



PRAIRIE CONSERVATION FORUM



Alberta Prairie Conservation Forum

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Annual Report

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Photography credits:

Front Cover — Prairie from top of wintering hills, Katheryn Taylor
This Page & Next Page — Grassland, Cliff Wallis
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Page 2 — Windmills, Katheryn Taylor
Page 3 — Burrowing Owls, Gordon Court; Sprague's Pipit, Stephen Davis
Page 4 — PCESC, Linda Cerney
Page 5 — Cottonwoods, Ian Dyson
Page 7 — PCF Fall Meeting, Drumheller area, Katheryn Taylor
Page 8 & 9 — Sunset near Manyberries, Maria Didkowsky
Back Cover — Green needle grass, Lorne Fitch

<http://www.albertapcf.org>

Prairie Conservation Forum Vision

The biological diversity of native prairie and parkland ecosystems is secure under thoughtful and committed stewardship of all Albertans.

Guiding Principles

1. Management responsibilities for native prairie and parkland fall primarily on public agencies (i.e., Federal, Provincial and Local Governments), First Nations and private landowners. The PCF will only support and facilitate discussions concerning actions that contribute positively to the Vision and Mission of the PCF.
2. The PCF will facilitate networking, information exchange and discussion amongst member organizations and with other jurisdictions outside of Alberta.
3. Partnership activities are based on the belief that the social and economic benefits which are derived from prairie and parkland ecosystems are dependent on the ecological health of these systems. Therefore, management strategies will be promoted that ensure the ongoing health of these ecosystems.
4. The PCF Partnership draws together diverse opinions and approaches to ecosystem management. To best ensure the development of collaborative and effective solutions, the Partnership will interact in a manner that is respectful of that diversity.
5. PCF members will strive to implement PCF programs and activities in their respective organizations in support of the PCF Vision.
6. The Vision can only be achieved by the efforts of many, including the PCF itself and its member organizations, accompanied by effective working relationships with others who share the Vision.
7. The PCF supports the equitable sharing of social and economic costs and the benefits of maintaining native biodiversity and ecological services among all segments of society.

Outcomes

Maintain Large Native Prairie and Parkland Landscapes. The existence of intact and fully functioning native prairie and parkland landscapes in Alberta are the best guarantor of future regional biodiversity and environmental quality.

Conserve Connecting Corridors for Biodiversity. Habitat connectivity is essential to maintain native biodiversity and ecosystem function. The conservation and restoration of important corridors will help to maintain functional native prairie and parkland landscapes.

Protect Isolated Native Habitats. Within fragmented landscapes there exist small, isolated pockets of ecological refugia that may be as important for native biodiversity conservation as larger prairie and parkland landscapes. These need to be identified, studied, and possibly protected.

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*"The joy of prairie lies in its subtlety. It is easy,  
too easy, to be swept away by mountain and ocean  
vistas. A prairie, on the other hand, requests the  
favor of your closer attention. It does not divulge  
itself to mere passersby"*

