



Alberta Prairie Conservation Forum

April 1, 2016-March 31, 2017
Annual Report

ISBN No.: 978-0-9920848-5-1

(On-line)

October 2017

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 — Waterton Lakes National Park, Katheryn Taylor

This Page — Wetland at Antelope Creek Ranch, Katheryn Taylor

Table of Contents — Prairies at dawn, Katheryn Taylor

Page 2 — Antelope Creek Ranch tour, Waterton tour, Katheryn Taylor

Page 3 — Chestnut-Collared Longspur, Katheryn Taylor

Page 4 — Wind energy development, Jane Lancaster; Nosehill park in Calgary, Katheryn Taylor

Page 5 — Native prairie with Sweet Grass Hills, Katheryn Taylor

Page 7 — Barn swallow at Antelope Creek Ranch, Katheryn Taylor

Page 8 — Milk River, Katheryn Taylor

Page 9 — Meadowlark, Katheryn Taylor

Back Cover — Grasslands, Katheryn Taylor

<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.



Table of Contents

	Page
Message from the Chair	1
Message from the Coordinators	1
Highlights	
Overview of PCF Meetings and Tours	2
Transboundary Working Group	2
Education Committee	3
MULTISAR	3
PCAP Action Items	4,5
Financial Report	6
PCF Board of Directors, Coordinators	7
Recognition of PCF Supporters	8
PCF Member Organizations	9

~~~~~

*“The scenery of the prairie is striking and never fails to cause an exclamation of surprise. The extent of the prospect is exhilarating. The outline of the landscape is sloping and graceful. The verdure and the flowers are beautiful; the absence of shade, and consequent appearance of profusion of light, produce a gaiety which animates the beholder.”*

*Judge James Hall, 1839*

~~~~~


Message from the Chair

The Prairie Conservation Forum has had another terrific year of work and partnerships to support conservation and stewardship of native prairie and parkland in Alberta. You, our members, made that happen through your continued interest, support and expertise.

We are well underway on a number of priorities identified in our 2016-2020 Prairie Conservation Action plan. Through our partner members and collaborative partnerships we have been able to leverage their expertise and undertake projects very cost effectively and more comprehensively. PCF continues to be a voice for conservation as we provided input to, and feedback on, a variety of government initiatives affecting native grassland and parkland in Alberta. PCF and our initiatives were also highlighted through a poster presentation at the International Rangeland Congress July 16-22 in Saskatoon. Several PCF members were in attendance and our very capable coordinators developed and presented the poster.

The Renewable Energy Stakeholder workshop in Airdrie brought together representatives from the renewable energy industry, municipal and provincial government, regulators, the NGO community and agriculture to have robust discussions and exchange of information to inform beneficial management practices for renewable energy projects. Marilyn Neville of Gramineae Consulting was able to bring the feedback from all participants into the final report “Beneficial Management Practices for Renewable Energy Development” now posted on our website. This information will provide the foundation for further extension materials to support our partner members and their ongoing stewardship efforts.

O2 Planning and Design was contracted for our Connecting Corridors project to provide a comprehensive assessment of multiple temporal and spatial requirements for multiple species assemblages on native prairie and parkland to inform our conservation efforts and that of our member partners. That work is well underway with the final report and presentation to membership targeted for early 2017. The expertise of the committee membership was very helpful in developing this request for proposal.

The PCF summer meeting and tour was held at Antelope Creek Ranch to celebrate their 30 year anniversary. Board member Neal Wilson and his wife Shannon Burnard have been the managers of the ranch since 2005 and it was a real treat to share the celebration of this conservation partnership success story. It is a showcase of how ranching/grazing, irrigation, oil and gas and wildlife/habitat conservation can work together for the benefit of all.

Preliminary work has begun on the State of the Prairie project with member partners (Environment and Parks, Agriculture and Forestry, PCF board members as well as retired partner members), which will utilize a GIS based approach to quantifying the amount of native prairie and parkland and the rate of change over time (using both existing datasets and new approaches to ensure we have the most current information). We also intend to quantify the overall state of the remaining prairie and parkland. Having this information will help support efforts for stewardship and conservation of large tracts of native prairie and parkland. Stay tuned!

