

Framework 2019 - 2023



Saskatchewan
Prairie Conservation
Action Plan



PCAP Partners

- Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) - Science and Technology Branch
- Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society (CPAWS)
- Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC)
- Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) - Canadian Wildlife Service.
- Native Plant Society of Saskatchewan Inc. (NPSS)
- Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC)
- Nature Saskatchewan (NS)
- Parks Canada – Grasslands National Park of Canada (PC-GNP)
- Prairie Wind & Silver Sage – Friends of the Grasslands (PWSS)
- Redberry Lake Biosphere Reserve Association Inc. (RLBR)
- Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities (SARM)
- Saskatchewan Association of Watersheds (SAW)
- Saskatchewan Burrowing Owl Interpretive Centre (SBOIC)
- Saskatchewan Cattlemen’s Association (SCA)
- Saskatchewan Environmental Society (SES)
- Saskatchewan Forage Council (SFC)
- Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture
- Saskatchewan Ministry of Energy and Resources
- Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment
- Saskatchewan Outdoor and Environmental Education Association (SaskOutdoors)
- Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association (SSGA)
- Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation (SWF)
- SaskPower
- Society for Range Management (SRM) - Prairie Parkland Chapter
- South of the Divide Conservation Action Program Inc. (SODCAP Inc.)
- University of Regina
- University of Saskatchewan – College of Agriculture and Bioresources
- Water Security Agency (WSA)

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Table of Contents

Executive Summary	4
Background	6
What is native prairie?	6
Why a PCAP Partnership?	8
What is the PCAP Partnership?	10
History of the PCAP Partnership	12
Development of the 2019 - 2023 Framework	14
Our Guiding Principles	15
The 2019 - 2023 Framework	16
Our Mission	16
Our Vision	16
Our Goals	17
Our Focus Areas	18
FOCUS AREA: NATIVE PRAIRIE AWARENESS AND APPRECIATION	20
FOCUS AREA: RESPONSIBLE LAND USE ON NATIVE PRAIRIE	22
FOCUS AREA: NATIVE PRAIRIE ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT	24
Appendix 1	26
Appendix 2	27
Acknowledgements	29



Photo by Caitlin Mroz



Executive Summary

Photo by Caitlin Mroz

PCAP - Making a difference in prairie conservation for over 20 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 PCAP Partners is to work together to deliver innovative and critical prairie conservation activities that represent shared objectives and that benefit the social, cultural, economic and ecological fabric of Saskatchewan.

The 2019 - 2023 Framework applies to prairie grassland, aspen parklands, 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