*~Suzanne Winckler~*

~~~~~



Message from the Chair

As I reflect on the past year with the Prairie Conservation Forum (PCF), there's one theme that stands out for me....people and prairie conservation. A key foundation underlying the implementation of the revised Prairie Conservation Action Plan (PCAP) involves the leadership of the Board, an engaged membership, and partnerships with other organizations.

After 23 years on the PCF, I can honestly say that I've never seen a Board of Directors with the same degree of expertise and diversity of interest as shown by the current Board. The Board continues to show great leadership in defining and managing workload priorities to ensure alignment with the long-term outcomes of the PCAP. This depth and focus shown by the Board has clearly allowed the PCF to move forward in advancing the four strategies in the PCAP.

The PCF also continues to have strong attendance by its membership at our meetings and the success of many activities is a direct result of the commitment and contributions of individual members. The overwhelming success of the 10th Prairie Conservation & Endangered Species Conference (PCESC) in February 2013 is a clear example of the significant efforts of many PCF members in planning and delivering the conference. The development of the Deep Roots videoconference presentation by the Education Committee and the work of both the Grassland Vegetation Inventory Committee and MULTISAR are more examples of how the diverse PCF membership helped advance the activities and strategies in the PCAP in 2012.



I was also struck by the fact that almost all of the activities that we undertook in the past year involved a partnership with another organization. A few examples include the PCESC (Alberta Society of Professional Biologists), wind energy development (Miistakis Institute) and awareness around native prairie through a green roof display at the Helen Schuler Nature Centre. I especially look forward to the coming year as we work with the Alberta Biodiversity Monitoring Institute to advance a key strategy in the PCAP, *Completing inventories and assessments of native biodiversity*. In all cases, we have and will continue to advance prairie conservation, and the PCAP, through these important relationships.

Put quite simply, it's about people and the prairie!

Bill Dolan, 2011-2012 Chair

Message from the Coordinators

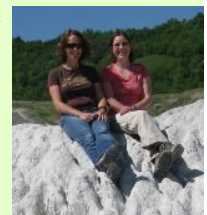
We would first like to thank everyone for their continued support of the Prairie Conservation Forum and another successful year. 2012 was the first year that we gained additional dollars, through working a casino in Calgary, to put towards projects that help us meet the goals of our PCAP. It has definitely been a learning experience to figure out how the Alberta Gaming and Liquor Commission works and the types of projects they will allow us to spend casino money on. We feel that the extra money has huge benefits for the PCF, however, and would like to thank everyone that volunteered their time to help out at our first casino!

Since Katheryn resumed her normal hours in June, she resumed her participation on the PCF education committee, updated the PCF brochure, returned to organizing and attending meetings, and helped out at the Prairie and Endangered Species Conference. She continues to keep up with membership communications and website updates. She also attended four South Saskatchewan Regional Planning sessions in November and December in Brooks, Okotoks, Medicine Hat, and Lethbridge to not only provide information the PCF feels is important to get into the plan, but also to hear the views of other people involved with the SSRP in the different areas. It was very interesting to learn how some priorities were held right across the region, and to learn the additional priorities that each local area had.

Sasha also did her share of organizing meetings and doing education committee work in addition to her roles of financial record keeping for the PCF and administration of the MULTISAR program. She also has been the main contact for the casino and Alberta Gaming and Liquor Commission, and was involved with some of the planning and finance of the Prairie Conservation and Endangered Species Conference. In addition to this, Sasha and her husband, Craig, welcomed another member to their family in June – daughter Neko Harriott. Congratulations to the Harriotts!

We look forward to working with the PCF again in 2013, and hope that we see everyone at some point at one of the PCF meetings!

Katheryn Taylor and Sasha Harriott



Education & Communication Committee

- In 2012, Operation Grassland Community (OGC) evaluated the effectiveness of their past programming in working toward balance between prairie ecology and economy. Socio-economic and ecological evaluations on >60 sites, and an intensive workshop retreat of OGC ranching members, has provided OGC with clear guidance on where they can maximize their future efforts and impacts.
