

# The Saskatchewan Prairie Conservation Action Plan

Annual Workplan 2018-2019



Saskatchewan  
Prairie Conservation  
Action Plan

## **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:

**Vision:** Healthy native prairie ecosystems as vital parts of our vibrant and strong communities.

### **Goals:**

- 1. Ecosystem Goal:** Native prairie ecosystem health and biodiversity are conserved and restored as part of a functioning landscape.
- 2. Economic Goal:** Sustainable uses of native prairie improve the livelihoods of Saskatchewan people.
- 3. Cultural Goal:** Native prairie is a valued part of our culture and identity as Saskatchewan people.

### **Strategic focus areas:**

In the 2014-2018 Framework\*, the Partnership identified three strategic focus areas to prioritize actions:

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

This 2018-19 Annual Workplan indicates what specific deliverables the Partnership will take in the last 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 2018-19 SK PCAP Annual Report, 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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Front cover photo: Mixed Grassland (Western Porcupine Grass -Northern Wheat Grass community) at Monet Pastures, by Diego Steinaker.

## Focus Areas: Strategies and Measuring Success

### 1. Native Prairie Education & Awareness

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

**1.1. 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.

#### 1.1. Measuring success

- 1.1.1. Produce and distribute **twelve** electronic newsletters
- 1.1.2. Prepare and distribute **two** news releases (for Native Prairie Appreciation Week, EG&S Week)
- 1.1.3. Curate web content on **one** website ([www.pcap-sk.org](http://www.pcap-sk.org)) while increasing interaction on social media (including Twitter, Facebook and Instagram).
- 1.1.4. Provide displays at **three** urban venues across Saskatchewan (including farmer's markets) and **two** relevant producer and land user workshops.
- 1.1.5. Provide **twelve** Native Prairie Speaker Series presentations via webinars and **two** presentations in rural communities in Species at Risk habitat, depending on funding.
- 1.1.6. Provide **four** articles in *Beef Business* magazine
- 1.1.7. Organize annual Native Prairie Appreciation Week events.
- 1.1.8. Distribute Species at Risk fact sheets broadly amongst the partners and the public.
- 1.1.9. Host one workshop before summer 2019 to assist in Species at Risk identification for on-the-ground practitioners.

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

**1.2. Measuring success**

- 1.2.1. Deliver *Adopt a Rancher* to **seven** schools
- 1.2.2. Deliver *Taking Action for Prairie* programming into **three** schools
- 1.2.3. Survey at least **70%** of students who participated in *Adopt a Rancher* and *Taking Action for Prairie* to determine their level of conservation knowledge pre- and post-participation.
- 1.2.4. Survey **all** the teachers who participated in *Adopt a Rancher* and *Taking Action for Prairie* to determine their level of interest and program impressions.
- 1.2.5. Provide Canadian Western Agribition with Agri-Ed programming through **five** days of class-specific **Pitch it for Pipits and Plovers** and **one** interactive booth display.
- 1.2.6. Participate in **one** external prairie and species at risk conservation education opportunity (i.e., Prairie Conservation and Endangered Species Conference).

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

**1.3. Measuring success**

- 1.3.1. Host **three** regular PCAP Partner meetings.
- 1.3.2. Coordinate **three** PCAP Executive Committee meetings.
- 1.3.3. Participate in **two** native prairie stakeholder meetings (i.e., South of the Divide Conservation Action Program Annual General Meeting, Saskatchewan Stock Growers Annual General Meeting).
- 1.3.4. Evaluate all 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.
- 1.3.5. Seek out an organization that can provide a First Nations perspective

## 2. Responsible Land Use on Native Prairie

**Objective:** 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.

**2.1. 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.

### 2.1. Measuring success

- 2.1.1. Host at least **one** facilitated discussion among the partnership to address current development and land-use issues.
- 2.1.2. Host at least **one** facilitated discussion on current native prairie quantification efforts in Saskatchewan.
- 2.1.3. 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.).

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

### 2.2. Measuring success

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

**2.3. Strategy:** Communicate best management practices, planning processes, policies and regulatory requirements for sustainable and responsible land uses of native prairie in Saskatchewan.

### 2.3. Measuring success

- 2.3.1. Collaborate with partners, species experts, landowners, and other conservation organizations to host **two** workshops and produce **two**

- workbooks outlining BMP's and habitat targets for the Chestnut-collared Longspur and Baird's Sparrow, dependent on HSP funding.
- 2.3.2. Work with partners to ensure distribution of all the completed workbooks.
  - 2.3.3. 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.
  - 2.3.4. 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.
  - 2.3.5. Provide the public with at least **four** formal opportunities to share feedback through an evaluation of PCAP informational events.
  - 2.3.6. Encourage a session themed around best management practices and responsible land use at the Prairie Conservation and Endangered Species Conference.

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

#### **2.4. Measuring success**

- 2.4.1. 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:** 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.

#### 3.1. Strategies:

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

#### 3.1. Measuring success

- 3.1.1. Collaborate with partners, species experts, landowners, and other conservation organizations to host **two** workshops and produce **two** workbooks outlining BMP's and habitat targets for the Chestnut-collared Longspur and Baird's Sparrow, dependent on HSP funding. Work with partners to ensure distribution of the workbooks.
- 3.1.2. Distribute at least **one article** (print or electronic) to public with a focus on prairie land managers that addresses grazing management.
- 3.1.3. Provide a display and engage with prairie land managers through at least **two** producer or land user workshops.

**3.2. 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).

#### 3.2. Measuring success

- 3.2.1. Increase comprehension of available monitoring methods through **one** prairie research forum for researchers working in species at risk and prairie conservation within Saskatchewan.



- 3.2.2. Host at least **one** facilitated discussion among the partnership to share current and proposed native prairie species at risk monitoring and programming.
- 3.2.3. Provide at least **one** article (printed or online) on status of monitoring and reporting of range health or invasive species or species at risk on Saskatchewan's native prairie.

**3.3. 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).

### **3.3. Measuring success**

- 3.3.1. Collaborate with partners, species experts, landowners, and other conservation organizations to host **two** workshops and produce **two** workbook outlining BMP's and habitat targets for the Chestnut-collared Longspur and Baird's Sparrow, dependent on HSP funding. Ensure distribution of the workbooks through the partners.

## **Appendix 1: 2017-18 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 Cattlemen's Association  
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  
South of the Divide Conservation Action Program Inc.  
University of Regina – Prairie Adaptation Research Collaborative  
University of Saskatchewan – College of Agriculture and Bioresources  
Water Security Agency

## **Appendix 2: 2018-19 Financial & In-Kind Support**

### **Financial Support**

Ducks Unlimited Canada  
Ministry of Agriculture (SK)  
Ministry of Environment (SK) – Fish and Wildlife Development Fund  
Parks Canada - Grasslands National Park  
Saskatchewan Cattlemen's Association  
SaskPower  
University of Saskatchewan – College of Agriculture and Bioresources

### **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 Energy and Resources (SK)  
Native Plant Society of Saskatchewan  
Nature Conservancy of Canada  
Nature Saskatchewan  
Parks Canada – Grasslands National Park  
Prairie Wind & Silver Sage – Friends of Grasslands  
Redberry Lake Biosphere Reserve Association  
Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities  
Saskatchewan Association of Watersheds  
Saskatchewan Burrowing Owl Interpretive Centre  
Saskatchewan Cattlemen's Association  
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  
South of the Divide Conservation Action Program Inc.  
University of Regina  
University of Saskatchewan – College of Agriculture and Bioresources  
Water Security Agency