

Annual Workplan 2021-2022



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 2019-2023 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 2019-2023 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 2021-22 Annual Workplan indicates what specific deliverables the Partnership will take in the third year of the 2019-2023 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 2021-2022 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: Caitlin Mroz-Sailer

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 **three** news releases (for Native Prairie Appreciation Week, NPRRW and EG&S Week)
- Curate web content on **one** website (www.pcap-sk.org) while increasing interaction on social media (including Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and YouTube).
- Provide displays to **at least one** urban venue across Saskatchewan (including farmer's markets) and **two** relevant producer and land user workshops, as long as these events occur.
- Provide **twelve** Native Prairie Speaker Series presentations via webinars and **three to six** presentations in rural communities in Species at Risk habitat, depending on funding and gathering restrictions.
- 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 at least **three** classes. School closures and restrictions in the Spring 2021 have reduced our ability deliver the regular AAR program and we are unsure if field trips will be allowed in the 2021-22 school year so continuing virtual delivery is an option.
- Deliver Taking Action for Prairie programming to **six** classes, if schools return to regular status in the fall.

- 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**, as long as the event occurs in 2021. If Agribition does not occur, we will increase awareness of the “Pitch It for Pipits and Plovers” and “Whose Nest Is This” videos.
- Organize annual Native Prairie Appreciation Week virtual events, as the Covid-19 pandemic prevents PCAP from doing any in-person events.
- Organize an Ecological Goods and Services Week in the Winter/Spring 2022, with 6-10 webinars.

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 **two** 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, if they occur).
- Continue to invite partners to contribute to the Partner Spotlight section of the eNewsletter every month.
- 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.).

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.
- 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

- We will collaborate with partners, species experts, landowners, and other conservation organizations to review recommendations for multiple-species management in the Multi-Species at Risk guide.
 - 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

- We will collaborate with partners, species experts, landowners, and other conservation organizations to review the Multi Species at Risk Guide
- Provide a display and engage with prairie land managers through at least **one** producer or land user workshops, which may be moved online if necessary, because of gathering restrictions.
- Provide at least **one** article (printed or online) on grassland disturbances or decision-making tools for native prairie landowners.

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 see if there's opportunity to have a province-wide vegetation database.

- Provide at least **one** article (printed or online) on status of monitoring and reporting of range health, riparian health 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

- We will collaborate with partners, species experts, landowners, and other conservation organizations to review the Multi Species at Risk Guide
- Share any partner initiatives that help identify best practices to sustain resilient native prairie ecosystems.

3.2.6 Strategy: Facilitate discussion, as well as gather and share information about prairie carbon sequestration and carbon release from prairie conversion.

3.3. Measuring success

- Share current research and information on carbon sequestration or carbon release from prairie conversion in at least **one** publication (print or online) **OR** at least **one** public event (i.e., speaker series).

Appendix 1: 2021-22 SK PCAP Partnership

Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada – Science and Technology Branch
Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society
Ducks Unlimited Canada
Environment Canada – Canadian Wildlife Service
Meewasin Valley Authority
Ministry of Agriculture (SK)
Ministry of Environment (SK)
Ministry of Energy and Resources (SK)
Ministry of Parks, Culture and Sport (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 Bison Association
Saskatchewan Burrowing Owl Interpretative Centre
Saskatchewan Cattlemen’s Association
Saskatchewan Environmental Society
Saskatchewan Forage Council
Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association
Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation
SaskEnergy
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

Appendix 2: 2021-22 Financial & In-Kind Support

Financial Support

Ducks Unlimited Canada
EcoFriendlySask
Environment and Climate Change Canada – Priority Places
Ministry of Agriculture (SK)
Ministry of Environment (SK) – Fish and Wildlife Development Fund
Parks Canada - Grasslands National Park
Pembina Pipelines
Saskatchewan Cattlemen’s Association
SaskEnergy
SaskPower
University of Regina
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
Meewasin Valley Authority
Ministry of Agriculture (SK)
Ministry of Environment (SK)
Ministry of Energy and Resources (SK)
Ministry of Parks, Culture and Sport (SK)
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