

Annual Workplan 2023-2024



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 2019-2023 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 2023-24 Annual Workplan indicates what specific deliverables the Partnership will take in the fifth 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 2023-2024 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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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, Native Prairie Restoration/Reclamation Workshop 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 two** 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 **four** in-person presentations in rural communities in species at risk habitat.
- 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 **five** classes.
- Deliver Taking Action for Prairie programming to at least **eight** 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 one webinar, and the regular NPAW activities (social media photo contest, youth poster contest, and farmers' market booths).
- Organize an Ecological Goods and Services Week in the Winter/Spring 2025, with **five** 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 at least **two** 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 Association Annual General Meeting).
- Continue participating in the Transboundary Grassland Partnership Core Team and Workshop planning committee.
- 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 additional organizations 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.
- Contribute to the planning committee for the Transboundary Grassland Partnership Workshop, to ensure a diversity of topics and perspectives.
- Plan and carry out the 2024 Native Prairie Restoration/Reclamation Workshop
- Organize an Ecological Goods and Services Week in the Winter/Spring 2024.

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

- Finalize the Multi-Species at Risk guide.
- Plan **two** in-person workshops with partners, to discuss beneficial management practices, ranch planning, etc.
- 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 Ecological Goods and Services 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 March.
- Participate in the Living Labs – Central Prairies Knowledge and Tech Transfer Group

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

- Engage with prairie land managers through at least **two** producer or land user workshops.
- Provide at least **one** article (printed or online) on grassland disturbances or decision-making tools for native prairie landowners.
- Continue to participate on Canadian Forage and Grassland Association's Habitat and Biodiversity Tool steering committee.

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

- Continue collaboration with the working group to update the Range Health Assessment Protocol.

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

- Finalize 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: 2023-24 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 Aboriginal Land Technicians
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 Stock Growers Foundation
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: 2023-24 Financial & In-Kind Support

Financial Support

Canadian Forage and Grasslands Association
Ducks Unlimited Canada
Environment and Climate Change Canada – Priority Places
Ministry of Agriculture (SK)
Ministry of Environment (SK) – Fish and Wildlife Development Fund
North American Helium
Nutrien
Parks Canada - Grasslands National Park
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 and Climate Change 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
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Parks Canada – Grasslands National Park
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Society for Range Management – Prairie Parkland Chapter

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Water Security Agency