

The Saskatchewan Prairie Conservation Action Plan Partnership

Annual Workplan 2012

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 acts as the context for annual work planning.

The 2009-2013 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 2009-2013 Framework*, the Partnership also identifies five areas of strategic action to meet these Goals and work towards the Vision. These are:

- **At Home on the Prairie:** Connecting to Native Prairie
- **Prospering with Prairie:** Sustainable Land Use and Development
- **Caring for Prairie:** Managing Invasive Alien Plant Species
- **Accounting for Prairie:** Valuing Ecological Goods and Services
- **A Working Prairie:** Grazing Management in Prairie Ecosystems

This 2012 Annual Workplan indicates what specific actions the Partnership will take in year four of the Framework working towards our Vision, Goals, and Objectives relevant to each of the five focus areas. A new Workplan will be developed in 2013, incorporating new ideas, new understanding, and continuously building toward successful prairie conservation.

This Workplan will be updated mid-year and reported on at year end through the 2012 SK PCAP Update available on the SK PCAP website. The greyed areas are actions that the focus group will complete in subsequent workplans.

* Please refer to the SK PCAP website at www.pcap-sk.org under *Action Plans* for a copy of the 2009-2013 Framework.

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At Home on the Prairie

Connecting to Native Prairie

Objective 2009-2013

More people are aware of and appreciate native prairie ecosystems and support and are engaged in sustainable, prairie related activities.

Measuring success 2009-2013

- Comparison of knowledge, attitudes and behaviours in people who have participated in prairie education programs vs. those who have not
- Target-group appreciation of prairie and support for prairie conservation
- Educational partnerships formed by promoting prairie-related activities
- Visitors to prairie sites promoted by the PCAP

Strategies

I. Continue to educate Saskatchewan youth and teachers about prairie ecosystems and prairie species at risk.

actions 2012	deliverables	involved partners
a. Finalize programming for the new action-orientated education program, <i>Taking Action For Prairie</i> and pilot 2 weeks of programming in the Fall to 300-350 Grade 6-8 students and their teachers at 10-20 urban and rural schools in Regina, SK. Provide a pre-delivery teacher information session through a luncheon where teacher resources will be handed out and reviewed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Number of schools visited➤ Number of students & teachers engaged through program➤ Teacher / student evaluation/feedback➤ Web Portal on SK PCAP website for action project updates	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- PCAP staff (lead)- Ducks Unlimited Canada- Nature Saskatchewan- Prairie Learning Centre- Royal Saskatchewan Museum- Saskatchewan Environmental Society- Saskatchewan Ministry of Education- Saskatchewan Watershed Authority
b. Develop new education program, <i>Adopt a Rancher</i> , which will connect south-west Grade 10 students (including First Nations students) with a local rancher to learn first-hand about the importance of native prairie stewardship, and the important role they can play in native prairie conservation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Hire education consultant➤ Develop student, teacher and rancher guides➤ Contact potential ranchers	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- PCAP staff (lead)- Nature Conservancy of Canada- Nature Saskatchewan- Prairie Learning Centre- Provider Pals- Saskatchewan Ministry of Education- Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association- Treat 4 Student Success Program

II. Target communication about and promotion of native prairie to an urban audience.

actions 2012	deliverables	involved partners
<p>c. Coordinate Native Prairie Appreciation Week (NPAW) 2012, the third week in June dedicated to increasing awareness and appreciation of native prairie, in Saskatchewan residents.</p> <p>The SK PCAP office will focus on increasing awareness of NPAW, targeting urban residents and students, through News Releases, a promotional poster, and booths at local Farmer's Markets, garden centres and during National Aboriginal Day. Partner workshops and events will also be held in conjunction with NPAW.</p> <p>Plans for 2013 will also begin as next year will mark 15 years for NPAW.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Number of News Releases distributed to media ➤ Number of promotional posters distributed ➤ Number of events attended with promotional booths ➤ Number of SK PCAP and partner materials distributed ➤ Identification of partners workshops and events held in conjunction 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - PCAP staff (lead) - Ducks Unlimited Canada - Meewasin Valley Authority - Nature Conservancy of Canada - Native Plant Society of Saskatchewan - Nature Saskatchewan - Parks Canada - Grasslands National Park - Prairie Learning Centre - Royal Saskatchewan Museum - Saskatchewan Watershed Authority - Society for Range Management – Prairie Parkland Chapter

