

America's Grasslands Conference

Working Across Boundaries

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

August 20-22, 2019
Bismarck, North Dakota



Conference Program



Credit: John Bradley

Thank You!

Organizing Committee

- Carolyn Callaghan**, Canadian Wildlife Federation
- Arvind Panjabi**, Bird Conservancy of the Rockies
- Mark Norton**, South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks
- Andrew Jakes**, National Wildlife Federation
- Jonas Davis**, Ducks Unlimited
- Greg Butcher**, U.S. Forest Service
- Karl Ebel**, Ebel Grasslands Ranch

North Dakota Planning Committee

- Kevin Kading**, North Dakota Game and Fish
- Scott McLeod**, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Marshall Johnson**, Audubon Dakotas
- Tanner Gue**, Ducks Unlimited
- John Bradley**, North Dakota Wildlife Federation
- Dave Dittloff**, National Wildlife Federation
- Deanna and Cody Sand**, Sand Ranch

Conference Co-Chairs

- Aviva Glaser**, National Wildlife Federation
- Dana Bohn**, North Dakota Grazing Lands Coalition
- Miranda Meehan**, North Dakota State University
- Kevin Sedivec**, North Dakota State University
- Lekha Knuffman**, National Wildlife Federation
- Chad Njos**, North Dakota Grazing Lands Coalition

Co-Hosts



Cover photo credit: Justin Meissen.



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At Roeslein Alternative Energy (RAE), we are committed to our mission of helping individual landowners and society as a whole collaboratively discover and implement alternative biomass and energy solutions, in both ecologically and economically sustainable ways to protect and restore our environment and ecosystems. We may not have invented the process of renewable natural gas production, but we are taking it to the next level.

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Conference Agenda



Credit: John Bradley

Tuesday, August 20th

6:45 - 7:30 am **Registration - Radisson Hotel, Bismarck**

7:30 am - 4:00 pm **Optional Full Day Field Trips**

Depart from Radisson Lobby

- **Sand Ranch** - Hosted by Cody and Deanna Sand
- **Miller Ranch, WMA, Agriculture Research Service Grasslands** - Hosted by Kenny Miller
- **Oswald Ranch** - Hosted by Darrell Oswald

7:30 am - 1:00 pm **Optional Half Day Field Trips**

Depart from Radisson Lobby

- **Audubon National Wildlife Refuge** - Hosted by Todd Frerichs
- **North Dakota State University Central Grasslands Research Extension** - Hosted by Kevin Sedivec

3:00 - 5:00 pm **Registration**

3:00 - 5:00 pm **Set up for Posters and Exhibitors - Foyer and Galleria Ballroom**

5:30 - 8:00 pm **Welcome Reception at the
Heritage Center**

Sponsored by Roeslein Alternative Energy

*Free shuttles will leave from the Radisson
at 5:15 pm and will return at the end of the event.*

Welcome Remarks:

Julie Sibbing, National Wildlife Federation

John Bradley, North Dakota Wildlife Federation

Terry Steinwand, North Dakota Game & Fish Dept.



North Dakota Heritage Center,
North Dakota's largest museum
features four museum galleries
tracing the state's rich history
from its earliest geologic
formation 600 million years ago
to today.

Wednesday, August 21st

6:45 - 8:00 am **BREAKFAST & Registration - Galleria Ballroom**

8:00 - 10:00 am **Opening Plenary - Belle Mehus Auditorium**

*The Belle Mehus Auditorium is across E. Broadway Avenue from the Radisson
Hotel. Please allow enough time to exit the hotel and cross the street.*

8:15 - 8:20 am

Welcome

Lekha Knuffman, National Wildlife Federation

8:20 - 8:30 am

North Dakota Welcome

Remarks from Lt. Governor Brent Sanford

8:30 - 9:00 am

Keynote - *Silence and Emptiness on the American Serengeti*

Dan Flores, Author & Historian

9:00 - 9:20 am

Conserving America's Grasslands: The Case for a Transboundary, Working Lands Approach

Arvind Panjabi, Bird Conservancy of the Rockies

9:20 - 9:40 am

A Prairie State's Perspective: Threats, Challenges and Opportunities for Conserving North Dakota's Grasslands

Elisha Mueller, North Dakota Game and Fish Department

9:40 - 9:55 am

Converting Croplands to Grasslands

Jed Rider, North Dakota Rancher

9:55 - 10:00 am

Remarks by Senator John Hoeven

10:00 - 10:30 am

BREAK - Foyer and Galleria Ballroom, Radisson Hotel

“One of my neighbors said it best...what's good for a duck, is good for a deer, is good for a cow. And we all live on one small planet.”

