

SASKATCHEWAN JURISDICTIONAL UPDATES – 2018 - SK Prairie Conservation Action Plan (SK-PCAP) Partners

- PART 1 (Questions 4 and 5) and PART 2 (Questions 6 and 7)

PART 1 (Questions 4 and 5)

Org type	Organization	Geographic area	Primary Programs/Projects (Q 4)	New Developments/Programs/ Projects (Q 5)	Contacts
Provincial Government	Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment, (SK-MOE)	All of Saskatchewan.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Prairie Landscape Inventory (PLI), evaluating ways to update SK’s landcover in the prairie ecozone, collaborating with other institutions (AAFC) to leverage efforts. - Species monitoring, including rare plants, endangered wildlife (Ord’s Kangaroo Rats, Ferruginous Hawk, Greater Sage-Grouse), and Bird Atlas work. - Implementation of the South of the Divide Action Plan in SW Saskatchewan, working with Ministry of Agriculture to avoid risks on Crown land and investigating tools for industry mitigation. 	Started work to develop a “Habitat Management Plan” that will identify the existing tools and gaps related to habitat in the province, in a similar manner of what the Wildlife Management Plan did. A map identifying areas with different sensitivities and mitigation requirements will be produced to guide development in the province while protecting sensitive areas.	Beatriz Prieto, Terrestrial Ecologist. Jeff Keith, Biodiversity Specialist Ryan Fisher, Landscape Specialist Ben Sawa, WHPA policies Peter Joyce, Policy
	Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture (SK-MOA)	The southern part of the province of Saskatchewan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Leasing and administration of provincial Crownlands - Regional rangeland extension services - Canada Agricultural Partnerships Programming eg. Farm Stewardship and Farm and Ranch Infrastructure programs that include range management related BMPs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Development of a range management extension unit within Regional Services Branch - Implementation of CAP environmental programs - Ongoing transition of provincial pastures to patron groups 	Mary Brick, Lands Branch, SK-MOA. Terry Kowalchuk, Crops and Irrigation Branch, SK-MOA
Federal	Agriculture and Agri-food Canada (AAFC), Swift Current Research and Development	Southwest Saskatchewan, Southeast Alberta	Grassland ecology, native plant breeding, and grazing management of the native grasslands which requires collaborative research efforts with producers, NGOs, and Universities. Research identifies benefits of diversity to agro-ecosystems and the impact agricultural operations have on	Development of new seed sources of a number of native plant material, increased understanding of native grass response to drought conditions, and benefits of seeded native plant communities to pollinator communities.	Mike Schellenberg Jillian Bainard Alan Iwaasa

	Centre (SCRDC), Science and Technology Branch (STB)	(Palliser triangle)	biodiversity.		
	Grasslands National Park (GNP), Parks Canada Agency	900 km ² in southwestern Saskatchewan	GNP works to conserve and protect over 24 species at risk and the native mixed-grass prairie ecosystem through population management, vegetation management (e.g., grazing, fire, invasive species control), and restoration projects. We work to connect Canadians to the prairie ecosystem through visitor experience (e.g., camping opportunities, trails, scenic drives) and external relations (e.g., Facebook posts related to the ongoing conservation science at the Park) and foster public understanding and appreciation of natural heritage areas. We also engage volunteers in our conservation work, such as sagebrush plug planting, seed collection, prairie dog population monitoring, and other monitoring programs for species at risk.	Grasslands National Park and the Calgary Zoological Society started testing the use of supplemental feeding to mitigate the effect of drought on the imperilled black-tailed prairie dog population. In collaboration with the Calgary Zoological Society, the Park also started implementing a population augmentation program for greater sage-grouse. A number of habitat restoration and enhancement projects are ongoing, including sage-grouse habitat enhancement through seeding of sagebrush and forbs, and grassland restoration in formerly cultivated areas.	Maggi Sliwinski, vegetation ecologist. Stefano Liccioli, wildlife ecologist.
Non-Profit Organizations	Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society (CPAWS) – Saskatchewan Chapter (SK)	All of Saskatchewan.	CPAWS-SKs work is limited to awareness and education through our online platforms and engagement with partners and stakeholders on a broad grassland conservation message, including our Alberta and Manitoba Chapters.	CPAWS-SK looks to develop its engagement regarding grassland conservation, working with a broad spectrum of partners, including Indigenous Peoples, to identify and re-examine the issues/threats and to seek where we can best offer support, guidance, leadership and advocacy on messages surrounding the protection of public land and species at risk	Gord Vaadeland – Executive Director CPAWS-SK Stewart Coles – Manager of Operations and Programs CPAWS-SK
	The Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) – Saskatchewan Region	In SK, NCC's work is focused in the five Ecoregions south of the Boreal	As a land trust, NCC's work focuses on protecting ecologically valuable land through direct acquisition or through conservation easements which are placed over privately-owned lands in perpetuity. Lands which NCC owns are managed for the purposes of biodiversity conservation and are managed as naturally as possible, incorporating disturbance regimes such as grazing or haying and in some cases with prescribed fire.	NCC is continuing its partnership with the University of Saskatchewan researching the interactions of fire and grazing at Old Man on His Back Prairie and Heritage Conservation Area. As part of that project, NCC Saskatchewan, along with the U of S, and Meewasin Valley Authority, completed our first prescribed burn, with a total of approximately 30 acres burned in two	Michael Burak, Program Director – Southwest Saskatchewan

