



Alberta Prairie Conservation Forum

April 1, 2013—March 31, 2014 Annual Report

(On-line) ISBN No.: 978-0-9920848-1-3 August 2014 For more information about the Prairie Conservation Forum, contact: **Prairie Conservation Forum Coordinator** c/o Alberta Environment **Southern Region** 2nd Floor, Provincial Building 200 – 5th Avenue South LETHBRIDGE, Alberta T1J 4L1 E-mail: info@albertapcf.org **Photography credits:** Front Cover — Glenbow Ranch Provincial Park, Katheryn Taylor This Page & Next Page — Grassland, Cliff Wallis Table of Contents — Three-flowered Avens, Kerry Grisley Page 2 — Glenbow Ranch Provincial Park, Nosehill Park, sign of TransCanada Transmission Pipeline, ATCO Transmission Lines, PCF members on tour, Katheryn Taylor Page 3 — Ferruginous Hawk, Dave Prescott Page 4 — Grasslands signs at the Helen Schuler Nature Centre and a photo of the living roof, Coreen Putman Page 5 — Windmills in the Wintering Hills, Katheryn Taylor Page 7 — Yellow Lady's Slipper Orchids, bBue-Eyed Grass, 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 land-scapes.

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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"I was born on the prairies where the wind blew free and there was nothing to break the light of the sun. I was born where there were no enclosures."

~Geronimo~

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#### Message from the Chair

This will be my first "Message from the Chair" since being elected to the position in January of 2013 and I would like to express my gratitude to the membership and to the directors for allowing me the opportunity to participate in this amazing organization. The prairies are an icon of this province and are such an intrinsic part of what it means to be "Albertan" that it is critical that we find ways to ensure that their subtle majesty carry on for future generations. I am always inspired by the passion that our members bring to every single meeting and I am certainly looking forward to the work that the PCF will carry on in the upcoming year, and for many years to come.

We are living in a very interesting time. Pressures on landscapes continue to increase as we utilize land for recreational pursuits, natural resource extraction and agricultural production. The prairies are not immune to these pressures and will continue to face a higher degree of stress and demand. At the same time, society is clearly becoming more engaged with issues and decisions around land use. Moving forward, these issues only get more complex and as an organization, the PCF is committed to trying to find solutions.



One of the greatest strengths of the PCF is in our ability to cultivate and maintain strong partnerships. This was clearly demonstrated in 2013 as much of our work would not have been completed without our partners. Partners like MULTISAR, AB Biodiversity Monitoring Institute and the Miistakis Institute have been pivotal to achieving our successes. MULTISAR, in the work they do to conserve habitat of numerous species at risk. The Alberta Biodiversity Monitoring Institute in their support of clearly defining the ecological health of not only the grassland region, but also the parkland. The Miistakis Institute in compiling information on the potential for wind development in Alberta. All of these partnerships represent the best of what we can achieve in collaboration.

The PCF strength also lies in the diversity of our membership. Participants represent a vast array of backgrounds and experiences from over 50 member organizations and individuals. This broad membership base ensures that all perspectives are heard and represented in our discussions. This allows for a very balanced approach when needed or alternatively, a focused and concise approach if required.

I am looking forward to the upcoming year in the PCF. The Board of Directors is eager to begin drafting a subsequent Prairie Conservation Action Plan (PCAP). This new plan will set future direction for our organization and we will soon start to see some of the products come to life with our partner organizations. In the meantime, we will continue to work towards the objectives outlined in the current PCAP, with an eye to the future.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to those members who dedicate much of their time to the various work committees of the PCF, and to the board of directors for serving the PCF. Without your commitment, much of the work of the PCF would not be completed. Your enthusiasm and dedication are to be commended! I would also like to thank Katheryn and Sasha for everything that you both do for this organization. Your knowledge, experience and dedication is invaluable and very much appreciated. I am honoured to serve as your Chair and look forward to continuing our work together.

