



**Saskatchewan
Prairie Conservation Action Plan**

Framework 2014 - 2018



PCAP Partners

- 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 the Economy (SK)
- Ministry of Environment (SK)
- Ministry of 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
- Prairie Learning Centre
- Prairie Wind & Silver Sage – Friends of the Grasslands
- Redberry Lake Biosphere Reserve Association Inc.
- Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities
- Saskatchewan Burrowing Owl Interpretative Centre
- Saskatchewan Environmental Society
- Saskatchewan Forage Council
- Saskatchewan Outdoor and Environmental Education Association
- Saskatchewan Research Council
- Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association
- Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation
- SaskPower
- Society for Range Management – Prairie Parkland Chapter
- University of Regina
- University of Saskatchewan – College of Agriculture and Bioresources
- Water Security Agency
- Western Development Museum
- Wanuskewin Heritage Park



Saskatchewan Prairie Conservation Action Plan

Cover photo credits: Common nighthawk - Janet Ng;
Fenceline - Nature Saskatchewan; Rough fescue - Don
Fontaine; Cattle - Nature Saskatchewan.

Table of Contents

Executive Summary	4
Background	6
What is native prairie?	6
Why a PCAP Partnership?	9
What is the PCAP Partnership?	10
History of the PCAP Partnership	11
Development of the 2014 - 2018 Framework	12
The 2014 - 2018 Framework	14
Our Mission	14
Our Vision	14
Our Focus Areas	14
Our Goals	15
Our Guiding Principles	16
FOCUS AREA: NATIVE PRAIRIE EDUCATION AND AWARENESS	18
FOCUS AREA: RESPONSIBLE LAND USE ON NATIVE PRAIRIE	20
FOCUS AREA: NATIVE PRAIRIE ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT	22
Appendix 1	25
Appendix 2	26
Acknowledgements	29



Photo by Tara Mulhern Davidson



Executive Summary

Photo by Janet Ng

PCAP - Making a difference in prairie conservation for 16 years

Since 1998, the Prairie Conservation Action Plan [PCAP] Partnership has brought together agencies and organizations representing producers, industry, provincial and federal governments, non-government organizations and research and educational institutions under a common vision for prairie and species at risk conservation in Saskatchewan. The mission of the Partners is to work together to deliver prairie conservation activities that represent shared objectives and that benefit the social, cultural, economic and ecological fabric of Saskatchewan.

The 2014 - 2018 Framework applies to prairie grassland and riparian habitats within the Prairie Ecozone of Saskatchewan and is built on a Vision, three goals and three areas of focus for action.

Our Vision

Healthy native prairie ecosystems as vital parts of our vibrant and strong communities.

Our Goals

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

Our Focus Areas

1. Native Prairie Education and Awareness
2. Responsible Land Use on Native Prairie
3. Native Prairie Ecosystem Management

Looking back...

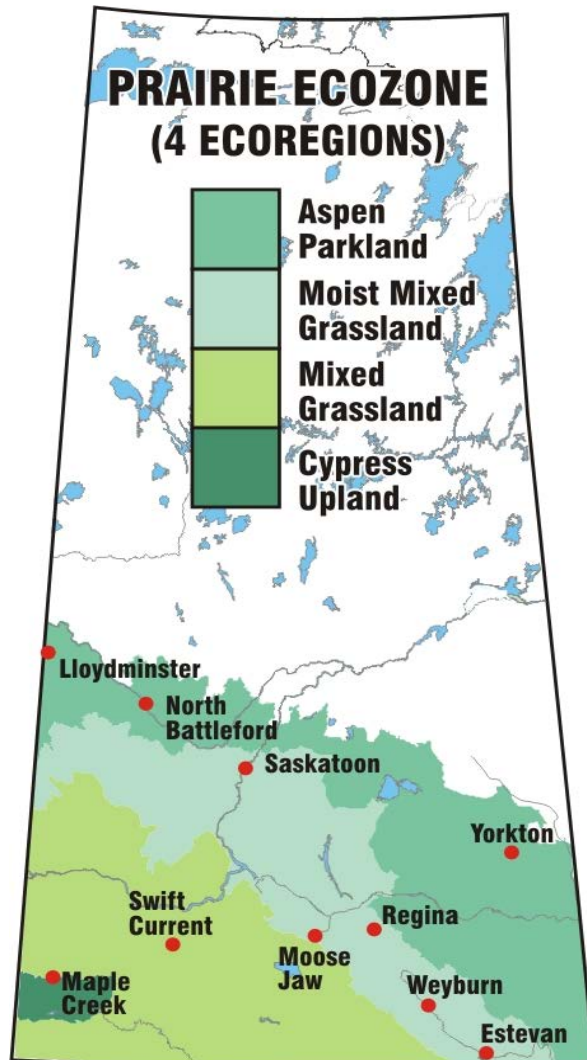
Saskatchewan PCAP achievements through the years

Saskatchewan became the first Canadian province to designate a native grass emblem. The Native Plant Society of Saskatchewan nominated three potential candidates and a vote amongst partners was organized by PCAP. In 2001, Needle and Thread grass (*Hesperostipa comata*) was officially proclaimed as Saskatchewan's official grass species under *The Provincial Emblems and Honours Act*.