		Forest including the mixed grasslands ecoregion	The management of each of NCC's properties is guided by a property management plan tailored specifically to that property based on the identified biodiversity targets, and the threats to those targets.	separate burn units. Monitoring of the burn units is now ongoing along with the tracking of the movements of GPS collared cattle and bison. NCC is also in the process of signing a new conservation easement within the Milk River Basin which is approximately 2,700 acres in size.	
Nature Saskatchewan: Stewards of Saskatchewan Programs (SOS)	The large majority of program focus is in southern Saskatchewan,	A suite of five SOS programs including Operation Burrowing Owl (OBO), Rare Plant Rescue (RPR), Shrubs for Shrikes (SFS), Plovers on Shore (POS), and the Stewards of Saskatchewan Banner Program for all other species at risk (SOS banner). SOS programs work with landowners to voluntarily conserve habitat for grassland species at risk by becoming program stewards. We work through ambassador target species to promote awareness of our disappearing grassland landscapes and their biological diversity. Species data (such as nesting success, land use changes, and presence of associated species) is collected annually through census cards sent to our participating landowners, which is then shared with the Saskatchewan Conservation Data Centre and has contributed to range and listing changes for several species.	Our SOS programs are now working with 862 landowner stewards that are together conserving over 338,000 acres (136,000 hectares) of prairie and 129 miles (208 km) of shoreline habitat for species at risk and other prairie species. We have recently extended our annual census card recipients to include the SOS Banner program participants, where we collect species data for 10 specific target species at risk, and any other rare species they may be aware of. The inclusion of SOS in the census means that all of our programs are now actively collecting data; census previously included OBO, SFS, and POS only, while RPR's species data is collected by staff through summer field work.	Jordan Ignatiuk, (Executive Director) Melissa Ranalli, Ashley Vass, Rebecca Magnus, Emily Putz, Jordan Rustad	
Native Plant Society of Saskatchewan (NPSS)	All of Saskatchewan.	We have a Rare Plants and Ranchers program, where we work with local ranchers to develop site-specific beneficial management plans for plant species at risk.	We are part of a stakeholder group that are working to implement an Important Plant Areas program for Saskatchewan, similar to what Montana has done.	Chet Neufeld, Executive Director	
Saskatchewan Environmental Society (SES)	All of Saskatchewan.	We work with, and on behalf of, organizations, businesses, and policymakers to encourage informed decision-making that moves us towards sustainability. We undertake research and use educational programs, community outreach, and consultation opportunities to provide the people of Saskatchewan with support, information, and the tools they need to make informed decisions. Relative to grassland, SES is seriously engaged in: i.	SES considers climate change one of the greatest threats and grassland ecosystem and their use of our time. SES is recognized for its expertise and commitment to energy policy and tangible action. Most recently, SES has contributed solar-charged electric cars to a Saskatoon car-share initiative.	Joe Schmutz	