-Montana rancher, Dale Veseth



© WWF-US / Clay Bot



At World Wildlife Fund's Northern Great Plains Program our vision is a future in which thriving prairies and abundant wildlife help sustain the economy and culture of the people who live in the Northern Great Plains.

www.worldwildlife.org/ranching

10:30 am - 12:00 pm **First Concurrent Breakout Sessions**

	Track 1: Threats, Status and Conversion	Track 2: Decision-making and Human Dimensions	Track 3: Large Landscapes and Wildlife Conservation	Track 4: Bobwhites & Grassland Conservation
Room	Renoir-Russell	Van Gogh-Remington	Wyeth-Rockwell	Liberty-Manhattan
Moderator	<i>Johann Walker</i>	<i>Jessica Espenshade</i>	<i>Sarah Olimb</i>	<i>Jason Singhurst</i>
10:30-10:50 am	An Online Tool for Monitoring Cumulative Grassland Loss across the North American Great Plains: the Plowprint <i>Patrick Lendrum, World Wildlife Fund</i>	Metrics, Problem Solving & their Effect on Grasslands <i>Pete Kronberg, North Dakota Grazing Lands Coalition</i>	Advancing Wildlife Conservation across the Great Plains <i>Seth Gallagher, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation</i>	NRCS Working Lands for Wildlife 2.0 Bobwhite in Grasslands Initiative <i>Jef Hodges, National Bobwhite Conservation Initiative</i>
10:50-11:10 am	Environmental and Habitat Impacts of U.S. Grassland Conversion <i>Tyler Lark, University of Wisconsin-Madison</i>	Understanding Grazing Intensity Choices on the U.S. Great Plains <i>Yuyuan Che, Michigan State University</i>	National Grasslands Management: An Example from the Northern Great Plains <i>Dan Svingen, U.S. Department of Agriculture-Forest Service</i>	Population Responses of Northern Bobwhite and Grassland Birds to the Conservation Reserve Program within the NBCI Coordinated Implementation Program <i>Thomas Dailey, National Bobwhite Conservation Initiative</i>
11:10-11:30 am	Audubon Grasslands Report: Addressing Persistent and Emergent Threats to the Central Grasslands of North America <i>Chad Wilsey, National Audubon Society</i>	Challenges for Rotational Grazing Practice: Views from Non-adopters across the U.S. Great Plains <i>Tong Wang, South Dakota State University</i>	Fences Reduce Habitat For A Partially Migratory Ungulate In The Northern Sagebrush Steppe <i>Andrew Jakes, National Wildlife Federation</i>	Grasshopper Sparrow Density and Nest Survival on Continuously Grazed Native Warm-Season Grass Pastures in the Fescue Belt <i>Kyle Brazil, Center for Native Grasslands Management</i>
11:30-11:50 am	Saskatchewan's Vanishing Grasslands: Politics Verses Grassland Conservation <i>Lorne Scott, Nature Saskatchewan</i>	Converting Cropland To Grass: the Role of Intensive Grazing Management <i>Tong Wang, South Dakota State University</i>	Conserving The Longest Migration For Sage Grouse And Pronghorn in Montana's Hi-Line <i>Jason Tack, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service - Habitat and Population Evaluation Team</i>	Success of a Grassland-based Approach as the Foundation to Northern Bobwhite Management in the Midwest <i>Frank Loncarich, Missouri Department of Conservation</i>

11:50 - 1:00 pm

LUNCH - Galleria Ballroom/Welcome and Remarks

Collin O'Mara President and CEO, National Wildlife Federation



Help spread the word about #grasslands conservation!

Use the social media tags (listed on the back cover) to share your thoughts & photos on Facebook & Twitter.

