

America's Grasslands: The Future of Grasslands in a Changing Landscape

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

August 12-14, 2013

Hilton Garden Inn, Manhattan, Kansas



Conference Program



Organizing Committee

John Briggs

Kansas State University

Sam Fuhlendorf

Oklahoma State University

Aviva Glaser

National Wildlife Federation

Eric Lindstrom

Ducks Unlimited

Ben Larson

National Wildlife Federation

Lisa Long

Kansas State University

Rob Manes,

The Nature Conservancy

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Enviroscapes Ecological Consulting

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Kansas Wildlife Federation

Julie Sibbing

National Wildlife Federation



DUCKS UNLIMITED

The World's Leader in 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.

DU NEEDS YOU!

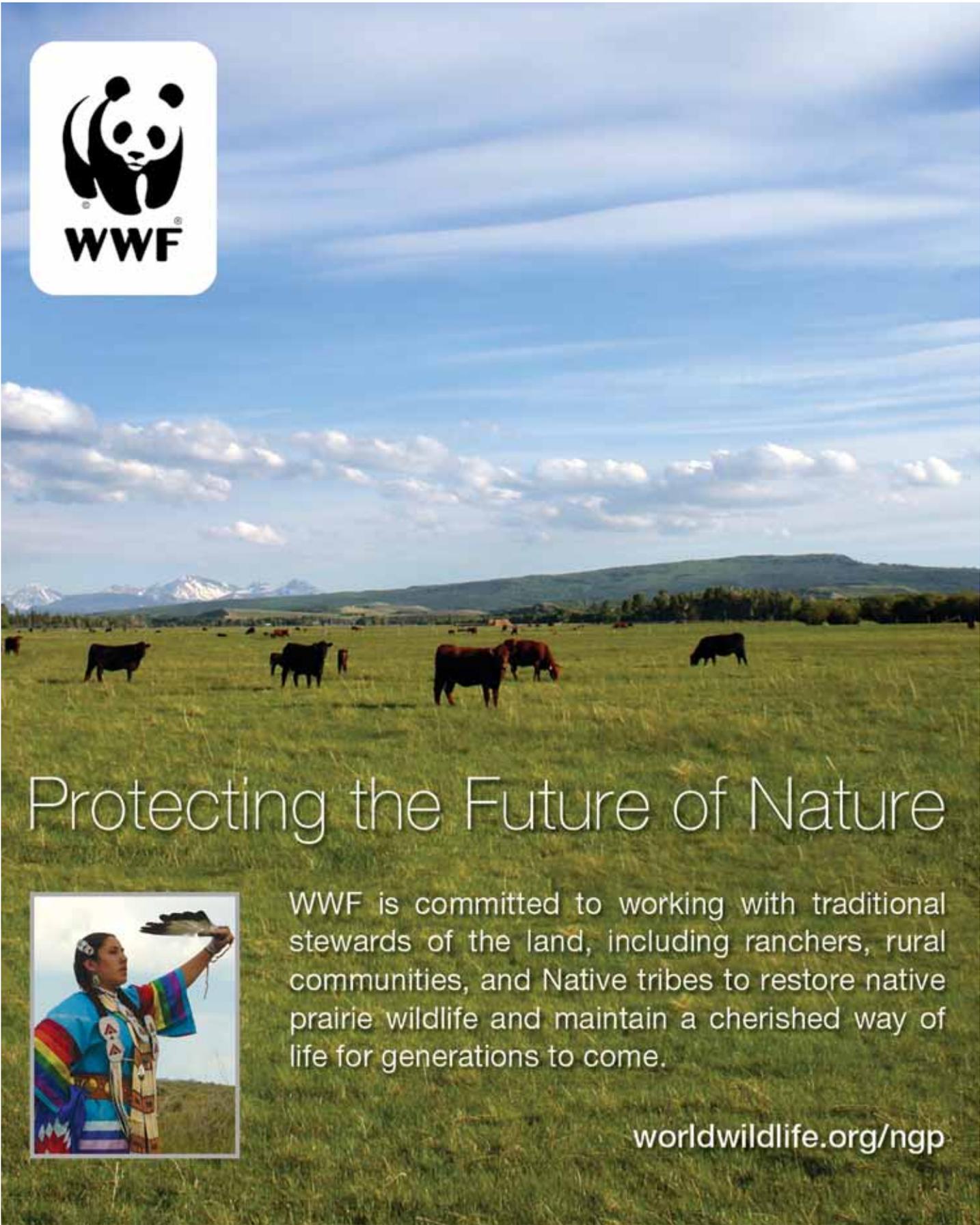
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DUCKS UNLIMITED – FILLING THE SKIES WITH WATERFOWL TODAY, TOMORROW AND FOREVER

