- Species
- Function
- Into the Future

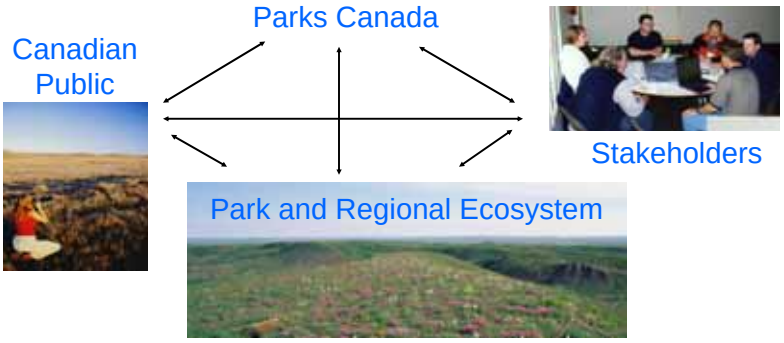
Vision

In Grasslands National Park visitors pause to watch bison interact with prairie dogs, pronghorns… the earth itself. Dust stirs as fire, drought and flood punctuate the pulsating rhythm of the prairie. Neighbors share the pride of living alongside a national park, and all Canadians know that they are welcome, invited and engaged in shaping the future of this prairie park.

Vision

The prairie persists – restored, resilient, timeless.

Restoring Integrity to a Grasslands Ecosystem



Key Elements

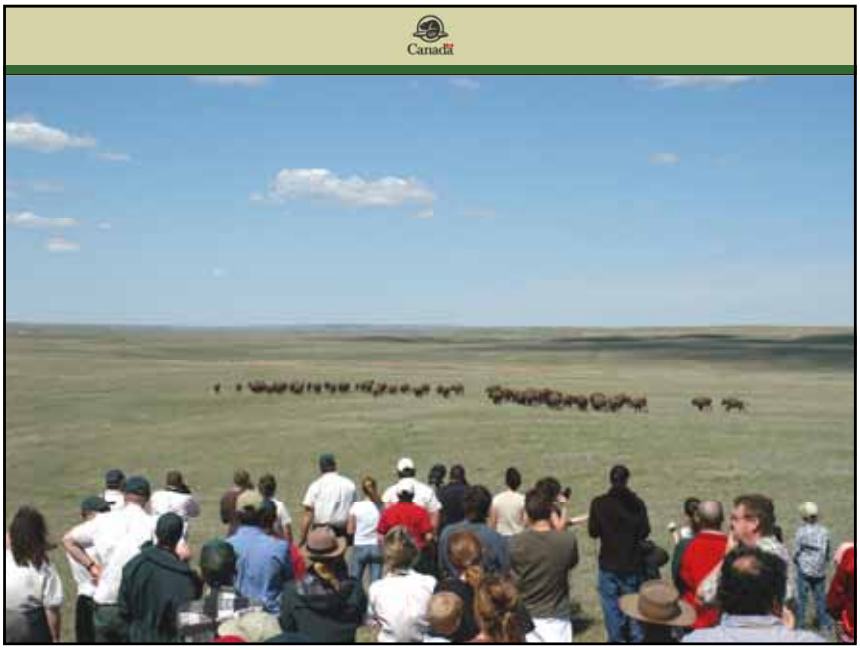
- Building support
- Raising the profile of GNP
- Creating memorable visitor and learning experiences
- Enhancing Ecological Integrity