I would like to thank the board and our coordinators for their ongoing commitment to our forum and to all our members who support our work in so many ways. If you would like to participate or know more about our projects and initiatives, please connect with us as there is always room at our table. Your support and involvement is essential to the ongoing stewardship and conservation of grassland and parkland in Alberta.

Karen Raven, 2016-2017 Chair

Message from the Coordinators

This year, the PCF board of directors had a planning meeting to prioritize, based on responses from PCF members, action items from the 2016-2020 Prairie Conservation Action Plan (PCAP). From this meeting, three actions were chosen as priorities:

- 1) Outcome 1: Maintain Large Native Prairie and Parkland Habitats; Approach 3: Minimal Disturbance and Restoration of Industrial Footprint on Native Prairie. To address this, a contract was given to Gramineae Services to produce a paper on ‘Beneficial Management Practices for Renewable Energy Projects; Reducing the Footprint in Alberta’s Native Grassland, Parkland and Wetland Ecosystems’. This paper will be completed in the 2017-2018 fiscal year.
- 2) Outcome 2 and 3: Conserve Connecting Corridors for Biodiversity and Protect Isolated Native Habitats; Approach 1: Collaborate with research and practitioner parties to better understand structural and functional connectivity on regional and local landscapes and to define ‘isolated’ habitats/fragments. To begin work on this action, O2 Planning and Design was contracted to produce a paper on ‘Connecting Habitats in the Prairies of Alberta: What does this mean and how do we manage for it?’ This paper is also expected to be complete in the 2017-2018 fiscal year.
- 3) Outcome 1: Maintain Large Native Prairie and Parkland Habitats; Approach 2: Understanding of Change Analysis and Intactness. This will be a collaborative project between PCF members, with the majority of the work scheduled to be done in the 2017-2018 fiscal year.

Other committees that are still very active include the Education Committee, who are currently brainstorming ideas for Outcome 1, Approach 1 ‘coordination of a large media project to bring awareness of native landscapes to Albertan’s’, and the Transboundary Committee, who helped plan the 2nd successful transboundary workshop in Saskatchewan in January 2017 to address Outcome 2, Approach 4 ‘establish transboundary connections’. The coordinators have helped set up and manage contracts when and where needed, and have each taken a role on each of the committees.

We would like to thank everyone that has taken a role on these committees and also to everyone that volunteered for our Casino in Calgary in March 2017. Your contributions make a huge difference to prairie conservation!

Katheryn Taylor and Sasha Harriott

PCF Meetings and Tours

The PCF spring meeting took place in Brooks, where we had presentations from Mark Wonneck (Agriculture Canada) about prairie pollinators, Paul Jones (Alberta Conservation Association) about evaluating the use of modified fence sites by pronghorn, and Tom Goddard (Alberta Agriculture and Forestry) about climate change mitigation and adaptation. The tour took place at Antelope Creek Ranch to celebrate their 30th Anniversary and to highlight how ranching, irrigation, oil and gas, and wildlife interests can co-exist in a sustainable manner.



The PCF fall meeting and tour took place in Waterton, with presentations from Waterton staff about some of the projects they are working on, Marie Tremblay (Nature Conservancy of Canada) about NCC's Waterton Park Front projects, and Andrew Jakes (University of Montana) about connectivity in wildlife conservation and management, using pronghorn and fencing as a case study. For the tour, we visited some of the project sites that Waterton had talked about in their presentation, including rough fescue reclamation sites, invasive weed control areas, and controlled burn areas. We then left the park to see some of NCC's Waterton Park Front projects, one of which included the Marsh South Grassbank Pilot Project.



Our Annual General Meeting took place in Lethbridge at the Lethbridge College. 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 discussion about renewable energy and change analysis. Presentations were from Tim Romanow (Milk River Watershed Council Canada), Shannon Frank (the Oldman Watershed Council), Perry Stein (City of Lethbridge) about urban grasslands and planning, Coreen Putman (City of Lethbridge) about the Helen Schuler Nature Centre's grassland education and awareness programs, and Brandy Downey (Alberta Environment and Parks) about urban wildlife issues.

