



The Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association (SSGA) in partnership with the South of the Divide Conservation Action Program Inc. (SODCAP Inc.) have secured funding to enter into *Term Conservation Easements* with cooperating producers who own or manage critical and important habitat for *species at risk* in southwestern Saskatchewan.

A *conservation easement* is a voluntary legal agreement between a grantor, generally a landowner and a registered holder, who could be a conservation organization or a government agency.

The terms of the agreement are negotiated to meet the interests of the landowner and the conservation objectives of the holder, with the main objective being to protect and preserve the biological, physical and cultural attributes of the land.

A conservation easement is registered against the title for a specified time or in perpetuity. Currently, conservation easements that are held in Saskatchewan are 'in perpetuity' and only restrict development, cultivation and drainage. However, the option exists to register the conservation easement for a *specified term*.

Native grasslands in southwest Saskatchewan are the last refuge for many *species at risk* in the province. Native grasslands are also an important forage resource for the cow-calf sector in southwest Saskatchewan. Together, these grasslands are valuable from an ecological and cultural perspective and are also economically important.



SSGA is investigating becoming a registered holder of *conservation easements*. SSGA and SODCAP Inc. are also seeking producers to enter into conservation easements for a specified time period with the conditions of the easement acting to protect *species at risk* habitat.

This project was undertaken with the financial support of the Government of Canada.

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