

Saskatchewan
2003-2008 Prairie Conservation Action Plan (PCAP)
Partner Update Number Four (#4)
June 1, 2003 to March 31, 2004



"The native prairie be sustained in a healthy state in which natural and human values are respected"

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1. Saskatchewan PCAP Funding Partners

- **FUNDING AND IN-KIND SUPPORT for the SASKATCHEWAN PCAP 2003-2008 has been provided by:**
 - Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada - Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration (AAFC-PFRA)
 - Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada – Green Cover Program (AAFC-GCP)
 - Cattle Marketing Deductions Fund (CMDf)
 - Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC)
 - Environment Canada - Canadian Wildlife Service (EC-CWS)
 - Environment Canada – Habitat Stewardship Program (EC-HSP) for Species at Risk
 - Estate of Fred Lahrman
 - Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) – Stewardship in Action Program
 - Native Plant Society of Saskatchewan (NPSS)
 - Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC)
 - Nature Saskatchewan
 - Nexen Canada Inc.
 - Parks Canada - Grassland National Park (PC-GNP)
 - Royal Saskatchewan Museum (RSM)
 - Saskatchewan Agriculture, Food and Rural Revitalization (SAFRR)
 - Saskatchewan Burrowing Owl Interpretive Centre (SBOIC)
 - Saskatchewan Environment (SE)
 - Saskatchewan Environment (SE) – Fish and Wildlife Development Fund (FWDF)
 - Saskatchewan Research Council (SRC)
 - Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association (SSGA) - CHAIR
 - Saskatchewan Watershed Authority (SWA)
 - SaskPower (SP)
 - Society for Range Management (SRM) - Northern Great Plains Section - Prairie Parkland Chapter
 - University of Regina - Canadian Plains Research Centre (UofR-CPRC)

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3. Introduction to the PCAP Partner Update #4

This Partner Update is the first in a series of annual Updates that correspond to the 2003-2008 Saskatchewan Prairie Conservation Action Plan (PCAP). Previous Partner Updates (#1, 2 and 3, published in 1999, 2000 and 2001, respectively) documented progress on our 1998-2003 Action Plan. This Update provides an inventory of Partner activities, relative to the 78 Actions contained in our renewed Action Plan. Representatives from 19 Partner groups participated in our March 2004 Plan Evaluation Meeting and achieved consensus on ranking progress on our 78 Actions as good, fair or poor, or a combination, thereof. These rankings are a subjective rating based on consensus of the Partnership.

This Update provides an opportunity for all Partners to communicate their prairie conservation activities and facilitates the identification of progress and shortfalls in Plan implementation. Documenting progress is essential to keeping members of our Partnership and other interest groups current, involved and motivated on priorities and for communicating our accomplishments to funding agencies. In addition, these Updates facilitate an understanding of the roles and responsibilities of the various Partner groups active in the Prairie Ecozone and result in increased efficiencies through stimulating multi-Partner approaches on Actions of mutual concern. It is hoped that the information presented within this Update will stimulate continued discussion, participation, and a sense of involvement and urgency in meeting prairie conservation goals in Saskatchewan. PCAP needs to be foremost in the minds of people making decisions that affect the integrity of prairie ecosystems.

4. PCAP Operations

The PCAP has been chaired by the Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association (SSGA) since 1998. A full-time Manager, based out of the SSGA Office in Regina, is in place to guide Plan implementation. The PCAP Partnership consists of representatives from PCAP's 25 Partner groups. Meetings of the Partnership are held at least three times annually to exchange information, discuss issues, evaluate progress and develop strategies related to Plan implementation. The PCAP uses a consensus-based approach to decision making. Goal Working Groups, which were established during Plan renewal process, remain active and continue to facilitate work related to identifying progress and shortfalls related to each of our five Goals. In addition, the following Committees have been established:

Executive Committee: The Executive Committee is responsible for overseeing the implementation of the 2003-2008 PCAP. The PCAP Chair, Manager, Science Committee Chair and Prairie Provinces Liaison are ex-officio positions. Members include: Allen Patkau (SSGA-PCAP Chair), Greg Riemer (SE), Dr. David Gauthier (UofR-CPRC), Pat Fargey (PC-GNP), Steve Davis (EC-CWS – Science Committee Chair), Dean Nernberg (EC-CWS – AB-SK-MB Liaison) and Karyn Scalise (PCAP - Manager).

Proposal Review Committee: The Proposal Review Committee reviews proposals submitted to the PCAP Office for purposes of securing approval or letters of support. Members include Karyn Scalise (PCAP), Shelley Heidinger (SP), Ann Gerry (SE), Michael Burgess (SSGA) and other Partner representatives, as determined by their expertise. Between June 2003 and March 2004, the Committee reviewed 3 proposals.

Science Committee: This Committee is responsible for science-based components related to each of PCAPs 5 Goals. The Science Committee Chair is Dr. Stephen Davis (EC-CWS) and members include: Greg Riemer and Ann Gerry (SE), Tom Harrison (SWA), Pat Fargey (GNP), Alan Iwaasa (AAFC-SPARC), Bill Bristol (AAFC-PFRA) Tara Schmidt (DFO) and Dr. David Gauthier (UofR-CPRC).

Policy Committee: This Committee is responsible for addressing policy issues related to the following Objectives and Actions: I2b, II4a&b, II4c&d, II6, II7, II8a, and III4c. The Policy Committee Chair is Greg Riemer (SE) and members include Lyle Saigeon (DUC), Garth Wruck (NPSS), Mary Brick and Don Fontaine (SAFRR), Lesley Hall (SWA), and representatives from SWF, and SSGA that have yet to be identified.

Prairie Conservation Award Committee: The Prairie Conservation Award is awarded every three years in conjunction with the Prairie Conservation and Endangered Species (PCAES) Conference. The Committee is made up of previous award recipients. Dr. David Gauthier (UofR-CPRC) received the Award in 2004 and will join Greg Riemer - SE (2001), Miles Anderson – SSGA (1998), Dale Hjertaas – SWA (1995), Dr. Stuart Houston – retired (1989) on the 2007 Committee. This corresponds to Objective & Actions I3a & b.

2007 Prairie Conservation and Endangered Species (PCAES) Conference Planning Committee: This conference is held every 3 years and rotates between cities in Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba. The 2007 PCAES will be held in Regina and the Saskatchewan PCAP has assumed the challenge of organizing this major conference that is anticipated to attract over 500 delegates from several jurisdictions in the North American Great Plains. Committee members include: Chris Nykoluk (AAFC-PFRA), Alan Iwaasa (AAFC-SPARC), Michael Champion (DUC), Dr. Stephen Davis (EC-CWS), Jordan Ignatiuk (NCC), Pat Fargey (PC-GNP), Karyn Scalise (PCAP), Glenn Sutter (RSM), Greg Riemer and Ann Gerry (SE), Allen Patkau (SSGA), Dale Hjertaas and Glenn McMaster (SWA), Dr. David Gauthier (UofR-CPRC) and Dr. Yuguang Bai and Dr. Joe Schmutz (UofS). Additional Partners are expected to participate on sub-committees that are in the process of being established. This supports Goal V, Objective b.

5. PCAP Progress – Executive Summary

This Partner Update reports on the activities of PCAP Partner Groups. Representatives from 19 Partner Groups participated in our March 2004 Plan Evaluation Meeting and reached consensus on ranking progress our 78 Actions as poor, fair or good. In addition to tracking progress and shortfalls, this annual review serves to keep Partners informed and motivated and provides an invaluable forum for discussing issues affecting native prairie and strategies to address them.

Additional Partner Activities and Highlights (June 1/03 – March 31/03)

PCAP Progress in addition to Activities listed in Table 1 and Highlights

The following is a list of accomplishments since June 2003 when the 2003-2008 PCAP was launched.

- Launched PCAP 2003-2008 at PCAP Partnership Signing Ceremony - Royal Saskatchewan Museum, June 17, 2003.

- Proclamation of Native Prairie Appreciation Week 2003 (June 15-21) by the Minister of SAFRR. Joint press release with quotes from SAFRR and SE Ministers.
- 3 meetings of the PCAP Partnership have been held.
- Secured funding from 12 Partners, 4 granting agencies, 1 sponsor and 1 bequest in addition to significant in-kind support from several Partner groups.
- Established the following Committees: Executive Committee, Science Committee, Policy Committee, Proposal Review Committee, Prairie Conservation Award Committee, and 2007 Prairie Conservation and Endangered Species (PCAES) Conference Planning Committee.
- Awarded the Countryside Canada Award in February 2004 for accomplishments related to our 1998-2003 Plan.
- Completed PCAP Partner Update Number Four, herein, which provides an inventory of Partner activities, relative to our 78 Actions, and ranks progress on them.

Ranking of Progress on PCAP Actions

Table 1: Ranking of progress on PCAPs 78 Actions in the 2003-2008 Action Plan

Action	Goal/Objective/Action	Ranking
	GOAL 1: TO SUSTAIN A HEALTHY NATIVE PRAIRIE GRAZING RESOURCE	
	Objective 1 - Promote grazing management programs that are based on economically and scientifically sound principles	
I 1 a	Continue extension programming with landowners	GOOD
I 1 b	Host workshops, field days, range schools and other extension events	GOOD
I 1 c	Produce and distribute extension materials for land managers	GOOD
I 1 d	Provide ongoing training and resources for extension staff	GOOD
I 1 e	Update and publish the "Range Plan Development Guide")	FAIR
	Objective 2 - Explore the economics of maintaining a healthy range resource for grazing	
I 2 a	Encourage development of conservation cover programs that contribute to the ecological and socio-economic sustainability of rangelands	GOOD
I 2 b	Develop an incentive-based lease rate structure program to encourage enhanced management on Crown leases	POOR
	Objective 3 - Recognize and support the efforts of private and public land managers and industry that conserve native prairie	
I 3 a	Increase support, awareness and publicity for both the SSGA/Royal Bank TESAward and the SRM Outstanding Achievement Award	FAIR
I 3 b	Acknowledge the efforts of Award winners through development of a comprehensive communication plan (print media, advertising, presentations etc	FAIR
	Objective 4 - Increase the inventory of range resources on public and private lands to promote guidance on grazing management plans	
I 4 a	Complete range assessments and management plans for remaining pastures plus assessments on Crown leases	FAIR-GOOD
I 4 b	Promote range health assessment and management plan development on private lands (e.g. range schools	FAIR
I 4 c	Promote range health assessment and management plan development on lands owned and managed by each respective agency or organization	FAIR
I 4 d	Compile a "state of the resource" report, compiling all available public and private inventory data and analysis	POOR
	GOAL 2: TO CONSERVE THE REMAINING PRAIRIE RESOURCE	
	Objective 1 - Complete and maintain an inventory of native prairie	
II 1 a	Acquire and interpret the most recent land cover and soils maps for southern Saskatchewan (update 2001 NPSS/UofS-CPRC publication	POOR

II 1 b	Identify areas of high risk for drainage or destruction	FAIR
II 1 c	Coordinate the development of land information databases as tools for landowner negotiation, extension and technology transfer	POOR
	Objective 2 - Continue to develop a system of managed conservation areas	
II 2 a	Work towards completion of the RAN in the Prairie Ecozone	GOOD
II 2 b	Identify and ensure that areas that are a priority for conservation receive protection	FAIR
	Objective 3 - Encourage voluntary stewardship to conserve native prairie	
II 3 a	Support private stewardship programs that involve landowner extension work	GOOD
II 3 b	Develop a landowner stewardship program directory	FAIR- GOOD
	Objective 4 - Ensure that the remaining native prairie is protected from cultivation and development	
II 4 a	Maintain the Crown's commitment to conserving native prairie under its control; excluding prior commitments and promises made	GOOD
II 4 b	Review all Crown land proposed sales involving native prairie and register CE's where appropriate	GOOD
II 4 c	In all circumstances, if WHPA land is sold a CE should be placed on the property to ensure that the natural values of the land receive the same level of protection as provided under WHPA	GOOD
II 4 d	Acknowledge that under certain conditions there are options to make a CE agreement for a designated length of time rather than in perpetuity	GOOD
	Objective 5 - Improve the use of Conservation Easements (CEs) and other tools to conserve native prairie that accommodate and respect agricultural interests	
II 5 a	Promote the use of CE's to maintain native prairie on private lands	GOOD
II 5 b	Do a gap analysis for non-purchase securement tools	POOR
II 5 c	Determine the types and levels of incentives required for native prairie conservation	FAIR
II 5 d	Improve and simplify the process, agreements and valuation procedures for CE's	GOOD
II 5 e	Develop protocols, monitor and police CE's	FAIR
II 5 f	Determine the effect of CE's on land values	FAIR
II 5 g	Develop a forum for landowners to discuss pros and cons of CE's and other conservation tools	FAIR
	Objective 6 - Ensure that property taxation and assessment policies are favorable to native prairie conservation	
II 6 a	Determine the impact of existing tax assessment policies and land use ratings on conservation of native prairie. Change policies that encourage "development" of land or place an unrealistic value on native prairie	FAIR
II 6 b	Develop "conservation land" category with SAMA which better recognizes the public values provided	FAIR
	Objective 7 - Adopt and improve regulations, policies, programs, and economic instruments that reward rather than penalize stewardship and conservation of native prairie ecosystems	
II 7 a	Identify and prioritize those regulations, policies, programs and economic instruments that are most significant	FAIR
II 7 b	Promote adherence to federal and provincial wetland policies	FAIR
II 7 c	Work to change regulations that are in conflict with stated government policies	FAIR
II 7 d	Develop watershed conservation and/or restoration plans and improve watershed management	GOOD
	Objective 8 - Encourage government and industry to improve regulations, monitoring and technology to minimize negative impacts upon native prairie	
II 8 a	Encourage industry to adopt the least invasive technologies when working on native prairie	FAIR- GOOD
II 8 b	Develop and deliver industry-specific conservation and stewardship education programs	POOR
II 8 c	Encourage government and industry to develop cumulative impacts guidelines	POOR
	GOAL 3: TO MAINTAIN NATIVE PRAIRIE BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY	
	Objective 1 - Improve our understanding of native prairie biological diversity	