Jordon Christianson, 2013-2014 Chair

#### Message from the Coordinators

2013-2014 was another good year for the PCF. The education committee continued to be active, with Deep Roots getting more presentation time (courtesy of Alberta Parks) and the first Prairie Appreciation Festival held in Cypress Hills Provincial Park in June 2013. We also had the opportunity to be present at a brainstorming session for signage ideas for the living roof at the Helen Schuler Nature Centre in Lethbridge and to send the PCF brochures and display to the Calgary Stampede Cattle Trail, set up by the Canadian Cattlemen's Association. The wind energy workshop sponsored by the PCF and facilitated by Miistakis in Calgary in March 2013 had a very good turnout, with representatives from all sectors we were interested in having in attendance present.

The PCF was also involved with the South Saskatchewan Regional Plan, with the coordinators and board members attending as many stakeholder sessions as possible and by responding to the draft SSRP with a letter to the Land-use Secretariat. Katheryn also attended a climate change panel set up by the Oldman Watershed Council and the University of Calgary in Lethbridge to see what 'regular citizens' think should/could be done to address climate change issues. It was interesting to see how the ideas that came out of this panel were so similar to ideas/comments coming out of the SSRP sessions.

Other than being in attendance and working on the above, the coordinators continued to organize meetings, track PCF finances, provide updates to the membership, update the website, and take care of the day-to-day administration of the PCF. Our second casino was also a success, giving the PCF an additional \$66,000 for PCF projects. Thank you to all the members that continue to support the PCF through in-kind contributions on committees and the board of directors, to members that donate to the PCF in other ways (time, money, etc), to members that continue to come out to our general meetings and tours, and to members that help out at casinos. We couldn't do it without you!

Katheryn Taylor and Sasha Harriott

## PCF Meetings and Tours

The PCF spring meeting and tour was held at Glenbow Ranch Provincial Park on June 12 and 13, 2013. Guest presenters included Andy Crooks, who gave a presentation about Glenbow Ranch Provincial Park, how it came into being, and some of the projects tak-





ing place at the ranch. Susan DeCaen, also with the park, led us on a historical walking tour of the ranch, telling us about some of the first families to come to area. Shelley Alexander, a researcher at the U of C, kicked off the tour the next day with a presentation about urban coyotes. We then toured some more of the Glenbow ranch and after lunch, headed to Calgary to tour Nose-hill park with Jenna Cross, a member of the City of Calgary Parks Department.

The PCF fall meeting and tour was held in Wainwright on September 25 and 26, 2013. Guest presenters were Dave Prescott, ESRD (Red Deer), who gave a presentation on species at risk in central Alberta, and Ken Pearce and J.R. Hall with ATCO, who gave us a presentation on the ATCO Gas Hanna Region Transmission Development Project. In addition to the two guest presentations, there

were also two member profiles, with David Samm giving us a presentation on the Battle River Watershed, and Nolan Ball giving us a presentation about the Special Areas and Special Areas Board. The tour took us to Ribstone Creek, where Ron McNeil showed us some monitoring sites, then on to the TransCanada Keystone Pipeline right of way, where we met up with Darwin McNeely (TransCanada), Marshal McKenzie (Alberta Innovates), and Varge Craig (Alberta Rangeland Services) to see some of the reclamation work being done. After lunch, Ken Pearce and J.R. Hall took us to see some sites along the ATCO Hanna Region Transmission Development Project.



The annual general meeting, held on January 23, 2014, included a presentation by Dave Ardell (ESRD) on flood mitigation elements. Leif Olson, with O2 Design, also came to present the landscape patterns analysis project to PCF members, which is a project that PCF sponsored (along with many other organizations). Our final speaker was a grade 10 student, Erin Anderson, that won the Alberta chapter of the Society of Range Management student competitions, and as a result was travelling to Florida to deliver her presentation on 'how to get involved in range management'.

PCF meeting notes and presentations can be found on the members only page of the PCF website: www.albertapcf.org.

