



PRAIRIE CONSERVATION FORUM



Alberta Prairie Conservation Forum

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Annual Report

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Photography credits:

Front Cover — Badlands; Katheryn Taylor
This Page — Prairie in flower; Katheryn Taylor
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<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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*“And by experiencing prairie—over the four seasons, and at various times of day, in all weathers—you develop a heightened sense of awe and wonder that will spill over into every other area of your life”*

*~Cindy Crosby, The Tallgrass Prairie: An Introduction*

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Message from the Coordinators

The PCF coordinators, Sam Van Ham 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. Current committees include: The State of the Prairie Committee, Connecting Corridors Committee, Isolated Habitats Committee, Range Stewardship Committee, Deep Roots Educational Videoconference, PCAP committee, GVI committee, MULTISAR, and Transboundary Grasslands Partnership Committee. All of these committees have a summary associated with them in this report. In addition to these committees, the coordinators also took part in committees formed by other organizations. Katheryn sat on the logistics committee for the Prairie Conservation and Endangered Species Conference (PCEC) being hosted in Saskatoon in May 2026, and also sat on the Grasslands Coalition Committee, a committee formed by World Wildlife Federation to prepare materials for an educational campaign for the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists in 2026. Sam helped organize a Range Science Forum in Foremost in December 2025, also to gear up for the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists in 2026, where a follow-up to this forum is a tour of Onefour Research Ranch in June of 2026.

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. The PCF successfully held our casino in Calgary on April 5 and 6, 2025, where we brought in \$86,810.92. We want to thank everyone that volunteers at our casino's. This is a significant amount of money that the PCF can use towards our projects and without you, it wouldn't be the success it has been over the many years.

The PCF had two successful general meetings this year, with the June meeting held in Magrath with the tour at the McIntyre Ranch, and the January AGM held as a hybrid in-person and online meeting. Thank you to everyone that took time out of your schedules to attend these meetings—participation in these meetings really strengthens the forum's abilities to connect and collaborate with each other.

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 Sam Van Ham
PCF Coordinators



PCF Meetings and Tours

PCF's spring/fall meeting and tour was held on June 19, 2025 at the Magrath Community Center, with the tour held at the McIntyre Ranch. Laurie Hamilton (Zanshin Environmental Networks Inc), hired by the PCF to develop a business case for updating the GVI, presented her work to the membership and the membership had the opportunity to give updates on their own work. After some great discussion, members boarded a bus for a presentation and tour of a small portion of the McIntyre Ranch.

The Annual General Meeting was held as a hybrid meeting, with members in attendance at the Cavalry FC Regional Field House in Okotoks and online on January 22, 2026. We went through the financial update, board elections and PCF committee updates, and had presentations by Stefano Liccioli (Alberta Environment and Protected Areas) on Sage Grouse Translocations in Alberta, by Emily Holden (Alberta Biodiversity Monitoring Institute) about work that ABMI is currently involved in, and by Barry Irving on an Introduction to the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists and the Global Context. As always, members were given the opportunity to provide updates on work they are involved with in the grasslands.

The online meeting was recorded and can be found on the PCF website: <https://albertapcf.org/pcf-member-meetings>

Of mention, the PCF was also a partner in two Range Science Forums which were held leading up to the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists. The first one was held in Claresholm (where PCF was a financial partner) on November 13, 2025, and the second one was held in Foremost (where PCF was an organizer) on December 11, 2025. Over 75 people registered for the event in Foremost, however, due to poor winter weather conditions, about 55 people were in attendance. Topics included history of range management and research in Alberta, drought planning, post-wildfire management, precision ranching, heat stress and animal behavior, and annual brome grass control.



Alberta Range Stewardship Course

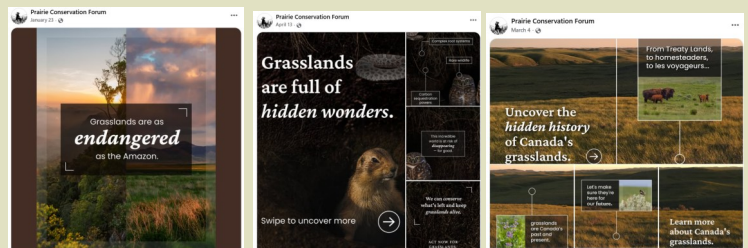
The PCF collaboratively delivers an annual Range Stewardship Course for ranchers and land stewards that is provincial in focus and local in delivery. Plans were in place for the committee to deliver a course in Peace River, Alberta but due to few local contacts and needing more time to determine what course components and topics will serve local ranchers best, the 2025 course was postponed. The course contains key range management principles and information that includes presentations and discussion around regional and local issues. Participants can look forward to a field portion of the course where they are led through range and riparian health assessments and focus on plant identification.

