



**Grasslands Conservation Council
of British Columbia**

**Annual Report
April 2002**



Board of Directors 2001/2002

GCC Executive

Bob Peart (Chair) Vancouver
Jim White (Vice Chair) Kamloops
Nichola Walkden (Secretary) Victoria
Dennis Lloyd (Treasurer) Kamloops
Cindy Haddow, Victoria
Dr. Michael Pitt, Vancouver
Kristi Iverson, Lac la Hache

GCC Directors

Agnes Jackson, Kamloops
Alf Bawtree, Celista
Bill Turner, Victoria
Bob Scheer, Kamloops
Darrel Smith, Invermere
Dave Zehnder, Invermere
Gary Tipper, Cranbrook
Greg Tegart, Kelowna
Judy Guichon, Quilchena
Katherine Gizikoff, Merritt
Maurice Hanson, Kimberly
Mike Kennedy, Lillooet
Phil Youwe, Kamloops
Tom Dickinson, Kamloops
Wendy Gardner, Kamloops
Ian Barnett, Kamloops

GCC Staff

Bruno Delesalle, Executive Director (contract)
Ryan Holmes, GIS Analyst (contract)
Shane Vincenzi, Communication and Extension Co-ordinator (part-time)

Grasslands Conservation Council of British Columbia

954 A Laval Crescent
Kamloops, BC V2C 5P5
Phone: 250-374-5787
Fax: 250-374-6287
Email: gcc@bc.grasslands.org
Website: www.bcgrasslands.org

Front cover: Columbian Sharp-tailed Grouse. Photo by Ernest Leupin

Table of Contents

Chair's Report	5
Executive Director's Report	6
Program Reports	
Report on Communication and Extension	10
Report on Demonstration	12
Report on Research, Inventory and Monitoring	13
Report on Program Evaluation	14
GCC Committee Reports	
ATV Committee Report	15
Weed Committee Report	15
Membership Committee Report	16
Fundraising Committee Report	17
Policy Development Committee Report	17
Report on Governance of the GCC	18
Special Project Reports	
Pacific Northwest Weed Conference Report	19
Preserving Working Ranches Report	19
Grasslands Research Centre Report	20
Office Report	22
Treasurer's Report	23
GCC Supporters	28
Resolutions for June 2002 AGM	29

GCC Annual Report April 2002

Established as a society in 1999, the Grasslands Conservation Council (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, and the conservation and stewardship of British Columbia's grasslands.

GCC Now a Registered Charity!

After a long process that took nearly 1½ years, the GCC became a registered charity on December 21, 2002, allowing the GCC to access more funding sources and give tax receipts for donations.

Since becoming a registered charity, the GCC has worked with Charities Canada to revise the GCC constitution.

New GCC Constitution:

The purposes of the society are:

1. To educate and increase the public's understanding for the grassland environment by offering seminars, workshops, conferences and meetings; by collecting and disseminating information on grasslands, grassland conservation and management; and by providing education and stewardship programs;
2. To organize and participate in environmental projects designed to:
 - o Maintain and restore grassland flora and fauna
 - o Preserve, protect and restore grassland biodiversity
 - o Improve the management of grasslands
3. To do all such other things as are incidental or ancillary to the attainment of the above purposes.

The GCC Mission Statement and Goals and Objectives were also revised to better reflect the role of the GCC as a charity.

The GCC Mission Statement:

- to foster greater understanding and appreciation for the ecological, social, economic and cultural importance of grasslands throughout BC;
- to promote stewardship and sustainable management practices that will ensure the long-term health of BC's grasslands;
- to promote the conservation of representative grassland ecosystems, species at risk and their habitats.

GCC GOALS

Goal 1: Education - *To increase awareness and understanding of British Columbian's grasslands*

Goal 2: Grassland Stewardship - *To provide information and develop partnerships that will allow for the stewardship and sustainable management of grasslands*

Goal 3: Support Sustainable Ranching - *To provide information that will improve the understanding of grassland ecosystems and promote ecologically sustainable & economically viable management practices that will ensure the long-term health of BC's grasslands*

Goal 4: Conservation of Representative Grassland Ecosystems - *To inform the public, resource managers and decision makers about the need for conservation of representative grassland ecosystems that include corridors and ungrazed benchmarks, and that are capable of sustaining critical species and habitats*

Chair's Report

by Bob Peart

It has been an honour to serve you this past year and most gratifying to see how increasingly vital input from the GCC has become in conversations about the future care and management of BC's grasslands.

We should all be proud of the progress we have made since we gathered at Big Bar a few years ago to decide if conserving grasslands was a worthy use of our time and effort. As we all concluded at Big Bar, the main reason we needed to get together was to put grasslands and range management back on the conservation and land use agenda --- and this has been achieved!

Whether it is our communication with ranchers, our current mapping inventory work, our input to weed management, our working with government officials, or scores of other contributions the work of the GCC the future of grasslands, their management and their conservation is now seen as central and important to land-use planning.

Unfortunately grasslands are going to continue to be destroyed, invaded by non-native species and mismanaged. As well with a growing human population the fresh water and soil vital to grasslands is also going to be contaminated, weakened and replaced by houses and ranchettes. To this end, we must all continue our vital work to protect the future of BC's grassland environments

Executive Director's Report

by Bruno Delesalle

There is no doubt that the GCC is making significant progress. In fact, we have grown substantially over the past year presenting the board and staff with some significant challenges. This process has been exciting and very rewarding to experience as we build on this relatively young organization and see it mature and gain credibility provincially. As Jim White, GCC Vice Chair often reminds me... it is important not to get overwhelmed with what lies ahead, but to always look back to see where we have come from. We have come a long way in a short time!

