Working toward a provincial strategy
The GCC
Established in 1996, the GCC is a strategic alliance of organizations and individuals, including government, range management specialists, ranchers, agrologists, grassland ecologists, First Nations, environmental groups, recreationists and grassland enthusiasts. This diverse group shares a common commitment to education, conservation and stewardship of British Columbia’s grasslands.

The GCC Mission is to:
- foster greater understanding and appreciation for the ecological, social, economic and cultural importance of grasslands throughout BC;
- promote stewardship and sustainable management practices that will ensure the long-term health of BC’s grasslands;
- recommend changes to policy and legislation that support grasslands; and
- foster the conservation of representative grassland ecosystems, species at risk and their habitats.

GCC Board of Directors
EXECUTIVE
Bob Peart, Vancouver
Chair
Jim White, Kamloops
Vice Chair
Nichola Gerts , Victoria
Secretary
Dennis Lloyd, Kamloops
Treasurer
BOARD
Agnes Jackson, Kamloops
Alf Rawtree, Celista
Bill Turner, Victoria
Bob Scheer, Kamloops
Cindy Haddow, Victoria
Darrel Smith, Invermere
Dave Zehnder, Invermere
Dr. Michael Pitt, Vancouver
Gary Tipper, Cranbrook
Greg Tegart, Kelowna
John Holmes, Gang Ranch
Judy Guichon, Quilchena
Katherine Gizikoff, Merritt
Kristi Iverson, Lac la Hache
Maurice Hanson, Kimberly
Mike Kennedy, Lillooet
Phil Youwe, Kamloops
Tom Dickinson, Kamloops

Cover photo: Bob Needham, Ministry of Forests

Message from the Chair
Our challenge is evident
It seems that everyone you talk to these days stresses the value and importance of what we do and what we represent as the Grasslands Conservation Council.

To the government, we are seen as a key liaison, to academics, we are liked for our stress on science and research, to ranchers, we are valued for our support for sustainable working grasslands and to environmental/naturalists groups, we have a recognizable role in contributing to protecting key species and sites.

So the challenge doesn’t seem to be our value or our necessity, the challenge is in transferring the excitement about what we are doing into certainty.

We are entering our fifth year of existence. The first three years were entirely voluntary as we slowly pieced the Council together. We have now received official Society status, applied to be a registered charity and have had a paid Executive Director (Bruno Delesalle) in place for just over a year.

At our recent conference in Penticton, our Strategic Plan was outlined. This is our guide for the future, focused on fostering public understanding of BC’s grasslands, supporting sustainable ranching, ensuring the long-term health of the grasslands and conserving representative grassland ecosystems. This plan is ambitious yet realistic. To obtain a copy of this plan, please contact our office in Kamloops.

It would seem a shame to lose this energy, in spite of our obvious importance. Not to be doom and gloom, but I can't stress enough the unstableness of our financial situation. Unless significant financial support comes through over the next few months the future of the GCC remains uncertain. We have made a number of grant applications and are confident that they will be received well, but until we know for sure it is an uncertain situation.

We need your support—send in your memberships, attend the grasslands symposiums, encourage others to join and anyone you know who has access to wealth and loves the grasslands, have them get in touch with Bruno or myself. Membership has two values: your membership fee supports core costs and many funders prefer to support member-based organizations.

I am proud to be the Chair of this organization. As I have stated many times the care and concern for grasslands have been lost in the forest-dominated culture of BC. Yet it is these grasslands that harbour many of Canada's rare and endangered species as well as a culture and history that we can't afford to lose.

In closing I want to welcome our new Board members, thank the volunteers who helped with our recent successful conference in Penticton and publicly thank Bruno Delesalle for the wonderful job he has done over the past few months.

—Bob Peart, Chair, Grasslands Conservation Council of BC

Summerland Symposium and tour of White Lake Ranch a success
More than 110 people participated in this year’s Sustaining Healthy Grasslands Symposium, held June 9th and 10th in the Penticton area. The theme of the Symposium was “Long Term Strategies for Grasslands Conservation—Working Toward a Provincial Strategy” and the weekend consisted of a symposium at the Pacific Agri-Food Centre in Summerland on the Friday and field tour of White Lake Ranch on the Saturday.

The Friday symposium featured many excellent presentations from ranchers, conservation organizations, academics and scientists, government ministries and First Nations. Summaries of these presentations are featured throughout this newsletter. As well, historian and former MLA Bill Barlee gave an eloquent and fun presentation on the importance of grasslands and ranching.

Although the heaviest rain fall of the year stifled planned discussion on the Saturday, the process of discussing the conservation ranch concept and how this fits into a provincial strategy for grassland conservation was initiated, but warrants further discussion.

The majority of participants at the symposium would agree that grasslands are important and that various regions are taking significant steps in tackling important issues, such as forest encroachment, weed control, subdivision of grasslands, and appropriate range management practices. However, a need remains to clarify the objectives for and the process by which an integrated provincial strategy would be developed. As this topic requires further debate and definition, the GCC will pursue the provincial grassland strategy with its partners over the next few months.

Thank you to all the speakers, resource people, participants, GCC Directors and volunteers for a great symposium!
The Grasslands Conservation Council...taking great strides forward!
Looking back to the first Grasslands Conservation Council meeting at Big Bar Ranch in 1996, the GCC has come a long way. When I started my job as Executive Director for the GCC, I began by asking various key people and organizations whether we really needed another conservation organization in BC. Are grasslands not already covered by some other organization? The response received was consistent and clear: one, the GCC is long overdue; and two, the GCC has an important role to play in the conservation and stewardship of British Columbia's grasslands.

During the past year, support for the GCC has only strengthened. I believe this will continue as our organization establishes its niche and proves to government and other environmental non-government organizations that we mean business. The GCC is clearly built of people who have genuine concerns for grasslands and tremendous energy to make the GCC a successful and action-oriented conservation organization.

The GCC held its annual Sustaining Healthy Grasslands Symposium in Summerland on June 9 and 10th. It was a great success, albeit a little soggy! Over 110 participants took part in the two-day event and the response has been positive and very enthusiastic. The symposium was well attended by ranchers, environmental organizations, government, First Nations, and consultants from across the province.

As there were many interesting presentations and discussions at the symposium, this first issue of the new BC Grasslands newsletter features some of these presentations.