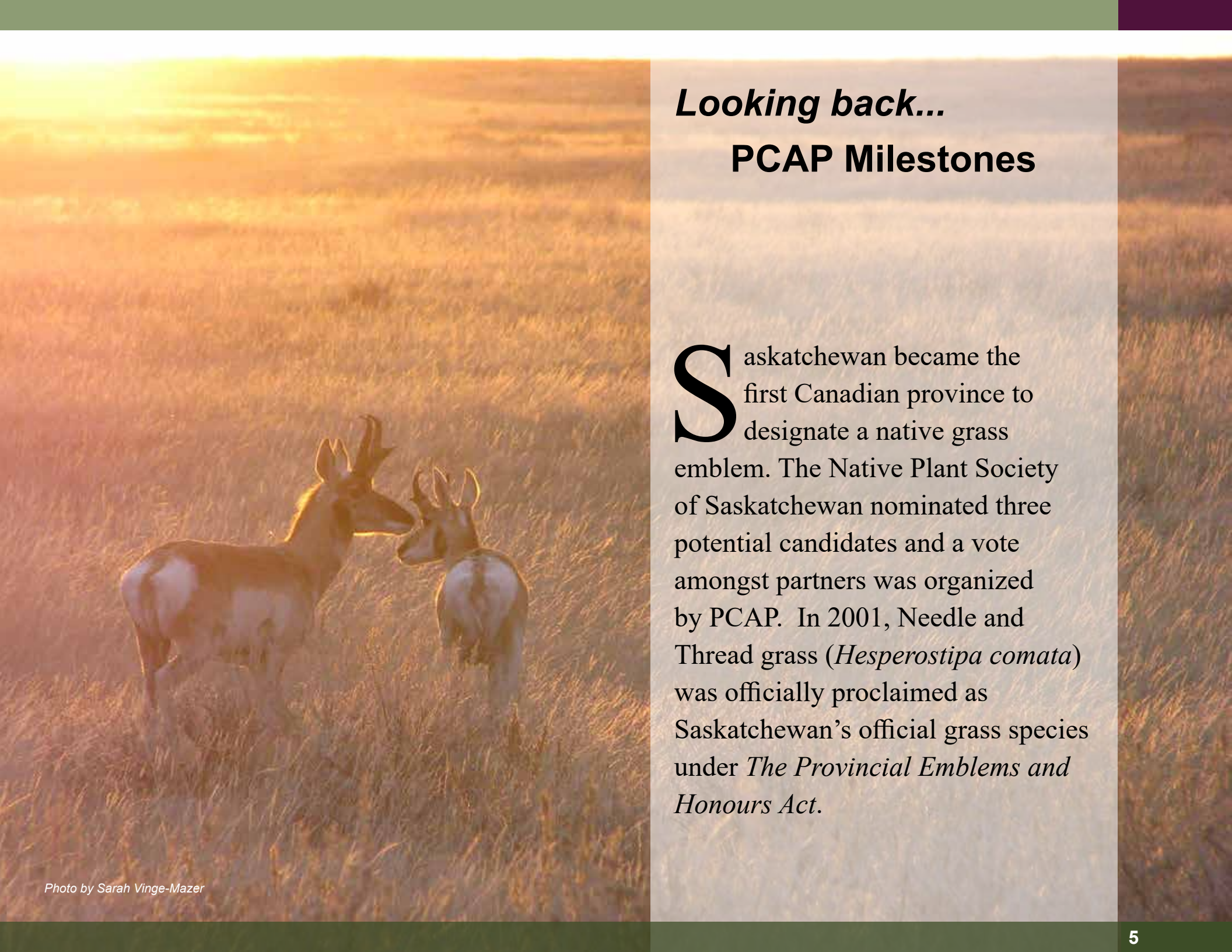
Our Ecosystem Goal: Native prairie ecosystem health and biodiversity are conserved and restored as part of a functioning landscape

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

A photograph of two pronghorns standing in a field of tall, golden grass at sunset. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a warm, orange glow. The pronghorns are facing each other, and their silhouettes are visible against the bright background.

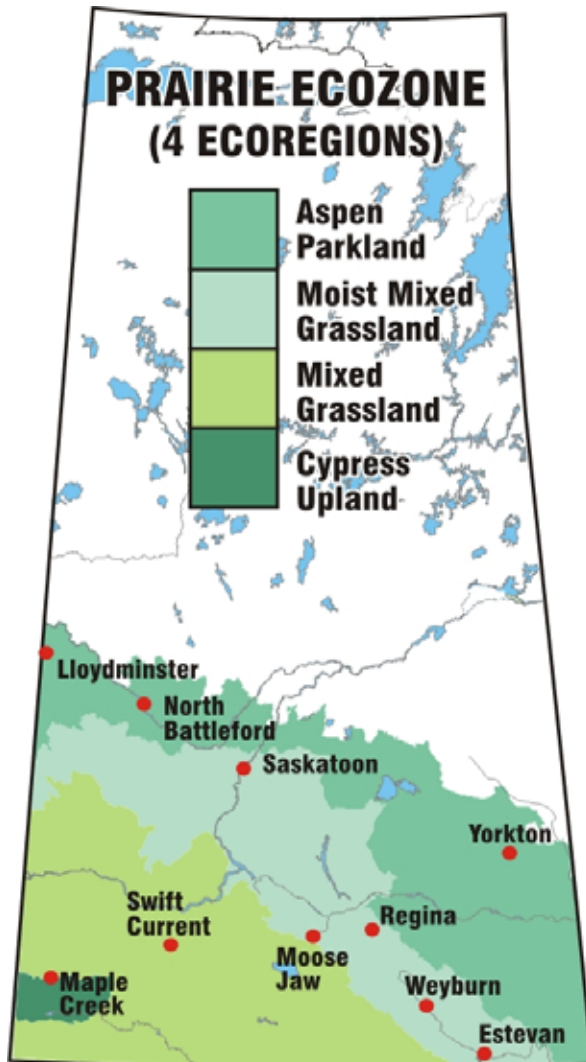
Looking back...