Building Support

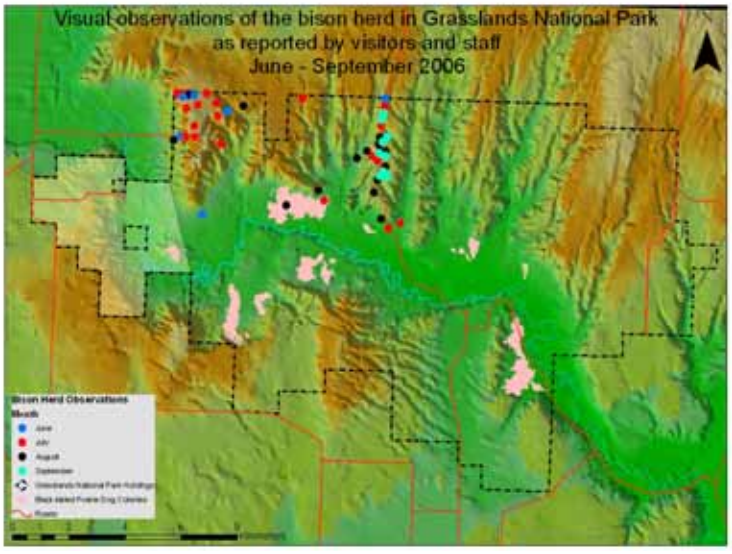
- Internally
- Stakeholders
- Community

Stakeholders

Raising the Profile of GNP



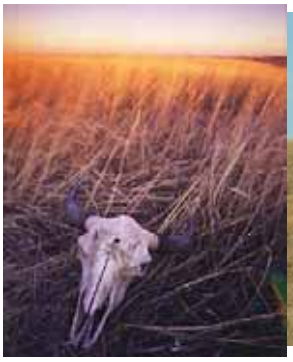
Creating a Memorable Visitor Experience



Creating Learning Opportunities

Prairie Learning Centre

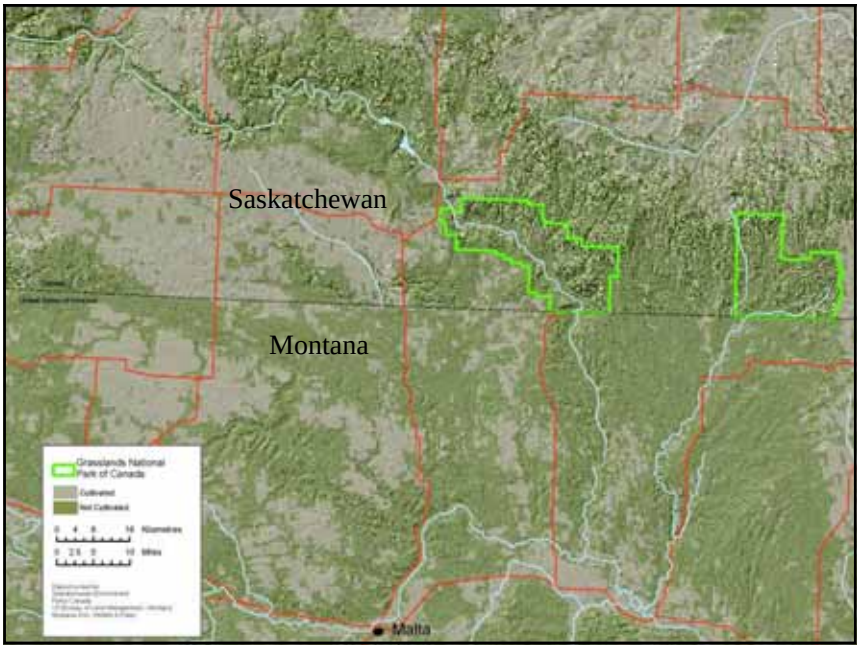
Enhancing Ecological Integrity

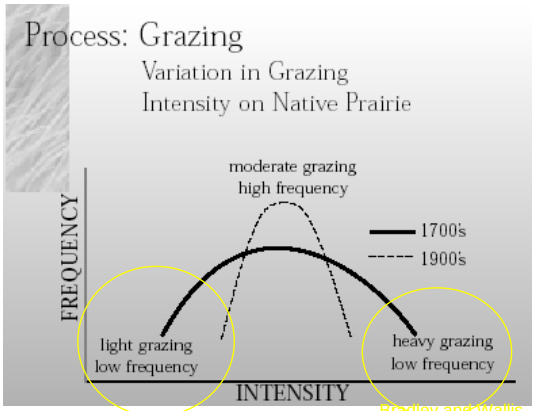


Now have a direction for grazing!

Plan vision:

"emphasize aspects that are under-represented in the regional landscape. The result will complement surrounding rangelands and increase the ecological integrity of the whole."




Process: Grazing
Variation in Grazing
Intensity on Native Prairie
moderate grazing
high frequency
1700's
1900's
FREQUENCY
light grazing
low frequency
heavy grazing
low frequency
INTENSITY
Bradley and Wallis, 1996

