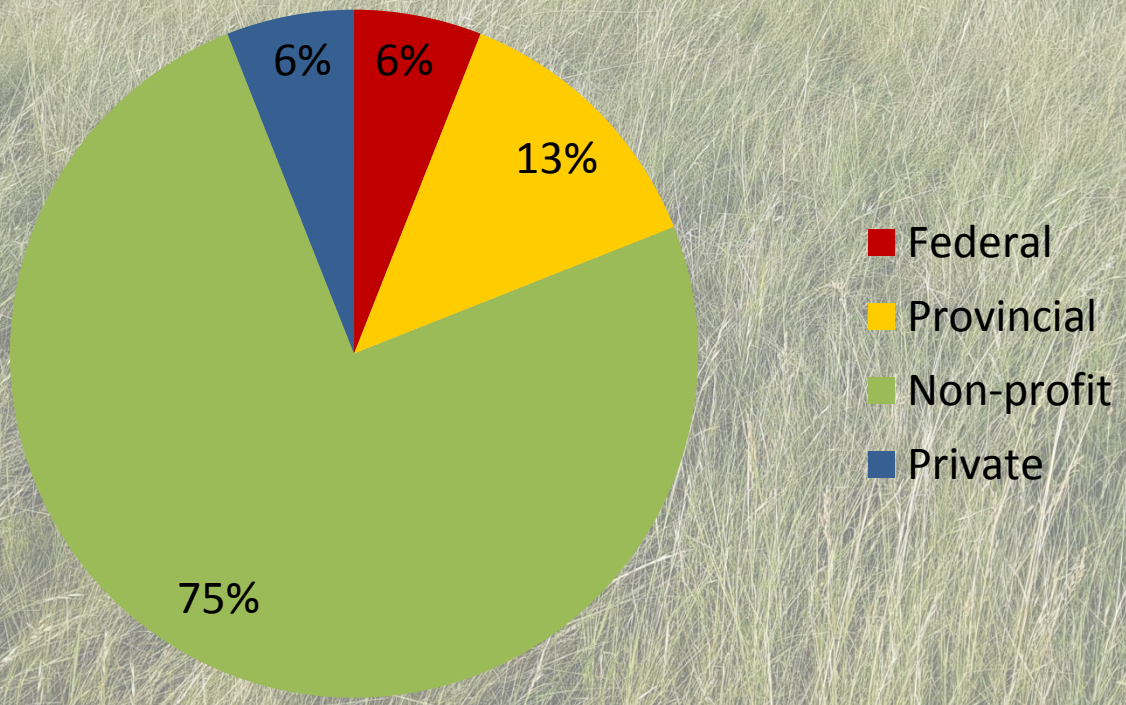
# Saskatchewan

## Jurisdictional Update

# Online Survey

- Sent to 50 organizations
  - 16 responded



# Geography

- Saskatchewan
  - Southwestern Saskatchewan (Milk River Watershed, Swift Current Creek Watershed, Saskatoon region and GNP)
  - Agricultural extent of SK
  - North American Waterfowl Management Plan Key Areas
- Canada

# SK Grassland Conservation

- Primary activities:
  - Land securement, stewardship and conservation easements
  - Grazing management
  - Delivery of agri-environmental programming directly with ranchers and partners
  - Work with industrial sectors to conserve native grassland and CH for Species at Risk
  - Species at Risk recovery though recovery strategies and action plans
  - Prairie restoration, seeding programs: native and forage
  - Invasive species management/control
  - Education and awareness: general public, land managers and youth
  - Develop habitat management tools
  - Conservation programming
  - Extension programming
  - Research
  - Funding

# What's New in 2019?

- **University of Regina**: Neat research, finding of serious carbon sequestration in prairie dugouts and sloughs
- **Ministry of Agriculture**: 1) Completion of range health assessment at select pastures and meeting with patrons to discuss results. 2) Funding of several forage or grasslands research projects. 3) Development and implementation of grazing plans for producers - a BMP under the CAP program
- **Saskatchewan Cattlemen's Association**: sharing the Guardians of the Grassland film
- **Nature Saskatchewan**: contribution to the development of Important Plant Areas, site summary updates for all 52 Important Bird Areas, and signed up 75 new program participants

# What's New in 2019? continued

- **Grasslands National Park**: hayfield restoration pilot project (fields in the Frenchman River floodplain and dominated by smooth brome), research on sagebrush regeneration, recovery strategy for the Black-tailed Prairie Dog (uplisted to Threatened)
- **Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association**: Launching Saskatchewan Stock Growers Foundation and plan to pilot term conservation easements
- **SODCAP Inc:** Partnering with SSGA on the creation of their foundation. Conservation programming in SOD: 250,000 ac
- **Meewasin Valley Authority**: Loss of grasslands in Saskatoon area because of urban encroachement, invasive species or lack of grazing management, increasing public awareness about grassland services

# What's New in 2019? continued

- **Nature Conservancy of Canada**: Grassbanking, acoustic surveys for bats, prescribed fires
- **Ducks Unlimited Canada**: Marginal land conversion
- **Swift Current Creek Watershed Stewards** : continued interest in local producers to fence and manage native and riparian habitats, Producers also seeding marginal cropland back into forages.
- **Saskatchewan Prairie Conservation Action Plan**: Launched the new 2019-2023 Framework, continue to develop habitat guides, chairing the TGP Core Team

# TGP Wins

- Contacts for presentations/workshops/events
- Reviewed materials developed by other organizations for planning within their own organization

# Projects that could use TGP

- Better collaboration between the Saskatchewan and Manitoba Forage Councils is planned for the future. This may lead to joint initiatives relating to grasslands – Ministry of Agriculture
- Wetland protection/ restoration of marginal lands – Ducks Unlimited Canada

# Projects that could use TGP

- Concerns about invasive threats, they could be targeted with joint efforts to survey and share information across jurisdictions about known locations
- Increase awareness about native rangeland and how cattle production help maintain healthy ecosystems
- Knowledge transfer

# Other comments

- Many participants and volunteers would be happy if there were partnerships with other jurisdictions, especially if it is to further research or pilot new programming. We do not have any NEW emerging projects at this time. –Nature Saskatchewan

# Thank you!

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