Grasslands Awareness Coalition

The Grasslands Awareness Coalition was formed by the Canadian Wildlife Federation, with partnering organizations and individuals from throughout Canada, to bring more awareness of Canada's grasslands to the general public for the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists. The PCF was one of the partnering organizations, with a coordinator attending monthly meetings throughout 2025 and into 2026. The Coalition put together a website (<https://canadassgrasslands.ca/>), a social media campaign, a social media advertising campaign, an iNaturalist project, a webinar series, and a prize pack giveaway to promote Canada's grasslands.



If you would like to know some of the statistics from this campaign, please contact info@albertapcf.org.



Change Analysis: State of the Prairie

The 'State of the Prairie' collaborative study reports on the current extent of native prairie and parkland and the change in native prairie cover in the Grassland and Parkland Natural Region over various scales to determine any changes or losses of native prairie over time and where they occur. The project area was summarized and evaluated by Grassland and Parkland Natural Regions, public/private lands, natural subregion, eco-districts as well as counties and other administrative areas such as military bases and First Nations. The first technical report, completed in September 2019, looked at data from 1990 and 2010. In 2024, the technical report was updated and revised using new and updated Agriculture and Agri-Foods Canada (AAFC) datasets. The updated datasets from AAFC were used for years 1990 and 2010 and the additional years of 2000 and 2020 were added into the data analysis. Bringing in additional years to the analyses allows us to look at the change in native cover over 4 decades: 1990, 2000, 2010, and 2020. In addition, the Peace River Parkland region was added into the analysis in early 2025. The final report was first released in December 2024, however, with the addition of the Peace River addendum, the final report was re-released in May 2025.

In the fall of 2025, letters were drafted and sent to the Chief Administration Officer (CAO) of each MD and County within the prairie and parkland regions of Alberta. Letters were personalized to each MD and County to show the results of the State of the Prairie Report for their area. In total, 40 personalized letters were sent, along with a copy of the State of the Prairie Report. One presentation was given about the results to Lacombe County.

Isolated Native Habitats Committee

The isolated habitats committee was struck in 2021 to directly address action items in the PCAP. The first action was a literature review that helped define what isolated habitats are and included a curated list of 65 species at risk in the Grassland Natural Region of Alberta that could be mapped for isolated habitats. This report was completed in 2022. In 2023, a framework was developed for mapping isolated habitats for specific species. The framework provides a standardization process to ensure that mapping projects are repeatable, robust and scientifically defensible, and provides detailed specifications for future mappers. Hand in hand with the mapping product, a species report template was designed to engage landowners and land users who are interested in learning about a specific species at risk and its habitat, especially if they can see that their land might be within an isolated habitat. These reports include a summary of the species, their habitat, and the mapping project approach and results, including species-specific definitions of habitat, isolating conditions, and barriers. The template also includes an action statement to promote native prairie habitat conservation and stewardship.



In the fall of 2025, PCF hired a consultant to conduct a literature review and environmental scan of existing valuation programs to address approach 3 in the PCAP: identify the value or values of isolated parcels. The scan and literature review included valuation systems that look at ecological goods and services, economic drivers, inherent value of native habitats and wildlife/plants/insects etc. that inhabit it, cultural and social values. Identifying these different values and valuation systems for different uses of native prairie land can expose areas where conflicts might arise if land management changes were to happen and where the greatest needs are for protection and stewardship of isolated native prairie habitats. This review looks at valuation of nature, including biodiversity and ecosystems, from a collective or societal perspective. In addition, this report provides some next steps for the PCF isolated habitats committee when developing a valuation process.

Transboundary Grasslands Partnership

The Transboundary Grasslands Partnership (TGP) is a voluntary collaborative partnership working towards native grasslands conservation. Priority areas for the partnership include: connecting people and groups to one another; collaborating to produce conservation outcomes; and communicating the importance of the TGP's conservation efforts to the broader grasslands conservation community.