	Track 1: Working Lands Approaches	Track 2: Avian Conservation	Track 3: Grasslands Management and Restoration	Track 4: Grasslands Conservation from Canada to Mexico
Room	Renoir-Russell	Van Gogh-Remington	Wyeth-Rockwell	Liberty-Manhattan
Moderator	<i>Mark Norton</i>	<i>Catherine Wightman</i>	<i>Jonas Davis</i>	<i>Tyler Lark</i>
1:00 - 1:20 pm	Native Grasslands, Livestock Producers as Ecologists <i>Karl Ebel, Ebel Grasslands Ranch</i>	Oil on the Prairie: Exploring and Mitigating the Effects of Oil Infrastructure on Grassland Songbirds <i>Heather Nenninger, Soil and Water Conservation Districts of Montana</i>	Tracking Woody Species Encroachment and Removal in the Great Plains with NAIP and EQIP: What's it Mean for Birds? <i>Kyle Taylor, Playa Lakes Joint Venture</i>	Innovation Thinking to Achieve the Grassland Conservation WIG (Wildly Important Goal) <i>James Giocomo, Oaks and Prairies Joint Venture</i>
1:20 - 1:40 pm	Stewards of Saskatchewan: A Look at Over 30 Years of Habitat Conservation with Landowners <i>Jordan Ignatiuk, Nature Saskatchewan</i>	Birds, Herds, and Stewards: Enhancing Habitat for Grasslands Birds while Maintaining Sustainable Land Use <i>Elizabeth Emeline, American Bird Conservancy</i>	Cool Season Grass Impacts on Native Mixedgrass Prairie Species in the Northern Great Plains <i>Kenneth Spaeth, U.S. Department of Agriculture – Natural Resources Conservation Service</i>	Agricultural Transition in the Great Plains: Patterns and a Planned Response <i>Anne Bartuszevige, Playa Lakes Joint Venture</i>
1:40 - 2:00 pm	Building Connections with Working Lands at the County Level <i>Dan Casey, Northern Great Plains Joint Venture</i>	Restoring Quail Habitat on Working Lands <i>Ryan Diener, Pheasants Forever/Quail Forever</i>	Bringing Fire Back to the Landscape to Address Eastern Redcedar Encroachment in Nebraska <i>Andy Bishop, Rainwater Basin Joint Venture</i>	How Joint Ventures Work with Landowners Through the Grassland Restoration Incentive Program <i>Steve Demaso, Gulf Coast Joint Venture & Aimee Roberson, Rio Grande Joint Venture</i>
2:00 - 2:20 pm	Working Grasslands Approach to Public and Private Land Management <i>Kevin Kading and Curtis Francis, North Dakota Game and Fish Department</i>	A Full-Annual Cycle Conservation Strategy for Sprague's Pipit, Chestnut-collared and McCown's Longspurs, and Baird's Sparrow <i>Scott Somershoe, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service</i>	Prairie Emeralds: Restoring Mesic Habitats for Sage Grouse and Other Wildlife <i>Tom France, National Wildlife Federation</i>	Working in Sync with Nature in Desert Grasslands <i>Alejandro Carrillo, Rio Grande Joint Venture</i>
2:20 - 2:40 pm	Multiple Species, Multiple Partners: Grass Banking to Benefit Grazing and Habitat Priorities <i>Kelly Williamson, The South of the Divide Conservation Action Program Inc.</i>	Grassland Birds and Livestock Grazing: Finding Common Ground in the Northern Great Plains <i>Neal Niemuth, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service - Habitat and Population Evaluation Team</i>	The Role of the USDA-NRCS Plant Materials Program in Increasing Plant Diversity in Grassland Restoration <i>Brandon Carr, U.S. Department of Agriculture – Natural Resources Conservation Service</i>	Discussion on Putting the Puzzle Together: Grassland Conservation from Canada to Mexico

2:40 - 3:20 pm

BREAK - Foyer and Galleria Ballroom

Hosted by South Dakota Game Fish and Parks

2:50 - 3:10 pm

Film “The Disappearing Grasslands”

By Christian Ebel, Age 13 - A self-proclaimed Entrepreneur/Grasslands Learner
–Wyeth/Rockwell