In the last year, the GCC has:
• Completed the GCC Strategic Plan 2000–2003 (Copies are now available from the GCC Office)
• Received Society Status (in August 1999) and is waiting for its Charitable Tax Number
• Achieved a significant increase in membership (800% increase over 1999)
• Actively participated in development of the Laurie Guichon Memorial Grassland Interpretive Site, near Merritt (ongoing)
• Completed inventory, mapping and fencing for the Hamilton Commonage Demonstration Project (ongoing)
• Secured funding for the Sustaining Healthy Grasslands Symposium 2000; BC Grasslands Mapping Project; and a GCC Grassland Portable Display
• Initiated the ATV Committee and created a background document requesting that government put in place a system of licensing All-terrain Vehicles (ATVs) so people using their vehicles in closed areas or in a manner damaging to the environment can be held accountable. (Process is ongoing).
The GCC has many exciting challenges ahead. First and foremost is the need to secure program funding for the...continued (see Executive Director, page 11)
Why do we need a provincial strategy for Grassland Conservation?

By Mike Pitt, University of British Columbia

North American grasslands have been severely altered and reduced by agricultural production and livestock grazing since European settlement. On the Canadian Prairies, as much as 99% of the original tall-grass prairie has already been lost—primarily to the plow.

British Columbia’s native grasslands have also been altered substantially by the combined toll of human activities, including hydroelectric power, intensive agriculture, off-road recreation, urbanization, livestock grazing, fire suppression, forest encroachment, and invasion by alien weeds. It is likely that no large, contiguous areas of unaltered grassland remained in British Columbia after 1930. As such, “ancient” grasslands represent a much more endangered space in British Columbia than do “ancient” or old-growth forests.

British Columbian grasslands are unique to BC—species and habitats contrast sharply with the prairies. In the Cariboo, extensive bluebunch wheatgrass vegetation occurs at its northern-most limit in North America. These grasslands are truly rare, containing a mixture of northern and southern plant species. BC grasslands also contain more than 25% of the provincial wildlife species of concern, and support more threatened or endangered species than any other habitat.

Relative to other regions in Canada, smaller proportions of BC grasslands have been converted to permanent agriculture. This means we still have the opportunity to manage our grasslands as large, relatively intact, naturally functioning ecosystems.

The role of the ranching industry in long-term conservation of BC grasslands

Humans comprise a natural part of grassland ecosystems. To ignore this human presence is artificial and shortsighted. For example, at least 80% of BC grasslands are privately owned. If ranching becomes uneconomical, or ceases to be an attractive lifestyle, then these privately-held ranches would face mounting pressures to subdivide.

Without a healthy cattle industry, therefore, grassland biodiversity in British Columbia might actually decrease. Sprawling suburbs exert extreme pressure on grasslands. Mountain bikes, all-terrain vehicles, and increased recreational use would dramatically intensify the challenge of maintaining grassland habitats, particularly because the general population tends to view grasslands as useless deserts.

Achieving ecologically and economically sustainable ranching

In 1933, Aldo Leopold wrote, “most of what needs doing must be done by the farmer himself. There is no conceivable way by which the general public can legislate crab-apples, or grape tangles, or plum thickets to grow on these barren fence rows, road sides and slopes, nor will the resolutions or prayers of the city change the depth of next winter’s snow nor cause cornshocks to be left in the fields to feed the birds. All the non-farming public can do is to provide information and build incentives on which farmers may act.”

Leopold’s call for cooperation still rings true in the 21st century, as sustainable grassland management certainly requires an holistic approach. The philosopher Eric Hofer commented “we usually see only the things we are looking for.” All of us fall victim to seeing only what we’re trained to see, or what we want to see. Naturalists see butterflies. Range managers see forage. Wildlife biologists see bighorn sheep. A truly holistic approach, therefore, is possible only if all people and disciplines work together.

The Grasslands Conservation Council of BC (GCC) was established in 1996 to provide such a strategic alliance of organizations and individuals. The Council envisions government, range management specialists, ranchers, agrologists, grassland ecologists, First Nations, environmental groups, recreationists and grassland enthusiasts all working cooperatively towards a common goal.

British Columbia’s grasslands will continue to be influenced by human activities. Simply “preserving” a few small grasslands behind a fence will not likely achieve our collective, long-term goals for sustainable, healthy grassland ecosystems. Good grazing management, therefore, provides a unifying theme for all those who love grasslands. The White Lake Field Tour, which took place on the Saturday, June 10, during the Sustaining Healthy Grasslands Symposium, provided an excellent opportunity for everyone to see and talk about the kinds of grazing management essential to maintaining the historical, cultural, aesthetic, biological and economic values of British Columbia’s grasslands.

“Ancient” grasslands represent a much more endangered space in British Columbia than do “ancient” or old-growth forests.
The Hamilton Commonage Demonstration Project is yielding results. The project team has:
• identified several management priorities, including increasing late successional stages in both grassland and riparian systems, improving riparian condition, and establishing a long-term monitoring program;
• completed inventory and mapping of water availability and quality, infrastructure (roads, hydro lines, etc.), seral stage distribution, weeds and recreational use, while partially completing inventory and mapping of wildlife species of concern, riparian areas and assessments, and aspen copes;
• collaborated with the Guichon Ranch to incorporate newly acquired information into the grazing management plan for this year;
• established four new exclosures with electric fencing that will begin addressing some of the biological and habitat concerns around aspen copes and riparian areas; and
• established one new pasture with electric fencing around Rush Lake that will be used for fall grazing only.

Most of the changes to date have focused on alterations of the grazing management plan to improve forage utilization, and some limited fencing of ecologically sensitive areas. Watering developments are still being considered for the future. Over the next two months, the GCC and its partners will develop an integrated monitoring strategy with the Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks and the Ministry of Forests to monitor changes in the commonage over time.

A field tour of the Hamilton Commonage Demonstration Project is planned for September 16, 2000. A copy of the final report for the project will be available at that time. For more information about the project call Dennis Lloyd, Ministry of Forests at (250) 828-4129, e-mail: dennis.lloyd@gems1.gov.bc.ca or call Bruno Delesalle at (250) 374-5721, e-mail: bruno_delesalle@telus.net

---

“Using electric fences around small ponds and aspen copes will assist the Guichon Ranch in achieving its objective for improved riparian and aspen habitat condition.

PHOTO: DENNIS LLOYD

“We wanted to collaborate with the Guichon Ranch to create a long-term vision for the Hamilton Commonage grasslands and to improve how the land is managed by applying various land management tools and practices…working towards a win-win for wildlife and ranching.”

