

# The Saskatchewan Prairie Conservation Action Plan

Annual Workplan 2019-2020



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 2019-2020 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 2019-2020 Framework\*, the Partnership identified three strategic focus areas to prioritize actions:

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

This 2019-20 Annual Workplan indicates what specific deliverables the Partnership will take in the first year of the 2019-2020 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 2019-2020 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*.

## **Table of Contents**

### **Focus Areas: Strategies and Measuring Success**

<b>1. Native Prairie Awareness and Appreciation .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>2. Responsible Land Use on Native Prairie.....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>3. Native Prairie Ecosystem Management.....</b>	<b>8</b>

### **Appendices:**

<b>Appendix 1: 2019-20 SK PCAP Partnership.....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Appendix 2: 2019-20 Financial &amp; In-Kind Support.....</b>	<b>11</b>

Front cover photo: Tara Mulhern Davidson

# Focus Areas: Strategies and Measuring Success

## 1. Native Prairie Awareness and Appreciation

**1.1 Objective:** Increase awareness of the ecological, cultural and economic importance of native prairie and biodiversity including species at risk among students, general public, industry and policy makers.

**1.2.1. Strategy:** Gather evidence-based and traditional ecological, cultural and economic knowledge about native prairie, species at risk and all species issues. Develop this knowledge with key partners, including indigenous representation, and share this information broadly with partners, industry, indigenous communities and target key policymakers. 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.

### 1.3 Measuring success

- Produce and distribute **twelve** electronic newsletters
- Prepare and distribute **four** news releases (for Native Prairie Appreciation Week, PCAP Framework signing ceremony, NPRRW and EG&S Week)
- Curate web content on **one** website ([www.pcap-sk.org](http://www.pcap-sk.org)) while increasing interaction on social media (including Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and YouTube).
- Provide displays at **three** urban venues across Saskatchewan (including farmer's markets) and **two** relevant producer and land user workshops.
- Provide **twelve** Native Prairie Speaker Series presentations via webinars and **six** presentations in rural communities in Species at Risk habitat, depending on funding.
- Provide **five** articles in *Beef Business* magazine and one to a partner publication.

**1.2.2. Strategy:** Develop and provide Saskatchewan students with information about native prairie stewardship and biodiversity through education programs, such as Adopt a Rancher and Taking Action for Prairie, while also exploring new ways to share awareness.

### 1.3 Measuring success

- Deliver Adopt a Rancher to **eight** classes
- Deliver Taking Action for Prairie programming to **ten** classes
- 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.

- Survey all the teachers who participated in *Adopt a Rancher* and *Taking Action for Prairie* to determine their level of interest and program impressions.

**1.2.3 Strategy:** Provide urban and rural general public with information about native prairie stewardship and biodiversity through awareness programs such as social media, Native Prairie Speaker Series, Agribition, Native Prairie Appreciation Week and Ecological Goods and Services Week.

### 1.3 Measuring Success

- 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**.
- Organize annual Native Prairie Appreciation Week events, including booths at 4 urban markets and a pasture tour.
- Organize an Ecological Goods and Services Week in the Winter/Spring.

**1.2.4. Strategy:** Engage, build and maintain a positive relationship within the PCAP partnership that is inclusive of all native prairie stakeholders.

### 1.3. Measuring success

- Host **three** regular PCAP Partner meetings.
- Coordinate **three** PCAP Executive Committee meetings.
- 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).
- 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 the Steering Committee.
- Seek out an organization that can provide a First Nations perspective

## 2. Responsible Land Use on Native Prairie

**2.1. Objective:** Provide land users with balanced, evidence-based information about ecological, economic and cultural influences and promote beneficial management practices to sustain healthy native prairie and species at risk populations within a working landscape while mitigating adverse impact.

**2.2.1 Strategy:** Facilitate the identification and understanding of current types of development and land-uses of native prairie in Saskatchewan, and associated monitoring, management and risks of these developments.

### 2.3. Measuring success

- 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, etc.).
- Host at least **one** facilitated discussion on current native prairie quantification efforts in Saskatchewan.

**2.2.2. Strategy:** Engage and interact with key policy makers, stakeholders and the public about the value of native prairie as a working landscape in Saskatchewan.