PCAP Milestones

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*.

Background

Photo by Tara Mulhern Davidson



What is native prairie?

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 2019 - 2023 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.

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. The leading cause of this loss is the conversion of grasslands to cropland. Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada inventory indicates that an average of 2.4 million acres of grasslands was converted to cropland from 1990 to 2010 in the Prairie provinces. The 2018 World Wildlife Fund’s Plowprint Report, which uses the AAFC data maps in its measurement of grassland conversion to cropland, confirmed the trend by stating that the highest rates of grassland

conversion in the Northern Great Plains were in Saskatchewan and Alberta. A recent analysis at University of Regina shows a decline of 3.3 million acres over the last twenty-five years in Saskatchewan, exceeding losses reported for any other major ecosystem type. At present, less than 8.2 million acres of grassland remained in Saskatchewan, which means that, out of the historical 60 million acres the Prairie ecozone once encompassed in the province, only 13.7 % remains. Stopping habitat loss is the key to saving native prairie endangered species.



Photo by Diego Steinaker

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, all governance types (Federal, Provincial, local and Indigenous) 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;

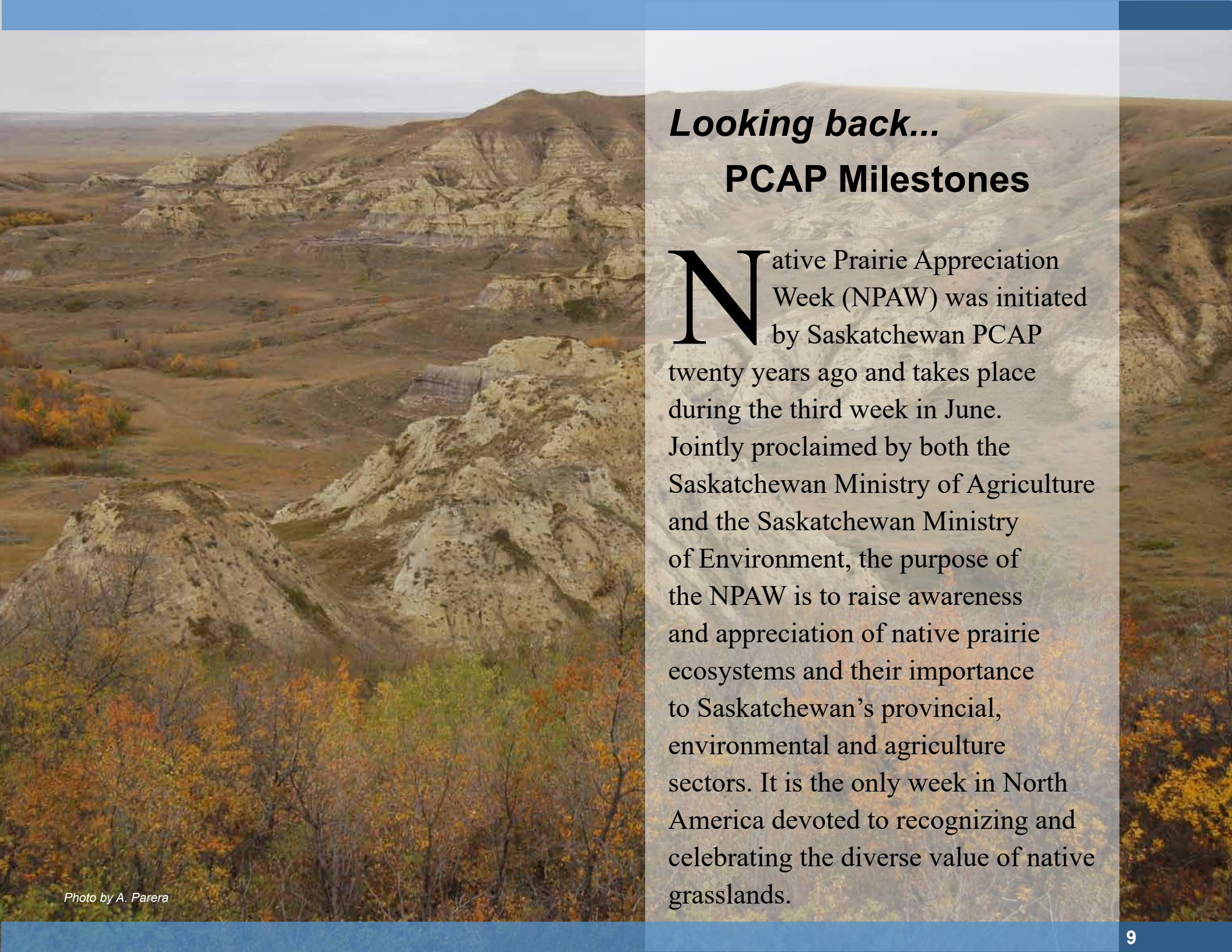
Identify and fill gaps in native prairie research and activities among the partners, reducing duplication;

