



PRAIRIE CONSERVATION FORUM

2004 & 2005 Annual Report

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Chairman's Report 2004

Each spring at about 2:00 a.m. my daily ritual begins. I crawl out of my warm bed, gather myself and my gear and head off in the dark at what seems to be an endless journey until I arrive at my destination - the open, untouched native prairie landscape. When the eastern sky brightens, the 'dawn chorus' begins. As each individual bird species' songs ring out, animals speak in the distance and invertebrates exhibit their bellowing moans and calls, a wonderful symphony projects across the landscape. Their background exhibits a pallet of brilliant colors, scents and a sea of grass to create a unique, always evolving portrait. One morning, storm clouds blocked the sunrise and the "theatre" was quiet; only the distant wind and a few cows could be heard. I sat on the tailgate of the truck and paused to reflect on this silence and dull sky, knowing that the loss of these sounds can indicate to us the condition of the prairies and the beauty that could disappear. A familiar sound brought me back to reality - the 'dancers of the dawn' as I call them – sharp tailed grouse pounding out their mating ritual, not all has been lost!

As I reflect on my year as chairman, I'm proud to hear the sounds (voices) of each PCF member organization at our meetings speaking of their achievements and their contributions for prairie conservation. My year began and ended in Okotoks on very cold (-28 to – 32°C) winter days. I'll always remember my final day as chairman seeing Dean Nernberg wrapped so tightly in his blanket that I wondered when he'd ever emerge.

Our June meeting to Drumheller and tour of the Rumsey Natural area began a string of discussions regarding the Coalbed Methane activities occurring. Three ministers (ASRD, ACD and AE) received an information letter on the PCF's concerns regarding this industry and particularly the natural area. Without Cheryl Bradley's lead and ongoing updates on the progress, attention to this area may have continued in the path that was already created.

We ventured to Nanton in September and toured the surrounding foothills visiting the Stavely Research station (range management), the Rocking P Ranch (pipeline reclamation) and having a wonderful home cooked dinner with presentations by the Miistakis Institute for the Rockies (country residential) and a University of Calgary student (integrated resource management partnerships). The steering committee asked all members to invite a guest to participate at this meeting and it was wonderful to see several new faces.

Throughout the year committee members continued development of the educational strategy, reviewed the next PCF occasional paper "State of Southern Alberta's Water" (to be completed in 2005), ongoing mapping (GVI) of the prairie grasslands and proudly wore their rough fescue pins.

I continued to promote our member organizations through Vern McNeely's initiative of the member profiles (Community Development- Parks and Protected Areas, Operation Grassland Community and Alberta Environmentally Sustainable Agriculture) and personally initiated and encouraged members to sponsor coffee breaks and field trips at each meeting. Another first for PCF was my chairman's holiday greetings and meeting reminder sent to all members. I also stirred up the ongoing idea of obtaining a paid staff person to keep PCF focused and moving forward. The discussions may continue to our new chairman.

I look forward to continuing as a steering committee member and participating in the development of the next PCAP and educational strategy. My sincere THANKS to all our presenters, guests, members and especially our secretariat- Ian Dyson and scribe/advisor/coordinator/mentor- Cheryl Dash for their thoughts and direction in keeping the PCF strong.

To read about the prairies is no substitute for experiencing them first hand! The remoteness and solitude of this landscape will allow all your senses to be awakened. This too happens when you serve as chairman. Thanks for a great year; it's a pleasure and privilege to be a member of the Alberta Prairie Conservation Forum.

Cheers!
Linda Cerney
PCF Chairperson (2004)

Chairman's Report 2005

The year 2005 has been a great year for native grass with record or near record rainfall in most of the prairie and parkland. This led to the cancellation of our summer tour in June but resulted in a tremendous turn around from the drought years of 2000-2002. Of course the flooding on many of our watercourses was very significant too. In a rather unusual turn of events we experienced high water on up to three different occasions on many of our streams and rivers.