Charity Status

One of the most significant developments this year was securing charity status, which the GCC received on December 21, 2001. The GCC is now in a position where it can develop an effective donor program and approach a wider range of Foundations both in Canada and the USA. As part of this process, the GCC has ratified a revised Constitution, as well as minor changes to our GCC Mission and Goal statements.

Program Development & Funding

As the GCC continues to develop and deliver its programs, we have recognized the urgent need to develop a longer-term fundraising strategy. Although the GCC was successful in securing funding for the 2001-2002 fiscal year (a 30% increase from last fiscal year), funding and budgets were not in place until summer 2001. This presents significant difficulties for delivery of programs, as the GCC did not have core operational funds.

Nevertheless, we secured our budget and enough funding to hire a part-time communication person to deliver on some key communication projects, as well as continue the important work in Mapping BC's Grasslands.

Another very important step this year was to contract Morningstar Enterprises Inc. to assist the GCC in organising and co-ordinating GCC's first fundraising campaign. A great committee was established, comprised of 13 members from around the province. The goal of this committee is to raise \$100,000 for GCC programs and to enable the GCC to hire a Development Director. The Development Director will assist the GCC in further developing its fundraising strategy, coordinate future fundraising efforts, and develop the GCC membership base. It is critical, at this juncture, that we take fundraising very seriously and that the Board of Directors takes an active role in this process. Having a staff member dedicated to fundraising and working closely with the Board and myself will pay dividends in the long run. This is our future... we need to excel at it!

Although GCC membership continues to grow, donations to the GCC are down 73% from last fiscal year. I expect this will turn around this year with the development of a donor program and fundraising campaigns.

Fundraising these past few months for the next fiscal year (April 01, 2002- March 31, 2003) has far exceeded our expectations and should be enable the GCC to move to a new level in program delivery.

Financial Management & Accounting

One of the key challenges for a young organization is to establish an infrastructure and process for sound financial management and accounting, particularly as we proceed into our first year as a registered charity. With assistance from Ducks Unlimited Canada, our accountant W. Sellmer Ltd. and bookkeeper Ruth Bockhodt, the GCC has taken great strides this year to position itself for growth and future development.

GCC Programs

The GCC is well on its way to achieving key objectives outlined in its three-year strategy.

Over this past year, the GCC has made great progress with the **Communication & Extension** component of our program. The year began with a successful *Sustaining Healthy Grasslands Symposium - Managing Invasive Weeds* in Vernon, attracting approximately 150 participants.

Other successes this year include the third issue of BC Grasslands: Grasslands Under Siege - Subdivision and development. This newsletter magazine is growing in popularity and has proven to be an excellent tool for increasing interest in grasslands and the GCC. The GCC website (www.bcgrassland.org) is up and running and will continue to develop over the next year to begin to provide a provincial service for people, organizations and communities looking for information on grasslands, grassland issues, conservation, stewardship and land management. The GCC has also completed key projects, such as the portable grassland display and the Lac du Bois interpretive signs. These Communication & Extension projects are important tools that will assist us in fostering an awareness about grasslands province-wide.

In the **Research, Monitoring & Inventory** component of our program, is the **BC Grasslands Mapping Project**. This ambitious project fills a critical provincial need and will provide solid baseline information that is not currently available. Ryan Holmes, our GIS Analyst, is doing an outstanding job. The delineation and mapping of existing grasslands is complete for 80% of the province, including: Kamloops, Cariboo, Prince George and Kootenay regions. The areas remaining are the Northwest portions of the province (Prince Rupert region), Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands. We are making good progress on the next phase of this project, which is to incorporate land status and tenure information, as well as develop a process to map the historical distribution of BC's grasslands.

The *BC Grasslands Mapping Project* has resulted in many new partnerships. The fact that the GCC is delivering on this important project has been, and will continue to be, instrumental in forging the GCC's track record and credibility provincially. A detailed year two annual report, statistical report and Project Plan 2002-2004 is available.

The **Demonstration** component of the program is made up of one project - the *Hamilton Commonage Demonstration Project*. Unfortunately, we have not been able to secure funding to complete phase two: "the Hamilton Commonage Monitoring Project". The goals for this monitoring project are to measure riparian and grassland recovery rates in new and old exclosures and to test and provide monitoring tools to ranchers and range managers. In this era of results-based management we want to be able to assess the results of existing range management practices or the results of changes in range management practices on the health of B.C.'s grasslands.

The proposed project will establish a much-needed long-term monitoring strategy for the *Hamilton Commonage Grassland* and, complete baseline monitoring for the *Hamilton Commonage Demonstration Project area*. Utilizing the baseline monitoring at Hamilton Commonage, we propose to test less intensive monitoring methodologies to provide working monitoring methods to ranchers and range managers.

The GCC has developed and submitted several funding proposals and hopes to begin monitoring June 2002.

GCC Issues & Committees

As part of our mission to raise awareness about grasslands and grassland issues, and to promote stewardship and sustainable management practices, the GCC has continued to establish and work with committees to address key issues. The first important issue is **All-terrain Vehicles (ATV)** and the need for a provincial licensing systems and improved management of ATV use. An ATV committee completed the *ATV Background Report* (July 2001) and solicited support from key groups, such as the Union of BC Municipalities. Delayed due to the changes in government, the ATV committee will be re-convening to plan a course of action. Our goal is to have this issue resolved.