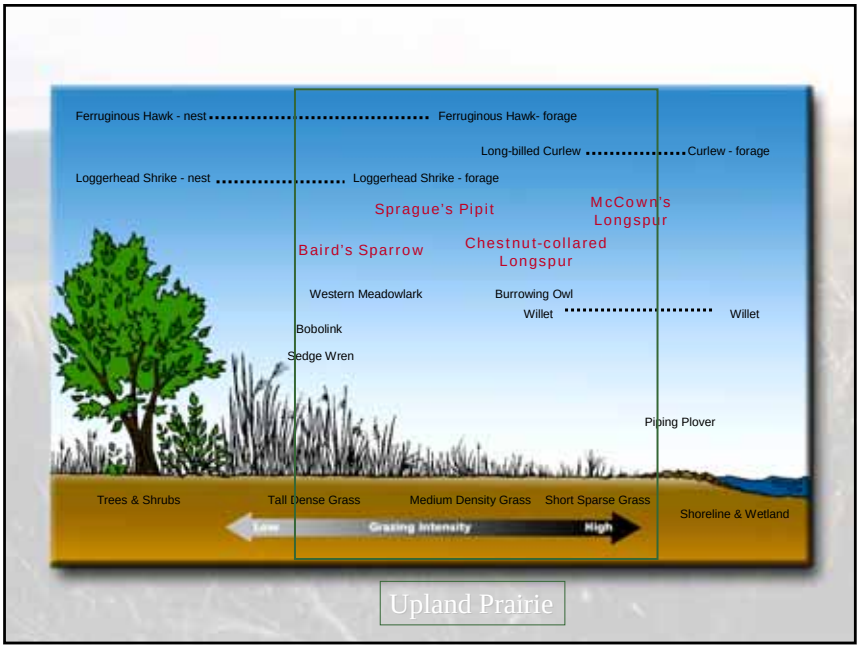
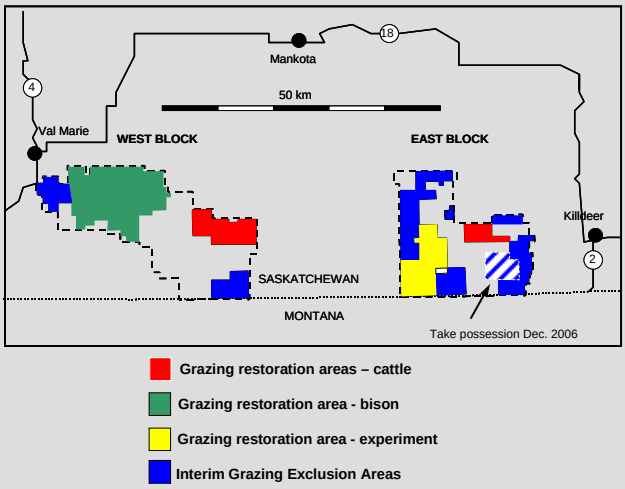

Ferruginous Hawk - nest
Ferruginous Hawk- forage
Long-billed Curlew
Curlew - forage
Loggerhead Shrike - nest
Loggerhead Shrike - forage
Sprague's Pipit
McCown's Longspur
Baird's Sparrow
Chestnut-collared Longspur
Western Meadowlark
Burrowing Owl
Willet
Willet
Bobolink
Sedge Wren
Piping Plover
Trees & Shrubs
Tall Dense Grass
Medium Density Grass
Short Sparse Grass
Shoreline & Wetland
Low
Grazing Intensity
High
Upland Prairie

Table 3.1 Prescription for Grazing

Disturbance	Targeted Range or Trend
moderate grazing	3-33% of park land grazed such that 35-45% of non-woody above-ground forage is removed annually
intense grazing	0.1-2% of park land grazed such that 90% of non-woody above-ground forage is removed or trampled in a short time - less than 2 weeks/patch

- Specifics worked out in an Adaptive Management Framework

This is what it will look like!



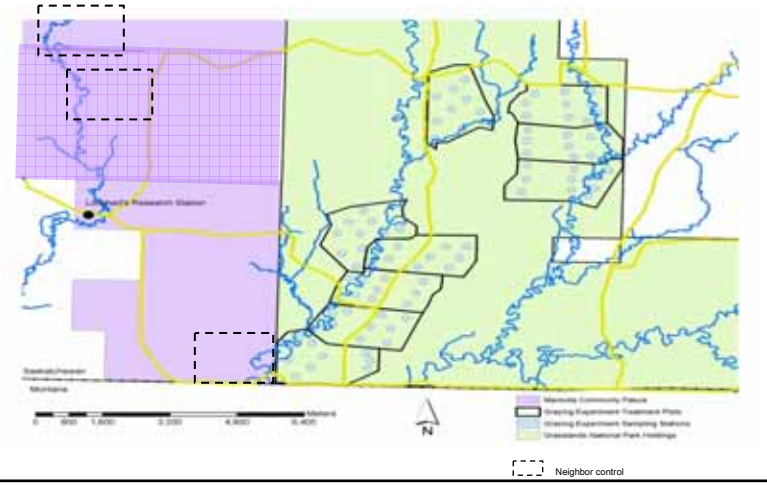
The Science Continues…

- Grasslands Ecosystem Management Model
- Grazing research
- Bison movement
- Prairie restoration
- Species at risk

