



Saskatchewan
Prairie Conservation
Action Plan



ANNUAL REPORT

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The Saskatchewan Prairie Conservation Action Plan (SK PCAP) Partnership brings together agencies and organizations representing producers, industry, provincial and federal governments, non-government organizations and research and educational institutions (the Partners).

The PCAP Partnership works to:

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

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

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

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

Together, the Partners establish a five-year Strategic Plan for collective action which provides the context for annual work planning.

The 2024-2028 Strategic Plan is built on the Partnership's Vision and Mission:

SK Prairie Conservation Action Plan Vision

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

Our Mission

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

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

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Core Strategy A: Collaborating for and promoting the maintenance and enhancement of native prairie.

1. Promote, collaborate and participate in International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (IYRP) 2026.

- **Communicate the IYRP story to PCAP Partners and other interested parties**
 - Engagement sessions led by A. Muller (UofS/SRM-PPC) and the SK Working Group
- **Promote and participate in activities and events in 2026.**
 - A Trello Board was created for the IYRP that includes events, resources, etc (<https://trello.com/b/EKfGmpt0/2026-international-year-of-rangelands-and-pastoralists-canadian-resources>)
 - IYRP Kick-off Events (by U of S)
 - Prairie Conservation and Endangered Species Conference in Saskatoon in May 2026
 - A Quarterly Book Club (First book club meeting was in February 2026 – All the Pretty Horses by Cormac McCarthy)
 - Native Prairie Appreciation Week Tour and other activities in June 2026, planned for SK Landing Provincial Park and Monet Community Pasture.
 - Working with libraries in the province to focus programming and messaging around IYRP

2. Continue to build capacity for prairie conservation through in-person collaboration with all users of the landscapes.

- **Continue to deliver Native Prairie Restoration and Reclamation Workshop (NPRRW).**

Started planning the 2027 NPRRW in Saskatoon.

- **Continue to deliver Native Prairie Appreciation Week (NPAW) events and tour.**

Native Prairie Appreciation Week (June 15-21, 2025) was declared or proclaimed in Regina and Saskatoon, as well as by the Ministries of Environment and Agriculture.

Regular NPAW activities included Youth Poster Contest (114 submissions), a Social Media Photo Contest (150 eligible photos submitted), delivered a social media campaign aimed at the general public about native prairies and wildlife, stewardship resources, etc. We also attended Farmer's Markets in Regina,

Moose Jaw and Swift Current to give away wildflowers seed packets, NPAW bookmarks and information.

Hosted two webinars during the week that were well received:

- Urban Wildlife in a Prairie City: The Regina Urban Wildlife Project (97 live views and 111 YouTube views)
- Wildlife, Landscapes, and Geography – Exploring Connections (123 live views and 79 YouTube views)

➤ **Continue to deliver Prairie Conservation and Endangered Species Conference (PCESC) (2026)**

We continued planning the 14th Prairie Conservation and Endangered Species Conference in Saskatoon, SK, May 5-7, 2026.

➤ **Continue to deliver Species at Risk (SAR) workshops.**

We co-hosted **two** Species at Risk Workshops with partners (SK Stock Growers Foundation and South of the Divide Conservation Action Program Inc) in Claydon and Mankota in February and March 2026, respectively). There were approximately 15 attendees at each workshop.

➤ **Continue to deliver and expand School programs (Adopt a Rancher).**

Adopt a Rancher was delivered to **four** Grade 10 classrooms that included a field trip to a ranch with native prairie. Three out of the four ranches were in the South of the Divide Conservation Area.



➤ **Continue to deliver and expand School programs (Taking Action for Prairie).**

Taking Action for Prairie was delivered to **18** classrooms of grades 6-8 students, mostly in or near Regina, Moose Jaw and Saskatoon.

➤ **Continue to deliver In-person speaker series.**

Five in-person presentations in the South of the Divide area topics included:

- Species at Risk and Citizen Science by Nature Saskatchewan in Frontier at the SODCAP Inc AGM (September 2025)
- Burrowing Owls in Grasslands National Park by Grasslands National Park in Val Marie at Nature Saskatchewan Conservation Awareness Dinner (October 2025)

- Prescribed Fire in Prairie Grasslands by Meewasin and Canadian Prairies Prescribed Fire Exchange in Eastend and Val Marie (November 2025)
- Native prairie reacts to seasonal bison grazing by Mickenzie Plemel (grad student from Royal Roads University) in Mankota (December 2025)

Core Strategy B: Enabling the current and next generation through education, knowledge transfer and innovation

1. By March 2029, collaborate to promote alignment of the K-12 curriculum with PCAP's mission.

Identifying ways PCAP's mission fits into the K-12 curriculum and gaps was paused in 2025-2026.

Continue to search for funding to expand Taking Action for Prairie and Adopt a Rancher.

After many requests from teachers for outdoor education opportunities, we are developing a pilot outdoor option of Taking Action For Prairie.

2. Maintain and improve PCAP's hub of relevant and up-to-date information on native prairie values, economics, management and conservation.

We have created a new user-friendly website (saskpcap.org) with search functions to better access the information available on the PCAP website.