The Prairie Conservation Forum kicked off the year with a January meeting in Okotoks that was well attended despite a cold winter day. We heard reports from the Grassland Vegetation Inventory GVI Committee presented by Livio Fent, PERC, Dean Nernberg, and the Provincial Grass Education Strategy Committee, Laura Roberts. We also struck a new committee to review and update our five- year plan called the Prairie Conservation Action Plan PCAP. At this time our previous plan (PCAP: 2001-2005) has now been revised and updated to provide a new, practical, five-year strategy that addresses both existing and new prairie conservation challenges. At our January 13, 2006 meeting in Okotoks, members will be asked to endorse the fine work of our committee.

Our fall meeting was held in Pincher Creek in September and highlights included committee updates and presentations on wind power, natural capital, the new PCAP, GVI, which has now developed to where it has acquired some of the base line mapping and databases in a trial area, and a new concept on environmental governance, presented by Ian Dyson. One of the best parts of our meetings is the member profiles and member updates.

I would like to say a special thanks to Linda Cerney, Ian Dyson, Louella Cronkhite, and Cheryl Dash for stepping in to organize and run the September meeting when family illness dictated my priorities. I would also like to thank the members of the steering committee, the PCF committees and Cheryl Dash for the support and hard work they have provided the PCF this past year.

As we look ahead to the coming five-year period 2006-2010 and beyond, we anticipate that increasing pressure will be placed on our provincial grasslands. Alberta's economy and

population are growing rapidly, spurred along by a strong demand for energy and other natural resources and various goods and services. Conventional oil and gas development is occurring at record levels. The pressing demand for energy is causing both industry and governments to more seriously consider wind power and coal bed methane as alternative energy sources. Alberta's natural landscapes also need to accommodate a growing demand for wide-ranging recreational opportunities.

While the agricultural sector has been under considerable pressure during the past several years, the ranching industry continues to rely heavily on native rangelands. The demand for additional farmland, and the intensified use of existing farmland continues – partially driven by irrigation expansion projects and growing markets for specialty crops. As well, the seemingly relentless conversion of farmland to accommodate new housing sub-divisions and acreages (many of which are in close proximity to major urban centers, especially Calgary and Edmonton) has the effect of shrinking our productive agricultural land base.

In response to an increasing social awareness of land use change, new concepts are being discussed in relation to land development – development that has regard for valued natural assets. One of the most interesting concepts that has recently emerged in Alberta is that of “natural capital”. While recognizing that economic growth, a strong economy and low unemployment rates are favoured by a majority of Albertans, other important considerations, i.e., natural capital, are gaining attention. Among other things, natural capital includes the habitat needed by fish and wildlife species, functioning riparian systems that allow us to maintain water quality, and the maintenance of working landscapes that are rich in biodiversity, and which afford quality recreational and leisure time experiences. We must learn to better manage our natural capital to balance the social, economic and environmental priorities of Albertans.

This is a short summary of a great year for the PCF and a look at what lies ahead. It was a privilege to have served the PCF this year.

Brian Laing, P.Ag.
PCF Chairperson (2005)

Summary of Meetings

The Prairie Conservation Forum (PCF) 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 2004 to December 2005. Highlights from these meetings are as follows.

Okotoks, January 2004

The Native Prairie Inventory Work Committee provided an update on their project identifying the next steps. Key components include: completing an upgrade of the inventory with more stringent recommendations, develop a business case for Sustainable Resource Development Executive, identify further areas of research, and provide costing and see if there is a connection with the Provincial Water Strategy.

The Provincial Grass Education Committee is looking at developing a strategy to continue general public awareness and education on the newly designated rough fescue grass and the importance of the grassland ecosystem. They plan to develop a strategy for members to review sometime this year.

The Prairie Ecological Research Committee (PERC) provided an update on their progress towards designing and developing a searchable database created from information provided by Forum members. University students have been hired to start populating the website with the information.

Cheryl Arkison from Climate Change Central gave an introduction to carbon credits and an overview of research on Climate Change. Morgan Stromsmoe of Ducks Unlimited Canada presented on projects within prairie and parkland Alberta.