— Dennis Lloyd,
Ministry of Forests

---

By Bruno Delesalle, Grasslands Conservation Council

The Hamilton Commonage, located 23 kilometres east of Merritt, includes 6,475 hectares of rolling grassland. This expansive landscape consists of a patchwork of grass, wetlands, riparian areas, rocky outcrops, and forests that support a diversity of wildlife habitat and grazing lands for livestock.

In 1998, a group of environmental organizations, government agencies and Nicola Valley’s Guichon Ranch began working together with the Hamilton Commonage Demonstration Project to develop a management strategy that would maintain and enhance biological diversity on the Hamilton Commonage.

As more than 70% of BC’s grasslands are on private land, working with ranchers, First Nations and the range management community to develop and implement ecologically and economically sustainable range management practices is deemed critical to ensuring stewardship of BC’s grasslands over the long-term.

The main goal of this project is to demonstrate the economic and ecological benefits of stewardship.

The objectives of this project are to:
• revise the Guichon range use plan and develop a strategy to conserve and enhance bio-diversity on the Hamilton Commonage,
• establish a longer-term monitoring program on the Hamilton Commonage,
• evaluate the Forest Practices Code and Associated Guidelines through this project (are they realistic and practical?),
• identify inventory and research requirements, and
• improve communication, knowledge, and working relationships.
The ecological significance of the South Okanagan

By G.G.E. Scudder, Department of Zoology, University of British Columbia

The South Okanagan is an important area for grassland conservation in British Columbia. Low elevation areas south of the Okanagan Mountain Provincial Park and Summerland provide vital habitat for some 20 species of plants and animals currently listed as nationally endangered, threatened or vulnerable. One third of the provincially Red-listed and half of the provincially Blue-listed vertebrates occur in this area, along with some 35% of the provincially listed endangered vascular plants.

The South Okanagan is a rarity—a richness and endemic species hot spot for invertebrates in Canada. Over 275 rare species of insects and other invertebrates have been recorded to date, with more than 65% of these occurring nowhere else in Canada. Sixteen endemic invertebrates also occur in the South Okanagan.

According to research, many rare species around the world now exist only at the periphery of their former range. Likewise, in the South Okanagan a high percentage of the plant and animal species at risk constitute peripheral or marginal populations at the northern edge of their geographic range. These species have unique genetic constitutions, making them well adapted to dealing with stress and change—important traits for survival in a changing world.

The habitats of many of these rare species, as well as many other components of the native biota in the South Okanagan, are now at risk, mainly due to habitat loss and invasion by alien species.

Wetlands and riparian habitats have been nearly obliterated, with only 15% remaining. Likewise, the grassland shrub steppe habitat has suffered dramatically from human settlement. Over the past century, more than 60% of the antelope-brush (Purshia tridentata) ecosystem has been destroyed and converted to vineyards, orchards, croplands or urban residential and industrial areas. And much of what is left has been disturbed and invaded by alien species, such as cheatgrass, Dalmation toadflax and knapweeds. Just 9% of remaining antelope-brush is relatively undisturbed.

Very little antelope-brush habitat is found within the currently protected areas. What habitat has been set...

...continued (see South Okanagan, page 14)

Launching the BC Grasslands Mapping Project

By Bruno Delesalle, Grasslands Conservation Council

Over the past year, it has become increasingly evident that providing a clear provincial picture on the abundance, distribution and status of British Columbia’s grasslands is an essential step for the GCC and its partners.

The BC Grasslands Mapping Project plans to bring together existing information from around the province to build a provincial grassland geographical information system (GIS) and associated maps. This will ensure both government and non-government organizations have accurate and consistent information about BC’s grasslands. The mapping project will answer the following questions:

- How many hectares of native grasslands remain in British Columbia? How many hectares have been lost to cultivation, urbanization, and forest encroachment?
- What types of grasslands occur in BC and where do they occur?
- What is the land status of BC’s grasslands? (How much is privately owned, Crown Land, First Nations Land, within the ALR, within municipal boundaries, federal lands, etc.)
- What are the current and potential threats to grasslands?
- Which endangered species are associated with BC’s grasslands and where are they located?

This project will produce a useful product and tools for government, non-government organizations and individuals involved in grassland education, communications, research, monitoring, conservation and stewardship. This grassland information is essential to resource management, planning and decision-making processes around the province and will benefit the sustainability of grasslands and their wildlife.

For additional information on the BC Grasslands Mapping Project, please contact Bruno Delesalle at (250)374-5721 or e-mail: bruno_delesalle@telus.net

Ensuring accurate and consistent information about BC’s Grasslands is essential for effective planning, management, decision-making and the conservation of grasslands in BC.

The GCC would like to thank the following funding partners for their support of the BC Grasslands Mapping Project:
- Habitat Conservation Trust Fund
- Vancouver Foundation
- BC Parks
- BC Environment
A personal voyage of wilderness discovery on a South Okanagan ranch

By Elin Kelsey

Like many of those who travel to the South Okanagan each year, I come from the other side of the tollbooth. Wilderness for me comes in the guise of dramatic seashore estuaries and the endless accordion pleats of rugged coastal mountains. The cool, clear lakes and the rolling shrublands of BC’s interior beckon each summer, but always as a destination for rest and relaxation; a warm sunny holiday filled with wine tastings and pick-your-own fruit forays.

I never thought to look for wilderness in the South Okanagan because I never expected to find it there. So when I was invited by the Nature Trust of BC to attend a weekend conservation workshop in the South Okanagan last year, I was a little skeptical. What conservation priorities would I discover in this arid landscape?

However, when The Nature Trust’s Executive Vice-President, Ron Erickson, called to say that we would be meeting at the local chapter of the Cattleman’s Association, my skepticism shifted. Now I was downright intrigued.

Less than year later, I can hardly believe that was a time when I could not see the ecological richness of the South Okanagan. A time when I did not know that the hot, dry, shrub grasslands hugging the highway through the South Okanagan and Lower Similkameen valleys are one of Canada’s most endangered ecosystems. A time when I thought that the interests of ranchers and the interests of conservationists were worlds apart.

My discovery of the South Okanagan wilderness began as I sat on a bus rumbling through the area beside Lloyd Thomas, a second-generation rancher of BC’s interior, and took a look at the landscape through his eyes. The discovery widened when he, another South Okanagan rancher, Wilson Clifton, and I joined conservation planner Gary Runka at a unique ranching and conservation planning workshop hosted by the US Nature Conservancy in southern Arizona early last summer.

