



**Alberta Prairie Conservation Forum Request for Proposals  
Submit to Katheryn Taylor – [info@albertapcf.org](mailto:info@albertapcf.org)**

**Mapping of isolated habitats in Alberta  
– Deadline midnight on December 20, 2022**

**Background:** The 2021-2025 Prairie Conservation Action Plan (PCAP) has identified three strategic or long-term environmental outcomes that must be achieved: 1) maintain large native landscapes, 2) conserve connecting corridors, and 3) protect isolated native habitats. This project is intended to address outcome 3, 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 and studied, and for stewardship to be promoted where required. Approach 1 in the PCAP, which was to define ‘isolated’ habitats/fragments, has already been undertaken for native prairie obligate species at risk in Alberta. Species on this list were prioritized and ranked and the few chosen will form the basis of PCAP approach 2: utilize existing GIS datasets held by PCF member organizations to confirm and determine locations and sizes of isolated habitat fragments.

Qualified applicants are invited to submit quotes for the isolated habitats project.

**Scope of Work and Deliverables:**

The PCF requires the services of a company, team or individual to develop a standardized framework for creation of digital map products that identify isolated habitats for priority species and create digital map products for between 2-4 species.

The digital products developed for this project must be able to integrate with the existing Prairie Conservation Forum searchable mapping tool (<https://connectivitymap.albertapcf.org/>). The products must be compatible with MAPBOX GL interface for web hosting (e.g., .shp).

All data sets used in the creation of the isolated habitat maps will be publicly available and free of charge or they will be datasets that partner organizations are willing to share free of charge.

The framework will be a summary report that includes a science based and generally accepted methodology for delineation of species’ habitat, fragment sizes, and isolation value as well as other insights and findings.

Priority species have been identified (Table 1) and the proponent will be able to select the species from this list. Proponents should identify how many species from Table 1 can be mapped given the allotted budget. Some of the species in the table below already have Resource Selection Function (RSF) models created for them, and these can be used to help determine what and where isolated habitats are within the Grassland/Parkland Natural Region of Alberta for those species. The methodology used to determine what constitutes an isolated habitat for the species chosen will be used to add additional species maps in the future.

Table 1 - Priority Species for Isolated Habitats Mapping

Group	Common Name	Scientific Name
<b>Birds</b>	Burrowing Owl*	<i>Athene cunicularia</i> *
	Chestnut-collared Longspur	<i>Calcarius ornatus</i>
	Greater Sage-grouse	<i>Centrocercus urophasianus</i>
	Mountain Plover	<i>Charadrius montanus</i>
	Piping Plover	<i>Charadrius melodus</i>
	Sage Thrasher	<i>Oreoscoptes montanus</i>
	Thick-billed Longspur (prev. McCown's)	<i>Rhynchophanes mccownii</i> (prev. <i>Calcarius mccownii</i> )
<b>Herptiles</b>	Eastern Yellow-bellied Racer	<i>Coluber constrictor flaviventris</i>
	Great Plains Toad*	<i>Anaxyrus cognatus</i> *
	Greater Short-horned Lizard*	<i>Phrynosoma hernandesi</i> *
	Northern Leopard Frog*	<i>Lithobates pipiens</i> *
	Plains Hog-nosed Snake	<i>Heterodon nasicu</i>
<b>Mammals</b>	Northern Long-eared Myotis	<i>Myotis septentrionalis</i>
	Ord's Kangaroo Rat	<i>Dipodomys ordii</i>
	Swift Fox*	<i>Vulpes velox</i> *
	Western Harvest Mouse	<i>Reithrodontomys megalotis</i>
	Western Small-footed Myotis	<i>Myotis ciliolabrum</i>

\*These species may have RSF maps already created for them. These can be utilized when mapping isolated habitats.

A preliminary literature review has been developed that has identified key sources for information for determination of species' habitat and isolation factors. This review is available to all applicants.

**Maximum Project Cost (including gst):** \$10,000.00, additional funding may be available for expansion of project scope.

**Proposed Timeline:**

Proposal Submission Deadline: December 20, 2022

Proposal Selection Deadline: December 23, 2022

Project Status Update: February 14, 2023

Final product submission: March 14, 2023

**Appendix 1** provides a list of resources that can be used for this project.

**Appendix 2** provides the process used by Alberta Prairie Conservation Forum in evaluating Requests for Proposals.

All RFP submissions must be sent via email to [info@albertapcf.org](mailto:info@albertapcf.org). All applicants will receive a confirmation email when their application has been received. Any questions from potential contractors can be directed to Katheryn at: [info@albertapcf.org](mailto:info@albertapcf.org).

**Appendix 1**

<https://www.albertapcf.org/isolated-habitats>

<https://www.albertapcf.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/Isolated-Habitats-Literature-Review-final-draft-formatted.pdf>

[http://multisar.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/MULTISAR-MCV-Report\\_Final.pdf](http://multisar.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/MULTISAR-MCV-Report_Final.pdf)

<https://www.alberta.ca/species-at-risk-general-resources.aspx>

## Appendix 2: Prairie Conservation Forum (PCF) Request for Proposal (RFP) Process

This document provides a Terms of Reference for potential PCF funding of projects by individuals or groups to support the PCF vision and are relevant to the current PCAP (2021 to 2025) Outcomes, Approaches and Actions.

1. **Request for Proposals:** Targeted calls for proposals will be issued periodically by the PCF Board for specific priorities as identified in the current PCAP. The board will ensure the deliverables are identified with associated completion and payment dates and consequences of non-delivery. The board will also identify the financial reporting requirements for grants and contracts. Contractors on specified larger projects will also be requested to provide a copy of their professional insurance.
2. The **criteria used to evaluate proposals** will be conducted by the PCF Board, or designates of the Board, and proposals will be merited based on the following components.
  - **Relevance to PCF:** Applicant proposals will address the specific requests in the PCF RFP call and is relevant to the RFP and/or PCAP Strategies, Outcomes, Approaches and Actions.
  - **Credibility of Applicant(s):** Identify the individuals and/or professional staff that will be doing the actual work and document their professional credentials, related expertise and experience. The applicants may be asked to identify and provide specific examples of previous related work.
  - **Methods and Workplan:** Identify and provide supporting evidence for the methodology being used.
  - **Cost:** Provide information on the project cost and for the individual components or tasks as identified in the workplan. Each workplan task and the overall project may be evaluated on the basis of time and resource management and in relation to the allocated budget.
3. **Further Information:** Once proposals to the RFP call are received, the PCF Board will review the applications/proposals based on the above criteria. Proposals will be evaluated based on the quality and should provide a well thought out document with applicable actions, a clear methodology and itemized deliverables that are achievable within the timelines identified in the RFP call.
  - Applicants that the board agrees to fund will be sent a letter or email indicating their successful application.
  - A contract will be prepared for signing between the successful applicant and the PCF outlining and confirming the deliverables, deadlines for delivery and payment, consequences for late or non-delivery as well as any related optional obligations.
  - All successful applicants will be notified by email. Some applicants may be asked to provide amendments such as clarification and upon receipt of an amended proposal, will be subject to re-evaluation by the PCF board.
  - In the event of a tie, identified applicants will be requested to provide an in-person or web/skype presentation to the board with a focus on particular project components for further consideration and to answer any questions.

- The applicant is responsible for the cost of submissions and presentations for the RFP and will not be reimbursed by the PCF.