

America's Grasslands Conference: Partnerships for Grassland Conservation

The Third Biennial Conference on the
Conservation of America's Grasslands

September 29 - October 1, 2015

Fort Collins, Colorado

Colorado State University Lory Student Center



Conference Program



Organizing Committee

Credit: Andy Lawrence.

John Briggs

Kansas State University and
Director of Konza Prairie
(previous conference co-chair)

William Burnidge

The Nature Conservancy Colorado

Kurt Forman

US Fish and Wildlife Service

Jon Hayes

Texas Parks and Wildlife and Oaks
and Prairies Joint Venture

Suzanne O'Neill

Colorado Wildlife Federation

Mollie Walton

Quivira Coalition

Steve Wooten

Rancher, Colorado Cattlemen
Association

Conference co-chairs

Arvind Panjabi

Bird Conservancy of the Rockies

Rick Knight

Colorado State University

Aviva Glaser

National Wildlife Federation

Lekha Knuffman

National Wildlife Federation

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Connecting People, Birds and Land

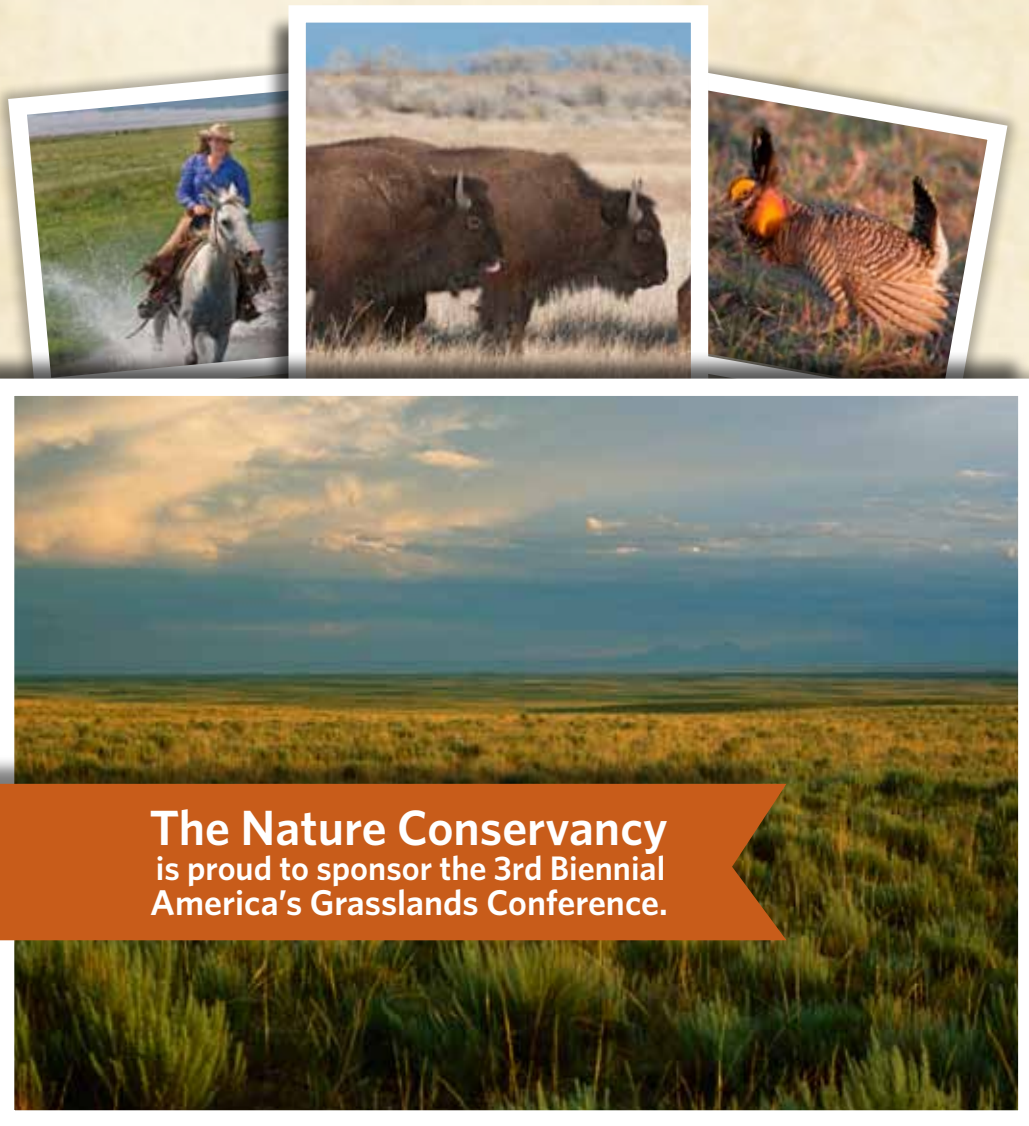


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The Nature Conservancy
is proud to sponsor the 3rd Biennial
America's Grasslands Conference.

Colorado's prairies, along with others around the world, are in peril. They are the most altered and least conserved habitat on earth. The Nature Conservancy is committed to protecting these vital areas by working with partners, ranchers and farmers to find solutions that benefit nature and people.

