

## **TGP Work Plan Notes**

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**The work session included approximately 40 conference participants and began with a grounding question, “What can the TGP accomplish that no other can? What is our unique purpose?”. The responses identify the strengths and value of the TGP.**

### Messaging

- Serve as a microphone for the Great Plains, we can deliver the same message
- The size of our partnership and region is a great strength
- Communication network
- Communicating successes and challenges and building our message
- Connect the work that we are doing to a larger audience
- Sharing the successes to the general public and those not in the room with us

### Shared Learning

- Learning to work in partnership with landowners, fostering landowner relationships
- Opportunity to think out of our boxes and learn from one another
- Learning about all the activities on the landscape and what is working the best
- The inspiration of all that is going on
- Coordination and communication
- Gaining fresh perspectives on similar problems, best done in person
- These meetings have grown each year and bringing people together and expanding our partnerships – supporting connectivity
- Appreciation for the similarities across jurisdictions, encouraging to see successes of collaboration
- Listening and learning from each other, reduces group stigmas and breaks down barriers
- Expand our successes and learn from our failures
- Continued communication and connection after the meeting to keep the momentum and shared learning active

### Data and Science Sharing

- Sharing expertise and learning from each other, learn about different models
- Data sharing opportunities and communication across the border
- Sharing information
- Opportunity to holistically assess factors affecting the Great Plains, also the impact of climate change
- Adaptation for climate change and water management approaches
- Communication and research partnerships
- We are producing some of the best science, support to continue this
- This forum provides consistency for social and ecological planning regardless of changes in politics and budgets
- Look at the species we are managing at a larger scale, share this perspective with landowners

### Developing Relationships – Diverse Views

- Gaining perspective from other viewpoints
- Working across borders – communication with landowners
- Opportunity to work with bison and cattle, looking for co-existence
- The power of diverse people coming together to share ideas and foster grass-roots solutions, power of group problem solving.
- Empower young people in conservation and landowners – sharing success stories (website)
- Expand local involvement with landowners, citizens and students
- Great to have younger professionals here, learning from one another

### Project Implementation

- We are positioned for taking actions across an international border
- Managing populations across their entire range, from breeding to wintering
- Building and strengthening programs
- Supporting communities and connectivity
- Motivated to learn about all the different programs and how to use the different programs to target different audiences / issues
- The information shared here will improve our programs
- Linking our programs across borders for connectivity, identifying where one program ends and where another can pick up and continue

**The participants used the TGP strengths and value as a platform to identify, “What are the biggest needs for TGP work right now? What unique or timely opportunities lie ahead?”**

1. The timing is right to support and expand programs that focus on grazing management as community pastures are transferred to private management (Canada). This transition is important to ensure that stewardship practices are communicated and adopted.
2. CRP lands (US) are retiring and grain prices are low and this is an opportunity to support programs that focus on grassland stewardship. The Farm Bill is coming up and the group may have an opportunity to advocate for certain programs and emerging new programs (NRCS) that focus on grasslands. Some of these programs are already being promoted by Rancher Stewardship Alliance, and other workshops that are targeting landowners who may be enrolled in CRP or other Farm Bill programs.
3. To support continued collaboration between the partners there are some information and communication gaps
  - a. We need a common language (internal with partners) to support clear communication
  - b. We need a “map” that describes who is doing what, where
  - c. We need an expanded website (or create a new one) that can help people find expertise, partners, programs or activities, and support more connections.
  - d. Each partner needs to clearly state where we are focused on the landscape and why
4. The TGP can promote a positive message about stewardship of grasslands to the general public. Find some common messaging elements and share a consistent message through all the partners and target those not engaged in grasslands and ranching.
5. Identifying data collection standards to facilitate data sharing across organizations and agencies (i.e. dealing with bird count data) is a need. This topic was identified for the SCIENCE BREAKOUT GROUP to consider.
6. Building on Julia Haggerty’s research, there was interest expressed in how the group might promote and support rural community resiliency across the border and jurisdictions.