Elections for PCF Chair for 2004 were held. Linda Cerney (Alberta Conservation Association) was elected as the new Chair for the 2004/2005 PCF.

Drumheller, June 2004

Day one of the June 2004 meeting consisted of a half-day tour of the Rumsey Ecological Reserve and Natural Area. Felix Gebbink with Alberta Sustainable Resource Development (Red Deer) served as tour guide and site expert. Discussions focused around reclamation and industrial use within the reserve.

The Grassland Inventory Committee provided an update on their partnership with Sustainable Resource Development. A pilot project is planned to ensure various grassland details are capable of being detected and inventoried (including wetland components, using the Stuard and Kantrud wetland classification system).

Livio Fent provided a presentation on research completed previously regarding brush encroachment into native grasslands in the Rumsey and Handhills ecological reserve areas.

Tara Banks provided a draft of the 2002/2003 Annual Report to the group for review.

Nanton, September 2004

Day one of the September 2004 meeting included a half-day tour of the Stavely Research Station and a Winter Grazing/Pipeline Disturbance site on the Rocking 'P' Ranch. Grazing strategies, soil composition, range management assessments, reclamation and plant identification were some of the key topics covered. Walter Willms, John Dormaar, Peggy Desserud, Varge Craig and Alberta Middleton shared their knowledge and expertise with the group.

After the field tour, members of the committee gathered at the Longview Community Hall for dinner and a presentation by the Miistakis Institute for the Rockies. Danah Duke and Mike Quinn provided a presentation on Foothills Country Residential Development/Research and Integrated Resource Management Partnership Projects.

The official rough fescue pin was distributed to all members and guests in attendance on day two.

The Grassland Vegetation Inventory (GVI) Committee provided an update on the development of a working group set up to establish initial parameters for the database and hierarchy for the project.

Laura Roberts provided a DRAFT education plan and asked for comments by the PCF members.

Dean Nernberg provided an update on the PERC website and requested assistance with this project from a PCF member.

Okotoks, January 2005

The Grassland Vegetation Inventory (GVI) committee reported that considerable progress has been made toward developing a working team and strategies for the project. The inventory will be based on landscape models and will focus on change analysis.

Laura Roberts provided an update on the PCF Education Committee and requested the input and involvement from all PCF members, stressing the importance of promoting native prairie.

Dean Nernberg provided an update on the PERC website and the desire to continue developing the searchable database for this project. He requested assistance with this project from a PCF member.

Livio Fent, Alberta Sustainable Resource Development (SRD) provided a presentation on Internet Mapping Framework. The presentation will be posted on the Members Only site.

The 2005/2006 DRAFT work plan was presented to members and briefly discussed

Brian Laing (Alberta Sustainable Resource Development) was elected as the new Chair for the 2005/2006 PCF.

Brooks, June 2005

A tour of the Antelope Creek Ranch was scheduled for day one; however it was cancelled due to inclement weather.

Livio Fent provided an update on the Grassland Vegetation Inventory (GVI). Livio described the 2-tiered process for implementation of the GVI - Technical and Administrative. The Technical component has been completed and a specifications document is available for viewing. Funding for the base structure is in place with a 3-day workshop scheduled in the near future. Livio will be following up with all interested parties.

Livio also indicated that the GVI would be applying to the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers (CAPP) for potential funding.

Laura Roberts provided an update on the PCF Education Committee. Laura indicated that information on the draft work plan and draft presentation is available on the PCF member's only page. She requests that members view the website and contact her if they are interested in participating in this strategy.

Dean Nernberg provided updates on PERC. Dean reported that he will likely be moving to Ottawa, and also indicated that Environment Canada will be going through some staff changes.

Cam Lockerbie prepared an article for inclusion in the Centennial times newsletter and website; to promote the PCF and the importance of native grassland to Alberta during Alberta's centennial year. Cam also looked into the possibility of creating an Alberta Native Prairie Awareness Week, however, unlike in Saskatchewan, the Government of Alberta does not announce special interest weeks. Municipalities, however, can nominate a week; this of course would be smaller in scale.