Photo by Tara Mulhern Davidson

Background

Photo by Nature Conservancy of Canada



What is native prairie?¹

Native prairie is a grassland ecosystem. Grassland ecosystems cover between 41-56 million square kilometres (31- 43%) of the earth's surface. They represent one of the earth's major biomes and, from a historical perspective, are one of the most productive and diverse terrestrial ecosystems. The 2014 - 2018 framework applies to native grassland and riparian habitats within the Prairie Ecozone of Saskatchewan.

In North America, the central grassland region covers around one-fifth of the continent and represents 7–10% of the grasslands of the world. From north to south, prairie grasslands extend over the widest range of any single North American ecological region and constitute a relatively continuous area covering about 4.1 million square kilometres. The central grassland region extends from the provinces of British Columbia, Alberta,

Saskatchewan and Manitoba in Canada, south through the central, northern and mid-west states of the United States to southern Texas into northeastern and central Mexico, and from western Indiana to the foothills of the Rockies.

In their natural state, the central grasslands supported rich and highly specialized plant and animal communities. The interaction of climate, fire and grazing influenced the development and maintenance of the central grasslands.

The increasing amounts of rainfall from west to east define different types of native prairies. Short-grass prairie occurs in the south and in the west, in the rain shadow of the Rocky Mountains, with mixed-grass prairie in the central grasslands, tall-grass prairie in the wetter eastern region and fescue grasslands in the northwestern plains and parkland from central Saskatchewan to the foothills of the Rockies.

¹ Except where noted, section is excerpted from Gauthier and Riemer, 2003. "Introduction to Prairie Conservation" in the Prairie Conservation Action Plan 2003-2008. For the full discussion, please see the document online at the PCAP website <http://www.pcap-sk.org/> under Action Plans.

In Saskatchewan, natural prairie vegetation is dominated by spear or needle grasses, wheatgrasses and blue grama grass. Drier sites in the southwest support sparser grass cover with abundant prickly pear cactus and sagebrush. Moving in a northeast direction from the mixed grassland, moisture deficits are less severe and droughts are less prolonged. Here “mid-grass” species dominate mixed grasslands alternating with plains rough fescue grasslands, more extensive shrublands, aspen grove woodlands, and wetlands. The aspen parkland is the northern transition

zone to the boreal forest, and has expanded south into former grassland areas since European settlement effectively stopped prairie fires.

Grasslands are one of the world’s most threatened ecosystems, making them a conservation priority. In North America, tall-grass prairie has been reduced to 1%, and mixed-grass and short-grass prairie to 20-30% of their former range, together exceeding losses reported for any other major ecological community

on the continent.² In Saskatchewan, it is estimated that between 17% and 21% of the original native prairie remains intact.³ Despite increasing awareness of the value of healthy prairie ecosystems, loss of native prairie continues.⁴

- 2 Gauthier, D.A., A. Lafon, T.P. Toombs, J. Hoth, and E. Wiken. 2003. Grasslands: Toward a North American Conservation Strategy. Commission for Environmental Cooperation and the Canadian Plains Research Center, University of Regina, Regina, Saskatchewan.
- 3 Hammermeister, A.M., D. Gauthier, and K. McGovern. 2001. Saskatchewan’s Native Prairie: Statistics of a Vanishing Ecosystem and Dwindling Resource. Native Plant Society of Saskatchewan Inc., Saskatoon, Saskatchewan.
- 4 Watmough, M. D. and M. J. Schmoll. 2007. Environment Canada’s Prairie and Northern Habitat Monitoring Program Phase II: Recent habitat trends in the PHJV. Unpublished Report. Environment Canada, Canadian Wildlife Service, Edmonton, Alberta.

Looking back...

Saskatchewan PCAP achievements through the years

Native Prairie Appreciation Week (NPAW) was initiated by Saskatchewan PCAP sixteen years ago and takes place during the third week in June. Jointly proclaimed by both the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture and the Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment, NPAW is an annual celebration of prairie across Saskatchewan.



Photo by Tara Mulhern Davidson

Why a PCAP Partnership?

Our remaining native prairie is a valuable resource that touches many lives and many interest groups. Some, such as ranchers, rely on the sustainable use of prairie for their very livelihood. For others, native prairie may be of cultural, spiritual or recreational importance. Many landowners, land managers, government and non-government agencies play a role in the stewardship and protection of native prairie as well, representing many interests. Integrating these efforts and defining common outcomes among the players is fundamental to effective prairie conservation.

The PCAP Partnership works to:

Develop and foster common vision and goals, identify priority issues and develop and implement actions to address conservation and sustainable management of native prairie;

Identify and fill gaps in native prairie research and activities among the partners, reducing duplication;

Improve public understanding and valuing of native prairie through initiatives such as the Native Prairie Appreciation Week;

Share ideas and find common ground where possible while respecting different perspectives.



