



The Saskatchewan Prairie Conservation Action Plan Partnership

Annual Workplan 2009

Introduction

The Prairie Conservation Action Plan 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 2009 Annual Workplan states what specific actions the Partnership will take in year one of the Framework to work towards our Vision, our Goals, and the Objectives relevant to each of the five focus areas. The Workplan will be updated mid-year and reported on at year end.

A new Workplan will be developed each year, incorporating new ideas, new understanding, and continuously building toward successful prairie conservation.

Table of Contents

At Home on the Prairie: Connecting to Native Prairie	1
Prospering with Prairie: Sustainable Land Use and Development	4
Caring for Prairie: Managing Invasive Alien Plant Species	7
Accounting for Prairie: Valuing Ecological Goods and Services	10
A Working Prairie: Grazing Management in Prairie Ecosystems.....	12
Appendix 1: Core and Program Support	12

Cover Photo by Nature Saskatchewan.

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 about prairie ecosystems and prairie species at risk.

actions 2009	deliverables	involved partners
a. Deliver Eco-Extravaganza (Eco-X) to 600-800 Grades 1-6 students at 10-16 rural elementary schools in the areas around Grasslands National Park.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Number of schools visited ➤ Number of students reached through program ➤ Teacher / student evaluations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - PCAP staff (lead) - Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada – Agri-Environment Services Branch - Ducks Unlimited Canada - Nature Saskatchewan - Parks Canada - Grasslands National Park of Canada - Royal Saskatchewan Museum - Saskatchewan Burrowing Owl Interpretive Centre - Saskatchewan Watershed Authority

actions 2009	deliverables	involved partners
b. Deliver the Owls & Cows Tour program of the program to 3,000-3,500 Grades 3-6 students at 30-50 elementary schools in the Moosomin, Yorkton, and Kamsack areas and 1-5 Hutterite colonies in the Grasslands National Park area.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Number of schools visited ➤ Number of students reached through program ➤ Teacher / student evaluations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - PCAP staff (lead) - Parks Canada - Grasslands National Park of Canada - Saskatchewan Burrowing Owl Interpretive Centre - Saskatchewan Watershed Authority
c. Develop and distribute a pilot survey to teachers and students 6 months following the delivery of Eco-X and Owls & Cows in 2009 to evaluate retention of material presented.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Survey development ➤ Distribution of survey ➤ Analysis of survey results 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - PCAP staff (lead) - Parks Canada - Grasslands National Park of Canada

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

actions 2009	deliverables	involved partners
d. Develop a communications plan to link prairie issues to an urban audience.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Identification of target audiences ➤ Key messages ➤ Identification of Partners and existing programs with similar mandate to explore possibility of collaboration ➤ Implementation strategy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - PCAP (lead) - Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada – Agri-Environment Services Branch - Ducks Unlimited Canada - Nature Saskatchewan - Parks Canada - Grasslands National Park of Canada - Prairie Learning Centre - Royal Saskatchewan Museum - Saskatchewan Burrowing Owl Interpretive Centre - Saskatchewan Environmental Society - Saskatchewan Watershed Authority
e. Initiate planning for a 2010 “prairie festival” during Native Prairie Appreciation Week that is inclusive of the general public and incorporates cultural activities and local products related to prairie.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Identification of partners and level of involvement ➤ Identification of sponsors ➤ Festival agenda 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada – Agri-Environment Services Branch - Parks Canada - Grasslands National Park of Canada - Royal Saskatchewan Museum - Saskatchewan Watershed Authority

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

actions 2009	deliverables	involved partners
f. Redesign PCAP website to contain new information and engagement tools aimed at teachers, students, and the general public.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Number of new items/activities posted on website➤ Number of hits per month on the new website	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- PCAP staff (lead)- Parks Canada - Grasslands National Park of Canada- Royal Saskatchewan Museum
g. Develop and distribute a PCAP virtual newsletter to promote communication among Partners, including upcoming events and prairie-related initiatives.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Distribution list➤ Number of hits on website	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- PCAP staff (lead)