The resource pages need to be updated.

3. By 2028 develop a mechanism for collaboration to facilitate more effective data sharing by PCAP partners and land users to support future analytics.

Continuing to identify existing data sets on grassland ecosystems, led by E. Lamb (U of S).

4. By March 2029, increase intergenerational engagement and connection to native prairie.

Canadian Western Agribition has 15,000 students and multi-generational family groups visit the Family Ag Pavilion where SK PCAP had a booth with the Water Security Agency.

NPAW Youth poster contest, the NPAW Photo Contest and the Native Prairie Speaker Series does have a component of intergenerational engagement when parents participate with their kids.

A subcommittee was created (SaskOutdoors, SODCAP Inc, U of S and SK Association of Watersheds). They are working to identify ways to execute the goals, ways to track the engagement and how to compile and share outcomes.

Core Strategy C: Supporting land users to continue beneficial land practices.

1. **Maintain and enhance PCAP's land users' section of the website to include relevant programming.**

We created a new user-friendly website with search functions to better access the information available on the PCAP website. Relevant programming needs to be updated.

2. **By 2028, PCAP will promote and support knowledge transfer and mentorship amongst land users.**

Mentorship programs were discussed at the Fall 2025 meeting and will be added to the website.

2025-26 Saskatchewan Prairie Conservation Action Plan Partnership

- Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) - Science and Technology Branch
- Birds Canada
- Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society (CPAWS)
- Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC)
- Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) - Canadian Wildlife Service
- Meewasin Valley Authority
- Native Plant Society of Saskatchewan Inc. (NPSS)
- Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC)
- Nature Saskatchewan (NS)
- Parks Canada – Grasslands National Park of Canada (PC-GNP)
- Redberry Lake Biosphere Region (RLBR)
- Salthaven West Wildlife Rehabilitation & Education Centre
- Saskatchewan Aboriginal Land Technicians (SALT)
- Saskatchewan Bison Association (SBA)
- Saskatchewan Cattle Association (SCA)

- Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture
- Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment
- Saskatchewan Ministry of Energy and Resources
- Saskatchewan Ministry of Parks, Culture and Sport
- Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities (SARM)
- Saskatchewan Burrowing Owl Interpretative Centre (SBOIC)
- Saskatchewan Environmental Society (SES)
- Saskatchewan Forage Council (SFC)
- Saskatchewan Outdoor and Environmental Education Association (SaskOutdoors)
- Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association (SSGA)
- Saskatchewan Stock Growers Foundation (SSGF)
- Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation (SWF)
- Saskatchewan Association of Watersheds (SAW)
- SaskEnergy
- SaskPower
- Society for Range Management (SRM) - Prairie Parkland Chapter
- South of the Divide Conservation Action program Inc. (SODCAP Inc.)
- University of Regina
- University of Saskatchewan – College of Agriculture and Bioresources, College of Arts and Science and Department of Plant Sciences
- Water Security Agency (WSA)

2025-26 Financial & In-Kind Support

SK PCAP gratefully acknowledges financial support in 2025-2026 from:

Canadian Forage and Grassland Association, Ducks Unlimited Canada, K+S youth+us, North American Helium, Parks Canada – Grasslands National Park, Pembina, Redberry Lake Biosphere Region, Saskatchewan Cattle Association, Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture, Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment - Fish and Wildlife Development Fund, Saskatchewan Association of Watersheds, SaskEnergy, SaskTel, SaskWater, TC Energy, University of Regina – Faculty of Science, University of Saskatchewan - College of Agriculture and Bioresources, College of Arts and Science and Department of Plant Sciences, Water Security Agency, Wildlife Habitat Canada, and the Government of Canada through the federal Department of the Environment (Environment and Climate Change Canada-Priority Places).

SK PCAP gratefully acknowledges in-kind support in 2025-26 from:

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada - Science and Technology Branch, Birds Canada, Canadian Parks & Wilderness Society, Canadian Western Agribition, Ducks Unlimited Canada, Environment and Climate Change Canada- Canadian Wildlife Service, Meewasin Valley Authority, Native Plant Society of Saskatchewan, Nature Conservancy of Canada, Nature

Saskatchewan, Parks Canada – Grasslands National Park, Redberry Lake Biosphere Region, Saskatchewan Aboriginal Land Technicians, Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities, Saskatchewan Bison Association, Saskatchewan Burrowing Owl Interpretive Centre, Saskatchewan Environmental Society, Saskatchewan Forage Council, Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture, Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment, Saskatchewan Ministry of Energy and Resources, Saskatchewan Ministry of Parks, Culture and Sport, Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association, Saskatchewan Stock Growers Foundation, Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation, SaskEnergy, SaskOutdoors, SaskPower, Society for Range Management - Prairie Parkland Chapter, South of the Divide Conservation Action Program Inc., University of Regina, University of Saskatchewan – College of Agriculture and Bioresources, College of Arts and Science and Department of Plant Sciences, Water Security Agency and the many speakers for the Native Prairie Speaker Series and the Native Prairie Restoration/Reclamation Workshop.