



Alberta Prairie Conservation Forum

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Annual Report

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Photography credits:

Front Cover — Dinosaur Provincial Park; Katheryn Taylor

This Page — Rangeland; Katheryn Taylor

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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.

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*"The prairie is one of those plainly visible things that you can't photograph. No camera lens can take in a big enough piece of it. The prairie landscape embraces the whole of the sky. Any undistorted image is too flat to represent the impression of immersion that is central to being on the prairie. The experience is a kind of baptism."*

*~Paul Gruchow, Journal of a Prairie Year~*

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Message from the Chair

The Prairie Conservation Forum (PCF) had an exciting year in 2019 highlighted by the 30th anniversary of the PCF's existence.

Since establishing a broad-tent partnership in 1989 to develop a vision and guiding principles for the conservation of native grasslands and its endangered habitat, the PCF has collaboratively developed and executed six 5 year blueprints of prairie conservation action plans to achieve outcomes and actions of prairie conservation.

The success of this organization lies within the committed individuals and organizations. The PCF is led by a strong representation of diverse board members. At the January AGM held in Aldersyde I accepted the nomination to chair the board of directors for the next 2 years. Getting to work alongside deep-thoughted individuals has been a rewarding experience for myself. I would like to thank the board members that have continued their term with the PCF - Christyann Olson, Brian Peers, Robert Oakley, Karen Raven, Brandy Downey, Monique Wilkinson, Tracy Kupchenko, Chelsea Kraus, Neal Wilson and Ian Dyson. We were disappointed to see four board members leave as their terms ended - Norine Ambrose, Jeff Forsyth, Terra Simieritsch, and Ron McNeil. Stepping up to fill these roles for a new term is Lindsay Dunbar and Peg Strankman. I look forward to working with the board of directors to guide the PCF through the final two years of the current Prairie Conservation Action Plan.

The PCF continues to operate under the vision of a three-pillar approach to prairie conservation, achieving outcomes together that are greater than any single member organization could do on their own. This is accomplished through dedicated working groups that strategically divide the larger goal into small steps. I invite you to read through the activities that each PCF committee has achieved in 2019 in this annual report.

Committee work has continued to accomplish actions set out in the 2016-2020 PCAP and started to develop new ideas for the 2021-2025 PCAP. In 2019 a working committee was struck to review past actions within the three-pillar outcomes. Over the course of 2019-2020, the committee will be developing the next PCAP to lead the PCF vision to maintain the success we have accomplished and exploring new opportunities in prairie conservation.

Nolan Ball
PCF Chair, 2019-2020

Message from the Coordinators

The PCF coordinators, Sasha Harriott and Katheryn Taylor, continue to be involved in all of the PCF committees and working groups, providing an array of support including project management, logistical help, leadership and administrative support where needed. This past year two new committees were struck – the PCAP committee, to start reviewing action items from the 2016-2020 PCAP to assess their success and start working on the next PCAP (2021-2025); and the Prairie Conservation and Endangered Species Conference (PCESC) Committee, to begin formulating a plan for delivery of the conference in 2023. The State of the Prairie Committee, Connecting Corridors Committee, Range Stewardship Committee, Education and Communication Committee, and Transboundary Committee continued working towards their goals, which you can read about in this report. The Renewable Energy Committee was disbanded as all their goals were accomplished in previous years, including the production of the report “Beneficial Management Practices for Renewable Energy Projects; Reducing the Footprint in Alberta’s Native Grassland, Parkland and Wetland Ecosystems”, and the production of two information sheets, one of which was geared towards landholders and highlights the benefits of native prairie, and the other of which was geared towards the renewable energy industry and highlights best management practices.

In addition to providing logistical and administrative support, the Coordinators maintain communications, set up both board meetings and general meetings, maintain financial records and coordinate volunteers for casino fundraising events. This year was an important year for the PCF as it was the PCF's 30-year anniversary. The June meeting was held in Twin Butte, where we were able to celebrate with many of our members and enjoy a buffet style dinner together while enjoying a recap of the history of the PCF by Ian Dyson and a hoop dance performance by a local indigenous dancer.