- There have been many exciting projects at the ASCCA this year, but one they would like to highlight is their 'Leave it to Beavers' reintroduction project. This project is a multi-year collaborative partnership between the ASCCA, the Miistakis Institute, Cows and Fish, and the Calgary Science School. In October, 2012, a beaver family was successfully reintroduced to the property and they continue to thrive! The beaver family and their impact on the land will be monitored by school students over the next three years.
- The Alberta Biodiversity Monitoring Institute (ABMI) has continued to expand monitoring activities across the province, increasing field activity by ~30% in 2012. Monitoring activities included inventories of 70 terrestrial and 52 wetland sites located in the grassland natural region. In addition to field monitoring activities, the ABMI conducts remote sensing activities to inventory human footprint and vegetation across Alberta. In 2012, the ABMI released wall-to-wall human footprint inventories of Alberta circa 2007 and 2010 and a wall-to-wall vegetation inventory circa 2000.

The Education and Communications Committee had a very successful year in 2012. The Deep Roots videoconference presentation was piloted to approximately 233 students in grades 4-7, with good feedback from the teachers. The committee also held a training session for potential presenters in Lethbridge in December, 2012. Thank you to Heidi Eijgel (Alberta Parks) and Justin McKeown (Parks Canada) for not only piloting the presentation to the schools, but for giving an excellent training session as well. Another training session will be offered in 2013/2014. Pre- and post-activities for grades 4/5 and 6/7 were initiated in January 2013 by a contractor, with completion set for the end of April, 2013. These activities will be sent to teachers before the presentation is given so that students can become familiar with the vocabulary and basic knowledge needed to understand the presentation (pre-activities), and to build upon knowledge gained through the presentation (post-activities).

The PCF brochure was updated and printed, with approximately 500 copies going out to all attendees at the Prairie Conservation and Endangered Species Conference. Any organization wishing to distribute copies of the PCF brochure (or to have on hand) can contact Katheryn at info@albertapcf.org.

Upcoming activities for the PCF education committee include: formulating a delivery model for Deep Roots, delivering another Deep Roots training session, investigating the feasibility of developing a grasslands fieldtrip bursary program, exploring the potential to conduct Youth Forums to raise awareness of prairie conservation issues, help out with the upcoming native prairie appreciation festival where possible (June 8) and help with planning the next one if it is a success, be involved on the content committee for the Helen Schuler Nature Centre's 'green roof' signs.

Thank you to all of the committee members, your dedication and efforts are what make the committee successful. The committee is always looking for new member, so please email Katheryn if you are interested at info@albertapcf.org. *Committee Members: Katheryn Taylor, Brad Tucker, Coreen Putman, Andrea Vaxvick, Linda Cerney, Rob Gardner, Tracy Kupchenko, Justin McKeown.*

Wind Energy Initiative

In 2012, the PCF agreed to support the Miistakis Institute in conducting a review of approaches to assessing appropriate placement of wind development by contributing \$6,500 to this project. The first draft of this report was completed at the end of April, 2013. The purpose of the report is three-fold:

1. To conduct a detailed review of two recent GIS-based modeling applications aimed at assessing the appropriateness of wind development: the Nature Conservancy's Ecological Risk Assessment of Wind Energy Development in Montana, and the Conservation Biology Institute's Decision Support System for Conservation in the Tehachapis and Southern Sierra Nevada.
2. To identify and review other similar efforts, using a broad-ranging suite of criteria and a GIS-based approach, to the assessment of wind development potential and suitability.
3. In consideration of the learning from steps 1 and 2, to offer some initial thoughts on what could be done in Prairie and Parkland Alberta to create tools and/or processes that would facilitate informed and balanced discussion on where wind development is appropriate, and where it may not be.

Once the final report is received, the PCF board will be looking at whether they would like to continue funding additional phases of this project.



MULTISAR