Cover photo by Scott Bauer

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service.





Protecting the Future of Nature



WWF is committed to working with traditional stewards of the land, including ranchers, rural communities, and Native tribes to restore native prairie wildlife and maintain a cherished way of life for generations to come.

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Join us in conserving
America's grasslands
for future generations.

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To inspire Americans to protect wildlife for our children's future.



National Wildlife Federation | 11100 Wildlife Center Dr, Reston VA 20190



Conference Agenda



Credit: Carter Johnson.

Monday, August 12th

- 9:00 - 4:00 Optional full day tour of the Flint Hills Native Tallgrass Prairie
Meet at the registration table in the Grand Foyer
- 12:30 - 3:00 Optional afternoon tour of Konza Prairie Biological Station
Meet at the Grand Foyer
- 4:00 - 6:00 Registration
Grand Foyer
- 4:30 - 6:00 Poster Session
Grand Foyer
- 6:00 - 8:00 Opening Reception
Flint Hills Discovery Center (across the street from the Hilton)

Tuesday, August 13th

- 7:00 am - 8:00 am **Breakfast & Registration**
(Grand Foyer and Kaw Nation)
- 8:00 - 10:00 am **Opening Plenary**
(McDowell/Tuttle/Alcove)
- 8:00 - 8:15 Welcome and Introductions
Aviva Glaser, National Wildlife Federation
John Briggs, Kansas State University
- 8:15 - 8:45 **Keynote Address: Great Plains - America's Lingering Wild**
Michael Forsberg, conservation photographer
- 8:45 - 9:10 Rapid grassland conversion in the Western Corn Belt
Dr. Chris Wright, South Dakota State University
- 9:10 - 9:35 What's Happening in Washington: Federal Policy and Grasslands
Julie Sibbing, National Wildlife Federation
- 9:35 - 10:00 The Drought in the Southern Plains.
Chuck Kowaleski, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department



10:00 - 10:30 am

Break

(Grand Foyer and Kaw Nation)

