

# The Saskatchewan Prairie Conservation Action Plan Partnership

Annual Workplan 2013

# 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 2013 Annual Workplan indicates what specific deliverables the Partnership will take in year five of the Framework working towards our Vision, Goals, and Objectives relevant to each of the five focus areas. A new Framework and subsequent workplan will be developed in 2014, 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 2013 SK PCAP Update, which will be available on the SK PCAP website.

\* Please refer to the SK PCAP website at [www.pcap-sk.org](http://www.pcap-sk.org) under *Action Plans* for a copy of the *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.

deliverables 2013	performance measures	involved partners
<p>a. Finalize programming for the new action-orientated education program, <i>Taking Action For Prairie</i> and pilot 2 weeks of programming in the Fall to 300-350 Grade 6-8 students and their teachers at 10-20 urban and rural schools in and around Regina, SK.</p> <p>Web Portal on SK PCAP website for action project updates</p> <p>Provide a pre-delivery teacher information session through a luncheon where teacher resources will be handed out and reviewed.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Number of schools visited</li> <li>➤ Number of students &amp; teachers engaged through program</li> <li>➤ Evaluation outcome (teacher / student satisfaction)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- PCAP staff (lead)</li> <li>- Ducks Unlimited Canada</li> <li>- Nature Saskatchewan</li> <li>- Prairie Learning Centre</li> <li>- Royal Saskatchewan Museum</li> <li>- Saskatchewan Environmental Society</li> <li>- Saskatchewan Ministry of Education</li> <li>- Water Security Agency of Saskatchewan</li> </ul>
<p>b. Hire an education consultant to develop programming for the new education program, <i>Adopt a Rancher</i> and complete the teacher, student and rancher guides.</p> <p>Hire a project coordinator to contact local ranchers and schools to</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Number of students &amp; teachers engaged through program</li> <li>➤ Evaluation outcome (teacher / student / rancher satisfaction)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- PCAP staff (lead)</li> <li>- Nature Conservancy of Canada</li> <li>- Nature Saskatchewan</li> <li>- Prairie Learning Centre</li> <li>- Provider Pals</li> <li>- Saskatchewan Ministry of Education</li> </ul>

<b>deliverables 2013</b>	<b>performance measures</b>	<b>involved partners</b>
determine who is interested in participating as a mentor.  Pilot the program to one school and rancher in the Fall 2014.		- Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association - Treaty 4 Student Success Program

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

<b>deliverables 2013</b>	<b>performance measures</b>	<b>involved partners</b>
c. Coordinate Native Prairie Appreciation Week (NPAW) 2013, the third week in June dedicated to increasing awareness and appreciation of native prairie, in Saskatchewan residents. This year marks the 15 <sup>th</sup> anniversary of NPAW.  The SK PCAP office will focus on increasing awareness of NPAW, targeting urban residents and students, through News Releases, a promotional poster, and booths at local Farmer's Markets, garden centres and during National Aboriginal Day. Partner workshops and events will also be held in conjunction with NPAW.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Number of News Releases distributed to media</li> <li>➤ Number of promotional posters distributed</li> <li>➤ Number of events attended with promotional booths</li> <li>➤ Number of SK PCAP and partner materials distributed</li> <li>➤ Identification of partners workshops and events held in conjunction</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- PCAP staff (lead)</li> <li>- Agriculture and Agri Food Canada</li> <li>- Ducks Unlimited Canada</li> <li>- Native Plant Society of Saskatchewan</li> <li>- Nature Saskatchewan</li> <li>- Prairie Learning Centre</li> <li>- Royal Saskatchewan Museum</li> <li>- Saskatchewan Forage Council</li> <li>- Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture</li> <li>- Water Security Agency</li> <li>- Society for Range Management – Prairie Parkland Chapter</li> <li>- University of Saskatchewan</li> </ul>