To learn more about our work, visit nature.org/Colorado.



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Inspiring Americans to conserve grasslands for future generations

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Terry Spivey / Bugwood

Conference Agenda



Credit: NRCS.

Tuesday, September 29th

Optional Field Trips - Meet in lobby of Hilton, Fort Collins

8:00 am - 3:00 pm Soapstone Prairie Natural Area and Meadow Springs Ranch
8:00 am - 12:30 pm Soapstone Prairie Natural Area (Half Day)
8:00 am - 3:00 pm Pawnee National Grasslands

4:00 - 6:00 pm Registration - 3rd floor, Lory Student Center

2:00 - 6:00 pm Posters and Exhibitor Set Up - Ballroom CD

6:00 - 8:00 pm **Opening Reception and Poster Session - Ballroom CD**

Wednesday, September 30th

7:00 - 8:00 am **Breakfast & Registration - Ballroom AB**

8:00 - 10:00 am **Opening Plenary Session - North Ballroom**

8:00 - 8:15 am Welcome and Introductions

8:15 - 8:40 am Dynamics and Resilience of Rangelands and Pastoral Peoples around the Globe. *Dr. Robin Reid, CSU Warner College of Natural Resources*

8:40 - 9:05 am Grassland Conversion Across the United States: Current status, impacts, and policy implications. *Tyler Lark, University of Wisconsin-Madison*

9:05 - 9:30 am A Monarch Recovery Plan. *Dr. Chip Taylor, Monarch Watch*

9:30 - 10:00 am **Keynote Address: Guardians of Flyover Country**
Carol Davit, Missouri Prairie Foundation

Wednesday, September 30th (continued)