We would like to thank all of the volunteers that sit on the working groups and committees for your time and efforts in helping to conserve native prairie and parkland in Alberta. You are the success of the PCF!

Katheryn Taylor and Sasha Harriott
PCF Coordinators

PCF Meetings and Tours

The PCF spring meeting and 30 year celebration took place in Twin Butte, AB, on June 13, 2019. Kim Pearson provided a presentation on ecological renewal following the 2017 Kenow Wildfire in Waterton. To celebrate 30 years as an organization, a buffet dinner was provided to the membership and Ian Dyson gave a slideshow celebrating 30 years of Alberta prairie and parkland conservation, highlighting many of the achievements of the PCF. Entertainment following dinner was provided by champion women's hoop dancer, Sandra LaMouche, from the Piikani Nation. On June 14, 2019, the membership was able to head into Waterton to see first-hand some of the effects of the Kenow wildfire. The tour ended in Pincher Creek with a presentation by TransAlta on their wind energy projects in the area.

The PCF fall meeting took place at the Handhills Lake Clubhouse in Hanna, AB, on September 25, 2019. The meeting focussed on updates by the State of the Prairie Committee and Prairie Conservation Action Plan (PCAP) committee. Carolyn Gaudet, with the Saskatchewan PCAP, gave a presentation about the work the SK PCAP is currently doing and where they see themselves going in the next few years. The tour was held on September 26, 2019, with many points of interest visited, including stopping at the Arthur Peak cabin in Dorothy, circus coulee, Thumb Hill (Handhills Ecological Reserve), and Fish Lake.

The PCF Annual General Meeting took place at the Crescent Point Regional Field House in Aldersyde, AB, on January 16, 2020. At this meeting, all of the PCF working committees provided updates, we held elections to the PCF Board of Directors, and did a financial review for members. There was also a workshop for the Connecting Corridors Committee to get feedback from the membership on next steps, and a presentation given by Christyann Olson and Grace Wark, with Alberta Wilderness Association, on some of the history of AWA as well as current projects they are focussing on.

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 5th Transboundary Grasslands Partnership Workshop was hosted in Regina, Saskatchewan in conjunction with Saskatchewan Prairie Conservation Action Plan's Native Prairie Restoration and Reclamation Workshop. The workshop took place on February 25-27, 2020 and attracted over 250 participants from western Canada and northern United States.

Highlights from the workshop include: project updates from Alberta, Saskatchewan and Montana and progress status on the grasslands mapping tool. Presentations were given by Paul Jones on pronghorn crossings, Trent Bollinger on chronic wasting disease, greater sage grouse recovery and habitat restoration, policy instruments and conservation incentives by Jeremy Pittman, as well as an overview of the Great Plains Conservation Network and Jurisdictional Conservation Planning along with many more great presentations on the second day of the workshop. For more information, visit the transboundary section on the PCF website. All of these updates and presentations were given in between easy breakout conversations and good food with amazing people.

Overall, the workshop was a great success and continues to meet the partnership goals of providing a forum where transboundary jurisdictions and sectors can communicate and work collaboratively to conserve and enhance native grassland landscapes.

The core Transboundary Grasslands Partnership Team, led by Carolyn Gaudet (Saskatchewan Prairie Conservation Action Plan) and Tim Romanow (Milk River Watershed Council Canada) met via conference call to share monthly updates and maintain communications throughout the year.

The 6th workshop will take place in Montana in 2021.

Prairie Conservation Action Plan

The 2021-2025 PCAP committee was struck in 2019. The goals of the committee were to document accomplishments in the current PCAP, look for gaps and action items that were not yet completed, frame an outline for the new PCAP for board review, and start drafting the PCAP 2021-2025. PCF Working Committees were asked to go through the 2016-2020 PCAP and let the PCAP committee know what they would like to see as action items in the new PCAP. The membership was presented with a draft of the new PCAP action items at the AGM in January, 2020 and were given the opportunity to suggest edits to the PCAP. A draft of the PCAP was completed by the end of March, 2020. The 2021-2025 PCAP retains the same format as the previous PCAP, with three large outcomes of: maintaining large blocks of native prairie and parkland landscapes, conserving connecting corridors for biodiversity, and protecting isolated native habitats. Education approaches also remain in the new PCAP as an integral component of the three outcomes.