- AWA has continued with its conservation work throughout the grasslands and parkland region. We are actively engaged in the process to establish a Management Plan for Rumsey Natural Area and were pleased with the Department of Energy decision to place an addenda on all new petroleum and natural gas agreements within the Rumsey Natural Area so they now read "Surface Access is Not Permitted." In our continuing efforts to create awareness AWA hosted a tour of the Grasslands region for the Minister of Parks and Protected areas and some of her staff in July 2012. AWA was pleased to celebrate the cooperative and ground-breaking efforts of the Milk River Management Society on the occasion of their 20th anniversary in September 2012 at the Aden Grain Hall. Most recently AWA has spearheaded a Sage-grouse Partnership Initiative engaging land and lease owners, industry partners, government and conservationists from the south eastern corner of Alberta, the grasslands of Saskatchewan and the Northern Plains of the US in a cooperative effort to restore habitat and increase numbers of sage-grouse in Alberta.



2012-2013 marked the 10th anniversary of the MULTISAR project. Although there have been many changes in the delivery of MULTISAR over the last ten years, MULTISAR remains committed to working with ranchers and other land managers for the conservation and recovery of species at risk and sustainable management of native prairie.

In 2012-2013 MULTISAR continued its collaborative implementation of 22 Habitat Conservation Strategies (HCSs), developed three new ones and evaluated another one that was initiated five years earlier. The new HCSs were completed on three ranches totalling approximately 12,983 acres (5254 ha). Ten new habitat enhancement projects were also implemented as a result of recommendations identified in HCSs. These varied from weed control, native prairie restoration (grass, forbs, shrubs), water development, wildlife-friendly fencing and tree protection. The second HCS to be evaluated since 2011 was on a ~27,000 ac (11,000 ha) property in SE Alberta. A subsample of survey points were reassessed and results allowed MULTISAR to adjust some of its management recommendations in order to realign with the objectives of the strategy where needed. Since its inception, MULTISAR has completed 25 HCSs on nearly 270,000 acres (109,265 ha) of land in priority areas of southern Alberta and developed 69 habitat enhancement projects with cooperating landholders.

The more condensed Species at Risk Conservation Plans (SARC Plans) as well as a new product called Beneficial Management Plans (BMP plans) were delivered throughout the Grassland Natural Region as a part of MULTISAR's extension program. SARC Plans were developed on 5 private ranches totalling approximately 2828 acres (1144 ha). Species or habitat specific BMP plans were developed for another 12 properties totalling 13,465 acres (5449 ha). The plans developed this past year were targeted specifically at the endangered ferruginous hawk and assessed the suitability of setting up artificial raptor nesting platforms as a mean to assist in the recovery of this species while ecologically controlling Richardson's ground squirrel populations.



Education, Outreach and Awareness continued at a scaled back level. MULTISAR staff were able to publish key documents, give live and poster presentations to landowners, interest groups, students and the general public and to participate in a number of extension activities. Some of the highlights include the production of a 10 year special edition of the *Grassland Gazette*, MULTISAR's newsletter, along with a coffee table book featuring the work of MULTISAR in images, quotes and sayings, leading the development of the wildlife section for the 2nd edition of the *Milk River State of the Watershed report* and co-organizing and delivering the 9th annual Southern Alberta Grazing School for Women as well as the 10th Prairie Conservation and Endangered Species Conference. In addition, MULTISAR made over 261 different contacts with more than 883 people including landholders, the general public, academia, industry, media, government and non-government organizations and other sectors throughout the year.

MULTISAR continued to assist ESRD with vegetation and wildlife surveys, range health assessments on Public Lands and data collection. This past year saw 4953 wildlife observations entered into the provincial Fish & Wildlife database, including observations from 42 different species at risk. In addition, MULTISAR conducted a total of 145 detailed vegetation inventories, 305 range health assessments, 13 tame pasture assessments and identified 83 plant communities.

MULTISAR is grateful to the ranchers and landowner cooperators as well as the program partners and funders who have collaborated over the past 10 years to implement conservation measures and assist with maintaining the integrity of Alberta's prairie ecosystem. 2012-2013 funders include Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development through a grant to the Prairie Conservation Forum, the Government of Canada through the Habitat Stewardship Program, the Alberta Conservation Association, Canadian Natural Resource and the Environmental Damages Fund. In-kind support was provided by Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development, Alberta Tourism, Parks and Recreation, Altalink, the Prairie Conservation Forum and private landholders.

