



PRAIRIE CONSERVATION FORUM

2002 & 2003 Annual Report

ISBN No.:
ISBN No.:
Pub. No.:

May 2004

For more information about the Prairie Conservation Forum, contact:

Ian W. Dyson
Secretary, Prairie Conservation Forum
c/o Alberta Environment
Southern Region
2nd Floor, Provincial Building
200 – 5th Avenue South
LETHBRIDGE, Alberta T1J 4L1

Tel: (403) 381-5430
Fax: (403) 382-4109
E-mail: Ian.Dyson@gov.ab.ca

<http://www.albertapcf.ab.ca/>

Table of Contents

Chairman's Report	1
Summary of Meetings	2
Strategic Priorities of the PCF	5
<i>Appendix 1: PCF Member Organizations</i>	11
<i>Appendix 2: Terms of Reference</i>	13
<i>Appendix 3: Vision, Goals, and Objectives</i>	17
<i>Appendix 4: Financial Report: 2002 and 2003</i>	19
<i>Appendix 5: Recognition of PCF Supporters</i>	20

Chairman's Report 2002

In the spring of 2002 I met an ex-Albertan who now lives in Iowa. She described Iowa as a state that was once 85% prairie and now boasts only one tenth of one per cent prairie, in tiny remnants. The growing numbers of people who want to restore the state's grassland heritage have a big problem: few of them have ever seen a prairie, so they don't know exactly what it is they are trying to restore. This tragedy reminded me, if any reminder was necessary, that those of us who know the value of our natural heritage have a solemn responsibility to take action.

We are fortunate in Alberta. We have a fighting chance to preserve the beauty and integrity of our prairies, thanks to the committed efforts of those who care, including the members and supporters of the Prairie Conservation Forum.

We began the year 2002 with five active committees already in place. The long-standing **Provincial Grass** committee began the long march to Edmonton when MLA Don Tannas agreed to sponsor a private member's bill to amend the *Emblems of Alberta Act*. The Resource Data Branch moved the **Documenting Change Analysis** project forward by conducting pilot methodology studies at three locations. The **Educating the Public and Decision Makers** project gained new momentum when Neil Thrussell assumed responsibility for updating the PCF website, adapting Ian's Prairie Environment powerpoint series for presentation on the PCF website. The **Cumulative Effects** Work Group focused on identifying data gaps and recognized the need to develop a wildlife and biodiversity component of the model. They decided that both tasks could best be accomplished through the Southern Alberta Sustainability Strategy. The **Prairie Ecology Research Committee** project struggled with technical problems, but reaffirmed its commitment to complete the work. Thanks to all of the hard-working PCF members who devoted time to our committee work. You make it happen.

We published Heather Sinton and Christine Pitchford's '*Minimizing the Effects of Oil and Gas Activity on Native Prairie*' as PCF Occasional Paper No. 4 this year, both in print and on the PCF website. This is a valuable guide to protecting the prairies from one of our major industrial activities. I hope you will read it and commend it to your colleagues.

2002 was also a year to look beyond our borders. PCF members attended the Northern Plains Conservation Network meeting in North Dakota and the Tri-National Species of Common Conservation Concern meeting in Colorado. In June, the Saskatchewan PCAP hosted our joint Alberta/Saskatchewan meeting in Lloydminster to coincide with Native Prairie Appreciation week. Thanks to Karyn Scalise and Allen Petkau. We toured the Manitou Sandhills and compared notes on conservation activities. I was very pleased to see Saskatchewan PCAP members at our fall meeting at Suffield, and even our winter meeting in Okotoks. I know we will sustain our connection with the Saskatchewan group and find ways to support each other in the future.

CFB Suffield graciously hosted our fall meeting and provided us with informative presentations and field tours, not to mention superb grub at the officer's mess. Thanks again to Maj. Fern Martins and Cpl. Wes Richmond. By the way, I still want to see that tank brigade in action! The magnificent sweep of the Suffield landscape on a blustery autumn day and the intriguing biology of Ord's kangaroo rat remind me that the enduring human experience of prairie is found in it's grandeur and intimate detail. I found myself thinking of Iowa.