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

Transboundary Working Group

The PCF identified the need for transboundary collaboration between Alberta, Saskatchewan and Montana with a focus on large landscape conservation in the grasslands natural region. A Transboundary Grasslands Committee was struck over the summer of 2015 led by Ian Dyson. The committee reached out to partners in Alberta, Saskatchewan and Montana for representatives to join the committee with a goal of organizing a workshop that would bring a focused group of organizations to discuss large landscape conservation, current initiatives and priorities, successes, challenges and gaps from each jurisdiction.

The committee met via many conference calls to craft an action packed workshop agenda. The workshop was held in Elkwater, Alberta on January 19-20, 2016. There were 46 participants with good representation from all three jurisdictions. The agenda consisted of:

- expert panels discussing jurisdictional and environmental boundaries and a panel consisting of representatives from each jurisdiction who gave presentations on initiatives that are taking place in their respective areas;
- a breakout session that had workshop participants fully engaged in discussing and sharing opportunities, successes and short-falls;
- evening social, including dinner and a keynote on Holistic Approaches to Large Landscape Conservation;
- a second breakout session that had participants identifying and mapping the policy, program and context related to their grassland conservation priorities; and
- participants worked small working groups to identify transboundary issues that are not currently being addressed and most opportunistic areas for collaboration and strategies for overcoming obstacles.

In closing the participants were asked to identify what success would look like if some of the ideas from the workshop were advanced; suggestions included addressing conservation gaps and providing support to existing initiatives. In addition to identified outcomes the participants also came up with a list of outputs including: establishing a Core Team and clearly articulating a vision and goal.

Individuals stepped forward at the workshop to volunteer to serve on the Core Team to continue with the momentum generated from the workshop. The Core Team has held regular conference calls with the objective of planning a second workshop and continuing to work towards the outcomes and outputs indicated at the workshop. More detailed information about the Transboundary Grasslands Workshop can be found on the PCF website: <http://www.albertapcf.org/grassland-events/transboundary>

Education & Communication Committee

The Deep Roots Videoconference continued to be delivered by Alberta Parks to students across Alberta in 2016-2017. The PCF sponsors up to 25 classes to receive the presentation (i.e. pay the teacher's fee of \$100 for the presentation), and all 25 of these sponsored presentations were used in the 2016-2017 school year. The total number of students within these classes was 599, with the majority of these students being in grade 4. One field trip bursary of \$500 was awarded to a Calgary school to participate in a field trip at Ann and Sandy Cross Conservation Centre.

The committee also began to explore options and brainstorm for a large media project, which is an action item in the 2016-2020 PCAP under Outcome 1: Maintain Large Native Prairie and Parkland Landscapes. This project will likely not commence until 2018-2019 so as to allow time for other PCF initiatives to be completed. Any members interested in this project are encouraged to contact info@albertapcf.org, as we are always looking for engaged and active membership on this committee.

1,000 Alberta Grasslands Event brochures were printed and distributed to Nature Centers in Alberta and to Chinook tourism for the spring/summer/fall of 2017. PCF brochures and PCAPs were taken to the Calgary Stampede MULTISAR booth, where more than 100,000 people attend events.

MULTISAR

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. 2016 marked the first year in an expansion of the program and the addition of multiple new project management and funding partners. The program is a collaborative effort among landholders, the Alberta Conservation Association, Alberta Environment and Parks, the Prairie Conservation Forum, Canadian Cattlemen's Association, Alberta Beef Producers, and the Canadian Round Table for Sustainable Beef.

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 2016 the core project area was expanded to included areas throughout the South Saskatchewan Basin. In 2016-2017, new HCS's were developed on five ranches totalling approximately 9,837 acres. Associated habitat enhancement projects were also developed to improve the habitat of key wildlife species. These varied from planting of native grass plugs, wildlife-friendly fencing, windbreaks, Japanese and smooth brome control, installation of a pasture pipeline, tree protection and portable watering unit use.



