



Saskatchewan
Prairie Conservation
Action Plan

Strategic Plan 2024-2028



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Photo by Caitlin Mroz

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The SK Prairie Conservation Action Plan

Photo by Caitlin Mroz

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 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.

Since 1998, the Prairie Conservation Action Plan (SK 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 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.

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.



SK PCAP Partners:

- Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) - Science and Technology Branch
- Birds Canada
- Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society (CPAWS)
- Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC)
- Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) - Canadian Wildlife Service.
- Meewasin Valley Authority
- 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 (RLBR)
- Saskatchewan Aboriginal Land Technicians (SALT)
- Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities (SARM)
- Saskatchewan Association of Watersheds (SAW)
- Saskatchewan Bison Association
- 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 Ministry of Parks, Culture and Sport
- Saskatchewan Outdoor and Environmental Education Association (SaskOutdoors)
- Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association (SSGA)
- Saskatchewan Stock Growers Foundation (SSGF)
- Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation (SWF)
- SaskEnergy
- 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, College of Arts and Science and Department of Plant Sciences
- Water Security Agency (WSA)



PCAP Partners - Signatories to the 2024-2028 Strategic Plan

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

SK Association of Watersheds

SK Stock Growers Association

Birds Canada

SK Bison Association

SK Stock Growers Foundation

Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society – SK Chapter

SK Burrowing Owl Interpretive Centre

SK Wildlife Federation

Ducks Unlimited Canada

SK Cattlemen's Association

SaskEnergy

Environment and Climate Change Canada

SK Environmental Society

SaskPower

Meewasin Valley Authority

SK Forage Council

Society for Range Management – Prairie Parkland Chapter

Native Plant Society of Saskatchewan

SK Ministry of Agriculture

South of the Divide Conservation Action Program

Nature Conservancy of Canada

SK Ministry of Energy and Resources

University of Regina

Nature Saskatchewan

SK Ministry of Environment

College of Agriculture and Bioresources

College of Arts and Science

Grasslands National Park

SK Ministry of Parks, Culture and Sport

University of Saskatchewan

Redberry Lake Biosphere Reserve

SaskOutdoors

SK Prairie Conservation Action Plan

The Planning Approach

Photo by Caitlin Mroz

The 2024 - 2028 Strategic Plan was initiated at a workshop where partners discussed ongoing and new challenges impacting native prairie ecosystems within the province.

Through the course of additional discussion and a second workshop, 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 realign on the Vision, update the Mission, significantly refine the 5-year goals, and identify key actions to advance the Mission.

Through the annual cycle of the strategic planning process, PCAP Partners will implement, measure and adjust to achieve the Mission.



Our Vision

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

Our Mission

Our shared mission is to facilitate the conservation, enhancement, and restoration of Saskatchewan native prairie ecosystems for all living things, including the people who derive cultural and socio-economic value from these lands, through our core strategies of:

- A. Collaborating for and promoting the maintenance and enhancement of native prairie;
- B. Enabling the current and next generation through education, knowledge transfer and innovation, and;
- C. Supporting land users to continue beneficial land practices.

Our Collective Goals are based on Our Core Strategies





Goals - Core Strategy A:

Collaborating for and promoting the maintenance and enhancement of native prairie.

1. Promote, collaborate and participate in International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (IYRP) 2026.
2. Continue to build capacity for prairie conservation through in-person collaboration with all users of the landscapes.



Goals – Core Strategy B:

Enabling the current and next generation through education, knowledge transfer and innovation

1. By March 2029, collaborate to promote alignment of the K-12 curriculum with PCAP's mission.
2. Maintain and improve PCAP's hub of relevant and up-to-date information on native prairie values, economics, management and conservation.
3. By 2028 develop a mechanism for collaboration to facilitate more effective data sharing by PCAP partners and land users to support future analytics.
4. By March 2029, increase intergenerational engagement and connection to native prairie.



Goals – Core Strategy C:

Supporting land users to continue beneficial land practices.

1. Maintain and enhance PCAP's land users' section of the website to include relevant programming.
2. By 2028, PCAP will promote and support knowledge transfer and mentorship amongst land users.

Acknowledgements

Photo by Caitlin Mroz

The success of the Saskatchewan Prairie Conservation Action Plan over the past 25 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); Orin Balas (2013 - 2019) and the current chair, Kelly Williamson (2019-*present*). SK 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), Diego Steinaker (2018-2019 Interim Manager), and Carolyn Gaudet (2017-*present*).

The new 2024-2028 Strategic Plan 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 Strategic Plan and should be commended for the final result. Carmen Leibel facilitated the development of the new Strategic Plan at two workshops in 2023.

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Current Financial and In-Kind PCAP Program Support

Photo by Caitlin Mroz

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
- SaskEnergy
- SaskPower
- University of Regina
- University of Saskatchewan – College of Agriculture and Bioresources, College of Arts and Science and Department of Plant Sciences
- Water Security Agency

Other Financial Program Support

- Canadian Forage and Grasslands Association
- Environment and Climate Change Canada – Priority Places
- North American Helium
- Nutrien
- SaskTel
- SaskWater
- TC Energy
- Wildlife Habitat Canada

In-Kind Program Support

- Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada - Science and Technology Branch
- Birds Canada
- Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society
- Environment and Climate Change Canada - Canadian Wildlife Service
- Meewasin Valley Authority
- Native Plant Society of Saskatchewan Inc.
- Nature Conservancy of Canada
- Nature Saskatchewan
- Prairie Wind & Silver Sage – Friends of the Grasslands
- Redberry Lake Biosphere Region
- Saskatchewan Aboriginal Land Technicians
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