10:30 am - 12:00 pm

First Concurrent Breakout Sessions

	Track 1: Landscape planning and management for grassland conservation	Track 2: Renewable energy's role in fostering grassland conservation and ecosystem services protection: the case of anaerobic digestion	Track 3: Cattle Grazing
Moderator	Eric Lindstrom, Ducks Unlimited	Ryan Stockwell, National Wildlife Federation	Michael Disney, US Fish and Wildlife Service
Location	Flint Hills Room	Kings Room	Konza Prairie Room
10:30 - 10:50	Preserving Our Prairies – Where Great Migrations Begin. <i>Randy Renner, Ducks Unlimited</i>	Expanding the market for grasslands through biogas-to-energy project development. <i>Amanda Bilek, Great Plains Institute</i>	Managing warm-season grasses for pasture-based livestock systems of the northern Prairie Peninsula. <i>Laura Paine, Wisconsin Dept of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection</i>
10:50 - 11:10	The Implementation of the MN Prairie Plan. <i>Marybeth Block, MN Dept. of Natural Resources</i>	Anaerobic Digestion of Grasses: System Performance and Environmental Impacts. <i>Rebecca Larson, University of Wisconsin-Madison</i>	Enhancing Habitat for Ground Nesting Birds in Midwest Grasslands through Soil Disturbance and Initiation of Plant Community Succession by High Density Grazing of Beef Cattle. <i>J.J. Bisinger, Iowa State University</i>
11:10 - 11:30	Using focal songbird species to target landscape conservation in the northern Great Plains. <i>Marisa Lipsey, University of Montana</i>	Harvest of Waterfowl Production Area biomass as an alternative habitat management tool: is it compatible with management goals and are there opportunities for additional benefits? <i>Jim Lutes, US Fish and Wildlife Service</i>	Demographic Responses of grassland songbirds to a patch-burn grazing management in the Flint Hills. <i>Amy Erickson, Kansas State University</i>
11:30 - 11:50	An integrated acquisition strategy for grassland easements in the Prairie Pothole Region, USA. <i>Johann Walker, Ducks Unlimited</i>	Nature in Balance: Achieving landscape scale prairie conservation through value innovation. <i>Rudi Roeslein, Roeslein Alternative Energy</i>	The legacy of grazing persists both above- and below ground in tallgrass prairie plant communities. <i>Benjamin L. VanderWeide, Kansas State University</i>
11:50 - 12:10	Fueling conversion: How the EPA is letting the RFS drive prairie plowing and forest clearing. <i>Ben Larson, National Wildlife Federation</i>	Bioeconomy transitions: cross-sector collaborative development of a perennial grass anaerobic digester in southern Wisconsin. <i>Carol Williams, University of Wisconsin, Madison</i>	



12:10 - 1:00 pm

Lunch Sponsored by World Wildlife Fund
(Grand Foyer and Kaw Nation)

1:00 - 3:00 pm

Second Concurrent Breakout Sessions

	Track 1: Innovative ways to create economic and working land opportunities for grasslands and livestock producers	Track 2: Status, trends, and conservation of grassland-dependent birds	Track 3: Pocket Prairies, Volunteers, and Information Sharing
Moderators	Roger Gates, South Dakota State University	Sarah Olimb, World Wildlife Fund	Troy Schroeder, Kansas Wildlife Federation
Location	Flint Hills Room	Kings Room	Konza Prairie Room
1:00 - 1:20	Restoring prairie for agricultural production and profit. <i>Cody Zilverberg, South Dakota State University</i>	Brood abundance relative to habitat characteristics in the Prairie Pothole Region. <i>Kaylan Kemink, Ducks Unlimited</i>	Prairie Management by a Non-Profit Organization: Obstacles and Solutions. <i>Frank Norman, Grassland Heritage Foundation</i>
1:20 - 1:40	Understanding market drivers to increase market opportunity. <i>Anna Bassett, Animal Welfare Approved</i>	Effects of management on grassland-obligate birds on private and public lands. <i>Dana Ripper, Missouri River Bird Observatory</i>	Restoring Eden. <i>Sibylla Brown</i>
1:40 - 2:00	Brokering Relationships Between Non-Farming Landowners And Livestock Producers to Increase Grasslands in the Upper Midwest. <i>Laura Paine, Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection</i>	Conservation of a Grassland Species in a Converted Cropland Landscape: Private Landowner Involvement in Mountain Plover Conservation. <i>Angela Dwyer, Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory</i>	Moving toward an era of management decisions based on sound science. <i>Carol Blocksome, Kansas State University and Great Plains Fire Science Exchange</i>
2:00 - 2:20	Canadian Prairie Rangeland – An Environmental Marketing Opportunity? <i>Dean Smith, Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies</i>	Conservation of North America’s grassland birds in the Chihuahuan Desert. <i>Arvind Panjabi, Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory</i>	The Microprairie-Urban Farm Continuum: Sustainable Landscapes within the City Limits. <i>Bruno Borsari, Winona State University</i>
2:20 - 2:40	Audubon’s Prairie Bird Initiative. <i>Max Alleger, Missouri Department of Conservation</i>	Shifting population dynamics of the grassland bird community at the Manitoba Tall Grass Prairie Preserve as a result of habitat changes. <i>Christie Borkowsky, Critical Wildlife Habitat Program, Manitoba Tall Grass Prairie Preserve</i>	Prairie restoration - up close and personal - on a university campus. <i>Dan Svedarsky, University of Minnesota</i>
2:40 - 3:00	Ranching for Carbon and Cattle. <i>Ashley Rood, Environmental Defense Fund and Randal Dell, Ducks Unlimited</i>	How Should We Manage Grassland for Lesser Prairie-Chickens (LPC) North of the Arkansas River in Kansas? <i>Matthew Bain, The Nature Conservancy</i>	Design Process and Reconstruction of a Prairie Garden at Winona State University: A Case Study. <i>Bruno Borsari, Winona State University</i>



