

ABOUT THE ROADMAP EFFORT

A diverse community of partners from Canada, the U.S., and Mexico have collaborated and informed the Central Grasslands Roadmap. The now three-year journey to develop the Roadmap includes:

- Sovereign Indigenous Nations and Private Landowners from across the three countries
- State/Provincial and Federal Wildlife Agencies
- Industry partners
- Academia
- Foundations and Conservation Organizations

We are collaborating across the biome to change the trajectory of our grasslands from degraded and fragmented to thriving, productive lands for people and wildlife. Nearly two-thirds of this 600+ million-acre landscape has been:

- Invaded by trees or shrubs
- Converted to row-crop agriculture
- Seen reduced connectivity and faced the loss of vital ecological functions

USING THE ASSESSMENT MAP

To address these challenges, the narrative [Central Grasslands Roadmap](#) provides a flexible strategic framework. Core to implementing the strategic framework is the publication of this assessment map (below). **The assessment map guides where voluntary conservation investments are needed.**

Local partners and community members are invited to use the map to prioritize short and long-term conservation programs. By combining local priorities, resource concerns and community will, the goal of these conservation programs is to:

1. **Keep the green areas of existing grasslands “green-side up” (intact), by:**
 - **Ensuring food security, traditional values and land sovereignty for Indigenous/First Nations**
 - **Promoting grass-based economies to help rural communities thrive**
 - **Removing young cedars and invasive shrubs**
 - **Preventing seed trees from establishing**
 - **Addressing invasive grasses and forbs**
 - **Supporting sustainable range management practices**
2. **Work in yellow areas to**
 - **Address woody species encroachment**
 - **Remove other annual invasive species**
 - **Voluntarily retain vulnerable grasslands**
 - **Maintain connectivity with large blocks of existing grassland**
3. **Make strategic investments in the purple areas to:**
 - **Remove woody species**
 - **Convert cropland on marginal soils back to grassland**
 - **Improve productivity and ecosystem health, and**
 - **Connect to larger blocks of existing grassland.**



A few key things to note about the rollout of this assessment map:

- The Roadmap Community endorsed the concept of this map at the May 2022 Summit.
- This explanatory text and the map with downloadable data layers as well as a forthcoming press release will also be available at: www.grasslandsroadmap.org/.
- Future versions of this map will include the data layers for Mexico (in progress).
- This is a large landscape, and significant resources are needed to ensure sustainable grasslands for the future by working in partnership with people living on the land ... this assessment map provides the foundation to do that collaborative work.
- A story map will be developed in 2023 to highlight community actions, and local and regional solutions happening across the biome.