10:00 - 10:30 am

Break - Ballroom CD

10:30 am - 12:10 pm

First Concurrent Breakout Sessions

	Track 1: Monitoring and Predicting Grassland Conversion	Track 2: Climate Change and Grasslands	Track 3: New partnership efforts and strategies to conserve grasslands & promote rangeland health	Track 4: Grasslands Alliance Symposium
Moderator	<i>Jon Hayes, Texas Parks and Wildlife</i>	<i>Martha Kauffman, World Wildlife Fund</i>	<i>Mollie Walton, Quivira Coalition</i>	<i>Jonathan Gelbard, Natural Resources Defense Council</i>
Location	Room 376 - 378	Room 372 - 374	Room 308 - 310	Room 304 - 306
10:30 - 10:50	Characterizing Land Use Changes in the Dakotas using Historical Satellite Sensor Data: 1984-2015. <i>Gaurav Arora, Iowa State University</i>	Grasslands and Carbon Markets: Overview, opportunities, and realities. <i>Billy Gascoigne, Ducks Unlimited</i>	A New Partnership to Conserve Grasslands Within the Chihuahuan Desert of Far West Texas. <i>Ryan O'Shaughnessy, Sul Ross State University</i>	Grasslands Alliance: Working Together To Incentivize Sustainable Ranching. <i>Gabriel Krenza, Strategic Advisor, NRDC and Green Sports Alliance</i> <i>Michael Hale, Magpie Ranch – Producer of Bunchgrass Beef; Consultant to Food Alliance</i> <i>Chris Wille, co-founder, Rainforest Alliance, Grasslands Alliance advisor</i>
10:50 - 11:10	Plowprint: Tracking cumulative loss of grassland to cropland across the Northern Great Plains and beyond. <i>Anne M. Gage, World Wildlife Fund</i>	New Carbon Offset Protocol for Grassland Conservation. <i>Max DuBuisson, Climate Action Reserve</i>	Habitat exchange. <i>Ted Toombs, Environmental Defense Fund</i>	Part I: Defining, verifying and incentivizing/rewarding sustainable beef production through a certification standard.
11:10 - 11:30	Farmland Use Decisions and Grassland Conversion in the Dakotas, 2015 Survey And Analysis. <i>Larry Janssen, South Dakota State University</i>	Projecting desert wintering capacity for grassland birds under a changing climate. <i>Duane B. Pool, Bird Conservancy of the Rockies</i>	Sustaining Bird Populations with a Conservation Atlas and Change Strategy for Midwestern Grasslands. <i>Dan Lambert, High Branch Conservation Services</i>	Part II: An open (and potentially rambunctious) forum to discuss how to fuse the best science and ranching traditions to define sustainable beef production; find common ground among ranchers, conservationists, retailers and consumers; and harness market forces to advance grassland conservation.
11:30 - 11:50	The Utility of the Cropland Data Layer for Monitoring US Grassland Extent. <i>David Johnson, USDA NASS</i>	Vulnerability of Shortgrass Prairie Bird Assemblages to Climate Change. <i>Susan K. Skagen, U.S. Geological Survey</i>	Leopoldian Land Stewards - Fostering a land ethic. <i>Kelly Weintraub, Point Blue Conservation Science and Rob Thompson, Elster Ranch</i>	
11:50 - 12:10	Mapping the Potential for Fire Induced Transitions of Tallgrass Prairie to Shrubland and Woodland: Are we near a tipping point? <i>Zak Ratajczak, University of Virginia</i>	Great Plains Grazing Project: Understanding the dynamic relationships between climate, land, and cattle. <i>Peter Tomlinson, Kansas State University</i>	An Adaptive Management Framework for Managing U.S. Fish And Wildlife Service Prairies in the Northern Great Plains. <i>Vanessa Fields, US Fish and Wildlife Service</i>	

Wednesday, September 30th (continued)