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 Tara Mulhern Davidson



Looking back...

PCAP Milestones

Native Prairie Appreciation Week (NPAW) was initiated by Saskatchewan PCAP twenty 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, the purpose of the NPAW is to raise awareness and appreciation of native prairie ecosystems and their importance to Saskatchewan's provincial, environmental and agriculture sectors. It is the only week in North America devoted to recognizing and celebrating the diverse value of native grasslands.

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.¹

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

Key and unique to this partnership is the collaboration with the Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association (SSGA), which 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. The PCAP Partnership interacts with the Alberta Prairie Conservation Forum, the Manitoba Forage and Grassland Association, the Grasslands Conservation Council of British Columbia, the Carolinian Canada Coalition, the Commission for Environmental Cooperation's North American Grasslands, and the Alliance for the Grasslands (Initiative for the Conservation of the South American Grasslands).



Photo by Tammy Thomas



Looking back...

PCAP Milestones

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 six events, this workshop has brought together more than 1,500 native seed collectors, landscape architects, prairie and wetland practitioners, reclamation specialists and academics from across the Prairie Provinces and the northern United States.



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 4 five-year Action Plans, covering the periods from 1998-2003, 2003-2008, 2009- 2013, and 2014-2018. 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 from 2008, 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 three 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.²

² See Appendix 2 for more details around the implementation of the 2014-2018 Framework.

The PCAP Partnership has proven to 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.³

³ For a fuller discussion, please see the "2014-2018 PCAP Framework Review" document online at the PCAP website (<http://www.pcap-sk.org/action-plans>)



Looking back...

PCAP Milestones

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 Caitlin Mroz

Development of the 2019 - 2023 Framework

The PCAP Partnership has grown and evolved over twenty years of collaborative prairie conservation actions. The creation of the 2019 - 2023 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 Awareness and Appreciation*
- 2. Responsible Land Use on Native Prairie*
- 3. Native Prairie Ecosystem Management*



Photo by Tracey Cholin

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

The 2019 - 2023 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.

Photo by Tammy Thomas

Our Goals

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

Our Ecosystem Goal

Native prairie ecosystem health and biodiversity are conserved and restored as part of a functioning landscape.



Our Cultural Goal

Native prairie is a valued part of our culture and identity as Saskatchewan people.



Our Economic Goal

Sustainable uses of native prairie improve the livelihoods of Saskatchewan people.

Photo credits: Antelope - Tara Mulhern Davidson;
Dancer - Branimir Gjetvaj; Cowboys - Karyn Scalise



Our 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*

Photo by Sarah Vinge-Mazer



Looking back...