III 1 a	Encourage studies and research on native prairie ecosystems with emphasis on the effects of different land management practices on key components of native biodiversity	GOOD
III 1 b	Develop prairie ecosystem management decision support computer model that includes representative components of native biodiversity as one of the model outputs	GOOD
	Objective 2 - Promote management of native prairie to maintain biological diversity	
III 2 a	Develop and incorporate biodiversity best management practice recommendations in range extension communication products	FAIR
III 2 b	Encourage information exchange between range managers, biologists and others	GOOD
	Objective 3 - Control the threat and impact of introduced invasive species to native prairie	
III 3 a	Identify and promote awareness of the negative impacts of introduced and invasive species to native prairie	FAIR
III 3 b	Investigate and promote methods to manage and control invasive species	FAIR-GOOD
III 3 c	Discourage the introduction of additional non-native species that threaten native prairie biodiversity (e.g. development of protective buffer areas around significant native prairie areas by seeding non-invasive pasture species)	FAIR
	Objective 4 - Promote restoration and recovery of native prairie ecosystems	
III 4 a	Promote practical research to refine and increase use of restoration technology including the evaluation of the agricultural potential of using native species in forage production and grazing systems	FAIR
III 4 b	Encourage the development and use of native seed mixes in permanent cover, reclamation programs and projects	GOOD
III 4 c	Promote communication of Species at Risk legislation to stakeholders and actively encourage that implementation of the legislation be guided by the principal of working cooperatively with land managers	FAIR
III 4 d	Identify restoration and recovery targets of high conservation value, assess the feasibility of restoration and recovery of those targets, and develop restoration strategies for suitable target sites	GOOD
	GOAL 4: TO PROMOTE COMPLEMENTARY SUSTAINABLE USES OF NATIVE PRAIRIE	
	Objective 1 – Promote community based business opportunities associated with native prairie	
IV 1 a	Provide the tourism industry and community organizations with information and technical experience to support hunting, fishing, eco- and agri-tourism and other recreational activities	FAIR
IV 1 b	Liaise with rural revitalization groups to develop guidelines to ensure sustainable use of native prairie	POOR
	Objective 2 – Encourage the development of a native plant production industry	
IV 2 a	Develop a native plant materials centre for research and development	POOR
IV 2 b	Develop educational materials and guidelines to promote the use and production of non-invasive native plant materials for re-vegetation in and adjacent to native areas	FAIR
IV 2 c	Encourage the establishment of new, mandatory testing and certification programs for native, forage, and horticultural species, varieties, cultivars and ecological varieties at the Federal and Provincial levels	POOR
IV 2 d	Promote the development of local native seed growers, processors, suppliers and testing facilities	FAIR
	Objective 3 – Advance the exploration of native prairie towards the sustainable development of other bio-based products	
IV 3 a	Develop exploration and research and development tax credits or other incentives for companies exploring and developing new bio-based products	POOR
IV 3 b	Develop guidelines, management plans, and licensing for the harvest of native prairie species	FAIR
	Objective 4 – Recognize and quantify the socio-economic contribution of native prairie and perennial grasslands	
IV 4 a	Survey the literature and conduct gap analysis regarding ecological services including grazing, and communicate the findings	FAIR
IV 4 b	Encourage organizations to quantify and report on the economic and social benefits associated	FAIR

	with their particular use of the native prairie resources economic and social benefits	
	GOAL 5: TO INCREASE AWARENESS AND UNDERSTANDING OF NATIVE PRAIRIE AND ITS VALUES	
	Objective 1 – Promote awareness of the PCAP Vision, Goals, Objectives and Actions	
V 1 a	Increase co-ordination and communication between agencies conducting research on native prairie ecosystems and feature a presentation relating to a particular Goal at each PCAP meeting	FAIR
V 1 b	Maintain and regularly update the PCAP website	FAIR-GOOD
V 1 c	Link PCAP Partners to (and from) PCAP Website	GOOD
V 1 d	Recruit new PCAP Partners	GOOD
V 1 e	Promote the PCAP through the media	GOOD
V 1 f	Compile and distribute annual Partner Updates	GOOD
V 1 g	Promote the PCAP at trade-shows, conferences etc	GOOD
V 1 h	Encourage Partners to regularly update staff and members	GOOD
	Objective 2 - Evaluate public awareness, appreciation and understanding of native prairie	
V 2 a	Conduct and report on a questionnaire survey assessing public awareness, understanding and appreciation of native prairie	GOOD
	Objective 3 - Coordinate PCAP communication and education activities with other native prairie conservation initiatives	
V 3 a	Contribute to the development of the CEC North American Grassland Conservation Strategy	GOOD
V 3 b	Exchange information on a regular basis with other Prairie Conservation groups	GOOD
	Objective 4 - Educate the general public about native prairie ecosystems	
V 4 a	Develop and deliver youth education programs	GOOD
V 4 b	Develop and distribute educational materials	GOOD
V 4 c	Organize NPAW and other special events	GOOD
V 4 d	Develop and deliver regional native prairie education workshops and other programs	FAIR
	Objective 5 – Increase public appreciation of the beneficial role played by the livestock industry and other stewards in the management of native prairie	
	Promote the role of the livestock industry and other native prairie stewards through the media, presentations and publications	FAIR

6. Inventory of PCAP Partner Activities IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY:

GOAL 1: TO SUSTAIN A HEALTHY NATIVE PRAIRIE GRAZING RESOURCE

Objective	Actions (RANKING)	Timetable	LEAD AND SUPPORTING AGENCIES, Continuing Activities & Update
<p>1. Promote grazing management programs that are based on economically and scientifically sound principles.</p> <p>See also Goal 2, Objective 3 (Encourage voluntary stewardship to conserve native prairie) and Goal 3, Objective 2 (Promote management of native prairie to maintain biological diversity) and Goal 5, Objective 4, Action b (Develop and deliver regional native prairie education workshops and other programs) for related activities.</p>	<p>a) Continue extension programming with landowners. (GOOD)</p>	January 2004	AAFC-PFRA, DUC, SAFRR, SFC, SSGA and the U of S partnered with WBDC to deliver 2-day cow-calf management schools at Lloydminster, Moose Jaw and Kenosee Lake (total 150 producers) and 1-day schools at Kindersley, Eastend, Kisbey, Kelvington and Prince Albert (total 135 producers); topics included financial and production performance, creating grazing plans, herd health management and developing marketing strategies (contact Tim Highmoor - WBDC).
		Since 1993	DUC works to develop sound range management practices with interested landowners (contact Michael Champion).
		Since 2002	DUC promotes sound range management through its rangeland stewardship initiative, which provides capital investment for producers as well as providing a venue for grazing clubs and tours/workshops (contact Michael Champion).
		Annually in February 2001- 2004	PCAP and Partners including AAFC-PFRA, DUC, EC-CWS, DFO, NCC, NS, SAFRR, SSGA, and SWA delivered Town Hall Meetings on Landowner Stewardship Programs featuring presentations and displays to acquaint landowners with local stewardship programs. Target areas have included: Swift Current & area (2004); Great Sand Hills & Frenchman River Watershed (2003); Missouri Coteau (2001 & 2002) (contact Karyn Scalise).
		January 2004	SAFRR, AAFC-PFRA, DUC and SWA delivered in depth and personalized Rangeland/ Pasture planning workshops in the Kindersely region (contact Jim Armstrong).
		Since May 1997	SWA conducts on-farm visits, field days and workshops throughout SK to provide landowners with prairie and riparian management information. 1200 landowners who have made voluntary stewardship agreements to conserve over 507,000 acres of native prairie, 231 miles of streams, and over 14,000 acres of wetlands have received on-farm visits and continue to receive the quarterly 'Prairie Update' newsletter (contact Jennifer Lohmeyer).
<p>Goal 1, Objective 1, Action b</p>	<p>b) Host workshops, field days, range schools and other extension events. (GOOD)</p>	Since 2002	AAFC-PFRA, DUC, SAFRR, and SWA, have jointly hosted 8 extension events with landowners (contact Chris Nykoluk-AAFC-PFRA, Michael Champion-DUC, Trevor Lennox -SAFRR or Jennifer Lohmeier- SWA).
		July 2003	AAFC-PFRA and SRC held a range management and plant identification workshop (including rare plants) for 40 pasture staff at Dundurn pasture. AAFC-PFRA also held a range day for 40 pasture staff at Val Marie pasture. Topics included range plant identification, range condition assessment and species at risk (contact Chris Nykoluk-AAFC-PFRA or Bob Godwin-SRC).
		July 2003	AAFC-PFRA and SAFRR held a range day/safety school for 68 pasture managers and riders; topics included stocking rates and poisonous plants (contact Chris Nykoluk, AAFC-PFRA or Don Fontaine, SAFRR)
		May 2003	AAFC-PFRA, WBDC, SAFRR, SFC and others cooperated to deliver the Saskatchewan Pasture School to 60 producers; this is annual event focuses on various forage production issues (contact Bart Lardner-WBDC or Chris Nykoluk-AAFC-PFRA).
		June 2002 and June 2004	AAFC-SPARC, SAFRR and the Southwest Forage Association hosted a range field day at the Swift Current Research Station on past and ongoing forage and grazing research (contact Alan Iwaasa-AAFC-SPARC and Trevor Lennox - SAFRR).

	Since 2002	DUC submits articles to print media/radio on range management practices and conservation of waterfowl and wildlife habitat (contact Michael Champion).
	February 2003	NPSS delivered a grass identification workshop at its 2003 AGM and Workshop (contact Garth Wruck).
	January 2002	SAFRR hosted the 2-day Range and Forage Conference “Foraging into the Future II” in Swift Current (contact Trevor Lennox).
	January 2004	SFC hosted the Western Canadian Forage and Turf Seed Conference in Saskatoon (contact Michel Tremblay).
	Winter 2004	SFC held 2 regional extension meetings on forages in Swift Current and Kindersley (contact Michel Tremblay).
	June 2003	SRM, PCAP, AAFC-PFRA, NPSS, SAFRR, SE, SSGA & SWA participated in the development and delivery of the “Discovering the Big Muddy Badlands” Workshop and Field Tour in conjunction with NPAW 2003. Sponsors included SP, SaskTel, and NS (contact Trevor Lennox).
	June 24-25, 2004	SRM, PCAP, AAFC-PFRA, DUC, NPSS, SAFRR, SSGA, SWA and local residents are planning the “Discovering the Moose Mountains” Workshop and Field Tour in conjunction with NPAW 2004 (contact Michel Tremblay).
	June 2003	SWA delivered a “Forage and Grazing Field Day” in Redvers, “Forage Tour” in Kindersley, “Livestock Forage and Water Quality Field Day” in Churchbridge, and “Meacham Hills Forage Club Tour” in Meacham (contact Jennifer Lohmeyer).
	June 2004	SWA delivered “Pasture Field Days” in Landis and Rosthern, and a “Range and Pasture School” in Broadview (contact Jennifer Lohmeyer).
	July-August 2003	SWA delivered a grazing management program to 4H camps at Swift Current, and Kenosee Lake (contact Jennifer Lohmeyer).
	July 2003	SWA, DUC and UofR conducted 2 riparian health workshops (contact Jennifer Lohmeyer).
	December 2003	SWA, SAFRR, NS, AAFC-PFRA, and AIMS hosted a landowner workshop in the Manitou Sandhills area, with topics including marketing cattle, grass production, and species at risk (contact Krista Connick).
	1999 to present	SWA holds several workshops, field days, range schools, and other extension events at various locations throughout the year (contact Jennifer Lohmeyer).
Goal 1, Objective 1, Action c	c) Produce and distribute extension materials for land managers. (GOOD)	Since 1991 AAFC-PFRA delivers a comprehensive range management extension program for Community Pasture staff. Topics include plant identification, grazing systems, prescribed burning, riparian management, species at risk, and native grassland reclamation (contact Chris Nykoluk).
	Bi-annually since Oct. 2002	AAFC-PFRA, AAFC-CARDS, DUC, SAFRR, SFC, SSGA, SWA & WBDC produce and distribute the Livestock and Forage Gazette. This newsletter is produced biannually, focuses on livestock and forage production issues, and is circulated to ~ 8,000 livestock producers. Available in PDF format on PCAP, SFC, SSGA, SWA, and WBDC websites (contact Chris Nykoluk).
	Since 2002	AAFC-PFRA has distributed > 150 Burrowing Owl prints by Fred Lahrman to land managers and policy makers (contact Chris Nykoluk)
	2003	SAFRR reprinted the following range-related publications: Rejuvenation of Tame Forages – Parkland; Rejuvenation of Tame Forages – Southern SK; Fertilizing Tame Pastures; Swath Grazing Fact Sheet; Grazing Mixed Wood Forests in SK; Field Guide – ID of Common Seeded Forage Plants of SK; Field Guide – ID of Range Plants of Southern SK; Grazing Management for Sheep Production; SK Forage Crop Production Guide (contact Trevor Lennox).
	Since 2003	SAFRR is incorporating a pasture management worksheet to the Environmental Farm Plan process to communicate information on tame and native range management to conserve native grasslands (contact Michel Tremblay)
	Fall 2003 –	SAFRR-ADF Advisory Committee approved funding for a 3-year project to

		Spring 2007	complete a comparative study of annual forage systems. It will compare yields, nutritive quality and economics of cool season cereals vs. warm season millets for greenfeed/silage, swath grazing and grazing estimates, plus spring seeded winter annuals/annual ryegrass for grazing estimates. The purpose is to provide scientific evidence on which to base forage production, management, and economic extension packages for producers wishing to increase forage production to allow increased livestock numbers or relieve pressure on native rangeland (contact Bob Drysdale).
		2003	SFC published 3 SK Hay Reports (contact Michel Tremblay).
		Quarterly since 1997	SWA produces the 'Prairie Update'. This newsletter discusses prairie and riparian management and is distributed to over 1500 landowners. Available in PDF format on SWA website (contact Tracy Harrison).
		Since 1997	SWA produces and distributes the following range/riparian related publications: Classification and Management of Riparian and Wetland Sites of the Saskatchewan Prairie Ecozone and Parts of Adjacent Subregions by William Thompson and Paul Hansen, 2001; Farm Management Facts - Making Sense of Salinity; Farm Management Facts - Paying the Freight on Marginal Land Production; Farm Management Facts - The Economics of Converting Wetlands to Croplands; Managing Crested Wheatgrass in Native Grassland; Control of Knapweeds in Native Grasslands; Managing Smooth Brome in Native Grasslands; Management of Downy Brome in Native Grasslands; Managing Leafy Spurge on Native Grasslands; Managing Nodding and Canada Thistle on Native Grasslands; Controlling Scentless Chamomile in Native Grasslands; Managing Western Snowberry and Trembling Aspen on Native Grasslands; Managing Saskatchewan Wetlands - A Landowner's Guide; Managing Your Native Prairie Parcels; Native Prairie Stewardship Fact Sheets (Your Wildlife Neighbours, A Question of Value, Protecting an Ecosystem, Plants with a Sense of Community, Harvesting and Marketing Native Seeds, Managing Prairie Wetlands, A Cultural Landscape, Conservation Easements); Protecting Our Water - A Watershed and Aquifer Planning Model for Saskatchewan; Streambank Stewardship - A Saskatchewan Riparian Project; Streambank Stewardship Fact Sheets (What makes a Healthy Riparian Area?, Farming Along the Stream, Ranching Along the Stream, Living on the Edge: Wildlife Along the Stream, Beaver: Creator or Destroyer?); A Land Manager's Guide to Grasslands Birds of Saskatchewan (contact Jennifer Lohmeyer).
		October 2003	SWA developed and published two fact sheets: Health of Riparian Areas in Southern Saskatchewan; Economics of Riparian Grazing Management (contact Etienne Soulodre). SWA published 'Streambank Stewardship – Directory of producer experiences along streams and creeks' (contact Etienne Soulodre). SWA & SAFRR published 'Stewardship and Economics of Cattle Wintering Sites' (contact Etienne Soulodre).
Goal 1, Objective 1, Action d	d) Provide ongoing training and resources for extension staff. (GOOD)	April 2004 2003-2008	AAFC-PFRA Greencover Canada Program contains a Technical Assistance Component that will provide 2M funding for gap areas for range, pasture, riparian and shelterbelt related extension activities. The goal is to increase uptake of Beneficial Management Practices (BMPs) by producers and complement existing programs and services provided by other Partners. This committee is co-chaired by AAFC-PFRA and SAFRR with participation from SWA (contact Terry Kowalchuk, AAFC-PFRA or Michel Tremblay, SAFRR).
		Summer 2003	AAFC-PFRA, DUC, SCIC, SAFRR and SWC forage extension agrologists received Forage Technical Assistance Toolkits at 2 technical workshops in Medicine Hat (35 participants) and Lloydminster (60 participants) (contact Chris Nukoluk).
		January 2002	SAFRR hosted the 2-day Range and Forage Conference 'Foraging into the Future II' in Swift Current (contact Trevor Lennox).
		June 2002	SAFRR and AAFC-SPARC hosted a range field day at the Swift Current Research Station (contact Trevor Lennox).
		December 3-5, 2003	SSGA, SAFRR, SWA, AAFC-PFRA, PCAB and UofS (College of Agriculture), Elanco Animal Health, Dow AgroSciences Canada Inc., Merial (Ivomec) and WBDC served on the planning committee for the 2003 Western Canadian Forage and Grazing Conference in Saskatoon. Over 200 delegates attended