12:10 - 1:00 pm

Lunch - Ballroom AB

1:00 - 2:40 pm

Second Concurrent Breakout Sessions

	Track 1: Grazing and Grasslands Management	Track 2: Landscape planning and management for grassland conservation	Track 3: Managing rangelands as social-ecological systems - Part 1
Moderator	<i>William Burnidge, TNC Colorado</i>	<i>Anne Gage, World Wildlife Fund</i>	<i>Maria Fernandez-Gimenez, Colorado State University</i>
Location	Room 376 - 378	Room 372 - 374	Room 308 - 310
1:00 - 1:20	Change: It's not a four letter word. <i>Cody and Deanna Sand, Producers/North Dakota Grazing Lands Coalition</i>	Using Range Wide Collaborations to Conserve Pacific Northwest prairies. <i>Elspeth Kim, Center for Natural Lands Management</i>	Managing Knowledge, People and Natural Resources to Provide Ecosystem Services. <i>David D. Briske, Texas A&M University</i>
1:20 - 1:40	Restoring the Health of the Sage-Steppe Ecosystem. <i>Terry Riley, North American Grouse Partnership</i>	Considering Birds and Ecosystem Services to Inform Grassland Bird Conservation in an Urban Context. <i>Chad Wilsey, National Audubon Society</i>	Exploring Rancher Mental Models for Adaptive Management: The Case of Lonesome Pines Land And Cattle. <i>Hailey Wilmer, Colorado State University, Jim Sturrock Lonesome Pines Land and Cattle</i>
1:40 - 2:00	Spatial Variation in Ecological Function of Rangelands with Different Grazing Practices in Coastal California. <i>Carlene Henneman, Point Blue Conservation Science</i>	Landscape Design as a Process to Develop Goal-based, Collaborative Grassland Conservation in Shortgrass Prairie Region of Nebraska. <i>Anne Bartuszevige, Playa Lakes Joint Venture</i>	Adaptive Grazing Management for Beef and Birds in the Western Great Plains. <i>David Augustine USDA-Agriculture Research Service</i>
2:00 - 2:20	Collaboratively Expanding Grass-based Agriculture in the Upper Mississippi. <i>Allison Van, Winrock International</i>	Using Landscape Design Principles to Conserve Grasslands Under Near-future Forecasted Agricultural Development. <i>Kyle Taylor, Playa Lakes Joint Venture</i>	Identification of Win-win Solutions for landowners and wildlife: The key to successful conservation delivery. <i>Aaron Trujillo, Bird Conservancy of the Rockies</i>
2:20 - 2:40	Evaluation of Increased Vegetation Cover in Grazing Lands through Holistic Management on a Cattle Ranch in Eastern Colorado. <i>Teresa Chapman, Colorado Chapter of The Nature Conservancy</i>	Oaks and Prairies Joint Venture Strategic Habitat Conservation for Grassland Birds on Working Lands in Oklahoma and Texas. <i>Jim Giocomo, Oaks and Prairies Joint Venture</i>	Beyond a Taxonomy of Knowledge: What do We Learn from Each Other? Operationalizing participatory research in northwestern Colorado Rangelands. <i>Retta Bruegger, Colorado State University</i>

LOVE THE PRAIRIES?



THANK A RANCHER



Wednesday, September 30th (continued)

2:40 - 3:10 pm

Break - Ballroom CD

3:10 - 4:30 pm

Third Concurrent Breakout Sessions

	Track 1: Grassland-dependent wildlife Part 1	Track 2: Grasslands and Federal Policy	Track 3: Managing rangelands as social-ecological systems - Part 2	Track 4: Prairie Pollinators and Invertebrates
Moderator	<i>Arvind Panjabi, Bird Conservancy of the Rockies</i>	<i>Ariel Wiegard, Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership</i>	<i>Maria Fernandez-Gimenez, Colorado State University</i>	<i>Dominic Barrett, US Fish and Wildlife Service</i>
Location	Room 376 - 378	Room 372 - 374	Room 308 - 310	Room 304 - 306
3:10 - 3:30	Shortgrass Prairie Bird Abundance, Availability and Distribution. <i>Robert Sparks, Bird Conservancy of the Rockies</i>	Grasslands and the 2014 Farm Bill: An overview. <i>Aviva Glaser, National Wildlife Federation</i>	Integrating Monitoring Data and Ecological Site Descriptions to Achieve Multi-species Bird Conservation in Sagebrush Rangelands. <i>David Pavlacky Jr., Bird Conservancy of the Rockies</i>	Understanding the Effects of Habitat Fragmentation on Grassland Pollination. <i>Marika Olynyk Natural Resources Institute, University of Manitoba</i>
3:30 - 3:50	Migratory Grassland Birds of the Great Plains: A Comparison of Migrations of Five Species and the Implications for Conservation. <i>Kevin Ellison, World Wildlife Fund</i>	Implementation of the new CRP Grasslands Program. <i>Katina Hanson, USDA Farm Service Agency</i>	Managing for Multiple Species in Northwestern Colorado: Sage-grouse and songbirds. <i>Jennifer Timmer, Colorado State University</i>	Responses of a Grassland Spider Community to Habitat Structural Heterogeneity Driven by Fire and Bison Grazing Disturbances Interactions. <i>Jesús Gómez, Kansas State University</i>
3:50 - 4:10	The Lesser Prairie Chicken Range-wide Conservation Plan Implementation: A new paradigm in wildlife management. <i>Bill Van Pelt, Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies</i>	Prairie Pothole Politics: Conserving Grasslands through Public Policy. <i>Eric Lindstrom, Ducks Unlimited</i>	Greater Sage-grouse (Centrocercus urophasianus) population response to grazing management and precipitation across broad scales in Wyoming. <i>Adrian Monroe, US Geological Survey/CSU</i>	Evaluating Bee Diversity in Rangeland and Cropland with Pollinator Habitat Strips. <i>Rachael Jaffe, Colorado State University</i>
4:10 - 4:30	Bird Community Response to Plague Management in Prairie Dog colonies. <i>Reesa Conrey, Colorado Parks and Wildlife</i>	Working towards a "Natives First" Policy for USDA Conservation Programs. <i>Jef Hodges, National Bobwhite Conservation Initiative</i>	Discussion on managing rangelands as social-ecological systems.	The First National Seed Strategy. <i>Tanya Skurski, Bureau of Land Management</i>