10th Prairie Conservation and Endangered Species Conference

As part of the Alberta 2011-2015 Prairie Conservation Action Plan, the Prairie Conservation Forum committed to host the 2013 Prairie Conservation and Endangered Species Conference (PCESC). The conference has been held every three years since 1986 and alternates between the three Prairie Provinces. The conference was held in Red Deer at the Sheraton Hotel on February 19-22, 2013 and was organized jointly with the Alberta Society of Professional Biologists. The theme of the conference was “Engaging People in Conservation”.

The conference began informally on the Tuesday night but was officially opened in the morning of February 20th. A social evening with the musicians of the *Estelle Smooth Jazz Quartet* on Tuesday created an enjoyable atmosphere for old friends and colleagues to reunite and new ones to form. On Wednesday morning, the co-chairs of the 2013 PCESC steering committee, along with the chair of the ASPB, the past chair of the PCF and four dignitaries provided the opening remarks to officially kick off the conference. The four dignitaries included Jim Wood- Mayor Red Deer County, Morris Flewwelling- Red Deer Mayor, Earl Dreeshen- MP for Red Deer and Bridget Pastoor -MLA Lethbridge-East on behalf of Diana McQueen- Minister of Environment and Sustainable Resource Development.



The two and half days that followed were filled with plenary and concurrent sessions as well as poster presentations. Three plenary sessions made up of seven presentations were held at the beginning of each day and at the end of the conference. Another evening plenary with guest speaker Chris Fisher was also held on Wednesday. Twenty-five concurrent sessions of four presentations each for a total of 100 live presentations along with 44 poster presentations and 7 special 3D Grassland Vegetation Inventory presentations were given during the conference. The program included a broad range of topics such as socio-economics of conservation, nature deficit disorder, prairie and species at risk conservation, prairie restoration, fisheries management, ecological goods and services, transboundary research and conservation initiatives, engaging ranchers and other groups in conservation, just to name a few.

The Thursday night banquet allowed for conference participants to enjoy a gourmet meal, socialize and hear about the three Prairie Conservation Award recipients. The Prairie Conservation Awards are granted to a deserving recipient from each of the three Prairie Provinces once every three years in recognition of significant long-term contributions to native habitat or species at risk conservation. The Award recipients were introduced by their nominator(s) and presented with a picture of a prairie species at risk by Gord Court during the conference banquet. They were John Morgan (MB), Gary Seib (SK), and Ken and Nora Balog (AB).

To mark the 10th anniversary and the theme of the conference, a new grant was created. The *Young Professional Stewardship Grant* was intended for innovative projects by individuals age 18-30 that advance the engagement of people in conservation in Grassland and Parkland Natural Regions of the Prairie Provinces. A silent auction was held during the banquet to raise money for this grant. Grants were awarded to three people to receive a total of \$2500 each. These were Lacey Weekes, Courtney Hughes, and Jonathan Kornelsen.

The 2013 Prairie Conservation and Endangered Species Conference was another great success. Its 382 participants went home with a better understanding of the challenges and opportunities that are facing the prairie ecosystem and its inhabitants in 2013 and a renewed desire to make a difference. The Saskatchewan Prairie Conservation Action Plan also announced that the next PCESC would be held in Saskatoon in 2016. Thank you to all the volunteers, organizers and sponsors who contributed to the success of this conference and thank you to all who participated.



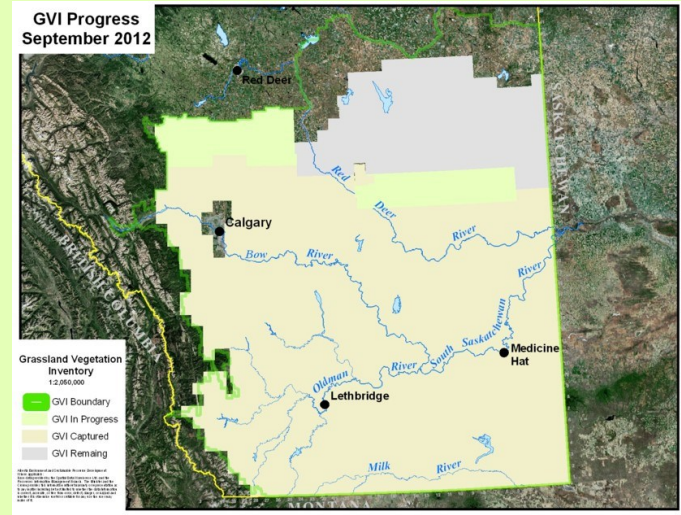
From left to right: Alberta winners of the Prairie Conservation Award, Ken and Nora Balog with MULTISAR staff (Richard Quinlan, Brad Downey, Brandy Downey, Francois Blouin, Julie Landry-DeBoer, Paul Jones, Daryl Jarina); Some members of the PCESC organizing committee (Ron McNeil, Francois Blouin, Geoff Holroyd, Linda Cerney, Robin Gutsell); Working the silent auction (Katheryn Taylor and Marilyn Danish).

Grassland Vegetation Inventory