Grasslands Ecosystem Management Simulation (GEMS) Model

- ❑ Start with vegetation community
- ❑ Disturbance probabilities
  - o grazing
  - o fire
  - o protection
- ❑ Management actions
  - o restoration
  - o prescribed fire
- ❑ Simulate in Space and Time

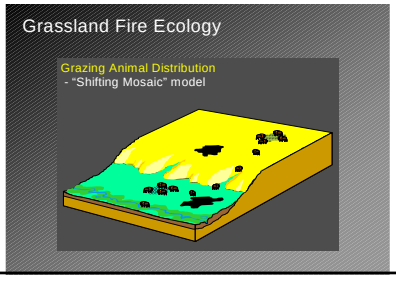
Grazing Management Experiment

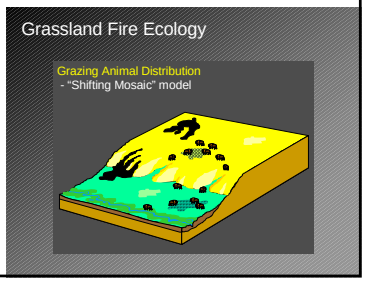


Bison Collaring

Visitors and staff working together
- Visitors report observations
- Staff track bison movement
Contribute to visitor experience plains bison conservation, and grazing restoration.

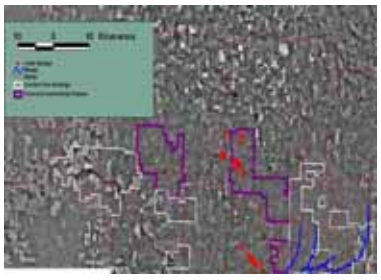
Fire/Grazing Restoration
- Influence grazer distribution
- Exotic species control
Stakeholder support/engagement



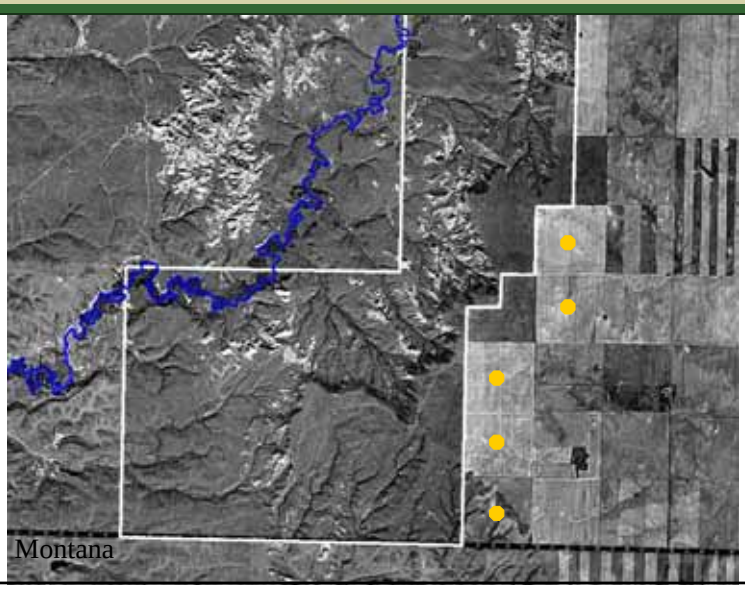


Restoration of cultivated land
- Diverse vegetation mix
- Very good establishment
- Technology transfer with neighbour

Collaborative Invasive Species Mgmt
- Frenchman –Wood R. Weed Mgmt Area
- Multijurisdictional approach
- Inventory, Education & Control