			(contact Sheila Fishley – SSGA).
		1999 to present	SWA has hosted riparian assessment and range assessment training workshops for extension staff from SWA and other agencies. (Jennifer Lohmeyer)
Goal 1, Objective 1, Action e	e) Update and publish the “Range Plan Development Guide”. (FAIR)	April 2004	PCAP, SWA, AAFC-PFRA, DUC, SAFRR, UofS, SRC, and the Conservation Learning Centre (CLC) in Prince Albert received AAFC-Green Cover Program funding to update and publish this resource (contact Tom Harrison).
2. Explore the economics of maintaining a healthy range resource for grazing.	a) Encourage development of conservation cover programs that contribute to the ecological and socio-economic sustainability of rangelands. (GOOD)	Summer 2003	AAFC-PFRA announced the Greencover Canada Program consisting of 4 components: Conversion of Environmentally Sensitive Croplands, Shelterbelts, Technical Assistance, and Critical Areas Management. To date 53,285 tame grass acres and 2,242 native grass acres have been approved for conversion; SAFRR is a partner in program delivery (contact Bill Houston).
		January 2002	AAFC-PFRA, through the U of S Department of Agricultural Economics, released a research report on ‘Estimation of Cost Recovery Levels on Federal Community Pastures Under Joint Private and Public Benefits’; examination showed that the private and public benefits are about equal (contact Chris Nykoluk).
		Since 1998	DUC continues to operate a forage conversion program to promote the conversion of cropland to perennial forage. In 2003 selected Rural Municipalities were eligible for the program (contact Michael Champion or Richard McBride)
		2003	DUC initiated a feasibility study to determine the cost/benefits of developing a community pasture in the Allan Hills (contact Richard McBride).
		Since 2003	DUC has been studying the value of ecological goods and services as part of a process to develop a land conversion program to complement native rangeland (contact Richard McBride).
		March 2001 – March 2004	SAFRR delivered the Conservation Cover Program to promote the conversion of cropland to perennial forage and reduce grazing pressures on native rangeland. Approximately 1 Million acres of cropland were converted to forage under this program (contact Mark Folk).
		Since 2002	SWA actively participates on the Greencover Canada Program committees and workshops (contact Tom Harrison).
		July 2004	SFC is developing a forage seed check-off (contact Michel Tremblay).
Goal 1, Objective 2, Action b	b) Develop an incentive-based lease rate structure program to encourage enhanced management on Crown leases. (POOR)		
3. Recognize and support the efforts of private and public land managers who conserve native prairie. See also: Goal 5, Objective 5 (Increase public appreciation of the beneficial role played by the livestock industry and other stewards in the management of native prairie) for related activities.	a) Increase support, awareness and publicity for the SSGA/Royal Bank TESAward, the SRM Outstanding Achievement Award and other prairie conservation related awards. (FAIR)	Annually since 1995	SSGA, DUC, RBC Financial Group, Merial (Ivomec), AAFC-PFRA, and SWA participate on the TESA committee. Information on TESA and recipients is available on the SSGA website (contact Sheila Fishley – SSGA).
		Awarded in February 2004 (Awarded every 3 years since 1989)	Dr. David Gauthier (UofR-CPRC) received the Saskatchewan Prairie Conservation Award in 2004 and will join previous recipients on the 2007 Committee. Previous recipients included Greg Riemer – SE (2001), Miles Anderson – SSGA (1998), Dale Hjertaas – SWA (1995), Donald Hooper (1992) (deceased) and Dr. Stuart Houston (1989) (retired). The award honours individuals with a lifetime dedication to prairie conservation (contact Greg Riemer – SE).
		February 2004	PCAP received the Countryside Canada Award in recognition of accomplishments related to the 1998-2003 Action Plan at the 7 th PCAES Conference. The Award is administered by Wildlife Habitat Canada in partnership with the Canadian Federation of Agriculture (contact Karyn Scalise).
		January 2004	Tom Harrison (SWA) received the SRM Outstanding Achievement Award, presented by SRMs Northern Great Plains Section that includes SK, MB, ND and eastern MT. Previous recipients include Phil Curry (DUC) and Chris Nykoluk (AAFC-PFRA). This Award acknowledges accomplishments in the art and science of range management (contact Michel Tremblay).

		Since 2000	SRM has a Certified Professional Range Manager (CPRM) program, which provides recognition for individuals that complete an exam and obtain continuing education credits, in order to maintain high levels of technical expertise in land management (contact Michel Tremblay).
Goal 1, Objective 3, Action b	b) Acknowledge the efforts of Award winners through the development of a comprehensive communication plan (print media, advertising, presentations, etc.) (FAIR)	Since 1995	PCAP acknowledges TESA recipients in the 2003-2008 PCAP and through other communication tools (contact Karyn Scalise).
		Since 2003	SSGA acknowledges TESA recipients through its website, magazine, display and presentations (contact Sheila Fishley).
		Summer 2003	SRM, SWA, SSGA and PCAP assisted the Western Producer in developing an article on the 2003 TESA winner (contact Ross Macdonald – SRM/SWA).
		Winter 2001	SWA published an article on the 2003 TESA winner in the 'Prairie Update' (contact Jennifer Lohmeyer).
		Since 2003	The TESA recipient is featured annually in the fall-winter issue of the Livestock & Forage Gazette (contact Chris Nykoluk).
		March 2004	PCAP distributed a media release on the Countryside Canada Award it received for accomplishments associated with the 1998-2003 Plan (contact Karyn Scalise).
			SWA published an article on Tom Harrison's SRM Outstanding Achievement Award in the 'Prairie Update' (contact Jennifer Lohmeyer).
			SSGA published an article on Tom Harrison's SRM Outstanding Achievement Award in the 'Stockgrower' (contact Sheila Fishley).
4. Increase the inventory of range resources on public and private lands to promote guidance on grazing management.	a) Complete range assessments and management plans for remaining community pastures (1 of 60 AAFC-PFRA and 35 of 54 SAFRR pastures have yet to be completed), plus assessments on 100 Crown leases. (FAIR-GOOD)	1985-2004	AAFC-PFRA has completed range condition assessments for 60 of 61 community pastures using currently accepted range condition assessment methodology. Dundurn pasture has yet to be assessed. All pasture assessments are to be completed by 2004. The database is shared with other agencies working on research related studies (contact Bill Houston).
		2003	SAFRR completed 7 range plans on provincial community pastures (St. Walburg, Cabana, Meyronne, Strawberry Lake, Old Wives, Marean Lake and Paddockwood). Continued priority will be placed on completing range plans on the remaining 35 SAFRR pastures (contact Rick Ashton).
		Annually since 1999	SAFRR Lands Branch monitors land to determine ecological health and conducts land audits to ensure proper use. In 2003, 21,405 acres of Crown Land were inspected (monitored). Regionally, this total breaks down as follows: the NE region, 10,336 ac; the NW region 8,669 ac with the remaining 2,400 ac in the SW. Ninety (90) percent of the lands inspected in the NE were at risk or degraded due to the presence of exotics, not from soil degradation. In the NW region, fifty (50) percent of the land fell in these two categories, again for similar reasons. In contrast, the South region, recorded ninety-three (93) percent of inspected land in a "healthy" status. Lands Branch will continue to work with lessees in improving the at-risk sites (contact Don Fontaine).
		2002	SAFRR Lands Branch and SRC working to determine whether foliage height can be used as a measure of plant vigour (contact Don Fontaine – SAFRR or Jeff Thorpe – SRC).
		2003	SAFRR Lands Branch improved the community pasture grazing report form to enable improved tracking of stocking rates by SAFRR pasture managers (contact Don Fontaine).
		1998-2000	SE completed rapid ecological assessments of 19 AAFC-PFRA pastures and 2 SAFRR pastures as part of the RAN initiative (contact Dave Arneson).
Goal 1, Objective 4, Action b	b) Promote range health assessment and management plan development on private lands (e.g., range schools) (FAIR)	Since 1993	DUC works with producers to develop management plans on privately owned pastures (contact Michael Champion).
		Since 2002	DUC works with grazing cooperatives to develop range management plans on cooperative lands (contact Michael Champion).

Goal 1, Objective 4, Action c	c) Promote range health assessment and management plan development on lands owned and managed by each respective agency or organization. (FAIR)	Since 2002	SWA held several range schools for private landowners (contact Jennifer Lohmeyer).
		Since July 1995	SWA has completed range health assessments on over 203,000 acres of privately owned native range. Management plans have been developed with some producers (contact Tom Harrison).
		Since 2001	DUC inventories its land every 3 years as part of its management strategy (contact Andrew Hak or Richard McBride).
		Since 1995	EC-CWS and AAFC-PFRA are cooperating to manage native prairie on Last Mountain Lake National Wildlife Area and to develop management plans and assess range health (contact Dean Nernberg -EC-CWS or Bill Bristol - AAFC-PFRA).
		Since 2000	NCC performs range assessments on newly acquired properties and implements management plans to achieve and maintain good range condition (contact Jordan Ignatiuk).
		2002-2003	SAFRR Lands Branch installed ~ 200 km of shallow water pipelines in community pastures. This is part of a multi-year project to provide supplemental water sources and lessen the reliance on surface water. This results in improved distribution of cattle and more fully utilizes the available forage resources, while helping to drought-proof pastures. Work will continue on other SAFRR pastures (contact Rick Ashton)
		2004-2005	SAFRR and SWA will collaborate on a project at Pipestone Community Pasture to achieve better forage management through additional fencing and water development. A range management plan / inventory will also be completed. Patron tours will be initiated to highlight some beneficial management options (contacts Donald Fontaine & Etienne Soulodre).
		2003	SE completed rapid ecological assessments on 72 parcels (2900 ha) of FWDF land in the Grasslands EcoRegion and 30 parcels (1200 ha) of FWDF land in the Parkland EcoRegion as part of the RAN initiative (contact Dave Arneson).
Goal 1, Objective 4, Action d	d) Compile a “state of the resource” report, compiling all available public and private inventory data and analysis. (POOR)	2003	SWA staff performed assessments on SWA lands to guide the development of management plans for implementation in the future (contact Jennifer Lohmeyer).

**PCAP IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY:
GOAL II: TO CONSERVE THE REMAINING PRAIRIE RESOURCE**

Objective	Actions (RANKING)	Timetable	LEAD AND SUPPORTING AGENCIES, Continuing Activities & Update
1. Complete and maintain an inventory of native prairie.	a) Acquire and interpret the most recent land cover and soils maps for southern Saskatchewan (update 2001 NPSS/CPRC publication). (POOR)		
Goal 2, Objective 1, Action b	b) Identify areas of high risk for drainage or destruction. (FAIR)	Since 1998	DUC has been monitoring habitat transects to determine loss of native prairie, bush and wetlands. It is important to note that each year habitat loss is occurring (contact Richard McBride).
		2001-2004	EC-CWS is updating its habitat monitoring transect network across Saskatchewan and the Prairies. Land cover and land use are being monitored for both upland and wetland habitat. The baseline data was collected in 1985 and a subset of this data was updated in 1999. The remaining transects are being monitored to identify habitat change and land use trends in the Prairie Habitat Joint Venture area. These updates will provide estimates of wetland and upland habitat losses as well as land use trends across the sampled landscapes (contact Dean Nernberg).
		February 2002	EC-CWS produced a report entitled 'PHJV Habitat Monitoring Program Phase I: Recent Habitat Trends' outlining the results of the first phase of an ongoing evaluation of habitat trends within Prairie Habitat Joint Venture target areas, and establishing a foundation for a long-term habitat monitoring program (contact Ron Bazin).
		2004	SWA will summarize existing drainage and complaint data to determine the contribution this data may make in identifying where wetland drainage has occurred and is ongoing (contact Glen McMaster).
Goal 2, Objective 1, Action c	c) Coordinate the development of land information data bases as tools for landowner negotiation, extension and technology transfer. (POOR)	Since 2002	DUC inventories its land every 3 years to implement their management strategy (contact Andrew Hak or Richard McBride).
		Since 2000	EC-CWS provides funding through the HSP to various PCAP Partners for the development of land information and assessment databases, such as those for piping plovers and burrowing owls, to guide landowner stewardship activities (contact Ron Bazin).
2. Continue to develop a system of managed conservation areas.	a) Work towards completion of the RAN in the Prairie Ecozone. (GOOD)	2001-2002	SE purchased 7,834 acres (3,170 ha) of important habitat in partnership with SWF, DUC, RMEF, NCC and the Regina Fish and Game League that is included in the RAN (contact Con Olson).
		2002-2003	SE purchased 3,885 acres (1,572 ha) of important habitat in partnership with SWF, DUC, RMEF, NCC and the Regina Fish and Game League. An additional 4,529 acres (1,833 ha) of important habitat was protected through paid CEs. These lands are included in the RAN (contact Con Olson).
		2003-2004	SE has included an additional 48,000 acres (19,433 hectares) into WHPA, for a total of 3.5 million acres, since 1984. WHPA lands are included in the RAN (contact Con Olson).
		Since 1997	SE has incorporated > 5.1 Million hectares of ecologically important lands into the RAN in partnership with the following: AAFC-PFRA, DND, DUC, EC-CWS, PCS, SE-FWDF, SWA and SWF. The RAN includes AAFC and SAFRR pastures, federal and provincial parks, FWDF lands and land included under the <i>Ecological Reserves Act</i> and the <i>Wildlife Habitat Protection Act</i> (contact Fred Beek).