The second issue that we have dedicated a significant amount of time to this year is **invasive weeds**. Weeds are a serious problem and threat to BC's biodiversity and economic well-being. Invasive plants do not recognize jurisdictional boundaries, which means that all land managers must join forces and work together to control and manage these plants. Effective control of invasive plants will require an integrated approach based on innovative solutions and strong partnerships between government, non-government organizations, industry and communities.

The Goal of the GCC is to increase awareness about the weed problem in BC and to encourage and facilitate discussion about a provincial Weed Management Strategy. The role of the council will be to continue working with government and other groups to organize a **Pacific Northwest Weed Conference** and to keep discussion going on a provincial weed management strategy.

Other issues, such as the subdivision and development of grasslands, are rising in profile and requiring attention! It is becoming increasingly important that the GCC establish effective committees that can address provincial and regional issues. The GCC Board of Directors is planning to address this very issue over the next few months!

I look forward to the many challenges that lie ahead. These are critical times for the GCC, as we build the foundation upon which the GCC will deliver its programs and services. We should be proud as we look back where we have come from, but we need to also be cognoscente of the important challenges ahead, particularly as the GCC initiates a long-term strategic planning process this fall. This difficult but essential process will guide future program development and carry us forth into the next few years.

Program Reports

Report on Communication and Extension

Developing and delivering a well-integrated communication program with a strong extension and education component is the key to promoting stewardship and achieving grassland sustainability. For this reason, communication, extension and education form the core of the GCC program. Communication & Extension has two components: Program Promotion and Extension & Education.

Program Promotion

The objectives of this program component are to:

- Inform the public and other organizations about grasslands, the GCC and its mission.
- Build a constituency of support for grasslands and grassland conservation and stewardship amongst individuals, groups, industry and government.
- Build a strong membership base for the council to ensure its ability to deliver its mandate over the long term.

Accomplishments

- The GCC updated and expanded its database of individuals, organizations and resource people that are interested in grasslands and/or are involved with grassland related management, research, monitoring, stewardship, demonstration, communications or education.
- Completed a membership drive to increase 2001 membership by more than 90% over the year 2000 membership
- Participated in several events and conferences as representatives of BC's grasslands
- secured funding to hire a part-time Communications and Extension Co-ordinator

Communication and Extension

The objectives of this program component are to:

- Foster a greater understanding and appreciation of the ecological, economic, social and cultural importance of grasslands.
- Secure support from ranchers and range managers.
- Raise awareness and encourage action on key grassland issues, including noxious weeds, ATV impacts, fragmentation of grasslands to subdivision & development, etc.
- Identify opportunities and participate in planning and decision-making processes to raise awareness of critical grassland areas, habitat needs for species at risk, the role of ranching in stewardship of grasslands, bio-diversity values, and impacts of various land uses on grasslands.
- Nurture collaborative alliances and partnerships among diverse groups and interests.

Accomplishments

- Developed and submitted proposals and secured funds for the following projects:
 - Sustaining Healthy Grasslands Symposium – Vernon BC
 - *BC Grasslands* newsletters
 - Grasslands display
 - BC Grasslands Website – www.bcgrasslands.org
 - Lac du Bois Grassland Interpretive Site
 - Public Service announcements for TV (3 part series)
- Organized and implemented Sustaining Healthy Grasslands Symposium – Vernon BC
- Developed, produced and distributed our second issue (and the first in a three-part series) of the *BC Grasslands* newsletter: *Grasslands Under Siege—The Weed Invasion*
- Developed, produced and distributed our third issue (the second in a three-part series) of the *BC Grasslands* newsletter: *Grasslands Under Siege—Subdivision and Development*
- Developed GCC website to include links to all the GCC projects, funders and donors, communication and extension and downloadable membership forms
- Completed the production of the BC Grasslands Portable Display
- Developed the first draft of a GCC brochure with the Membership Committee
- Continued to work with the Thompson Nicola Noxious Weed Management Committee, the Forestry Continuing Studies Network and other government and non-government organizations to begin planning and organizing a Pacific Northwest Weed Conference for March 2003.
- Worked with the ATV Committee to produce a background document on the ATV licensing issue. This document will inform government and non-government organizations about ATV impacts on grasslands and other ecological systems and the need to be able to identify vehicles through licensing.
- The GCC has actively participated and contributed to the *Laurie Guichon Memorial Grassland Interpretive site*, a project coordinated by the Nicola Watershed Community Round Table. The purpose of this interpretive site is to educate people about grasslands and to promote good stewardship of grasslands.
- Completed the design and production of the *Lac du Bois Grassland Interpretive Site*. Plans for the site preparation and sign unveiling were underway at the time of this report, with the unveiling ceremony being planned for late spring
- The GCC continues to be represented on the following committees and boards:
 - Thompson Nicola Noxious Weed Management Committee (TNNWMC)
 - South Okanagan – Similkameen Conservation Program (SOSCP)
 - Committee on Watershed Stewardship (COWS)
 - Intermountain Joint Venture Board

Report on Demonstration

The Hamilton Commonage Demonstration Project

The GCC currently has one demonstration project: the *Hamilton Commonage Demonstration Project*. *

The *Hamilton Commonage Demonstration Project* was initiated in 1998 to bring together environmental organizations, government agencies, ranchers and the Guichon Ranch in a joint effort to develop a range management strategy for the northwest quarter of the Hamilton Commonage that would maintain and enhance biological diversity and improve grassland and riparian condition. This process resulted in modifications to grazing management of the Hamilton grasslands. These alterations aim to improve grassland condition through changes in cattle distribution, and they have protected ecologically sensitive areas from grazing pressure altogether.