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3:00 - 3:30 pm

Break

(Grand Foyer and Kaw Nation)

3:30 pm - 5:00 pm

Third Concurrent Breakout Sessions

	Track 1: Monitoring and predicting grassland conversion and implications	Track 2: Bison Grazing	Track 3: Climate Change, Drought, and Hydrology	Track 4: Grasslands and Pollinators
Moderators	Aviva Glaser, National Wildlife Federation	John Briggs, Kansas State University	Mara Johnson, World Wildlife Fund	Barth Crouch, Playa Lakes Joint Venture
Location	Flint Hills Room	Kings Room	Konza Prairie Room	Alcove
3:30 - 3:50	To Plow or Not to Plow: Investigating Grassland to Cropland Conversion in the Northern Great Plains Using Systems Dynamics. <i>B.L. Turner, South Dakota State University</i>	Bison (<i>Bison bison</i>) mediated seed dispersal in a tallgrass prairie reconstruction. <i>Peter Eyheralde, Iowa State University</i>	Bison (<i>Bison bison</i>) as a force promoting Climate Change Adaptation in grasslands. <i>K. Ellison, Wildlife Conservation Society</i>	Protecting Honey Bees and our Food Supply, a critical challenge for modern agriculture. <i>Zac Browning, Browning's Honey Co., Inc.</i>
3:50 - 4:10	Risk Management Subsidies, Production System Switching Costs, and Native Grassland Conversion. <i>Hongli Feng, Iowa State University</i>	Pyric Herbivory: Landscape-Level Distribution and Movement of Plains Bison (<i>Bison bison</i>) at Konza Prairie. <i>Anthony Joern, Kansas State University</i>	Ecotypic variation in drought tolerance and genetic diversity of the ecologically dominant grass big bluestem (<i>Andropogon gerardii</i>) across the Great Plains precipitation gradient: Implications for climate change and restoration. <i>Loretta Johnson, Kansas State University</i>	Assessing the health of commercial honey bees (<i>Apis mellifera</i>) across varying agricultural landscapes. <i>Matthew Smart, University of Minnesota</i>
4:10 - 4:30	Using predictive models to understand the changing landscape of the Northern Great Plains and potential implications for wildlife and human communities. <i>Anne M. Schrag, World Wildlife Fund</i>	Responses of a grassland spider community to disturbance from fire and bison grazing. <i>Jesus E. Gomez, Kansas State University</i>	The effects of Dust Bowl magnitude heat waves and drought on the tallgrass prairie ecosystem. <i>David Hoover, Colorado State University</i>	Providing diverse and nutritional floral resources for honey bees is critical as more and more research points to poor nutrition (diet) as one of the main causes of Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD). Where we have diminishing forage, we will have diminishing bees. <i>Christi Heintz, Project Apis m.</i>
4:30 - 4:50	Cropland conversion and sage-grouse: simulating leks to estimate historical impacts and plan for the future. <i>Joseph Smith, University of Montana</i>	Abundance and spatial distribution of bison wallows on a tallgrass prairie. <i>Adam Skibbe and/or Anthony Joern, Kansas State University</i>	Influence of grazing treatments and riparian protection on stream geomorphology and sediment concentrations in the Flint Hills and Osage Plains. <i>Bartosz Grudzinski, Kansas State University</i>	





