



PRAIRIE CONSERVATION FORUM



Alberta Prairie Conservation Forum

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Annual Report

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Photography credits:

Front Cover — OneFour, Katheryn Taylor
This Page & Next Page — Grassland, Cliff Wallis
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Page 7 — Overlooking Rumsey, Nature Conservancy of Canada Conservation Site, Katheryn Taylor
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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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*"Take the time to explore; the wind and sky will ensure that no one place is ever the same, the birds will be your company, the wail of the coyote will be your mystery, the stars will be your guardian and the space will be your freedom "*

*~Wallace Stegner~*

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Message from the Chair

This is my second term as Chair of the PCF Board of Directors, and I have found involvement with the board to be a very worthwhile endeavor and encourage other PCF members to become more actively involved by considering joining the board. It is gratifying to see how many people are interested in our native prairies and who value their intrinsic worth. Without the collaboration, cooperation and dedication of so many individuals and organizations, our native prairies would be worse off.

A good example of collaboration between PCF members can be seen in the PCF Prairie Conservation Action Plans (PCAP's). The PCAP's are 5-year plans that the PCF, in cooperation with all of its members, pulls together to address areas of prairie conservation that we think could use our collaborative efforts as an organization. Planning for PCAP 2016-2020 began in the spring of 2014 with a brain-storming session by the PCF board. From this session, an ESRD summer student (with the help of our coordinator) was given the task of summarizing the actions in the current 2011-2015 PCAP to help us determine where we were successful and where we weren't successful in addressing issues that we had identified. This summary, along with the initial brain-storming ideas from the board, formed the outline for a facilitated session that was held in November that allowed PCF members to provide their input on the directions the new PCAP should take. Members were also able to provide input through a survey that was sent out, and again at the PCAP AGM in 2015. The PCAP working group took this information to build the new PCAP.



Collaboration with others working towards prairie conservation can be seen in everything the PCF does. We believe that it will make our goals towards prairie conservation that much more successful. To aid us in our work, and to increase understanding, we also were involved in setting up a wind energy workshop with stakeholders to talk with them about such things as wind turbine and transmission line locations; we partnered with ABMI to look into biodiversity within, and outside of, PCF's high value landscape (where there are still large tracts of native prairie), and the amount of human disturbance taking place; we have been actively engaged in the government's regional plans and frameworks; we continue to support the good work that MULTISAR does with land-owners on native prairie; and we start up new working groups to continue to work towards prairie conservation goals, this year starting up a transboundary working group to address prairie conservation on a larger scale, across borders.

In closing, I would like to thank all of the PCF members that are dedicated to prairie conservation and that support the PCF in achieving our goals. The PCF is only as successful as its members make it.

Jordon Christianson, 2014-2015 Chair

Message from the Coordinator

2014-2015 was a busy year for the PCF as some new committees were formed, while existing committees continued to work on their work plans. Newly formed committees include the transboundary working group, the PCAP 2016-2020 committee, and the North Saskatchewan Regional Plan working group. Existing committees include the education committee, ABMI report on biodiversity working group, wind energy initiative, landscape patterns committee, and GVI working group. I was involved in some way with most of these committees, including acting as co-chair of the education committee, being a member of the PCAP committee, ABMI working group, and NSRP working group, and performing supporting roles on the other committees/working groups.

A snapshot of some of the work that I did this year for the committees include helping with the formation of a contacts spreadsheet for the transboundary working group, helping an ESRD summer student with the development of a summary spreadsheet of activities for PCAP 2011-2015, helping plan and take part in the facilitated PCAP 2016-2020 workshop, developing PCF recommendations for the NSRP based on Sasha's notes from her attendance at an NSRP working session and subsequent board comments, review of the ABMI biodiversity report and initial draft of the about the PCF section, delivery of the Deep Roots presentation and prairie-themed games to 72 kids at a summer horse camp, and along with Sasha, help editing of the landscape patterns analysis database (to fill it in and check for errors). I also developed, and had printed a new PCF photobook to use for speaker gifts, did an interview with the Oldman Watershed Council about the PCF, attended the South Saskatchewan Regions Biodiversity Management Framework workshop, attended a workshop on 'principles for minimizing surface disturbance in native grassland and parkland areas, and attended information events with the PCF display and materials (ASB conference, MRWCC AGM, OWC groundwater study meeting).