No chairperson's report would be complete without sincere thanks to our secretariat of Ian Dyson and Sam Wirzba, the backbone of the PCF. It has been a privilege to be a member of the Alberta Prairie Conservation Forum for many years and its chairperson for 2002.

Rob Powell
PCF Chairperson (2002)

Chairman's Report 2003

As Chair of the Prairie Conservation Forum (PCF) for 2003, it was an exciting year for me. My first meeting of the year was in June, and was full of great events. Canadian Forces Base, Suffield hosted the meeting. At the meeting, members of the PCF were able to attend the Proclamation of the Canadian National Wildlife Area at Suffield. MP David Anderson made the proclamation.

After three years of hard work by the Provincial Grass Committee, Rough Fescue (*Festuca scabrella*) was proclaimed the official grass of Alberta. I would like to thank members of the committee for their hard work to see this project through.

I had the honor of making the official proclamation of the provincial grass at the Gifts of the Grasslands conference in Medicine Hat. I also represented the PCF at this conference. The conference was very good, and I would like to congratulate the Canadian Nature Federation for a job well done.

The September PCF meeting was held in Fort MacLeod. The evening before the meeting, forum members toured the Old Man River Valley at MacLeod where we saw the work the town has done to control erosion on the river banks, to protect their water treatment plant. Members also toured Fort MacLeod's river valley park.

At the Forum meeting the next day, the Blackfoot curator from the Fort Museum presented a talk about the history of Blackfoot culture in the area. An idea that arose at the September meeting was to feature members of the forum at each meeting, giving them a chance to outline their work and highlight things that might interest other forum members.

September was the last meeting for our recording secretary, Sam Wirzba. It was with great sadness that we said goodbye to Sam. I would like to thank Sam for his great service to the PCF over the years, and wish him good luck on his new project. I would also like to welcome Cheryl Dash as the new recording secretary.

The January Meeting was held in Okotoks. This meeting featured the first member's forum. I provided a presentation on soil salinity, comparing historical and current management practices. We also received a presentation on trading carbon credits and how they work within the Kyoto agreement.

This is a short summary of a great year for the PCF. It was a privilege to have served the PCF and I'd like to welcome Linda Cerney as president for 2004.

Yours truly,
Vern McNeely
PCF Chairperson (2003)

Summary of Meetings

The Prairie Conservation Forum typically meets three times each year, holding meetings in the winter, spring, and fall at different venues throughout prairie and parkland Alberta. Each meeting provides an opportunity for members to share information and discuss a wide range of prairie conservation issues. Topical updates are provided on environmental initiatives, planning projects, environmental legislation, member organization activities, emerging issues, and other themes. A field trip is usually held in conjunction with the spring and fall meetings. The PCF's executive committee (known as PCF Steering Committee) meets in advance of each scheduled Forum meeting to develop a meeting agenda, conduct PCF business, ensure necessary follow-up from the previous PCF meeting have been completed, and prepare recommendations for consideration by the PCF.

The PCF held six meetings in the two-year period from January 2002 to December 2003. Highlights from these meetings are as follows.

Okotoks, January 2002

The provincial grass working group provided an update of progress towards adding an amendment to Alberta's Emblem Act recognizing rough fescue as Alberta's provincial grass. The steps planned to ensure recognition of Alberta's provincial grass were outlined, including a plan to increase awareness of the provincial grass and grassland ecology.

Three new working groups were struck. The new working groups included: Documenting Change Analysis, Understanding Change (using ALCES Grasslands Natural Region model), and Educating Public and Decision Makers.

The draft Occasional Paper No. 4 was introduced: "Minimizing the Effects of Oil and Gas Activity on Native Prairie". The draft was provided to Forum members for review. Production and printing of the paper were to proceed once member comments were incorporated.

Jacquie Gilson, Ron Davis and Will Pierce provided a presentation on 'The Effects of Urban Sprawl on Agricultural Land and Native Landscapes'. Presenters were invited to join PCF.