III. Promote and provide opportunities to participate in prairie-related activities.

actions 2012	deliverables	involved partners
<p>d. Continue to update the SK PCAP website with current information for use by partners, technical delivery staff, urban/rural residents, teachers, students, consultants, etc.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Number of visitors and hits to website ➤ Number of countries visiting the website ➤ Identification of traffic source ➤ Identification of the top five pages visited 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - PCAP staff (lead)
<p>e. Develop and distribute a monthly PCAP electronic newsletter to promote communication among Partners, affiliates, and other stakeholders/organizations/individuals including partner and affiliate updates, research, upcoming events and prairie-related initiatives. Each issue to be posted on the SK PCAP website.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Number of newsletters distributed ➤ Number of contacts receiving the newsletter 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - PCAP staff (lead)

actions 2012	deliverables	involved partners
<p>f. Deliver 6 luncheon presentations targeted towards technical delivery staff from October 2012 to March 2013, alternating between Saskatoon, Regina (potential restaurant setting) and Swift Current, SK.</p> <p>Deliver 6 presentations targeted towards urban/rural residents, producers, naturalists, hunters and First Nations youth held in conjunction with partner/associate events.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Number of individuals in attendance ➤ Number of individuals viewing live webcast ➤ Number of individuals viewing archived presentations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - PCAP staff (lead) - Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations - Friends of Wascana Marsh - Heritage Saskatchewan - Nature Saskatchewan - Friends of the Royal Saskatchewan Museum - Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture - Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association - Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation - University of Saskatchewan – College of Agriculture & Bioresources

Prospering with Prairie

Sustainable Land Use and Development

Objective 2009-2013

PCAP Partners identify, adopt, implement, and promote best management practices, planning processes, policies and/or regulatory requirements, important for the conservation and sustainable use of native prairie in Saskatchewan.

Measuring success 2009-2013

Native prairie – its extent, functions, and biodiversity – is conserved or restored as part of land use and development activities in Saskatchewan.

Strategies

I. Increase awareness of how Partners currently conserve and restore native prairie, and document progress in this area.

action 2012	deliverables	involved partners
a. Annually prepare and distribute a dynamic inventory of Partner programs, best management practices, planning processes, policies, and regulatory requirements that affect or influence the conservation and sustainable use of native prairie.	➤ 2012 inventory to SK PCAP Partners and interested stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) – Agri-Environment Services Branch - Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society - Ducks Unlimited Canada - Environment Canada (EC) – Canadian Wildlife Service - Nature Conservancy of Canada - Nature Saskatchewan - Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture - Saskatchewan Ministry of Energy and Resources - Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment - SaskPower - Saskatchewan Watershed Authority

II. Exchange ideas and new knowledge with Partners and other stakeholders about ways to successfully conserve and restore native prairie at each stage of a land use or development activity.

actions 2012	deliverables	involved partners
b. Meet to discuss and identify strengths and weaknesses of programs, best management practices, planning processes, policies, and regulatory requirements that affect or influence the conservation and sustainable use of native prairie.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Minimum of two Prospering with Prairie Focus Group (PPFG) meetings ➤ A summary of 2012 discussions and suggested improvements (prepared by PPFG) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - AAFC – Agri-Environment Services Branch - Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society - Ducks Unlimited Canada - EC – Canadian Wildlife Service - Nature Conservancy of Canada - Nature Saskatchewan - Redberry Lake Biosphere Reserve Association - Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture - Saskatchewan Ministry of Energy and Resources - Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment - SaskPower - Saskatchewan Watershed Authority
c. Disseminate information regarding new and innovative technologies, best management practices, planning process, policies and regulatory requirements to partner organizations through partner representatives and newsletters.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Prepare articles for inclusion in SK PCAP newsletter (1-4 articles) ➤ Feedback to Partner organizations ➤ Partners incorporate learning and new information into their activities on or with native prairie 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - AAFC - Agri-Environment Services Branch - Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society - Ducks Unlimited Canada - EC – Canadian Wildlife Service - Nature Saskatchewan - Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture - Saskatchewan Ministry of Energy and Resources - Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment - SaskPower - Saskatchewan Watershed Authority

Caring for Prairie

Managing Invasive Alien Plant Species

Objective 2009-2013

Prairie land managers understand the importance of managing alien plant species on the prairie landscape and Saskatchewan has a coordinated approach to invasive alien plant species management.