Change Analysis: State of the Prairie

The State of the Prairie technical report outlining the process, assumptions, GIS analyses and results was completed in the summer of 2019 and posted to the PCF website along with some supporting summary documents for readers. This technical report provides information on how the state of the prairie results were obtained, and will provide the background information for an occasional paper on the state of the prairie planned for fall/winter 2020/2021. An outline for the occasional paper was completed in the winter of 2020 and will delve into the state of Alberta's prairies in a non-technical manner and provide explanations on why results may be as they are and what the implications are for prairie conservation. Plans are also underway to start a social media campaign later in 2020 to inform people about the state of Alberta's prairies.

The State of the Prairie committee provided suggested action items to the PCAP 2021-2025 committee. These actions include:

- Produce an occasional paper to discuss and provide context on the results of the state of the prairie project.
- Inform and share results of state of the prairie through development of extension materials and events.
- Further analysis into the quality and condition of the remaining native prairie (anthropogenic changes, invasive species or other identified factors).
- Pursue as appropriate the recommendations outlined within the State of the Prairie Technical Report for further analysis.

Connecting Corridors

The Connecting Corridors Committee geared up again in March 2019 with a focus on identifying key areas that need to be better connected at a functional and structural level throughout Alberta's Grasslands and Parkland Natural Regions.

A working session of connectivity experts was held on October 29, 2019 in Airdrie, Alberta. This one-day workshop aimed to identify specific locations that need to stay connected or be better connected (considering both structural and functional connectivity) to maximize benefits for multiple native species, multiple species types (groups) and multiple habitat types. Twenty-four experts attended, including representatives from Alberta, Saskatchewan, Montana, Idaho, Kainai First Nation and the Blackfoot Tribe.

In addition, the committee held another working session with the PCF membership at the Annual General Meeting in Okotoks on January 16, 2020. This working session was designed to take the information gathered from the expert working session in October 2019 to help determine what actions the PCF can accomplish. Some of the actions the PCF will be incorporating into the next PCAP (2021-2025) will include:

- Identify significant major corridors for species reliant on native prairie.
- Conduct a pilot of fine-scale mapping and assessment of at least two corridors.
- For delineated corridors, identify relevant stakeholders and partnerships. Encourage and support corridor conservation networking and collaboration.
- Develop and target extension materials or practical guides on the importance of connectivity and connectivity retention. Target and tailor to landholder, municipal and industry audiences.
- Ensure current information related to corridor analysis, workshops or extension materials is posted on, or linked to and from, the PCF website.
- Provide input to government policy through engagement in regional planning and policy initiatives.
- Work with appropriate jurisdictions and stakeholders to put in place a corridor conservation/retention strategy for one major corridor.
- In cooperation with Montana and Saskatchewan, support the conservation of transboundary native prairie ecosystems through the Transboundary Grasslands Partnership collaboration.
- Continue to hold annual transboundary workshops rotating between Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Montana.



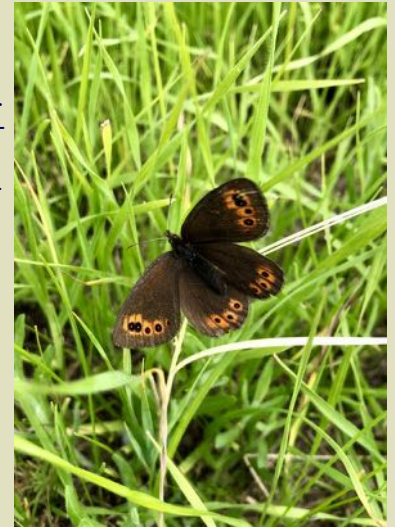
Alberta Range Stewardship Course

The 2nd Annual Alberta Range Stewardship Course was held at Buffalo, AB in the Special Areas No. 3 on July 30-31, 2019. The Steering Committee chose the location based on the theme of “Resiliency”. The regional location of the 2019 course was devastated by grassland wildfires in the late-fall of 2017 and experienced prolonged drought-like conditions that together challenge the ability of local producers to stay “resilient” in maintaining their livelihoods. Participants of the course came from as local as a few miles away to as far away as Nanton in the west and Edmonton in the north, showcasing the attraction of this 2-day course.