In 2013 the draft South Saskatchewan Regional Plan was released by the government of Alberta. Feedback sessions were held in late 2013 and the PCF board and coordinators attended many of them so that we could be sure our opinions were heard. We also had the opportunity to respond to the draft report by writing a letter to the Land-Use Secretariat. While the SSRP addressed many land use issues in the region, we felt that the plan could be made stronger with some additional refinements. In our letter, we provided four main recommendations that we thought would make the plan stronger:

- 1. Include criteria and/or guidelines that address the inevitable hard trade-off style decisions that will have to be made in areas of native prairie where multiple land uses are occurring.
- 2. Strengthen the protective criteria for native prairie within the provincial land sale and exchange process.
- 3. Broaden and augment the commitment, incentives, and mechanisms for assisting private land owners with conserving native prairie on their lands.
- 4. Broaden promotion of conservation tools and options to the greater stewardship community.

PCF members were given the opportunity to provide feedback on PCF recommendations at our annual general meeting in January 2014 and through email. The resulting letter was one that we felt the diverse PCF membership could support.

#### MULTISAR

In 2013-2014 the MULTISAR project was reduced in capacity due to delays in the ESRD grant to the PCF for its support. The grant was received in full in December 2013, well after the field season. ESRD's Resource Management Program was able to temporarily hire two of MULTISAR-PCF's three wildlife biologists as wage employees during that hiatus, while the range agrologist was retained on contracts from ESRD and the Alberta Conservation Association. As a result, MULTISAR's delivery capacity of its programing was temporarily reduced.

In 2013-2014, one new Habitat Conservation Strategy (HCS) was developed on a ranch totalling approximately 7,834 acres in the Milk River Basin. MULTISAR is now collaborating with ranchers on a total of 26 HCSs on over 277,500 acres of land in southern Alberta. A sub-sample of sites on three HCSs that were developed 5 years ago on ranches totalling about 48,172 acres were also re-assessed as part of their 5 year evaluation. During the 2013 field season, 2,982 wildlife observations (which included observations of 39 different species at risk) were recorded and submitted to the provincial Fish and Wildlife Management Information System (FWMIS). A total of 169 detailed vegetation transects, 244 range health assessments and 49 tame pasture assessments were also completed. In addition, a number of habitat enhancement projects were developed in collaboration with ranchers on some existing HCSs to improve the habitat of key wildlife species. These varied from native prairie restoration, erection of artificial raptor nesting structures, wildlife-friendly fencing, shrub planting, tree protection and anthropogenic feature mitigation.

With reduced capacity, Species At Risk Conservation Plans (SARC Plans) and Beneficial Management Plans were delivered on a by request only basis. Beneficial management recommendations for wildlife habitats were developed on two private ranches totalling approximately 240 acres. As the program became fully funded later in the year, MULTISAR took this opportunity to evaluate the SARC program and improve it.

In 2013-2014, MULTISAR conducted a review of the recovery and management actions for species at risk in the Grassland Natural Region that it has addressed since its inception in 2002. Details of these actions and measures of success are provided in MULTISAR's annual report available at <a href="http://www.multisar.ca/resources/documents/">http://www.multisar.ca/resources/documents/</a>>.

The Education, Outreach and Awareness program was greatly scaled back this year. However, MULTISAR staff were able to give presentations and demonstration tours to landowners, wildlife and conservation groups, college students and the general public. MULTISAR partnered with the Canadian Cattlemen's Association to man a booth, along with the PCF and other environmental groups, during the Calgary Stampede that was viewed by over 88,000 people. In total, MULTISAR made over 264 different contacts with more than 826 people (and an additional 88,241 people at the Calgary Stampede) including landholders, the general public, academia, industry, media, government and nongovernment organizations and other sectors. Communication material included one issue of the MULTISAR newsletter.

Finally, a contract was awarded to a consultant to complete the remaining three Resource Selection Function (RSF) Models. The northern leopard frog, the burrowing owl and the swift fox RSF models were completed as part of an exercise to eventually update MULTISAR's multi-species conservation (MCV) model that is used as a planning tool for delivery of the Habitat Conservation Strategy program.