Photo by Sarah Vinge-Mazer

What is the PCAP Partnership?

The 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 work toward a common vision for prairie conservation in Saskatchewan. A number of the Partners provide financial or in-kind contributions toward the PCAP implementation and all of them contribute to the realization of the Partnership objectives.⁵

Key and unique to this partnership is the collaboration with the Saskatchewan Stock

Growers Association. The Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association provides a Chair and Representative, and symbolizes the critical importance of the ranching community to the conservation of native prairie, emphasizing how important a working landscape is to the vision of the PCAP Partnership.

The PCAP Partnership recognizes the importance of collaboration beyond Saskatchewan borders, including nationally and internationally. This broadened scope allows for consultation on common issues and sharing of resources, experiences and solutions for best

practices. Across provinces, the PCAP Partnership interacts with the Alberta Prairie Conservation Forum, the Manitoba Forage and Grassland Association, as well as the Carolinian Canada Coalition. On an international scale, PCAP liaises with organizations including the Regional Alliance for the Conservation of Pastures in the Chihuahuan Desert, and the Chihuahua Mexico Grasslands Partnership, which was modelled on PCAP. On a national level, PCAP cooperates with the Canadian Forage and Grassland Association, sharing knowledge and ideas to foster a broader awareness of grassland conservation across Canada.

⁵ See Appendix 1 for a list of all PCAP Core and Program supporters.

Photo by L. Thompson, Living Sky Beef

History of the PCAP Partnership

Since its inception in 1998, the PCAP Partnership has grown from 16 to 31 Partner groups that represent industry, multi-sector federal and provincial agencies, non-governmental organisations, and Saskatchewan's two universities.

The PCAP Partnership has developed three five-year Action Plans - covering the periods from 1998-2003, 2003-2008 and 2009-2013. Building on the first plan, the 2003-2008 Plan consisted of a Vision, five Goals, 25 Objectives and 78 Actions supported by a detailed implementation strategy. After ten years of collaborative prairie conservation experience, the PCAP Partnership decided

to embrace a new approach for the 2008-2013 time period, developing a five-year Framework for Action upon which annual action plans were built. The Framework set out a renewed Vision, a Mission, and Guiding Principles for the PCAP Partnership. It also outlined three goals and five priority areas of focus. Working groups formed around these focus areas, and they developed, reported on, and revised action plans around each focus area annually.⁶

The PCAP Partnership has proven to

⁶ See Appendix 2 for more details around the implementation of the 2009-2013 Framework.

be an important forum for guiding conservation and management efforts within Saskatchewan's Prairie Ecozone. The Partnership has been effective in increasing coordination and addressing gaps in programming while reducing duplication. The Partnership has also supported the development of programs and policies that reward sustainable native prairie use and promotes ecological health and integrity including species at risk recovery.⁷

⁷ For a fuller discussion, please see the Prairie Conservation Action Plan 2009-2013 Framework Review document online at the PCAP website http://www.pcap-sk.org/docs/13_speakerseries/2013Jan2_PCAP_Accomplishment_Summary_related_to_Framework_Renewal.pdf

Development of the 2014 - 2018 Framework

The PCAP Partnership has grown and evolved over fifteen years of collaborative prairie conservation actions. The creation of the 2014 - 2018 Framework was initiated at a workshop where partners discussed ongoing and new challenges impacting native prairie ecosystems within the province. Partners also reflected on initiatives that have been successful and opportunities to consider for the next five years. Building upon valuable years of collective prairie conservation experience, the PCAP Partnership chose to combine efforts into three focus areas:

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

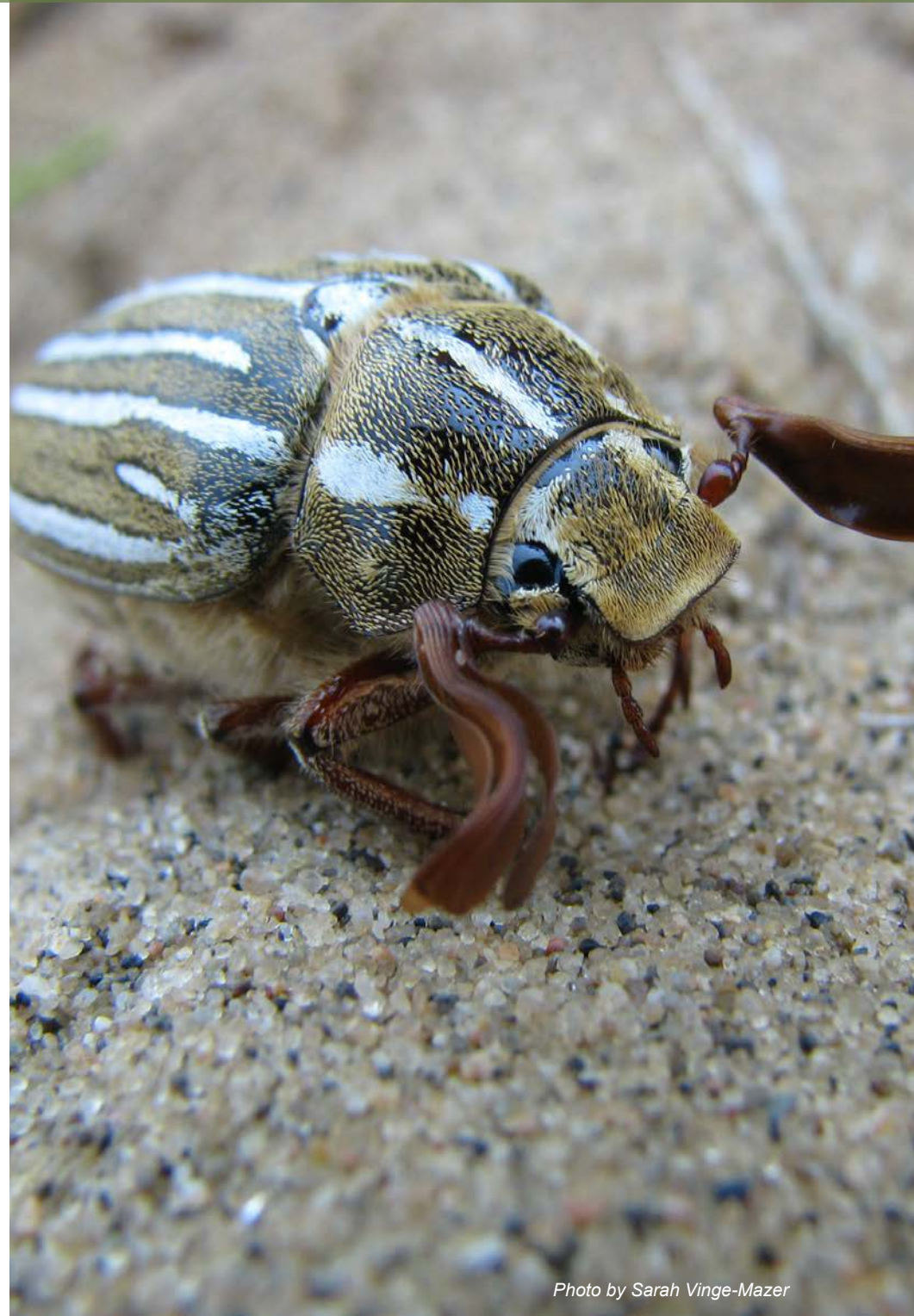


Photo by Sarah Vinge-Mazer

Looking back...

Saskatchewan PCAP achievements through the years

In 2008, Saskatchewan PCAP undertook a major collaborative effort to create a Saskatchewan-specific set of rangeland and riparian health guide books. Ranchers, scientists, and technical specialists collaborated, drafted and tested these assessment methodologies that have gone on to become industry-standard publications.

Photo by Tara Mulhern Davidson

The 2014 - 2018 Framework

Our Mission

The PCAP Partnership represents the collaborative efforts of multiple interests toward promoting and conserving Saskatchewan's native prairie.

The PCAP Partners work together to deliver innovative and critical prairie conservation activities that represent the shared objectives of a diverse mix of stakeholders and that benefit the social, cultural, economic and ecological fabric of Saskatchewan.

Our Vision

Healthy native prairie ecosystems as vital parts of our vibrant and strong communities.

Our Focus Areas

Native Prairie Education and Awareness

Responsible Land Use on Native Prairie

Native Prairie Ecosystem Management

Photo by Tara Mulhern Davidson

Our Goals

To achieve an integrated approach to prairie conservation, each of the Focus Areas addresses the three PCAP Partnership Goals.



Photo credits: Antelope - Tara Mulhern Davidson;
Cowboys - Karyn Scalise; Bison - Krista Connick Todd

Our Guiding Principles

The PCAP Partners believe in:

The Power of the Collective: The PCAP Partners believe that more can be accomplished by acting together than by acting alone. The PCAP Partnership brings diverse groups together to speak with one voice and to work together under a common vision for prairie conservation.

Partnerships: Partners believe that it is both possible and desirable for groups with diverse interests and needs to find mutually agreeable solutions to the challenges of prairie conservation. Participants respect and seek to understand the views and interests of all of the Partners.

An Integrated Approach: Partners approach prairie conservation in a way that considers and integrates the ecological, socio-cultural, and economic interests related to native prairie conservation issues.

Adaptability: In the quest to reach prairie conservation objectives, the PCAP Partners seek and adapt to new knowledge with enthusiasm and creativity.

Sustainable Use of Prairie: The PCAP Partners see prairie as a working landscape that can include people and their livelihoods as a positive part of the ecosystem. We view sustainable uses of prairie as fundamental to its conservation.

The Intrinsic Value of Prairie: The PCAP Partners recognize that prairie ecosystems provide many benefits to humans. Partners also recognize that prairie ecosystems and the species found within them have intrinsic value, beyond any human use.

Engaging People: People who understand prairie learn to value prairie, and people who value prairie will work to conserve it. The PCAP Partners engage Saskatchewan people in learning about and experiencing the prairie as a means to promote conservation.