The local planning committee chose to bring together the three-pillar approach: ecological, economic, and social lessons in “Resiliency”. Some of the course highlights included:

- Barry Adams, retired Manager of the AEP Rangeland Resource Branch and developer of many of the range management tools in Alberta, spoke about lessons in range management. This presentation grounded the participants in why the principles & practices of range management are applied to ensure long-term resilience of the grassland resource.
- Rancher speaker, Brad Osadczuk of Jenner, AB gave an evening presentation of what resiliency means in his ranching operation. Brad outlined his approach to building a successful ranching business and attributed the management of his grassland as the core to maintaining a living in the cattle business.
- Field instruction included training in grassland health assessment, native plant identification, native plant community identification, stocking rate applications, management of recovering grasslands post wildfire, importance of adequate rest periods, and native species response to industrial disturbance including reclamation of native grasslands.

Arguably, the most beneficial aspect of the Alberta Range Stewardship Course is the ability for course participants to interact through hands-on learning throughout the 2-day course and contribute knowledge on personal or local experiences in range management for other participants to hear.



Feedback from the 2019 course will be reviewed by the steering committee and incorporated into the following year’s course to continue improvement to ensure course relevance to the participants.

Prairie Conservation and Endangered Species Conference

The core committee for the 2022 PCESC conference was struck in 2019. The committee developed a charter for the 2022 PCESC, outlined the roles and responsibilities of the various positions needed and started to fill them, looked at timelines to establish start and end dates for different pieces, started to look at potential themes for the conference, and made decisions on timing and location of the conference. A venue was chosen, however, in light of COVID and shut-downs occurring at the end of March, the decision was made to not sign any contracts with the venue at this time. The PCF board voted to postpone the conference until 2023, with a decision to go ahead with it or cancel it coming in 2021.

Education & Communication Committee

The Deep Roots Videoconference continued to be delivered by Alberta Parks to students across Alberta in 2019, however, due to staffing changes in Alberta Parks, only 10 presentations were delivered. The total number of students within these classes was 277, with classes ranging from grade 1 to grade 6. St. Augustine school from Calgary won the Deep Roots draw for a \$500 field trip bursary and was able to take their grade 7 class to Fish Creek Park on a field trip.

The PCF continued to support the University of Alberta Range team with a bursary of \$1,000 to attend the Society of Range Management Conference in the U.S.A. The PCF was also able to sponsor other educational events in Alberta including the Women’s Grazing School, Youth Range Days, Alberta’s Soils Tour, and the Grassland Restoration Forum’s annual meeting.

The PCF facebook page continues to operate and has around 2 posts per month. The most shared post for 2019-2020 was information and registration for the range stewardship course, reaching 966 people. Other popular posts on the Facebook page included a post about bees and what people can do to support them (620 people reached), carbon storage in the grasslands (526 people reached), xeriscaping (497 people reached), and a post to support Saskatchewan PCAP’s webinar series (446 people reached).

MULTISAR

MULTISAR is 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, the Prairie Conservation Forum, Cows and Fish, Canadian Cattlemen's Association, Alberta Beef Producers, the Canadian Round Table for Sustainable Beef, and Environment and Climate Change Canada.

The Habitat Conservation Program includes the development of detailed Habitat Conservation Strategies (HCS) in the Milk River and South Saskatchewan watersheds of southern Alberta, as well as the more compact Species at Risk Conservation Plans (SARC Plans) and Habitat Management Plans (HMP) delivered throughout the Grassland Natural Region.

In 2019-2020, a new HCS was developed on eight ranches totalling approximately 63,100 acres. MULTISAR also completed one HMP on 810 acres of land within our priority areas. Several habitat enhancement projects were developed to improve the habitat of key wildlife species on HCS and HMP properties. These varied from planting of native grass plugs, wildlife-friendly fencing, installation of ferruginous hawk (*Buteo regalis*) poles, tree protection, providing portable fencing units, fencing off wetlands and dugouts and providing alternate water.