Elections for PCF Chair for 2002 were held. Rob Powell was elected by secret ballot.

Lloydminster, June 2002

The June 2002 meeting in Lloydminster was a joint meeting between the PCF and the Saskatchewan PCAP Committee. The joint meeting started with a 1.5 hour round table covering the following topics: confined feeding operations, expanding livestock industries, government policy impacts on the agriculture industry, invasive species, range management, etc.

Ian provided a presentation on 'Prairie Conservation in a Changing World: Facing the Future'. The presentation focused on the expanding human footprint on the prairie landscape and its impact on natural systems. Ian also emphasized the importance of making biodiversity and biological integrity societal goals.

PCF members attended the Native Prairie Appreciation Week workshop following the joint meeting. The workshop included presentations on management of resources in the Manitou Sandhills in Saskatchewan and a number of tours.

Canadian Forces Base, Suffield, September 2002

Major Fernando Martins, Wes Richmond and David Gummer provided three presentations. All presentations related to management and natural history of the Base.

A report from Cheryl on the activities of the Get a Grass working group was provided. MLA Don Tannas is making progress in the political process to get rough fescue designated as the provincial grass for Alberta.

Livio Fent provided an update regarding the progress of the native prairie vegetation inventory. Landsat imagery would be used to differentiate between native prairie and agricultural vegetation. Five areas were included in the pilot program: Sage Creek, Milk River, Cypress Hills Fringe, Purple Springs and Red Deer River.

The meeting was followed by a full-day tour of CFB Suffield. Some of the highlights of the tour included: burrowing owl dens, oil well drilling and pipeline impacts, a proposed national wildlife area, snake drift fencing and handling traps, and native seed harvesting.

Okotoks, January 2003

MLA Don Tannas was present to provide an update regarding adopting rough fescue as a provincial emblem. Don mentioned that Bill 201, that recommends that rough fescue be adopted as Alberta's provincial grass, would be introduced during the spring session of the Alberta legislature.

The PCF workplan for 2003 was provided by Rob Powell and adopted as presented.

Four presentations from members were provided. Ron Bennett provided a presentation on the federal *Species at Risk Act* and Prairie Partners in Flight. Richard Quinlan provided a presentation on the provincial species at risk program including species assessments and recovery plans. David Gauthier gave a presentation on the development of a continental program for promoting conservation and sustainable use of North American grasslands.

Vern McNeely was voted as Chair for 2003 in one round of voting. Steering Committee members for 2003 were also selected.

Canadian Forces Base, Suffield, May 2003

PCF members attended a ceremony marking the establishment of Suffield National Wildlife Area. Speeches from the Environment Minister and Base staff were given, along with a slide show and video presentation.

Four presentations were given from PCF members. Donny White gave a presentation on European settlement of southeastern Alberta. Brian Laing gave a presentation on historical

range management of southeastern Alberta. Ian Dyson presented on development of the Cypress Hills Fringe Area Structure Plan. And Alberto Lafon (a guest from Mexico) presented on conservation of Mexico's grasslands and grassland birds.

Fort MacLeod, September 2003

The evening before the meeting, a tour, focusing on erosion control and other engineering works to protect shore lands in the Oldman River Valley, was provided.

A guided tour of the PCF website was provided by Neil Thrussell. Forum members agreed upon some changes and updates to the page. Neil indicated that additions members would like to add (e.g. photos) should be sent to him.

Cheryl reported that the Provincial Grass working group had dissolved because their task was complete.

Herman Many Guns provided a presentation on Blackfoot traditions, social customs, spirituality, history, world-view, contact with Europeans and other themes. Forum members went over Treaty No. 7 completely.

Strategic Priorities of the PCF

PCF Work Groups 2002 - 2003

Prairie Ecology Research Committee (PERC)

Various obstacles were encountered during 2000 and 2001 in developing PERC's web site. As of January 2003, the website was functioning, providing the opportunity to upload published material, unpublished material, and grey literature. In September 2003, the website was not yet populated with bibliographic information, studies, inventories, or projects. The team was considering options for completing the task.

