Improve range health aggregated data storage and sharing.

| actions 2011 | deliverables | involved partners |
|--|--|---|
| f. Develop a standardized database for health assessment data. | ➤ Database completed and being used among partners | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Saskatchewan Watershed Authority (lead) - Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada – Agri-Environment Services Branch - Ducks Unlimited Canada - Nature Conservancy of Canada - Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture - Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment - Saskatchewan Research Council |

IV. Coordinate comprehensive and standardized range health data collection.

| actions 2011 | deliverables | involved partners |
|---|--|--|
| g. Promote buy-in from all Partners to use a standardized system for native rangeland assessment, supported by the managers and field staff from each Partner agency. | ➤ Letters to each Partner to promote this action | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - PCAP staff (lead) |
| h. Conduct field days for PCAP Partner field staff to provide training in the new eco-site descriptions at several locations in July. | ➤ Attendance at field days | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada – Agri-Environment Services Branch (lead) - Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture - Saskatchewan Watershed Authority |

V. Improve our knowledge of relationships between grazing management and wildlife populations.

| actions 2011 | deliverables | involved partners |
|---|--------------------------------|--|
| i. Hold a forum for Partners and other agencies to discuss biodiversity issues, focusing on species at risk, and exchange information between research scientists and grazing managers. | ➤ Attendance at workshop/forum | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada – Agri-Environment Services Branch (lead) - Parks Canada - Grasslands National Park of Canada (lead) - Environment Canada - Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture - Saskatchewan Watershed Authority - The Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities |

Appendix 1: Core and Program Support

Core Funding Support

Cattle Market Deductions Fund

Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture

Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment

Program Support

- Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada – Agri-Environment Services Branch**
- Cattle Market Deductions Fund*
- Ducks Unlimited Canada***
- Government of Canada – Habitat Stewardship Program for Species at Risk*
- Horned Cattle Purchases Fund*
- Nature Saskatchewan***
- Parks Canada – Grasslands National Park of Canada***
- Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture (SK)***
- Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment (SK)***
- Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment (SK) – Fish and Wildlife Development Fund*
- Saskatchewan Ministry of Tourism, Parks, Culture and Sport (SK) – Royal Saskatchewan Museum, Friends of the Museum***
- Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association**
- Saskatchewan Watershed Authority***
- SaskPower***
- Society for Range Management – Prairie Parkland Chapter**
- University of Regina*
- University of Saskatchewan – College of Agriculture and Bioresources***
- Western Development Museum**

* funding Partner (cash); ** funding Partner (in-kind); *** funding Partner (both)