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

<b>deliverables 2013</b>	<b>performance measures</b>	<b>involved partners</b>
d. Continue to update the SK PCAP website with current information for use by partners, technical delivery staff, urban/rural residents, teachers, students, consultants, etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Number of visitors and hits to website</li> <li>➤ Number of countries visiting the website</li> <li>➤ Identification of traffic source</li> <li>➤ Identification of the top five pages visited</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- PCAP staff (lead)</li> </ul>
e. Develop and distribute a monthly PCAP electronic newsletter to promote communication among Partners, affiliates, and other stakeholders/	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Number of newsletters distributed</li> <li>➤ Number of contacts</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- PCAP staff (lead)</li> </ul>

deliverables 2013	performance measures	involved partners
<p>organizations/individuals including partner and affiliate updates, research, upcoming events and prairie-related initiatives. Each issue to be posted on the SK PCAP website.</p>	<p>receiving the newsletter</p>	
<p>f. Deliver 6 luncheon presentations targeted towards technical delivery staff from October 2013 to March 2014, alternating between Saskatoon, Regina and Swift Current, SK.</p> <p>Deliver 6 presentations targeted towards urban/rural residents, producers, naturalists, hunters and First Nations youth held in conjunction with partner/associate events.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Number of individuals in attendance</li> <li>➤ Number of individuals viewing live webcast</li> <li>➤ Number of individuals viewing archived presentations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- PCAP staff (lead)</li> <li>- First Nations University of Canada</li> <li>- Friends of Wascana Marsh</li> <li>- Heritage Saskatchewan</li> <li>- Nature Saskatchewan</li> <li>- Friends of the Royal Saskatchewan Museum</li> <li>- Regina Public Library</li> <li>- Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture</li> <li>- Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association</li> <li>- Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation</li> <li>- University of Saskatchewan – College of Agriculture &amp; Bioresources</li> </ul>

# 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.

deliverables 2013	performance measures	involved partners
<p>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.</p>	<p>➤ Number of copies of 2013 inventory distributed to SK PCAP Partners and interested stakeholders</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) – Science and Technology Branch</li> <li>- Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society</li> <li>- Ducks Unlimited Canada</li> <li>- Environment Canada (EC) – Canadian Wildlife Service</li> <li>- Nature Conservancy of Canada</li> <li>- Nature Saskatchewan</li> <li>- Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture</li> <li>- Saskatchewan Ministry of the Economy</li> <li>- Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment</li> <li>- SaskPower</li> <li>- Water Security Agency of Saskatchewan</li> </ul>

## 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.

deliverables 2013	performance measures	involved partners
<p>b. 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.</p> <p>Complete a summary of 2013 discussions and suggested improvements_(prepared by PPFG)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Minimum of two Prospering with Prairie Focus Group (PPFG) meetings</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- AAFC – Science and Technology Branch</li> <li>- Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society</li> <li>- Ducks Unlimited Canada</li> <li>- EC – Canadian Wildlife Service</li> <li>- Nature Conservancy of Canada</li> <li>- Nature Saskatchewan</li> <li>- Redberry Lake Biosphere Reserve Association</li> <li>- Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture</li> <li>- Saskatchewan Ministry of the Economy</li> <li>- Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment</li> <li>- SaskPower</li> <li>- Water Security Agency of Saskatchewan</li> </ul>
<p>c. Disseminate information regarding new and innovative technologies, best management practices, planning process, policies and regulatory requirements to partner organizations through partner representatives and newsletters.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Number of articles included in SK PCAP newsletter (1-4 articles)</li> <li>➤ Feedback to Partner organizations</li> <li>➤ Number of partners who incorporate learning and new information into their activities on or with native prairie</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- AAFC – Science and Technology Branch</li> <li>- Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society</li> <li>- Ducks Unlimited Canada</li> <li>- EC – Canadian Wildlife Service</li> <li>- Nature Saskatchewan</li> <li>- Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture</li> <li>- Saskatchewan Ministry of the Economy</li> <li>- Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment</li> <li>- SaskPower</li> <li>- Water Security Agency of Saskatchewan</li> </ul>