Other than being in attendance and working on the above, I continued to organize and be present at PCF meetings (board meetings, PCF general meetings, committee meetings, tours), provide updates to the membership, update the website, and take care of the day-to-day administration of the PCF. Sasha continued to track PCF finances, provide support where needed, and organize the 2015 casino. 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

PCF Meetings and Tours

The PCF spring meeting took place in Stettler, Alberta in June and showcased presentations from Fawn Jackson (Canadian Cattlemen's Association) about the Canadian Roundtable for Sustainable Beef; Colleen McPhee (Nature Conservancy of Canada) about NCC conservation sites in the area; and Dr. Edward Bork (Rangeland Research Institute out of the University of Alberta) about work taking place on the Mattheis Ranch. The tour took us to the Rumsey Natural Area and a couple of Nature Conservancy of Canada properties, including the Kinvig property.

The PCF fall meeting took place in Elkwater, Cypress Hills Provincial Park in September and showcased presentations from Brad Downey about the Alberta Conservation Association; Brian Laing (ESRD) about the Onefour Research Station and transfer from the federal government to the province of Alberta; and Tim Romanow, about the Milk River Watershed Council Canada. For the tour, Todd Whiklo (ESRD) talked to us about the removal of structures that aid predators of Sage Grouse; we visited Onefour where Francois Blouin (MULTISAR), spoke about wildlife friendly fencing and species at risk and their associated habitats (focussing on yucca and short-horned lizards); and ended at Silver Sage, a property owned and being reclaimed by the Alberta Conservation Association, where Brad Downey (ACA) spoke to us about reclamation of the property.

Our Annual General Meeting took place in Brooks, Alberta in January. At this meeting, all of the PCF working committees provided updates, we held elections to the PCF Board of Directors, did a financial review for members, and held a breakout session about directions (and activities) for the new PCAP 2016-2020. Our presenters were Margo Redelback, with the Eastern Irrigation District, who gave us a history of the EID and where it is today; and Dionne Freimark, a high school youth forum competitor for the Society of Range Management, who gave us a presentation about ergot. She went on to win second place at the international competition in California.

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



Education & Communication Committee

The Deep Roots Videoconference continued to be delivered to students across Alberta in 2014-2015, with a total of 16 classes and 340 students taking part. To enhance the videoconference, the PCF hired a contractor to edit and format an interview that was done with Juanita Tallman from Writing-on-Stone Provincial Park to replace an interview that was done at Head-Smashed-In Buffalo Jump (poor sound quality and visuals). The new interview was shown to students participating in the Deep Roots videoconference in 2014 as part of the presentation. In addition, the contractor also recorded Heidi Eijgel (AB Parks) setting up and delivering a Deep Roots videoconference to a group of volunteers in Lethbridge. This video will be used to help train new Deep Roots presenters, as well as be an archived copy for the PCF.

The PCF education committee, in partnership with the Nature Conservancy of Canada and the South-East Watershed Alliance, offered the Native Prairie Appreciation Festival for a second consecutive year in Elkwater, Alberta. Unfortunately, although there was a participating ranch and many PCF member organizations that sent employees to help lead events, the weather was very cold and rainy so the event had to be cancelled. It was determined after the event that the education committee would not organize another festival the following year. Time commitments and lack of leadership to organize and plan the event were factors in this decision. It was suggested that if the PCF feels strongly about holding a festival, that a separate committee be struck to deal exclusively with the planning and organization of the festival.

The education committee continues to look for venues to hand out PCF brochures and other materials. In January 2015, the PCF coordinator attended the Association of Alberta Agricultural Fieldmen conference in Edmonton with the PCF display, and PCAPs were put into approximately 550 participants packages. The coordinator also took the PCF materials and display to the Milk River Watershed Council's annual general meeting and the Oldman Watershed Council's groundwater study landowner meeting. Members travelling to other venues that are able to carry additional brochures and/or PCAPs can contact Katheryn at info@albertapcf.org.

PCAP 2016-2020 Working Group

PCF partnered with ABMI (Alberta Biodiversity Monitoring Institute) to address Strategy 1 in PCAP 2011-2015. This strategy is 'completing inventories and assessments of native biodiversity'. PCF has particular interest in the region we define as 'the high value landscape' (HVL), an area that represents large and mainly intact tracts of native grasslands. The 2011-2015 PCAP delineated the HVL at a coarse-filter regional scale by combining information on native vegetation, species at risk, ecosystem services, and environmentally significant areas in Alberta. This ABMI report is most relevant to outcome 1 (maintaining large native prairie and parkland landscapes) and evaluates the biodiversity intactness of species within the HVL and contrasts it with remaining lands under more intensive land use. The report also assesses the effect of human footprint and provides preliminary insight into the influences of land use, linear features, and landscape fragmentation on biodiversity as a whole. The report is due to be released in the fall of 2015.