			climate policy and hands-on solution and SES, ii. promotes the conservation of biodiversity.		
	Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation (SWF)	All of Saskatchewan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We have a Habitat Land Trust (70,000 acres) and administer another 166,000 wildlife habitat acres - We provide fisheries project development and management across the Province - We have a very strong outdoor education program throughout the Province 	Continued land securement and expansion of outdoor education	Darrell Crabbe, Executive Director, SFW
	Saskatchewan Forage Council (SFC)	All of Saskatchewan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mandate is to enhance the province's grassland industry by partnering with all those involved in the sector of the industry to do so. - Main activities: Conduct workshops and events, produce and circulate materials around Grassland Management, in efforts to inform and support the work of others as they undertake to preserve and manage grassland in the province. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The majority of the SFC research and extension focuses on tame hay and pasture lands - The SFC is pursuing funding to assess salinity mixtures and also to revamp its online forage species selection tool as well as continuation of collaboration on regional forage variety assessments. 	Lorraine Beaudette Executive Director, SFC Terry Kowalchuk, SFC Board
	South of the Divide Conservation Program Inc. (SODCAP Inc)	Milk River Watershed/SW Saskatchewan	We deliver programming options and sign conservation agreements with ranchers who own or manage native grasslands and critical habitat for species at Risk	We have 40 plus agreements in partnerships with the Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association impacting 200,000 acres of native grasslands including a Grass Bank collaboration with Grasslands National Park and SSGA.	Tom Harrison, Executive Director SODCAP Inc.
Academic and research Public Institutions	University of Saskatchewan (UofS)	All of Saskatchewan	Numerous research projects involving grassland ecology, agronomy, endangered species biology and management etc. managed by individual faculty are ongoing within the area of interest.	Ongoing work on fire and grazing ecology and leafy spurge control may be of interest.	Eric Lamb (grassland ecology; fire ecology) Jon Bennett (rangeland ecology)
	University of Regina (UofR)	All of Saskatchewan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Changes in Native Prairie Extent in Saskatchewan, period 1990-2015 (Piwovar) - Effect of climate and land use on prairie water bodies (Leavitt) - Prairie Adaptation Research Collaborative, Prairie water level cycles and projections (PARC, Sauchyn) - Grassland Songbirds research (Brigham). 	Advances on ongoing research projects, encouraging new students. Sauchyn working on the prairies chapter of the 2020 national assessment of climate change.	Dave Sauchyn Joe Piwovar Mark Brigham Kerri Finlay Peter Leavitt Chris Somers

PART 2 (Questions 6 and 7) - SASKATCHEWAN JURISDICTIONAL UPDATES – 2018

Org type	Organization	Have you partnered or obtained information from participants at these transboundary workshops: If yes, please provide details (who and what the project was). If no, what can we do to help connect you to another partners. (Q 6)	Emerging projects or trends that would benefit from transboundary collaboration between MT, AB and SK. How could partners in the other jurisdictions contribute? (Q 7, optional)	Contacts
Provincial Government	Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment, (SK-MOE)	No - no other comment	No comment	Beatriz Prieto, Jeff Keith, Ryan Fisher, Ben Sawa, Peter Joyce,
	Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture (SK-MOA)	No - share the minutes from the transboundary workshops with Ministry of Agriculture.	<p>- The Canadian Forage and Grasslands Association seeks to develop protocols for carbon offsets from grasslands in Canada with the goal of grassland preservation via an avoidance of conversion approach similar to that used by the California Climate Action Reserve. This work could assist partner organizations in preserving rangelands.</p> <p>- Invasive alien plant species like leafy spurge, downy brome, absinthe and others are of growing concern in maintaining healthy productive rangelands.</p>	Mary Brick, Lands Branch, SK-MOA. Terry Kowalchuk, Crops and Irrigation Branch, SK-MOA
Federal	Agriculture and Agri-food Canada (AAFC), Swift Current Research and Development Centre (SCRDC), Science and Technology Branch (STB)	No - Researchers need to be aware of workshops well in advance of their occurrence to allow for appropriate approvals beings in place to travel.	Research projects benefit from multiple sites but coordination of funding opportunities to allow sites on either side of the International border have often prohibited collaborative efforts.	Mike Schellenberg Jillian Bainard Alan Iwaasa
	Grasslands	No - No other comments.	Effective conservation of Greater sage-grouse requires multi-	Maggi Sliwinski,