The TGP is driven by a core team of committed individuals who meet quarterly to share information, maintain connections and collaborate on grassland conservation opportunities. The core team is comprised of members from Alberta, Montana and Saskatchewan and is currently led by Mindy Hockley-Anderson (TGP Committee Chairperson) with the Saskatchewan Stock Growers Foundation. The role of Chairperson is rotated every two years between the three jurisdictions. The main work item of the TGP is the annual workshop. The workshop rotates between the three TGP jurisdictions (Alberta, Saskatchewan and Montana). The most recent workshop was held November 5-6, 2025 in Milk River, Alberta and included optional pre- and post-workshop field tours of Writing on Stone Provincial Park and the Milk River Ridge. The title of the 2025 workshop was: *Innovation in a Changing World*; it included topics around treatment methods for treating invasive species, fungi to restore native prairies, co-existence with grizzly bears in southern Alberta and included a producer panel discussing different ranching experiences. There were 55 participants in attendance.

Deep Roots Educational Video Conference

Deep Roots was developed in 2011 as an educational videoconference for youth to educate them about the importance of grasslands. It aims at giving them a chance to experience the grasslands without having to leave the classroom. Pre- and post- presentation activities were developed for the teacher to further engage the students with Alberta's grasslands.

In the 2025-2026 school year, an education contractor, that was first hired to deliver Deep Roots to schools in the 2023-2024 school year, was again contracted to deliver Deep Roots. The contractor successfully delivered the presentation to 30 different classes, or 634 children from kindergarten through grade 12.

Connecting Corridors Committee



The connecting corridors committee, in collaboration with the University of Toronto Mississauga (UTM) and NSERC Alliance, hosted a Landscape Connectivity Workshop in Okotoks, Alberta on October 30, 2025. The Workshop was a hybrid format with 35 people attending in-person and 95 people attending virtually. Part one of the workshop shared presentations on topics including an introduction to landscape connectivity; current density approach to landscape connectivity and alternative indicators to inform planning; species specific applied conservation and highway mitigation; and applied connectivity modelling. Part two introduced connectivity modelling using ConScape and went through hands-on examples and case studies. The recordings of the workshop can be found on the PCF website (albertapcf.org/connectivity).

The connecting corridors committee had been focused on the purpose, use and communications around the Prairie Conservation Forum's Interactive Map; however, due to technical issues, the map is no longer active and the committee is exploring alternative options to showcase important spatial data for users. The committee is also beginning to explore opportunities to collaborate with on-the-ground projects and support work on wildlife corridors.

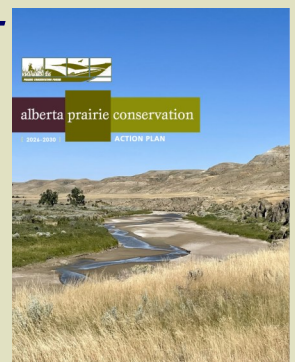
Grassland Vegetation Inventory (GVI)

The GVI is a critical tool for land-use planning and management in Alberta, providing a detailed geospatial representation of land cover in the Grassland Natural Region. Despite being finalized in 2019, GVI is based on imagery acquired between 2006 and 2009, making content nearly twenty years old. This presents problems of outdated data and limits the use to which this data can be applied. To address this concern, PCF hired a contractor to investigate the feasibility and cost of updating the dataset and to come up with business case models that would make updating the dataset more feasible. Stakeholders and GVI users were consulted via questionnaires, teleconference meetings and through email discussions. Through this process, update needs were determined and various approaches were investigated for their feasibility, including what would be involved in a comprehensive update of the entire grasslands region versus updates in specific project areas or for specific features (such as wetlands).

In 2025, a new GVI committee was struck to explore the options presented and decide on a course of action to move forward. This committee, after discussion with the Government of Alberta Geospatial Centre, decided to conduct a pilot update with a focus on detecting, capturing and updating the GVI geodatabase and topology for areas where the land use has changed from the 'Native/Natural' and 'Water' Primary Classes to the 'Anthropogenic' Primary Class. With this in mind, ten relatively small areas within the Grassland Natural Region of Alberta where change is known to have occurred have been chosen for the pilot. The pilot will run in the fall of 2026 as a desktop update.

Prairie Conservation Action Plan (PCAP) 2026-2030

The PCAP for 2026-2030 was finalized in late 2025 after taking member comments into account. In January 2026, 500 copies of the PCAP were printed, with copies sent to members that requested them. All members received digital copies of the PCAP, and it can also be found on the PCF website.