In order for the GCC to determine whether the changes in management are effectively moving us towards our goals, a long-term monitoring program needs to be developed and implemented to provide baseline information and guidance for future changes in range management.

Consequently, since last fall the GCC has developed and submitted several funding proposals to initiate the second phase of this project: the **Hamilton Commonage Monitoring Project**.

The goals of this monitoring are to measure riparian and grassland recovery rates in new and old exclosures and to test and provide monitoring tools to ranchers and range managers. In this era of results-based management we want to be able to assess the results of existing range management practices or the results of changes in range management practices on the health of B.C.'s grasslands

The proposed project will establish a much-needed long-term monitoring strategy for the *Hamilton Commonage Grassland* and, complete baseline monitoring for the *Hamilton Commonage Demonstration Project area*. Utilizing the baseline monitoring at Hamilton Commonage, we propose to test less intensive monitoring methodologies to provide working monitoring methods to ranchers and range managers.

* Draft final report is available upon request

Report on Research, Inventory and Monitoring

BC Grasslands Mapping Project

British Columbia does not currently have adequate information and a clear provincial picture on the abundance, distribution and status of its grasslands. The *BC Grasslands Mapping Project* is compiling existing information (inventories) from around the province to build a grasslands Geographical Information System (GIS) and associated maps for the whole province. The Grasslands GIS will assist the resource and range management community in achieving sustainable and economically viable grassland management practices. The Project fills a critical need and will provide solid baseline information on a provincial scale that managers, decision makers and industry can have confidence in.

Accomplishments

- Base grassland ecosystems mapping (GIS layer 1) is complete for the Kamloops, Cariboo, Prince George, and Nelson Forest Regions. Together these four regions represent roughly 95% of the total grasslands in BC and include distinct grassland landscapes in the following areas: East Kootenay Trench, Lower Arrow Lakes, Boundary, Okanagan, Similkameen, Nicola Valley, Thompson Basin, Fraser/Chilcotin, Cariboo Plateau, Francois Lake/Nechako, Fort St. James, Peace, Muskwa, and Liard Plateau.
- Grasslands mapping is achieving a ~95% confidence level with regional and district ecologists, range representatives, ecosystem specialists and other experts.
- Existing grassland-related inventories and information have been compiled and assessed on a regional basis for their input into grasslands mapping.
- Land status and range tenure data from the Ministry of Forests (MOF), Crown Land Registry Service (CLRS), BC Assets and Land (BCAL), Land Reserve Commission (LRC), Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs (MAA), BC Parks, Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries (MAFF), LRMPs datasets, Integrated Cadastral Initiative (ICI), and regional/district land status initiatives have been examined for input into the grasslands GIS. With guidance from the Technical Review Committee, a process for incorporating land status and range tenure data has been devised.
- A three-step process for historical grasslands mapping has been devised after a comprehensive review of recognized historical and predictive-historical mapping methods.
- Sources of rare and endangered species locations, noxious weed distribution, grassland characterizations, as well as other grassland associated spatial data have been compiled.
- Articles have been published in the *BC Grasslands Newsletter*.
- Numerous meetings took place with the Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC); Ducks Unlimited Canada; Ministry of Forests; Ministry of Water, Land, and Air Protection (MoWLAP); Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management (MSRM), Agriculture Canada, as well as other organizations to inform and involve key people and groups in the mapping project.

- First Nation groups, Tribal Councils, and the Aboriginal Mapping Network have been informed of the GCC, the BC Grasslands Mapping Project, and the grasslands mapping products available.
- The GCC has increased Project awareness and initiated the involvement of livestock associations in the southern half of the province. The GCC has communicated to 53 associations towards the goals of extension of mapping products and the support of the ranching industry. Presentations have been made at livestock association meetings to inform members of the significance of the GCC's grasslands mapping to the industry.
- Maps and statistics have been supplied to numerous individuals involved in grasslands education, communications, research, monitoring, conservation, restoration, and stewardship.
- Produced an Annual Statistics Report—March 2002.
- Produced a Year Two Report—March 2002
- Produced sample maps for representative grassland areas in BC.
- The Project team has had partnership meetings and discussions with Columbia Basin Trust (CBT), the Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program (CBFWCP), the Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC), Ducks Unlimited Canada, Environment Canada, the Canadian Intermountain Joint Venture (CIJV), the Intermountain Wetland Conservation Program (IWCP), as well as other interested parties.
- Established partnerships and secured funding from Ministry of Forests; Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management; Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection; BC Parks; Vancouver Foundation; The Real Estate Foundation; and Wildlife Habitat Canada.
- Agreements have been secured with MSRM, MoWLAP and MOF for the delivery of the Project.

Report on Program Evaluation

It is clearly outlined in the Strategic Plan that the GCC will implement a process to measure the success of the three program components during the first year of its program. However, although the GCC is evaluating projects on a case-by-case basis, the GCC has not collected preliminary data or conducted an evaluation of the GCC programs because of limited funding.