The PCF board of directors held a meeting in June 2014 to start planning for PCAP 2016-2020. During that meeting, a review of the current PCAP (2011-2015) took place, and initial thoughts were put together about where to go with the next PCAP. A working group was formed and over the summer of 2014, an ESRD summer student, with the help of the coordinator and other PCF members, worked on pulling together information about the current PCAP — the status of each activity, costs involved, successes and challenges. The board took this information and came up with initial recommendations for the new PCAP. To garner PCF member feedback, a summary was sent to all PCF members that included the board's initial thoughts on the new PCAP, the summary of PCAP 2011-2015 activities, and a survey to see where members would like the PCF to focus activities for the next PCAP. A facilitated workshop was held in November, 2014 to help direct the PCAP 2016-2020 working group in moving forward with a draft. During this workshop, breakout sessions were organized according to the three outcomes, as these outcomes were widely accepted by the membership. The outcomes are: maintain large native prairie and parkland landscapes, conserve connecting corridors for biodiversity, and protect isolated habitats. Results from this workshop were taken to the PCF AGM in January, 2015 where members were put into groups to further discuss the concepts that came out of the workshop and were asked to provide feedback on them.

The goals of the survey, facilitated workshop, and AGM feedback was to help the PCAP working group come up with a skeletal framework containing overarching objectives/outcomes, common understanding of the key challenges and opportunities to help us move forward, discussion of priorities and categorization of these priorities, discussion of past successes and how to build off of them, align and link with the SSRP, NSRP, and RDRP and how we can work collaboratively with the Government of Alberta and the municipalities, to keep in mind transboundary issues, and consider PCFs role and links with private land holders. The goals were met and the PCAP working group continued to meet monthly to flesh out the details of activities that the PCF could partake in.

Wind Energy Initiative

Since 2012, the PCF has been working 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 municipal governments, and regulators; all of which have an interest in the development of wind farms in Alberta.

Miistakis provided the final report summarizing the discussions at the workshop to all participants and the PCF board of directors in 2015. The PCF board will review their involvement in the project and determine PCFs involvement in future phases of the project.



Grassland Vegetation Inventory

The PCF continued to be involved with the government of Alberta's regional plans by attending a workshop and submitting a one page document about the PCF and our recommendations for the North Saskatchewan Region.

Our recommendations for the North Saskatchewan Regional Plan included:

Maintain and/or improve existing native habitats in the North Saskatchewan region.

Connect ecologically significant native habitats through the use of reclamation/restoration techniques.

Support private land stewardship initiatives and pilot projects that focus on maintaining or increasing native biodiversity and native habitats.

In addition, the PCF was present, and provided input, at a workshop on the South Saskatchewan Region's Biodiversity Management Framework (BMF). The key goals for the BMF are to look at cumulative effects management, conservation of grasslands, connectivity, and invasive species by using a system of species and habitat indicators and their triggers based on tier levels. The document that we were working off of and commenting on can be found at: http://cpaws-southernalberta.org/upload/SSR_Phase2_BMF_Preview_Package_March_11_2015.pdf.

Workshop participants had concerns with where the BMF might go, and were able to voice these opinions at the workshop. Some concerns were that already existing data (from Cows and Fish, MULTISAR, and integrated watershed management plans, for example), were not being utilized. Other concerns were that the plan was not taking into account historical data, and is not interested in replicating past conditions. If current data show that biodiversity is low, how can we improve it if the baseline is already so low? The thought is that we need to go back as far as necessary for biodiversity to be sustained.

The next anticipated engagement in the BMP by stakeholders will be summer/fall 2015.

To date, there are 1113 townships of Grassland Vegetation Inventory (GVI) being delivered as requests for this dataset are received. The remaining 104 townships have been captured and delivered and are now going through the audit process. This should be completed by the end of the 2015-2016 fiscal year. GVI for a portion of the City of Calgary still needs to be completed.

For users of GVI that are not GIS specialists, included in the GVI delivery are four GVI views. Views are specialized representations of the GVI geodatabase that have been generated with a specific theme in mind. The GVI views are spatial with a standardized appearance. They are all de-normalized (flattened=single table) and sometimes recalculated from the original GVI data using the *LANDSCAPE_POLYGONS* and its associated *SITES* records. De-normalizing the GVI data renders the data easier to use for analysis. GVI views are also generated as shapefiles for use in non-ESRI software.