Commitment to Action: The PCAP Partnership is an action-orientated organization. Partners set out clear implementation plans and commit to achieving measurable results that contribute to the goals of the Partnership.



Photo by Tara Mulhern Davidson

Looking back...

Saskatchewan PCAP achievements through the years

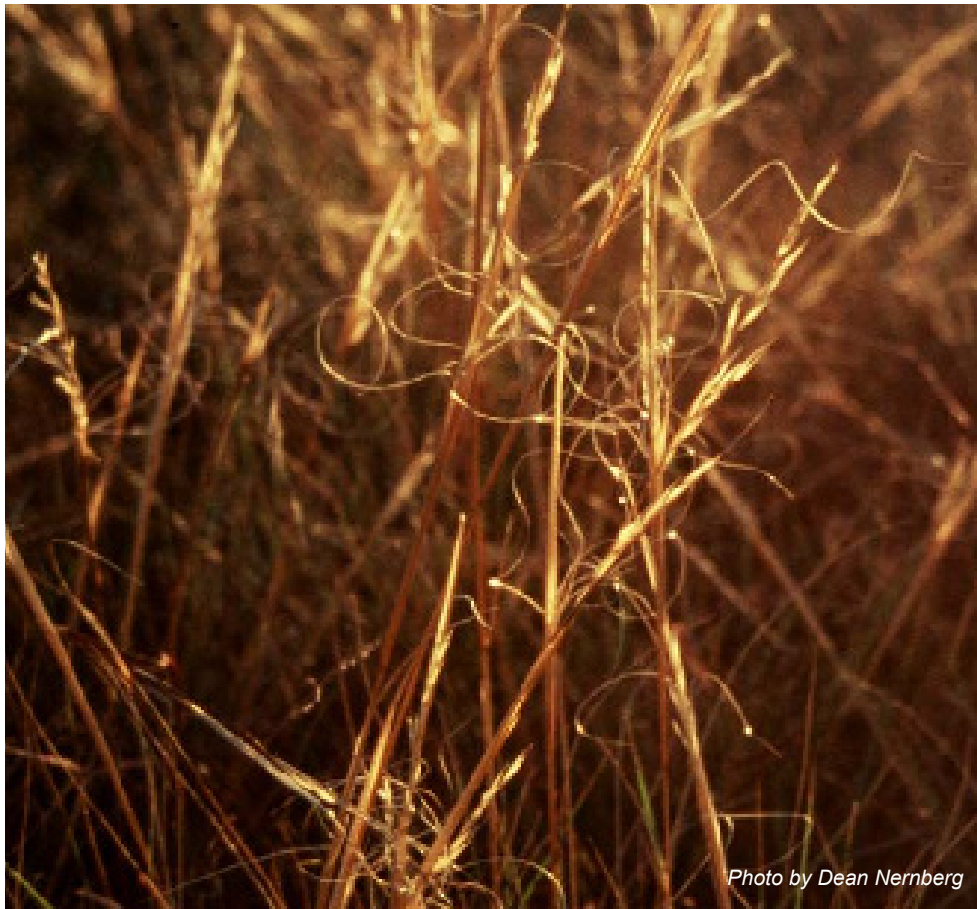
Saskatchewan PCAP identified an emerging need for prairie restoration technical knowledge, skills and resources. In 2011, PCAP hosted the inaugural Native Prairie Restoration and Reclamation Workshop. Over the past three events, this workshop has brought together nearly 700 native seed collectors, landscape architects, prairie and wetland practitioners, reclamation specialists and academics from across the Prairie Provinces and the northern United States.

Photo by Tara Mulhern Davidson

FOCUS AREA: NATIVE PRAIRIE EDUCATION AND AWARENESS

Objective:

Increase awareness of the importance of native prairie and species at risk, targeting students, industry and provincial and municipal policy makers.



Strategies:

- ☑ Gather and share balanced and science-based information about native prairie and species at risk issues. Share this information broadly with the public, internally within the partnership, and with key target policy makers.
- ☑ Continue to provide Saskatchewan students with information about native prairie stewardship and species at risk through existing programs, such as Adopt a Rancher and Taking Action for Prairie, while also exploring new ways to share awareness.
- ☑ Maintain a positive relationship that is inclusive of all Saskatchewan native prairie and species at risk partners, stakeholders, and users.

Measures of Success:

- ☑ Produce and promote a number of regularly updated communication materials such as newsletters, news releases, fact sheets, brochures, and web content.
- ☑ Encourage native prairie awareness through interactive opportunities, including workshops, speaking events, trade show attendance and social media forums, such as Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.
- ☑ Organize annual Native Prairie Appreciation Week events, including workshops, tours, and media and press events
- ☑ Survey students participating in programs to determine their level of interest and awareness of native prairie pre- and post- participation.
- ☑ Impact a number of schools, teachers, students, and school divisions with prairie programming.
- ☑ Host three regular partner meetings and support feedback and participation.
- ☑ Participate in native prairie stakeholder meetings, establishing a valuable presence by increasing interactive communication. Evaluate existing partnerships to ensure the relationship is positive and review future partners.



