



PRAIRIE CONSERVATION FORUM



# Alberta Prairie Conservation Forum

## 2011 Annual Report

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**(On-line)**

**February 2012**

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Page 2 — School Field Trip, Sasha Harriott  
Page 3 — Ferruginous Hawk, Gordon Court  
Page 3 — Pronghorn, Maria Didkowsky  
Page 5 — PCF Field Trips (Suffield and Wainwright), Sasha Harriott  
Page 7 — PCF Field Trip (Suffield), Sasha Harriott  
Page 8 & 9 — Sunset near Manyberries, Maria Didkowsky  
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# 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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*'When one tugs at a single thing in nature, one finds it attached to the rest of the world.'*

*John Muir (1838-1914)*

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## *Message from the Chair*

The past year has been memorable in many respects for the Prairie Conservation Forum. First and foremost, 2011 started with the endorsement of the new five year Prairie Conservation Action Plan (PCAP) by our membership. This is the fourth Alberta PCAP and it represents a shift toward a new plan format that includes three long term outcomes and strategies that will be led and implemented by the Prairie Conservation Forum (PCF). This new direction requires a concerted effort of the membership, Board of Directors and new partnerships with other organizations.

This new challenge has been met competently and enthusiastically as will become apparent as you read this report. Under the leadership of the Board of Directors and the responsive, timely contributions of our Coordinators, Sasha and Katheryn, the PCF has started to implement the new PCAP. We've partnered with the Foothills Restoration Forum to help define guidelines for minimizing the surface disturbance on native prairie from wind energy development. A new PCF task group has been established and has initiated the planning and organization that will be necessary to host the tenth Prairie Conservation and Endangered Species Conference in March, 2013 in Red Deer, Alberta. The GVI Awareness task group has developed support materials and will facilitate workshops in 2013 to promote the use and application of the Grassland Vegetation Inventory, with the kind support of a number of partner organizations. In addition to these tasks, the PCF continued to support the awareness and stewardship of Albertans through the Education & Communication Committee and MULTISAR. These are only a few examples of some of the activities that have arisen from the new PCAP and are described in more detail in this report.

The PCF has also maintained its traditional connection with prairie and parkland Alberta. In June, we were hosted by staff of CFB Suffield for our spring meeting and field trip. We moved north from the dry mixedgrass prairie to Wainwright and the central parkland for the fall meeting. Again, we were fortunate to visit the Wainwright Ecological Reserve with the support of staff from Sustainable Resource Development and Tourism, Parks and Recreation. These meetings and field trips provide an invaluable learning and networking experience amongst the diverse membership of the PCF. Most importantly, the field trips help remind all of us of why we remain committed to working with all Albertans to secure the biological diversity of prairie and parkland ecosystems.

In closing, I want to acknowledge and thank four Board members who are stepping down at the end of 2011. Dug Major, Vern McNeely, Don Watson and Marilyn Neville have provided leadership, balance and commitment to the PCF over many years. We will miss their substantial contributions to the Board but we also know they will continue to support the PCF as active members, as time and circumstances permit. I would also like to thank all the organizations and individuals who provided financial support and time to advance the vision and outcomes of the PCAP. Without your support, the work of the PCF would not be possible. Thank you.

Bill Dolan, 2011 Chair

## *Message from the Coordinators*

We would first like to thank all of the people who have taken time out of their regular positions to sit on the many PCF committees and help to achieve the many actions set out in the new Prairie Conservation Action Plan. Without these individuals there would be no 'action' in the Prairie Conservation Action Plan.

Our coordinator family grew in 2011, with Katheryn delivering twin baby boys, Thomas and Zachary, on July 14<sup>th</sup>. Needless to say, our coordinator roles shifted a little, with Katheryn reducing the number of hours spent working for the PCF, and Sasha taking on a bit more to ensure that PCF operations continued uninterrupted.

A reduction in hours meant time had to be more strategically focused, with less time spent on PCF committees. The coordinator role as chairperson on the Education and Communications committee was passed on to Brad Tucker with Alberta Tourism, Parks and Recreation, Dinosaur Provincial Park. However, the coordinator continues to be a member of the committee, providing logistical and secretarial support where needed.