In partnership with the Oldman Watershed Council, ABCD designed and convened a one-day citizen deliberation on climate change and water. The event was held on February 22, 2014 at the University of Lethbridge. The facilitated deliberation consisted of a diverse group of thirty three invited participants who, following an application process, were selected on the basis of gender, age, occupation, location of residence as well as views on climate change. The selection process ensured a diversity of backgrounds and perspectives in the room. All participants lived in the Oldman watershed. The deliberation aimed to support participants

- Have an informed dialogue about the projected impacts of climate change on water;
- Identify the concerns, hopes and values that resonate most on this issue, and where there is common ground;
- Identify key areas that need more community involvement and policy development, including recommendations for consideration by the OWC.

Please visit the ABCD website for more information: www.albertaclimatedialogue.ca/ watershed/

To see a video of the day 'Water in a changing climate': www.albertaclimatedialgue.ca/

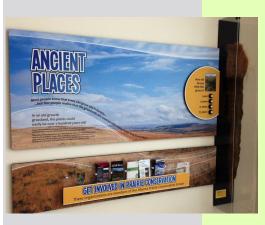
#### Education & Communication Committee

In 2013-2014, the PCF Deep Roots videoconference was delivered to a total of 502 students, teachers, and parents by Heidi Eijgel, Alberta Parks. Schools from the communities of Nampa, Cardston, Okotoks, Stirling, Calgary, and the Crownsest Pass participated. In addition to the delivery of Deep Roots, the PCF Education Committee completed a number of internal documents to go along with the Deep Roots program, including a delivery model (to address sustainable delivery of Deep Roots), a training strategy (for new presenters of Deep Roots), a promotional strategy (so that the targeted audience knows about Deep Roots), and an evaluation form. Deep Roots activities were completed, but final packaging will not be ready until the 2014 school year. Starting in the 2014-2015 school year, groups that participate in the Deep Roots program will go into a draw for \$500 to put towards an education committee approved field trip. Additional entries into the draw can be obtained by filling out evaluation forms and completing pre– and post-activities.

The education committee, under the leadership of Rob Gardner with the Nature Conservancy of Canada, also helped pilot the Native Appreciation Festival that was held on the property of Geoff and Melanie Watson bordering Cypress Hills Provincial Park in June 2013. The event was co-sponsored by the Prairie Conservation Forum, the Nature Conservancy of Canada, and the South-East Watershed Alliance. It is estimated that 105 people (including volunteers and their families) attended at least some part of the festival. Feedback from participants was positive and they were happy that they attended the event.

The Prairie Conservation Forum donated money to the Helen Schuler Nature Centre in Lethbridge for the development of signage on their living roof, which features a native prairie garden. Committee members were involved in editing the content of the signs and were also present at a workshop with Helen Schuler Nature Centre staff and sign contractors to help in the design of the signs. The grand opening for the Nature Center was in February 2014. PCF members in the Lethbridge area are encouraged to stop by and check out the new Nature Centre and their living roof.

The education committee continues to look for venues to hand out PCF brochures and other materials. In 2013, brochures were handed out at the Canadian Cattlemen Association's environment booth at the Calgary Stampede Cattle Trail. The PCF display and materials were also taken to the Oldman Watershed Council's Holding the Reigns Workshop in Fort Macleod, which is geared towards landowners, and to their urban garden tour, which is geared towards the general public in Lethbridge. Brochures were also given out at the Prairie Appreciation Festival in Cypress Hills. Members travelling to other venues that are able to carry additional brochures can contact Katheryn at info@albertapcf.org.





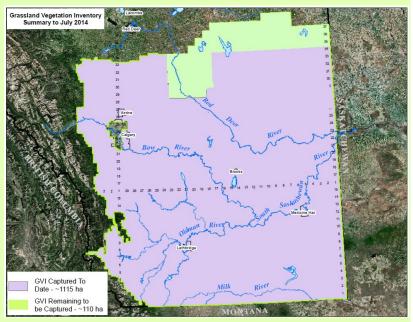




## Grassland Vegetation Inventory

To date, the Grassland Vegetation Inventory (GVI) has captured and attributed approximately 1115 townships. One hundred and one township were captured in the 2013-2014 fiscal year. These townships, located in the NE portion of completed GVI, have been audited but will not be part of the delivery until later this year. Plans for this fiscal year (2014-2015) include completion of the remaining 110 townships (green area on map). This will complete the inventory of the Grasslands Natural Area. From here, the Primary Land and Vegetation Inventory (PLVI) will begin to fill the data gap between existing AVI and GVI inventories.