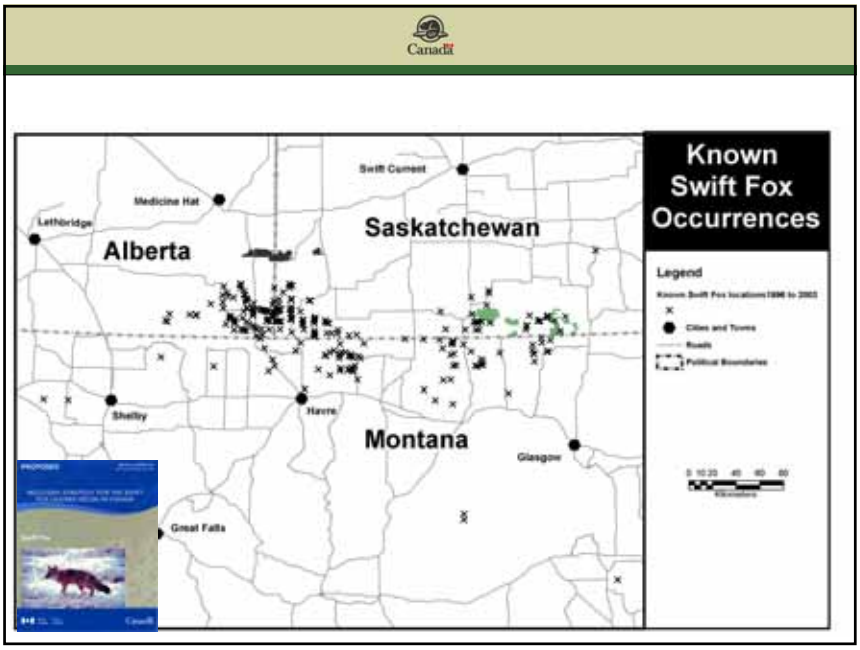
Conservation Easement

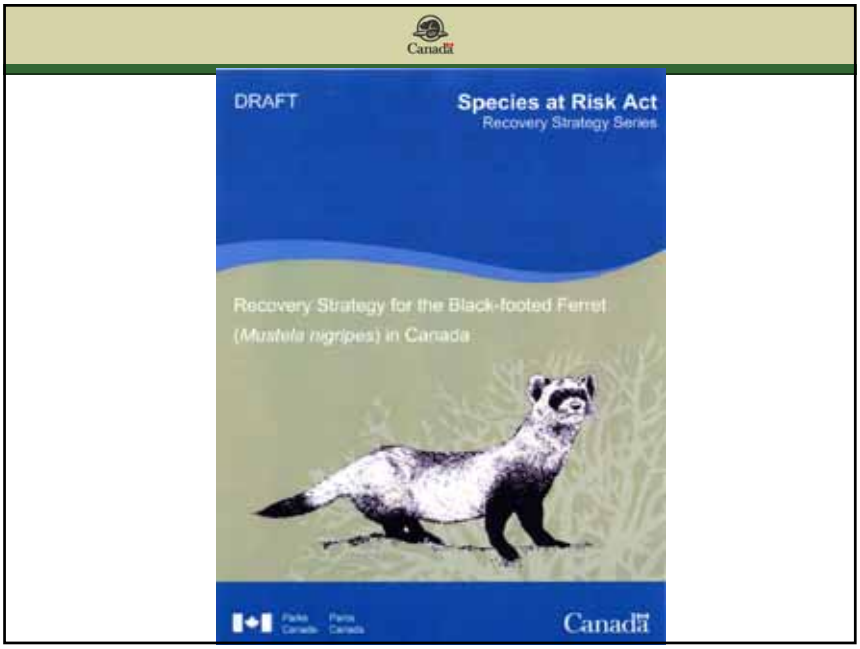


Canada

SPECIES AT RISK

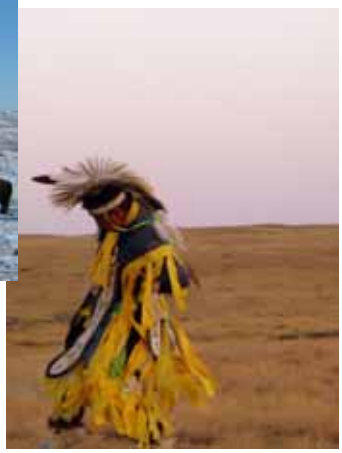
- 5 ENDANGERED; 2 NOT REGULAR BREEDERS
- 5 THREATENED
- 6 SPECIAL CONCERN


Known Swift Fox Occurrences
Legend
Cities and Towns
Roads
Political Boundaries
Swift Current
Medicine Hat
Lethbridge
Alberta
Saskatchewan
Shelby
Havre
Montana
Glasgow
Great Falls


DRAFT
Species at Risk Act
Recovery Strategy Series
Recovery Strategy for the Black-footed Ferret
(Mustela nigripes) in Canada
Parks Canada
Canada

Outcomes

- EI enhanced
- Community, regional and national audiences engaged
- Memorable visitor experiences created
- Quality learning ongoing



coming full circle . . .