MULTISAR

MULTISAR (multiple species at risk) 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. MULTISAR defines species at risk as those with a provincial general status of At Risk, May Be At Risk or Sensitive. The program is a collaborative effort among landholders, the Alberta Conservation Association, Alberta Environment and Protected Areas, Alberta Forestry and Parks, the Prairie Conservation Forum, Cows and Fish, Canadian Cattle 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 (HCSs) in the Milk River and South Saskatchewan watersheds of southern Alberta, as well as the more compact species at risk conservation plans (SARC plans), beneficial management plans (BMPs) and habitat management plans (HMPs) delivered throughout the Grassland Natural Region.

In 2025–2026, a new HCS was developed for 11 properties totaling approximately 101,370 acres. Forty-eight habitat enhancement projects were developed to improve the habitat of key wildlife species on HCS properties. These include: the installation of four artificial hawk poles; the installation or purchase of supplies for wildlife-friendly fencing at six different sites; the purchase of four portable watering units; installation or upgrades to 26 upland watering sites; seven enhancements to improve grazing management; and three riparian protection enhancements.



No SARC assessments were completed in 2025-2026, ergo no SARC plans were developed. Similarly, no BMP assessments were delivered this year as no landholders were contacted or referred to MULTISAR for this product. MULTISAR will continue to provide SARC plans and BMPs and promote them as a tool for habitat improvements for species of interest.

MULTISAR continued to assist with the delivery of outreach activities and event participation to promote grassland conservation in southern Alberta. The Southern Alberta Grazing School for Women was held July 16-17 in Twin Butte, Alberta with 69 attendees present for the two-day event. MULTISAR also presented to seven different groups and took the display to three different events. MULTISAR publications, such as the *Grassland Gazette* newsletter, *At Home on the Range: Living with Alberta's Prairie Species at Risk*, and various MULTISAR factsheets, continued to be distributed at outreach events.

Social media continues to be a means to share information related to MULTISAR. In 2025-2026, MULTISAR posted approximately 75 times on X (formerly Twitter), Facebook, and Instagram to promote public engagement. MULTISAR maintained direct contact with landowners (over 350 conversations), other organizations (over 27 conversations), and government agencies (over 80 conversations) throughout the year (through email, text, phone calls, or in-person presentations/meetings).

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 HCSs. In 2025, three MULTISAR HCS ranches were reassessed. Enhancements monitored include restoration sites, upland watering sites, portable watering units, artificial nesting structures, invasive plant control, grazing management tools, and wildlife friendly fencing. To date MULTISAR has implemented 577 habitat enhancements.

MULTISAR continues to compile wildlife observation and vegetation assessment data that it has been accumulating since its first HCS. In 2026-2027, MULTISAR will also continue to focus on determining inferences between species at risk occurrences and habitat metrics. MULTISAR will strive 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, 2026

Revenue	2026	2025
Casino	\$ 64,914	\$ 14,653
Environment and Climate Change Canada	45,000	45,563
Alberta Environment and Protected Areas	10,000	10,000
Administration—Multisar	7,692	7,692
Parks Canada	5,000	5,000
Special Areas Board	5,000	5,000
Donations	91	1,125
Interest Income	61	55
PCESC income	—	47,766
Range Stewardship Workshop	—	13
Total	\$ 137,758	\$ 136,867
Expenses		
Coordinator contract and expenses	\$ 52,569	\$ 47,322
Special Projects	33,789	22,703
Sponsorship	11,000	6,000
Casino Expense	6,006	—
Meeting Expense	4,354	1,759
Professional Fees	4,312	6,897
Insurance	2,428	2,022
Website	505	725
Office	402	1,647
Total	\$ 115,365	\$ 89,075
Excess (deficiency) of Revenue over Expenses	\$ 22,393	\$ 47,792

Statement of Financial Position

Assets	2026	2025
Cash	\$ 246,277	\$ 210,331
Grant receivable	7,500	—
Prepaid expenses	2,056	2,048
Funds held in trust — TGP and RSF Conference	10,778	5,011
GST receivable	11,896	11,776
Liabilities and Net Assets		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 688	\$ 4,183
Due to Multisar	9,608	10,756
Funds held in trust — TGP and RSF Conference	10,778	5,011
Deferred Revenue	114,961	89,137
Net Assets		
Unrestricted Net Assets	\$ 22,472	\$ 20,079
Contingency Reserve	120,000	100,000
Total	\$ 278,507	\$ 229,166