There is also some preliminary work being conducted under the guidance of Dr. Anne Smith, a research scientist with Agriculture and Agrifood Canada, on developing a method for updating GVI using airborne hyperspectral remote sensing data.



#### Wind Energy Initiative

In 2012, the PCF worked with the Miistakis Institute to explore the development of a GIS-based assessment process for the consideration of wind energy development within the Prairie and Parkland Natural Regions of Alberta. The process would seek to engage a diverse group of stakeholders, and would seek to balance the potential for development against regional and local environmental conservation priorities, as well as social values at the community level. Phase 1 of the project was completed in April 2013 and included a literature search and assessment of the feasibility of the proposed project. The PCF Board decided to pursue the second phase of the project in the fall of 2013.

Phase 2 of the project was to convene a diverse group of stakeholders for a workshop. In March 2014 a workshop was facilitated by Miistakis Institute staff, and gave participants a chance to understand the types of assessment tools that are currently in use in other jurisdictions, to learn about and discuss possible improvements to existing tools, and to articulate the need for such assessment tools in the Prairie and Parkland Alberta context. Workshop participants represented industry, environmental groups, provincial and mu-

nicipal governments, and regulators; all of which have an interest in the development of wind farms in Alberta.

Currently Miistakis is working on the final report summarizing the discussions at the workshop. This report will be provided to all participants and the PCF board of directors. Once the final report is received the PCF board will review the PCFs involvement in the project and determine the PCFs involvement in future phases of the project.