Get a Grass! In Search of A Prairie Symbol for Alberta

Don Tannas, MLA of Highwood, agreed to sponsor a bill to accomplish the amendment to have rough fescue designated a provincial emblem. Bill 201, *Emblems of Alberta Amendment Act 2003* was the first Private Members Bill in the spring session of the Alberta Legislature. The Hon. Shirley McClellan, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Development, provided a letter of support.

In February 2003, Bill 201 passed the first and second readings in the Legislative Assembly of Alberta. There was overwhelming support by members of the Legislature. In March 2003, Bill 201 passed Committee of the Whole, Third Reading and received Royal Assent. In April, Bill 201 was proclaimed by Order in Council and came into force resulting in rough fescue becoming Alberta's official provincial grass.

The 'Get a Grass' working group disbanded following completion of their task. It was suggested that a new working group be struck to carry on with awareness activities related to Alberta's provincial grass. Forum members are researching awareness activities and opportunities, especially those related to Alberta's 2005 centennial celebrations.

'Prairie Conservation' Course

The course exposes students to a broad range of native prairie topics. Further information on the course can be obtained at the following web site:
<http://www.albertapcf.ab.ca/courseoutline.htm>

Dr. Hurly offered the course at the University of Lethbridge in the fall semester of 2002, and will continue to offer the course in alternating years (next is fall 2004). Forum members continue to pursue opportunities with other institutions that may be interested in offering the course.

Societal Awareness

This group will be responsible for pursuing the third strategic priority of the 2001-2005 PCAP: promoting a better understanding of the implications of impacts on landscape integrity amongst decision makers and the public.

Update from Laura Roberts

Other Activities

The following activities were undertaken during the 2002 - 2003 period and are worthy of mention:

Website Additions:

Significant additions and enhancements were again made to the PCF's web site. In particular, the web site now contains the following:

- results of the 'Get a Grass' initiative,
- a page that focuses on 'Links Between Grasslands and Carbon Storage',
- information on the *Prairie Conservation* course, and
- updates to the presentation series on prairie environment (e.g. Business Case presentation, Ecosystem Management presentation, Biodiversity Gradient presentation, Shifting Reality presentation, Grasslands Cumulative Effects presentation, and Standing at a Crossroads presentation).

As well, Forum members supported a proposal to develop an 'internal' page on the PCF website for members only. This page allows members to access PCF documents and other materials uploaded by the Secretary. The page has been established and includes materials such as:

- PCF and Steering Committee's agendas,
- PCF minutes,
- Steering Committee summary notes,
- working documents,
- membership directory, and
- financial updates.

Prairie Notes

Gail Michener and Josef Schmutz developed a new Prairie Note "Richardson's Ground Squirrel". It is intended to provide objective and factual information on the ground squirrel, its life cycle, behavior, ecology and control mechanisms. The essay has been posted on the PCF website.

Fourth Occasional Paper

Heather Sinton was invited to develop Occasional Paper No. 4. Together with Christine Pitchford, Heather developed the paper called "Minimizing the Effects of Oil and Gas Activity on Native Prairie". When the paper was completed in the fall of 2002, Alberta Environment offered to print 2000 copies, which was completed in November 2002. This paper has also been posted on the PCF website.

Financial Update

Appendix 1 PCF Member Organizations

The membership of the Prairie Conservation Forum grew during the last two-year period. Membership remains open to any organization that is willing to align itself with the Alberta PCAP and the PCF's Terms of Reference. The following organizations were represented on the PCF at the end of 2001.