Goal 2, Objective 2, Action b	b) Identify and ensure that areas which are a priority for conservation receive protection. (FAIR)	Since 1995	EC-CWS assists, through the HSP and the EGP, in the acquisition and conservation of native prairie habitat areas important for species-at-risk and overall biodiversity conservation (contact Ron Bazin).
		Since 2002	NCC uses ecoregional planning and site conservation planning in identifying priority areas for conservation when possible (contact Jordan Ignatiuk).
		Since 2003	SE and EC-CWS work within the Environmental Farm Planning process to conduct a Risk to Biodiversity Scan to rank landscapes with the highest risks to biodiversity (contact Greg Riemer-SE or Ron Bazin – EC-CWS).
		Since 2002	SWA has prioritized conservation actions for grassland birds in each ecodistrict based on delineation of Grassland Bird Conservation Areas. Implementation of conservation actions has begun (contact Jennifer Lohmeyer).
3. Encourage voluntary stewardship to conserve native prairie.	a) Support private stewardship programs that involve landowner extension work. (GOOD) See also: Goal 1, Objective 1 (Promote grazing programs that are based on economically and scientifically sound principles) and Goal 3, Objective 2 (Promote management of native prairie to maintain biological diversity) for related activities.	November 2003	DFO's Stewardship in Action Program is being developed to support prairie community initiatives that promote an ethic of ownership and responsibility to protect, maintain and restore freshwater fish and fish habitat on a watershed level. Funding was awarded to some groups, including PCAP, for 2003-2004 projects (contact Rick West).
		Since 1995	EC-CWS continues to provide funding, direction and leadership support for private stewardship initiatives through programs such as the HSP, EGP, EcoAction Community Funding Program and Canada's Stewardship Agenda (contact Ron Bazin).
		Since 1987	NS's Operation Burrowing Owl (OBO) program works with nearly 470 landowners who voluntarily conserve 62,000 ha (150,000 acres) of pastureland throughout southern SK for burrowing owl habitat. Approximately 250 of these participants are conserving native prairie pastures. Of the 62,000 hectares, 22,000 are on private lands and nearly 40,000 hectares are on public lands. OBO encourages voluntary stewardship through a handshake agreement and recognition for landowners (contact Kim Dohms).
		Since 2000	NS and SWA jointly deliver a habitat enhancement program to enlarge pastures through cropland conversion for Burrowing Owls and other species. NS has undertaken 29 enhancement projects with landowners, involving perennial cover seeding, fencing and alternate water development. A total of 4,768 acres have been sown back to perennial cover, 15.5 miles of fence have been installed and 4 remote solar watering sites developed (contact Kim Dohms – NS or Jennifer Lohmeyer - SWA).
		Since 2003	NS's Shrubs for Shrikes program also offers enhancement support, including shrub planting, perennial cover seeding, fencing and alternative water development (contact Kim Dohms).
		2002-2004	NS's Wood River Riparian Project, part of the Important Bird Areas program, supports seeding land adjacent to the River to perennial cover. About 7 landowners will be involved and 900 acres seeded, in addition to some fencing and alternate water development (contact Margaret Skeel).
		Since 2002	NS's Rare Plant Rescue, a voluntary stewardship program, encourages landowners to conserve native prairie containing (or with potential to contain) rare and/or endangered plant species. Over 30 landowners currently participate (contact Margaret Skeel).
		Since 1998	NS's Living by Water Project offers support to shoreline residents of rivers, streams, lakes, and reservoirs, including workshops and educational materials (contact Margaret Skeel).
		Since 1997	SWA manages the Prairie Stewardship Program that provides extension to over 1100 landowners who have made voluntary stewardship agreements to conserve over 445,000 acres of native prairie, 172 miles of streams, and over 12,000 acres of wetlands (contact Jennifer Lohmeyer).
		2002-2003	SWA, with funding support from DFO, manages the Prairie Watercare Program, an educational, hands-on program for volunteers interested in learning about water quality issues in their local watershed (contact Jennifer Lohmeyer).
Goal 2, Objective 3, Action b	b) Develop a landowner stewardship program directory.	April 2003	SWA, DFO, SWF, PCAP, with partial funding support from EC-HSP, completed the "Conservation Program Directory" which can be downloaded from www.snows.sk.ca/conservationprograms.pdf (contact Jennifer Lohmeyer).

(FAIR - GOOD)

4. Ensure that the remaining native prairie is protected from cultivation and development.	a) Maintain the Crown's commitment to conserving native prairie under its control, excluding prior commitments and promises made. (GOOD)	Since 2001	DUC encourages the Provincial and Federal governments to keep Crown lands in the Crown whenever possible, and to protect valuable habitat through perpetual CE's whenever Crown land is to be divested. This initiative has focused on partnership with SAFRR, SE, and other stakeholders of Crown lands. Through persistent influence, SAFRR Lands Branch is now placing more CEs on their divested properties (contact Michael Champion).
		Fall 2001	SAFRR Lands Branch added a clause to Crown Land lease agreements that prohibits, unless approved by the Minister, the cultivation of any naturally vegetated area including native prairie, riparian areas, and dry lake beds (contact Tim Cheesman).
Goal 2, Objective 4, Action b	b) Review all Crown land proposed sales involving native prairie and register CEs where appropriate. (GOOD)	Since 1999	SAFRR Lands Branch continues to use CEs as a method of protecting native prairie prior to Crown Land tender sales. SAFRR holds 31 CEs on 42 quarters of land. This documentation relates to the number of quarters that contain a CE, not the actual area of land covered by CEs. The 2003-04 Crown Land tender sales resulted in the sale of 17 parcels of land with a CE (contact Mary Brick).
		Since 1999	SAFRR Lands Branch and SE biologists work on the pre-identification of Crown Lands worthy of a CE designation according to the following criteria: 1) <u>Attributes</u> : native grassland; native aspen; endangered species areas; edge effect areas; buffer zones; wetlands; special breeding habitat (e.g. leks, nesting sites, calving grounds) 2) <u>Size of Parcels</u> : parcels \geq 40 acres in the Aspen Parkland Eco-Region; parcels \geq 80 acres within all other Eco-Regions; any parcel, regardless of size, in any region containing attributes worthy of protecting (contact Mary Brick).
		Since 2001	SAFRR Lands Branch & SE co-chair a Committee that formulates criteria for placing CEs on Crown land. The Committee is also examining the potential for including other uses on WHPA land that will not jeopardize the conservation of native prairie biodiversity (contact Mary Brick – SAFRR or Conrad Olson – SE).
		Since 2002	SAFRR Lands Branch continues to develop a CE policy to help guide the CE process on Crown Land (contact Mary Brick).
Goal 2, Objective 4, Action c	c) In all circumstances, if WHPA land is sold, a CE should be placed on the property to ensure that the natural values of the land receive the same level of protection as provided under WHPA. (GOOD)		SE is interested in placing CEs on any land that is removed from WHPA protection, unless precluded by previous commitments to the contrary. However, the terms of the relevant inter-governmental agreement prevents this tool from being utilized for WHPA lands removed for Treaty Land Entitlement (TLE) purposes (contact Con Olson).
Goal 2, Objective 4, Action d	d) Acknowledge that under certain conditions there are options to make a CE agreement for a designated length of time rather than in perpetuity. (GOOD)	Since 1997	SE is responsible for CE legislation. The <u>CE Act</u> enables whatever CE term is negotiated. Most conservation groups that hold CEs prefer to negotiate and invest in perpetuity CEs, however, there may be some circumstances where designated terms would be acceptable (contact Con Olson).
5. Improve the use of Conservation Easements (CEs) and other tools to conservative prairie that accommodate and respect agricultural interests.	a) Promote the use of CEs to maintain native prairie on private lands. (GOOD)	Since 2002	DUC encourages the Provincial and Federal governments to keep Crown lands in the Crown whenever possible, and to protect valuable habitat through perpetual CE's whenever Crown land is to be divested. This initiative has focused on partnership with SAFRR, SE, and other stakeholders of Crown lands. Through persistent influence, SAFRR Lands Branch is now placing more CEs on their divested properties (contact Michael Champion).
		Since 2002	DUC continues to pursue CEs on native and naturalized private lands (including wetlands) in areas of high waterfowl productivity within SK (contact Andrew Hak).
		Since 2000	EC-CWS continues to fund the securement of CEs on native prairie that contain habitat crucial for species-at-risk through the HSP (contact Ron Bazin).
		February 2003	EC-CWS produced 'The Canadian Ecological Gifts Program Handbook 2003' a publication that guides donors and recipients through the EGP requirements and

			assists them with CE and land donations (contact Ron Bazin).
		Since 1997	NS distributes information, including brochures detailing CE options to members of their Operation Burrowing Owl, Shrubs for Shrikes and Rare Plant Rescue stewardship programs. NS refers negotiation of CE's to other agencies, but will hold CEs. NS signed a CE with its 6 th landowner, involving 3 properties, in spring 2003 (contact Margaret Skeel).
		Since 1997	NCC has completed 60 CEs covering 34,236 acres (contact Jordan Ignatiuk).
		Fall 2002	NCC produced 'Investing in Our Natural Heritage – A Conservation Toolchest for SK Landowners' which outlines various NCC programs (contact Jordan Ignatiuk).
Goal 2, Objective 5, Action b	b) Do a gap analysis for non-purchase securement tools. (POOR)	Since 1998	Most conservation agencies utilize numerous tools to protect native prairie and other important habitat. Analysis of conservation tools is ongoing (contact Greg Riemer)
Goal 2, Objective 5, Action c	c) Determine the types and levels of incentives required for native prairie conservation. (FAIR)	1999-2003	DUC has secured 5 donated CE (297 acres) and 37 paid CEs (6,207 acres). CEs will only be secured in areas that have high waterfowl nesting densities (contact Richard McBride or Andrew Hak).
		2003- 2004	DUC has 1 donated CE (20 acres) and 19 paid CE's (4,573 acres) (contact Andrew Hak).
		Since 1997	NCC has secured 11 donated CEs (1,893 acres) and 49 paid CEs (32,343 acres). Since NCC began offering paid CEs in 2001, the only donated CEs to complete were those already in progress (if the land falls outside NCC focus areas, only donated CEs are offered). NCCs paid CE policy was set at a maximum of 25% of the fair market value. This was determined based on the data available from comparable sales with CEs registered on title (contact Jordan Ignatiuk).
Goal 2, Objective 5, Action d	d) Improve and simplify the process, agreements and valuation procedures for donated CEs. (GOOD)	July 2002	EC-CWS revised the 'Guidelines for Appraisals' document to reflect new requirements and improvements to the EGP and the appraisal review procedures (contact Ron Bazin).
		November 2002	EC-CWS organized and hosted an EGP workshop (Appraising Ecological Gifts – Conservation Easements: A Workshop with Representatives of the Appraisal Review Panel) in Regina for appraisers and recipients involved in the EGP. The purpose of the workshop was to train appraisers on the methodologies for analyzing and reporting on CE valuation assignments, and to assist recipients in engaging appraisers to work on appraisals destined for the EGP (contact Ron Bazin).
		December 2002	EC-CWS and other organizations have been working to improve donation options under the EGP. As a result, Canada Customs and Revenue Agency issued proposed guidelines on "split-receipting" in relation to gifts under the <i>Income Tax Act</i> allowing donors to receive partial monetary compensation and a tax receipt for the remainder of the land or CE value for donations to a charitable organization under the EGP (contact Ron Bazin).
Goal 2, Objective 5, Action e	e) Develop protocols, monitor and police CEs. (FAIR)	Since 2001	SE works with various agencies on developing monitoring policies for CEs (contact Con Olson).
Goal 2, Objective 5, Action f	f) Determine the effect of CEs on land values. (FAIR)	Since 2000	EC-CWS continued implementation of the EGP Appraisal Review Process to ensure that appraisals coming through the program continue to meet all necessary valuation standards and that they provide correct estimates of value (contact Ron Bazin).
			All holders of CE's should report known sales of land encumbered by a CE to appraisers to assist in the determination of the effect of CE's on land values (contact Jordan Ignatiuk).
		2003	SAFRR tender sales in 2003-4 resulted in 17 parcels of land being sold with a CE. Of the 17 parcels, 9 were sold above the estimated market value, 1 for the same price, and 7 sold for below market value. In the future, SAFRR plans to conduct a more detailed study of the effects CEs have on land sales (contact Mary Brick).

Goal 2, Objective 5, Action g	g) Develop a forum for landowners to discuss pros and cons of CEs and other conservation tools. (FAIR)	February 2004	DUC, EC-CWS, NCC, SAFRR and SE contracted PLEA (Public Legal Education Association of Saskatchewan) to develop a series of 5 'A Look at the Law' information articles on CEs to be published in over 50 rural and northern newspapers with a combined circulation of almost 250,000 households. These articles will provide accurate, straightforward and plain language information on CE legislation and explain the various clauses found in a typical CE agreement. The objective is to increase the capacity of landowners to make more informed decisions about CEs on their land (contact Jordan Ignatiuk).
		Since 2003	NCC, PCAP, SE, and SSGA are developing a fact sheet addressing the pros and cons of CEs (contact Jordan Ignatiuk).
		February 2003	NPSS held a panel discussion at their AGM & Workshop on the value of native prairie and the importance of conservation. Tools such as CEs were discussed (contact Garth Wruck).
6. Ensure that property taxation and assessment policies are favourable to native prairie conservation.	a) Determine the impact of existing tax assessment policies and land use ratings on conservation of native prairie. Change policies that encourage "development" of land or place an unrealistic value on native prairie. (FAIR)	2003-2004	SAFRR, SE, GRAA, and SAMA are developing a working paper analyzing farmland property taxes, including the impact of reducing the assessment value of 'wasteland' – conservation land (contact Gary Coghil).
Goal 2, Objective 6, Action b	b) Develop "Conservation land" category with SAMA that better recognizes the public values provided by native prairie. (FAIR)	2002-2005	DUC encourages the Provincial and Federal governments to keep Crown lands in the Crown whenever possible, and to protect valuable habitat through perpetual CE's whenever Crown land is to be divested. This initiative has focused on partnership with SAFRR, SE, and other stakeholders of Crown lands. Through persistent influence, SAFRR Lands Branch is now placing more CEs on their divested properties (contact Michael Champion).
		2002-2005	DUC and SARM have initiated a 3-year land tax credit program in the RM's of Emerald and Morse. As part of this voluntary program, DUC pays the landowner's portion of the land taxes on every acre of native or naturalized prairie (including wetlands) in return for continued conservation of these lands (contact Bob Neufeld).
		January 2004	SE held preliminary discussions with GRAA. An evaluation of the comparative costs of an acreage payment in lieu of taxes vs. a zero assessment on habitat lands has been completed (contact Greg Riemer).
7. Adopt and improve regulations, policies, programs, and economic instruments that reward rather than penalize stewardship and conservation of native prairie ecosystems.	a) Identify and prioritize those regulations, policies, programs and economic instruments that are most significant. (FAIR)	2003-2005	SE works on analyzing the effects of regulations, policies, programs and economic instruments on native prairie conservation. SE met with SAMA in March 2004 regarding changes to the SAMA Handbook (contact Greg Riemer).
Goal 2, Objective 7, Action b	b) Promote adherence to federal and provincial wetland policies. (FAIR)	Since 1991	EC-CWS continues to require adherence to The Federal Policy on Wetland Conservation for all federal environmental assessment reviews (contact Ron Bazin).
		2004	SWA has initiated the development of a drainage and wetland retention policy (contact Lesley Hall).
Goal 2, Objective 7, Action c	c) Work to change regulations that are in conflict with stated government policies. (FAIR)	2003-2005	SE, others are working to change regulations that conflict with policies. SE has met with agriculture agencies regarding development of conservation lands strategies and an MOU has been developed to help move the process forward (contact Greg Riemer).
Goal 2, Objective 7, Action d	d) Develop watershed conservation and restoration plans and improve watershed	Since 2001	DUC has undertaken a policy analysis of the legislation, regulations and policies that affect wetland conservation in SK; policy alternatives are developed to address identified shortcomings (contact Richard McBride).