## Financial Report

| Statement of Onesations and Not Asset                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                           |                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                         |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Statement of Operations and Net Asset                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | ts (Deficiency)           |                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                         |
| March 31, 2014                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                           |                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                         |
| Revenue                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                           | 2014                                                                                                | 2013                                                                                                                                                    |
| Grants                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                           | \$ 130,267                                                                                          | \$ 69,205                                                                                                                                               |
| Casino                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                           | 47,599                                                                                              | 24,005                                                                                                                                                  |
| Conference                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                           | 17,201                                                                                              | -                                                                                                                                                       |
| Miscellaneous revenue                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                           | 2,004                                                                                               | 6,612                                                                                                                                                   |
| Donations                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                           | 1,254                                                                                               | 358                                                                                                                                                     |
| Interest Income                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                           | 88                                                                                                  | 62                                                                                                                                                      |
| Calendar Income                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                           | 25                                                                                                  | <u>-</u>                                                                                                                                                |
| Total                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                           | \$ 198,438                                                                                          | \$ 100,242                                                                                                                                              |
| 10001                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                           | \$ 150, 100                                                                                         | \$ 100, <b>2 12</b>                                                                                                                                     |
| Expenses                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                           |                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                         |
| Coordinator contract and expens                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | ses                       | \$ 45,487                                                                                           | \$ 45,645                                                                                                                                               |
| Special Projects                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                           | 7,975                                                                                               | 13,500                                                                                                                                                  |
| Professional Fees                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                           | 4,800                                                                                               | 3,045                                                                                                                                                   |
| Casino Expense                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                           | 4,033                                                                                               | 2,387                                                                                                                                                   |
| Meeting expenses                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                           | 3,534                                                                                               | 4,101                                                                                                                                                   |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                           |                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                         |
| Insurance                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                           | 1,710                                                                                               | 1,633                                                                                                                                                   |
| Contract Service                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                           | 1,500                                                                                               | 1,573                                                                                                                                                   |
| Donations                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                           | 1,260                                                                                               | <del>-</del>                                                                                                                                            |
| Workers Compensation Board                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                           | 537                                                                                                 | 385                                                                                                                                                     |
| Travel                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                           | 390                                                                                                 | -                                                                                                                                                       |
| Honorariums                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                           | 286                                                                                                 | -                                                                                                                                                       |
| Interest and Bank Charges                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                           | 267                                                                                                 | 158                                                                                                                                                     |
| Office                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                           | 166                                                                                                 | 3,091                                                                                                                                                   |
| Printing Expense                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                           | 23                                                                                                  | 1,123                                                                                                                                                   |
| PCESC                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                           | 25                                                                                                  | 10,000                                                                                                                                                  |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                           | -                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                         |
| GVI Expenses                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                           | -                                                                                                   | 6,029                                                                                                                                                   |
| Total                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                           | \$ 71,968                                                                                           | \$ 92,670                                                                                                                                               |
| xcess (deficiency) of Revenue over Ex                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | xpenses                   | \$ 126,470                                                                                          | \$ 7,572                                                                                                                                                |
