

The Saskatchewan Prairie Conservation Action Plan Partnership

Annual Workplan 2015-2016



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 provides the context for annual work planning.

The 2014-2018 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 2014-2018 Framework*, the Partnership identified three strategic focus areas to prioritize actions. These are:

1. **Native Prairie Education and Awareness**
2. **Responsible Land Use on Native Prairie**
3. **Native Prairie Ecosystem Management**

This 2015 Annual Workplan indicates what specific deliverables the Partnership will take in the first full year of the 2014-2018 Framework, working towards our Vision, Goals, and Objectives as they are relevant to each of the three focus areas.

This Workplan will be reported on at year end through the 2015 SK PCAP Update, which will be available on the SK PCAP website.

* Please refer to the SK PCAP website at <http://www.pcap-sk.org/> under *Action Plans* for a copy of the *Framework*.

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1. Native Prairie Education & Awareness

Objective 2014-2018

Increase awareness of the importance of native prairie and species at risk, targeting students, industry and provincial and municipal policy makers.

Strategy

Gather and share balanced, science-based information of native prairie and species at risk conservation. Share this information broadly with the public, and specifically, within the Partnership, our networks and with target policy makers.

Measuring success

- Produce and distribute **twelve** electronic newsletters
- Prepare and distribute **two** news releases (for Prairie Conservation and Endangered Species Conference and Native Prairie Appreciation Week)
- Curate web content on **two** websites (www.pcap-sk.org and www.pcesc.ca) while increasing interaction on social media (including Twitter and Facebook).
- Provide displays at **three** urban venues across Saskatchewan (including farmer's markets) and **two** relevant producer and land user workshops.
- Provide **ten** Prairie Speaker Series presentations across the province.
- Provide **five** articles in *Beef Business* magazine
- Organize annual Native Prairie Appreciation Week events, including **one** tour and workshop.

Strategy

Continue to provide Saskatchewan students with information about native prairie and species at risk conservation.

Measuring success

- Deliver *Adopt a Rancher* to **six** schools
- Deliver *Taking Action for Prairie* programming into **five** schools
- Survey **90%** of students who participated in *Adopt a Rancher* and *Taking Action for Prairie* to determine their level of conservation knowledge pre- and post-participation.
- Survey **90%** of teachers who participated in *Adopt a Rancher* and *Taking Action for Prairie* to determine their level of interest and program impressions.
- Provide Canadian Western Agribition with Agri-Ed programming through **four** days of class-specific **Pitch it for Pipits and Plovers** and **one** interactive booth display.
- Participate in **one** external prairie and species at risk conservation education opportunity (i.e., Ag in the City).

Strategy

Maintain positive relationships that are inclusive of all Saskatchewan native prairie and species at risk partners, stakeholders, and users.

Measuring success

- Host **three** regular PCAP Partner meetings.
- Coordinate **four** PCAP Executive Committee meetings.
- Participate in **two** native prairie stakeholder meetings (i.e., South of the Divide Conservation Action Program, Saskatchewan Stock Growers Annual General Meeting)
- Evaluate all **30** partners annually to determine level of participation and contribution to Partnership; provide interested organizations seeking to become partners with an opportunity to present to Steering Committee.

2. Responsible Land Use on Native Prairie

Objective 2014-2018

Guide native prairie land users with balanced, evidence-based information about ecological footprints and best practises to sustain healthy native prairie and species at risk populations while mitigating human impact.

Strategy

Identify and understand the current types of development and land-uses of native prairie in Saskatchewan, and associated monitoring, management and risk of these developments.

Measuring success

- Collaborate with at least **one** partner to create a prairie research forum for researchers working in species at risk and prairie conservation within Saskatchewan.
- Host at least one facilitated discussion among the partnership to address current development and land-use issues.
- Create a committee dedicated to reporting on current native prairie quantification efforts in Saskatchewan and relevant jurisdictions in western Canada.
- Share information on internal, Partner and external affiliate efforts to quantify and monitor development on native prairie through at least **two** methods (i.e., internal emails, webinars, newsletter, news release of CEC report, etc.).

Strategy

Engage and interact with key policy makers, stakeholders and the public about the value of native prairie in Saskatchewan.

Measuring success

- Provide the public with at least **four** formal opportunities to share feedback through an evaluation of PCAP informational events.
- Host **one** formal reception inviting key policy makers and government officials to learn about the value of prairie in Saskatchewan.

- Host the **Prairie Conservation and Endangered Species Conference**, providing special invitations to policy makers and stakeholders and a general invitation to the public to participate.

Strategy

Communicate best management practises, planning processes, policies and regulatory requirements for sustainable and responsible land uses of native prairie in Saskatchewan.