	management. (GOOD)	1999-2002	NS's Important Bird Areas (IBA) Program developed Community Conservation Plans for 13 IBA sites. The IBA program is part of an international initiative where critically and nationally or globally significant bird areas are so designated, based on established bird abundance criteria. The community conservation planning process examined the elements of the ecosystem under stress and, in conjunction with conservation opportunities provided by many stakeholders, charted a sustainable course for sites into the future (contact Margaret Skeel).
		2002-2004	NS's Wood River Riparian Project, part of the IBA program, is supporting landowners to seed land adjacent to the Wood River to perennial cover (contact Margaret Skeel).
		Since 1998	NS's Living by Water Project provides tools and programs to shoreline residents to conserve riparian health (contact Margaret Skeel).
		November 2003	SWA's Watershed and Aquifer Planning Division is developing watershed management plans for the following Rivers: North Saskatchewan River, South Saskatchewan River, Upper Qu'Appelle River, Moose Jaw River, Upper Assiniboine River, Lower Souris River and the Yorkton Aquifer Recharge Area (contact Robin Todd).
8. Encourage government and industry to improve regulations, monitoring and technology to minimize negative impacts upon native prairie.	a) Encourage industry to adopt the least invasive technologies when working on native prairie. (FAIR - GOOD)	Since 1992	AAFC-PFRA screens all oil, gas and other projects for potential impact on native prairie; measures are included for avoidance, timing, and reclamation before approvals are issued. Pasture managers with oil and gas activity are provided ongoing extension regarding technical issues (contact Chris Nykoluk).
		May 2002	AAFC-PFRA held a reclamation workshop for about 40 staff in Kindersley (contact Chris Nykoluk).
		Since 1994	EC-CWS reduces the impact of industrial developments on native prairie through environmental impact assessment reviews and screenings under the regulations of the <i>Canadian Environmental Assessment Act</i> . Advice to proponents includes routing around significant tracts of native prairie, reclaiming with native species, avoiding aggressive introduced species, narrowing of right-of-ways, cleaning of equipment to reduce weed introduction, and avoiding construction during inclement weather. Often the comments become conditions on permits issued by the National Energy Board. Protection of native prairie also is afforded when measures, such as restrictions and mitigations, to protect COSEWIC species at risk are implemented (contact Dean Nernberg).
		August 2002	SAFRR, SE, GRAA, SIR, 4 R.M.s (Piapot, Clinworth, Pittville and Fox Valley), and the Great Sand Hills District Planning Commission participate in the Great Sand Hills Land Use Strategy Review. This Committee is reviewing the 1991 Great Sand Hills Land Use Strategy and related land use issues. The public review draft was released on April 12, 2004 with the request that comments be made back to the Review committee by early May 2004. Public Meetings were held on April 27, 28 and 29, 2004 in Saskatoon, Regina and Swift Current respectively. Subsequent recommendations will be considered prior to the Review Committee submitting its final report to government (contact Tim Cheesman).
		Since 1997	SE reviews all Project Proposals and EPPs relating to oil and gas development on Crown land to determine potential impact on native prairie, with measures for avoidance, mitigation and/or reclamation being outlined within any approvals that are issued (contact Rick Stilling).
		Since 2000	SE screens all oil and/or natural gas development projects on private land for potential impact on native prairie where any significant impact on native vegetation is anticipated (over 4 wells per ¼ section, or installation of any pipeline/flowline that is greater than 168.3 mm in diameter). At a minimum companies are required to provide SE with a mitigation/reclamation plan prior to proceeding (contact Rick Stilling).
		Since 2000	SE reports that The Private Land Checklist used by the oil and gas industry in screening potential projects, highlights the importance of native prairie conservation in the province and includes suggestions on ways to minimize impact (contact Rick Stilling).
		Since 1995	SaskPower undertakes an extensive screening process in order to identify critical

			issues necessary to minimize land use impact and develop management plans (contact Shelley Heidinger).
Goal 2, Objective 8, Action b	b) Develop and deliver industry-specific conservation and stewardship education programs. (POOR)	2003	NPSS submitted a proposal to SE, SGI & SHI to develop a publication on using native plants to re-vegetate highway rights-of-way (contact Garth Wruck).
		February 2003	NPSS AGM & Workshop featured topics on native prairie reclamation and restoration by various industries (contact Garth Wruck).
		Since 2003	PCAP, SAFRR, SE, SIR, GRAA and SSGA are updating the fact sheet 'Oil and Gas Development and Activity on Saskatchewan Crown Lands' for future publication (contact Karyn Scalise).
Goal 2, Objective 8, Action c	c) Encourage government and industry to develop cumulative impacts guidelines. (POOR)	Since 2002	SAFRR Lands Branch and the oil and gas industry co-chair the Trails Reclamation Study Proposal, a study that is determining the effects of trail development and reclamation on the Great Sand Hills Ecosystem. Trails are developed primarily by oil and gas companies and ranchers and are used by all parties (contact Tim Cheesman).

**PCAP IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY:
GOAL III: TO MAINTAIN NATIVE PRAIRIE BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY**

Objective	Actions	Timetable	LEAD AND SUPPORTING AGENCIES, Continuing Activities & Update
<p>1. Improve our understanding of native prairie biological diversity.</p> <p>See also: Goal 1, Objective 1 (Promote grazing programs that are based on economically and scientifically sound principles) for related activities.</p>	<p>a) Encourage studies and research on native prairie ecosystems with emphasis on the effects of different land management practices on key components of native biodiversity. (GOOD)</p>	2003	AAFC-PFRA contracted SRC to conduct a survey of COSEWIC listed vascular plants to determine presence, population levels and potential management practices and threats for 2 known species, western spiderwort and hairy prairie clover, at Elbow, Rudy-Rosedale and Dundurn community pastures (contact Bill Bristol – AAFC-PFRA or Bob Godwin – SRC).
		Since 2002	DUC is investigating duck nest success in low, moderate and high perennial cover over a 10 year period (contact Richard McBride).
		Since 2002	DUC is identifying deforested sites in the Boreal Transition Zone with emphasis on wetland areas to determine extent of deforestation and impact on wetlands and wetland types (contact Richard McBride).
		Since 1965	EC-CWS has undertaken grazing management, and in some circumstances, prescribed burning for the conservation of native prairie at numerous National Wildlife Areas. In some areas, chemical control of noxious weeds and exotic species is employed. Research continues on the effects of these management practices (contact Dean Nernberg).
		Since 1995	EC-CWS has been intensifying the collection of Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) information in areas with more grassland cover to improve monitoring of grassland birds. Comparing trends in bird distribution between areas with more cultivation and areas with more grass cover can explain some of the perceived declines in bird populations (contact Dean Nernberg).
		1998-2005	EC-CWS is correlating habitat and geographic information with select sites along Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) routes to associate habitat characteristics with the distribution of priority bird species (contact Dean Nernberg).
		1999-2009	EC-CWS is collecting information annually on grazing patterns and bird distribution at CFB Suffield to examine response of birds to grazing under a variety of moisture conditions. Despite being in excellent range condition, during drought conditions, the area was not able to support those species that require moderate cover (contact Dean Nernberg). AAFC-PFRA has a long term agreement to graze livestock at CFB Suffield Pasture and collects grazing utilization data every two years and range condition assessment data every ten years as part of their commitment to the partnership (contact Bill Bristol).
		2001-2011	EC-CWS is comparing winter-grazed and summer-grazed native pastures at the Onefour Agricultural Research Station in southeast AB to determine economic and biological benefits of replacing hay and grain with pasture in winter. There are many environmental reasons for pursuing alternatives to hay and grain since they involve inputs of chemicals and carbon fuels and both result in hostile habitats for birds (contact Dean Nernberg).
		October 2003	EC-CWS provided a plenary lecture on current trends in agriculture and their implications on prairie bird conservation in Canada (contact Steve Davis).
		1997 to 2000	EC-CWS has submitted 4 papers that deal with 1) breeding biology of grassland birds, 2) nest-site selection of grassland birds, 3) effects of habitat fragmentation on grassland bird nest success and productivity, and 4) area-sensitivity of grassland birds. The research was undertaken in southern SK from Estevan to Ogema and north to Pilot Butte and Moose Jaw (contact Steve Davis).
Late 2003 to 2004	EC-CWS is developing a Decision Support System model for land birds across the PHJV area. Using GIS and statistics, bird occurrence and habitat data are being combined to detect significant relationships between them. This information will be used to map priority habitat areas for species of special conservation concern, particularly land birds, throughout the PHJV region at a broad, landscape level (contact Steve Davis).		

EC-CWS has undertaken a rapid bio-assessment of macro-invertebrates of wetlands at Last Mountain Lake National Wildlife Area with funding support from the EC-Science Horizon's Program and NS. The information will be baseline data for healthy, unimpacted wetlands and lakes for the moist-mixed grassland and aspen parkland regions of SK. Approximately 100 macro-invertebrates were collected from each sample for a total of 7200 invertebrates that were identified to the family level. Data analysis and associated metrics are currently underway to determine their suitability as reference sites for future bio-monitoring (contact Dean Nernberg).

EC-CWS, through an effort led by the Ecological Research Division in coordination with the Aquatic Ecology Impacts Branch of the National Water Research Institute, is continuing to compile long-term data sets on wetland water levels. Prairie wetlands have been identified as particularly sensitive to changes in land use and climate. These long-term data sets, along with information on climate, land use, drainage, stream-flow, and waterfowl numbers, have been used to develop hydrologic models. Efforts are underway to link these hydrologic models with ecological models such as a carbon model for prairie wetlands (contact Dean Nernberg).

1996-1998 EC-CWS, AAFC, and WHC participated in a collaborative study of the effects of farming practices in SK on the diversity of vegetation, invertebrates, aquatic organisms and birds. The habitat and cropland associated with wetlands on 12 clusters of sites, each cluster consisting of a conventional farm, a minimum tillage farm, an organic farm and a natural area (reference site), were surveyed. In general, the surveys showed that diversity was similar in wetland margins among the four types of habitat, but that some species of birds, insects and plants were found only on the natural areas. There was a positive association between vegetative complexity of wetland margins and diversity of terrestrial birds (contact Bob Clark – EC-CWS).

2000-2003 EC-CWS surveyed approximately 400 ponds in SK and MB for malformations occurring in frogs, comparing populations in ponds situated in cropland with those in parks and pastures. Malformations were found at rates ranging from zero to 10% among 8,000 juvenile wood frogs (*Rana sylvatica*), regardless of whether or not the land was under cultivation. The overall rate of occurrence was the same in both categories of land management, close to 3%. Thus, no evidence was found to suggest that annual applications of pesticides (especially herbicides) to prairie crops has resulted in the high rates of malformations reported from farms in PQ or some parts of the U.S. (contact Doug Forsyth).

Study completed in 2000 NS demonstrated that their voluntary stewardship program, Operation Burrowing Owl, effectively conserved grassland habitat: grassland retention was significantly higher at OBO sites (66%) than at random sites (49%) between 1986 and 1993. This suggests that voluntary stewardship programs are effective in conserving habitat. The study is published (contact Margaret Skeel).

Since 1998 NS has been conducting biodiversity studies in its 6 nature sanctuaries, including inventories of macroinvertebrates, lichens, birds and plants (contact Margaret Skeel).

2003-2008 NPSS implemented a 5-year research project with BP Canada Energy Co. at the Steelman Gas Plant near Estevan, investigating abandoned tame forage stand diversification, including investigation on controlling invasive plant species (contact Garth Wruck).

2003 - Completed PC-GNP and SRC conducted a comparison of grazed and ungrazed land on sage grouse habitat (contact Pat Fargey for a copy of the report).

2004 PC-GNP, SRC and SWA are comparing vegetation around active and recently abandoned greater sage grouse leks (contact Pat Fargey).

2003-2006 RSM chairs the Frenchman River Biodiversity Project (FRBP) in partnership with the Canadian Museum of Nature, UofA, St. Peter's College, UofS, UofR, AAFC-PFRA, DFO, PCAP, SAFRR, SE, SWA and local residents. Its mission is to assess the health of the Frenchman River watershed and the sustainability of local activities through community driven research (contact Dr. Glenn Sutter).

Fall 2003 RSM facilitated a preliminary survey, conducted by Uof A and UofR, of benthic invertebrate diversity in relation to land management practices in the Frenchman River for the FRBP. A review paper has been prepared through the UofS on

			how communities manage local ecosystems (contact Dr. Glenn Sutter).
		2002	SE completed a study on the status of exotic plant invasion in the Great Sand Hills and conducted surveys for several species at risk (contact Ann Gerry).
		2003	SRC, for the Meewasin Valley Authority, conducted a survey of the Saskatoon Natural Grassland to examine changes in exotic plant populations since management practices were implemented 10 years ago (contact Bob Godwin).
		2001-2004	SWA is comparing grassland bird nest abundance and success in native prairie with that in tame pasture and hayland (contact Glen McMaster).
Goal 3, Objective 1, Action b	b) Develop a prairie ecosystem management decision support computer model that includes representative components of native biodiversity as one of the model outputs. (GOOD)	2004-2007	PC-GNP is developing a Grazing Ecosystem Management Support (GEMS) computer simulation model to guide the reintroduction of grazing into the Park that will include submodels for native biodiversity components. Conducted initial workshop to develop model with SRC, EC-CWS, and University participation (contact Pat Fargey).
2. Promote management of native prairie to maintain biological diversity. See also Goal 1, Objective 1 (Promote grazing programs that are based on economically and scientifically sound principles) and Goal 2, Objective 3 (Encourage voluntary stewardship to conserve native prairie) for related activities.	a) Develop and incorporate biodiversity best management practice recommendations in range extension communication products. (FAIR)	Since 1992	AAFC-PFRA's goal for range condition on PFRA community pastures is the mid Good Range Condition Class, or higher, which research indicates generally supports the best level of plant biodiversity. Since 2002, riparian health assessments have been incorporated into pasture condition assessments where riparian areas occur on pastures. Range management plans are then drawn up with pasture staff using this assessment data. Community pastures are essentially managed in an extensive (not intensive) manner and this promotes a variety of patch cover types across the landscape, providing habitat for a wide variety of wildlife species (contact Chris Nykoluk).
		2003	NPSS published 'Prairie Roots: A Handbook for Native Prairie Restoration' and the 'Native Plants, Water and Us!' booklet and poster (contact Garth Wruck).
		1999, 2002	SWA published 'A Land Manager's Guide to Grassland Birds of Saskatchewan' (2002) and 'Beyond Borders' (1999) to provide information on the habitat requirements of specific bird species (contact Sharon Metz).
Goal 3, Objective 2, Action b	b) Encourage information exchange between range managers, biologists and others. (GOOD)	Since 1996	EC-CWS is Chairing the Alberta Prairie Ecology Research Committee (PERC) that includes representatives from a broad range of organizations and institutions with research interests. PERC encourages research leading to a better understanding of prairie ecology, improved management of resources, habitats, and species and to facilitate the exchange of information. PERC is developing a website to hold a bibliographic database, to list research gaps, to post information on active research projects, and to list other important websites and information databases (contact Dean Nernberg).
		February 2004	NPSS held its 2004 AGM and Workshop Feb. 5-7 in Swift Current (77 participants). Theme focussed on the importance of native plants in relation to other species including: insects, microbes, other plants and humans (contact Garth Wruck).
		May 2003	RSM and UofR organized and hosted the Plain As The Eye Can See conference on 'Managing Changing Prairie Landscapes' (contact Dr. Glenn Sutter).
		May 2003	RSM gave a presentation on the development of the Frenchman River Biodiversity Project as part of the Plain As The Eye Can See conference (contact Dr. Glenn Sutter).
		2002 - 2003	SAFRR Lands Branch and DUC completed a joint evaluation of the Ponass Lake area and met with local producers to advise them of management tools and practices to improve land health (contact Gordon Bue – SAFRR or Chuck Deschamps – DUC).
		2003	SAFRR Lands Branch and DUC signed two 25-year partnerships to improve Pintail and other waterfowl habitat on Old Wives and Val Jean pastures. Approximately 800 acres of DUC tame forage lands were incorporated in SAFRR pasture grazing rotations to defer grazing on native range to improve waterfowl productivity (contact Rick Ashton – SAFRR or Daryl Nazar – DUC).