3:20 - 4:40 pm

Third Concurrent Breakout Sessions

	Track 1: Conservation Strategies	Track 2: Grasslands Policy	Track 3: Monarchs and Pollinators	Track 4: Grasslands Inventories
Room	Renoir-Russell	Van Gogh-Remington	Wyeth-Rockwell	Liberty-Manhattan
Moderator	Neal Feeken	Jim Giocomo	Ryan Diener	David DeGennaro
3:20 - 3:40 pm	Conservation Easement Allocations to Address Localized Spillovers in Grassland Conversion: A Model with Empirical Evidence using Remotely-sensed Data <i>David Hennessy, Michigan State University</i>	Grassland Wins in the 2018 Farm Bill <i>Aviva Glaser, National Wildlife Federation</i>	Research Applications of the Integrated Monarch Monitoring Program <i>Laura Lukens, Monarch Joint Venture</i>	Development of New Grassland Inventory Methods and Protocols and South Dakota Results <i>Pete Bauman, South Dakota State University</i>
3:40 - 4:00 pm	Additionality of Grassland Easement Acquisition: Conversion Hazard Rate and Spatial Spillover <i>Hongli Feng, Michigan State University</i>	State & Local Strategies: Soil Health Policy from the Ground Up <i>Duane Hovorka, Izaak Walton League of America</i>	Rangeland Management Practices to Support Pollinators in the Great Plains <i>Ray Moranz, Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation/NRCS</i>	Use of LiDAR to Refine the South Dakota Native Grasslands Inventory <i>Pete Bauman, South Dakota State University</i>
4:00 - 4:20 pm	Candidate Conservation Agreements with Assurances as a Tool to Reduce Threats on Private Lands and Reward Positive Stewardship Actions in Montana <i>Kelsey Molloy, The Nature Conservancy</i>	Learning from and Embracing the Regional Conservation Partnership Program <i>Steve Riley, Oaks and Prairies Joint Venture</i>	Cattle Preferentially Graze Common Milkweed in a Nebraska Patch-Burn-Grazing System <i>Timothy Dickson, University of Nebraska Omaha</i>	Mapping Intact Grasslands and Abandoned Agricultural Lands across the Midwest and U.S. <i>Tyler Lark, University of Wisconsin</i>
4:20 - 4:40 pm	Conservation in an Energy Landscape <i>Jesse Beckers, North Dakota Natural Resources Trust</i>	Exploring Conservation and Agricultural Policies that Affect Implementation of Transcontinental Grassland Conservation <i>Aimee Roberson, Rio Grande Joint Venture</i>	Assessing Landscape Suitability for Pollinators in the United States Great Plains <i>Neal Niemuth, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service - Habitat and Population Evaluation Team</i>	Assessing Grassland Distribution and Change across the North American Great Plains to Inform Conservation <i>Sean Fields, Prairie Pothole Joint Venture</i>

Buses will leave for Black Leg Ranch from the Radisson Lobby starting at 4:50 pm every ten minutes up to 5:30 pm. Buses will return to hotel at the end of the event.

5:00 - 9:00 pm

**DINNER at Black Leg Ranch. Tour and talk by Jerry Doan 6:00-6:30 pm.
Hosted by North Dakota Natural Resources Trust**

Black Leg Ranch

Black Leg Ranch, McKenzie, N.D. was homesteaded in 1882 by George H. Doan in what was then Dakota Territory. The ranch is currently operated by Jerry and Renae Doan and their three sons Jeremy, Jay, and Jayce.

The ranch uses Holistic Management to regenerate the natural resources and allow wildlife to propagate and flourish. Huge strides have been made by the Doan family to improve the soil health of both native rangeland and cropland while improving the bottom line and quality of life for their family. The ranch is a living classroom for many soil health and grazing tours as well as university students and others from across the globe. The ranch has an active internship program allowing college students to engage and learn with hands on experience.



The ranch is home to cattle and bison as well as Rolling Plains Adventures, a full service hunting/guiding operation, and Black Leg Events, an Agri-Tourism operation. These ventures have allowed them to spread a positive message about agriculture to thousands of consumers, including people from all 50 states and 40 foreign countries.

The ranch has been awarded the Burleigh County Soil Health Award, the N.D. NRCS Appreciation Award, the N.D. Inaugural Leopold Award, and the National Environmental Stewardship Award. It was also awarded one of the Top 100 Fresh Perspectives in the nation from Farm Credit Services. The Doan family are advocates for agriculture and have been very active in these circles, working to bring positive change on a state and national level.

Please join us for a short tour of the ranch and a talk by Jerry Doan followed by dinner. Dinner will include some of Black Leg's own Audubon certified Bird Friendly Beef among various food options and beer brewed at the newly

Door Prize Giveaway!

Win one of four packages containing an assortment of: \$50-\$100 gift cards from Scheels Sporting Goods (can be used online); locally-sourced Audubon Bird Friendly Ranching certified beef jerky, gifts from the National Buffalo Museum; National Wildlife Federation tote bags and hats; books about backyard wildlife; and more! Must be present during the closing plenary to receive prizes.

Thursday, August 22nd

6:45 - 8:00 am **BREAKFAST - Galleria Ballroom**

8:00 - 8:45 am **Poster Session - Galleria Ballroom**
Refer to page 15 for a list of poster presentations.