The 5th occasional paper is titled "Southern Alberta's Watersheds: An Overview". Copies of the front cover were distributed to the members for comments.

Members of the Southern Alberta Water Supply Project (SAWSP), and Special Areas, provided an overview of the water project. Lunch for PCF members was supplied by SAWSP.

Pincher Creek, September 2005

Day one of the September 2005 meeting consisted of regular business. Day 2 included a half-day tour of the Castle River Wind Farm, Waterton Front Range, and a tour of the Oldman Dam hydroelectric plant. Jason Edworthy of Vision Quest, Dana Blouin/Kim Pearson of Nature Conservancy of Canada, Piet Osterlee of Alberta Environment and Cliff Thesen of Alberta Community Development provided technical and site expertise during the tour.

Livio Fent provided an update on the Grassland Vegetation Inventory. Livio reported that standards for the inventory and basic GIS data from the pilots were available. The GVI core inventory area has been defined, and consists of 25 townships in the Southeast corner of Alberta.

Partnerships with the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers and NAWMP are in the developing stages. Livio will continue talking to organizations and establishing a funding model.

Peggy Desserud provided the update for the Education Strategy. Dana Blouin is the new coordinator for the committee.

Olaf Jensen provided an update for PERC. He expressed concern as to whether or not PERC is still relevant. He also questioned how useful the website is, and how often it was visited.

Ian Dyson gave a presentation outlining a conceptual approach to environmental management that would represent a significant shift and alignment from the current governance approach.

Sam Wirzba and Cliff Wallis chaired a two-hour workshop to review the current draft of the PCAP.

Barry Worbets, Senior Fellow of the Canada West Foundation (CWF) provided a presentation on the CWF Natural Capital Initiative.

Jason Edworthy of Vision Quest and Darren Britton of Alberta Sustainable Resource Development made presentations on wind energy.

PCF Work Groups 2004 – 2005

PCF Education Committee

Contributed heavily towards writing the Education component (Goal 3) of the new 2006-2010 PCAP. Created an updated PCF Education Committee strategy and work plan.

Worked on a new general PCF Power-Point presentation, to promote the PCF to: other agencies, government departments, municipalities, NGOs, industry, agricultural sector, environmental groups, etc.

Developed a speaker series list in which members could identify areas of expertise if requests for presentations came up. This list is associated with the education strategy.

Grassland Vegetation Inventory

GVI continued to progress throughout 2004/05 and gained substantial support by all PCF members and organizations. Pilot areas were identified, methodology refined and funding sources were continuing to be identified.

Prairie Ecology Research Committee (PERC)

PERC has made some significant steps in development over the past couple of years. A database and website have been developed and undergone initial testing by PCF Members. The relevance and further updates to this site will be up for discussion at future meetings.

Prairie Conservation Course

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

Prairie Conservation Action Plan – 2006-2010

During the latter part of the 2005 operational year it became clear that the PCF was in need of revisiting the PCAP. A small team of members was pulled together and work began. The majority of work and product completion will occur in 2006.

Other Activities

The following activities were undertaken during the 2004 - 2005 period and are worthy of mention:

Website Additions:

Significant additions and enhancements were again made to the PCF's website. 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
- Further development of the internal 'Members Only' site.

Fifth Occasional Paper

As a result of the completion of the *Confronting Water Scarcity* Conference held in Lethbridge in July 2004, and a partnership paper on the State of Southern Alberta's Water Resources, the Prairie Conservation Forum took the lead on developing a more detailed examination of watersheds in southern Alberta. Occasional Paper Number 5 – *Southern Alberta's Watersheds: An Overview* – was released in August 2005. Kim Lalonde, Bill Corbett and Cheryl Bradley prepared the written material to broaden the scope of the original partnership paper to include ecosystem and watershed management. This paper has also been posted on the PCF website.