Alberta Beef Producers
Alberta Conservation Association
Alberta Conservation Tillage Society
Alberta Fish and Game Association
Alberta Native Plant Council
Alberta Wilderness Association
Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society
Dryland Salinity Control Association
Ducks Unlimited (Canada)
Eastern Irrigation District
Federation of Alberta Naturalists

Government of Alberta

Alberta Community Development (Provincial Museum of Alberta)
Alberta Community Development (Alberta Sport, Recreation, Parks and Wildlife Foundation)
Alberta Economic Development
Alberta Energy
Alberta Environment
Alberta Municipal Affairs
Alberta Sustainable Resource Development
Alberta Transportation
Energy and Utilities Board
Natural Resources Conservation Board

Government of Canada

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (PFRA)
Department of National Defence, Canadian Forces Base- Suffield
Environment Canada, Canadian Wildlife Service
Parks Canada (Waterton Lakes National Park)
National Energy Board

Grasslands Naturalists
Lethbridge Naturalist Society
Nature Conservancy of Canada
Operation Grassland Community

Palliser Regional Municipal Services
PanCanadian Petroleum Limited
Parkland Community Services
Shell Canada Limited
Society of Range Management
Southern Alberta Land Trust Society
Special Areas Advisory Council
Special Areas Board
University of Alberta
University of Calgary
University of Lethbridge
Wildlife Society

Appendix 2 Terms of Reference (*Prairie Conservation Forum*)

revised 12 January 2001

AUTHORITY

Initiated in 1989 by the Government of Alberta as the Prairie Conservation Coordinating Committee. At the discretion of individual member organizations, the committee was reconfirmed and renamed in 1995 as the Prairie Conservation Forum (PCF). The Prairie Conservation Forum is consultative and advisory to member organizations. It does not have legislative, management or program authority or responsibilities. The acceptance of Prairie Conservation Forum recommendations will remain at the discretion of individual member organizations.

DURATION

The Prairie Conservation Forum is tied to the Alberta Prairie Conservation Action Plan (PCAP), 2001-2005. The committee will exist until 31 December 2005. This tenure may be extended at the discretion of the Prairie Conservation Forum.

PURPOSE

The purpose or role of the Prairie Conservation Forum is to encourage effective implementation of the Alberta PCAP and provide an ongoing profile for prairie and parkland conservation initiatives. This role has and will continue to focus on three key elements:

Networking and Information Exchange

- Serve as a forum for **information exchange and cooperation** between key organizations with interests in or jurisdiction over prairie conservation initiatives;
- Allow **key contacts** to get together periodically to review the plans, projects and programs of member organizations, to assess progress and to integrate program efforts; and
- Where appropriate, **coordinate actions** to manage potential conflicts, avoid duplication and ensure effectiveness amongst the projects of member organizations.

Steering Prairie Conservation Action Plan Implementation

- Constitute a **cooperative partnership** between different levels of government and non-government organizations in sharing major responsibility for implementing the Alberta PCAP, and also allowing both groups to **share their experiences** and **strengthen mutual goals and objectives**;

- Assess and make **recommendations on overall priorities** for implementation of the Alberta PCAP to those member organizations that are involved in implementation actions. Provide advice to those same members on program or project design and implementation;
- Encourage members to tailor their own programs, policies or initiatives to meet the goals of the Alberta PCAP;
- **Review progress** in implementing the Alberta PCAP;
- **Identify gaps and recommend measures** to rectify such areas as inventory deficiencies or new program requirements; and
- **Encourage coordination and compatibility** amongst major conservation-related initiatives such as the Prairie Conservation Action Plans, the North American Waterfowl Management Plan, habitat conservation, wetland conservation, cover programs, protected areas programs, and biodiversity initiatives.

Public Awareness and Education

- Adopt **media communication strategies** as appropriate to ensure that significant initiatives and accomplishments are widely communicated publicly; and
- Develop **educational resources** to enhance awareness of the value and importance of biological diversity and Alberta's native prairie and parkland.

MEMBERSHIP

There is an "open door" policy on membership in the Prairie Conservation Forum. Organizations or agencies who wish to participate in the work of the committee may join the Prairie Conservation Forum on request. Meetings will be open to the public.

PRAIRIE CONSERVATION FORUM OPERATIONS

- Chair - elected annually from amongst the membership. There is no limit to the number of times PCF members can be elected to serve as chair, provided no more than two consecutive terms are served at one time.
- Secretary - provided by the Government of Alberta (Department of Environment).
- Steering Committee - consists of representatives from a cross section of the membership (elected annually), chair, past chair and secretary.