The coordinators spent most of their time planning for the general meetings, keeping up communications with the membership and continuing the administration of the MultiSAR program. New coordinator roles in 2011 included chairing and organizing volunteers for the 2012 casino fundraiser in Calgary and financial administration of the PCF.

We look forward to working with everyone in 2012 and congratulate everyone on a successful 2011!

Katheryn Taylor and Sasha Harriott





## Education & Communication Committee

- The Alberta Biodiversity Monitoring Institute (ABMI) implemented a rigorous monitoring program in southern Alberta in 2011. This included field inventories of 58 terrestrial, 67 wetland, and 72 winter sites located throughout the grassland and parkland regions. We released our report Status of Biodiversity in the South Saskatchewan Planning Region (SSPR), which summarizes our findings in the SSPR from 2007-2010. This report profiles the status of human development, species and habitat, and provides baseline conditions for future trend monitoring in Alberta's grasslands.
- Operation Grassland Community (OGC) works with more than 300 landholders to secure and enhance habitat for Species at Risk. In 2011, OGC worked with 22 new landholder members, protecting > 40,340 acres of native grassland; completed 11 Species At Risk Conservation (SARC) Plans (MULTISAR collaboration - includes landholder objectives, pasture-specific management strategies, maps); worked with 34 members to evaluate/update existing Beneficial Management Plans (original plans developed 2005-2007); completed 6 habitat enhancement projects for Burrowing Owls; and installed 4 artificial nesting platforms for Ferruginous Hawks.
- Over the past year, SALTS has accepted two new conservation easements in the Rock Creek area near Lundbreck, each encompassing a half section of land. We have also completed a baseline study (range management, wildlife, pre and post-contact history) of the Pekisko Creek Valley west of Highway 22. Both of the easements encompass high quality wildlife habitat and a significant measure of native grassland. As the largest Alberta-based land trust, we continue our work to protect native fescue grasslands and associated woodlands and riparian zones throughout southern Alberta.



The Education and Communications Committee had a very successful 2011. The committee was able to make considerable progress on the long awaited web broadcast presentation on grasslands that will focus initially on educating and bringing youth a grasslands experience without leaving the classroom. The presentation, titled "Deep Roots: Exploring Alberta's Grassland" is in the final editing stages and the committee hopes that we will have our first live broadcast in the spring of 2012. A big thanks goes out to Justin McKeown with Parks Canada and Heidi Eijgel with Alberta Tourism Parks and Recreation for bringing the presentation to its final stage.

The committee partnered again with the Helen Schuler Nature Center in the spring of 2011 on another grasslands fieldtrip that took 18 students from the Livingstone School in Lundbreck on a grasslands adventure. The students took part in a two-day excursion with the first day bringing them into the river valley in Lethbridge where they learned about ecosystems and living landscapes. On day two the students traveled to the Waterton Park Front. On both days the students participated in many activities that gave them opportunities to experience and learn about the grasslands as well as listen to experts from Cows and Fish, Helen Schuler Nature Center and MultiSAR. Many thanks to the Helen Schuler Nature Center and all of the PCF partners who helped in making this a successful event.

There were a few changes made to the committee in 2011. Brad Tucker from Alberta Tourism, Parks and Recreation - Dinosaur Provincial Park, took over the chair position and Leta Pezderic rejoined the committee after coming back from her maternity leave. Thank you to all of the committee members, your dedication and efforts are what make the committee successful.