Photo by Janet Ng

FOCUS AREA: RESPONSIBLE LAND USE ON NATIVE PRAIRIE

Objective:

Guide native prairie land users with balanced, evidence-based information about ecological footprints and best practices to sustain healthy native prairie and species at risk populations while mitigating human impact.



Photo by Tara Sample

Strategies:

- ☑ Identify and understand the current types of development and land-uses of native prairie in Saskatchewan, and associated monitoring, management and risks of these developments.
- ☑ Engage and interact with key policy makers, stakeholders and the public about the value of native prairie in Saskatchewan.
- ☑ Communicate best management practices, planning processes, policies and regulatory requirements for sustainable and responsible land uses of native prairie in Saskatchewan.
- ☑ Support Ecosystem Goods and Services (EGS) research and knowledge transfer of values and benefits derived from native prairie in Saskatchewan and other jurisdictions.

Measures of Success:

- ☑ The Partnership will gain a greater understanding of the roles of various stakeholders regarding human impact on native prairie through pre- and post-evaluations following informational events.
- ☑ Increased collaboration with partners and regulators to support mitigation of cumulative effects that have an impact on native prairie and species at risk.
- ☑ Investigate quantification and monitoring of development on native prairie in Saskatchewan.
- ☑ Improved perception among key policy makers, stakeholders and the public about the value of native prairie in Saskatchewan, demonstrated through self-evaluation and formal evaluation.
- ☑ Quantify and monitor development on native prairie in Saskatchewan.

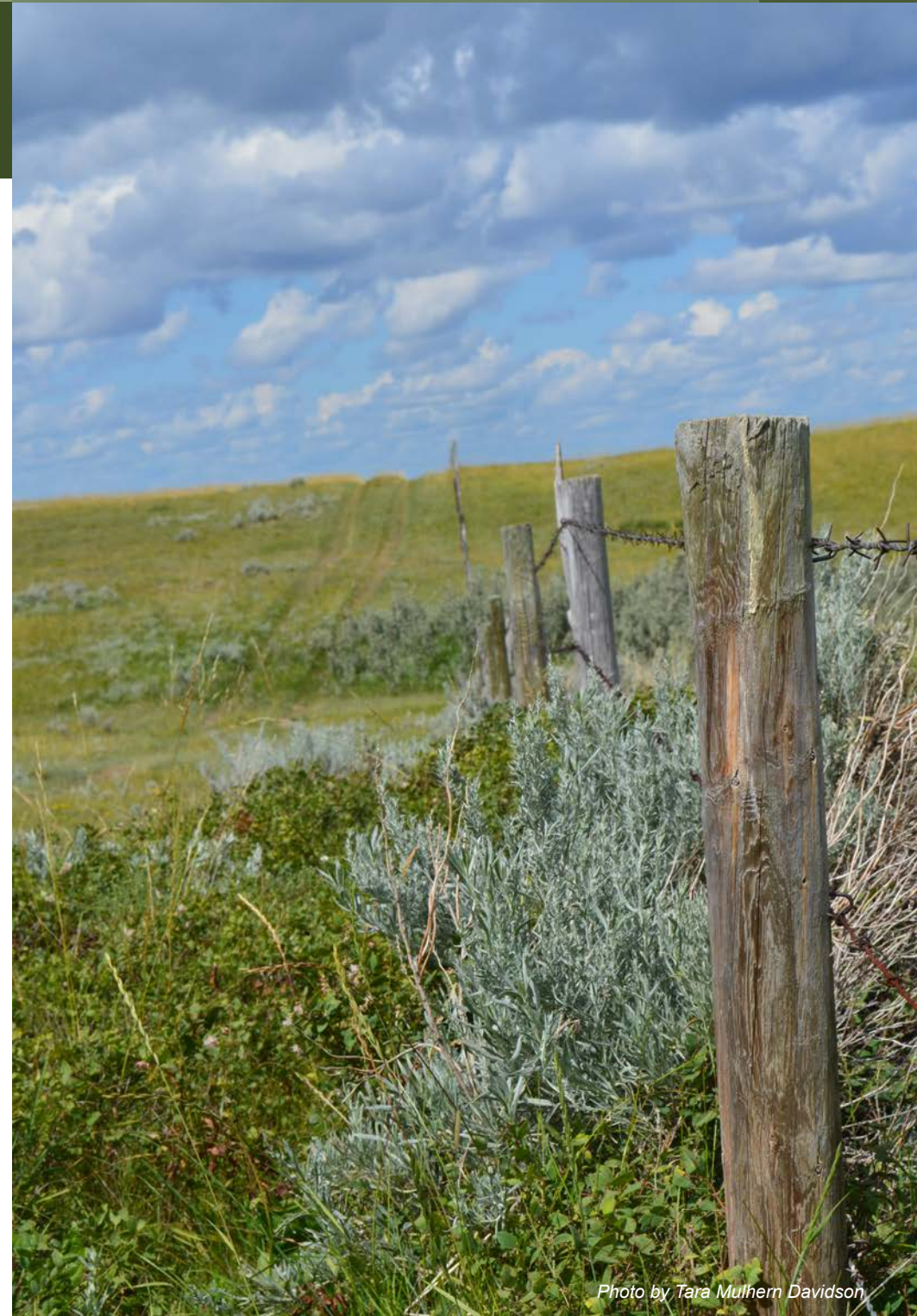


Photo by Tara Mulhern Davidson

FOCUS AREA: NATIVE PRAIRIE ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT

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.