5:00 - 6:00 pm

Poster Session

(Grand Foyer)

6:00 - 9:00 pm

Dinner at Konza Prairie, buses shuttle back and forth

(Meet in front of Hilton Conference Center entrance)

Wednesday, August 14th

7:00 - 8:00 am

Breakfast

(Grand Foyer and Kaw Nation)

8:00 am - 9:15 am

Morning Plenary Session: Ranchers and Other Conservationists, Lessons Learned and Challenges to be Met

Moderator: Ben Larson

(McDowell/Tuttle/Alcove)

Panelists

1. Travis Maddock, Maddock, ND
2. Doug Sieck, Selby, SD
3. Mike Kelly, Kelly Ranch, Sutherland NE
4. Bill Sproul, Sproul Ranch, Sedan, KS

9:15 am - 10:30 am

Roundtable Discussions Part 1

Discussion 1: Raising the national profile of grasslands *(Flint Hills Room)*

Discussion 2: Grasslands and federal policy *(Kings Room)*

Discussion 3: Working with Ranchers *(Konza Prairie Room)*

Other discussions: *TBA*

10:30 - 11:00 am

Break

(Grand Foyer and Kaw Nation)

11:00 am - 12:30 pm

Fourth Concurrent Breakout Sessions

	Track 1: Invasive Species and Grasslands	Track 2: Status, trends, and conservation of grassland-dependent wildlife (non-birds)	Track 3: Grasslands and Federal Policy
Moderators	Jesse Nippert, Kansas State University	Eva Horne, Kansas State University	Julie Sibbing, National Wildlife Federation
Location	Flint Hills Room	Kings Room	Konza Prairie Room
11:00 - 11:20	Spread of Yellow Old World Bluestem in Native Rangeland Pastures. <i>Keith Harmony, Kansas State University Agricultural Research Center</i>	Swift Fox Distribution and Population Connectivity in Eastern Montana. <i>Jessica Alexander, St Cloud State University & World Wildlife Fund</i>	Utilizing the Environmental Quality Incentives Program to transition expired Conservation Reserve Program lands into working grasslands, a case study from North Dakota. <i>Randal Dell, Ducks Unlimited</i>
11:20 - 11:40	Old World Bluestem invasion and its effects on the small mammal communities of North Central Oklahoma, USA: An ecological game changer. <i>Mitchell Greer, Oklahoma State University</i>	Ants in the Grassland: their importance and potential as indicators of ecosystem health. <i>Ann Mayo, University of Texas-Arlington</i>	Residual CRP - a long term program to keep CRP in grass. <i>Troy Schroeder, Kansas Wildlife Federation</i>
11:40 - 12:00	Effects of the Seed Bank and Interseeding in Reconstructed Tallgrass Prairies. <i>Stephen C. Rossiter, University of North Dakota</i>	Ecological roles and conservation challenges of social, burrowing, herbivorous mammals in the world's grasslands. <i>Ana Davidson, Stony Brook University & NatureServe</i>	Sodsaver: Saving America's Last Remaining Native Prairie. <i>Eric Lindstrom, Ducks Unlimited</i>
12:00 - 12:20	Kentucky bluegrass in the Northern Great Plains: A turf grass that has invaded our rangelands. <i>John Hendrickson, USDA ARS</i>	Evolving Management Strategies for Shortgrass Prairie, Black-tailed Prairie Dogs, & Black-footed Ferrets: adaptive management in a sea of controversy. <i>Rob Manes, The Nature Conservancy of Kansas and Charles Lee, Kansas State University Extension Wildlife Service</i>	Federal Policies Impacting the Future of Ranching. <i>Mike Beam, Kansas Livestock Association</i>

12:20 - 1:20 pm

Lunch

(Grand Foyer and Kaw Nation)

Small group discussion hosted by EDF (invite only- Alcove)