There are currently four GVI views:

VIEW_LENTIC_LOTIC = lentic/lotic view

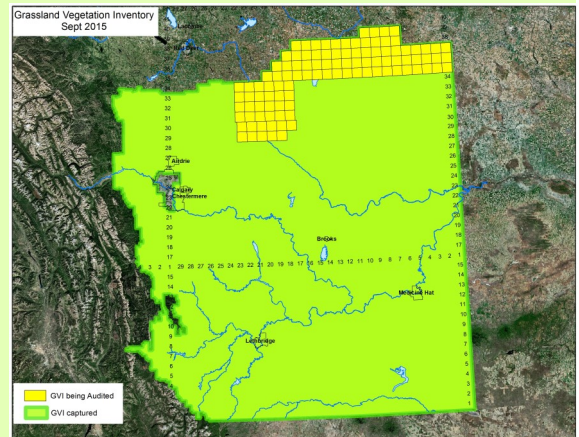
VIEW_NATIVE_PRAIRIE = native prairie view

VIEW_RANGELAND = rangeland view

VIEW_SITES = sites view

In the summer of 2014, a detailed assessment of GVI was conducted on the Waldron Ranch by a private contractor.

A total of 558 polygons occur on the ranch and were assessed using a combination of desktop evaluation, three-dimensional soft-copy analysis, field evaluation, and office compilation and finalization. Factors assessed included the quality of site type identification and percentages, attribution of land cover, reporting of trees and shrubs, and the overall delineation and mapping. A total of 217 (or 40%) of the polygons were field-checked. Results showed that there is a high degree of confidence in the original GVI mapping and classification, with almost 80% of site types (out of 1302 occurrences) requiring no change or slight change at most. Recommendations moving forward are to reclassify site types that had changes classified as moderate (12.7%), large (5.8%) and extreme (2.9%) , for a total of 21.4% of site types.



Transboundary Working Group

The rationale for starting a transboundary working group was to see whether there is an interest by people working in conservation in Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Montana to work together on common conservation goals on a larger scale. A contacts spreadsheet was put together so that some of the key players in prairie conservation could start to be contacted. The first step for this group is to determine if there is even an appetite, or interest, among the key players to move forward with a more formalized plan. To aid in this, the working group is aiming at holding a workshop in 2015 or 2016 with the key players to look at what has been done, what worked, what didn't work, look at different points of view and where the interest is, whether there is an appetite to do something on a larger scale, if there are missing pieces that need to be addressed, etc.

MULTISAR

The Landscapes Patterns project is intended to provide support to multiple organizations with an interest in achieving environmental outcomes on landscapes of varying scales in the north-west part of the North American continent in general, and in Alberta in particular. The project undertook a literature review of publications that show a relationship between human land use and land use patterns and the qualitative state of various parts of the environment. Most published research focuses on wildlife species and water quality.

The project was a collaboration amongst various funding partners: Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development (Project Sponsor), Oldman Watershed Council (Project Manager), Department of National Defence – Canadian Forces Base Suffield, Great Northern Landscape Conservation Cooperative, Plains and Prairie Potholes Landscape Conservation Cooperative, Prairie Conservation Forum, and the Crown Managers Partnership.

Deliverables included a report and annotated bibliography, a citations spreadsheet and a presentation. These can be seen on the PCF website.

Various map files were also produced as part of the project. The intent is to set up a spatial or keyword searchable function on the LC Map website and to allow website users to add citations to the citations and bibliographic database.

A second phase of the project will involve collaboration amongst the funding parties regarding ways in which landscape metrics can be used to support environmental outcomes in land use and conservation planning.



MULTISAR is a program focused on multi-species conservation at the landscape level that promotes stewardship through voluntary participation of landholders on both Crown and private lands. The program is a collaborative effort among landholders, the Alberta Conservation Association, Alberta Environment and Parks, and the Prairie Conservation Forum.



The Habitat Conservation Program includes the development of detailed Habitat Conservation Strategies (HCS) in the core project area of southern Alberta, as well as the more compact Species at Risk Conservation Plans (SARC Plans) delivered throughout the Grassland Natural Region. In 2014-2015, the Multi-species Conservation Value (MCV) model and map were updated to allow for improved assessment of areas most appropriate to focus stewardship activities at the landscape level. In addition, a new HCS was developed on two ranches totalling approximately 42,737 acres. Associated habitat enhancement projects were also developed to improve the habitat of key wildlife species. A number of habitat projects were developed on HCS properties. These varied from native prairie restoration, erection of artificial raptor nesting structures, water developments, wildlife-friendly fencing, shrub planting, tree protection, and anthropogenic feature mitigation.

SARC Plans and Beneficial Management Practice (BMP) Plans were developed on three private ranches in 2014. Two ranches received full SARC Plans totalling approximately 3,170 acres, while a BMP Plan was developed for one other ranch and totalled 640 acres. The BMP Plan was developed for a landowner who wanted to erect a hawk nesting pole on their property in order to attract ferruginous hawks as a method of Richardson's ground squirrel control.