8:45 – 10:25 am **Fourth Concurrent Breakout Sessions**

	Track 1: Cooperative Partnerships	Track 2: Grazing and Management	Track 3: Regional Approaches to Grassland Conservation	Track 4: Continental Scale Conservation
Room	Renoir-Russell	Van Gogh-Remington	Wyeth-Rockwell	Liberty-Manhattan
Moderator	<i>John Bradley</i>	<i>Aimee Roberson</i>	<i>Marshall Johnson</i>	<i>Andrew Jakes</i>
8:45 - 9:05 am	Partners in Conservation of the Chihuahuan Desert Grasslands <i>Nancy Hernandez Rodriguez, IMC Vida Silvestre A.C.</i>	Cooperatively Improving Tallgrass Prairie with Adaptive Management <i>Marissa Ahlering, The Nature Conservancy</i>	The South Dakota Model for Grassland Conservation <i>Jim Faulstich, Rex Johnson, and Luke Perman, South Dakota Grassland Coalition</i> Note that this track in split into two 50 minute sessions. 9:35 am - Engaging and Assisting the Stewards of America's Grasslands: Audubon's Conservation Ranching Initiative and Other Working Lands Programs <i>Josh Lefers, Audubon Dakota David Paul and Reagan Paul, Wild Prairie Beef</i>	A Continental Approach to Grassland Conservation <i>Cliff Wallis, Alberta Wilderness Association</i>
9:05 - 9:25 am	Creating Learning Communities for Successful Conservation Implementation <i>Ken Olson, South Dakota State University</i>	Cover Crops & Livestock Grazing on Cropland as a Tool to Maintain and Manage Grasslands – Perspectives from a duck biologist and a rancher <i>Donn Nelson & Tanner Gue, Ducks Unlimited</i>		Transboundary Grasslands Partnership: Coordinating Native Grasslands Conservation in Alberta, Montana and Saskatchewan <i>Linda Cerney, Alberta Prairie Conservation Forum</i>
9:25 - 9:45 am	Planned Gardening: Enhancing Our Prairies Public Lands Through Partnerships <i>Dane Buysse, Ducks Unlimited</i>	Simulated Watershed-Scale Impacts of Grazing Management Practices on Streamflow Characteristics and Downstream Flooding <i>Tong Wang, South Dakota State University</i>		Biodiversity Hotspots in the Central and Southern Great Plains <i>Nicole Rosmarino, Southern Plains Land Trust & Aaron Hall, Defenders of Wildlife</i>
9:45 - 10:05 AM	Ranching for the Future <i>Chad Njos, Cow Chip Ranch</i>	Medicinal Grazing and Unexpected Outcomes <i>Kirsten Robertson, South Carolina Forage and Grazing Lands Coalition</i>	Conservation across Borders: Small Environmental NGOs with Big Ideas <i>Branimir Gjetvaj, Public Pastures - Public Interest</i>	
10:05 - 10:25 am	Conservation by Committee <i>Leo Barthelmess, Rancher Stewardship Alliance</i>	Building Soil Health on Rangeland and Converted Cropland <i>Kenny Miller, Miller Ranch</i>	Trilateral Grasslands Initiative <i>Michael Gale, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service</i>	

10:25 - 10:50 am **BREAK - Foyer and Galleria Ballroom**
Hosted by North Dakota Game and Fish Department

10:50 am - 11:35 am **Roundtable Discussions**

Please join any of these opportunities for participants to get together and discuss issues in an informal setting.

Discussion 1 (Wyeth-Rockwell): Social Media Outreach for Conservation - **Susan Ellis-Felege**

Discussion 2 (Van Gogh-Remington): Promoting Grass-fed Beef - **Kalie Rider & Deanna Sand**

Discussion 3 (Liberty-Manhattan): The Need for a Tri-National Grasslands Initiative - **Michael Gale & Cliff Wallis**

Discussion 4 (Renoir-Russell): Land Management Decision Making - **Hongli Feng & Adam Reimer**

10:50 am - 11:35 am **Poetry Reading (New York I)**

“Two Poets on Learning to see the Grasslands: Can Beauty Save Us?”

Saskatchewan Poet Laureate, Bruce Rice, and North Dakota Associate Poet Laureate, Bonnie

Larson Staiger, share their work and reflect on learning to see the grasslands, the humans on it, and what lies beneath the impulse toward conservation – for scientists and artists alike.