1:20 - 2:30 pm

Roundtable Discussions Part 2

Discussion 1: Raising the national profile of grasslands (Flint Hills Room)

Discussion 2: Grasslands and federal policy (Kings Room)

Discussion 3: Working with Ranchers (Konza Prairie Room)

Other discussions: TBA



2:30 - 3:00 pm

Break

(Grand Foyer and Kaw Nation)

3:00 - 4:20

Fifth Concurrent Breakout Session

	Track 1: Bioenergy Development and Grasslands	Track 2: Improving Current Grassland Conservation Programs: Landowners' Perspectives	Track 3: Help us set the 21 Century Science Agenda for Six Landscape Conservation Cooperatives!
	Susan Rupp, <i>Enviroscapes Ecological Consulting</i>	Mike Beam, <i>Kansas Livestock Association</i>	Gwen White, <i>US Fish and Wildlife Service</i>
Location	Flint Hills Room	Kings Room	Konza Prairie Room
3:00 - 3:20	Sustainable Planting and Harvest Guidelines for non-forest perennial biomass in the Prairie Pothole Region of the Northern Great Plains: Preliminary Findings. <i>Bill McGuire, Bill McGuire Conservation, LLC</i>	How can conservation programs be improved so that more ranchers would participate? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Caleb Stotts, KS • Ted Alexander, KS 	What gaps in research prevent you from making the best decisions about establishing and managing prairies? Six Landscape Conservation Cooperatives (LCCs) addresses pragmatic applied research needs in a heavily modified and fragmented landscape across the prairie region from Canada to the Gulf Coast. Productive soils and big rivers support economic interests including agriculture, manufacturing, energy, tourism, growing urban centers and struggling small towns—and potentially rich ecosystems. A few large prairie restorations portray the historic vistas created by sweeping tallgrass and thundering bison. Scattered remnants are highly valued where they remain tucked away in an intensive working landscape. Landscape-scale long-term challenges span climate change, energy development, declining birds and pollinators, nutrient runoff, and water demands. LCC staff will give brief presentations and welcome your input as we set an applied research agenda to guide the future of prairie conservation in the region. We can't help if you don't tell us what knowledge and tools you need to have!
3:20 - 3:40	Wisconsin's Sustainable Planting and Harvest Guidelines for Nonforest Biomass: a Collaborative Effort to Encourage Greater Sustainability of Natural Resource Use and Development. <i>Carol Williams, University of Wisconsin, Madison</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mike Kelly, NE • T. Wright Dickinson, CO 	
3:40 - 4:00	Opportunities for grasslands as biofuel feedstock. <i>Paul Adler, USDA-ARS</i>		
4:00 - 4:20	Switchgrass Solution: Enhancing Ecosystem Services and Carbon Sequestration through Low-Input High-Diversity Biofuels. <i>Morgan A. Noland, Oklahoma State University</i>		

4:20 - 5:15 pm

Report-Backs and Closing Session

(McDowell/Tuttle/Alcove)

6:00 - 7 pm

Dinner in groups/on your own



Poster Session

Credit: Carter Johnson.