Statement of Changes in Net Assets

	Unrestricted	Internally Restricted	Total 2026	Total 2025
Balance, beginning of year	\$ 20,079	\$ 100,000	\$ 120,079	\$ 72,287
(Deficiency) Excess of Revenue Over Expenditures	22,393	—	22,393	47,792
Transfer from reserves	(20,000)	20,000	—	—
Balance, end of year	\$ 22,472	\$ 120,000	\$ 142,472	\$ 120,079

PCF Board of Directors

Alvin First Rider — Chair. Blood Tribe Land Management. Alvin is an enrolled member of the Blood Tribe and a descendant of the Blackfeet nation. He is a father of five wonderful children. Alvin earned an undergraduate degree in environmental science from Salish Kootenai College in Western Montana and has worked in various environmental capacities for the Blood Tribe since 2009. He has currently been at his position for 4 years. Alvin has experience in Migratory Bird Surveys, Range and Riparian health, and Blackfoot Ecological Knowledge. He is interested in the PCF to ensure the indigenous voice is included.

Nolan Ball — Vice-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.

Megan Jensen — Treasurer. Nature Conservancy of Canada.

Benjamin Misener — Board Member. Benjamin Misener is an Ecologist with Western EcoSystems Technology, Inc. He graduated from the University of Alberta with a BSc in Environmental and Conservation Sciences. Previously he was the Manager of Land and Environment at Brazeau County. He's currently busy with fieldwork related to wetlands and wildlife and provides support for regulatory applications. Benjamin has sat on many boards and committees over the years and hopes to bring this experience to PCF. He regularly enjoys escaping to the outdoors. The prairies are his favourite spot, and his passion and love for this area are what drives his involvement with PCF.

Stefano Liccioli — Board Member. Stefano holds a BSc/MSc degree in Natural Sciences, a MSc in wildlife Eco-pathology, and a PhD in Ecology. In his current position he develops, leads and implements - in collaboration with other staff, partner agencies and research institutions - monitoring and active management programs for the conservation and recovery of Species at Risk in the prairie region of Alberta.

Graham Dixon-MacCallum — Board Member. Graham leads the burrowing owl program at the Wilder Institute/Calgary Zoo. His job requires coordinating with the federal and provincial governments, ranchers, soldiers, graduate students, and multiple departments across the Wilder Institute. Aside from his work with burrowing owls, Graham has also studied anti-predator behavior in the conservation breeding population of Vancouver Island marmots at the Wilder Institute/Calgary Zoo. Graham completed a B.Sc. in Biology at Acadia University. His interest in reptiles led him to pursue an M.Sc. in Biology at the University of Victoria, where he studied garter snake habitat ecology in urban parks.

Doug Wray — Board Member. Doug and his wife Linda are 3rd generation ranchers that ranch on 1700 ac west of Irricana and rent another 1000-1500 in other places. Doug's grandfather broke prairie sod here in 1910. Doug and Linda operate Wray Ranch with their nephew Tim (Joanne) and brother Greg (Velma) in a regenerative manner. They manage cow-calf and yearlings on native and tame pastures with a focus to improve soil and landscape health. In 2023 Wray Ranch received the Environmental Sustainability Award from the Alberta Beef Producers provincially, and Canadian Cattle Assoc nationally. They are interested in the long term health and resilience of our prairie landscape. Doug has been active in several forage related organizations over the past 25 years and hopes he can contribute a rancher's perspective to the PCF board.

Sarah Goodman — Board Member. Sarah is a Senior Wildlife Biologist who has 15+ years of experience as an environmental professional. She was born and raised in the Calgary area and is currently living in Airdrie, Alberta. She is working at an environmental consulting company that specializes in renewable energy and transmission projects. Her experience in the environmental consulting, not-for-profit, and government sectors has helped build her knowledge of the Canadian regulatory framework. Sarah has worked as a Wildlife Biologist, Project Manager, Environmental Planner, Environmental Monitor, and Environmental Inspector on projects in Alberta and Saskatchewan. She is knowledgeable about prairie, mountain, and boreal wildlife and habitat identification. Sarah enjoys hiking and tries to get out as much as possible throughout the year. She is excited to contribute what she can to the board and learn more about the Alberta Prairie Conservation Forum.