4:45 - 9:00 pm

Dinner at Sylvan Dale Guest Ranch

Buses will shuttle to Sylvan Dale beginning at 4:45 pm from the Lory Student Center and 5:00 pm from Hilton Fort Collins. Last bus leaves at 5:45 pm from the Hilton.

Thursday, October 1st

7:30 - 8:30 am

Breakfast - Ballroom AB

8:30 - 10:10 am

Fourth Concurrent Breakout Sessions

	Track 1: Maintaining and improving grasslands for grazing	Track 2: Success stories and case studies of partnership efforts to conserve grasslands	Track 3: Grassland-dependent wildlife - Part 2
Moderator	<i>Ryan Stockwell, National Wildlife Federation</i>	<i>Lekha Knuffman, National Wildlife Federation</i>	<i>Rylee Main, Minnesota Conservation Federation</i>
Location	Room 376-378	Room 372-374	Room 308-310
8:30 - 8:50	Point Blue conservation Science's Rangeland Watershed Initiative: Rewatering California, One Ranch at a Time. <i>Wendell Gilgert, Point Blue Conservation Science</i>	Utilizing Stakeholder Developed Grassland Corridors to Guide Collaborative Habitat Restoration in Northern Arizona. <i>Jessica Gist, Arizona Game & Fish Department</i>	Sustainable Grasslands: Using the Long-billed Curlew to focus conservation efforts on working lands. <i>Cheryl Mandich, American Bird Conservancy</i>
8:50 - 9:10	Improving Grazing Production and Wildlife Habitat in the Eastern Tallgrass Prairie Region with Federal, State, and Local Programs; Three Landowner Success Stories in Missouri. <i>Ryan Diener, Pheasants Forever</i>	Conservation Partnership Efforts to Conserve Eastern Texas Prairie Landscapes. <i>Jason Singhurst, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department</i>	Arizona Antelope Foundation Southeastern Arizona Grasslands Pronghorn Initiative. <i>Glen Dickens, Arizona Antelope Foundation</i>
9:10 - 9:30	Grassland Conservation From one Generation to the Next: How conservation easements are working for ranchers on the Eastern Plains of Colorado. <i>Erik Glenn, Colorado Cattlemen's Agricultural Land Trust</i>	Results of Grassland Stakeholder Survey of Collaborative Grassland Management Approaches. <i>Mollie Walton, Quivira Coalition</i>	Grasslands Conservation by Managing Plague: a Vaccine for the future? <i>Holly Hicks, Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies</i>
9:30 - 9:50	Using Avian Focal Species to Inform Rangeland Management in California Grassland and Oak Savannah. <i>Geoffrey Geupel, Point Blue Conservation Science</i>	Empowering Landowners to Achieve Conservation Goals: The Oaks and Prairies Joint Venture. <i>Jon Hayes, Oaks and Prairies Joint Venture</i>	Are Northern Bobwhite an Umbrella Species for Grass and Scrub-shrub Birds in the Central Hardwoods BCR? <i>Cara Joos, Central Hardwoods Joint Venture</i>
9:50 - 10:10	Influence of Fire, Grazing and Drought on Cattle Herbivory, Endophyte Infection, and Alkaloid Concentration of Tall Fescue Invaded Grasslands. <i>John Derek Scasta, University of Wyoming</i>	Multi-institutional Collaborations to Manage Federally Protected Areas. <i>Luis Enrique Ramirez, Denver Zoological Foundation</i>	Movement Patterns in Grassland Sparrows Wintering in the Chihuahuan Desert. <i>Erin Strasser Bird Conservancy of the Rockies</i>