- 1. Ecological integrity of prairie streams as influenced by patch-burn grazing and riparian protection.**
Danelle Larson, Kansas State University
- 2. Native warm season grasses have a place in Missouri haying and grazing systems.**
Ryan Diener, Chris McLeland and Jason Sykes
- 3. Contract Grazing in the Upper Mississippi River Basin.**
Laura Paine, Wisconsin Dept of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection
- 4. Using Applied Topology to identify wildlife corridors in the Northern Great Plains Ecoregion.**
Sarah Olimb, World Wildlife Fund
- 5. Avian Density and Reproductive Success in Response to Grassland Management on Military Airfields.**
Nellie Tsipoura, New Jersey Audubon
- 6. Influence of precipitation on trichome densities in big bluestem (*Andropogon gerardii*) ecotypes in Great Plains reciprocal gardens.** *Keri Caudle, Fort Hays State University*
- 7. A possible mechanism for increased performance of a xeric adapted big bluestem (*Andropogon gerardii*) ecotype: nitrogen and chlorophyll content of leaves in reciprocal gardens across the Great Plains.** *Brian Maricle, Fort Hays State University*
- 8. A new paradigm for grassland management: landscape heterogeneity management for grassland conservation and livestock production.** *Maggi Sliwinski, University of Nebraska- Lincoln*
- 9. Modeling the effects of climate, grazing, and land-cover on the Nebraska Sand Hills.**
Jeff Hartman, University of Nebraska-Lincoln
- 10. How Does Phenology and Seed Production of Big Bluestem (*Andropogon gerardii*) Ecotypes Vary Across the Great Plains Climate Gradient? A Reciprocal Garden Approach.** *Matthew Gallart, Kansas State University*
- 11. Collaborative Landscape Conservation in the Southwest Wisconsin Grassland and Stream Conservation Area.** *Maureen A. Rowe, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources*
- 12. Perennial Grass *Miscanthus* for Biomass Production and Phytoremediation of Slightly Contaminated Land.**
Larry Erickson, Kansas State University
- 13. The Development of the MN Prairie Plan.** *Greg Hoch, MN Dept. of Natural Resources*
- 14. Hydrology of intermittent tallgrass prairie headwater streams.** *Katie Costigan, Kansas State University*
- 15. Foraging behavior of plains bison in tallgrass prairie: an investigation of multiple foraging hypotheses.**
Edward Raynor, Kansas State University
- 16. The Effect of Precipitation Timing on Flowering in Tallgrass Prairie.** *John Dietrich, Colorado State University*
- 17. Effects of extreme drought on photosynthesis and water potential of *Andropogon gerardii* (big bluestem) ecotypes in common gardens across Kansas.** *Keri Caudle, Fort Hays State University*
- 18. Effects of pasture size on the efficacy of off-stream water or restricted stream access to alter the spatial/temporal distribution of grazing cows.** *J.J. Bisinger and J.R. Russell, Iowa State University*
- 19. Indicators that tallgrass prairie is becoming susceptible to rapid expansion by native shrubs.**
Zak Ratajczak, Kansas State University





Presenters

Credit: Jeff Vanuga, NRCS.

Michael Forsberg

Conservation photographer Michael Forsberg, a native of Lincoln, Nebraska, has focused much of his work in North America's Great Plains, once one of the greatest grassland ecosystems on Earth. His goal has been to try to capture the wild spirit that still survives in these wide open spaces and put a face on the often overlooked native creatures and landscapes found there. His hope is that the images can build appreciation and inspire conservation efforts on the land far into the future. After earning a degree in geography with an emphasis in environmental studies from the University of Nebraska, Mike worked at NEBRASKAland magazine for six years before starting his own photography business and gallery. An award-winning photographer and author, Mike's work has appeared in numerous publications. His first book, "On Ancient Wings – The Sandhill Cranes of North America", was the result of a five-year journey connecting the lives of the cranes and their habitats across the continent from western Alaska to Cuba. His second book, "Great Plains – America's Lingerin Wild", explores the wildlife, habitats and conservation challenges in the heart of the continent. A documentary film based on the book was produced by NET Television in 2012 and will be released to a national audience on PBS this fall. Currently Mike is co-directing the Platte Basin Time Lapse Project in partnership with the University of Nebraska - Lincoln. The project is a multi-year effort that uses time-lapse photography to document water use in the Platte River Basin.

Mike Kelly

Mike Kelly's third-generation ranch is located near Sutherland, NE, on the southern edge of the Nebraska Sandhills. The Kelly Ranch won the National Cattlemen's Beef Association's top environmental award in 2003. The ranch has also received a regional Administrators Award for Environmental Excellence from the EPA and in 2010, the ranch received the Rangenman's Award from the Nebraska Section Society for Range Management. Mike Kelly has partnered with a number of organizations, including The Nature Conservancy, Nebraska Grazing Lands Coalition, USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service, and others to help enhance the management, production, and stewardship of one of his ranches.