Today—thanks to an unusual partnership between the Nature Trust of British Columbia, the Nature Conservancy, government agencies and local ranchers like Lloyd and Wilson—the South Okanagan wilderness and cattle ranching operations that have helped to sustain it are part of a North American endeavor to protect ranch conservation.

It is only now, as I appreciate the rare and fragile beauty of the South Okanagan, that I realize the scope of attention scientists, conservationists and ranchers have devoted to this region over the years. Decades of research reveal just how unique the area is for wildlife. More than 30% of BC’s threatened or endangered species live in the South Okanagan. Two-thirds of the province’s 448 bird species are dependent on the region for part or all of their life cycle. The South Okanagan is home to the richest diversity of reptiles in British Columbia. And an astonishing 23 species of invertebrates are found here and nowhere else on earth.

...continued (see Personal Voyage, page 15)

Conserving Canada’s desert country

The South Okanagan-Similkameen area is a unique and beautiful habitat, home to 23 species of plants and animals currently listed as nationally threatened, endangered, or vulnerable as well as one third of all provincially Red-listed species. In addition, the South Okanagan-Similkameen watersheds act as a corridor for species migrations between the dry grasslands of the interior of the province and the desert areas of the western United States. Since the last ice age, the Okanagan-Similkameen corridor has been the principle portal of entry for dry-adapted plants and animals colonizing interior British Columbia.

However, the South Okanagan-Similkameen area is rapidly being urbanized. The resulting reduction and fragmentation of natural habitats is leading to a crisis in this environmentally pivotal area.

To meet this rising environmental crisis, nine conservation organizations and government agencies have joined to form the South Okanagan-Similkameen (SOS) Conservation Program. The Program aims to maintain the rich biodiversity of the area, including species at risk, and a viable ecological corridor between the deserts to the south and the grasslands to the north. With this prospectus, the Program partners invite the participation of all organizations and individuals interested in the realization of these aims.

The SOS Conservation Program will expand community involvement, promote ecologically sustainable land use, enhance stewardship on private and Crown land, and negotiate acquisition of key habitats. As well, the Program will seek strong community support and involvement to help find a balance between wildlife requirements and human needs and aspirations.

Four key habitats have been proposed for SOS Conservation Program activities including wetland and riparian; grassland/shrub-steppe; coniferous forests; and rugged terrain. As progress indicators, area criteria have also been proposed for Crown land conservation, private land acquisition, and stewardship.

*Based on the Executive Summary, South Okanagan-Similkameen Conservation Program—A Prospectus.*
The Churn Creek Protected Area Management Plan is approved

By Kristi Iverson, Consulting Ecologist

The Management Plan for the Churn Creek Protected Area has now been approved and many aspects of it are being implemented this summer.

The Churn Creek Protected Area spans 36,747 hectares and is located on the west side of the Fraser River, directly south of the Gang Ranch. The area has significant representation of lower, middle and upper grasslands in addition to extensive Douglas-fir and lodgepole pine forests.

John and Joyce Holmes have operated Churn Creek Protected Area as a working ranch for BC Parks since 1998 and have just secured a 10-year tenure for running the ranch and hay fields. Churn Creek will continue to contain a working ranch with an allocation of 3850 Animal Unit Months of grazing and several irrigated alfalfa hayfields, while the Range Section of the Ministry of Forests will manage the grazing.

The Management Plan includes a detailed assessment of all ecosystems associated with the grasslands. Although seral stage assessments showed that Churn Creek grasslands fall short of Forest Practices Code guidelines, many areas of late seral and climax grasslands are represented, particularly in the lower and middle grasslands. Upper grasslands are predominantly mid-seral. This is partly a result of historical cattle grazing for the entire grazing season on a large area that was formerly fenced private land.

Within the upper grasslands, there has been significant encroachment of Douglas-fir and lodgepole pine trees. Part of the strategy to address the encroachment issue includes the development of a detailed fire management plan. Detailed strategies have been developed for each range unit to ensure the continued restoration of the grasslands. The plan also includes a monitoring strategy to ensure plan objectives are being met.

Riparian areas are key features for both wildlife and cattle within the grassland environment. To improve the condition of some significant riparian areas, Grazing Enhancement Fund funds were obtained for fence post installation around several ponds and lakes that had been affected by cattle. Electric fencing will be used to keep cattle out of these wetlands during times when cattle are in the area.

Within the Churn Creek Protected Area, there are three distinct herds of California bighorn sheep, two of which are migratory. There are also about 2,000 to 3,000 mule deer that winter in or near the Protected Area. Additionally, many rare and endangered species, including Lewis’s woodpecker, flammulated owl, Townsend’s big-eared bat and the western small-eared myotis are known to occur within the Protected Area while many other endangered species are known or suspected to use the area. Critical habitat maps have been developed for all rare and endangered vertebrates (excluding fish).

Access within the Protected Area includes an intensive use zone around the main road and some roads through forested areas where motorized recreation is permitted. Over 82% of the Protected Area will be managed as a non-motorized, natural environment zone. ATVs are not permitted within the Protected Area and snowmobiles are limited to two routes along existing roads. Additionally, three benchmark areas have been designated. These benchmarks will have no grazing and only minimal use by the public, having been chosen to represent a wide range of grassland ecosystems with very minimal affect on the ranching operation.

Permitted recreational activities include fishing, hunting, horseback riding and hiking. Churn Creek has a limited capacity for increased visitation and as such, information and promotional strategies will be minimal.

“Implementation of the Churn Creek Protected Area Management Plan will be a positive step towards ensuring continued improvement of the health of the grasslands and protection of rare and endangered species.”
What’s happening with the Cariboo-Chilcotin Grasslands Strategy?

In our current forestry-dominated society, increasing forest lands should have been a positive thing. But these growing forested areas are occurring at the expense of a much smaller and much rarer area—our grasslands. The need to address ingrowth, or increased tree densities in forest stands adjacent to grasslands, is very important. Forest encroachment has significantly reduced the area of open grasslands and open range within the Cariboo-Chilcotin over the last 100 years.

Across the Cariboo-Chilcotin region, an estimated 20,000 hectares or more (11%) of open grasslands have been encroached by forest since the early 1960s. And probably a much larger area of open grassland was lost to forests between the late 1800s and 1960s. The prevention of grassland wildfires following European settlement has been a principal cause of forest encroachment.