Thursday, October 1st *(continued)*

10:10 - 10:45 am **Break - Ballroom CD**

10:45 - 12:00 pm **Roundtable Discussions**

Discussion 1 (Room 322): Future research needs.
 Discussion 2 (Room 372-74): Communicating and educating about grasslands.
 Discussion 3 (Room 382): Improving federal programs for grasslands.
 Discussion 4 (Room 376-78): Economics of grass-based agriculture.
 Discussion 5 (Room 308-10): Could cattle raised on recently-deforested rainforest be labeled as grass-fed in the US?

** Note - other discussion topics may be added as interest arises- we will post a sign up sheet in a central location where people can write discussion ideas.*

12:00 - 1:00 pm **Lunch - Ballroom AB**

1:00 - 2:20 pm **Fifth Concurrent Breakout Session**

	Track 1: Grassland Livelihood Panel	Track 2: Energy Development in Grasslands	Track 3: Monarchs and grassland conservation
Moderator	<i>Steve Wooten, Colorado Cattlemen's Association</i>	<i>David DeGennaro, National Wildlife Federation</i>	<i>Julie Sibbing, National Wildlife Federation</i>
Location	Room 376-378	Room 372-374	Room 308-310
1:00 - 1:20	Rancher Perspectives on the Challenges and Opportunities with Grassland Livelihoods.	Understanding the Future of Wind Development in Montana and Wyoming. <i>Claire Hood, World Wildlife Fund</i>	Partnering to Conserve the Monarch Migration: The Monarch Joint Venture. <i>Wendy Caldwell, Monarch Joint Venture</i>
1:20 - 1:40	A panel discussion organized by the Colorado Cattlemen Association focusing on the challenges and opportunities with maintaining a livelihood through ranching. Topics addressed will include water availability, global markets, incentives vs. regulations, and public perceptions.	Role of Ethanol Plants in Dakotas' Land Use Change: Analysis Using Remotely Sensed Data. <i>Gaurav Arora, Iowa State University</i>	Creating a State-wide Monarch Strategy: A report-out from the Missouri Monarch Summit. <i>Carol Davit, Missouri Prairie Foundation</i>
1:40 - 2:00		Recent Cropland Expansion Concentrated Around Ethanol Refineries Suggests a Gap in US Regulation of Biofuel Feedstock Sourcing. <i>Ben Larson, National Wildlife Federation</i>	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Monarch Butterfly Conservation Strategy. <i>Barbara Boyle, Partners for Fish and Wildlife.</i>
2:00 - 2:20		Mountains to Plains Energy by Design: Collaborative Oil and Gas Planning to Protect Wildlife, Habitat, and Cultural Values. <i>Megan Kram, The Nature Conservancy</i>	Monitoring Monarch Habitat Conservation: Knowing What Works. <i>Patrick Ward, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service</i>



Credit: Andy Lawrence.

Thursday, October 1st *(continued)*

2:20 - 2:50 pm

Break - Ballroom CD

2:50 - 3:15 pm

Report Backs from Roundtable Discussions - North Ballroom

3:15 - 4:25 pm

Plenary Panel - North Ballroom

Partnerships for Grassland Conservation: Opportunities, Challenges, and Lessons Learned.

This panel will explore views on grassland partnerships from a range of stakeholder perspectives. In particular, this panel will explore “elephants” in the room and ways to address challenges and move the ball forward for grassland conservation. Moderator: Rick Knight, CSU.

