

Grass Banking



The Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association (SSGA) in partnership with the South of the Divide Conservation Action Program Inc. (SODCAP Inc.) have secured funding to establish *Grass Banking* projects in southwest Saskatchewan.

Native grasslands in southwest Saskatchewan are the last refuge for many *species at risk* in the province and are also an important forage resource for cattle producers.

These grasslands are valuable from an ecological and cultural perspective and are also economically important.

The Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS) defines a “*Grass Bank*” as a physical place where forage is made available to ranchers, at a reduced fee, in exchange for tangible conservation benefits being produced on participants’ home ranches. The main goal of *grass-banking* is to have a community-based conservation plan that provides meaningful benefits for both the environment and participating ranchers. Several grass banks have emerged across the U.S. Lands in grass banks can be entirely private, public, or a mix of both. Typically, grass banks are operated by a conservation organization and include a privately owned or managed base property with associated public land grazing allotments.

SSGA and SODCAP Inc. are seeking to establish a *grass bank* in southwest Saskatchewan in cooperation with partner agencies. Voluntary agreements between a conservation or producer organization and a group of local producers will provide habitat for *species at risk*.



Existing Grass-Banks:

- The Nature Conservancy’s Matador Ranch- a grass-banking agreement with the Montana Rancher’s Stewardship Alliance Inc.
- Nature Conservancy of Canada’s Sandstone Ranch, which has an agreement with five members of the Sandstone Ranch Grazing Co-op in Alberta.

Contact: Tom Harrison
SODCAP Inc. – Executive Director
(306) 530-1385
ed@sodcap.com
www.sodcap.com

****All agreements confidential & privacy is ensured.****

This project was undertaken with the financial support of the Government of Canada.

Ce projet a été réalisé avec l’appui financier du gouvernement du Canada.

Canada 