

## **About the State of the Prairie PCF Project.**

- This multi-stakeholder project was undertaken by the PCF and partners to determine the current extent of native prairie in the Grassland and Parkland Natural Regions at multiple scales and to quantify change in extent over time to inform decision makers and programs. Data was analyzed for the time period of 1990 -2010. Further analysis will take place between 2010 and 2020 when data becomes available.
- Securing and sustaining the biological diversity of Alberta's native prairie and parkland ecosystems is the reason the Prairie Conservation Forum (PCF) exists. The key word here is 'native'. While many species, including native species, can persist in human-modified landscapes, these are invariably simplified ecologies with a reduced suite of species, diminished ecosystem services performance and a greater prevalence of non-native and invasive species. So knowing how much of the Grassland and Parkland Natural Regions are still in native vegetation is of fundamental importance to the PCF.
- Numerous provincial and federal vegetation inventories have been undertaken since the early 1990s when the first Native Prairie Reconnaissance Inventory was produced. In 2017 the PCF decided to look at all the various vegetation inventories, with their different dates and scales and kinds of information that have been captured and summarize and integrate what is known to date in a State of the Prairie report. In addition to published inventories, the project also included an analysis of TimeScan remotely sensed statistical data provided for free from the German Aerospace Center and analysed by Maapera Analytics. This data was developed by the German Aerospace Center and examines and calculates spectral indices from Landsat 5, 7 and 8 datasets for time series within a selected analysis period.
- The project was overseen by a Steering Committee comprised of representatives from the PCF Board of Directors with the serious work being undertaken by a Technical Team comprised of volunteers, retired agency employees and geospatial teams in both AB Agriculture and Forestry, and Environment and Parks. The entire project was undertaken using in-kind support from the PCF membership and with funding from Alberta Agriculture and Forestry and PCF to complete the TimeScan analysis by Maapera Analytics.
- Enormous contributions were made by all members of the Technical Team, but special recognition is due to Livio Fent who oversaw both the work of the Technical Team and drafting of the Technical Report.

### **PCF 'State of the Prairie' Steering Committee**

Ian Dyson  
Ron McNeil (LandWise Inc.)  
Karen Raven (AA&F)

### **Technical Team**

Oriano Castelli  
Livio Fent  
David Hildebrand  
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### **Additional Contributing Personnel and Organizations**

Barry Adams, Ed Karpuk (AE&P), DLR – German Aerospace Center, Maapera Analytics Inc.