Panelists:

- Kurt Forman, US FWS (South Dakota)
- John Briggs, Kansas State University
- Wendell Gilgert, Point Blue Conservation Science
- Cody and Deanna Sand, Producers/North Dakota Grazing Lands Coalition
- Ken Morgan, Colorado Parks and Wildlife

4:25 - 4:50

Closing Keynote: Sage Grouse - Vanishing Icon of the American West

Noppadol Paothong, Wildlife Photographer

In this closing presentation, Noppadol Paothong will showcase his captivating images of sage grouse and share stories from his decade-long journey of documenting these extraordinary species and their vanishing habitats.

4:50 - 5:00

Close of 2015 America's Grasslands Conference

Posters

1. Utilizing Diverse Cover Crop Mixes in Conjunction with Seasonal Grazing in the Establishment of Native Grasses: Chris McLeland, Missouri Department of Conservation
2. Conservation and Restoration of South Sound Prairies: Sarah Hamman, Center for Natural Lands Management
3. A Theoretical, Comparative Evaluation of Impacts of Unconventional Energy Development on Rangelands in the Western US: Kristie Maczko, University of Wyoming
4. Bison as Seed Dispersers in a Reconstructed Tallgrass Prairie: Sue Fairbanks, Oklahoma State University
5. Directionality, Magnitude, and Duration of Precipitation Extremes Within a Mesic Grassland: Andrew Felton, Colorado State University
6. The California Partners in Flight Grassland Bird Conservation Plan: A Conservation Decision Support Tool: Geoffrey Geupel, Point Blue Conservation Science
7. Assessing Responses to Extreme Drought in North American Grasslands: Melissa Johnston, Colorado State University
8. The Conservation Caravan: Promoting grassland conservation through urban-rural connections: Mara E. Erickson, Alberta Fish and Game Association
9. Measuring Land-Use and Land-Cover Change Using The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Cropland Data Layer: Cautions and Recommendations: Tyler Lark, University of Wisconsin-Madison
10. Control of Sericea Lespedeza: Impact of Fuel Load, Burn Season, and Fire Frequency on Plant Density: Milan Piva, Emporia State University,
11. Genetic Differentiation and Local Adaptation of Dominant Prairie Grass Andropogon Gerardii Along the Climate Gradient of the US Midwest: Modeling shifts in distribution of ecotypes with climate change: Loretta Johnson and Jacob Alsdurf, Kansas State University
12. Using Time Series NDVI to Monitor Grassland Phenology and Characteristics in Montana: Sarah K. Olinb, World Wildlife Fund
13. Central Arizona Grasslands Decision Support Tool Development: Julie Mikolajczyk, Arizona Game and Fish Department
14. Central Arizona Grasslands Conservation Strategy: Kelly Wolff-Krauter, Arizona Game and Fish Department
15. Desert Grasslands Restoration: A Successful Collaborative Effort. Wilma Renken USDA-NRCS
16. Understanding Ranchers' Perceptions of Heterogeneity in the Northern Great Plains: Maggi Sliwinski, University of Nebraska-Lincoln
17. The Optimal Cow Size for Intermountain Cow-Calf Operations: The Impact of Public Grazing Fees on the Optimal Cow Size: Jesse Russell, Colorado State University
18. Using Early Grazing to Control Kentucky Bluegrass: Bob Patton, North Dakota State University
19. Assessing Consequences of Bison Reintroduction for Grassland Birds, Mammals, and Recreationists in Northern Colorado: Kate Wilkins, Colorado State University
20. Black-tailed Prairie Dog Habitat Quantification Tool (HQT) and Shortgrass Prairie Mitigation Program: Lindsey Krank, Prairie Dog Coalition
21. Homes on the Range: Range-wide assessment of priority areas for the conservation of prairie dog ecosystems: integrating habitat suitability, land use patterns, and climate change: Lindsey Krank, Prairie Dog Coalition
22. Ecology of the Montezuma Quail in the Capitan Mountains of New Mexico: Dr Ryan S. Luna, Borderlands Research Institute, Sul Ross State University
23. Evaluating the Simple Biosphere Model Versus Observations During Drought in the U.S. Great Plains from 2010-2012: Renee Curry, Program of Ecology, Colorado State University
24. Relative Importance of Vegetation and Weather to Nest Survival of Shortgrass Steppe Passerines: Amber Carver, University of Colorado Denver
25. Northern Plains Conservation Network - Connecting Conservation: Martha Kauffman, World Wildlife Fund
26. Time Series Analysis of Vegetation Phenometrics for Military and Non-Military Lands using Moderate Resolution Satellite Imagery: Shawn Hutchinson, Kansas State University
27. Vegetation Response to Extreme Drought in a Colorado Grassland-shrub Community: Implications for the Future of Shortgrass Prairie: Karin Decker, Colorado Natural Heritage Program
28. The Use of Indigenous Knowledge of Herdsmen as a Bottom-up Solution for Tibetan Grassland Degradation. Zhao Zhong, University of California, Davis