		Since 1996	SaskPower Shand Greenhouse has grown small amounts of native forbs and grasses for use by several agencies to develop seed nurseries to meet their own seed needs. Production information gathered during this process is available upon request to interested groups or individuals (contact Shelley Heidinger).
3. Control the threat and impact of introduced invasive species to native prairies.	a) Identify and promote awareness of the negative impacts of introduced and invasive species to native prairie. (FAIR)	Since 1991	AAFC-PFRA incorporates site-specific conservation elements into Right-Of-Way permits for oil and gas, and other developments on Community Pastures (Contact Chris Nykoluk).
		Since 2000	DUC sits on several advisory committees dealing with invasive plants (contact Michael Champion).
		Since 1998	DUC, EC-CWS, SE and others support the Saskatchewan Purple Loosestripe & Invasive Species Project (SPLISP). A brochure, titled 'What you should know about invasive species', was produced. The brochure discusses many invasive species that threaten native prairie, such as baby's breath, dame's rocket, caragana, and smooth brome. An invasive species display was set up at 5 events in SK. In 2003 a number of radio interviews were given and some newspaper articles produced. An article on invasive species was sent to towns, cities, RM's, partners, board members, various organizations, and magazines. NS distributed a similar article through their newsletter. A dame's rocket cleanup in collaboration with local school children was hosted at the Last Mountain Lake National Wildlife Area. SPLISP maintains a website on invasive species http://www.sfn.saskatoon.sk.ca/science/splep/ (contact Dean Nernberg).
		Since 1995	NPSS has representatives on many advisory committees that cover invasive plant issues (contact Garth Wruck).
		Since 2002	NS's Rare Plant Rescue program distributes information to participants on native prairie and the negative impacts that invasive species pose to its integrity (contact Margaret Skeet).
			NS's provides information on invasive species through its newsletter, <i>Nature Views</i> , and through materials of The Living by Water Project.
		2003	PCAP, SAFRR, SE, and SWA reprinted "Invasive Plants of Native Rangeland" posters (contact Karyn Scalise)
		Since 1998	SWA provides information on invasive species through its 'Prairie Update' newsletter (contact Jennifer Lohmeyer).
		2003	SWA produced the following fact sheets on invasive species: Managing Crested Wheatgrass in Native Grassland; Control of Knapweeds in Native Grasslands; Managing Smooth Brome in Native Grasslands; Management of Downy Brome in Native Grasslands; Managing Leafy Spurge on Native Grasslands; Managing Nodding and Canada Thistle on Native Grasslands; Controlling Scentless Chamomile in Native Grasslands; Managing Western Snowberry and Trembling Aspen on Native Grasslands (contact Jennifer Lohmeyer).
Goal 3, Objective 3, Action b	b) Investigate and promote methods to manage and control invasive species. (FAIR-GOOD)	Since 1991	AAFC-PFRA and SSDB are utilizing sheep at Elbow Community Pasture to control leafy spurge. Stem counts of leafy spurge are made annually All pastures are continually scrutinized for presence of problem plants (contact Chris Nykoluk).
		Since 1996	EC-CWS and AAFC-PFRA cooperatively manage native prairie and control introduced species, particularly smooth brome and Kentucky bluegrass, on Last Mountain Lake National Wildlife Area, using livestock from PFRA Wreford Community Pasture (contact Dean Nernberg - EC-CWS or Bill Bristol – AAFC-PFRA).
		Since 1993	EC-CWS uses grazing, prescribed burning, and chemical herbicides to control the growth and spread of problematic invasive exotic plant species, including toadflax (since 1996) and smooth brome (since 1998) on the Last Mountain Lake National Wildlife Area (contact Dean Nernberg).
		2001-2003	SWA initiated a leafy spurge control demonstration project continued with SE and 7 landowners around Last Mountain Lake. Sheep grazed, and beetles were released on over 300 acres of spurge infested native prairie (contact Tom Harrison).

		2002-2005	UofR and PC-GNP are cooperating on a graduate student research project on 'Predicting Invasion of Crested Wheat Grass in Native Prairie' (contact Malin Hansen – UofR).
		2002-2004	PC-GNP is conducting a research project on controlling crested wheat grass in roadside ditches (contact Pat Fargey).
		Since 2001	SAFRR uses a combination of beetle releases and intensive sheep grazing management to control leafy spurge. In 2003, 580,000 beetles were collected and disbursed at 4 sites, including Meyronne pasture where 300,000 beetles were released. Since 2002 approximately 700-800 sheep were grazed between June 1 to September 1 and the sheep are generally rotated on a twice over grazing system (contact Don Fontaine or Blake Kohls).
		2002	SAFRR Lands Branch developed a Biosecurity Protocol to guide staff in following proper precautions when conducting field visits and inspections (contact Tim Cheesman).
		2003	SWA produced the following fact sheets on invasive species: <i>Managing Crested Wheatgrass in Native Grassland</i> ; <i>Control of Knapweeds in Native Grasslands</i> ; <i>Managing Smooth Brome in Native Grasslands</i> ; <i>Management of Downy Brome in Native Grasslands</i> ; <i>Managing Leafy Spurge on Native Grasslands</i> ; <i>Managing Nodding and Canada Thistle on Native Grasslands</i> ; <i>Controlling Scentless Chamomile in Native Grasslands</i> ; <i>Managing Western Snowberry and Trembling Aspen on Native Grasslands</i> (contact Jennifer Lohmeyer).
Goal 3, Objective 3, Action c	c) Discourage the introduction of additional non-native species that threaten native prairie biodiversity (e.g. development of protective buffer areas around significant native prairie areas by seeding non-invasive pasture species). (FAIR)	July 2003	AAFC-PFRA Greencover Canada Program applicants are encouraged not to seed invasive agronomic species such as crested wheatgrass or smooth brome within 0.5 miles of existing native rangelands, as per the Greencover Canada 'Forage Selection Guide' (contact Chris Nykoluk).
		Since 1998	DUC promotes the use of native seed mixes for permanent cover on private land (contact Michael Champion).
		Since 1996	EC-CWS sits on the Advisory Council for Saskatchewan Forages to raise awareness of how introduced forage species can degrade or threaten natural habitats; issues are raised within internal programs and externally through other communication opportunities (contact Dean Nernberg).
		Since 1994	EC-CWS, through the regulation of the <i>Canadian Environmental Assessment Act</i> , regularly provides advice to development proponents on the problems that can be caused by some introduced species (contact Dean Nernberg).
		2002-2004	EC-CWS and SE participate in the National Invasive Alien Working Group on the development of a National Plan to address the threat of invasive species. Provincial and National efforts will be complimentary (contact Dean Nernberg – EC-CWS or Ann Gerry – SE).
		Ongoing	NCC includes a restriction in CE's when tame forage is part of the easement area, which excludes the use of smooth brome grass, crested wheat grass and sweet clover during periodic restoration of these lands (contact Jordan Ignatiuk).
		2004-2007	NCC and PC-GNP are developing strategies to encourage the establishment of non-invasive perennial forage on privately owned cultivated land next to GNP (contact Pat Fargey).
		May 2003	NPSS released a special edition of the Native Plant News that contained an article identifying the issues surrounding green wheatgrass <i>Elymus hoffmannii</i> (contact Garth Wruck).
		January 2003	NPSS provided its Position Statements on Invasive Species to the federal Greencover Canada Program for consideration in program development (contact Garth Wruck or Kerry Hecker).
		Since 2001	NS and SWA restrict eligible seed mixes to those that exclude smooth brome and crested wheatgrass, as well as limit amounts of other non-native species on NSs Operation Burrowing Owl and Wood River Riparian Project habitat enhancement programs, which provide funding to landowners for perennial cover seeding (contact Kim Dohms – NS or Jennifer Lohmeyer – SWA).

		2004-2006	SE is developing a Provincial Invasive Exotic Species Strategy to address the prevention and management of invasive species (contact Ann Gerry). SFC is evaluating annual and perennial forage cultivar evaluation and minor use registration work (contact Michel Tremblay).
4. Promote restoration and recovery of native prairie ecosystems.	a) Promote practical research to refine and increase use of restoration technology including the evaluation of the agricultural potential of using native species in forage production and grazing systems. (FAIR)	2003-2008	AAFC-PRFA Greencover Canada Program has a native forages component. As of October 2003, ~ 53,285 tame grass acres and 2,242 native grass acres of privately owned environmentally sensitive lands have been approved for conversion (contact Bill Houston).
		2001-2005	AAFC-SPARC, with funding support from AAFC-MII and SAFRR-ADF, and in partnership with DUC, SaskPower, DUC-NPS, PC-GNP, SERM, Nexen Canada Inc. and Monsanto Canada Inc. are conducting a 5 year research study on the re-establishment of a mixed native grassland in southwest SK (80 acres of land that had been annually cropped since the 1920s and has been reseeded back into two types of native pastures (simple and diverse native seed mixtures). The study will assess animal grazing performance, native stand establishment characteristics and environmental benefits of different types of seeded mixed native grasslands (contact Alan Iwaasa).
		Since 2001	DUC and AAFC-SPARC have an ongoing study focussing on the feasibility of grazing seeded native forages (contact Michael Champion – DUC or Alan Iwaasa – AAFC-SPARC).
		Since 2003	DUC is funding work at the Western Beef Development Center to quantify the benefits of converting land to perennial forage (contact Richard McBride)
		Since 1993	EC-CWS, by supporting the Native Prairie Conservation Program, continues to undertake research on native prairie restoration and management techniques. Native wild-type seed is collected and used on federal protected areas. The use of native seed is encouraged for research and conservation plantings (contact Dean Nernberg).
		2003-2006	NCC & NPSS partnered on a 3-year, 320 acre prairie mixed grass restoration project at Old Man On His Back Heritage and Conservation Area near Eastend (contact Sue Mihalski – NCC or Garth Wruck – NPSS).
		1997-2012	PC-GNP has been using wild harvested native seed to revegetate 40-100ac of cultivated land/year (contact Pat Fargey).
Goal 3, Objective 4, Action b	b) Encourage the development and use of native seed mixes in permanent cover, reclamation programs and projects. (GOOD)	Since 1992	AAFC-PFRA works with industry to ensure that any development activities on native prairie on PFRA Community Pastures are reclaimed with native species (contact Chris Nykoluk)
		2003-2004	AAFC-SPARC provided presentations at a number of provincial and international meetings on the potential use and re-establishment of native species for permanent cover: - Native Plant Summit VII: Planning Native Landscapes – Urban and Rural. Fargo, ND. (Forage and grazing potential of a newly re-established mixed grassland in southwest Saskatchewan) - Native Grassland Restoration Workshop. Eastend, SK (Re-establishment of native grassland species: within a livestock production system) - Workshop and Annual General Meeting of the Native Plant Society of Saskatchewan. (Interactions to consider when seeding a mix of species) (contact Mike Schellenberg or Alan Iwaasa).
		Since 1995	DUC has been using native seed mixtures on lands owned by DUC whenever possible. DUC encourages landowners to use native seed mixes if possible on privately owned lands (contact Michael Champion).
		2003	EC-CWS, through the regulation of the <i>Canadian Environmental Assessment Act</i> , regularly requests the use of native seed mixes during reviews or screenings of development projects (contact Dean Nernberg)
		Since 1994	EC-CWS encourages or requires the use of native plant material for plantings through EC programs such as Eco-Action and the Government of Canada's Habitat Stewardship Program for Species at Risk and other federal government programs, such as AAFC's Greencover Canada Program (contact – Dean Nernberg).

		2003	NPSSs Native Plant News: Seed and Restoration Special Edition newsletter featured articles on the native seed and restoration industries (contact Garth Wruck).
		Jan 2004	NPSS delivered a presentation at a SAFRR meeting in North Battleford on the use of native species in cropland conversion for 20 participants (contact Garth Wruck).
		Since 2002	NS's Operation Burrowing Owl and Shrubs for Shrikes habitat enhancement activities promote the usage of native seed mixes for the establishment of perennial cover (contact Kim Dohms).
		Revised 1999	SAFRR's document entitled <i>Restoration of Saskatchewan's Agricultural Crown Rangelands</i> outlines guidelines and procedures for the development and restoration of land affected by seismic operations, oil and gas activity, sand and gravel pits, and road development. This document is also available on the SAFRR website at www.agr.gov.sk.ca (contact Don Fontaine).
Goal 3, Objective 4, Action c	c) Promote communication of Species at Risk legislation to stakeholders and actively encourage that implementation be guided by the principle of working cooperatively with land managers. (FAIR)	Since 2002	AAFC-PFRA obtained Interdepartmental Recovery Funds for SAR extension with AAFC-PFRA community pasture managers and livestock producer groups (contact Bill Bristol).
		November 2003	EC-CWS and AAFC-PFRA distributed the fact sheet 'Canada's Species at Risk Program: Questions and Answers on the new Species At Risk Act' and booklet 'Species at Risk: A Guide to Canada's Species at Risk in the Prairies' to PCAP Partners and others for distribution to prairie land managers and landowners (contact Genevieve Goggin – EC-CWS and Bill Bristol – AAFC-PFRA).
			EC-CWS conducted a public information session on SARA in Regina. Regional SARA fact sheets were created and work almost completed on a landowner guidebook to prairie species at risk. A SARA public registry is available on-line with information on SARA http://www.sararegistry.gc.ca/default_e.cfm (contact Dean Nernberg).
			EC-CWS chairs or leads most of the national recovery teams for species at risk and is involved, directly or indirectly through financial support, in much of the research and activities for these species and their recovery (contact Dean Nernberg). AAFC-PFRA is a member of the National Rare Plant Recovery Team (contact Chris Nykoluk)
		Since 2000	NS has provided information on species at risk legislation through its 'Stewards of Saskatchewan' (Operation Burrowing Owl, Shrubs for Shrikes, Rare Plant Rescue) and 'Piping Plover Post' newsletters to landowners and other stakeholders, including support to landowners that is being provided as a result of SARA (contact Margaret Skeel).
		2001-present	SWA, through their 'Prairie Update' newsletter, has provided information on SARA and SWAs cooperative approach to working with land managers to improve habitat for SAR.
		Spring 2004	NPSS, with funding from SE and possibly HSP and in partnership with NS's Rare Plant rescue Program, AAFC-SPARC, UofS and UofR, is developing and delivering rare plant identification and survey methodology workshops. Data collected by participants of these workshops will be provided to SE, EC, and the W.P. Fraser Herbarium (contact Garth Wruck).
Goal 3, Objective 4, Action d	d) Identify restoration and recovery targets of high conservation value, assess the feasibility of restoration and recovery of those targets, and develop restoration strategies for suitable target sites. (GOOD)	Since 2002	AAFC-PFRA accessed funding from the Interdepartmental Recovery Fund (IRF) to undertake the following 3 activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) stewardship activities to benefit Piping Plovers at Coteau and Excel Community pastures ii) pilot surveys for identification of 2 rare plant species (western spiderwort and hairy prairie clover) at 3 community pastures (Elbow, Dundurn, and Rudy-Rosedale) iii) research on grazing impacts on silver sagebrush and sage grouse populations (contact Bill Bristol).
		2003	DUC has developed a Pintail Initiative that will target funding to areas with high

pintail nesting densities. Pintails frequently prefer native grasslands for nesting so protection and buffering of grasslands will be a funding priority (contact Richard McBride).