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 host a booth during the Calgary Stampede that was viewed by over 100,000 people. Communication material included one issue of MULTISAR's newsletter. In total, MULTISAR made over 141 different contacts with more than 1,669 people (and an additional 100,000 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 six MULTISAR HCS ranches (~67,800 acres), 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. 2017 will be focused on determining inferences between species at risk occurrences and habitat metrics and how Beneficial Management Practices recommendations can be improved to maximize habitat quality.

PCAP Action Items

Three PCF projects were initiated this year (although not completed this year) to address priority action items identified by the PCF membership in the 2016-2020 PCAP. These were:

- 1) Beneficial Management Practices for Renewable Energy Projects. This contract was awarded to Gramineae Services Inc. and addresses Outcome 1: Maintain Large Native Prairie and Parkland Habitats; Approach 3: Minimal Disturbance and Restoration of Industrial Footprint on Native Prairie. A stakeholder workshop, engaging everyone from industry to government to PCF members to other organizations with invested interest, was conducted in early February and was very successful at getting feedback into the proposed BMP's for renewable energy projects, as well as giving everyone present a clearer picture about what these industries currently do on the landscape. This paper will be completed in the 2017-2020 fiscal year.



The RFP deliverables for this project include:

- 1) Best Management Practices (BMP) Development (literature review (focussing on grasslands ecosystems for BMP's), update current principles for minimizing disturbance of native prairie, develop best management practices for minimizing impacts on native prairie and expand the document to include other renewable energy developments (such as solar), engage with the board through the coordinator for suggested documents to support this work
- 2) Review of alternate ideas for renewable energy development (literature review, provide examples from other countries that don't have a large land-base to support renewable energy 'farms').
- 3) Host a workshop with stakeholders to review the best management practices developed (summary of stakeholder workshop results provided to the PCF and incorporate feedback into final paper).
- 4) Final PCF occasional paper: Minimizing the impacts of Renewable Energy Development in the Grassland and Parkland Natural Regions of Alberta.

- 2) Connecting Habitats in the Prairies of Alberta: What does this mean and how do we manage for it? This contract was awarded to O2 Planning and Design and addresses Outcomes 2 and 3: Conserve Connecting Corridors for Biodiversity and Protect Isolated Native Habitats; Approach 1: Collaborate with research and practitioner parties to better understand structural and functional connectivity on regional and local landscapes and define 'isolated' habitats/fragments. This paper is also expected to be complete in the 2017-2018 fiscal year.



The RFP deliverables for this project include:

Using literature (namely syntheses pertaining to the North American Great Plains) and other existing sources of information specific to the Prairie and Parkland Natural Region (e.g. MULTISAR data sets, beneficial management practices, recovery strategies, etc.), and with a particular emphasis on grassland species, provide:

1. A summary of corridor theory as it relates to the Grassland and Parkland. List of resources used to complete this phase is required with submission of draft. Must address functional and structural connectivity at multiple temporal and spatial scales (what should we be trying to connect? Why is habitat connectivity important?)
2. A structured summary of key characteristics of connectivity for multiple taxonomic groups of conservation concern, at multiple scales. List of resources used to complete this phase is required with submission of draft. Incorporate existing and available maps, as appropriate for illustrative purposes. Taxonomic groups to consider: Plants and insects, amphibians and reptiles, grassland birds, raptors, waterfowl, large mammals, small mammals. For each taxonomic group, a thorough yet succinct explanation of the following elements is required, with an emphasis on use of Grassland and Parkland habitats:
 - a) General habitat requirements at different life stages or during different seasons (critical habitat patches that need to be connected and value of isolated habitat patches for critical life stages (e.g. staging areas for waterfowl)),
 - b) Movement patterns (dispersal within home ranges (seasonal, daily), access to, and use of, "isolated" patches),
 - c) Movement facilitators (habitat characteristics favourable for movement),
 - d) Movement inhibitors (absolute barriers to movement, partial barriers and habitat conditions that are not conducive to movement, mortality barriers (e.g. road kill)).
3. What does connectivity look like in the Grassland and Parkland of Alberta? Provide a synthesis of connectivity for these themes including: temporal and spatial, functional and structural, research gaps, and potential opportunities.