*Committee Members: Sasha Harriott, Brad Tucker, Justin McKeown, Leta Pezderic, Linda Cerney, Coreen Putman*



## Wind Energy Initiative

In Spring 2010 the Foothills Restoration Forum, with support from the Prairie Conservation Forum, started the project to define guidelines for minimizing surface disturbance of native prairie from wind energy development. In May 2011 three reports were completed and provided to the three dozen participants in the collaborative process and also were posted on the websites of FRF and PCF. The reports are:

1. *Recommended Principles and Guidelines for Minimizing Disturbance of Native Prairie from Wind Energy Development* (May 2011)
2. *Wind Energy Development in Alberta: Issues and Gaps Regarding the Environmental Regulatory Framework* (May 2011)
3. *Wind Energy Development in Alberta: Suggestions for Beneficial Management Practices* (April 2011)

The results of this collaborative effort are informing staff in Alberta Sustainable Resource Development – Fish and Wildlife in updating the *Alberta Wildlife Guidelines for Wind Energy Projects*. The results also guided participation by FRF and PCF in a consultation meeting on wind-power generation regulatory permitting hosted by the Alberta Utilities Commission on December 12-13, 2011.

Suggestions for further work on wind energy and native prairie include:

- a multi-criteria assessment for wind power placement at a regional and municipal scale;
- comprehensive definition of beneficial management practices to minimize surface disturbance and enhance restoration; and
- extending guidelines to energy transmission projects.

# MULTISAR

- 2011 was an exciting year for the Ann & Sandy Cross Conservation Area (ASCCA). We welcomed a new CEO, Greg Shyba, who brought vast experience to the role. This year we also launched our new website, with more interactive functionality, including photo uploading, blogs, and a news feed. We had another successful year in our Conservation Education Programs, where over 4,800 youth and adults participated in our hands-on nature and conservation programming. Over 2,800 hikers enjoyed the scenic trails at the ASCCA this year, and we had 60 volunteers helping us accomplish it all.
- Alberta Wilderness Association continued to focus its efforts on preservation of remaining native prairie in Alberta, particularly on public land. Recommendations were developed for improved procedures in public land sales to prevent native grasslands being lost. The plight of the province's sage-grouse was also high on AWA's agenda. Just 13 males were recorded on leks in Alberta in 2011, and the need for emergency measures to protect remaining sage-grouse habitat is paramount. AWA took an active role in developing recommendations for the minimization of wind energy development impacts on remaining native prairie.
- The Helen Schuler Nature Centre is Lethbridge's urban nature centre, situated on a 200 acre wildlife sanctuary of cottonwood forest floodplain and coulee slopes. In 2011, the Nature Centre featured hands-on interactive exhibits titled "Ecosystems Interactions" that explored topics of biodiversity and species at risk and "Gnarly By Nature" which looked at the unique cottonwood forest of the Oldman River Valley. Over 30,000 visitors took in the many programs and services offered at the Centre including an interactive interpretive theatre production titled "Turfs Up" which focused on increasing audiences awareness and appreciation of grasslands.

The PCF was instrumental again this past year in administering the 2011-2012 Alberta Sustainable Resource Development grant and facilitating the delivery of the MULTISAR project in collaboration with the Alberta Conservation Association and with Alberta Fish and Wildlife and Alberta Lands Divisions. As part of the core MULTISAR program, Habitat Conservation Strategies (HCS) were developed on five properties in the Milk River Basin totalling 17,500 acres. MULTISAR partnered with Alberta Tourism, Parks and Recreation for the development of one of these HCSs on approximately 2000 acres of land grazed within Writing-on-Stone Provincial Park. New for 2011 was the evaluation of the first HCS completed in 2004 by MULTISAR on a 60,000 acre ranch in the Milk River Basin. This evaluation involved re-assessing a subset of the wildlife and range components of the ranch to determine if the strategy was progressing toward its goals or if adaptive management was required. Habitat enhancement projects were also developed on some of the 22 HCSs (256,000 acres) completed by MULTISAR since 2002. These included conversion of 640 acres of marginal cropland to native grass, construction of wildlife-friendly fencing, development of an upland watering system, planting of native shrubs (chokecherry, thorny buffaloberry, silver sagebrush) and fencing of trees. Monitoring of previous projects continued to ensure progress in habitat enhancement.



More compact *beneficial management practices* (BMPs)-oriented Species at Risk Conservation Plans (SARC Plans) were completed for 12 properties (8239 acres) this past year in southern Alberta. MULTISAR also promoted SARC Plans through various advertisements in media of southern Alberta.