PCAP Milestones

Since 1999, PCAP has engaged more than 40,000 school students across the province with its Prairie Education Programming. PCAP is currently managing two Education Programs: “Taking Action For Prairie” a curriculum-supported, action-orientated environmental education program for Grade 6 to 8 students, and “Adopt a Rancher”, an interactive, hands-on learning opportunity for Grade 10 students. These programs are aimed to reach the objective prioritized in the Focus Area “Native Prairie Awareness and Appreciation” of this Framework.

1. FOCUS AREA: 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 Strategies:

1.2.1. 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.

1.2.2. 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.

1.2.3. 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.

1.2.4. Engage, build and maintain a positive relationship within the PCAP partnership that is inclusive of all native prairie stakeholders.

1.3 Measures of Success:

1.3.1. Produce and promote a number of regularly updated communication materials such as newsletters, news releases, fact sheets, brochures, and web content.

1.3.2. Encourage native prairie awareness through interactive opportunities, including workshops, speaking events, trade show attendance and social media forums, such as Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

1.3.3. Organize annual Native Prairie Appreciation Week events, including workshops, tours, and media and press events.

1.3.4. Survey students participating in programs to determine their level of interest and awareness of native prairie pre- and post- participation.

1.3.5. Positively impact a number of schools, teachers, students, and school divisions with prairie programming.

1.3.6. Host three regular partner meetings and support feedback and participation.

1.3.7. Participate in native prairie stakeholder meetings, establishing a valuable presence by increasing the broad engagement, relationship building and communication with existing and future partners, including developing a strong and positive relationship/partnership with our indigenous communities.



Photo by Sharon Condie

2. FOCUS AREA: 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.



Photo by Caitlin Mroz

2.2 Strategies:

- 2.2.1. 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.
- 2.2.2. Engage and interact with key policy makers, stakeholders and the public about the value of native prairie as a working landscape in Saskatchewan.
- 2.2.3. 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.
- 2.2.4. 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 Measures of Success:

- 2.3.1. The Partnership will gain a greater understanding of the roles of various stakeholders regarding human influences on native prairie.
- 2.3.2. Increased collaboration with partners and regulators to support mitigation of cumulative effects that have an impact on native prairie and species at risk.
- 2.3.3. Investigate quantification and monitoring of development and conversion of native prairie in Saskatchewan.
- 2.3.4. Improved perception among key policy makers, stakeholders and the public about the value of native prairie as a working landscape in Saskatchewan within a broader sustainable community.



Photo by Barb Hanke

3 FOCUS AREA: 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 Strategies:

- 3.2.1. 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. 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. Develop new habitat identification tools for species at risk targeting land managers.
- 3.2.4. 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, and species at risk occurrences).
- 3.2.5. 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 be resilient to extreme weather events (such as droughts or floods).
- 3.2.6. Facilitate discussion, as well as gather and share information about prairie carbon sequestration and carbon release from prairie conversion.

3.3 Measures of Success:

3.3.1. 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.

3.3.2. Evaluate existing monitoring/management tools.

3.3.3. Increased comprehension of available monitoring methods among stakeholders, including grassland health, range condition, riparian health and invasive species distribution.

3.3.4. Improved awareness of current and proposed native prairie species at risk monitoring and programming by partners and others across the Prairie ecoregion.

3.3.5. Improved awareness of the role of prairie as a carbon sink and the role it plays in landscape level climate change resilience, leading to the preservation of existing native rangelands, including wetlands.