Measuring success 2009-2013

- Target-audience knowledge of invasive alien plant issues
- Collaborative invasive alien plant management initiatives

Strategies

I. Educate public and private land managers about the threats of invasive alien plants to native prairie.

action 2012	deliverables	involved partners
a. Develop and promote educational activities and materials about invasive alien plants for use within existing PCAP education and information programs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Number of activities developed and delivered➤ Number of people reached	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Nature Conservancy of Canada- Native Plant Society of Saskatchewan- Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture- The Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities

II. Implement collaborative Invasive Alien Plant Species prevention and control measures.

action 2012	deliverables	involved partners
b. Support the Saskatchewan Invasive Species Council by providing technical advice and technical support.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Number of Partners involved in the Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- AAFC – Semiarid Prairie Agricultural Research Centre- Nature Conservancy of Canada- Native Plant Society of Saskatchewan- Prairie Adaptation Research Collaborative (UofR)- Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture- Saskatchewan Research Council

action 2012	deliverables	involved partners
c. Participate in Saskatchewan Invasive Species Council planning and priority setting exercises.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Number of SK PCAP Partners and other stakeholders participating ➤ Number of exercises underway 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - AAFC – Semiarid Prairie Agricultural Research Centre - Nature Conservancy of Canada - Native Plant Society of Saskatchewan - Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture - Saskatchewan Research Council

III. Monitor the occurrence of alien invasive plants in the Prairie Ecoregion.

action 2012	deliverables	involved partners
d. Begin development of a coordinated weed monitoring standard, procedure and program.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Number of organizations participating in process 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Native Plant Society of Saskatchewan - Nature Conservancy of Canada - Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture - The Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities

Accounting for Prairie

Valuing Ecological Goods and Services

Objective 2009-2013

More people are aware of the ecological goods and services provided by native prairie ecosystems and begin to account for them in decision making.

Measuring success 2009-2013

- Target-group awareness of native prairie ecological goods and services [EGS] and threats to them
- EGS-based programs that support prairie conservation
- Acres of prairie influenced by EGS-based programs

Strategies

I. Communicate to target groups about the ecological goods and services provided by native prairie.

actions 2012	deliverables	involved partners
a. Identify examples of people valuing EGS in Saskatchewan for use in marketing and educational materials.	➤ Distribution of marketing and educational materials	- Ducks Unlimited Canada - Prairie Trust - Saskatchewan Watershed Authority - Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation
b. Produce an annual report on the state of Saskatchewan's natural capital and the threats to it, including habitats important to Species at Risk. This will be based in part on the findings of the Prospering with Prairie Focus Group.	➤ Distribution of report	- Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society - Ducks Unlimited Canada - Saskatchewan Forage Council - Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture
c. Develop and distribute educational materials/programs about EGS targeted towards students, educational institutions, government, industry, special interest groups, urban/rural residents, RM's/SARM/SUMA, and planners. Materials will also highlight EGS in relation to	➤ Distribution of materials to target groups ➤ Produce at least one article in the SK PCAP newsletter annually	- Ducks Unlimited Canada - Prairie Trust

actions 2012	deliverables	involved partners
Species at Risk habitats. These efforts will utilize existing Partner marketing and education programs where feasible.	➤ Develop a fact sheet for the SK PCAP website	

II. Identify and communicate to Partners the program and policy options that support the consideration and maintenance of ecological goods and services.

actions 2012	deliverables	involved partners
d. Collaborate with Prospering with Prairie Focus Group to review programs, policies and legislation to identify those that place natural capital and ecological goods and services at risk.	➤ Completion of reviews	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society - Ducks Unlimited Canada - Nature Conservancy of Canada - Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture - Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation

A Working Prairie

Grazing Management in Prairie Ecosystems

Objective 2009-2013

Increased land manager knowledge and adoption of grazing management practices that benefit both prairie ecosystems and economic returns, improved understanding of current range health and range health trends in Saskatchewan, and improved scientific understanding of the role of grazing management in prairie ecosystem health and biodiversity.