- Working Groups - established to address specific tasks or issues by the Prairie Conservation Forum. Working groups will be disbanded once their task has been completed.

LOCAL COMMITTEES

The Prairie Conservation Forum will facilitate and encourage the development of local or regional committees. However, the Prairie Conservation Forum prefers a loose arrangement without an organizational hierarchy or sanctioned functions.

PRAIRIE CONSERVATION FORUM OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES

Meetings

- The Prairie Conservation Forum will conduct three general meetings per year. Meetings will be held in the winter (January), spring (April/May) and fall (September). The chair will be responsible for chairing these meetings;
- Additional Prairie Conservation Forum meetings may be called at the discretion of the steering committee when circumstances warrant;
- Notification of the dates(s), location and anticipated agenda items will be mailed to all members at least 30 days in advance of the meeting; and
- The steering committee will meet three times per year to guide the Prairie Conservation Forum in implementing the Alberta PCAP and related initiatives and to prepare an agenda for Forum meetings. Steering committee meetings will be called by the chair with as much notice as possible between Forum meetings.

Decisions

- The preferred method of decision making is by consensus. However, if that approach is not feasible, decisions of the Prairie Conservation Forum will be recorded through a vote of the attending membership. A motion will be adopted and implemented if it receives an affirmative vote by two-thirds of the members present at a meeting. All members will have an opportunity for input through discussion at a Prairie Conservation Forum meeting;
- In the event that a decision is required between meetings, membership votes will be obtained through the appropriate referral mechanism (e.g., mail, fax, E-mail, phone);
- Minority opinions will be recorded if the member(s) holding those views so request; and
- All members will receive advance notification and background information concerning upcoming decisions, at least **30 days in advance**.

Documentation and Correspondence

- The Secretary will be responsible for developing the agendas for the general meetings in close consultation with the chair and steering committee;
- All minutes of meetings and correspondence from the Prairie Conservation Forum will be prepared, distributed and retained by the Secretary;
- Correspondence of the Prairie Conservation Forum will be factual and non-advocacy in tone. Correspondence reflecting the Forum's views will be signed by the chair. Forum correspondence neither binds nor necessarily reflects the views of any given member organization.
- Signature sheets will only be used to convey personal support.

Prairie Conservation Issues

- When issues are brought to the Forum for comment or deliberation or when the Forum is asked to provide support for initiatives (research, program proposals, causes etc) the Forum will be guided in its deliberations by these Terms of Reference and the Alberta Prairie Conservation Action Plan.
- The Prairie Conservation Forum will register views as a committee on issues which, following discussion, the majority of members feel meet the following criteria:
 - The issue relates directly to the Alberta PCAP and is significant (i.e., is provincial in scope or is otherwise of a sufficient magnitude to be considered as a significant prairie conservation issue);
 - Prairie Conservation Forum representation would be useful or will likely make a difference to the final outcome (resolution) of the issue.

Prairie Conservation Forum Report

- A report summarizing the activities, projects, decisions and financial transactions of the Forum will be prepared every two calendar years, by March 31 of the following year.

Appendix 3 Vision, Goals, and Objectives (*Alberta PCAP: 2001-2005*)

VISION

The biological diversity of native prairie and parkland ecosystems in Alberta is being conserved for the benefit of current and future generations.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

1. Document and quantify changes taking place over time.
2. Achieve a better understanding of the implications of change over time.
3. Promote a better understanding of the implications of impacts on landscape integrity amongst decision-makers and the public.

GOAL 1

Advance the identification, understanding, and use of information about Alberta's prairie and parkland ecosystems.

Objectives

- 1.1 Complete the identification of native vegetation in the aspen parkland and conduct studies of prairie landscape change.
- 1.2 Improve the accessibility and use of available information.
- 1.3 Promote research relevant to prairie conservation and encourage the integration of research and inventory efforts.
- 1.4 Ensure that research and inventory results are applied to ecosystem management in the prairies.