- **Landscape Conservation Cooperatives: Effective conservation through collaboration and sound science.** Changes in climate and land-use, energy development, water resource demands and urban expansion pose significant challenges to the conservation and management of natural resources that cross geographic and jurisdictional boundaries. This requires the coordinated efforts of public, non-governmental, private and academic communities. The Plains and Prairie Potholes Landscape Conservation Cooperative (LCC), part of an international network of 22 LCCs across North America, is facilitating a collaborative, holistic approach to these 21st century environmental challenges across Canadian and U.S. portions of the northern Great Plains and prairie pothole region. The LCC is leveraging partner resources to address individual agency and organization limitations that otherwise inhibit efficiency and success in conservation efforts. By engaging with the LCC community, partners are better equipped to implement pragmatic, science-based actions that address current and future environmental stressors. The LCC offers opportunities for partners to engage in the development of priorities, technical direction, and communication strategies through technical working groups and advisory committees. Through these venues, partners can identify focal areas with other regional stakeholders, contribute to research priorities and provide technical expertise, and develop and assist with communications tactics that reach a broad array of conservation stakeholders and practitioners. Since 2010, the Plains and Prairie Potholes LCC has grown to represent more than 30 agencies and organizations. LCC partners have dedicated more than \$3.5 million to increasing the scientific foundation for management of natural resources by developing tools and frameworks to inform policy decisions and the conservation actions of both public land managers and private landowners. To engage with this dynamic and innovative network, visit <http://plainsandprairiepotholeslcc.org>.

To date, the Grassland Vegetation Inventory (GVI) has captured and attributed about 875 townships. 91 township equivalents are in progress now (audits are in progress), leaving about 200 townships to complete the Grasslands Natural Area (gray area on map below). As part of this fiscal year (2013-2014), plans are underway to complete an additional 100 townships, which is similar in size to what was collected in 2012-2013.

Captured to date:
***Landscape Polygons:** 265,089 polygons*
***Linear Vegetation:** 46,694 lines*
***Point Vegetation:** 47,554 points*
***Sites:** 520,546 records*
***Vegetation:** 78,348 records*



Landscape Patterns Analysis

The Prairie Conservation Forum has partnered with several other organizations to look at the relationship between human land use and land use patterns and the qualitative state of various parts of the environment. The first phase of this project involved hiring a consultant to undertake a literature review of relevant published and grey literature in the north west part of the continent. The successful consultant was O2. The project was overseen by a funding partners Project Oversight Team that included Ron McNeil representing the PCF.

Findings from 172 publications were assessed. Project deliverables include a report and annotated bibliography, a presentation and a spreadsheet categorizing results. The intent is to create a searchable database on the LC Map website <http://greatnorthernlcc.org/lcmap> that will provide users with an accessible interface through which specific findings can be searched and applied in context. Report findings show clear relationships between landscape pattern and environmental function with most published research focusing on wildlife species and water quality.

The second phase of the project will involve each funding partner assessing the findings in the context of their landscape planning objectives. In the case of the PCF, we will be looking at the results of the Landscape Patterns Analysis, together with the emerging work with ABMI on connectivity, intactness and non native species to determine ways in which this information can support our desired 2011-15 PCAP Outcomes: maintain large native prairie and parkland landscapes, conserve connecting corridors for biodiversity, and protect isolated habitats.



Financial Report

Statement of Operations and Net Assets (Deficiency)

March 31, 2013

Revenue	2013	2012
Grants	\$ 69,205	\$ 12,115
Casino	24,005	2,090
Miscellaneous revenue	6,612	52
Donations	358	40
Interest Income	62	11
Total	\$ 100,242	\$ 14,308
Expenses		
Coordinator contract and expenses	\$ 45,645	\$ 12,636
Special Projects	13,500	—
PCESC	10,000	—
GVI expenses	6,029	—
Meeting expenses	4,101	2,890
Office and Administration	3,091	131
Professional fees	3,045	1,916
Casino Expense	2,387	2,090
Insurance	1,633	1,633
Contract Services	1,573	—
Printing Expenses	1,123	—
Workers Compensation Board	385	330
Interest and bank charges	158	—
Total	\$ 92,670	\$ 21,626
Excess (deficiency) of Revenue over expenses	\$ 7,572	\$ 7,318

Statement of Financial Position

March 31, 2013

Assets	2013	2012
Cash	\$ 143,425	\$ 88,372
Accounts receivable	25,000	—
