



Young Professional Stewardship Grant

In May 2026, Saskatoon will host an important gathering devoted to landscape and species at-risk conservation in western Canada. The 14th Prairie Conservation and Endangered Species Conference will bring together decision makers, scientists, researchers and community and grass-roots groups along with farmers, industry representatives, Indigenous groups, and other private citizens who have an abiding interest in sustaining prairie land, water, plants and animals.

The theme of the 14th Prairie Conservation and Endangered Species Conference is:

“Diversity: Key to Resilience”

The Young Professional Stewardship Grant was developed to promote future work to achieve success with prairie conservation and endangered species management. The Young Professional Stewardship Grant is for professional or aspiring conservationists between the ages of 18-30 who live and/or work in Manitoba, Alberta or Saskatchewan. Applicants from various disciplines are encouraged to apply and do not need to be enrolled in, or a graduate of, an academic institution. Applicants can be individuals connected with or without an organization.

The Young Professional Stewardship Grant seeks innovative proposals which advance the “engagement” of people in conservation in Grassland Regions of the Prairie Provinces. Proposals may consider topics in the areas of land management, ecology, species at risk, or habitat enhancement, with a focus on education and community outreach, a desired outcome, or the use of an integrated management approach. Proposals should take into consideration and avoid unintended consequences, whereby the project may benefit one species at the detriment of another species.

Individuals and/or groups are encouraged to submit an application to be considered for a grant, the funds for which will be raised during the Silent Auction at the 2026 Prairie Conservation and Endangered Species Conference and through specific sponsorship support. The grant recipients will be announced at the conference banquet on May 6th, 2026. There may also be an opportunity for the winning applicant(s) to present the results of their projects at the conference.

The deliverables expected include a final report, along with a presentation and/or a poster at one of the following:

- Monthly meeting of Central Grasslands Roadmap, Canada Working Group,
- Webinar of Prairie Conservation Action Plan, Saskatchewan,
- Transboundary Grassland Partnership Annual Meeting (AB, SK, MT),

Or,

- Poster Presentation at next PCESC Workshop.

Visit our website at www.prairiecesc.ca for more information about the conference, including conference agenda, registration information, and sponsorship opportunities.

Application Guidelines

Who can apply: Young professionals between the ages of 18 – 30 years living and/or working in the provinces of Manitoba, Alberta or Saskatchewan. Proposals may be submitted by individuals, partners, or groups. **Applicants are not required to be enrolled in, or be a graduate of, an academic institution.**

Grants awarded: Up to three (3) individual grants awarded totaling \$7,500.00* (\$2,500.00 each); 80 percent will be received upon proposal award and the remaining 20 percent will be delivered upon project completion after the final report has been submitted.

How to apply: Fill out the Application Form and submit to

Rebecca Magnus

PCESC 2026 Social and Awards Committee

rmagnus@naturesask.ca

Judging: An awards committee will review all applications and select winners.

Important Dates to Remember:

- Application and Proposal Submission Deadline: February 22nd, 2026
- Grant Winners Notified: March 15th, 2026
- Grant Agreement Executed: March 31, 2026
- Project Implementation: prior to October 31, 2026
- Final Report Submitted: December 31, 2026

Mandatory Criteria:

1. Focus on the theme of “Diversity: Key to Resilience”
2. Community involvement/extension component
3. Innovative
4. Includes/identifies socio-economic benefits
5. Project conducted in the native grasslands, rangeland, or parkland regions of Manitoba, Alberta or Saskatchewan

Optional Criteria:

- Demonstration site
- Signage
- Improve and/or enhance habitat for Species at Risk/general wildlife
- Improve range health or riparian health
- Collect baseline ecological data at project site
- Monitoring
- GIS mapping

* Please note that funds raised from the Silent Auction will be used to support this Grant program, therefore the number of \$2,500.00 Grants will be determined by the amount raised. We are anticipating a minimum of one (1) Grant award with up to three (3) being available