Photo by Kate Winqvist



Appendix 1

Photo by Charles Deschamps

Current Financial and In-Kind PCAP Program Support

Core Funding Support:

Financial & In-Kind Program Support

Ducks Unlimited Canada
Parks Canada - Grasslands National Park
Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture
Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment - Fish & Wildlife Development Fund
Saskatchewan Cattlemen's Association
SaskPower
University of Saskatchewan – College of Agriculture and Bioresources
Water Security Agency

Other Financial Program Support

Canada North Environmental Services
Crescent Point Energy
EcoFriendly Sask
Husky Group of Companies
Saskatchewan Agriculture Awareness Initiative Program
Enbridge Pipelines Inc.
Environment and Climate Change Canada – Habitat Stewardship Program for Species at Risk
SaskEnergy
SaskTel
The Mosaic Company
TransCanada PipeLines Limited
Wildlife Habitat Canada

In-Kind Program Support

Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada - Science and Technology Branch
Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society
Environment and Climate Change Canada - Canadian Wildlife Service.
Native Plant Society of Saskatchewan Inc.
Nature Conservancy of Canada
Nature Saskatchewan
Prairie Wind & Silver Sage – Friends of the Grasslands
Redberry Lake Biosphere Reserve Association Inc.
Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities (SARM)
Saskatchewan Association of Watersheds (SAW)
Saskatchewan Burrowing Owl Interpretive Centre (SBOIC)
Saskatchewan Environmental Society (SES)
Saskatchewan Forage Council (SFC)
Saskatchewan Ministry of Energy and Resources
Saskatchewan Outdoor and Environmental Education Association (SaskOutdoors)
Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association (SSGA)
Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation (SWF)
Society for Range Management - Prairie Parkland Chapter
South of the Divide Conservation Action Program Inc.
University of Regina



Appendix 2

Photo by Diego Steinaker

Implementation Strategy

The functions of the partnership are structured around a Steering Committee, an Executive Committee, a Chair, and a General Manager.

Each Partner Organization has a Representative that participates in the PCAP Steering Committee and provides the perspective of their organization. These Partner Representatives are responsible for the overall direction of the PCAP Partnership activities.

An Executive Committee, responsible for oversight of business and operational matters, is made up of the PCAP Chair plus four or five Partner representatives. Each committee of the PCAP uses a consensus-based approach to decision making. The Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association has chaired the PCAP Partnership since it was launched in 1998.

The PCAP Chair works in coordination with PCAP Manager to call and chair the Executive Committee meetings, and to speak to external parties on behalf of the Partnership.

The Manager prepares the annual work plan, which outlines in detail the activities to be undertaken by the PCAP Partnership on a yearly basis. The annual plan is based on the five year framework and outcomes. Measurable short-term outcomes and timelines are identified in the plan. 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 per year in order to approve and set the direction for the upcoming year, discuss and review the work taking place within each work plan as well as other PCAP initiatives. When the five-year Framework is nearing completion, the Steering Committee will undertake a Framework review and renewal process. The five-year framework outlines the Vision, Mission, Principles, and Goals of the PCAP Partnership, as well as providing a historical context and rationale for the PCAP Partnership and Framework / Plans. The five-year action plan outlines the intended areas of focus for the PCAP Partnership for the mid-term future, without limiting the possibility for adaptation and change over that time frame. Within these areas of focus, the Partnership identifies broad areas of activity and intended, measurable outcomes.

The 2019-2023 PCAP Partnership

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

1. Obtain formal endorsement of the 2019-2023 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. Develop, approve and implement annual work plans

The PCAP Manager develops annual work plans, based on the five year objectives and strategies identified in the framework, that outline in detail the activities to be undertaken by the PCAP Partnership. The PCAP annual work plan is made public.

3. Evaluate and report on progress annually

Partner updates are developed and distributed annually to provide an inventory of Partner activities and summarize progress and shortfalls in annual work plan implementation. The PCAP Office compiles the progress reports for discussion and finalization at the annual Plan Evaluation.

4. 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.

5. 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.

6. 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.

Acknowledgements

Photo by Diego Steinaker

The success of the Prairie Conservation Action Plan over the past twenty 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), Natasha Wilkie (2012-2015), Tara Mulhern Davidson (2013-2014 Interim Manager), Kayla Balderson Burak (2015-2017), Carolyn Gaudet (2017-present). Interim Manager role is currently filled by Diego Steinaker.

The new 2019-2023 Framework is a result of the hard work and dedication of all the PCAP Partners. 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. Suzanne Joyce transformed the manuscript into this engaging publication.

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April 2019 – Prairie Conservation Action Plan (PCAP)