| tatement of Financial Position                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                           |                                                                                                     | <del></del>                                                                                                                                             |
| tatement of Financial Fosition                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                           |                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                         |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                           |                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                         |
| March 31, 2014                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                           | 2014                                                                                                | 2012                                                                                                                                                    |
| ssets                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                           | 2014                                                                                                | 2013                                                                                                                                                    |
| farch 31, 2014  ssets  Cash                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                           | \$ 257,201                                                                                          | \$ 143,425                                                                                                                                              |
| ssets Cash Accounts receivable                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                           | \$ 257,201<br>22,297                                                                                | \$ 143,425<br>25,000                                                                                                                                    |
| ssets Cash                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                           | \$ 257,201                                                                                          | \$ 143,425                                                                                                                                              |
| ssets Cash Accounts receivable GST receivable                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                           | \$ 257,201<br>22,297                                                                                | \$ 143,425<br>25,000                                                                                                                                    |
| ssets Cash Accounts receivable GST receivable iabilities and Net Assets                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                           | \$ 257,201<br>22,297<br>10,377                                                                      | \$ 143,425<br>25,000<br>1,300                                                                                                                           |
| Seets  Cash Accounts receivable GST receivable  iabilities and Net Assets Accounts payable and accrued 1                                                                                                                                                                                 | iabilities                | \$ 257,201<br>22,297<br>10,377<br>\$ 5,421                                                          | \$ 143,425<br>25,000<br>1,300<br>\$ 13,174                                                                                                              |
| ssets Cash Accounts receivable GST receivable iabilities and Net Assets Accounts payable and accrued I Due to Multisar                                                                                                                                                                   | iabilities                | \$ 257,201<br>22,297<br>10,377<br>\$ 5,421<br>4,197                                                 | \$ 143,425<br>25,000<br>1,300<br>\$ 13,174<br>9,934                                                                                                     |
| ssets  Cash Accounts receivable GST receivable iabilities and Net Assets Accounts payable and accrued 1                                                                                                                                                                                  | iabilities                | \$ 257,201<br>22,297<br>10,377<br>\$ 5,421                                                          | \$ 143,425<br>25,000<br>1,300<br>\$ 13,174                                                                                                              |
| Assets  Cash Accounts receivable GST receivable  iabilities and Net Assets  Accounts payable and accrued In Due to Multisar Deferred Revenue                                                                                                                                             | iabilities                | \$ 257,201<br>22,297<br>10,377<br>\$ 5,421<br>4,197                                                 | \$ 143,425<br>25,000<br>1,300<br>\$ 13,174<br>9,934                                                                                                     |
| Assets Cash Accounts receivable GST receivable  iabilities and Net Assets Accounts payable and accrued I Due to Multisar Deferred Revenue                                                                                                                                                | iabilities                | \$ 257,201<br>22,297<br>10,377<br>\$ 5,421<br>4,197<br>62,515                                       | \$ 143,425<br>25,000<br>1,300<br>\$ 13,174<br>9,934<br>55,345                                                                                           |
| ssets Cash Accounts receivable GST receivable  iabilities and Net Assets Accounts payable and accrued I Due to Multisar Deferred Revenue  et Assets Unrestricted Net Assets                                                                                                              | iabilities                | \$ 257,201<br>22,297<br>10,377<br>\$ 5,421<br>4,197<br>62,515                                       | \$ 143,425<br>25,000<br>1,300<br>\$ 13,174<br>9,934<br>55,345                                                                                           |
| Assets Cash Accounts receivable GST receivable  Liabilities and Net Assets Accounts payable and accrued In Due to Multisar Deferred Revenue                                                                                                                                              | iabilities                | \$ 257,201<br>22,297<br>10,377<br>\$ 5,421<br>4,197<br>62,515                                       | \$ 143,425<br>25,000<br>1,300<br>\$ 13,174<br>9,934<br>55,345                                                                                           |
| Assets Cash Accounts receivable GST receivable  Liabilities and Net Assets Accounts payable and accrued led Due to Multisar Deferred Revenue  Net Assets Unrestricted Net Assets Contingency Reserve                                                                                     | iabilities                | \$ 257,201<br>22,297<br>10,377<br>\$ 5,421<br>4,197<br>62,515                                       | \$ 143,425<br>25,000<br>1,300<br>\$ 13,174<br>9,934<br>55,345                                                                                           |
| Assets Cash Accounts receivable GST receivable  Liabilities and Net Assets Accounts payable and accrued In Due to Multisar Deferred Revenue  Net Assets Unrestricted Net Assets Contingency Reserve                                                                                      | iabilities                | \$ 257,201<br>22,297<br>10,377<br>\$ 5,421<br>4,197<br>62,515<br>\$ 157,742<br>60,000               | \$ 143,425<br>25,000<br>1,300<br>\$ 13,174<br>9,934<br>55,345<br>\$ 31,272<br>60,000                                                                    |
| Assets  Cash Accounts receivable GST receivable  Liabilities and Net Assets Accounts payable and accrued I: Due to Multisar Deferred Revenue  Net Assets Unrestricted Net Assets Contingency Reserve  Total  Statement of Changes in Net Assets                                          | iabilities                | \$ 257,201<br>22,297<br>10,377<br>\$ 5,421<br>4,197<br>62,515<br>\$ 157,742<br>60,000               | \$ 143,425<br>25,000<br>1,300<br>\$ 13,174<br>9,934<br>55,345<br>\$ 31,272<br>60,000                                                                    |
| Assets Cash Accounts receivable GST receivable Liabilities and Net Assets Accounts payable and accrued I Due to Multisar Deferred Revenue  Net Assets Unrestricted Net Assets                                                                                                            |                           | \$ 257,201<br>22,297<br>10,377<br>\$ 5,421<br>4,197<br>62,515<br>\$ 157,742<br>60,000<br>\$ 289,875 | \$ 143,425<br>25,000<br>1,300<br>\$ 13,174<br>9,934<br>55,345<br>\$ 31,272<br>60,000<br><b>\$ 169,725</b>                                               |
| Assets  Cash Accounts receivable GST receivable  Liabilities and Net Assets Accounts payable and accrued In Due to Multisar Deferred Revenue  Net Assets Unrestricted Net Assets Contingency Reserve  Fotal  Statement of Changes in Net Assets March 31, 2014                           | Unrestricted              | \$ 257,201<br>22,297<br>10,377<br>\$ 5,421<br>4,197<br>62,515<br>\$ 157,742<br>60,000<br>\$ 289,875 | \$ 143,425<br>25,000<br>1,300<br>\$ 13,174<br>9,934<br>55,345<br>\$ 31,272<br>60,000<br><b>\$ 169,725</b><br>Total 2014 Total 20                        |
| Assets Cash Accounts receivable GST receivable Liabilities and Net Assets Accounts payable and accrued I: Due to Multisar Deferred Revenue  Net Assets Unrestricted Net Assets Contingency Reserve  Fotal  Statement of Changes in Net Assets March 31, 2014  Balance, beginning of year | Unrestricted<br>\$ 31,272 | \$ 257,201<br>22,297<br>10,377<br>\$ 5,421<br>4,197<br>62,515<br>\$ 157,742<br>60,000<br>\$ 289,875 | \$ 143,425<br>25,000<br>1,300<br>\$ 13,174<br>9,934<br>55,345<br>\$ 31,272<br>60,000<br><b>\$ 169,725</b><br>Total 2014 Total 20<br>\$ 91,272 \$ 83,700 |
| Cash Accounts receivable GST receivable Ciabilities and Net Assets Accounts payable and accrued In Due to Multisar Deferred Revenue  Net Assets Unrestricted Net Assets Contingency Reserve  Fotal  Statement of Changes in Net Assets March 31, 2014                                    | Unrestricted              | \$ 257,201<br>22,297<br>10,377<br>\$ 5,421<br>4,197<br>62,515<br>\$ 157,742<br>60,000<br>\$ 289,875 | \$ 143,425<br>25,000<br>1,300<br>\$ 13,174<br>9,934<br>55,345<br>\$ 31,272<br>60,000<br><b>\$ 169,725</b><br>Total 2014 Total 20                        |