The Education, Outreach, and Awareness program was achieved primarily by MULTISAR staff giving presentations and demonstration tours to landholders, 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. Communication material produced included one issue of MULTISAR's Grassland Gazette newsletter. In total, MULTISAR made over 160 different types of contacts with more than 4,000 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 three MULTISAR HCS ranches (52,375), five years after their initial assessment, to determine if management recommendations had been implemented and to monitor their impact on species at risk habitat. Roughly 25 habitat enhancement projects, on participating HCS ranches, were monitored in 2019 to determine if enhancements are achieving their objectives.

MULTISAR continues to compile wildlife observation and vegetation assessment data it has been accumulating since its first Habitat Conservation Strategy. MULTISAR also continues to promote Beneficial Management Practices recommendations to improve and maximize habitat quality for species at risk.



Financial Report

Statement of Operations and Net Assets (Deficiency)

March 31, 2020

Revenue	2020	2019
Casino	\$ 17,534	\$ 26,382
Alberta Environment and Parks Grant	10,000	10,000
Administration—Multisar	7,692	7,692
Special Areas Board	5,000	—
Nature Conservancy Canada	5,000	—
Range Stewardship Workshop	4,821	2,342
Donations	3,424	171
Interest Income	118	122
Transboundary Grasslands Workshop	—	9,187
Parks Canada Grant	—	5,000
Total	\$ 53,589	\$ 60,896
Expenses		
Coordinator contract and expenses	\$ 57,946	\$ 50,417
Special Projects	21,327	37,123
Meeting expenses	5,100	12,311
Professional Fees	3,024	2,993
Insurance	2,109	1,880
Office	1,971	744
Total	91,477	105,468
Excess (deficiency) of Revenue over Expenses	\$(37,888)	\$(44,572)

Statement of Financial Position

March 31, 2020

Assets	2020	2019
Cash	\$ 220,243	\$ 289,054
GST receivable	11,105	10,680
Liabilities and Net Assets		
Due to Multisar	\$ 9,791	\$ 20,805
Deferred Revenue	62,540	82,024
Net Assets		
Unrestricted Net Assets	\$ 9,017	\$ 36,905
Contingency Reserve	159,017	196,905
Total	\$ 231,348	\$ 299,734

Statement of Changes in Net Assets

March 31, 2020

	Unrestricted	Internally Restricted	Total 2020	Total 2019
Balance, beginning of year	\$ 36,905	\$ 160,000	\$ 196,905	\$241,477
Excess of Revenue Over Expenditures	\$ (37,888)	—	\$(37,888)	\$(44,572)
Balance, end of year	\$ 9,017	\$ 150,000	\$ 159,017	\$196,905



PCF Board of Directors

Nolan Ball — Chair. Nolan is currently working as a Rangeland Agrologist in Public Land Management for the Special Areas. 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.

Karen Raven — Past-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.

Neal Wilson — Vice-Chair. Neal Wilson grew up in southern Saskatchewan and attended the U of S receiving his degree in Agriculture in 1995. He worked for various ranches in Southern Saskatchewan and Manitoba. He then worked for the Prairie Conservation Action Plan, Saskatchewan Wetland Conservation Corporation and The Nature Conservancy of Canada working with landowners to develop grazing plans with the strategy of helping them conserve their native prairie. He has managed with Antelope Creek Ranch with his wife Shannon for the past 14 years.

Brian Peers — Treasurer. Brian Peers works for the M.D. of Taber in his role as the Director of Municipal Lands and Leases where he manages the municipalities' owned inventory of lands, primarily native prairie. Brian received his Bachelor of Science from the University of Montana in Wildlife Biology.

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 continues to have interest 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, transboundary 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 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.

Christyann Olson — Board Member. Christyann is the Executive Director for the Alberta Wilderness Association and is passionate about our society's responsibility to ensure the health and legacy of wilderness for generations to come. She takes every possible opportunity to enjoy Alberta's wilderness and share her enthusiasm with others. Although her roots are in the Crowsnest Pass, Christyann has lived in and explored much of Alberta including many of its wild places by foot, canoe, and occasionally by horse.