7. Connectivity research and monitoring that explores the link between the level of connectivity and robust wildlife populations.

**Small group discussions focused on identifying the top activities for the TGP using the following questions for guidance 1) what 3 things should the TGP pursue in the next 12-24 months? 2) How do each of these priorities reflect the role of TGP? 3) How do each of these priorities advance transboundary conservation? 4) What is the outcome or goal of the priority action item?**

**By far, the common thread from the break out groups was the need to improve communication and support partner connections. There are some building blocks in place currently (i.e. the website and updates) but it is not functioning well enough to keep the connections and coordination vibrant between the conferences. The group believes that building more functional communication will then allow future projects to emerge and be tackled. This is the top focus area for the coming year.**

**The following 4 items were identified for the TGP work plan 2018-2019:**

### **Communication**

Goal: improved communication and coordination between annual conferences to share successes and failures

Action: Listserve development (beyond emailing updates) will offer opportunities to share information, ask questions, problem solve etc. A survey of partners can determine if a single group or multiple groups based on topic (research, education etc.) is the best option or if Alberta's PCF – Prairie Conservation Forum might be a good merger. Lead: TBD need a moderator.

Action: Continue quarterly updates from the jurisdictions (add more NGO, landowner and tribal updates). Lead: Core committee

Action: mid-term timeline to develop an e-newsletter that can be shared broadly and focuses on stories, success and failures.

Action: Create a searchable directory that can use key words. This directory would include who is doing what (programs and projects) where. Build an inclusive directory including agencies, NGOs, Tribal, landowners etc. Also include an acronym guide. Links to partners through the website or this directory. Possible blog? Would the existing [www.mtconservationmenu.org](http://www.mtconservationmenu.org) be a starting place or is it too US-centric? Must determine if the current site can be adapted for these purposes or NPCN website or if a new site is needed. Lead: Cliff, Norine and Core committee.

Action: Improve the website or add additional platforms like a portal or google drive that can host spatial data, where papers and resources can be shared based on topics (mapping, research, birds, migration, education, marketing, past presentations). Investigate Joint Ventures, NPCN and LCC as possible hosts. Lead: Cliff, Norine and Core committee.

Action: Develop a Facebook page to share stories that can then be shared with other agency, group and individual pages. \*Lead: Kelsey

Goal: Amplify public message of the importance of grassland health and utilization to a broad audience

Action: begin with a shared google drive that all partners can submit messaging and a team (TBD need volunteers to take this project on) will identify the common elements to produce some key messages to share broadly.

Action: Develop Prairie Conservation Campaign, will need additional funding and would target television and print media. Includes products that can be used at events (booth materials).

Goal: Increased and Diverse Participation in TGP

Action: Identify key stakeholders and invite participation generally and to specific committees (planning committee or core committee?) or activities.

Action: Cultivate engagement with stockgrowers, landowner groups, Tribes and Native Communities.

Action: Share proceedings of 2018 conference.

Action: Each partner shares the proceedings (or key takeaways) with other groups to invite them to participate.

Leads: Core committee shares proceedings from 2018, do we need volunteers to help here?

### **Standardized Data Collection**

Goal: Identify and implement data collection protocols to maximize data sharing and comparing.

Action: Oversee a data roundup, who is doing what? What methods are being used? Identify new approaches and techniques for data sharing.

Action: Identify a case study or pilot project to highlight opportunities and obstacles at the 2019 conference.

Action: Assess variations in bird surveys, wildlife populations, GIS data and how range and riparian health are evaluated.

Lead: 2019 planning committee possible group from Science Break out – Kevin,

### **Connectivity**

Goal: Advance on the ground projects and take the research into practice.

Action: First share information to identify opportunities where work overlaps. (Special note - There needs to be caution with private land sensitivity).

Action: Determine how to best feature the topic at the 2019 TGP conference.

Leads: Andrew, Ron, Mo (in coordination with the 2019 planning committee)