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 2009	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.	➤ 2009 inventory to PCAP Partners and interested stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada – Agri-Environment Services Branch- Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society- Ducks Unlimited Canada- Environment Canada- Ministry of Agriculture- Ministry of Energy and Resources- Ministry of Environment- Nature Conservancy of Canada- Nature Saskatchewan- 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 2009	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 2009 discussions and suggested improvements (prepared by PPFG) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada – Agri-Environment Services Branch - Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society - Ducks Unlimited Canada - Environment Canada - Ministry of Agriculture - Ministry of Energy and Resources - Ministry of Environment - Nature Conservancy of Canada - Nature Saskatchewan - SaskPower - Saskatchewan Watershed Authority
c. Partner representatives relay feedback, as necessary, to Partner organizations for consideration.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Feedback to Partner organizations ➤ Partners incorporate learning and new information (annual inventory tracks progress) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada – Agri-Environment Services Branch - Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society - Ducks Unlimited Canada - Environment Canada - Ministry of Agriculture - Ministry of Energy and Resources - Ministry of Environment - Nature Saskatchewan - SaskPower - Saskatchewan Watershed Authority
d. Prepare and distribute an annual newsletter to Partners, highlighting updates, new information and technology, issues and successes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 2009 newsletter to Partners 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada – Agri-Environment Services Branch - Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society - Ducks Unlimited Canada - Ministry of Agriculture - Ministry of Energy and Resources - Ministry of Environment - Nature Saskatchewan - SaskPower - Saskatchewan Watershed Authority
e. Establish/develop/ investigate links with non-partner stakeholders, and promote ways to successfully conserve and restore native prairie, during the life-cycle of a land use or development activity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 2009 inventory and newsletter to interested non-partner stakeholders ➤ Meeting with interested non-partner stakeholders to discuss the PPFG objective 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada – Agri-Environment Services Branch - Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society - Ducks Unlimited Canada - Ministry of Agriculture - Ministry of Energy and Resources - Ministry of Environment - Nature Saskatchewan - SaskPower - Saskatchewan Watershed Authority

III. Assist Partnership with monitoring and communicating trends in native prairie conservation.

actions 2009	deliverables	involved partners
f. Report on all native prairie altered or broken during the year, related to PPFG Partner activities.	➤ PPFG's data on 2009 loss of native prairie, provided to PCAP at year end	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ducks Unlimited Canada - Environment Canada - Ministry of Agriculture - Ministry of Energy and Resources - Ministry of Environment - Nature Saskatchewan - Saskatchewan Watershed Authority
g. Work with other Focus Groups, and possibly other stakeholders, to develop a plan to estimate and report on the amount and distribution of remaining native prairie, and how it is being used.	➤ A plan for conducting this spatial analysis that includes data sources, methods, timelines, lead agencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - PCAP staff (lead) - Ducks Unlimited Canada - Ministry of Agriculture - Environment Canada - Ministry of Energy and Resources - Nature Conservancy of Canada - Nature Saskatchewan - 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 2009	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">- Ministry of Agriculture- Nature Conservancy of Canada- Native Plant Society of Saskatchewan

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

action 2009	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">- Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada – Semiarid Prairie Agricultural Research Centre- Ministry of Agriculture- Nature Conservancy of Canada- Native Plant Society of Saskatchewan- Prairie Adaptation Research Collaborative (UofR)- Saskatchewan Research Council

action 2009	deliverables	involved partners
c. Participate in Saskatchewan Invasive Species Council planning and priority setting exercises.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Number of PCAP Partners and other stakeholders participating ➤ Number of exercises underway 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada – Semiarid Prairie Agricultural Research Centre - Ministry of Agriculture - Nature Conservancy of Canada - Native Plant Society of Saskatchewan - Saskatchewan Research Council
d. Host an invasive alien plant technical workshop to discuss ongoing initiatives and identify collaboration opportunities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Attendance at workshop 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada – Semiarid Prairie Agricultural Research Centre - Nature Conservancy of Canada - Native Plant Society of Saskatchewan - Saskatchewan Research Council
e. Provide information on certification programs for hay and native seed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Documentation and feasibility analysis of similar existing programs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada – Semiarid Prairie Agricultural Research Centre

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

action 2009	deliverables	involved partners
f. 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"> - Ministry of Agriculture - Native Plant Society of Saskatchewan - Nature Conservancy of Canada

IV. Coordinate research and development activities.

action 2009	deliverables	involved partners
g. Facilitate and advocate invasive alien plant research activities (e.g., biological controls, replacement species)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Invasive alien plant research activities, relevant to prairie systems (a) underway and (b) completed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada – Semiarid Prairie Agricultural Research Centre

h. Establish priorities for R&D activities for research agency consideration.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Identification of what is needed to increase effort ➤ Development of a list of priority species for research 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada – Semiarid Prairie Agricultural Research Centre
---	---	--

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 2009	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
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 (SAR).	➤ Distribution of report	- Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society - Ducks Unlimited Canada - Saskatchewan Forage Council
c. Create and distribute educational material and programs about EGS targeted to each of the following: school children; educational institutions; government; industry; special interest groups; urban; rural; RM's/SARM/SUMA; planners. Materials will also highlight EGS in SAR habitats. These efforts will utilize existing Partner marketing and education programs where feasible.	➤ Distribution of materials to target groups	- Ducks Unlimited Canada - Prairie Trust

actions 2009	deliverables	involved partners
d. Assist with the Saskatchewan EGS workshop to educate and to stimulate ideas and policy / program development.	➤ Attendance at workshop	- Ducks Unlimited Canada - Nature Conservancy of Canada - Prairie Trust - University of Saskatchewan – College of Agriculture & Bioresources
e. Conduct baseline survey of awareness and practices, evaluate results, and adjust strategies where needed.	➤ Completion of survey	- Ducks Unlimited Canada - Prairie Trust