GST receivable	1,300	340
Due from Multisar	—	1,000
Liabilities and Net Assets		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 13,174	\$ 2,828
Due to Multisar	9,934	—
Deferred Revenue	55,345	3,184
Net Assets		
Unrestricted Net Assets	\$ 31,272	83,700
Contingency Reserve	60,000	—
Total	\$ 169,725	\$ 89,712

Statement of Changes in Net Assets

March 31, 2013

	Unrestricted	Internally Restricted	Total 2013	Total 2012
Balance, beginning of year	\$ 83,700	—	\$ 83,700	\$ 91,018
Excess of Revenue Over Expenditures	\$ 7,572	—	\$ 7,572	(7,318)
Transfer to reserves	(60,000)	\$ 60,000	—	—
Balance, end of year	\$ 31,272	\$ 60,000	\$ 91,272	\$ 83,700

PCF Board of Directors

Bill Dolan — Chairperson. Bill joined the Parks Division of Alberta Tourism, Parks and Recreation in 2009 as the Land & Resource Management Coordinator in southern Alberta. In this new position, Bill has a leadership role for a number of programs in parks & protected areas including science, planning, resource management, land use and community engagement. Bill previously worked for Parks Canada at various national parks in western & northern Canada. He has been a member of the Prairie Conservation Forum since 1990.

Dana Blouin — Vice Chairperson. Dana Blouin is Manager of Science and Conservation Support for the Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) in the grasslands of Alberta. Dana is a Professional Biologist and has worked in the prairie grasslands for several years from Manitoba to Alberta, and has been an active member of the Alberta PCF for 9 years. Dana currently works to provide support and guidance for NCC's conservation actions in Alberta and experiences the grasslands first hand with her family whenever possible.

Jordon Christianson — Treasurer.

Ian Dyson — Board Member. Ian has been affiliated with the PCF since its inception in 1989. He works for Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development and is responsible for ensuring that the shift to an integrated resource management system capable of managing cumulative effects is developed strategically. His professional experience deals with integrated resource management, water management and regional sustainable development plans in Alberta and he has helped build and sustain multi-stakeholder partnerships dealing with approaches to address environmental cumulative effects such as water quality in the Oldman River Basin, trans-boundary collaboration to sustain ecological health in the Rocky Mountains, and the conservation of prairie and parkland biodiversity.

Brandy Downey — Board Member. Brandy is the Senior Species At Risk Biologist in Lethbridge for Alberta Sustainable Resource Development Fish and Wildlife Division. Brandy has been a member of the MULTISAR team since 2003 and currently assists ESRD and the PCF in managing the program, which works collaboratively with several NGO's, government agencies, and individuals to conserve species at risk in the Grassland Natural Region of Alberta. Unrelated to her work roles, Brandy enjoys hiking and exploring the outdoors with her family.

Sarah Elmeligi — Board Member. After working for 5 years with Southern Alberta's Environmental non-profits (CPAWS Southern Alberta and Yellowstone to Yukon), Sarah has recently begun her PhD through Central Queensland University. Her PhD will focus on grizzly bear habitat use along hiking trails in Banff National Park. Sarah's love of the grasslands extends beyond her professional life, however, and being a board member for the PCF helps her keep the prairie life in perspective.

Kerry Grisley — Board Member. Kerry has worked on prairie conservation issues since the mid-90's and believes that the most innovative and effective solutions arise from collaboration. As Operation Grassland Community's (OGC) Program Director since 2000, Kerry has more than 16 years of experience in Species at Risk research and community conservation work, grassland ecology, agricultural policy, and sustainable land-use techniques. When Kerry isn't working, she is wearing a hole in the kitchen floor, happily preparing snacks for her two daughters.

Ron McNeil — Board Member. Ron McNeil, President of LandWise Inc., is a soil and land resource scientist. Ron specializes in environmental studies, with a focus on inventories, ecological classification, habitat assessments, and reclamation. He has extensive experience in Alberta and Saskatchewan, especially in soil surveys and grasslands. Ron worked extensively with the Alberta government to improve the classification and interpretation of ecological information. He was instrumental in developing the link between soils and native plant communities. Ron was scientific advisor to the Grassland Vegetation Inventory (GVI), and has developed and delivered training for ecological range sites, GVI, wetlands, and reclamation.