Chelsea Kraus — Board Member. Chelsea was raised on a mixed irrigation family farm near Taber, Alberta where she spent her formative years. When her family moved to farm in Saskatchewan, she attended the University of Saskatchewan and obtained her BSA in 2011. She is now working as an environmental scientist for Trace Associates Inc. in Lethbridge where her work primarily consists of reclaiming disturbances from oil & gas production across Alberta.

Tracy Kupchenko — Board Member. Tracy has spent the last 17 years working out of Medicine Hat, doing range management/land use/prairie conservation in one form or another. In her non-working time, she likes to do cattle work with her horses and volunteer at excellent functions such as the Youth Range Days and Range Stewardship courses. Tracy has been a PCF member for over 10 years, serving on various committees including Education, numerous PCESC organizing committees and is happy to be currently working alongside fantastic members of the PCF Board.

Robert Oakley — Board Member. Robert is a Rangeland Agrologist in Lethbridge for Alberta Environment and Parks. He grew up in the lake country of west central Alberta and SW Manitoba/NW Ontario, though he has built an appreciation for the prairies and grasslands through his work as a Rangeland Agrologist. He graduated from the University of Alberta in 2009 with a degree in Environmental and Conservation Sciences with a double major in Conservation Biology and Wildlife and Rangeland Resource Management. Though the grassland is now his home; Robert still enjoys the forests and lakes of the mountains and Canadian shield in his spare time.

Lindsye Dunbar — Board Member. Lindsye is the general manager of the Western Stock Growers' Association, a beef industry producer advocacy group with a focus on policy, land use and property rights. She is driven by her passion for the success and sustainability of the agriculture industry with a particular interest in leveraging the environmental benefits of agricultural systems. Two of her favourite things are logic and common sense. Lindsye has strong roots in both crop and livestock agriculture and holds a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture. Outside of working, she finds joy in spending time with her family in the outdoors and is an avid foodie who has yet to meet a caramel dessert she can refuse.

Peg Strankman — Board Member. Raised on a mixed cattle and grain operation in Special Areas, Alberta, Peg Strankman has worked toward landscape resilience in a variety of roles. She enjoys the challenge of communicating rural and urban values between the solitudes. Supporting initiatives bringing the value of ecological services and biodiversity to rural livestock producers domestically and internationally occupy her time.



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 2019-2020 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)
Special Areas Board
The Nature Conservancy of Canada (for the range stewardship course)
Eastern Irrigation District
Glenbow Ranch Park
City of Lethbridge
Alberta Wilderness Association

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

Ian Dyson
Linda Cerney

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 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 also worked with AMEC Earth and Environmental as a Safety and Logistics Coordinator. She is the mother of 4 children and enjoys living in the beautiful Crowsnest Pass. Sasha has been working with the PCF since 2008.

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

AECOM Canada Ltd.
AJM Environmental Inc.
Alberta Biodiversity Monitoring Institute
Alberta Conservation Association
Action for Agriculture
Agility Program, University of Lethbridge
Alberta Native Plant Council
Alberta Wilderness Association
AltaLink
Amec Foster Wheeler
Ann and Sandy Cross Conservation Area
Antelope Creek Ranch
Battle River Watershed Alliance
Boundary Creek Landowners Association
Calgary Zoo
Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society (Calgary/Banff Chapter)
Cows and Fish — Alberta Riparian Habitat Management Society
Decisive Edge
Ducks Unlimited Canada
Eastern Irrigation District
Environmental Strategies Inc.
Foothills Restoration Forum
Glenbow Ranch Park Foundation
Alberta Grazing Leaseholders Association

LandWise Inc.
Lethbridge Naturalists Society
Milk River Watershed Council
Millenium Land Ltd.
Miistakis Institute
Nature Alberta
Nature Conservancy of Canada
Oldman Watershed Council
Operation Grasslands Community, Alberta Fish and Game Association
Pekisko Group
Rangeland Conservation Service Ltd.
Red Deer River Watershed Alliance
Round Rock Ranching
Salmtec
Southern Alberta Land Trust Society
Special Areas Advisory Council
Sweetgrass Bison
TERA Environmental Consultants, a CH2M Hill Company
Trace Associates Inc.
University of Calgary
University of Lethbridge
Vermilion River Watershed Alliance
Waterton Biosphere Reserve Association
Western Stockgrowers Association



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