Through its education, outreach and awareness program, MULTISAR gave six presentations to landowners and interest groups, two school programs to students and set up a display at three events. MULTISAR was also a co-organizer of the 2011 Southern Alberta Grazing School for Women. In addition, two newsletters were produced along with other media communications. Between April 1<sup>st</sup> and December 31<sup>st</sup>, 301 direct contacts were made, reaching out 955 people and involving 278 staff-hours. MULTISAR is preparing for an important milestone in 2012 as it will be 10 years old. Check [multisar.ca](http://multisar.ca) for more information about the program and for upcoming 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary events or items.

## Website Committee

The website committee spent considerable time going through the old website and moving material over to the new website, as well as going through the design and layout of the new website with the website designer. The new website went live in early 2012. Thank you to Suncor and Cenovus for giving funding to the PCF for the new website. [www.albertapcf.org](http://www.albertapcf.org).

*Website Committee Members: Susan Skinner, Katheryn Taylor, Ian Dyson*



# Grassland Vegetation Inventory

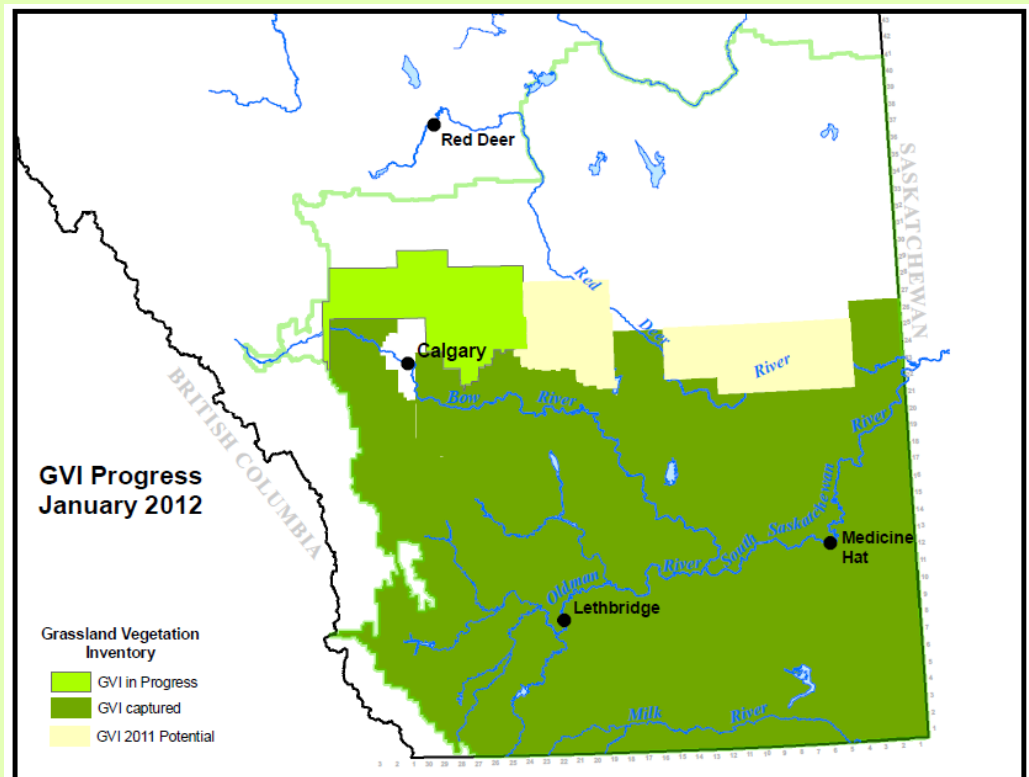
- Alberta Native Plant Council (ANPC) facilitated a project to define principles and guidelines for minimizing the disturbance of native prairie from wind energy development. Reports on the results were provided to over 40 participants, including government agencies responsible for planning, approval and regulation of wind energy projects. ANPC participated in a consultation on wind-power generation regulatory permitting by AUC in December 2011. ANPC also worked with Alberta Wilderness Association and Nature Alberta in preparing a document to promote discussion and support for improvements in regulation, policy and procedures regarding sale and acquisition of public land. ANPC continues to monitor land use in the Rumsey Natural Area and to promote development of a management plan. ANPC contributed to the PCF by participating in PCF committees, including the GVI and website committees, and through a financial contribution to the PCF coordinator position.