The Education, Outreach and Awareness program was achieved primarily by MULTISAR staff that 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 during the Calgary Stampede that was viewed by over 104,000 people. Communication material included one issue of MULTISAR's newsletter. In total, MULTISAR made over 172 different contacts with more than 1129 people (and an additional 104,818 people at the Calgary Stampede) including landholders, the general public, academia, industry, media, government and non-government organizations and other sectors.

Under the Research and Monitoring Program, MULTISAR continued implementing its monitoring and evaluation protocol to assess the directionality of habitat improvements and management changes and the effectiveness of its habitat conservation strategies. A subsample of range and riparian sites and wildlife points were revisited on three MULTISAR HCS ranches, five years after their initial assessment, to determine if management recommendations had been implemented and their impact on species at risk habitat.

MULTISAR began compiling the wildlife observation and vegetation assessment data it has been accumulating since its first Habitat Conservation Strategy. It is hoped that inferences can be made between species at risk occurrences and habitat metrics and that Beneficial Management Practices recommendations can be improved to maximize habitat quality.

Financial Report

Statement of Operations and Net Assets (Deficiency)

March 31, 2015

Revenue	2015	2014
Grants	\$ 70,610	\$ 122,575
Casino	20,348	47,599
Administration—Multisar	7,692	7,692
Miscellaneous revenue	4,518	2,004
Donations	1,320	1,254
Interest Income	128	88
Conference	-	17,201
Calendar Income	-	25
Total	\$ 104,616	\$ 198,438

Expenses

Coordinator contract and expenses	\$ 47,214	\$ 45,487
Contract Service	24,050	1,500
Special Projects	13,561	7,975
Meeting expenses	5,192	3,534
Professional Fees	3,075	4,800
Insurance	1,743	1,710
Miscellaneous	1,383	-
Travel	1,174	390
Office	269	166
Donations	200	1,260
Casino Expense	-	4,033
Workers Compensation Board	-	537
Honorariums	-	286
Interest and Bank Charges	-	267
Printing Expense	-	23
Total	\$ 97,861	\$ 71,968

Excess (deficiency) of Revenue over Expenses	\$ 6,755	\$ 126,470
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Statement of Financial Position

March 31, 2015

Assets	2015	2014
Cash	\$ 260,765	\$ 257,201
Accounts receivable	34,605	22,297
GST receivable	16,156	10,377
Liabilities and Net Assets		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 31,659	\$ 5,421
Due to Multisar	13,812	4,197
Deferred Revenue	41,558	62,515
Net Assets		
Unrestricted Net Assets	\$ 64,497	\$ 57,742
Contingency Reserve	160,000	160,000
Total	\$ 311,526	\$ 289,875

Statement of Changes in Net Assets

March 31, 2015

	Unrestricted	Internally Restricted	Total 2015	Total 2014
Balance, beginning of year	\$ 57,742	\$ 160,000	\$ 217,742	\$ 91,272
Excess of Revenue Over Expenditures	\$ 6,755	—	\$ 6,755	126,470
Balance, end of year	\$ 64,497	\$ 160,000	\$ 224,497	\$ 217,742

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.

Sarah Elmeligi — Vice Chairperson. After working for 5 years with Southern Alberta's Environmental non-profits (CPAWS Southern Alberta and Yellowstone to Yukon), Sarah moved on to do a PhD through Central Queensland University in Australia. Her PhD focusses 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.

Brandy Downey — Board Member. Brandy is the Senior Species At Risk Biologist in Lethbridge for Alberta Environment and Parks, Fish and Wildlife Management. Brandy has been a member of the MULTISAR team since 2003 and currently assists AEP 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.

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.

Ian Dyson — Board Member. Ian has been affiliated with the PCF since its inception in 1989. He works for Alberta Environment and Parks on collaborative approaches to achieve desired environmental outcomes, with a current emphasis on large trans-boundary landscapes. 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, transboundary collaboration to sustain ecological health in the Rocky Mountains, and the conservation of prairie and parkland biodiversity.

Karen Raven — Board Member.

Marie Tremblay — Board Member.

Neal Wilson — Board Member.

Ross Owen — Board Member.

Norine Ambrose — Board Member.

Tracy Kupchenko — 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 2014-2015 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
Alberta Wilderness Association

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

Cheryl Fujikawa
Katgrass Enterprises
Gerald Blake
Member contributions to PCF meeting and tour meals

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 Association
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



PRAIRIE CONSERVATION FORUM

Alberta Prairie Conservation Forum

www.albertapcf.org