GCC Committee Reports

All Terrain Vehicle (ATV) Committee Report

Chair – Bruno Delesalle, Executive Director

The purpose of the ATV committee is to educate government about the ATV Issue and to inform government and other interest groups about the need for a provincial licensing systems and improved management of ATV use. Ultimately, the goal of the committee is to achieve resolution of this issue. A committee Update is as follows:

- Completed ATV Background Report (July 2001) and solicited additional support from key groups such as the Union of BC Municipalities.
- Distributed the CPAWS ATV Document: *Alternatives for Regulation of All-Terrain Vehicles in BC*.
- Committee has not been very active since July 2001, mainly due to the recent government changes.
- Met with the Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management (MSRM) in Victoria to determine the status of the ATV issue with MSRM staff.
- Although MSRM has appointed staff to the ATV file, there have been two personnel changes over the past year. Currently, the Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management has appointed a staff member to the file; however, the snowmobile issue and legislative change is taking precedence to the ATV issue. To date, MSRM has met with key stakeholders, including the GCC.
- The ATV Committee will re-assemble to plan a course of action for this summer.
- Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society – BC, the Federation of BC Naturalists and the GCC may need to take the lead role on this issue.

Weed Committee Report

Chair – Jim White, GCC Vice-chair

The big news this year relating to invasive weeds and grasslands has been the apparent major shift of government policy on funding weed control. The statement was something to the effect that weed control will become the responsibility of 'industry', which implies that invasive weeds are a concern only of agriculture and possibly forestry, yet we know that weeds have major implications for wildlife, biodiversity, recreation, tourism and other sectors not normally labelled as 'industry'. To date, we are not aware that this initial concept has been given any further shape. There undoubtedly have been many concerns expressed to government about the need for effective weed control, and that this approach may leave large gaps.

The good news is that Dave Chutter, MLA for Yale/Lillooet, and a rancher in the Nicola Valley, came to the BC Cattlemen Association, the Grasslands Conservation Council, and the Ministries of Forests and Agriculture, Fisheries

and Food with a request for assistance to prepare an informative presentation for MLA's. We all made suggestions and Dave Ralph from Agriculture put together a really good PowerPoint presentation. I understand that Dave Chutter has used the presentation, and I hope to have some comments on how it was received for our AGM.

The Fraser Basin Council took the lead in putting together a one-day regional workshop in Williams Lake on May 30, 2002, the focus of which was on the management of weeds. It was well organized, with 2 speakers from Montana, and well attended (100+). The workshop is an excellent prelude to the Pacific Northwest Weed Conference that the GCC has been promoting (see Special Projects Report).

The symposium participants unanimously endorsed the following actions:

1. Initiate the development of a province wide strategy for effective noxious weed management as soon as possible to reduce further negative impacts of noxious weeds.
2. Ensure a province wide noxious weed management strategy includes the following elements:
 - a stable funding base;
 - improved coordination;
 - regional cooperation;
 - public awareness;
 - local and long-term commitment;
 - leadership;
 - an integrated approach;
 - multi-stakeholder involvement;
 - linkages to existing plans, policies and programs;
 - an action-oriented approach;
 - more emphasis on preventative strategies;
 - better application of existing technology; and
 - immediate attention before the weed problem is out of control.
3. Engage relevant government and non-government interests in the development of a province wide noxious weed management strategy.
4. Request the Fraser Basin Council to facilitate the establishment of a multi-interest steering committee or working group to develop a province-wide noxious weed management strategy.

Membership Committee Report

Chair – Katherine Gizikoff, Director

Following a strategy developed in 2000, the Membership Committee continued to work to maintain existing members and encourage others to join via letters that are mailed out with the GCC newsletters. Another key activity for the Committee in 2001 was working on a GCC brochure. This brochure is presently at first-draft stage and is scheduled for completion in July of 2002. Other

Committee activities included updating the GCC database of contacts and investigating the use of the GCC website for secure, on-line membership registration.

Further work is required on developing a schedule of events, conferences and workshops for the GCC to attend with the GCC display. The GCC display, which can be shipped around the province for Directors or Members to display at functions, will be a valuable tool for reaching potential members.

Fundraising Committee Report

Chair – Bob Peart, GCC Chair

The GCC has employed the services of Morningstar Enterprises to assist the GCC in developing and implementing a fundraising campaign for the Spring 2002 (currently ongoing). A four-page colour brochure was produced to sent out to potential donors, including individuals and corporations across the province. Key members of the GCC fundraising team are: Brian Radford, Bob Haywood-Farmer, Ian Barnett, Maurice Hansen, Dr. Bert Brink, Gary Runka, Dr. Geoff Scudder, Dick Cannings, Dave Chutter, Hugh Fallis, Guy Rose and Bruno Delesalle. Each committee member has agreed to take on the challenge to raise approximately \$5,000 dollars towards our larger goal of \$100,000. The money raised will be allocated to key grassland education projects such as the provincial grasslands website, Public Service Announcements for television, as well as supporting other grasslands projects such as the BC Grasslands Mapping Project and the Hamilton Commonage Monitoring Project.

These fundraising efforts are critical to the growth and development of the GCC. We hope to learn from this campaign and build on this experience as we develop our long-term fundraising strategy.

Policy Development Committee Report

No new policies were developed during the 2001-2002 fiscal year.

Report on Governance of GCC

Ian Barnett, GCC director & Jim White, GCC Vice-chair, Co-chairs, 2002
Nominating Committee

When the GCC was preparing to elect its first board in 1999, a philosophy had to be developed to guide the structuring of the Board of Directors. Governing a truly provincial organization in a place as big as BC isn't easy, simple or cheap. The GCC decided at that time to go with a larger board represented by 24 board members, including an Executive of seven members to carry out weekly business of the GCC and to guide the Executive Director. Membership on the board was intended to be balanced by regions (Kootenay, Okanagan, Southwest, Southern Interior, Cariboo, and North), and by sectors or interests (ranching, 'urban environmental' and government/academic/professional).