Photo by Tara Mulhern Davidson

Strategies:

- ☑ Increase knowledge among native prairie land managers regarding the function of grazing management and the relationship between healthy prairie ecosystems and economic returns.
- ☑ Promote access to balanced, evidence-based information and decision-making tools for native prairie land owners and managers through regular communication channels including newsletters and the website.
- ☑ 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).
- ☑ Identify best practices to sustain resilient native prairie ecosystems that are able to support species at risk, minimize the threats of invasive species, maintain biodiversity, and withstand extreme weather events (such as droughts or floods).

Measures of Success:

- ☑ Improved access and awareness of information for existing and potential native prairie land owners and managers, as determined through formal and informal surveys and feedback.
- ☑ Increased comprehension of available monitoring methods among stakeholders, including grassland health, range condition, riparian health and invasive species distribution.
- ☑ Improved awareness of current and proposed native prairie species at risk monitoring and programming by partners and others across the Prairie ecoregion.



Photo by Tara Mulhern Davidson

Looking back...

Saskatchewan PCAP achievements through the years

Since 1999, Saskatchewan PCAP has engaged more than 40,000 school students across the province with its prairie education programming.

Photo by Tara Mulhern Davidson



Appendix 1

Photo by Nature Conservancy of Canada

Core and Program Support

Core Funding Support

Saskatchewan Beef Industry Development Fund
Ducks Unlimited Canada
Horned Cattle Purchases Fund
Ministry of Agriculture (SK)
Ministry of Environment (SK) - Fish & Wildlife Development Fund
Nature Saskatchewan
Parks Canada - Grasslands National Park
University of Saskatchewan
Water Security Agency

Other Financial Program Support

Saskatchewan Agriculture Awareness Initiative Program
Environment Canada – Habitat Stewardship Program for Species at Risk
North American Partnership for Environmental Community Action
(Commission for Environmental Cooperation)
SaskEnergy
SaskTel

Financial & In-Kind Program Support

Ducks Unlimited Canada
Ministry of Agriculture (SK)
Ministry of Environment (SK)
Nature Saskatchewan
Parks Canada – Grasslands National Park
SaskPower
University of Saskatchewan – College of Agriculture and Bioresources
Water Security Agency

In-Kind Program Support

In-Kind Program Support
Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada – Science & Technology Branch
Canadian Western Agribition
Environment Canada – Canadian Wildlife Service
First Nations University of Canada
Friends of the Wascana Marsh
Friends of the Royal Saskatchewan Museum
Ministry of Education (SK)
Ministry of Economy (SK)
Ministry of Parks, Culture, & Sports (SK) – Royal Saskatchewan Museum
Native Plant Society of Saskatchewan Inc.
Nature Conservancy of Canada
Prairie Learning Centre
Prairie Wind & Silver Sage – Friends of Grasslands
Redberry Lake Biosphere Reserve
Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities
Saskatchewan Burrowing Owl Interpretive Centre
Saskatchewan Environmental Society
Saskatchewan Forage Council
Saskatchewan Research Council
Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association
Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation
Society for Range Management – Prairie Parkland Chapter
University of Regina
Wanuskewin Heritage Park
Wild About Saskatoon – Nature City Festival



Appendix 2

Photo by Karyn Scalise

Implementation Strategy

PCAP Partnership Structure

The functions of the partnership are structured around the partnership representatives, an Executive Committee, and a number of focus groups.

Each partner organization has a representative that participates in PCAP and provides the perspective of their organization, through Steering Committee meetings. These partners are responsible for the overall direction of the Partnership activities.

An Executive Committee, responsible for oversight of business and operational matters, is made up of the PCAP Chair plus three or four Partner representatives. The Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association has chaired the PCAP Partnership since it was launched in 1998.

Focus groups are determined by the Partnership to deal with special projects or with focus areas identified in the five-year framework. Focus Groups are responsible for the annual work plans.

Besides outlining the planned Partnership activities, the work plans guide communications, program delivery and budgetary and fund-raising strategies lead by the PCAP office.

The Partnership meets three times twice per year in order to approve and set the direction for the upcoming year, discuss the work taking place within each Focus Area as well as other PCAP initiatives, and review outcomes of the annual work plan. When the five-year Framework is nearing completion, the Steering Committee will undertake a Framework review and renewal process. The Executive Committee and Focus Groups each meet additional times throughout the year. Each committee of the PCAP uses a consensus-based approach to decision making.