### 2.3. Measuring success

- Provide the public with at least **four** formal opportunities to share feedback through an evaluation of PCAP informational events.
- Host the Native Prairie Restoration/Reclamation Workshop, providing special invitations to policy makers and stakeholders and a general invitation to the public to participate.
- Co-host a transboundary workshop held in Saskatchewan with the goal of sharing knowledge, resources, research and skills between those involved in native prairie conservation in Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Montana.
- Organize an Ecological Goods and Services Week in the Winter/Spring.

**2.2.3. Strategy:** Communicate to land users beneficial management practices, planning processes, policies and regulatory requirements for sustainable and responsible land uses of the mosaic of native prairie in Saskatchewan.

### 2.3. Measuring success

- Collaborate with partners, species experts, and other conservation organizations to produce workbooks outlining BMP's and habitat targets for the Eastern yellow-bellied racer, swift fox, Mormon metalmark and Monarch.

- Collaborate with partners, species experts, landowners, and other conservation organizations to host a workshop to discuss recommendations for multiple-species management considering conflicting recommendations for different SAR and develop a workplan that will synthesize/summarize conflicting recommendations from the various work plans into a single document and discuss recommendations for multi-species management.
- Work with partners to ensure distribution of all the completed workbooks.
- Provide the public with at least **four** formal opportunities to share feedback through an evaluation of PCAP informational events.

**2.2.4. Strategy:** Facilitate research and knowledge transfer about the values and benefits derived from native prairie as a working landscape in Saskatchewan and other jurisdictions.

### **2.3. Measuring success**

- 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).
- Organize an Ecological Goods and Services Week in the Winter/Spring.

### 3. Native Prairie Ecosystem Management

**3.1 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 including carbon sequestration and climate change.

**3.2.1. Strategy:** Increase knowledge among native prairie land managers regarding the function of disturbance processes (such as grazing and fire) and the relationship between healthy prairie ecosystems and economic returns.

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

**3.2.3 Strategy:** Develop new habitat identification tools for species at risk targeting land managers.

#### 3.3. Measuring success

- Collaborate with partners, species experts, and other conservation organizations to produce workbooks outlining BMP's and habitat targets for the Eastern yellow-bellied racer, swift fox, Mormon metalmark and Monarch.
- Collaborate with partners, species experts, landowners, and other conservation organizations to host a workshop to discuss recommendations for multiple-species management considering conflicting recommendations for different SAR and develop a workplan that will synthesize/summarize conflicting recommendations from the various work plans into a single document and discuss recommendations for multi-species management.
- Provide a display and engage with prairie land managers through at least **two** producer or land user workshops.

**3.2.4. 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).

#### 3.3. Measuring success

- 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 (printed or online) on status of monitoring and reporting of range health or invasive species or species at risk on Saskatchewan's native prairie.



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

### **3.3. Measuring success**

- Develop a hand-out about 'What You Can Do For Native Prairie'
- Provide a webinar on the role of prairie wetlands for landscape level climate change resilience

# Appendix 1: 2019-20 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 Energy and Resources (SK)  
Native Plant Society of Saskatchewan Inc.  
Nature Conservancy of Canada  
Nature Saskatchewan  
Parks Canada – Grasslands National Park  
Prairie Wind & Silver Sage – Friends of Grasslands  
Redberry Lake Biosphere Reserve Association Inc.  
Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities  
Saskatchewan Association of Watersheds  
Saskatchewan Burrowing Owl Interpretative Centre  
Saskatchewan Cattlemen’s Association  
Saskatchewan Environmental Society  
Saskatchewan Forage 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: 2019-20 Financial & In-Kind Support**

### **Financial Support**

Crescent Point Energy  
Ducks Unlimited Canada  
EcoFriendlySask  
Environment and Climate Change Canada – Habitat Stewardship Program  
Ministry of Agriculture (SK)  
Ministry of Environment (SK) – Fish and Wildlife Development Fund  
Parks Canada - Grasslands National Park  
Saskatchewan Cattlemen’s Association  
SaskEnergy  
SaskPower  
University of Saskatchewan – College of Agriculture and Bioresources  
Water Security Agency  
Wildlife Habitat Canada

### **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  
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Water Security Agency