After 2 years of operating with this structure, the GCC has recognized that a large board is not necessarily more efficient, although the intent of regional and cross-sectoral representation remains a valid, guiding principle of our strategic plan.

One option that is being discussed and considered by the board is reducing the size of the board to approximately 12-14 members. With this new structure, the Board of Directors would achieve regional and cross-sectoral representation through succession of board members over a period of 2 to 3 years. As well, the GCC would need to establish active regional committees that would carry out the work of the GCC in those regions. This structure would create an important "local" link that would assist the GCC in remaining informed about local and regional issues and active in those regions.

The Issue of governance and structure will be discussed at length over the next few months; Input is welcomed and encouraged!

Special Project Reports

Pacific Northwest Weed Conference Report

Non-native invasive plants are a serious threat to BC's biodiversity and economic well-being. Weeds are invading grassland, riparian, wetland, forest and other ecological systems, significantly impacting forage resources and the agricultural industry. The continued spread of weeds will have serious socio-economic implications for our communities, our industries and ultimately our entire province.

Historically, weeds have been regarded as an agricultural issue. However, over the past decade, we have come to realize that invasive plants do not recognize our jurisdictional boundaries, and that all land managers must join forces and work together to control and manage these plants. Effective control of invasive plants will require an integrated approach based on innovative solutions and strong partnerships between government, non-government organizations, industry and communities.

The Pacific Northwest Weed Conference (PNWC) will bring together government agencies, land managers, scientists, politicians, environmental organizations and the interested public to review the social, ecological and economic impacts of weeds; review management issues, operational control methods, and new innovations in weed control. The specific objectives of the conference are to:

- Improve communication among all resource agencies and users.
- Garner support and initiate participation from user groups, government agencies, communities and the public.
- Encourage and facilitate discussion about the need for a provincial Weed Management Strategy.

The organizing committee has made good progress over the past few months in developing a conference agenda and a list of potential speakers.

Important Notice

The Pacific Northwest Weed Conference was tentatively postponed to a later date due to government restructuring. Planning for the conference will continue in June 2002, at which time the organizing committee will assess the impact of government re-structuring and determine the government's mandate and future priorities concerning weed control.

Preserving Working Ranches Report

As about 80% of BC grasslands are privately owned, mostly by working ranches, the interests of all sectors of the GCC is closely linked with the future of ranching. Unfortunately, ranches in the best grasslands are under ever-increasing pressure to be sold for subdivision into recreational lots. For the last year, primarily due to the fact that there was a new government that was

preoccupied with many other major issues, we have been unable to identify a clear path for the GCC to make constructive input towards a solution, other than helping to further raise the awareness of the problem. With the new government now settling in, the next year will likely be the time for major involvement of the GCC with government, ranchers, land trusts and other NGO's on this critical issue.

It seems that conservation covenants and purchases of development rights (PDR's) are the logical tools to offer to landowners, yet there seem to be significant obstacles that stand in the way. Recent changes to the functioning of the Land Reserve Commission (Bill 21) seem to help on one hand, yet to further hinder on the other.

There will be more discussion on these matters at the AGM.

Grasslands Research Centre Report

The GCC has been involved in discussions with the University College of the Cariboo (UCC) about the development of a Grassland Research Centre (GRC) to be based in Kamloops, BC. A proposal was prepared for the Canada Foundation for Innovation for the building of the research centre, but unfortunately the proposal was not funded.

As a consolation, however, the UCC was successful in establishing a Research Chair in Landscape Ecology and Management. This is an interdisciplinary chair that will work with the Departments of Biology, Social and Environmental Studies and Natural Resource Sciences.

The partnerships formed for the original proposal (the UCC, Agriculture Canada, the GCC, and Ministry of Forests, among others) are all still intact. At a meeting held in February 2001, it was decided that we would take the original proposal and address the comments made by the Canadian Foundation for Innovation and pursue other funding opportunities. The establishment of the new Research Chair will help strengthen future proposals.

The Grassland Research Centre (GRC) will be an on-campus institute dedicated to fostering research on BC grasslands. The GRC is a regional priority as the grassland ecosystem is both poorly understood and of great economic importance to BC. Research will incorporate the ecological and social-economic values of BC grasslands and the effect of multiple uses on the resources. The research will meet international standards and be innovative for the following reasons: 1) The effects on industry will have international repercussions for agricultural products; 2) The research will lead to results that can be applied internationally for sustainable grassland management; 3) The ecological research will have conservation implications that can be applied internationally; 4) Ecological hypotheses are being tested that may cause researchers to reconsider commonly-accepted theories; 5) Economic research on the values associated with preserving grasslands will be cutting-edge for Canada and bring

us up to international standards; and 6) The use of goal programming to provide quantitative management models for sustainable development will be the first application of this technique to grasslands management.

The GRC will be crucial to the research programs in that it will: 1) Provide facilities for a strong research program to address the critical problems in grasslands conservation and management – there is currently no regional facility for this collaborative research; 2) Allow innovative avenues to be pursued as described in the programs below; many of the programs will be restricted without the facilities provided by the GRC; and 3) Provide a forum for the Canada Research Chair in Integrated Land Use to facilitate the integration of multidisciplinary approaches to grassland issues.

More detailed information is available upon request.

Office Report

The past year has been a year of growth and change for the GCC Office. Last year Ducks Unlimited Canada offered the GCC office space at a very reasonable rate. In fact, DU is making, and continues to make, a significant contribution to the development of the GCC. Needless to say we are still housed at 954 A Laval Crescent in Kamloops, and in a completely renovated environment to boot! The GCC is finally able to develop and install office signs on the building so that we have some presence.