11:40 am - 1:00 pm **Fifth Concurrent Breakout Session**

	Track 1: Buffalo Conservation: Challenges and Opportunities	Track 2: Climate, Carbon, and Renewable Energy	Track 3: Northern Grassland Pollinators	Track 4: Producer Perspectives and Case Studies
Room	Renoir-Russell	Van Gogh-Remington	Wyeth-Rockwell	Liberty-Manhattan
Moderator	<i>Duane Hovorka</i>	<i>Dana Ripper</i>	<i>Kyle Brazil</i>	<i>Tanner Gue</i>
11:40 am - 12:00 pm	Buffalo Restoration on Tribal Lands <i>Jason Baldes, National Wildlife Federation</i>	Avoided Grassland Conversion GHG Emission Reduction Project Opportunities <i>Beatriz Zavariz, Climate Action Reserve</i>	Examining Butterfly Abundance in Mixed-Grass Prairie with Restored Disturbance Regimes <i>Brooke Karasch, North Dakota State University</i>	Grasslands- Bringing Family Together <i>Crystal and Johnathan Neuharth, Prairie Paradise Farms</i>
12:00 - 12:20 pm	Developing Innovative Solutions for Human-Bison Coexistence across North America <i>Ana Davidson, Colorado State University</i>	Leveraging Carbon Markets to Fund Rangeland Easement Purchases <i>Julius Pasay, The Climate Trust</i>	Surveying Bee Communities and Their Associated Resources across North Dakota <i>Chyna Pei, North Dakota State University</i>	Rancho Tres Papatotes: Our Management and Goals <i>Enrique Perez, Chihuahua</i>
12:20 - 12:40 pm	GIS Great Plains Bison Map, Interpretation and Landscape Scale Planning <i>Chamois Anderson, Defenders of Wildlife</i>	Greenhouse Gas Emission Trade-Offs between Cattle Production and Grassland Conversion in the Northern Great Plains <i>Kathryn Ireland, World Wildlife Fund</i>	Conservation of Native Plant-Pollinator Interactions in North Dakota Grassland Working Landscapes <i>Cayla Bendel, Pheasants Forever</i>	From Dairy to Prairie <i>Julie Mattox, Northeast Texas Prairie Community Classroom</i>
12:40 - 1:00 pm	<i>Facilitated discussion led by Tom France: Challenges of Bringing Buffalo Back to the Great Plains</i>	Siting Wind Right for Conservation: Clean and Green Energy <i>Nathan Cummins, The Nature Conservancy</i>	Understanding the Linkage Between Land-use Change, Pollinator Health, and Pollination Services in the Northern Great Plains <i>Clint Otto, U.S. Geological Survey</i>	Economic Profiles of Regenerative Ranching Success <i>Kevin Watt, TomKat Ranch</i>

1:00- 2:00 pm

LUNCH - Galleria Ballroom

Remarks by Senator Kevin Cramer

2:00 - 4:15 pm

Closing Plenary - Belle Mehus Auditorium

The Belle Mehus Auditorium is across E. Broadway Avenue from the Radisson Hotel. Please allow enough time to exit the hotel and cross the street.

2:10 - 2:30 pm

A Market Based Approach to Native Prairie Restoration

Brandon Butler, Roeslein Alternative Energy

2:30 - 3:30 pm

Opportunities on the Prairie - Panel Discussion

Ranchers from Canada, the U.S. and Mexico discuss the opportunities for grass based livelihoods that incorporate grassland conservation and restoration.

Moderator: Kevin Kading, North Dakota Game and Fish Department

Panelists: Kirsten Robertson, South Carolina

Pete Kronberg, North Dakota

Enrique Perez, Mexico

Karl Ebel, Texas,

Jim Faulstich, South Dakota

Kelly Williamson, Canada

3:30 - 4:00 pm

Closing Keynote: Charting a New Course for Conservation in the 21st Century for America's Most Forgotten Grasslands

Dwayne Estes, Southeastern Grasslands Initiative

4:00 - 4:15 pm

Door Prizes! and Conference Closing

Aviva Glaser, National Wildlife Federation



Improving grassland stewardship through sustainable and profitable management

SOUTH DAKOTA

GRASSLAND COALITION

Upcoming Events:
South Dakota Grazing School - September 9-13, 2019
Low Stress Livestock Handling Roadshow - September 23-27, 2019
Leopold Conservation Award Presentation - December 4, 2019

visit us on social media or at www.sdgrass.org to learn more



“South Dakota provides some of the best hunting and fishing opportunities in the nation thanks to conservation stewardship by our farmers and ranchers, particularly their actions that help preserve and protect our valuable wetland and grassland resources.”

- SDGFP Secretary Kelly Hepler

gfp.sd.gov

Posters

Poster Session will be on August 22nd at 8:00 am in the Galleria Ballroom.

Note that posters will be on display throughout the conference (including before and after the scheduled Poster Session)