- The Foothills Restoration Forum (FRF) hosted 2 information sessions and field tours in 2011. One tour was for Lethbridge College Environmental Science and Reclamation Program students, and one was for local reclamation and construction contractors. FRF also provided key note speakers at Guest Lecture Series, Environmental Reclamation Technician Program at Medicine Hat College; hosted Range Health Assessment Training for Industry; and continued to work on the wind energy initiative for minimizing disturbance of native prairie from wind energy development. The FRF technical advisory committee evaluated the progress made to date with the research prospectus and drafted plans to go forward. FRF continued to develop and expand the Information Portal on the FRF website.

The 2011 year was another active and productive one for the Grassland Vegetation Inventory project with the Prairie Conservation Forum. At the AGM in Okotoks, members were introduced to a new GVI Awareness Program to be implemented by the GVI Awareness Committee, and over the past year, a number of products have been completed. Although the timeline for completion will be shifted to March 2012, the Committee was active in developing materials, reviewing products, and applying for external funding. Highlights are listed below:

- Completed a PCF membership survey at the start of the awareness program.
- Completed 6 out of the 9 GVI user category presentations and posters (to be posted on the website early 2012). They include: What is GVI, Range Management/Conservation Planning, Predevelopment/Reclamation Planning, Land-use Framework, Wildlife Habitat Modeling, and Wildlife Surveys.
- Funding applied for and received from Environment Canada.
- Two workshops planned for Watershed Planning and Advisory Councils in south/central Alberta planned for February 2012.
- The development of nine GVI user stories highlighting specific examples of how people have used GVI for modelling and wildlife/landscape management (2012 completion).

At an operational level, the project hopes to have some 853 townships completed once all of the production activities from this year are accounted for (see map). This represents roughly two thirds of the GVI production area. Funding for the program this year (2011/2012) was provided by Alberta Sustainable Resource Development, Alberta Environment and Water, Special Areas Board and Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development. A total of about \$565,000 has been contributed, but does not include stereo imagery and orthoimagery purchased by Alberta Sustainable Resource Development.





# Grassland Vegetation Inventory Continued...

One of the issues the PCF membership has recognized is accessibility to the information. Through further research and review, the GVI Inventory has gone from being stored as a personal geodatabase on a computer, to being stored in a corporate spatial repository. This adds the ability for date stamping, updated and edited data, and improves delivery of the product. When a request for GVI is made, delivery is normally by FTP transfer of all available GVI in Geodatabase and shapefile formats, each in geographic and 10TM\_offset projections. Metadata and the GVI Specifications are also included. The Province also updated the GVI Internet Mapping Framework to provide some alternative views of the GVI geodatabase. Included are views related to native prairie, wetlands and riparian areas.

Recognizing the strategic importance of this type of management tool, Alberta Sustainable Development has recently approved a business case that will link GVI, which is now managed as a project, to other vegetation mapping projects like AVI (Alberta Vegetation Inventory – detailed forest cover mapping) and PLVI (Primary Land Vegetation Inventory – a land cover mapping program like GVI but applicable to forested landscapes as well). The intent is to deliver vegetation inventories through a comprehensive program basis with a dedicated line item in Alberta Sustainable Resource Development's budget. The vision is that as GVI is completed with an updating function, financial resources will be shifted to PLVI production to fill critical gaps in vegetation land cover data in Central Parkland Natural Region. Within the provincial program, key data elements will be integrated including digital imagery, base features hydro and access, along with vegetation cover mapping.

If you are interested in utilizing GVI information, contact the Resource Information Management Branch Data Distribution ([SRD.Data@gov.ab.ca](mailto:SRD.Data@gov.ab.ca)) or check out the information on the websites <http://cns1.env.gov.ab.ca/rdd/> and <http://www.albertapcf.org/>.