GOAL 2

Encourage government policies, programs and regulations that favour the conservation of Alberta's native prairie and parkland landscapes while preserving their cultural and economic values.

Objectives

- 2.1 Support those policies for Crown lands that promote the retention of Alberta's native prairie rangelands.

- 2.2 Promote those laws, regulations, policies, and programs that encourage the conservation of Alberta's native prairie ecosystems under all other types of ownership.

GOAL 3

Adopt land use management practices and protective strategies that sustain diverse ecosystems across the whole prairie and parkland landscape.

Objectives

- 3.1 Adopt and encourage ecosystem management practices to sustain and conserve all prairie landscapes.
- 3.2 Determine the biotic and abiotic requirements of native prairie species and communities and the management practices needed to sustain them.
- 3.3 Provide specific protection for significant, representative, and sensitive ecosystems.
- 3.4 Actively pursue the reclamation of degraded or disturbed prairie ecosystems.

GOAL 4

Increase awareness of the values and importance of Alberta's native prairie and parkland ecosystems.

Objectives

- 4.1 Promote an understanding and appreciation of our native prairie ecosystems amongst the public.
- 4.2 Continue to promote an understanding and appreciation of native prairie ecosystems amongst users of prairie landscapes. Provide information and resources to assist landowners, lessees, and a growing number of rural-fringe homeowners in conserving native prairie habitats.
- 4.3 Promote an understanding and appreciation of our native prairie ecosystems amongst decision-makers at the municipal level.
- 4.4 Encourage the incorporation of prairie ecosystem studies in formal educational curricula at all levels.

Appendix 4 Recognition of PCF Supporters

The PCF would like to acknowledge the support and contributions of members and friends, without which the ongoing functioning of the Forum would be hampered. In particular, the following are singled out:

1. Members who incur expenses, without reimbursement, while attending PCF meetings.
2. Dean Nernberg (Canadian Wildlife Service) for making literature available to Forum members on various conservation themes.
3. Neil Thrussell (Alberta Environment) for serving as the PCF's Web Master.
4. Rob Wolfe (Alberta Environment) for the development of background papers and assisting with the updates to the website.
5. Kurt Gonzales (Alberta Sustainable Resource Development) for converting PCF documents into 'pdf' files for posting on the PCF's Web Site.
6. Cheryl Bradley (Southern Alberta Environmental Group) for her determination and coordination of the 'Get A Grass' team.
7. Honorable Don Tannas (MLA, Little Bow-Highwood) for his support and guidance in the designation of the provincial grass emblem.
8. Cheryl Dash (Alberta Environment) and Janice Smith (Parks Canada) for providing advice and for assisting with the development and distribution of various PCF communications products.
9. Andy Hurly for the delivery of the *Prairie Conservation* course at the University of Lethbridge: Fall 2002.
10. In-kind contributions:
 - Marilyn Danish (Alberta Environment): photo-copying; mail-outs
 - Alberta Environment: printing of PCF Annual Reports, furnishing supplies, meeting refreshments
11. Those individuals who make themselves available to serve as tour guides on PCF field trips (which are held in conjunction with spring and fall meetings).
12. Those individuals who agree to share their knowledge and insights as presenters at PCF meetings.

13. The authors of:
 - PCF Occasional Papers:
 - Heather Sinton / Christine Pitchford - Occasional Paper #4 (in preparation)
 - PCF Prairie Notes
 - Gail Michener / Josef Schmutz: *Richardson's Ground Squirrel* (in preparation)
14. Chairpersons of PCF work groups who provide valued leadership and who assume a heavier work-load to fulfil action recommendations contained in the PCAP.
15. Brad Stelfox for assistance in applying the ALCES model to the Grasslands Natural Region.
16. Ryan Johnson for the development of PCF web pages.
17. Eastern Irrigation District for hosting the PCF web site, and the University of Lethbridge for hosting the "Searchable Database" portion of the Native Prairie Vegetation Baseline Inventory.

We will inevitably have failed to identify the generous contributions of some individuals and organizations in this section. We apologize for any oversight on our part.