P1. Impacts of the Renewable Fuel Standard on America's grasslands and waters - Tyler Lark, University of Wisconsin-Madison
P2. Grass to Grain: Probabilistic Modeling of Agricultural Conversion in the North American Great Plains - Sarah Olimb, World Wildlife Fund
P3. Use of Artificial Nesting Structures for Northern Aplomado Falcon (<i>Falco femoralis septentrionalis</i>) Territories in Chihuahua, Mexico - Jose Roberto Rodriguez-Salazar, IMC Vida Silvestre A. C.
P4. Cool-season Grass Performance on Salinity - Wayne Markegard, U.S. Department of Agriculture
P5. Improved Forage Grass Releases by the Bismarck Plant Materials Center and Partners - Wayne Duckwitz, Bismarck Plant Materials Center
P6. Defining the Historical Boundaries of the Great Plains Grasslands - Brice Hanberry, USDA Forest Service
P7. Introducing the Rangeland Production Monitoring Service - Brice Hanberry, USDA Forest Service
P8. Prescribed Fire Behavior in the Northern Great Plains - Megan Zopfi, University of North Dakota
P9. Prescribed fire effects on a native grassland small mammal community structure, Grand Forks County, ND - Lynda LaFond, University of North Dakota
P10. Public Pastures - Public Interest: A Vision for Multi-Use, Publicly-Owned Grasslands in Saskatchewan - Kristen Martin, Public Pastures - Public Interest
P11. Conservation of <i>Silphium albiflorum</i> in Texas: The challenges of boundaries - Bruce Benz & Alyssa Hutchinson, Texas Wesleyan University
P12. Characterizing and quantifying the contributions of ranchlands to grassland birds of the Great Plains - Kevin Ellison, World Wildlife Fund
P13. Nebraska Ranch Transition Planning Pilot and the Theory of Change - Andrew Horvath, World Wildlife Fund
P14. Grazing management across the Southern Great Plains benefitting Grassland Birds - Jordan Menge, Pheasants Forever
P15. Native Seed Development for the Piney Woods and Oaks and Prairies region of Texas - Tyler Wayland, Texas A&M University-Kingsville
P16. Grass and Forb Fire Recovery Benefit from Ant and Kangaroo Rat Burrows in a Semiarid Grassland - Nancy Nicolai, University of New Mexico
P17. Influence of Grazer-type on Flower and Pollinator Abundance in Former CRP Fields Managed with Patch-burn Grazing - Jasmine Cutter, North Dakota State University
P18. Pollen resource limitation in the Northern Great Plains - Mike Simanonok, U.S. Geological Survey
P19. Using Riparian Vegetation to Identify Thresholds in Prairie Streams - Miranda Meehan, North Dakota State University
P20. Implementation and Evaluation of the Comprehensive Management Methodology in Beef Cattle Enterprises in Chihuahua, México - Raul Hernandez, Agro Cultura Empresarial, Mexico
P21. Identifying Potential Landscapes for Prairie Dog Ecosystem Conservation - Ana Davidson, Colorado State University
P22. The Grassland Human Health Connection: Superfoods of the Grasslands - Kalie Rider, North Dakota Grazing Lands Coalition
P23. Plant and Pollinator Diversity in Remnant and Restored Tallgrass Prairies: Are Restored Prairies Better, Worse or Just Different? David Wedin, University of Nebraska-Lincoln
P24. Grassland Management Requires Adaptive Management to Take Bigger Risks and Learn from Failures - Jack Norland, North Dakota State University
P25. Bobolinks and Bovines: Grassland Bird Conservation through Management Intensive Grazing - Mary Damm and Phil Specht, Prairie Quest Farm
P26. Private Lands Stewardship: A model for Landscape Conservation - Jessica Weathers, Bird Conservancy of the Rockies



**We are a proud sponsor of the
America's Grassland Conference:
Working Across Boundaries.**



The Trust works with a diverse collective of partners across the state, offering a variety of voluntary programs to assist with:

- ◇ *Cost share on establishing grazing systems with fencing and water infrastructure*
- ◇ *Native plantings and grass seeding*
- ◇ *Community and landscape restoration/enhancement projects in oil-producing counties*
- ◇ *Restoring and enhancing wetland habitats for wildlife and livestock production*

A portion of those programs are financially supported by the Outdoor Heritage Fund dollars—putting energy development to work on North Dakota's landscape to help farmers and ranchers achieve better productivity, improve soil health, and increase wildlife habitat.

If you are interested in learning more about the programs the Trust offers, please contact the office at (701) 223-8501.



DUCKS UNLIMITED

"Farmers and ranchers are good land stewards. Without the cooperation of farmers and ranchers, we won't accomplish our conservation goals. It's that simple."

H. Dale Hall
CEO, Ducks Unlimited

Ducks Unlimited is proud to partner with farmers, ranchers and landowners to help conserve our natural resources.