	National Park (GNP), Parks Canada Agency		agency and transboundary approaches. In particular, habitat enhancement and management (e.g., seeding, beneficial grazing, fence marking/removal, corvid management etc.), as well as population level-research (i.e., habitat use and selection, development of demographic risk maps to inform habitat management) are required at the large scale, given individual movements and species ecological requirements. Coordination and collaboration on the implementation of research and management actions are necessary to ensure success on species recovery. Sharing population monitoring data for Burrowing owl would help us understand population trends and effectiveness of recovery actions currently in place.	vegetation ecologist. Stefano Liccioli, wildlife ecologist.
	Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society (CPAWS) – Saskatchewan Chapter (SK)	No - It will be useful to know what partners are doing, where they are active and what their interests are, as asked here in question 5.	No comments	Gord Vaadeland – Executive Director CPAWS-SK Stewart Coles – Manager of Operations and Programs CPAWS-SK
Non-Profit Organizations	The Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) – Saskatchewan Region	No - I don't think there is anything else to be done, there just hasn't been a project which facilitated interjurisdictional collaboration.	Over the past 3 years, NCC has undertaken a pilot project with the Community Pasture Patrons Association of Saskatchewan to partner with former federal community pasture patron grazing corporations. The overall goal of the project was to build relationships with individual pasture board of directors and pasture managers to get a better sense of if, and how NCC could assist transitioned pastures with managing their pasture not only for cattle production, but for the conservation of biodiversity and species at risk as well. In concert with the pilot project, NCC staff in Saskatchewan and Manitoba, collaboratively developed a Natural Area Conservation Plan (NACP) specifically targeting the former federal community pastures as well as the provincial community pastures in Saskatchewan. Similar to other NACPs that guide our work, the Community Pasture NACP identifies biodiversity targets (e.g. species and habitats), relevant threats to those targets (e.g. invasive species, habitat fragmentation) and actions or strategies to mitigate those threats. While the plan is still in draft, we are in the process of soliciting feedback on the plan and could provide copies to those interested in reviewing and providing constructive feedback. We would be particularly interested to hear from	Michael Burak, Program Director – Southwest Saskatchewan

			partners with experience in conservation on public lands.	
Nature Saskatchewan : Stewards of Saskatchewan Programs (SOS)	YES - A couple of contacts made at last year's workshop contributed in our annual SOS newsletter (Dec 2018). Examples includes articles by Andrew Jakes (National Wildlife Federation) and an article from the American Prairie Reserve.	As always, it is nice to stay informed with current on-the-ground stewardship work, know who is doing what and where, so that when we are talking with landowners we are armed with partners' information to refer them to if unable to help them out with a particular issue.		Melissa Ranalli , SOS Species at Risk Manager Jordan Ignatiuk, Executive Director
Native Plant Society of Saskatchewan (NPSS)	No - We're connected to a lot of the partners, but have been unable to attend the actual workshop.	No comments		Chet Neufeld, Executive Director
Saskatchewan Environmental Society (SES)	YES - SES became aware to the WWF's work on Great Plains conservation to affect man ongoing loss of grassland habitat. SES also became aware of WWF's work in Wind-energy guidance, and we have engaged with the author of one of the wind-energy reports as a result of the Transboundary workshop.	No comments		Joe Schmutz
Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation (SWF)	No – no other comments.	No comments		Darrell Crabbe, Executive Director, SFW
Saskatchewan Forage Council (SFC)	No – no other comments.	The Canadian Forage and Grasslands Association is attempting to develop and validate protocols for carbon sequestration and carbon credits on grasslands. Unfortunately, the high variability between individual grazing operations makes it nearly impossible to develop practice based protocols that would reward producers for good grazing management. Additional protocols for preservation and management of grasslands need to be explored. Transboundary collaboration may be helpful in this regard.		Lorraine Beaudette Executive Director, SFC Terry Kowalchuk, SFC Board
South of the Divide Conservation action Program Inc. (SODCAP Inc)	YES - We follow activities of a number of the groups involved in the TGP including but not limited to SGI, MRWCC, NRCS, BLM, TNC, NCC, Multi SAR	No comments		Tom Harrison, Executive Director SODCAP Inc.

Academic and research Public Institutions	University of Saskatchewan (UofS)	NO – UofS researchers conduct grassland research in collaboration with other organizations also involved in the Transboundary Partnership. Wider collaborations would most likely come through those organizations.	Ongoing work on fire and grazing ecology, and leafy spurge control measures may be of interest to other researchers.	Eric Lamb (grassland ecology; fire ecology) Jon Bennett (rangeland ecology)
	University of Regina (UofR)	Yes and No Yes: Information about meetings being held. No: Simply continue to provide information about the TGP activities.	There has been the ongoing Conservation meetings that are hosted by these 3 provinces in turn. Have been going on for 20+ years.	Mark Brigham Dave Sauchyn Joe Piwowar Kerri Finlay Peter Leavitt Chris Somers