

TRANSBOUNDARY GRASSLANDS PARTNERSHIP

Term of Reference

This Terms of Reference is to ensure clarity of the role and alignment of expectations for the Transboundary Grasslands Partnership.

Vision

Working collaboratively to sustain healthy transboundary native biodiversity and the supporting grassland ecosystems and communities.

Mission

The Transboundary Grasslands Partnership (TGP) is a voluntary collaborative partnership working towards native grasslands conservation. The TGP will provide a forum where transboundary jurisdictions and sectors work collaboratively to conserve and enhance native grassland landscapes. The partnership will operate under three GUIDING PRINCIPLES:

- **Enhance**- the health and function of native grasslands, by building on successes and challenges and awareness amongst the partners,
- **Create**- working towards collaborative actions that address gaps in transboundary native grassland conservation, and
- **Connect**- acknowledging and improving transboundary communications, relationship building, education, cooperation and messaging between partners, Tribes and First Nations and interested organizations and individuals.

This Transboundary Grasslands Partnership acknowledges existing successful transboundary initiatives, will work collaboratively and provide connections to these initiatives, while enhancing native grassland conservation. The TGP will be respectful of all participants' opinions and contributions to furthering conservation stewardship activities across borders and acknowledge that no one agency can work at them alone.

Core Team Role and Commitment

The Core Team is comprised of government, non-government, Tribes and First Nations, partnerships, landholder/rancher, other agencies and individuals from Alberta, Saskatchewan and Montana who chose to invest in the partnership and commit time to collaborate on activities for native grasslands conservation.

The core team will:

- Meet monthly by online meetings or telephone conference calls, and if determined by consensus, when safe to do so (re: Covid 19 protocols), in-person meeting(s) will occur based on best location for members to gather. Note: ad hoc team meetings will be scheduled by the current chair on an as needed basis.

- Communicate by email or telephone call, where actions or information are required to be shared with the entire core team outside of regular monthly meetings.
- Oversee development of an annual work plan and provide direction for the year.
- Oversee the annual TGP workshop.
- Report to partnership members on the activities of the core team, information sharing and updates as necessary.
- Encourage agencies to collaborate on initiatives impacting or of interest, providing more support for existing initiatives and potential funding leveraging to complete these initiatives.
- Oversee projects initiated by this partnership to ensure success, accountability and reporting (esp. where funds have been allocated).
- Participate with implementation (where practical and feasible) on large landscape native grasslands conservation initiatives where they align with our vision and mission.

The Chair will be appointed annually and can serve for a maximum of two years with in-kind secretariat support where available.

A minimum of two members from each jurisdiction and sectoral representation are requested to serve on the core team. Additional member requests to participate on the core team will not be denied. However, a balance of representation with each jurisdiction and sector will be overseen.

Members

The TGP will be open to any agency, Tribes, First Nations, landowner, rancher or interested individuals in native grassland conservation and ecosystems.

The role of the partnership will:

- provide and promote educational and information sharing;
- encourage wider networking and collaboration on initiatives;
- support the core team members and the entire partnership through extended communications with their own members and other non-partner agencies and individuals;
- attend the annual workshop (when possible) to continue dialogue, understanding of issues and agencies and input into future actions of the TGP.

Deliverables

The deliverables of the Transboundary Grasslands Partnership include the following:

- An annual workshop will be rotationally held in one of the three jurisdictions: Alberta, Saskatchewan and Montana.
- A work plan will be developed by the core team, which meets each of the jurisdictions and sectoral objectives for participating in collaborative actions to meet native grassland conservation goals.

- Information gathering, sharing and networking within internal departments/agencies on emerging actions from and for the partnership to deliver/pursue.

Funding

Funding for the most part will be in-kind support from each of the participating agencies and individuals. Grants and other potential funding opportunities will be pursued to help deliver initiatives determined within the annual work plan.

The annual workshops will be mainly funded with agency/ Tribes/First Nations, landowners/ranchers or individuals able to contribute to the delivery of the event, in-kind donations and a reasonable registration fee for participants (cover facility rental and meals). Additional funding opportunities will also be pursued. Any revenue made from the workshop will be used as 'seed monies' to help organize the following year's workshop.

Decision/Recommendation Process

- Decisions/ recommendations will be made by consensus. In the event that a decision cannot be reached, the decision will be voted on (one vote per jurisdiction and sector). In the event of a tie, the core team chair (or vice chair/acting chair) will determine the final vote based on best direction for the TGP.
- Quorum consists of the current chair (vice chair/acting chair) and three other members, with at least one voice from each jurisdiction.

Review of the Terms of Reference

This Terms of Reference will be reviewed and updated on an annual basis and documented versions and date will be identified.

Additional Information

Additional information on the Transboundary Grasslands Partnership can be found at:

<http://www.albertapcf.org/grassland-events/transboundary-grasslands>

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