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NORTH DAKOTA GRAZING LANDS COALITION

*Promoting the health and regeneration
of North Dakota's grasslands*

2019 EVENTS

June 7-8

Bird Bonanza
Miller Ranch
Ft. Rice

June 19

Pasture Walk
Golden Valley Soil
Conservation District
Beach

August 8

Wilson Farm Tour
ND Leopold Award Winner
Jamestown

August 20-22

America's Grassland
Conference
Bismarck

September 11

Summer Tour
Gartner Ranch
Glen Ullin



FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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**SOUTHEASTERN
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*The Southeastern Grasslands Initiative (SGI) and
Roundstone Native Seed are proud to sponsor
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Conference.*

*In the Southeast, SGI and Roundstone are
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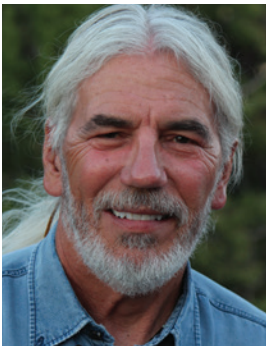




Credit: Mike LaLonde

Keynote Speakers

Dan Flores - Opening Keynote



Dan Flores is a writer and Professor Emeritus of the History of the American West at the University of Montana. A native of Louisiana and currently a resident of Santa Fe, New Mexico, he has written for the New York Times, the Los

Angeles Times, the Chicago Tribune, and numerous magazines. He is the author of ten books, the most recent of which is *"American Serengeti: The Last Big Animals of the Great Plains"*, which received the Stubbendieck Distinguished Book Prize in 2017, and *"Coyote America: A Natural and Supernatural History"*, a New York Times Bestseller, winner of the Sigurd Olson Nature Writing Award, and a 2017 Finalist for PEN America's E. O. Wilson Prize in Literary Science Writing. His current project, "Wild New World," is a big history of the human/animal story in America that will be published by W. W. Norton.

Arvind Panjabi



Arvind Panjabi is an Avian Conservation Scientist with Bird Conservancy of the Rockies, based in Colorado. Arvind has developed and currently oversees Bird Conservancy's science,

stewardship and education programs in northern Mexico, which focus primarily on grassland birds and other wildlife, including resident and migratory species. Arvind has worked to build a permanent bridge for bird conservation throughout the Americas. He is involved in several cooperative projects in Mexico in Chihuahuan grasslands, western Mexico and the Sierra Madre Oriental. He also oversees the Partners in Flight Avian Conservation Assessment Database, a tool for conservation planners that covers 1600 bird species in 10 countries from Panama to Canada.

Elisha Mueller



Elisha Mueller is a Conservation Biologist with the North Dakota Game and Fish Department. As a graduate student at Oklahoma State University, she studied land management and how it influences floral and pollinator communities. After receiving her degree, she traveled throughout the west working as both a Restoration Specialist and Botanist in Idaho, Colorado, Wyoming, Utah and Kansas. She moved to North Dakota to join the Game and Fish Department in February of 2017 and quickly fell in love with the Prairie Pothole Region. As a Conservation Biologist, she works on public land management, energy development, and non-game species, specifically pollinators. Her focus is to

protect North Dakota's native wildlife and the habitat resources they depend on.

Jed Rider



Jed Rider, his wife, Melissa, and three boys, Lane, Beau, and Garrett operate a managed grazing system in Northwestern North Dakota, near Alexander. As a family, they attended Joshua

Dukart's Holistic Management and Holistic Financial Planning classes and found the education they received to be extremely useful. The "WHOLE" goal for the Rider Ranch is health. To achieve healthy plants, animals, people and lifestyles, we MUST have healthy soils. The Rider's use their cow/calf operation as a soil regeneration tool, while striving to direct market beef dense in nutrients and flavor.

The Rider's move their cattle through a planned grazing system consisting of tame and native pastures, upper river break's rangeland, cover crops, and bale grazing. Their planned grazing revolves around rest and recovery. The cattle can't just exist. They must be applied as a soil regeneration tool whether it is July or January. The goal for the Rider's is to graze cattle 365 days a year

without supplementation.

Dwayne Estes - Closing Keynote



Dwayne Estes serves as executive director at Southeastern Grasslands Initiative. He is a Full Professor of Biology, Director of the Austin Peay State University Herbarium, and Principal Investigator for the Center

of Excellence for Field Biology. Dwayne's research interests include the flora, ecology, history, biodiversity, and biogeography of the Southeastern U.S., with emphasis on grasslands. He has published over twenty publications and co-authored the *Guide to the Vascular Plants of Tennessee*, published in 2015. He enjoys mentoring his six graduate students and working hand-in-hand with a dedicated SGI team. He has been active in building diverse support for Southeastern US grasslands conservation, including bringing together philanthropists, government agencies, non-profits, corporate and small-business partners, private landowners and ranchers, historians, educators, and citizen scientists.



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A national leader in assisting grassland owners access carbon markets, The Climate Trust combats climate change by funding and managing projects that reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Photo courtesy of The Nature Conservancy and Aaron Huey



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