The loss of grassland area due to forest encroachment has profound implications for livestock grazing and biodiversity. Cattle herd size, or Animal Unit Months (a.u.m.), allocations set in the 1960s cannot be maintained at current levels for much longer. The diminishing grassland area results in reduced forage production and an inability to meet Forest Practices Code range management guidelines, which have cattle increasingly concentrated onto smaller grassland areas.

The Cariboo-Chilcotin grasslands are a major part of the biodiversity of British Columbia. Although they occupy less than 2% of the Cariboo-Chilcotin area, they support approximately 30% of the provincial species of concern. Forest encroachment of grasslands is resulting in the loss of critical habitat area as well as a loss of habitat quality due to increasing concentrations of livestock grazing on remaining grassland and riparian areas.

The Cariboo-Chilcotin Grassland Strategy Working Group has been preparing a regional grassland strategy, which would serve as a strategic framework for grassland conservation in the Cariboo-Chilcotin. This strategy focuses on establishing and maintaining a benchmark grassland area and controlling forest encroachment into this area.

From a selection of eight options for a grassland benchmark area, the Cariboo-Chilcotin Grassland Strategy Working Group has recommended the area of “open range” shown on initial Ministry of Forests inventory maps (completed between 1963 and 1975 for most grassland portions of the region) be used as a benchmark area.

Open range is an inventory mapping classification that does not include grasslands too small to map but does include scattered trees and stands of trees too small to map within a larger grassland area. Tree cover guidelines for the benchmark area are based on a goal of restoring this area to a condition that characterized it prior to European settlement. Most large old trees and snags would be retained while most smaller trees and regeneration would be removed. Removal of young, recently established trees is a priority.

Implementation of the recommended benchmark will provide an open grassland area sufficient for meeting livestock a.u.m. targets set in the Cariboo-Chilcotin Land Use Plan (CCLUP), as long as tree densities and forage production in forests adjacent to the grasslands are also restored to earlier levels. It is unlikely that both a.u.m. targets and range management guidelines in the Forest Practices Code can be met without reducing these tree densities.

The recommended benchmark is significantly smaller than the area of grassland on the pre-European settlement landscape. As a result, there may be increased risks to biodiversity and endangered species habitats compared to the earlier landscape. However, these risks would be significantly higher if no effort were made to control forest encroachment. If encroachment were left to continue at its present rate, grasslands in the Cariboo-Chilcotin would cover only about 63% of their current area 120 years from now. This would have an unacceptable impact on biodiversity due to loss of habitat and increased grazing pressures on the remaining grasslands and wetlands.

Other recommendations presented by the the Cariboo-Chilcotin Grassland Strategy Working Group include designating the Ministry of Forests as the lead agency for implementing grassland restoration on the benchmark area; incorporating the recommended grassland benchmark area into the current landscape unit planning processes in each forest district; and initiating treatments to control recent forest encroachment on priority sites as soon as possible.

Based on the Executive Summary of the Interim Report on Grassland Encroachment and In-growth, submitted by Peter Fofonoff, Ministry of Agriculture and Food, Williams Lake.
Preserving working ranches
A look at land trusts and conservation covenants

By Nichola Gerts, The Land Conservancy of BC

As environmentalists we still raise a few eyebrows when we talk about our love of ranches and beef production in British Columbia. We are conservationists—and as such devote much of our time to the protection of wildlands and concerns for ‘species-at-risk’.

Four years ago, The Land Conservancy (TLC) of BC began to focus attention on grassland systems in British Columbia. Classically under-represented in protected status and lacking profile, we chose to investigate how a land trust could work to protect the future of grassland systems.

Our focus has shifted from looking at the small picture of pristine protection to the large landscape view of grasslands in BC. As 70% of our grasslands are privately owned, far less can be done by our government to achieve the provincial goal of setting aside 12% of each ecosystem to protection. High costs inhibit the purchase of lands from private ownership.

The solution to addressing this problem lies with land trusts. Through our work we have happily become involved with the ranching community, working on the premise that large working ranches preserve grassland systems and help our province support nearly a third of our endangered species. Saving ranching is synonymous in a sense with saving our remaining grasslands.

Conservation/preservation of ranches presents its own challenges, not unlike the protection of wild lands, but with several economic twists.

Highest and best use is the method used to evaluate the price of a particular property. When we look at ranches we are faced with the value of the property for development, not agriculture. And while the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) does help to maintain some agricultural values, it still allows for large properties to be broken up into individual parcels, which in turn can be sold and lost to cattle production.

Most ranch land in BC is in the ALR. However, even lands within the ALR have a speculative value since many are comprised of a large number of parcels which can each be sold individually. Once sold, these are usually taken out of production and can become a source of weeds and disruptive influences to wildlife and ranching communities. The Land Commission receives many requests for removal from the ALR and enough of these requests are successful to further fuel the speculative market. Agricultural lands, particularly those in the path of development, always sell for more than their agricultural production alone would justify.

Because of this speculative sale potential, most ranch properties have significant capital gains. It is very difficult to save for retirement or ensure that the property is passed on through the family—particularly if the heirs do not want to continue the family tradition.

But there is something that can be done. Land trusts are able to use estate planning, along with conservation agreements and their respective economic benefits, to help secure private properties. These avenues are frequently used in the United States, and legislation has recently passed in British Columbia and Alberta which allow land trusts to follow a similar suit.

A conservation covenant allows a property owner the right to remove certain privileges from their property and in doing so they can often change the property value. Conservation covenants are a voluntary agreement between a landowner and a land trust which can be donated for a tax receipt or sold to provide funds, taking away unwanted speculative value while retaining full ownership of the ranch as a ranch.

In the US a number of agencies have well funded Purchase of Development Rights programs. In Montana, for example, the US Fish and Wildlife Service has a budget of $2 million per year for these purchases. Currently, there is no such program in British Columbia. We are actively seeking avenues to raise monies that would support the purchase of development rights. This would allow the rancher to retain title and maintain a ranching operation, while removing the developable potential from the land.

Here in Canada, it would often be advantageous for a rancher to sell some development rights and donate others so that the tax receipt from the donation can be used to offset the capital gain on the sale of rights, i.e., sell $500,000 and donate $500,000. These decisions would be part of a carefully designed strategy of estate planning.