Over the past year the GCC has engaged some key people that have been pivotal to the continued development of the GCC and its programs.

Shane Vincenzi was hired on a contract basis as the Communications and Extension Co-ordinator. Shane worked hard and was responsible for completing some key projects, such as the BC Grasslands Display, the second issue of *BC Grasslands*, and assisting with production of the Lac du Bois signs. In addition, Shane assisted with general office duties and took on the challenge of developing the GCC database. There is no doubt that Shane work beyond the call of duty and worked many volunteer hours for the GCC. Shane is heading back back to school and we wish him the best of luck. Many thanks Shane!

Ryan Holmes continues to be a strong member of the GCC team and is making significant progress with BC Grasslands Mapping Project. His dedication and enthusiasm is outstanding and we are very lucky to have him working on this critical project.

One of the key challenges for the GCC has been to establish the infrastructure and process for sound financial management and accounting. Ruth Bockhodt, our bookkeeper, along with assistance from Dan Nontel (Ducks Unlimited Canada) and our accountant, has taken great strides this year to position herself for growth and future development. As part of both the GCC's and Ruth's development, the GCC has provided Ruth with some specific training on accounting and software manipulation. This training is essential in order for our accounting procedures to keep pace with the rate of growth the GCC is experiencing. Growth will continue to be an exciting and rewarding challenge for the accounting team.

Towards the end of this fiscal year, the GCC secured funding to hire a new Communications and Extension Co-ordinator. We look forward to hiring and the continued development of this component of our program.

The GCC would like to extend a special thank-you to Janet Delesalle, Frances Vyse, Nicole Pritchard, Nicole Brand and the GCC Board of Directors for all their time and energy in helping the GCC with projects and administration.

Treasurer's Report

Dennis Lloyd, GCC Treasurer

If we thought last year was a year of growth, this year far exceeded our expectations both from a fundraising and program delivery perspective. The GCC secured **\$179,466** (including deferred revenue) in revenue for the fiscal Year ending March 31, 2002. This amounts to a 47% increase from last year. Most of the increase was directly related to increased grant revenue for projects. GCC membership continues to grow, although donations to the GCC are down 73% from the last fiscal year. This is expected to turn around this year with our charitable tax status, a developing donor program and upcoming fundraising campaigns.

STATEMENT OF GCC Operations

For the year ended March 31, 2002

	Revenue	Expenses	Net
Membership Services & Fundraising			
Membership & Donations	\$14,210.00	\$0.00	\$14,210.00
Fundraising Strategy & Campaign	\$5,000.00	\$9,121.65	-\$4,121.65
Subtotal	\$19,210.00	\$9,121.65	\$10,088.35
Communication, Extension and Education			
<i>BC Grasslands Newsletter Magazine</i>	\$16,499.68	\$18,682.68	-\$2,183.00
Portable Display	\$9,888.68	\$11,665.93	-\$1,777.25
Sustaining Healthy Grasslands Symposium	\$3,491.33	\$4,227.35	-\$736.02
Lac du Bois Interpretive signs	\$10,700.00	\$7,158.18	\$3,541.82
BC Grasslands Website	\$9,999.84	\$9,688.71	\$311.13
Public Service Announcements (PSAs)	-	-	-
Grassland Education & Extension	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$0.00
Special Projects – Park Watch	\$2,661.32	\$2,661.32	\$0.00
Subtotal	\$54,740.85	\$55,584.17	-\$843.32
Research, Inventory and Monitoring			
BC Grasslands Mapping Project	\$69,216.58	\$67,216.58	\$2,000.00
Subtotal	\$69,216.58	\$67,216.58	\$2,000.00
Demonstration Projects			
Hamilton Commonage Project	\$0.00	\$00.00	\$00.00
Subtotal	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Program Planning, Coordination & Capital Assets			
Subtotal	\$36,298.57	\$42,916.60	-\$6,618.03
PROGRAM TOTAL	\$179,466.00	\$174,839.00	\$4,627.00
Available for Future Conservation Activities	\$4,627.00		

STATEMENT OF INCOME

For the year ended March 31, 2002

REVENUE	2002	2001
Membership	\$4,570.00	\$3,490.00
Donations	\$9,640.00	\$13,240.00
Grants (see notation 1)	\$145,673.00	\$114,394.00
Event Registration	\$2,741.00	\$6,786.00
Interest	\$237.00	\$245.00
Other - sales	\$310.00	\$0.00
	<u>\$163,171.00</u>	<u>\$138,155.00</u>
Deferred Contributions	\$16,295.00	(\$16,295.00)
	\$179,466.00	\$121,860.00
 EXPENSES		
Membership Services & Fundraising		
Membership & Donations	\$0.00	
Fundraising Strategy & Campaign	\$9,121.65	
Subtotal	\$9,121.65	
 Communication, Extension and Education		
<i>BC Grasslands Newsletter Magazine</i>	\$18,682.68	
Portable Display	\$11,665.93	
Sustaining Healthy Grasslands Symposium	\$4,227.35	
Lac du Bois Interpretive signs	\$7,158.18	
BC Grasslands Website	\$9,688.71	
Public Service Announcements (PSAs)	-	
Grassland Education & Extension	\$1,500.00	
Special Projects – Park Watch	\$2,661.32	
Subtotal	<u>\$55,584.17</u>	
 Research, Inventory and Monitoring		
BC Grasslands Mapping Project	\$67,216.58	
Subtotal	<u>\$67,216.58</u>	
 Demonstration Projects		
Hamilton Commonage Project	\$0.00	
Subtotal	<u>\$0.00</u>	
 Program Planning, Coordination & Capital Assets	 \$42,916.60	