**GVI Committee 2011** – Barry Adams (Alberta Sustainable Resource Development), Oriano Castelli (Alberta Sustainable Resource Development), Dug Major (Special Areas Board), Jordon Christianson (Special Areas Board), Cheryl Bradley (Alberta Native Plant Council), Sheree Obbagy (Alberta Environment and Water), and Cheryl Dash (Alberta Environment and Water).

**Thank you** to our GVI funders: Environment Canada, Special Areas Board, Alberta Sustainable Resource Development, Oldman Watershed Council, Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development and Alberta Environment and Water.

## PCF Participates on Provincial Steering Committee

Early in 2011, the Alberta Prairie Conservation Forum was asked to participate on a Government of Alberta Steering Committee to guide the development and implementation of GVI. Don Watson and Bill Dolan have provided the PCF perspective to this committee over the past year. This unique opportunity recognizes the role the PCF has played in the continuing improvement and implementation of GVI as a modeling and wildlife/landscape management tool. Ron McNeil is the new representative on this committee for 2012.



# *Financial Report*

## **Statement of Operations and Net Assets (Deficiency)**

December 31, 2011

<b>Balance forward</b>	<b>\$104,702.00</b>
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### **Revenue**

Grants	\$ 84,658.00	
Donations	\$ 6,717.00	
Miscellaneous revenue	\$ 152.00	
Interest Income	\$ 46.00	
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$ 91,573.00</b>

### **Expenditures**

Meeting Expenses	\$ 3,006.00	
Coordinator Contract and Expenses	\$ 52,113.00	
Printing Expenses	\$ 5,253.00	
Office and Administration	\$ 3,775.00	
Workers Compensation Board	\$ 845.00	
Contract Services	\$ 1,726.00	
Professional Fees	\$ 2,961.00	
Insurance Expense	\$ 1,633.00	
Bank/Interest Expense	\$ 150.00	
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$ 71,462.00</b>

<b>Excess of Revenue over expenses</b>	<b>\$ 20,111.00</b>
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## **Statement of Financial Position**

December 31, 2011

### **Assets**

Cash	\$ 104,702.00
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### **Liabilities and Net Assets**

Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ - -
Deferred Revenue	\$ 13,684.00

### **Net Assets**

Unrestricted Net Assets	\$ 91,018.00
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## **Statement of Changes in Net Assets**

December 31, 2011

Net Assets, beginning of year	\$ 70,907.00
Excess of Revenue Over Expenditures	\$ 20,111.00
Net Assets, end of year	\$ 91,018.00



# PCF Board of Directors

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

**Dana Blouin — Vice Chairperson.** Dana Blouin is Manager of Science and Conservation Support for the Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) in the grasslands of Alberta. Dana is a Professional Biologist and has worked in the prairie grasslands for several years from Manitoba to Alberta, and has been an active member of the Alberta PCF for 8 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.



**Marilyn Neville — Treasurer.** Marilyn Neville is a Reclamation Specialist whose extensive career has been focused on native prairie and parkland reclamation, restoration and stewardship initiatives. She has contributed to numerous guidelines and publications based on her extensive field experience. She is one of the founding members of the Foothills Restoration Forum and currently is the program coordinator. She and her husband live in the Willow Valley, raising sheep and enjoying the wonders of life in the shadow of the Livingstone Range. 2010 was her first year as board member and treasurer.

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

**Brandy Downey — Board Member.** Brandy is the Senior Species At Risk Biologist in Lethbridge for Alberta Sustainable Resource Development Fish and Wildlife Division. Brandy has been a member of the MULTISAR team since 2003 and currently assists ASRD 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. 2011 was her first year as a member of the PCF board.

**Susan Skinner — Board Member.** Susan was the Program Co-Manager with Operation Grassland Community, a non-profit program of the Alberta Fish and Game Association promoting sustainable stewardship activities to benefit prairie species at risk until November 2011. Susan was born in Whitehorse, Yukon, grew up in B.C.'s Okanagan Valley and currently resides in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. She received her MSc. in wildlife conservation from the University of Saskatchewan in 2004. Susan's post graduate career includes several years as a wildlife technician with Environment Canada, working on various grassland songbird projects in both SK and AB. Susan joined the PCF in 2009.

