

Meewasin 

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Canadian Prairies
**PRESCRIBED
FIRE EXCHANGE**

NEWS RELEASE

for immediate release

Partners from Across North America come together in Saskatoon for Grassland Health

October 26, 2022

In partnership with other partner groups from British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and the United States, Meewasin hosted Canada's first Prescribed Fire Training Exchange (TRES). In total, 40 participants were engaged from 10 organizations. The key focus of a TRES is to promote effective cooperative prescribed burning—helping diverse partners leverage skills, resources and staff in ways that maximize opportunities for reaching ecological and community safety goals. Four of the five planned days had favourable conditions that saw a total of over 240 acres burned at the following locations:

- Northeast Swale
- Beaver Creek Conservation Area
- Wanuskewin
- St. Denis – National Wildlife Area
- Kernan Prairie Research Farm

Successful prescribed fires at these areas contributes to the ecological goals of reactivating sand dunes, prairie restoration, reducing litter and fuel load, and protecting habitat for endangered species.

“The TRES event will help to more successfully use prescribed fire for years to come. The training and networking completed this week will serve those who participated and the environment as we all work to halt and reverse the loss of important biodiversity and specifically those of native prairie grassland,” explains Resource Management Officer, Renny Grilz.

“Meewasin is sincerely thankful to the partners in TRES, and the resources from the Weston Family Foundation-Prairie Grassland Initiative, together we all play a role in prairie restoration. This work is also integral in supporting Meewasin's goal to annually enhance and/or restore no less than 25% of property in the defined corridor by 2024. Meewasin is committed through

partnership to enhancing life on land and contributing to a sustainable city.” States CEO, Andrea Lafond.

Participants of the event included Meewasin, Canada Wildlife Services, Nature Conservancy of Canada, University of Saskatchewan, City of Saskatoon, Government of Saskatchewan Ministry of Parks, Culture, and Sport, Skinner Native Seeds, Doane University (Nebraska, USA), Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation, Wanuskewin, and the Saskatoon Fire Department.

Thank you again to all the participants and the Weston Family Foundation Prairie Grassland Initiative for supporting these interactive educational opportunities.



For more information, contact Meewasin at 306-665-6887 or meewasin@meewasin.com

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About Canadian Prairie Prescribed Fire Exchange

The Canadian Prairies Prescribed Fire Exchange is an inter-agency collective established to increase capacity for knowledge sharing and training surrounding the use of prescribed fire as a management tool in Canadian prairie and parkland ecosystems.

The CPPFE does not conduct prescribed fires, but instead provides learning and training opportunities, facilitates equipment and resource sharing, and acts as a hub for current fire science and grassland fire knowledge. We're here to help fire practitioners of all backgrounds, from landowners, to communities, to conservation groups and even experienced firefighters.

Our community of agencies and practitioners is driven by the urgent need to build capacity and share knowledge on the use of prescribed fire. Our partners include notable experts with many decades of experience planning, leading, and assisting with prescribed fires.

Collectively, our group manages millions of hectares of grasslands and parklands across western Canada. We understand that fire is an essential component of those ecosystems and that more fire is needed to address the accelerating decline of biodiversity occurring in our prairie. To learn more visit <https://www.grasslandfire.ca/about>

About Meewasin Valley Authority

The Meewasin Valley Authority exists to ensure a healthy and vibrant river valley, with a balance between human use and conservation by:

- *Providing leadership in the management of its resources;*
- *Promoting understanding, conservation and beneficial use of the Valley; and*
- *Undertaking programs and projects in river valley development and conservation, for the benefit of present and future generations.*

There are 67 square kilometers of land and more than 105km of established trail, which has seen up to 2.24 million trail visits per year, in the Meewasin Valley. The area also features sites that help people to connect to nature through experiences such as Beaver Creek Conservation Area, the Northeast Swale, Saskatoon Natural Grasslands, the River Landing Spray Area, and the Cameco Meewasin Skating Rink @Nutrien Plaza. Meewasin is a non-profit organization that relies on donations and volunteers for sustainability. To get involved or learn more visit www.meewasin.com