# 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.

deliverables 2013	performance measures	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"> <li>➤ Number of activities developed and delivered</li> <li>➤ Number of people reached</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Nature Conservancy of Canada</li> <li>- Native Plant Society of Saskatchewan</li> <li>- Saskatchewan Forage Council</li> <li>- Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture</li> <li>- The Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities</li> </ul>

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

deliverables 2013	performance measures	involved partners
b. Support the Saskatchewan Invasive Species Council by providing technical advice and technical support.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Number of Partners involved in the Council</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- AAFC – Science and Technology Branch</li> <li>- Nature Conservancy of Canada</li> <li>- Native Plant Society of Saskatchewan</li> <li>- Prairie Adaptation Research Collaborative (UofR)</li> </ul>

deliverables 2013	performance measures	involved partners
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture</li> <li>- Saskatchewan Research Council</li> </ul>
<p>c. Participate in Saskatchewan Invasive Species Council planning and priority setting exercises.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Number of SK PCAP Partners and other stakeholders participating</li> <li>➤ Number of exercises underway</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- AAFC – Science and Technology Branch</li> <li>- Nature Conservancy of Canada</li> <li>- Native Plant Society of Saskatchewan</li> <li>- Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture</li> <li>- Saskatchewan Research Council</li> </ul>

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

deliverables 2013	performance measures	involved partners
<p>d. Begin development of a coordinated weed monitoring standard, procedure and program.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Number of organizations participating in process</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Native Plant Society of Saskatchewan</li> <li>- Nature Conservancy of Canada</li> <li>- Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture</li> <li>- The Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities</li> </ul>

# 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.

deliverables 2013	performance measures	involved partners
a. Identify examples of people valuing EGS in Saskatchewan for use in marketing and educational materials.	➤ Number of marketing and educational materials distributed	- To be determined
b. Produce and distribute an annual report on the state of Saskatchewan's natural capital and the threats to it, including habitats important to Species at Risk. This will be based in part on the findings of the Prospering with Prairie Focus Group.	➤ Number of reports distributed	- To be determined
c. Develop and distribute educational materials/programs about EGS targeted towards students, educational institutions, government, industry, special interest groups, urban/rural residents, RM's/SARM/SUMA, and planners. Materials will	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Number of materials distributed to target groups</li> <li>➤ Produce at least one article in the</li> </ul>	- To be determined

deliverables 2013	performance measures	involved partners
also highlight EGS in relation to Species at Risk habitats. These efforts will utilize existing Partner marketing and education programs where feasible.	SK PCAP newsletter annually ➤ Develop a fact sheet for the SK PCAP website	

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

deliverables 2013	performance measures	involved partners
d. 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.	➤ Completion of reviews	- To be determined

# 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.

deliverables 2013	performance measures	involved partners
a. Assist in planning the Saskatchewan Pasture School held in the Big Muddy area, in conjunction with Native Prairie Appreciation Week 2013.	➤ Workshop attendance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Society for Range Management</li> <li>- Prairie Parkland Chapter (lead)</li> <li>- AAFC – Science and Technology Branch</li> <li>- Ducks Unlimited Canada</li> <li>- Nature Saskatchewan</li> <li>- PCAP</li> <li>- Saskatchewan Forage Council</li> <li>- Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture</li> <li>- University of Saskatchewan</li> <li>- Water Security Agency of Saskatchewan</li> </ul>