Measuring success 2009-2013

- Public and private land manager knowledge of best grazing management practices and their benefits
- Coverage and frequency of range health monitoring
- New knowledge of relationship between grazing management and prairie ecosystems

Strategies

I. Communicate with public and private grazing land managers about grazing management practices and their benefits.

actions 2012	deliverables	involved partners
a. Assist in planning the 2012 Society for Range Management – Prairie Parkland Chapter's Workshop & Tour held out of Saskatoon, SK, in conjunction with Native Prairie Appreciation Week 2012.	➤ Workshop attendance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Society for Range Management - Prairie Parkland Chapter (lead) - AAFC – Agri-Environment Services Branch - Ducks Unlimited Canada - Nature Saskatchewan - PCAP - Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture - Saskatchewan Watershed Authority
b. Provide information on the negative ecological impacts on feeding tame hay or green feed on native pasture.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Newsletter Article ➤ Topic as part of a field tour 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Saskatchewan Watershed Authority (lead) - AAFC – Agri-Environment Services Branch - Provincial Council of ADD Boards - Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture

II. Facilitate integrated approaches to program and policy development related to grazing management.

actions 2012	deliverables	involved partners
c. Review existing educational material available to determine if there is a need to create a new learning experience.	➤ Working group established among Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ducks Unlimited Canada (lead) - Saskatchewan Forage Council (lead) - AAFC – Agri-Environment Services Branch - Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment - Society of Range Management – Prairie Parkland Chapter - Saskatchewan Watershed Authority

III. Improve range health aggregated data storage and sharing.

actions 2012	deliverables	involved partners
d. Train agency staff and encourage use of the standardized database for health assessment data	➤ 2 training workshops on how to use the database	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Saskatchewan Research Council (lead) - Saskatchewan Watershed Authority (lead) - AAFC – Agri-Environment Services Branch - Ducks Unlimited Canada - Nature Conservancy of Canada - Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture - Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment
e. Health Assessment database is complete and operational	➤ Database posted on SK PCAP website	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - PCAP staff (lead)

IV. Coordinate comprehensive and standardized range health data collection.

actions 2012	deliverables	involved partners
f. Promote buy-in from all Partners to use a standardized system for rangeland assessment and data storing, supported by the managers and field staff from each SK PCAP Partner agency.	➤ Letters to each Partner to promote this action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - AAFC – Agri-Environment Services Branch - Saskatchewan Watershed Authority

actions 2012	deliverables	involved partners
g. Conduct training sessions for SK PCAP partner agency staff on the eco-site description guide.	➤ One video conference	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Saskatchewan Research Council (lead) - AAFC – Agri-Environment Services Branch - Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture - Saskatchewan Watershed Authority

v. Improve our knowledge of relationships between grazing management and wildlife populations.

actions 2012	deliverables	involved partners
h. Hold a forum for Partners and other agencies to discuss biodiversity issues, focusing on species at risk, and exchange information between research scientists and grazing managers.	➤ Attendance at workshop/forum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Parks Canada - Grasslands National Park (lead) - AAFC – Agri-Environment Services Branch - EC – Canadian Wildlife Service - Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture - Saskatchewan Watershed Authority

Appendix 1: 2012-2013 Core & Program Support

Core Funding Support

Beef Industry Development Fund

Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture

Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment

Partner Support

- Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada – Agri-Environment Services Branch**
- Ducks Unlimited Canada***
- Nature Conservancy of Canada**
- Nature Saskatchewan***
- Parks Canada – Grasslands National Park*
- Prairie Learning Centre**
- Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture***
- Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment – Fish and Wildlife Development Fund*
- Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association**
- Saskatchewan Watershed Authority***
- Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation**
- SaskPower*
- Society for Range Management – Prairie Parkland Chapter**
- University of Regina*
- University of Saskatchewan – College of Agriculture and Bioresources***

** cash); ** in-kind; *** cash & in-kind*

Program Support

- Beef Industry Development Fund*
- Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations**
- Friends of the Royal Saskatchewan Museum**
- Friends of Wascana Marsh**
- Government of Canada*
- Heritage Saskatchewan**
- Horned Cattle Purchases Fund*
- Provider Pals**
- Saskatchewan Ministry of Education**
- Treaty 4 Student Success Program**

** cash); ** in-kind; *** cash & in-kind*