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

actions 2009	deliverables	involved partners
f. Develop a method to annually survey / measure / track landowners, industry, planners, and government's inclusion of EGS in their decision making processes and land use planning. This will include work in areas with Species at Risk.	➤ Implementation of tracking system	- Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society - Ducks Unlimited Canada
g. Review programs, policies and legislation to identify those that place natural capital and ecological goods and services at risk. This will include EGS from habitats important to Species at Risk.	➤ Completion of reviews	- Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society - Ducks Unlimited Canada - Nature Conservancy of Canada

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 2009	deliverables	involved partners
a. Assist in planning Native Prairie Appreciation Week Tour in the Moose Jaw area for June 2009.	➤ Workshop attendance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ducks Unlimited Canada (lead) - Society for Range Management (lead) - Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada – Agri-Environment Services Branch - Ministry of Agriculture - Moose Jaw River Watershed Stewards - Nature Conservancy of Canada - Nature Saskatchewan - PCAP - Saskatchewan Watershed Authority
b. Deliver a PFRA Patron day in the Southwest, focusing on pasture management.	➤ Workshop attendance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada – Agri-Environment Services Branch (lead) - Ministry of Agriculture - Saskatchewan Watershed Authority

actions 2009	deliverables	involved partners
c. Assist with Semiarid Prairie Agricultural Research Centre Field Day in Swift Current to showcase grazing and forage research in summer of 2009.	➤ Workshop attendance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada - Semiarid Prairie Agricultural Research Centre (lead) - Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada – Agri-Environment Services Branch - Ministry of Agriculture - Saskatchewan Watershed Authority
d. Explore options to reprint popular, out-of-print, producer-friendly publications. Seek funding from outside sources to reprint in 2010.	➤ Prioritized list of out-of-print publications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Saskatchewan Watershed Authority (lead) - Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada – Agri-Environment Services Branch - Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada - Semiarid Prairie Agricultural Research Centre - Ministry of Agriculture - Saskatchewan Forage Council - Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association

II. Facilitate integrated approaches to program and policy development related to grazing management. *(no action in 2009)*

III. Improve range health aggregated data storage and sharing.

actions 2009	deliverables	involved partners
e. Examine the logistics of developing a standardized database.	➤ Working group established among Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Saskatchewan Watershed Authority (lead) - Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada – Agri-Environment Services Branch - Ducks Unlimited Canada - Ministry of Agriculture - Ministry of Environment - Nature Conservancy of Canada - Saskatchewan Research Council

IV. Coordinate comprehensive and standardized range health data collection.

actions 2009	deliverables	involved partners
f. Promote buy-in from all Partners to use a standardized system for native rangeland assessment, supported by the managers and field staff from each Partner agency.	➤ Letters to each Partner to promote this action	- PCAP staff (lead)
g. Conduct field days for PCAP Partner field staff to provide training in the new ecosite descriptions at several locations in July.	➤ Attendance at field days	- Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada – Agri-Environment Services Branch (lead) - Ministry of Agriculture - Saskatchewan Watershed Authority

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

actions 2009	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	- Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada – Agri-Environment Services Branch (lead) - Parks Canada - Grasslands National Park of Canada (lead) - Environment Canada - Ministry of Agriculture - Saskatchewan Watershed Authority

Appendix 1: Core and Program Support

Core Funding Support

Cattle Market Deductions Fund

Ducks Unlimited Canada

Ministry of Agriculture

Ministry of Environment

Program Support

- Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada – Agri-Environment Services Branch and Semiarid Prairie Agricultural Research Centre**
- Carl Block Memorial Stewardship Education Fund*
- Cattle Market Deductions Fund*
- Ducks Unlimited Canada***
- Environment Canada – Canadian Wildlife Service**
- Fisheries and Oceans Canada**
- Government of Canada – Habitat Stewardship Program for Species at Risk*
- Horned Cattle Purchases Fund*
- Ministry of Agriculture (SK)***
- Ministry of Environment (SK)***
- Ministry of Environment (SK) – Go Green Fund*
- Ministry of Environment (SK) – Fish and Wildlife Development Fund*
- Ministry of Tourism, Parks, Culture and Sport (SK) – Royal Saskatchewan Museum**
- Native Plant Society of Saskatchewan Inc.**
- Nature Conservancy of Canada**
- Nature Saskatchewan***
- Parks Canada – Grasslands National Park of Canada**
- Saskatchewan Burrowing Owl Interpretative Centre**
- Saskatchewan Institute of Agrologists – Saskatoon Branch*
- Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association**
- Saskatchewan Watershed Authority***
- Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation**
- SaskEnergy*
- SaskPower*
- University of Regina*
- University of Saskatchewan – College of Agriculture and Bioresources*

* funding Partner (cash); ** funding Partner (in-kind); *** funding Partner (both)