#### PCF Board of Directors

Jordon Christianson — Chairperson. Jordon was born and raised in the small community of Oyen in eastern Alberta, where his family farmed and ranched. Jordon began his career with the Special Areas Board in 1999, where he has since had a number of roles, including that of an Agricultural Fieldman, a Field Services Administrator (where he was responsible for the approval of industrial activities on public land in the Special Areas), as a Rangeland Agrologist, and his current position as Director of Property Administration, where he oversees the administration of 2.6 million acres of public lands, manages the sales of Tax Recovery Lands, and coordinates other land related municipal functions. Jordon is still very active on the family farm, where much of their land has been seeded back to perennial forages and the operation is now primarily cattle based, consisting of cow/calf and backgrounding calves through the winter. Between the Special Areas Board and the farm, Jordon has established a strong connection to the land and a keen appreciation of native grasslands.

Bill Dolan — Past 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.

**Sarah Elmeligi** — **Vice Chairperson.** 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.

**Adam Martinson** — **Treasurer.** Adam is an environmental consultant working predominantly with Cenovus Energy as an Environmental Advisor. His work is focused largely on the pre-development planning and environmental assessment of oil and gas developments in southern Alberta and Saskatchewan. He has a Masters of Environmental Design, during which he researched prairie rattlesnakes in southern Alberta and the impact and mitigation of road mortality. He recently completed his MBA from the University of Calgary and continues to be involved with wildlife research and conservation efforts on the Canadian prairies.

**Dana Blouin** — **Board Member.** 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.

**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.

**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.

**Jillian Kittson** — **Board Member.** Jillian relocated from Ontario to Alberta in 2011, joining the Alberta Biodiversity Monitoring Institute (ABMI) initially as a field technician and then as the ABMI's Information Coordinator. The Information Coordinator provides leadership and expertise related to data quality control and assurance of the ABMI's province-wide biodiversity monitoring program. Outside of work, Jillian is an avid whitewater kayaker and hiker.

Ross Owen — Board Member.

Norine Ambrose — Board Member.





### Staff of the PCF

**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.

**Sasha Harriott** — **Coordinator/Finance**. 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.

### 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
Parks Canada
Special Areas Board
Oldman Watershed Council
Ellis Bird Farm
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 Cheryl Dash

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 and those that gave presentations to PCF members at meetings.

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

Members that volunteer at PCF casinos.

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

Golder Associates

Grasslands Naturalists

Lacombe County

Land EKG Canada

LandWise Inc.

Lethbridge Naturalists Society

Matrix Solutions Inc.

Milk River Watershed Council

Nature Conservancy of Canada

Oldman Watershed Council

Operation Grasslands Community, Alberta Fish and Game Associ-

ation

Pekisko Group

Red Deer River Naturalists

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



# Alberta Prairie Conservation Forum

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