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| Since 2000 | PCAP and EC- CWS co-ordinate the Missouri Coteau Initiative in cooperation with SWA, NCC, NS, and DUC with significant funding support from the Government of Canada's Habitat Stewardship Program for Species at Risk. Partners work cooperatively to ensure the smooth delivery of habitat stewardship and education programs to assist landowners to maintain productive grasslands for livestock and wildlife (contact Karyn Scalise - PCAP or Dean Nernberg – EC-CWS). |
| 2003-2004 | NCC, SWA PC-GNP, AAFC-PFRA, WWF, SK-AGR, SE, EC-CWS, and DUC (plus many AB and MT partners) are involved in collaborative conservation planning for NCC portfolio sites along the MT, AB, and SK boundaries. The initiative is called the Northern Mixed Grass Trans-boundary Planning Initiative (contact Karin Smith Fargey). |
| 2003-2004 | PC-GNP, AAFC-PFRA, SE and NCC are mapping the abundance and distribution of silver sage in southwest SK (contact Pat Fargey). |
| 2002-present | SWA has prioritized conservation actions, such as cropland conversion, for grassland birds in each ecodistrict by identification of Grassland Bird Conservation Areas. Implementation of conservation actions has begun (Jennifer Lohmeyer). |

**PCAP IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY:
GOAL IV: TO PROMOTE COMPLEMENTARY SUSTAINABLE USES OF NATIVE
PRAIRIE**

Objective	Actions	Timetable	LEAD AND SUPPORTING AGENCIES, Continuing Activities & Update
1. Promote community-based business opportunities associated with native prairie.	a) Provide the tourism industry and community organizations with information and technical experience to support hunting, fishing, eco- and agritourism and other recreational activities. (FAIR)	Since 2003	DUC has been working with interested partners on the reclamation of uplands on a portion of Wascana Creek (contact Michael Champion).
		Since 2002	DUC has been working with several First Nations to identify optimal land uses, including the potential for ecotourism, hunting and fishing opportunities (contact Richard McBride).
			NS's Spring and Fall meets have provided community organizations with information and opportunities for nature recreational activities (contact Margaret Skeel).
			NS's Lake Diefenbaker Piping Plover Guardian Program provides community programming (schools, youth groups, provincial parks) on the Piping Plover and its habitat. An educational poster on the Piping Plover has been provided to the Chaplin, Wynyard, and Douglas Provincial Park Nature Centres (contact Margaret Skeel).
			NS' Bird Quest and Plant Quest programs provide community workshops to enhance people's skills and recreational enjoyment of nature (contact Margaret Skeel).
		January 9, 2003	SAFRR organized an Agritourism Workshop in Assiniboia in which PCAP, SE, and SRM delivered presentations (contact Karyn Scalise).
		2003-2004	SRC is assisting the Cowessess First Nation with technical information on developing an ecotourism operation on their lands (contact Bob Godwin).
Goal 4, Objective 1, Action b	b) Liaise with rural revitalization groups to develop guidelines to ensure sustainable use of native prairies. (POOR)	May 2002 to September 2003	SBOIC reported a total of 7,021 visitors to the Centre. Between 1996 and 2001, SBOIC received a total of 9, 600 visitors for a total of 16,600 visitations since 1996 (contact Glen Lewis).
		Since 1998	SWA is a founding member in the development of the Saskatchewan Birding Trail, and works closely with communities in the Chaplin and Quill lakes areas to develop their ecotourism sites. A 'Community Planning Guide and Framework Strategy' for developing ecotourism sites, as well as a Birding Trail map (2002) are available from SWA's website (contact Sharon Metz).
		1999-2002	NS's Important Bird Areas (IBA) program has developed Community Conservation Plans with community stakeholders for 13 IBA sites. These include promoting community opportunities (contact Margaret Skeel).
2. Encourage the development of a native plant production industry.	a) Develop a native plant materials centre for research and development. (POOR)	2003-04	NS developed a questionnaire for rural landowners to provide their thoughts on the proposed Agricultural Policy Framework, and solicited input through Town Hall meetings, and meetings with groups in 2 agricultural communities (contact Margaret Skeel).
		Since 1994	AAFC-SPARC, DUC and various seed industry representatives are developing and evaluating several native ecovars®. Ongoing research studies are planned in 2004-2005 with Canadian milk-vetch, sideoats grama and prairie sandreed (contact Grant McLeod or Alan Iwaasa).
Goal 4, Objective 2, Action b	b) Develop educational materials and guidelines to promote the use and production of non-invasive native plant materials for re-vegetation in and adjacent to native areas. (FAIR)	January 2004	AAFC-PFRA Greencover Canada Program – native component in the 'Forage Selection Guide' outlines guidelines for native forage seedings; includes advantages, risks, and chart of long-lived native species for each soil zone (contact Bill Houston).
		July 2003	AAFC-PFRA Greencover Canada Program requires that applicants provide a forage seed 'Certificate of Analysis' as part of their seeding contract, outlining pure live seed and weeds present, in an effort to improve the overall quality of forage seedings undertaken in the program (contact Chris Nykoluk).
		Since 1994	AAFC-SPARC develops and evaluates recommendations for the use of different native grasses, forbs and shrubs for revegetation for agricultural benefit (contact

			Grant McLeod and Alan Iwaasa).
		Since 1995	EC-CWS develops and refines guidelines on the use of native plant material and seed mixtures for restoration or revegetation projects (contact Dean Nernberg).
		August 2003	NCC and NPSS delivered a native seed wild-harvest workshop at Old Man On His Back Prairie Heritage and Conservation Area near Eastend to 17 participants (contact Sue Michalsky – NCC or Garth Wruck – NPSS).
		Since 1999	NPSS has developed the brochure ‘Guidelines for the Collection and Use of Native Plants and the publication ‘Native Seed Harvesting and Marketing’ (contact Garth Wruck)
		2003	NPSS produced the following publications: ‘Prairie Roots: A Handbook for Native Prairie Restoration’, and ‘Native Plant News: Seed and Restoration Special Edition newsletter on native seed and restoration industries (contact Garth Wruck).
		2004-2008	NPSS obtained funding from SaskPower for the Regina Plain Native Plant Nursery. Funding will be used for nursery maintenance and production. These nurseries are to provide plant materials for small-scale community-based restoration projects such as schoolyards (contact Garth Wruck).
		Revised 1999	SAFRR’s document entitled <i>Restoration of Saskatchewan’s Agricultural Crown Rangelands</i> outlines guidelines and procedures for the development and restoration of land affected by seismic operations, oil and gas activity, sand and gravel pits, and road development. This document is also available on the SAFRR website at www.agr.gov.sk.ca (contact Don Fontaine).
		2004	SWA plans to make a guidebook for small prairie restorations available for download on the SWA website (contact Jennifer Lohmeyer).
Goal 4, Objective 2, Action c	c) Encourage the establishment of new, mandatory testing and certification programs for native, forage, and horticultural species, varieties, cultivars and ecological varieties at federal and provincial levels. (POOR)	Since 1994	AAFC-SPARC is conducting ongoing research on the evaluation and testing of native ecovars® (contact Grant McLeod or Mike Schellenberg).
		Since 2000	NPSS is a member of SAFRRs Advisory Council on Forage Crops (contact Garth Wruck)
		Jan 2004	NPSS provided information to the Canada Food Inspection Agency on requirements for native seed variety testing. Problems with current list of noxious weeds under the <i>Canada Seeds Act</i> and the sale of new forage varieties (not currently registered) that could be potential invasive species were also discussed (contact Garth Wruck).
		Since 1970’s	SAFRRs Advisory Council on Forage Crops includes representation from a broad array of organizations involved in forages or rangeland (contact Michel Tremblay).
Goal 4, Objective 2, Action d	d) Promote the development of local native seed growers, processors, suppliers and testing facilities. (FAIR)	July 2003	AAFC-PFRA Greencover Canada Program includes a native forages component that will help stimulate demand for locally grown native forage seed, as did the requirement to reclaim any developments on AAFC-PFRA community pastures with native species - a requirement since 1992 (contact Chris Nykoluk).
		Since 1994	AAFC-SPARC conducts research on evaluating and developing processes to aid native seed growers and seed suppliers (contact Grant McLeod and Mike Schellenberg).
		Since 1999	NPSS continues to provide the native plant materials suppliers and producers listing service on their website (contact Garth Wruck).
		2003	NPSS delivered 4 presentations promoting the use of native plants for horticultural and landscaping purposes (contact Garth Wruck).
		2003	NPSS provided 3 CBC radio interviews on the native seed industry (contact Garth Wruck).
		Since 1991	SaskPower uses and recommends local native seed source whenever possible (contact Shelley Heidinger).
		2003-present	SWA recommends and purchases seed from local growers for restoration

projects whenever possible (Jennifer Lohmeyer).

<p>3. Advance the exploration of native prairie towards the sustainable development of other bio-based products.</p>	<p>a) Develop exploration and research and development tax credits and other incentives for companies exploring and development new bio-based products. (POOR)</p>		
<p>Goal 4, Objective 3, Action b</p>	<p>b) Develop guidelines, management plans, and licensing for the harvest of native prairie species. (FAIR)</p>	<p>Since 1998 Since 1994</p>	<p>AAFC-PFRA has a policy for harvesting native seed on Community Pastures; policy incorporates SKCDC rare plant status (contact Chris Nykoluk). EC-CWS has developed, and continually improves upon, guidelines for the wild-harvesting of native plant material (contact Dean Nernberg).</p>
<p>4. Recognize and quantify the socio-economic contribution of native prairie and perennial grasslands.</p>	<p>a) Survey the literature and conduct gap analyses regarding ecological services including grazing and carbon sequestration, and communicate the findings. (FAIR)</p>	<p>Since 2000 Since 2001</p>	<p>AAFC-PFRA and SaskPower are conducting preliminary research to examine relationships between range condition (grassland management) and Greenhouse Gas carbon sequestration at 2 AAFC-PFRA Community Pastures. Two years of data have been collected and results are forthcoming (contact Brant Kirychuk). AAFC-SPARC conducts research to evaluate and determine the potential environmental benefits of different native prairies on improving soil organic quality and carbon sequestration potential compared to annual cropping systems. Several field days and oral presentations have been delivered demonstrating the potential environmental and sustainability that native pastures can provide, including at the 7th PCAES Conference (contact Alan Iwaasa).</p>
<p>Goal 4, Objective 4, Action b</p>	<p>b) Encourage organizations to quantify and report on the economic and social benefits associated with their particular use of the native prairie resources. (FAIR)</p>	<p>June 2002 2003</p>	<p>AAFC-PFRA, through the U of S Department of Agricultural Economics, funded the 'Public and Private Benefits and Costs on Federal Community Pastures' study. This is a complex incomplete science but initial investigation indicated that the private and public benefit were practically equal (contact Chris Nykoluk). SWA published the book 'Stewardship and Economics of Cattle Wintering Sites' and fact sheet 'Economics of Riparian Grazing Management (contact Etienne Soulodre).</p>

**PCAP IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY:
GOAL V: TO INCREASE AWARENESS AND UNDERSTANDING OF NATIVE PRAIRIE
AND ITS VALUES**

Objective	Actions (RANKING)	Timetable	LEAD AND SUPPORTING AGENCIES, Continuing Activities & Update
1. Promote awareness of the PCAP Vision, Goals, Objectives and Actions.	a) Increase co-ordination and communication between agencies conducting research on native prairie ecosystems. To facilitate this, each PCAP meeting will feature presentations on important activities featuring a particular Goal. (FAIR)	2004	Many examples of co-ordination and communication among PCAP Partners can be found in: Goal 1, Objective 1 (Promote grazing programs that are based on economically and scientifically sound principles) and Goal 3, Objective 2 (Promote management of native prairie to maintain biological diversity) for related activities.
Goal 5, Objective 1, Action b	b) Maintain and regularly update the PCAP website. (FAIR -GOOD)	Since 1998	PCAP maintains and regularly updates its website. Partners are encouraged to submit events to the PCAP Office for posting on the website (contact Karyn Scalise).
Goal 5, Objective 1, Action c	c) Link PCAP Partners to (and from) PCAP website. (GOOD)	Since 1998	PCAP Partners and other relevant groups are linked to the PCAP website (contact Karyn Scalise).
Goal 5, Objective 1, Action d	d) Recruit new PCAP Partners. (GOOD)	Since 1998	PCAP Partnership began with 16 Partners and now consists of 25 Partners (contact Karyn Scalise).
Goal 5, Objective 1, Action e	e) Promote the PCAP through the media. (GOOD)	June 2003 March 2003	PCAP issued a press release on the launch of the 2003-2008 PCAP (contact Karyn Scalise). PCAP issued a press release on receiving the Countryside Canada Award (contact Karyn Scalise).
Goal 5, Objective 1, Action f	f) Compile and distribute annual Partner Updates. (GOOD)	Nov 2003	PCAP Office compiled and distributed this Partner Update #4, herein (contact Karyn Scalise).
Goal 5, Objective 1, Action g	g) Promote the PCAP at trade-shows, conferences, etc. (GOOD)	May 2003 June 2003 September 2003 December 2003 February 2004 January 2004 February 2004 February 2004	Plain as the Eye Can See - Regina; UofR, RSM, SE (100 delegates) – PCAP presentation delivered (contact Karyn Scalise). 90th Annual SSGA Convention - Yorkton ; SSGA – June 1-3 (~200 delegates) – PCAP presentation delivered (contact Karyn Scalise). DUC Office - Regina – Sept. 11 (5 staff) – PCAP presentation delivered (contact Karyn Scalise). Western Canadian Forage and Grazing Conference – Saskatoon (~230 delegates) – PCAP display and materials provided (contact Karyn Scalise). Expert Committee on Forage Crops - Saskatoon (~35 delegates) – PCAP presentation delivered (contact Tom Harrison). SSGA Meeting Zone 1 – Alameda (~ 80 delegates). – PCAP presentation delivered (contact Karyn Scalise). SSGA Meeting Zones 3 & 12 – Minton (~ 80 delegates). Presentation on the PCAP (contact Karyn Scalise). NPSS AGM and Workshop – Swift Current (77 delegates) – PCAP presentation delivered (contact Karyn Scalise or Garth Wruck).
Goal 5, Objective 1, Action h	h) Encourage Partners to regularly update staff and members. (GOOD)	Since 1998 Since 1999	PCAP encourages Partners to update their staff and members and to involve them in reporting activities to Partner Updates (contact Karyn Scalise). AAFC-PFRA sends a copy of the Plan and the Updates to each Community Pasture Manager, all Land Managers and other District Staff. Regular presentations are made at staff meetings (Contact Chris Nykoluk).