Subtotal	<u>\$42,916.60</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	<u>\$174,839.00</u>
Available for Future Conservation Activities	<u>\$4,627.00</u>

Notation 1: Grants

	2002	2001
Cattle Horn Fund	1,300.00	\$3,000
Beef Cattle Industry Development Fund	9,250	\$14,250
Habitat Conservation Trust Fund	29,623	\$21,355
BC Environment	20,800	\$5,000
BC Parks	5,600	\$7,500
Grazing Enhancement Fund	0	\$12,000
Endswell Foundation	0	\$7,500
Vancouver Foundation	0	\$23,000
Ecoaction 2000	0	\$15,788
Thompson Nicola Nox. Weed Mgt. Committee	0	\$1,000
Ministry of Forests	25,000	\$3,000
BC Hydro	0	\$1,000
Canadian Parks & Wilderness Society - BC	5,800	
Friends of the Environment	4,000	
Chasm Sawmills	1,300	
City of Kamloops	1,300	
Mountain Equipment Co-op	5,000	
Ducks Unlimited Canada	1,500	
Terrestrial Ecosystem Restoration Program	30,000	
The Real Estate Foundation	5,000	
The Federation of BC Naturalists	200	
	\$145,673	\$114,393

Copies of detailed GCC financial statements are available upon request, including

- Review engagement report,
- Balance sheet,
- Statement of changes in net assets,
- Statement of operations, and
- Notes to financial statements.

GCC Supporters 2001-2002

Donors and Members (Individual):

Don Bennett	Don Blumenauer	Rene Bosc	Leanne Colombo	Peggy-Jo Broad
Geneve Dagenais	Phillippe Delesalle	Brenda Dixon	Dave Doubek	Dave Williams
Chad Egan	Lorri Harpur	Tracey Hooper	Jean Humphreys	Michael Pitt
Eric Leupin	Maureen Malenstyn	Chris Marchant	Terry McIntosh	Madelon Schouten
Babs McLaren	Karen McLaren	Michael O'Keefe	Ted Osborn	Don Burbridge
Hillary Page	Brian Radford	Kirsti and Philip Robbins	Anna Roberts	Trish Reid
Laila Salm	Paul Sanborn	Elaine Sedgman	J. Shannon	Fred McMechan
Tom Slater	Ian Smith	Les Southwell	Patricia Stewart	Arne Raven
Barb Stewart	Chris Taylor	Heather Taylor	Ray Travers	Dave Zehnder
Jim Turner	Albert van Ryswyk	Marcia Woods	Don Thompson	Wendy Gardner
Doug Veira	Helen Davis	Nicole Brand	Wes Barton	Tom Dickinson
Amanda Bond	Tom Rankin	William Stewart	Larry Campbell	Edi Torrans
Wayne Stordahl	James Anthony	Bob Peart	Dick Cannings	Donna Morrison
Margaret Holm	Dave Chutter	Darrell Smith	Ernest Leupin	Anthea Bryan
Don Gayton	Michael Kennedy	Lynne Atwood	Judy Guichon	Dr. Bert Brink
Roz Kempe	Kristi Iverson	Ken Mackenzie	Katherine Gizikoff	Nichola Walkden
John Kidder	Bob France	Greg Tegart	Ken Bishoff	Alf Bawtree
Keith Carroll	Dennis Lloyd	Valerie Miller	Phil Youwe	Ernew Graffunder
Leah Ramsay	Alison Chutter	Sue Crowley	Cindy Haddow	Steve Gormley
Bob Scheer	Gary Tipper	John McQueen	Wendy Byatt	Jim White
Len & Carol Lutz	Jesse Schwartz	Glen Wicklund	Bill Henwood	Bill Henwood

Donors and Members (Corporate):

Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society	BC Cattlemen's Association
Ducks Unlimited Canada	Rocky Mountain Trench Natural Resource Society
Federation of BC Naturalists	Society for Range Management
Friends of Ecological Reserves	The Land Conservancy of BC
GG Runka Land Sense Ltd.	Regional District of Central Okanagan
Greater Vancouver Regional District	Highland Valley Copper Mine

Funding/Grants:

Beef Cattle Industry Development Fund	Federation of BC Naturalists
BC Environment	Grazing Enhancement Fund - Kamloops and Cariboo Regions
Terrestrial Ecosystem Restoration Program	Habitat Conservation Trust Fund
BC Parks	Ministry of Forests
Cattle Horn Fund	The Real Estate Foundation of BC
Ducks Unlimited Canada	Real Estate Foundation
City of Kamloops	Vancouver Foundation
Endswell Foundation	Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society
Friends of Environment	Chasm Sawmills
	Mountain Equipment Co-op

Resolutions submitted to the GCC for June 2002 AGM

GCC Annual General Meeting
June 13, 2002

Special Resolution 2002-1

WHEREAS the current bylaw 10.1 states “a notice may be given to a member, either personally, facsimile or by mail to him/her at his/her registered address”

WHEREAS GCC members acknowledge that giving notice by email is deemed an appropriate method and will save the GCC time and money; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that bylaw 10.1 be change to “A notice may be given to a member, either personally, facsimile, email or by mail to him/her at his/her registered address.”

Notice: Must submit letter outlining why this is required, how email notices will be given, how the GCC will ensure that emails have been received by all members.