Allison Campbell — Board Member. Allison Campbell is a professional biologist (ASPB, and APB) that coordinates and instructs in the Environmental Biology and Reclamation Technology program at Medicine Hat College. Allison also instructs in the University Transfer Science and developed the statistics courses and laboratories. She has expertise in data analysis, statistical analysis, biology and environmental sciences. Allison completed her Master of Science from the University of Lethbridge in 2012 focusing on stable isotope analysis of carbon and nitrogen in riparian habitats. Current research focuses on mycoremediation of biosolids contaminated with heavy metals of arsenic, selenium and molybdenum.

Charlotte Brown — Board Member. Charlotte is an ecologist at Elk Island National Park, overseeing the ecological monitoring, bison management, and invasive plant management programs, and an Adjunct Professor in the Department of Biological Sciences at the University of Alberta. Her background is in plant and community ecology. Charlotte completed her PhD at the University of Alberta where she examined drivers of species interactions and diversity in Alberta's Aspen Parkland grasslands. She then conducted two postdocs, one at the University of Arizona and another at Université de Sherbrooke, analyzing long-term data to determine the impacts of climate change on species interactions and plant communities. Charlotte is excited to be back working to conserve, restore, and protect Alberta's grasslands at Elk Island National Park.

Emily Holden — Board Member. Emily is a plant community ecologist interested in grasslands and species interactions. She received her PhD in Ecology from the University of Alberta, where she studied how plant-plant interactions and resource gradients affect diversity in grassland plant communities. Currently, Emily works for the Alberta Biodiversity Monitoring Institute as a Vegetation Ecologist. In this role, she is responsible for analysing biodiversity and environmental monitoring data and developing new analytical approaches and monitoring protocols. In her free time, Emily is an avid baker, runner, and gardener, with a special interest in growing native prairie plants!

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 2025-2026 for their commitment to prairie and parkland conservation as without them, we wouldn't be the society we are today.

Government of Alberta (grants for PCF and MULTISAR)
Environment and Climate Change Canada—Priority Places
Parks Canada
Special Areas

And a special thanks to members that make donations to the PCF:
Boundary Creek Landowners Association

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 is currently one of the coordinators for the MULTISAR program. Katheryn has been with the PCF since 2007.

Samantha Van Ham — Coordinator/Finance. Sam has her B.Sc. in Environmental Sciences from the University of Lethbridge and has worked across the prairie provinces as an environmental consultant on pipeline projects’ vegetation and soils monitoring. She spent the last nine years working with the Government of Alberta as a Rangeland Agrologist in southeastern Alberta, assessing the health of the prairie and getting to know local ranchers. She is the mother of two boys that keep her busy and enjoys spending time outdoors camping and gardening.

PCF Member Organizations

Government (municipal, provincial, federal)

Alberta Culture, Multiculturalism and the Status of Women
Alberta Environment and Parks
Canadian Wildlife Service, Environment Canada
City of Lethbridge, Helen Schuler Nature Centre
Municipal District of Taber
Municipal District of Willow Creek
Special Areas Board
Waterton Lakes National Park (Parks Canada)

Non-Government Organizations/Companies

AJM Environmental Inc.
Alberta Biodiversity Monitoring Institute
Alberta Conservation Association
Alberta Environmental Farm Plan
Alberta Grazing Leaseholders Association
Alberta Native Plant Council
Alberta Wilderness Association

Ann and Sandy Cross Conservation Area
Antelope Creek Ranch
Barbwire Consulting
Battle River Watershed Alliance
Blood Tribe Land Management
Boundary Creek Landowners Association
Bow River Basin Council
Calgary Zoo/Wilder Institute
Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society (Calgary/Banff Chapter)
Cows and Fish — Alberta Riparian Habitat Management Society
Ducks Unlimited Canada
Grasslands Restoration Forum
Glenbow Ranch Park Foundation
Great Plains Conservation Network
LandWise Inc.
Lentz Farms
Lethbridge College



Milk River Watershed Council
Miistakis Institute
Nature Alberta
Nature Conservancy of Canada
Nature Saskatchewan
Oldman Watershed Council

Operation Grasslands Community, Alberta Fish and Game Association
Rangeland Conservation Service Ltd.
Red Deer River Watershed Alliance
Round Rock Ranching
Safari Club International (Calgary)
Salmtec
Southern Alberta Land Trust Society
Sweetgrass Bison
Trace Associates Inc.
University of Alberta
University of Calgary
University of Lethbridge
Waterton Biosphere Reserve Association
Western Stockgrowers Association
Wildlife Society (Alberta Chapter)
WL Heritage Connections



Alberta Prairie Conservation Forum

www.albertapcf.org