Measuring success

- Develop **one** summary document (i.e., factsheet) of what's required to meet the regulatory requirements & associated timelines when adding a development on native prairie
- Provide the public with at least **four** formal opportunities to share feedback through an evaluation of PCAP informational events.
- Host **one** formal reception inviting key policy makers and government officials to learn about the value of prairie in Saskatchewan.
- Host a session themed around Responsible Land Use on Native Prairie at the **Prairie Conservation and Endangered Species Conference**.

Strategy

Support Ecosystem Goods and Services (EGS) research and knowledge transfer of values and benefits derived from native prairie in Saskatchewan and other jurisdictions.

Measuring success

- Host a session themed around Responsible Land Use on Native Prairie at the **Prairie Conservation and Endangered Species Conference**.
- Share current EGS research and information in at least **one** publication (print or online) **OR** at least **one** public event (i.e., NPAW or speaker series)

3. Native Prairie Ecosystem Management

Objective 2014-2018

Promote the importance of land management knowledge and adoption of practices that have a positive impact on biodiversity, species at risk, and prairie ecosystem health.

Strategies

Increase knowledge among native prairie land managers regarding the function of grazing management and the relationship between healthy prairie ecosystems and economic returns.

Promote access to balanced, evidence-based information and decision-making tools for native prairie land owners and managers through regular communication channels including newsletters and the website.

Measuring success

- Distribute at least **two articles** (print or electronic) to public with a focus on prairie land managers that addresses grazing management.
- Provide a display and engage with prairie land managers through at least **two** producer or land user workshops.

Strategy

Among stakeholders, increase knowledge and use of current and proposed data collection and monitoring methods and facilitate entry of data into applicable databases (range health, invasive species occurrences, species at risk occurrences).

Measuring success

- Increase comprehension of available monitoring methods through **one** prairie research forum for researchers working in species at risk and prairie conservation within Saskatchewan.
- Host at least **one** facilitated discussion among the partnership to share current and proposed native prairie species at risk monitoring and programming.

- Provide at least **one** article (print or online) on status of monitoring and reporting of range health or invasive species or species at risk on Saskatchewan's native prairie.

Strategy

Identify best practices to sustain resilient native prairie ecosystems that are able to support multiple species at risk, minimize threats of invasive species, maintain biodiversity, and withstand extreme weather events (such as droughts or floods).

Measuring success

- Ongoing task for 2016/17 Workplan

Appendix 1: 2015-16 SK PCAP Partnership

Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada – Science and Technology Branch
Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society
Ducks Unlimited Canada
Environment Canada – Canadian Wildlife Service
Ministry of Agriculture (SK)
Ministry of Environment (SK)
Ministry of Parks, Culture and Sport (SK) – Royal Saskatchewan Museum
Ministry of the Economy (SK)
Native Plant Society of Saskatchewan Inc.
Nature Conservancy of Canada
Nature Saskatchewan
Parks Canada – Grasslands National Park
Prairie Learning Centre
Prairie Wind & Silver Sage – Friends of Grasslands
Redberry Lake Biosphere Reserve Association Inc.
Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities
Saskatchewan Burrowing Owl Interpretative Centre
Saskatchewan Environmental Society
Saskatchewan Forage Council
Saskatchewan Research Council
Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association
Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation
SaskOutdoors
SaskPower
Society for Range Management – Prairie Parkland Chapter
University of Regina – Prairie Adaptation Research Collaborative
University of Saskatchewan – College of Agriculture and Bioresources
Wanuskewin Heritage Park
Water Security Agency
Western Development Museum

Appendix 2: 2015-16 Financial & In-Kind Support

Financial Support

Ducks Unlimited Canada

Ministry of Agriculture (SK)

Ministry of Environment (SK) – Fish and Wildlife Development Fund

Nature Saskatchewan

Parks Canada - Grasslands National Park

Saskatchewan Beef Industry Development Fund

SaskPower

University of Saskatchewan – College of Agriculture and Bioresources

Water Security Agency

In-Kind Support

Agriculture and Agri Food Canada – Science & Technology Branch

Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society

Ducks Unlimited Canada

Environment Canada – Canadian Wildlife Service

Ministry of Agriculture (SK)

Ministry of Environment (SK)

Ministry of Parks, Culture and Sport (SK) – Royal Saskatchewan Museum

Ministry of the Economy (SK)

Native Plant Society of Saskatchewan

Nature Conservancy of Canada

Nature Saskatchewan

Parks Canada – Grasslands National Park

Prairie Learning Centre

Prairie Wind & Silver Sage – Friends of Grasslands

Redberry Lake Biosphere Reserve Association

Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities

Saskatchewan Burrowing Owl Interpretive Centre

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