**Dug Major — Board Member.** Since his retirement from the Public Service, Dug has kept occupied as a Project Adviser to both the Special Areas Board and Ducks Unlimited. Both agencies share an interest in land and water conservation. Given his experience and enthusiasm for landscape conservation, Dug is enjoying working with the regional community to further the mutual needs in integrating land and water use. The SAB and DU have quite a history working together in this arid region and Dug finds it quite rewarding to be involved in a partnership arrangement to maintain the water and wetland values that contribute to both ranching and wildlife well being.

**Vern McNeely — Board Member.** Individual.

## Staff

**Sasha Harriott — Coordinator.** Sasha started out her career in the environmental field as a forest fire fighter. From there she joined the Cows and Fish Program and traveled across Alberta conducting riparian inventories, engaging landowners and promoting healthy riparian areas. She worked with AMEC Earth and Environmental as a Safety and Logistics Coordinator and has been working with the PCF since 2008 and is also the Secretariat for the Crown Managers Partnership. She is the mother of 3 children and enjoys living in the beautiful Crowsnest Pass.

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



## *Recognition of PCF Supporters*

Funding support is very important to the PCF to keep our coordinators working and provide money for printing costs, meetings, projects, etc. We would like to thank our funding partners of 2011 as without them, we wouldn't be the society we are today.

Alberta Environment  
Alberta Tourism, Parks and Recreation  
Alberta Sustainable Resource Development  
Environment Canada  
Alberta Native Plant Council  
Ducks Unlimited Canada  
Parks Canada  
Special Areas Board  
Helen Schuler Nature Centre, City of Lethbridge  
LandWise Inc.  
Oldman Watershed Council  
Cenovus Energy  
Operation Grassland Community

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

Cheryl Dash  
Brian Laing

We would also like to thank:

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

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

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

We will inevitably have failed to identify the generous contributions of some individuals and organizations in this section. We apologize for any oversight on our part.



# *PCF Member Organizations*



Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development  
Alberta Biodiversity Monitoring Institute  
Alberta Conservation Association  
Alberta Economic Development  
Alberta Energy  
Alberta Infrastructure and Transportation  
Alberta Environment and Water  
Alberta Fish and Game Association  
Alberta Native Plant Council  
Alberta Sustainable Resource Development  
Alberta Tourism, Parks and Recreation  
Alberta Wilderness Association  
Ann and Sandy Cross Conservation Area  
Antelope Creek Ranch  
Canadian Forces Base — Suffield (Department of National Defence)  
Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society (Calgary/Banff Chapter)  
Canadian Wildlife Service  
Cenovus Energy  
City of Calgary  
City of Lethbridge, Helen Schuler Nature Centre  
Cows and Fish — Alberta Riparian Habitat Management Society  
Ducks Unlimited Canada  
Eastern Irrigation District  
Edmonton and Area Land Trust  
Federation of Alberta Naturalists  
Foothills Restoration Forum  
Grasslands Naturalists  
LandWise Inc.  
Lethbridge Naturalists Society  
Milk River Watershed Council  
National Energy Board (Canada)  
Natural Resources Conservation Board  
Nature Conservancy of Canada  
Oldman Watershed Council  
Operation Grasslands Community  
Pekisko Group  
Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration (Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada)  
Red Deer River Watershed Alliance  
Royal Alberta Museum (Alberta Community Development)  
Society for Range Management  
Southern Alberta Applied Research Association  
Southern Alberta Land Trust Society  
Special Areas Advisory Council  
Special Areas Board  
Suncor Energy  
Tatonga Inc.  
TERA Environmental Consultants  
University of Alberta  
University of Calgary  
University of Lethbridge  
Waterton Lakes National Park (Parks Canada)  
Western Sky Land Trust Society  
Wildlife Society, Alberta Chapter



# Alberta Prairie Conservation Forum

[www.albertapcf.org](http://www.albertapcf.org)