Chuck Kowaleski

Chuck is the Farm Bill Coordinator for Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. Trained as a field biologist, Chuck has worked for Texas Parks and Wildlife for the last 20 years. Has published a number of popular articles on using farm bill programs to benefit wildlife and recently coauthored the Texas AgriLife Extension publication "After the Conservation Reserve Program, Land Management with Wildlife in Mind" and The Wildlife Society technical review on the "Effects of Bioenergy Production on Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat." Chuck is the current chair of the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies EQIP working group and the Vice-Chair of the National Bobwhite Conservation Initiatives Technical Committee.



Travis Maddock

Travis Maddock is a fourth-generation rancher born and raised near Maddock, ND. Travis has a Master's degree in Meat Science from Texas A&M University and a Ph.D. in Nutrition and Beef Systems from North Dakota State University. Dr. Maddock has over 15 years of research and teaching experience in agriculture, with an emphasis on cattle nutrition efficiency and beef meat quality. Currently, Dr. Maddock is owner and Lead Consultant for Dakota Global Livestock Solutions. Dr. Maddock has published over 50 peer reviewed papers, brochures, and popular press articles dealing with livestock management and has given over 50 invited talks on livestock production to groups across the US.

Julie Sibbing

Julie Sibbing is the Director of Agriculture and Forestry Programs at the National Wildlife Federation in Washington, DC. She manages NWF's work to increase carbon storage and improve wildlife conservation on working agricultural and forest lands, including promoting: improved sustainability in biofuels and bioenergy; full funding and improved implementation of USDA conservation and energy programs; restoration of Longleaf Pine forests in the Southeast; conservation of America's declining grasslands; and use of cover cropping on agricultural lands. Ms. Sibbing has worked on agricultural conservation policy for 14 years. Prior to expanding her work in agriculture and forest issues, Ms. Sibbing worked extensively on wetlands policy and published numerous articles and reports on wetlands issues. Prior to joining NWF, Ms. Sibbing worked for the National Audubon Society, the Manomet Bird Observatory, and the U. S. Peace Corps in Honduras. She was raised in Quincy, Illinois and holds a B.S. in Ecology, Ethology and Evolution and an M.S. in Forest Ecology, both from the University of Illinois at Champaign/Urbana.

Doug Sieck

Doug Sieck grew up on his family's ranch near Selby, SD. Doug has an integrated crop and livestock operation. Doug is a board member of the South Dakota Grasslands Coalition and he completed the Holistic Management Institute's training in 2009.

Bill Sproul

Bill and Peggy Sproul's 11,000 acre ranch is located in the Flint Hills near Sedan, KS. The Sproul Ranch won the 2009 Excellence in Rangeland Management Award from the Society of Range Management and in 2010 was awarded the Regional Environmental Stewardship Award, representing Region VII of the National Cattlemen's Beef Association. Bill Sproul is a board member of the Rangeland Trust of Kansas, the Kansas Grazing Lands Coalition, and the Partnership of Rangeland Trusts, which includes Oregon, California, Wyoming, Colorado, Montana, and Texas.

Christopher Wright

Dr. Wright is a Postdoctoral Fellow at South Dakota State University. He is a landscape ecologist with research interests in land cover/land use change, habitat fragmentation, and the design of landscapes adaptable to climate change. He has worked in wetland landscapes in Yellowstone National Park and the Prairie Pothole Region, and in grassland ecosystems in both North America and Central Asia. Dr. Wright holds a B.A. in Biology from Williams College, with an M.S. in Agronomy and a Ph.D. in Biological Sciences, both from Montana State University. He was lead author on a recent paper in the journal *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, "Recent land use change in the Western Corn Belt threatens grasslands and wetlands", which drew national and international attention to the rapid conversion of grasslands arising from the corn ethanol boom in the Northern Plains.



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