		December 2003	NPSS included PCAP update article to its members in winter issue of the Native Plant News - 250 distributed (contact Garth Wruck).
		2003	NS has distributed and made available copies of PCAP 2003-2008 to its Board, members and NS program participants.
Goal 5, Objective 1, Action I	i) Provide newsletter articles to PCAP Partners and post them on websites. (FAIR-GOOD)	Since 1998	PCAP regularly provides articles to the following newsletters: NS – Nature Views, OBO; SSGA Stockgrower; SWA Native Prairie Update; Livestock & Forage Gazette. In 2003 PCAP articles also appeared in the International NCC and SRM newsletters. PCAP articles are posted on the PCAP website every 2 months and e-mailed to Partners for inclusion in their newsletters (contact Karyn Scalise).
2. Evaluate public awareness, appreciation and understanding of native prairies.	a) Conduct and report on a questionnaire survey assessing public awareness, understanding, and appreciation of native prairie. (GOOD)	2004-2005	UofR-CPRC has received some funding for conducting the survey in Southern SK and AB in 2004-2005 (contact Dr. David Gauthier).
3. Coordinate PCAP communication and education activities with other native prairie conservation initiatives at local, national and international levels.	a) Contribute to the development of the CEC North American Grassland Conservation Strategy. (GOOD)	2003	UofR-CPRC and the CEC published ‘Grasslands: Toward a North American Conservation Strategy’ (contact Dr. David Gauthier).
Goal 5, Objective 3, Action b	b) Exchange information on a regular basis with other prairie conservation groups. (GOOD)	Since 2003	PCAP delivered presentations and attended the following meetings (contact Karyn Scalise):
		May 31, 2003	Sierra Club – Val Marie; hosted by PC-GNP. ~ 50 Can. & U.S. delegates (contact Karyn Scalise).
		September 17, 2003	International Grasslands Symposium – Fort Collins, CO. ~100 U.S., Mex. & Can, delegates (contact Karyn Scalise).
		October 21-23, 2003	Northern Mixed Grass Multi-Site Conservation Planning Initiative (Series One – Grasslands/Badlands) Efromson Fellowship Program 2003 – Workshop 3 – Fort Benton MT; Hosted by NCC and TNC. ~35 U.S. & Canadian delegates (contact Karyn Scalise).
		February 26, 2004	Northern Plains Conservation Network meeting – Calgary. ~ 40 delegates (contact Allen Patkau)
		February 26-29, 2004	Prairie Conservation and Endangered Species Conference (PCAES) – Calgary AB (~400 delegates). PCAP presentation and poster on Stewardship Education Programs (contact Karyn Scalise).
		2003	UofR-CPRC published ‘The Swift Fox: Ecology and Conservation of Swift Foxes in a Changing World’ (contact Dr. David Gauthier).
		2003	UofR-CPRC and Wildlife Habitat Canada published ‘Monitoring the Conservation of Grassland Habitats, Prairie Ecozone, Canada’ in Journal of Ecological Monitoring and Assessment 88: 343-364 (contact Dr. David Gauthier).
		2003	UofR-CPRC and Wildlife Habitat Canada co-authored ‘Chapter 29 – Conservation of Biodiversity: in Protected Areas and the Regional Planning Imperative in North America’ (contact Dr. David Gauthier).
4. Educate the general public about native prairie ecosystems.	a) Develop and deliver youth education programs. (GOOD)	November 2003 (Since November 1998)	PCAP delivered the Cows, Fish, Cattle Dogs and Kids Game Show during Saskatoon Fall Fair and Regina Agribition to ~ 1,100 students, primarily in Grades 4-6, for a total of 8,500 students since 1998. Delivery Partners were SBOIC and SWA with volunteer assistance provided by AAFC-PFRA, DFO, NS and Wanuskewin. Funding support provided by DFO - Stewardship in Action Program and EC-HSP (contact Karyn Scalise).
		October 2003 – March 2004	PCAP, SBOIC, and SWA delivered the Owls & Cows Tour to 71 schools (~6,375 Gr. 3-6 students) roughly bounded by the communities of Melfort,

	(Since Spring 2001)	Lloydminster and Quill Lake for a total of 229 schools (17,400 Grade 3-6 students) since Spring 2001. Funding support provided by EC-HSP and DFO - Stewardship in Action Program (contact Karyn Scalise).
	February 2004 (Since February 2000)	PCAP, PC-GNP, SWA, SBOIC, DUC and NS delivered the Eco-Extravaganza (Eco-X) to 10 Swift Current and area elementary schools (1,450 grade K-6 students) for a total of 65 schools (5,550 grade K-6 students) since February 2000. Partners that participated in previous years include NCC (2001), EC-CWS (2002-2003) and AAFC-PFRA (2003) Funding support provided by EC-HSP and DFO - Stewardship in Action Program (contact Karyn Scalise).
	July 5-9, 2004	PCAP, SWA, DUC, SRM, SSGA, AAFC, Agriculture in the Classroom (AITC), the Saskatchewan Science Teachers Society (SSTS), and SaskLearning are working cooperatively to deliver <i>Grasslands Grandeur</i> , a 5-day field tour for 25 teachers, with a corresponding publication for educators (contact Karyn Scalise).
	May 2002 – Oct 2004	NPSS, with the support of SaskEnergy, developed and delivered a plant ecology program for the Saskatoon Public School Division Brightwater Science Environmental Program during the spring and fall of 2002 and 2003 to approximately 960 students in grades 6, 7 and 8 (contact Garth Wruck).
	Since 2002	NS's Bird Quest and Plant Quest, and Lake Diefenbaker Piping Plover Guardian Program deliver programs to youth (contact Margaret Skeel).
	Since 2001	NS's Living by Water Project delivered a youth program at SK Landing, Buffalo Pound and Echo Valley Provincial Parks (contact Margaret Skeel).
	Since 2001	RSM provides educational material about prairie conservation to students and the general public (annual attendance ~120,000 people) through its Life Sciences Gallery and associated programming (contact Dr. Glenn Sutter).
	February – October 2004	RSM is leading Saskatchewan's first Youth Forum on Sustainability. The Forum is a catalyst for student-led projects, including schoolyard naturalizations, for over 15 teams from the Regina area (contact Glenn Sutter).
	September 2003	SAFRR held a plant identification day at Cranberry Flats (8 km south of Saskatoon off Highway 219) for 60 Grade 7 students from Lakeview School in Saskatoon as part of their outdoor education and science curriculum (contact Don Fontaine).
	September 2001 to December 2003	SBOIC delivered the Owls On Tour Program to 12,470 individuals and reported 7,021 in-house visits. Between 1996 and September 2001 over 19,000 contacts were made through the Owls On Tour Program (~9675 contacts) in-house visits (~9,600 contacts) for a total of 22,150 Owls On Tour contacts and 16,600 visitations to the Centre (contact Glen Lewis).
	November 2002	SWA delivered Project Wet, Project Wild and Climate Change programs to teachers throughout the province. Delivery includes workshops, conference presentations, and teaching materials (Contact Lizabeth Nicholls).
	2004	SWA has developed a draft for a web-based Native Prairie Activity Guide for teachers of K-8. Curricula linking has been completed (contact Sharon Metz).
Goal 5, Objective 4, Action b	b) Develop and distribute educational materials. (GOOD)	Since 1998
		PCAP and Partners distribute resource kits for teachers in conjunction with the Cows, Fish, Cattle Dogs and Kids Game Show, the Owls and Cows Tour, and the Eco-X (contact Karyn Scalise).
		Fall 2004
		PCAP, SWA, DUC, SRM, SSGA, AAFC, AITC, SSTS, and SaskLearning will develop a curriculum-linked resource guide based on the Grasslands Grandeur Tour for provincial distribution to SK educators (contact Karyn Scalise).
		March 2004
		NPSS received funding from DFO to reprint 'Native Plants, Water and Us' for distribution through education programs delivered by NS, PCAP, Wanuskewin Heritage Park and Brightwater (contact Garth Wruck).
		NS's Rare Plant Rescue distributes educational materials regarding rare and endangered plant species, as well as management techniques designed to support them. Our other stewardship programs (Operation Burrowing Owl, Shrubs for Shrikes) and educational programs (The Living by Water Project, Piping Plover Guardian Program, and Plant Quest and Bird Quest) develop and distribute information such as brochures and newsletters (contact Margaret Skeel).

		Since 1993	SaskPower and SaskPower Shand Greenhouse have been involved with numerous youth activities such as Trees & Kids and Energy and Our Environment. Grades 4-6 are highlighted in on-site and outreach presentations about the environment and our role in it (contact Shelley Heidinger).
		Since 1998	SWA has developed and distributed a wide variety of educational materials such as guidebooks, fact sheets, newsletters, weekly newspaper inserts, etc (contact Jennifer Lohmeyer).
		2003	UofR-CPRC published 'Water and Wetland Plants of the Prairie Provinces – A Field Guide for AB, SK, and MB (contact Dr. David Gauthier).
Goal 5, Objective 4, Action c	c) Organize NPAW and other special events. (GOOD)	June 24-25, 2004	SRM, PCAP, SAFRR, SWA and AAFC-PFRA are organizing the "Discovering the Moose Mountains" Workshop and Field Tour that will be held in conjunction with NPAW 2004, which runs from June 20-26 (contact Karyn Scalise or Michel Tremblay).
		Since 1999	PCAP organized NPAW 2003 that was proclaimed from June 15-21 by the SAFRR Minister. In 2003 NPAW featured a Signing Ceremony at the RSM that served as the official launch of NPAW 2003 and the 2003-2008 PCAP. NPAW 2003 also featured the SRM 'Discovering the Big Muddy Badlands' Workshop and Field Tour (contact Karyn Scalise).
Goal 5, Objective 4, Action d	d) Develop and deliver regional native prairie education workshops and other programs. (FAIR-GOOD)	2003	NPSS held 2 field tours - one at the Matador grassland, and the other in the Bear Hills (contact Garth Wruck).
		August 2003	NCC and NPSS held a seed wild-harvest workshop at Old Man On His Back Prairie Heritage and Conservation Area near Eastend for 17 participants (contact Sue Mihalski – NCC or Garth Wruck – NPSS).
	See also: Goal 1, Objective 1 (Promote grazing programs that are based on economically and scientifically sound principles) for related activities.	June 2003	NS held 2 landowner appreciation BBQs in southwest SK, providing an opportunity to promote educational and extension programs (contact Kim Dohms).
		July 2003	SAFRR led an AITC tour and plant identification day for teachers at Regina Beach Community Pasture (contact Don Fontaine).
		November 1, 2003 to February 2004	SSGA Zone Meetings held for SSGA Zone members (contact Sheila Fishley).
		1999-present	SWA holds several workshops, fields days, range schools, and other extension events at various locations throughout the year (Jennifer Lohmeyer)
5. Increase public appreciation of the beneficial role played by the livestock industry and other stewards in the management of native prairie.	a) Promote the role of the livestock industry and other native prairie stewards through the media, presentations and publications. (FAIR-GOOD)	Summer 2003	DUC attended a Beef Rally in Moose Jaw (contact Michael Champion).
		Nov 2003	DUC and SSGA will participate in the Support Canadian Beef and Habitat Conservation campaign during Grey Cup week (contact Michael Champion).
		Since 1995	NPSS promotes the importance of the livestock industry for native prairie at every AGM, presentation and in its publications (contact Garth Wruck)
See also: Goal 1, Objective 3 (Recognize and support the efforts of private and public land managers who conserve native prairie) for related activities.		Since Fall 2003	NS 'Stewards of Saskatchewan' newsletter promotes landowner stewardship (contact Margaret Skeel).
		Since 2000	PCAP and Stewardship Education Partners promote the role of the livestock industry and other native prairie stewards through the Owls & Cows Tour and the Eco-Extravaganza (contact Karyn Scalise)
		July 31 2003	PCAP Chair participated in CBC Noon Edition radio interview on ranching and conservation and the potential impact of BSE on range management (contact Allen Patkau).
		August 7, 2003	PCAP Chair submitted a "letter to the editor" through SWNA regarding the importance of the beef industry in native prairie conservation (contact Allen Patkau).

7. IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY:

PROCESS OF IMPLEMENTING THE SASKATCHEWAN PRAIRIE CONSERVATION ACTION PLAN, 2003-2008

Objective	Actions	Timetable	LEAD AND SUPPORTING AGENCIES, Continuing Activities & Update
1. Seek formal endorsement of the 2003-2008 PCAP.	a) Confirm Partners.	May 2003	25 Partners Confirmed – see contact list on page iv of 2003-2008 SK PCAP (contact Karyn Scalise).
	b) Coordinate signing ceremony during NPAW 2003.	June 17, 2003	Signing Ceremony held at RSM. Representatives from 23 Partner Groups participated in the Ceremony and ~ 130 invited guests attended. Remarks provided by SE Minister (Buckley Belanger), SAFRR DM (Gord Nystuen), PCAP Chair (Allen Patkau), SE –PCAP Executive Committee Member (Greg Riemer), and MC was UofR-CPRC Executive Committee Member (Dr. David Gauthier). The Ceremony was followed by Gallery Tours and a Beef-On-A-Bun lunch. Press release issued – available on homepage of PCAP website (contact Karyn Scalise).
2. Establish PCAP Partnership and Executive Committees.	a) Review and ratify the process for establishment of Committees.	November 6, 2003	PCAP meeting will focus on operational items, including establishment of committees (contact Karyn Scalise).
3. Secure financial and in-kind support from Partners and other sponsors.	a) Confirm Partner commitments, develop proposals for granting agencies, and seek support from other sponsors.	March 31, 2004	Funding received by 13 PCAP Partners, 1 Sponsor (Nexen), 1 Bequest (Fred Lahrman); EC-HSP and DFO Stewardship in Action Contribution Agreements completed for 03-04 (contact Karyn Scalise).
	b) Administer PCAP funds.		SSGA continues to administer PCAP funds and maintain accounts (contact Sheila Fishley – SSGA or Karyn Scalise - PCAP).
4. Maintain a home office in the SSGA office, a full-time manager, and part-time support staff.	a) Funding and in-kind support, above, is essential to maintaining the office and staff.	Ongoing	PCAP Office continues to be maintained at the SSGA Office. Funding secured for full-time manager, part-time assistant and casual contract work (contact Karyn Scalise).
5. Develop an annual work plan.	a) The PCAP Manager and Executive Committee develop an annual work plan for approval by the Partnership which addresses the following components: annual operational policy, communication strategy, budget and funding strategy, stewardship education program strategy.	November 2003	PCAP Office developed draft work plan for 2003-2004 (contact Karyn Scalise).
6. Evaluate and report on progress annually.	a) Compile, publish and distribute annual Partner Updates.	March 15 2004 Publish & distribute by June 2004	Unpublished Draft Update compiled and reviewed by Partner representatives at PCAP meeting. Update will cover activities from September 2001 (Partner Update #3 of former Plan) to March 2004. Partner Update will be published by June 2004 to distribute during NPAW (contact Karyn Scalise).
7. Facilitate recruitment of new Partners.	a) Seek and recruit potential Partners that influence the Prairie Ecozone.	March 31, 2004	No new Partners identified for recruitment to PCAP Partnership (contact Karyn Scalise).