Sustaining Species at Risk Habitat

With Results Based Conservation Agreements

Kelly Williamson P.Ag
Diverse landscape

- large areas of intact native prairie and unaltered habitats
- Areas of altered and modified landscapes
Background

South of the Divide Action Plan
(Environment Canada)
Rancher Stewardship Alliance Inc. model development
(Commission for Environmental Cooperation)
Key Messages

- Success will require new approaches to stakeholder engagement
- Protection does not produce habitat, management does (Easements)
- Practices do not guarantee outcomes (BMP’s)
Key Messages

• Recognition of Public/Private benefit
• Importance of biodiversity/heterogeneity
• Recognition of producers already providing habitat
• Need for adaptive management
Results-Based Conservation Agreements are:
Agreements in which financial incentives are rewarded for specific habitat characteristics
Developing Results Based Projects for SAR
Steps in the process

- Set goals for the project
- Establish habitat targets
- Develop biological response Model
- Cost analysis
- Develop and implement agreement
- Monitoring
• Average herbaceous droop height of >18 cm on overflow sites on June 15-30 as measured using protocols in Thorpe et al 2005.
• Forb canopy cover on overflow sites >7%, and >8% on upland sites, on June 15-30 as measured using protocols in Thorpe et al 2005.
• At sagebrush dominated sites, average robel pole measurements at sagebrush plants will be coverage of four-5cm segments on overflow sites, and two-5cm segments on upland sites on June 15-30 as measured by Thorpe et al 2005.
Problems

- Production goals and Environmental outcomes don't always align
- Range condition and range health do not always directly correlate with producing species at risk habitat
- Connecting environmental outcomes to agricultural
Opportunities

- Mitigation and Habitat banks that require indexed or quality habitats.
- Diversification of marketable products of an operation
Questions
Funding

This project was undertaken with the financial support of:
Ce projet a été réalisé avec l’appui financier de :

Environment and Climate Change Canada

Environnement et Changement climatique Canada

SOUTH of the DIVIDE
Conservation Action Program

Saskatchewan STOCKGROWERS Association