PCAP Action Items

- 3) Understanding of Change Analysis and Intactness. This will be a collaborative project between PCF members and addresses Outcome 1: Maintain Large Native Prairie and Parkland Habitats; Approach 2: Understanding of Change Analysis and Intactness. A committee was formed to oversee this project and initial thoughts were put together. The majority of the work, however, is scheduled to be done in the 2017-2018 fiscal year.

What is the PCF looking for? Given the different inventories, the different dates and scales and kinds of information that have been captured, how can we best synthesize and integrate what is known to date in a current State of the Prairie report that:

- 1) Presents best available data on the native grass prairie (Crown/deeded) remaining in each of the Grassland Natural Region sub regions.
- 2) Summarizes best available information about the Parkland Natural Region in general and the Central Parkland Natural Subregion in particular.
- 3) Includes change analyses (Regional/Sub- regional).
- 4) Identifies rates and trends of loss. Identifies what activities are causing the change. Identifies locations most stable and most at risk.
- 5) If possible, provides a spatially explicit summary of condition and fragmentation.

The project involves data analyses, synthesizing results from extant inventories, literature review and new analyses. Deliverables include:

- 1) A report laid-out, illustrated and formatted in a manner suitable for publication as an Occasional Paper, and
- 2) A PowerPoint presentation.

While different components of this exercise may be undertaken by different parties, it is essential this project proceed in a holistic and completely integrated manner.



Financial Report

Statement of Operations and Net Assets (Deficiency)

March 31, 2017

Revenue	2017	2016
Casino	\$ 56,418	\$ 43,085
Grants	35,000	40,000
Miscellaneous revenue	8,998	4,187
Administration—Multisar	7,692	7,692
Donations	280	316
Interest Income	123	132
Total	\$108,511	\$ 95,412
Expenses		
Coordinator contract and expenses	\$ 42,568	\$ 43,706
Special Projects	30,178	9,718
Donations	26,000	5,500
Meeting expenses	6,210	8,420
Professional Fees	2,700	3,716
Travel	2,320	1,870
Insurance	1,842	1,825
Office	1,016	661
Contract Service	-	7,273
Total	\$112,834	\$ 82,689
Excess (deficiency) of Revenue over Expenses	\$ 4,323	\$ 12,723

Statement of Financial Position

March 31, 2017

Assets	2017	2016
Cash	\$ 250,055	\$ 310,904
GST receivable	11,378	12,812
Liabilities and Net Assets		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 3,283	\$ 3,713
Due to Multisar	10,501	11,613
Deferred Revenue	14,752	71,170
Net Assets		
Unrestricted Net Assets	\$ 72,897	\$ 77,220
Contingency Reserve	160,000	160,000
Total	\$ 261,433	\$ 323,716

Statement of Changes in Net Assets

March 31, 2017

	Unrestricted	Internally Restricted	Total 2017	Total 2016
Balance, beginning of year	\$ 77,220	\$ 160,000	\$ 237,220	\$224,497
Excess of Revenue Over Expenditures	\$ 4,323	—	\$ 4,323	\$ 12,723
Balance, end of year	\$ 72,897	\$ 160,000	\$ 232,897	\$237,220

PCF Board of Directors

Karen Raven — Chair. Karen was raised on a ranch in the Southern Interior of BC where she gained her love of the land. Karen is the Manager of the Land Use Unit in the Environmental Stewardship Branch of Alberta Agriculture and Forestry. Her work focuses on support to Land Use Framework regional planning initiatives, ecosystem services, agricultural sustainability initiatives, conservation offsets, and biodiversity. Grassland conservation and stewardship on working landscapes are close to her heart and drive her involvement in the Prairie Conservation Forum.

Ron McNeil — Vice-Chair. 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.

Nolan Ball — Treasurer. Nolan is currently working as a Rangeland Agrologist in Public Land Management for the Special Areas and has been in this position for the past 3 years. Daily work focuses on helping manage 2.5 million acres of Public land that remains in native grassland and abandoned farmland that has reverted back to a native or modified condition. Prior to this position with the Special Areas, Nolan worked in oil & gas wellsite reclamation for 7 years as a consultant. Most of the work consisted of restoring disturbances from oil & gas production in native prairie environments. Nolan grew up in the Special Areas and moved back to the area following post secondary education in Environmental Sciences. He continues to be part of a family livestock business that ranches on a mixture of tame pastures and native rangeland.