Whether purchased or donated, the value of a covenant is determined by placing a value on the rights it restricts. For example if current regulations allow fifty homesites on a particular ranch and if each of these sites is worth $30,000, a covenant which reduced the number of homesites by ten would have a value of $300,000.

However, for those with small cash income, a tax receipt is worth little in offsetting farm income and many development rights have already been removed by the ALR. Once removed, these lands cannot be donated or sold for any value, setting agricultural properties apart from other private holdings in the province.

While the conservation community is actively seeking avenues to support activities like the purchase of development rights, there are other activities that are equally important to maintaining ranches. Incentives through tax reforms are one suggestion, while greater recognition at a provincial and federal level for the contribution that agriculturists are making to conservation and the protection of species, and maintenance of open space is another. As a community we can begin lobbying for effective changes. We also encourage people to take estate planning seriously, incorporating future goals into ranch planning.

The Land Conservancy has just completed a Canadian version of a publication by the Sonoran Institute—Preserving Working Ranches in the Canadian West—and will be offering free copies through our office. It is a great way of becoming informed about what types of projects are working in maintaining ranches, and explains options and ‘tools’ for estate planning. For a copy, contact Nichola at The Land Conservancy BC, 5793 Old West Saanich Road, Victoria, BC V8X 3X3 or call (250) 385-9246.

“Supporting the purchase of development rights would allow the rancher to retain land title and maintain a ranching operation while removing the developable potential from the land.”
Laurie Guichon Memorial Grasslands Interpretive Site

By Elizabeth Salomon-de-Friedberg, Nicola Watershed Community Round Table

The Laurie Guichon* Memorial Grasslands Interpretive Site is a project of the Nicola Watershed Community Round Table (NWCRT). The purpose of this initiative is to educate the residents of the Nicola watershed about the interior grasslands and to demonstrate the importance of grasslands and their integral role in the social and economic fabric of the area.

With the death of Laurie Guichon in July 1999 and the creation of the Laurie Guichon Memorial Fund, the NWCRT renewed its commitment to the project and set about finding a site. After an extensive review and assessment of possible locations, a site was selected and a preliminary site plan developed. The home of the Grasslands Interpretive Site will be the western end of the Lundbom Commonage.

The entrance to the site will be directly off the east side of Highway 5A at Lundbom Road, approximately 11 kilometres past Merritt city limits. Highway 5A connects to Highway 97C from the Okanagan (Kelowna and area); and, in the opposite direction, to Highway 5 (the Coquihalla) from the Lower Mainland. Lundbom Road leads from the highway to the Lundbom Commonage, which is used for grazing and as a popular summer recreation area. The features of this location include rolling hills of grasses, a small forested area to the north, clumps of trees and other vegetation in depressions found around the site, and a wetland area just to the north of the entrance.

The preliminary site plan was developed, keeping in mind a long-term vision for this site and assuming that the interpretive facility will receive moderate to high levels of use over time. The plan recommends a four-phase development. Phase 1 includes the construction of a parking lot, pit toilets, the design and construction of the main kiosk, and the trail from the parking lot to the main kiosk. The Grasslands Interpretive Site Committee plans the completion of Phase One in 2000.

Over the past couple of months, the site plan has been staked out on the ground with markers; a preliminary design for the main kiosk has been adopted; and research has been undertaken with respect to costs of building the main kiosk and the pit toilets. As well, the Committee is putting the finishing touches to the budget for Phase One. A number of other activities are also underway including the development of sign text, finalizing the liability insurance, and getting the necessary approvals before construction can begin.

*Laurie Guichon was an integral member of the Nicola Watershed Community Round Table from its beginning and it is to honor his memory and his work to promote the principles of the Round Table that this site will bear his name.

Executive Director (from page 3)

next three years. To this end, the GCC will continue to develop proposals and forge new partnership and alliances that will enable the Council to:

• Address an urgent need for broad education and increased awareness about the ecological, social, economic and cultural importance of grasslands in British Columbia, while continuing to address priority issues such as ATV licensing, weed control and the loss of grassland to fragmentation and development.

• Carry on working with partners to establish a provincial grasslands Geographical Information System.

• Encourage and facilitate communication and the flow of information amongst organizations, individuals, and the different regions of the province (via web site, newsletter, and others).

• Continue to build the capacity of the GCC through fundraising, increasing our membership base, and developing a strong volunteer base.

I welcome the new Board of Directors and look forward to working with this great group of people to deliver the GCC Program Plan. Together we will tackle the many challenges ahead, as we move the GCC from a fledgling organization to one that has a clear long-term vision with the capacity to coordinate, support and implement grassland conservation and stewardship around the province.

—Bruno Delesalle, Grasslands Conservation Council
Thompson Okanagan badger study seeks further input

by Helen Davis, Artemis Wildlife

Where do badgers occur in the Thompson and Okanagan regions? How many of them are there? How do badgers eke out an existence in grasslands? Can badgers and people coexist?

These are just a few questions being posed by members of the Thompson Okanagan Badger Project. The project, being run by Helen Davis and Corinna Hoodicoff of Artemis Wildlife Consultants, aims to learn more about badgers, their life history, and where they occur in our region.

What we do know about badgers in our region is fairly limited. Badgers are one of the rarest carnivores in the province and are currently a Red-listed (threatened) species. Population numbers are very low, believed to be between 300 and 1000 in total for the province. Badgers historically occurred in the Thompson and Okanagan valleys, Boundary region, and East Kootenays in areas of bunchgrass and open forests of ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir, but just how many still call these areas home is unknown.

The badger project will first update the current distribution map for the species so that managers can determine where to focus conservation efforts. In the first year of the project, over 150 badger sightings were collected throughout the region, ranging from Grand Forks to Barriere.

Next, a research study is underway to shed some light on the biology of badgers at the northern edge of their range in North America. The research team will be focusing much of their efforts on following a few badgers fitted with radio transmitters. By following these animals researchers hope to determine birth and death rates, causes of death, habitats used by badgers, and the distribution and density of remaining badger populations. During the summer of 1999, five male badgers were captured and five untagged badgers were killed on roads or highways in the Kamloops area last year. In early May, a female badger was killed on the highway just south of Barriere and an autopsy revealed she had kits at the time.

Badgers are very distinctive looking, known mostly for their black and white facial markings. Badgers are one of the largest members of the weasel family, weighing from 6 to 14 kilograms, about the size of a medium-sized dog. They are stout, shaggy animals, with a short tail. Probably the most distinctive feature about badgers is that the face has a white stripe along the midline of the head from the nose to the base of the neck. The rest of the body can be silver-gray to yellow-brown with some black and buff mixed in. Badgers eat marmots, which they are often mistaken for, and ground squirrels.