Keynote Speakers

Credit: Andy Lawrence.

Carol Davit

Carol Davit is the executive director of the Missouri Prairie Foundation, a 49-year-old prairie conservation organization that owns and manages high diversity original prairies and promotes the use of native plants in altered landscapes through its Grow Native! program. Carol's work includes fundraising, strategic planning, communications, advocacy, administration, and oversight of the Grow Native! program. In addition, she has edited the *Missouri Prairie Journal* since 1996.

Carol has worked for 20 years in the conservation and environmental fields in communications, development, administration, and leadership capacities. She has worked for private, nonprofit conservation groups and at the municipal and state government levels. She serves on several multi-partner conservation committees and has been the editor of field guides and written on a wide variety of natural history and conservation topics for several publications. Davit has B.A. and M.A. degrees in Interdisciplinary Studies.

Noppadol Paothong

Noppadol Paothong is a staff nature/wildlife photographer with the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) and his images appear in MDC's monthly publication, *Missouri Conservationist*, and many other publications. His main focus is to document rare and endangered species. More specifically, he has dedicated himself to

photographing and increasing people's awareness of grassland grouse and their fragile habitats for over a decade.

Noppadol has received numerous prestigious awards, including Picture of the Year (International), National Wildlife Federation; Nature's Best Photography Award, National Audubon Society; multiple awards from the Outdoor Writers Association of America; and Missouri Photojournalist of the Year. His photos have also appeared in many national publications, including *National Wildlife*, *Ranger Rick*, *Audubon Magazine*, *Birder's World*, *Nature Conservancy*, *American Birds Conservancy*, *International Union for the Conservation of Nature*, *WildEarth Guardians*, *Field & Stream*, and many more.

He recently published an award-winning book on North American grassland grouse, *Save the Last Dance – A Story of North American Grassland Grouse*, which he had worked on for over a decade. This 204-page hardbound book captures the dazzling beauty of seven grouse species whose populations are diminishing across the prairies and plains of North America. The book received a Gold Medal from the Independent Publisher Book Awards.

Background on Sylvan Dale Guest Ranch

Historic Sylvan Dale Guest Ranch is 3200 acres, many of which are in conservation easement for future generations.

The main ranch grounds are located in an ecological transition zone that includes the Big Thompson River corridor, grasslands (both native prairie remnants and pastures) foothills shrubland, ponderosa pine forest, and prairie wetlands. Ecological diversity means species richness.

Enjoy an evening picnic on Wednesday night in this idyllic setting accompanied by cowboy singers, campfires, a wonderful meal, and local beer! The fresh mountain air is the perfect environment to create a memorable experience.



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Wetlands and Waterfowl
Conservation**

WHO WE ARE

A grassroots, non-profit, volunteer organization, DU conserves, restores and manages wetlands and associated habitats for North America's waterfowl.

OUR CHALLENGE

Waterfowl face many challenges as wetlands and related habitats are degraded and destroyed. DU has the vision to help reverse this trend.

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- The Prairie Dog Coalition of HSUS