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 2003.

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
City to Calgary
Cross Conservation Area
Dryland Salinity Control Association
Ducks Unlimited Canada
Eastern Irrigation District
EnCana Corporation
Federation of Alberta Naturalists
Grasslands Naturalists
Lethbridge Naturalist Society
Medicine Hat College
M. D. of Ranchland No. 66
Nature Conservancy of Canada
Operation Grassland Community
Palliser Regional Municipal Services
PanCanadian Petroleum Limited
Parkland Community Services
Pekisko Group
Sandy Cross Conservation Foundation
Shell Canada Limited
Society of Range Management
Southern Alberta Applied Research Association
Southern Alberta Land Trust Society
Special Areas Advisory Council
Special Areas Board
University of Alberta
University of Calgary
University of Lethbridge
Western Sky Land Trust
Wildlife Society

Government of Alberta

Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development
Alberta Community Development (Provincial Museum of Alberta)
Alberta Community Development (Parks and Protected Areas)
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)
Canadian Wildlife Service
Department of National Defence, Canadian Forces Base- Suffield
Environment Canada, Canadian Wildlife Service
Parks Canada (Waterton Lakes National Park)
National Energy Board

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 date(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 Financial Report for 2004 and 2005

Financial Report as of December 31, 2005

Opening Balance, January 7, 2004	\$ 8566.39
REVENUES	
Grant from Alberta Environment (April 2003)	\$ 5,000.00
Meal payment from Special Areas Board (November 2004)	\$100.00
Interest	\$0.93
Total Revenues	\$5,100.93
EXPENDITURES	
2004	
Town of Okotoks - PCF meeting hall rental	\$188.32
Sir Alexander Galt Museum Book Store - speaker gifts	\$199.50
Pegasus Charter Tours - bus rental June PCF meeting	\$452.08
Pump Room Café - June PCF meeting lunches and coffee	\$434.61
Cheque Purchases	\$48.43
Foothills Community Club - Hall rental Sept PCF meeting	\$150.00
Sun Fun Charters - bus rental for Sept PCF meeting	\$600.00
Marie Hummel - meal for Sept PCF meeting	\$448.50
Nanton Community Centre - hall rental for Sept PCF meeting	\$100.00
2005	
Town of Okotoks - hall rental Jan PCF meeting	\$256.80
Lethbridge Laser - rough fescue seed packets.	\$321.00
Sandpiper - illustration for OP #5	\$214.00
Nanton Community Bus Society	\$600.00
Cheryl Dash - purchase of books, cards, gifts for speakers	\$125.66
University of Lethbridge Conference Services (OP#5)	\$500.00
Heritage Inn - PCF Tour/meals/room rental	\$1,145.65
Louella Cronkhite - coffee/meeting supplies	\$63.85
DeJong Printing Limited - OP #5	\$3,475.00
Total Expenditures	\$ 9,323.40
Net (revenue/expenses \$13,667.32 – \$9,323.40)	\$ 4,343.92
Closing Balance, December 31, 2005	\$ 4,343.92

Appendix 5 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. Dug Major and the Special Areas Board for covering meal expenses for the June 2004 PCF Meeting.
3. Eastern Irrigation District for hosting the June 2004 PCF meeting space.
4. Neil Thrussell (Alberta Environment) for serving as the PCF's Web Master.
5. Cheryl Dash (Alberta Environment), Tara Banks (Alberta Environment) Linda Cerney (Alberta Conservation Association) and Louella Cronkhite (Alberta Environment) for providing meeting/tour coordination and note taking.
6. 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).
7. Those individuals who agree to share their knowledge and insights as presenters at PCF meetings.
8. The authors of:
 - PCF Occasional Paper #5:
 - Cheryl Bradley, Kim Lalonde and Bill Corbett
9. Chairpersons of PCF committees who provide valued leadership and who assume a heavier work-load to fulfil action recommendations contained in the PCAP.
10. Eastern Irrigation District for hosting the PCF web site.

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.