deliverables 2013	performance measures	involved partners
<p>b. Assist with Semiarid Prairie Agricultural Research Centre Field Day in Swift Current to showcase grazing and forage research from use of native and tame forage perspectives.</p> <p>Development of technology transfer articles/handouts for the field day/tour</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Workshop attendance</li> <li>➤ Number of technology transfer articles/handouts developed for the field day/tour</li> <li>➤ Produce at least one article in the PCAP newsletter and beneficial native species for grazing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- AAFC – Science &amp; Technology Branch</li> <li>- Saskatchewan Forage Council</li> <li>- Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture</li> <li>- Southwest Forage Association</li> </ul>
<p>c. Provide information on identification of native species for restoration/forage production, the impact climate has on native species and their communities, identifying key components for reseeded efforts and the impact management systems have on re-structuring plant communities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Newsletter article</li> <li>➤ Factsheets developed</li> <li>➤ Conduct a Technical Speaker Series Presentation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- AAFC – Science &amp; Technology Branch</li> </ul>
<p>d. Distribution of information on grazing management and plant ID guides</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Number of publications distributed</li> <li>➤ Number of people reached</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Saskatchewan Forage Council (lead)</li> </ul>

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

deliverables 2013	performance measures	involved partners
e. Develop newsletter articles and fact sheets on native species and biodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Number of newsletter articles produced</li> <li>➤ Number of factsheets distributed</li> </ul>	- AAFC – Science & Technology Branch

## III. Improve range health aggregated data storage and sharing.

deliverables 2013	performance measures	involved partners
f. Train agency staff and encourage use of the standardized database for health assessment data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ 1 training workshop on how to use the database</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Saskatchewan Research Council (lead)</li> <li>- Water Security Agency of Saskatchewan (lead)</li> <li>- AAFC – Science and Technology Branch</li> <li>- Ducks Unlimited Canada</li> <li>- Nature Conservancy of Canada</li> <li>- Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture</li> <li>- Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment</li> </ul>

## IV. Coordinate comprehensive and standardized range health data collection.

deliverables 2013	performance measures	involved partners
g. Continue to promote buy-in from all Partners to use a standardized system for rangeland assessment and data storing, supported by the managers and field staff from each SK PCAP Partner agency.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Letters and/or phone calls to each Partner to promote this action</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- AAFC – Science and Technology Branch</li> <li>- Ducks Unlimited Canada</li> <li>- Nature Conservancy of Canada</li> <li>- Saskatchewan Research Council</li> <li>- Water Security Agency of Saskatchewan</li> <li>- University of Saskatchewan – College of Agriculture &amp; Bioresources</li> </ul>

# Appendix 1: 2013-2014 Financial & In-Kind Support

## Partner Support

- Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada – Science and Technology Branch\*\*
- Ducks Unlimited Canada\*\*\*
- Native Plant Society of Saskatchewan Inc.\*\*
- Nature Conservancy of Canada\*\*
- Nature Saskatchewan\*\*\*
- Parks Canada – Grasslands National Park\*
- Prairie Learning Centre\*\*
- Saskatchewan Environmental Society\*\*
- Saskatchewan Forage Council\*\*
- Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture\*\*\*
- Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment – Fish and Wildlife Development Fund\*\*\*
- Saskatchewan Ministry of Tourism, Parks, Culture & Sport\*\*
- Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association\*\*
- Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation\*\*
- SaskPower\*\*\*
- Society for Range Management – Prairie Parkland Chapter\*\*
- University of Saskatchewan – College of Agriculture and Bioresources\*\*\*
- Water Security Agency of Saskatchewan\*\*\*

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\* cash; \*\* in-kind; \*\*\* cash & in-kind

## Program Support

- Saskatchewan Beef Industry Development Fund\*
- First Nations University of Canada\*\*
- Friends of the Royal Saskatchewan Museum\*\*
- Friends of Wascana Marsh\*\*
- Government of Canada\*
- Heritage Saskatchewan\*\*
- Horned Cattle Purchases Fund\*
- NatureCity Festival\*\*
- Regina Public Library\*\*
- Saskatchewan Ministry of Education\*\*

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\* cash; \*\* in-kind; \*\*\* cash & in-kind