Elizabeth Swift — Board Member. Liz has worked as an Environmental Consultant and Environmental Advisor in Oil and Gas since 2001. She has worked throughout Alberta from the Medicine Hat area north to High Level. In her spare time, she loves getting her two young boys outside in any way she can.

Ross Owen — Board Member.

Jake Powell — Board Member.

Staff

Sasha Harriott — Coordinator. Sasha started out her career in the environmental field as a forest fire fighter. From there she joined the Cows and Fish Program and traveled across Alberta conducting riparian inventories, engaging landowners and promoting healthy riparian areas. She worked with AMEC Earth and Environmental as a Safety and Logistics Coordinator and has been working with the PCF since 2008 and is also the Secretariat for the Crown Managers Partnership. She is the mother of 4 children and enjoys living in the beautiful Crowsnest Pass.

Katheryn Taylor — Coordinator. Katheryn obtained her MSc in biology from the University of Lethbridge in 2003 and has worked on many wildlife and vegetation research projects on the prairies, including work such as 'the effects of cattle grazing on riparian birds' and 'the effects of river damming on riparian birds and vegetation'. She also did some work with the Cows and Fish Program, conducting riparian inventories across Alberta. She has done some teaching and private consulting in the form of environmental impact assessments. Katheryn has been with the PCF since 2007.



Recognition of PCF Supporters

Funding support is very important to the PCF to keep our coordinators working and provide money for printing costs, meetings, projects, etc. We would like to thank our funding partners of 2012 as without them, we wouldn't be the society we are today.

Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development (grants for PCF and MULTISAR)
Alberta Tourism, Parks and Recreation
Environment Canada
Parks Canada
Special Areas Board
Helen Schuler Nature Centre, City of Lethbridge
Oldman Watershed Council
Cenovus Energy
AltaLink
TERA Environmental
Alberta Biodiversity Monitoring Institute
Alberta Wilderness Association
Shell Canada (Fuelling Change Grant for MULTISAR)

And a special thanks to individuals that make donations to the PCF out of their own pockets:

Cheryl Fujikawa
Don Stiles

We would also like to thank:

Members who incur expenses, without reimbursement, while attending PCF meetings.

Those individuals who made themselves available to serve as tour guides on PCF field trips.

Chairpersons of PCF committees who provide valued leadership and committee members who assume a heavier workload to fulfill action recommendations contained in the PCAP.

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.

PCF Member Organizations

Government (municipal, provincial, federal)

Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development
Alberta Economic Development
Alberta Energy
Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development
Alberta Infrastructure and Transportation
Alberta Tourism, Parks and Recreation
Canadian Forces Base, Suffield (Department of National Defence)
Canadian Wildlife Service
Cardston County
City of Calgary, Parks Department
City of Lethbridge, Helen Schuler Nature Centre
Environment Canada
Lacombe County
National Energy Board (Canada)
Natural Resources Conservation Board
Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration (Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada)
Royal Alberta Museum (Alberta Community Development)
Special Areas Board
Waterton Lakes National Park (Parks Canada)

Non-Government Organizations/Companies

Alberta Biodiversity Monitoring Institute
Alberta Conservation Association
Alberta Institute of Agrologists
Alberta Native Plant Council
Alberta Wilderness Association
AltaLink
Ambrose University College

AMEC Environmental
Ann and Sandy Cross Conservation Area
Antelope Creek Ranch
ATCO Electric
Battle River Watershed Alliance
Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society (Calgary/Banff Chapter)
Cenovus Energy
Cows and Fish — Alberta Riparian Habitat Management Society
Decisive Edge

Ducks Unlimited Canada
Eastern Irrigation District
Edmonton and Area Land Trust
Ellis Bird Farm
Federation of Alberta Naturalists
Foothills Restoration Forum
Glenbow Ranch Park Foundation
Grasslands Naturalists
LandWise Inc.
Lethbridge Naturalists Society
Milk River Watershed Council
Nature Conservancy of Canada
Oldman Watershed Council
Operation Grasslands Community, Alberta Fish and Game Association
Pekisko Group
Red Deer River Watershed Alliance
Society for Range Management
South-East Alberta Watershed Alliance
Southern Alberta Applied Research Association
Southern Alberta Land Trust Society
Special Areas Advisory Council
Suncor Energy
Tatonga Inc.
TERA Environmental Consultants
Trace Associates Inc.
University of Alberta
University of Calgary
University of Lethbridge
Western Sky Land Trust Society
Wildlife Society, Alberta Chapter



PRAIRIE CONSERVATION FORUM

Alberta Prairie Conservation Forum

www.albertapcf.org