Ian Dyson — Board Member. Ian has been affiliated with the PCF since its inception in 1989. He retired from Alberta Environment and Parks in July 2017, but is sustaining volunteer work with several partnerships. His interest is in collaborative approaches to achieve desired environmental outcomes. His professional experience deals with integrated resource management, water management and regional sustainable development plans in Alberta and he has helped build and sustain multi-stakeholder partnerships dealing with approaches to address environmental cumulative effects such as water quality in the Oldman River Basin, trans-boundary collaboration to sustain ecological health in the Rocky Mountains, and the conservation of prairie and parkland biodiversity.

Marie Tremblay — Board Member. Marie is a conservation scientist who has been helping to conserve Alberta's natural ecosystems for over 20 years in a variety of capacities. Previous experience includes facilitating status assessments of species at risk throughout western Canada for Parks Canada and overseeing the Nature Conservancy of Canada's conservation program in Alberta. Marie is particularly interested in evidence-based conservation focused on multi-stakeholder collaboration, knowledge-sharing, and continual learning and improvement. She has been involved with the PCF as a board member since 2014.

Neal Wilson — Board Member. Antelope Creek Ranch.

Ross Owen — Board Member. Eastern Irrigation District.

Norine Ambrose — Board Member. Cows and Fish.

Brad Downey — Board Member. Alberta Conservation Association.

Monique Wilkinson — Board Member. AltaLink Management Ltd.

Robert Oakley — Board Member. Alberta Environment and Parks, Public Lands.



PCF Coordinators

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. She is currently one of the coordinators for the MULTISAR program. 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 is currently the Secretariat for the Crown Managers Partnership. She is the mother of 4 children and enjoys living in the beautiful Crowsnest Pass. Sasha has been working with the PCF since 2008.

Recognition of PCF Supporters

Funding and support is critical for on the ground action towards prairie and parkland conservation, as well for maintaining the capacity of the PCF coordinators. Funding is also used for printing, meeting venues and meals, transportation and other operational expenses. We would like to thank our funding partners of 2016-2017 for their commitment to prairie and parkland conservation as without them, we wouldn't be the society we are today.

Alberta Environment and Parks (grants for PCF and MULTISAR)
MULTISAR
Environment Canada

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

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 and Forestry
Alberta Energy Regulators
Alberta Environment and Parks
Canadian Forces Base, Suffield (Department of National Defence)
Canadian Wildlife Service, Environment Canada
City of Lethbridge, Helen Schuler Nature Centre
Historic Resources Management Branch, ACT
Municipal District of Taber
Special Areas Board
Waterton Lakes National Park (Parks Canada)

Non-Government Organizations/Companies

AJM Environmental Inc.
Alberta Biodiversity Monitoring Institute
Alberta Conservation Association
Alberta Native Plant Council
Alberta Wilderness Association
AltaLink
Ann and Sandy Cross Conservation Area
Antelope Creek Ranch
Battle River Watershed Alliance
Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society (Calgary/Banff Chapter)
Cows and Fish — Alberta Riparian Habitat Management Society
Decisive Edge
Ducks Unlimited Canada
Eastern Irrigation District
Foothills Restoration Forum
Glenbow Ranch Park Foundation
LandWise Inc.
Lethbridge Naturalists Society
Matrix Solutions Inc.
Milk River Watershed Council



Miistakis Institute
Native Roofs
Nature Alberta
Nature Conservancy of Canada
Nature Saskatchewan
Oldman Watershed Council
Operation Grasslands Community, Alberta Fish and Game Association
Pekisko Group
Red Deer River Watershed Alliance
Round Rock Ranching
Salmtec
Southern Alberta Land Trust Society
Special Areas Advisory Council
Suncor Energy
Tatonga Inc.
TERA Environmental Consultants, a CH2M Hill Company
University of Calgary
Vermilion River Watershed Alliance
Waterton Biosphere Reserve Association



Alberta Prairie Conservation Forum

www.albertapcf.org