The 2014-2018 PCAP Partnership

The following activities will help to ensure sustained momentum towards the delivery of this Plan:

1. Obtain formal endorsement of the 2014-2018 PCAP Framework

Senior officials from each PCAP Partner agency were asked to formally approve this Framework. This approval signifies support of the Partnership Mission and Principles and commitment toward achieving the Vision, Goals and Focus Area objectives and strategies outlined in the Framework. An official signing ceremony brings credibility to the Framework and further reinforces the significance of the PCAP Partnership and the role of the various Partners in its implementation.

2. Establish Focus Groups

Interim Focus Groups made up of Partnership representatives have been put in place to develop this five year Framework. In order to move forward with annual work planning and implementation around each of the Focus Areas, membership on the Focus Groups is confirmed on an annual basis. Focus Groups can include non-Steering Committee and non-Partner representatives. The critical criterion for membership is having interest or expertise in the prairie conservation issue being addressed by the Focus Group.

3. Develop, approve and implement annual work plans

The Focus Groups develop annual work plans that outline in detail the activities to be undertaken by the PCAP Partnership on a yearly basis. Each of the work plans is developed by a Focus Group and is based on the five year objectives and

strategies identified in the framework. Each work plan identifies actions for the upcoming year, measures of success, timelines, and involved agencies.

The annual planning process is outlined as follows:

- Two weeks prior to the annual Plan Evaluation and Renewal Meeting, each Focus Group Lead submits a draft annual work plan to the PCAP Office.
- The PCAP Office compiles the draft work plans for discussion and approval at the annual Plan Evaluation and Renewal Meeting.
- The individual work plans are compiled as a PCAP annual work plan by the end of December and be an addendum to the five-year framework
- The finalized PCAP annual work plan is made public.

4. Evaluate and report on progress annually

Partner updates are developed and distributed annually to provide an inventory of Partner activities and summarise progress and shortfalls in annual work plan implementation. The evaluation process is outlined as follows:

- Two weeks prior to the annual Plan Evaluation and Renewal Meeting, each Focus Group Lead submits a progress report to the PCAP Office that identifies their Group's activities and provides an evaluation of progress relative to the Focus Area success measures and outcomes as identified in the annual work plan
- The PCAP Office compiles the progress reports for discussion and finalization at the annual Plan Evaluation and Renewal Meeting - thereafter the reports are made public.

5. Secure financial and in-kind support from PCAP Partners and other sponsors

Adequate financial and in-kind support is required to maintain operations of the PCAP Partnership. Many PCAP Partners contribute funding and in-kind support for the PCAP Partnership and additional funding is provided through federal granting agencies and other sponsors

6. Maintain an office, a full-time manager and support staff

The PCAP Office operates out of the Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association Office in Regina. A full-time manager, part-time staff, and technical support are required to maintain current levels of communication and programming.

7. Welcome Partners capable of contributing to progress on the PCAP framework to join the Partnership

Ongoing recruitment of Partners is essential to the development of an inclusive forum that is able to appreciate and address issues related to the entire complement of native prairie-related issues and values. The recruitment of additional Partners also aids the PCAP Partnership in promoting awareness of its vision and goals to broader audiences and can enhance opportunities for funding, in-kind support and/or collaboration on objectives or actions of mutual concern. New Partners must be a recognized organization, agency or association and support the intent of the PCAP Partnership Framework, including the Mission, Principles, Vision, and Goals.



Photo by Kerry Hecker

Acknowledgements

Photo by Andrea Kotylak

The success of the Prairie Conservation Action Plan over the past sixteen years can be attributed to the high level of attendance and participation from Partners as well as the sustained commitment of individuals in the roles of PCAP Chair and Manager in the past. Previous PCAP Chairs as provided by the Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association include: Miles Anderson (1998 - 2000); Allen Patkau (2000 - 2005); Michael Burgess (2005 - 2007); Ray McDougald (2007 - 2008); Karla Hicks (2008 - 2011); Roy Rutledge (2012); and the current chair, Orin Balas (2013 - present). PCAP was initially coordinated by Chris Nykoluk with the following individuals taking on the role of PCAP Manager: Karyn Scalise (2000-2008); Michelle Clark (2008-2012) and Natasha Wilkie (2012-present time). Interim manager role is currently filled by Tara Mulhern Davidson.

The new 2014-2018 Framework is a result of the hard work and dedication of all the PCAP Partners under the leadership of the renewal committee. The executive committee, manager and partner representatives played an extremely important role in the development of the new Framework and should be commended for the final result.

The 2014-2018 Renewal Committee consisted of executive members Orin Balas (Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association), Hélène Careau (SaskPower), Mary Brick (SK Ministry of Agriculture), Ed Beveridge (SK Ministry of Environment) and Jordan Ignatiuk (Nature Saskatchewan). Natasha Wilkie and Tara Mulhern Davidson representing PCAP, were exofficio members by virtue of their role as PCAP Manager.

For more information, please contact the PCAP Office:

PCAP

Box 4752, Regina, SK S4P 3Y4
Ph: (306) 352-0472 • Fax: (306) 569-8799
E-mail: pcap@sasktel.net
Website: www.pcap-sk.org
June 2014 – Prairie Conservation
Action Plan (PCAP)