Burrows and hair are good indicators of the presence of badgers in an area. Badger burrows, with their large plumes of excavated soil at the entrance, are often the only sign that badgers are present because badgers are active mostly at night.

These burrows are important to other animals that use them after badgers abandon them, especially to the endangered burrowing owl. Badger burrows have entrances 20 to 30 centimetres in diameter and often have badger hairs caught on vegetation or in the soil at the entrance. Deep, wide claw marks in the side of burrows are also indicators of it being dug by badgers.

Have you seen a badger? We need your help. If you see or have seen any badgers or badger burrows (even in the past 10 years), please call the toll-free badger hotline (1-888-223-4376), e-mail the study at badgers@artemiswildlife.com, or visit the Badger Website at www.artemiswildlife.com (follow the “Badgers in BC” link.)
By Don Gayton, Southern Interior Forest Extension and Research Partnership

Can prescribed burning rejuvenate grasslands? Is needle-and-thread grass a climax species? Can we favor native bunchgrasses by delaying livestock turnout? What is the impact of the latest biocontrol insect for knapweed?

Long term ecological monitoring of British Columbia grasslands, which provides the answers to questions like these, is a goal few would argue with. But if that is true, then why is grassland monitoring such a low priority? Before we delve into that question, let’s step back for a minute, to look at the romance of grassland monitoring.

Why romance? Because grassland monitoring, besides being an eminently practical activity, is fascinating in its own right. Some of the people who have taken this ecosystem on to assimilate its rhythms, learn its processes, and understand this one tiny orbit in the great whirring orrery of the universe, are real heroes.

I have had the opportunity to stand in Nine-Mile Prairie, outside of Lincoln, Nebraska, a rolling piece of tallgrass that could have been the inspiration for Andrew Wyeth’s painting *Christina’s World*. What it did inspire was the pioneering work of J.E. Weaver, a founding father of grassland ecology, who used Nine-Mile as a laboratory for his ideas on succession. I have also stood amongst the sagebrush and Idaho fescue of Marcellus Prairie, in central Washington, where Rexford Daubenmire perfected his now-famous vegetation measurement technique.

Closer to home, I have paid homage to the Hamilton Commonage Exclosure, erected in 1938, and the Milroy Exclosure near Skookumchuk, built in 1949. As I contemplate these long-term grassland monitoring sites, and the people behind them, I see a kind of altruism, a concern about the future. I also see a sense of confidence, in both our society and our governments, that the monitoring transects we laid down in 1930, or 1938, or 1949 or 1998, will be maintained and preserved. Confidence that we can keep the data, perpetuate the integrity of installations and treatments, maintain the lineage of experimental design, and last but not least, remember to send someone back out there to remeasure our work and harvest the fruits of our monitoring labor.

Ecological processes take longer than careers, longer than lifetimes. It is also a fact that our governmental institutions operate on timelines of fiscal years and elections, and that we ourselves have become conditioned to megahertz-fuelled, nanosecond information response times. This disparity of timelines may be one reason that grassland monitoring has such high consensus, but such low priority.

The resurrection of a BC grassland monitoring program would be a measure of our success as land managers and conservationists.”

The fate of the FRBC-funded Range Reference Areas (RRA) Program is a case in point. RRAs are permanent, fenced installations with detailed long-term vegetation monitoring plots, designed to define rangeland communities and successional patterns, and track the impacts of disturbances such as livestock grazing, wildlife, weeds, fire and forest ingrowth. RRA Program staff established and monitored some 260 exclosures, plus upgrading and remeasuring another hundred existing enclosures.

The range and distribution of the RRAs are truly impressive, from the Sikanni Chief area northwest of Fort St. John, to the Junction Range south of Riske Creek, to the spectacular Nicola Grasslands near Merritt, and to the ponderosa pine savannas of Grasmere.

Funding for the RRA Program was recently cancelled, and the staff moved to other jobs. Many are questioning how the province can operate without a functional grassland ecological monitoring program.

The resurrection of a BC grassland monitoring program will be a measure of our success as land managers and conservationists. It will also demonstrate an understanding of the time frames of ecology, which moves to its own clock, not ours.

Don Gayton, M.Sc., P.Ag., is an ecosystem management specialist with the Southern Interior Forest Extension and Research Partnership, based in Nelson.
Grasslands stewardship in the East Kootenays growing with help of TLC

By Nichola Gerts, The Land Conservancy

Through working with ranchers in the East Kootenay, it became apparent to The Land Conservancy (TLC) that smaller acreage/ranchette owner involvement would be the key to effective conservation measures.

This inspired TLC to launch the East Kootenay Grassland Stewardship Program which would sustain or enhance natural values of privately held grasslands in the East Kootenay Rocky Mountain Trench, through both a landowner contact program and raising community awareness of stewardship and conservation options.

Landowner participation is voluntary and the focus is on extending tools to private landowners in order to help maintain or enhance the condition of the property.

TLC’s contact team conducts a visit with the landowner, walking through the property and discussing grassland ecology, weeds, in-growth and encroachment, wildlife, and any restoration or management concerns which may apply. Following the visit, the landowner receives a package with further information about the topics discussed, a collection of identified and mounted plants collected on site, suggestions for stewardship, and a map showing major features of the property.

Community response during the first year was encouraging and landowners contacted for a re-visit have been very enthusiastic and receptive to our on-going support and encouragement in their stewardship efforts.

The Allan Brooks Nature Centre open this summer

By Debbie Clarke, Allan Brooks Nature Centre

Situated on a knoll overlooking a spectacular panoramic view of the North Okanagan, the Allan Brooks Nature Centre opened its doors on July first.

The Centre hopes to play an important role in the interpretation and restoration of North Okanagan grassland ecosystems and native plant landscaping. The goal of the Centre is “to promote the enjoyment, understanding, and stewardship of the North Okanagan’s unique and diverse natural environment.”

Located five minutes from downtown Vernon, at the north end of the Commanchage Rangelands—a stunning ridge of rolling hills which runs between Kalamalka and Okanagan Lakes—the Allan Brooks Nature Centre covers approximately 3.6 hectares and includes two buildings that were previously home to an Environment Canada weather station.

The Commanchage consists of grassland habitat with several small ponds (containing rare, threatened, and fragile habitat types), and is a regionally important area for birds supporting a provincially significant year-round raptor concentration as well as numerous provincially listed plant and wildlife species.

The Nature Centre is named after Allan Brooks (1869–1946), a talented and well-recognized bird painter and wildlife artist who lived in the Okanagan Landing area of Vernon in the early 1900s.

Displays featured at the Nature Centre include a diorama of representative North Okanagan ecosystems; hands-on interactive displays and activities; an interpretive trail; a series of displays, kiosks and changing exhibits focusing on grasslands in the North Okanagan; as well as a dedication to Mr. Brooks.

Aside is too small, too fragmented, too isolated and too vulnerable for successful conservation of the species that inhabit these areas. None of the protected areas are surrounded by effective buffer zones either, and all are subject to continued disturbance of some kind.

Grassland and grassland shrub steppe conservation in the South Okanagan is an urgent priority. More lands need to be earmarked for endangered species protection. Landscape linkages need to be established to connect core conservation areas and provide movement corridors. Elevational landscape connections are also needed to permit altitudinal movement of plants and animals with climate change. These actions will all be necessary for future maintenance of the crucial ecological corridor linking the central interior grasslands of British Columbia with the inter-montane grasslands to the south in the western United States.

As most of the remaining natural valley-bottom habitat of the South Okanagan is privately held or on First Nations lands (with the Crown Lands primarily at the higher elevations), a successful conservation plan in this area of the province will involve many stakeholders. An innovative program and strategy, along with considerable cooperative effort will be needed to guarantee both conservation and sustainable land use in the valley and surrounding terrain.
But what of the link between ranchers and conservationists? To read the anti-cattle propaganda circulating the south-western United States, you could easily conclude that putting cattle on native grasslands is the quickest way to destroy a biologically diverse area.

Yet careful analysis by both grassland ecologists and cattle ranchers confirm that properly controlled grazing actually enhances grassland biodiversity. The secret is having large tracts of land where cattle grazing can occur on a rotational basis, and sensitive areas can be protected from heavy use.

It is the common goal of conserving large areas of rangeland, and supporting a sustainable relationship between grazers and grasses, that has become the mandate of the South Okanagan Range Land Conservation Program.

There is no end to the creative ways that ranchers and conservationists are joining together to sustain rangeland habitat.

And getting started now is critical. The South Okanagan grasslands comprise less than 1% of BC, yet they exist within a region that is currently experiencing the fastest population increase in the province. The exponential rate of urban development in the South Okanagan is destroying critical natural habitat, and causing multi-generation family ranches to subdivide into suburban ranchettes or urban subdivisions.

The Nature Trust of British Columbia and its partners are now hard at work establishing the funds and co-operative arrangements necessary to achieve the South Okanagan Range Land Conservation Program and, in doing so, to re-establish and conserve the sweeping rangelands that define the Canadian west.


Sharp-tails in decline

Over the past 20 years, the Thompson-Nicola, Okanagan and Kootenay regions have seen a dramatic decline in breeding populations of Columbian sharp-tailed grouse. This has resulted in increasing concern about the loss of their habitat which includes grasslands, aspen forests, shrubby thickets and riparian areas.

Look for the Columbian Sharp-tailed Grouse brochure to be released by the Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks in September. The brochure introduces the reader to the sharp-tailed grouse and presents an overview of their habitat requirements throughout the year. The brochure features the beautiful wildlife photography of Roy Chester, Kamloops, BC.
Thank You

The Grasslands Conservation Council of British Columbia would like to thank the following funding organizations and donors for their generous support:

- Brian Barrett
- Beef Cattle Industry Development Fund
- Cattle Horn Fund
- Douglas Lake Ranch
- Endswell Foundation
- Federation of BC Naturalists Foundation
- GG Runka Land Sense Ltd.
- Habitat Conservation Trust Fund
- Ministry of Environment, Lands & Parks
- Ministry of Forests
- Real Estate Foundation of BC
- Bill Stewart
- Trans Mountain Pipe Line Ltd.
- Vancouver Foundation

Special Thanks

The GCC would like to extend a special thank you to Ducks Unlimited for donating their Interior Wetlands Program database which has served as the basis for the Grasslands Conservation Council contact database.

A special thanks to the GCC volunteers, especially Janet Southwell, Niki Paillé and Susan Weilandt for all their hard work.

“Working together for the conservation of BC’s grasslands”

GCC Message Board

If you have an event or message you would like to add to the BC Grasslands GCC Message Board, contact our office at (250) 374-5721. Deadline for submissions is November 30, 2000.

Our next issue

Keep a look out for our next issue of BC Grasslands, coming in late 2000 or early in 2001. The theme of this issue will be “Threats to grasslands in British Columbia.” Issues to be explored include: losing large ranches to subdivision—what does this mean for the future of BC’s grasslands?; what tools are needed for conservation and stewardship?; the ATV issue and need for licensing; and weeds and their impact on grasslands.

Anyone interested in contributing to this coming issue with an article, photos or artwork can contact the GCC office.

Heads up!

We’re moving to a new office this fall. The GCC is currently exploring opportunities to share office space with a local business, organization or government agency. It is an important step for the GCC. We will keep you informed.

The GCC is looking for volunteers to help with our various projects and upcoming events. For information, or to offer your expertise, please call us at (250) 374-5721 or e-mail: bruno_delesalle@telus.net

ACT NOW

The Grasslands Conservation Council needs your help!

Grasslands are unique, vital and life-sustaining ecosystems that provide shelter, food and protection to a wide variety of plants, animals and insects. Over 76% of BC’s native grasslands have been lost and more than 30% of the animal species on BC’s threatened or endangered list are closely associated with grasslands.

Yes! I would like to join the GCC in the conservation of BC Grasslands, Canada’s most endangered ecosystem.

NAME (PLEASE PRINT)  HOME PHONE

ADDRESS  WORK PHONE

POSTAL CODE  E-MAIL  FAX

MEMBERSHIP: Individual: □ $20  Corporate: □ $250  Sponsor: □ up to $500  □ over $500  $ __________

PAYMENT ENCLOSED: □ Cheque  □ Money Order

Mail to: Grasslands Conservation Council of British Columbia, 727 Dominion Street, Kamloops, BC V2C 2X8

Phone/Fax: (250) 374-5721 • E-mail: gcc@telus.net

GCC annual memberships are valid for the calendar year

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING BC’S GRASSLANDS