



America's Grasslands: Status, Threats and Opportunities

Sioux Falls, SD
August 15-17, 2011



America's Grasslands Conference

Organizing Committee

Susan Rupp (*Co-Chair*), South Dakota State University

Julie Sibbing (*Co-Chair*), National Wildlife Federation

James Doolittle, North Central Sun Grant

Jim Faulstich, South Dakota Grasslands Coalition

Aviva Glaser, National Wildlife Federation

Chris Hesla, South Dakota Wildlife Federation

Doug Johnson, U.S. Geological Survey's Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center

Scott McLeod, Ducks Unlimited

Alexander Smart, South Dakota State University

Ryan Stockwell, National Wildlife Federation

Genevieve Thompson, National Audubon Society in North Dakota

Ryan Welch, University of Northern Iowa's Tallgrass Prairie Center

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The Sun Grant Initiative is a national research and outreach program of land-grant universities and federally funded laboratories working together to enhance the nation's renewable energy resources and non-food based industries. There are five regional Sun Grant Centers, the North Central Center serving the region and the national initiative. (Image courtesy South Dakota State University)

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America's Grasslands Conference

Sioux Falls Convention Center

AGENDA

Monday, August 15th

- 1:00 – 5:00 pm **Optional Field Trips** (*Meet at main entrance to convention center*)
 Option 1: EcoSun Prairie Farm/Sioux Prairie
 Option 2: POET
- "Grass Roots, the Prairie Farm Story"** (*showing hourly in meeting room 11*)
- 6:00 – 9:00 pm **Welcome Reception/Mixer** (*Ballroom B*)
 Chris Hesla, South Dakota Wildlife Federation
 Jim Doolittle, North Central Sun Grant Center
 Bob Budd, Wyoming Wildlife and Natural Resources Trust

Tuesday, August 16th

- 7:00 – 8:00 am **Breakfast** (*meeting rooms 11–14*)
- 8:00 am – 6:00 pm **Concurrent Poster Session** (*meeting rooms 9–10*)
 Vendors and Displays (*Hallway*)
- 8:00 – 10:00 am **Opening Plenary** (*Ballroom B*)
- 8:00 – 8:15 **Welcome and Introductions**
 Julie Sibbing, National Wildlife Federation
 Susan Rupp, South Dakota State University
- 8:15 – 9:00 **Keynote Address**
 Bob Budd, Wyoming Wildlife and Natural Resource Trust
- 9:00 – 9:30 **Cows for Conservation**
 Kurt Forman, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- 9:30 – 10:00 **Wildlife and Energy Development: From Science to Solutions**
 Dr. Kevin Doherty, Prairie Pothole Joint Venture
- 10:00 – 10:30 am **Break**
- 10:30 am – 12:00 pm **Opening Plenary: continued** (*Ballroom B*)
- 10:30 – 11:00 **Economics of Grassland Conversion**
 Dr. David Archer, USDA Agricultural Research Service
- 11:00 – 11:30 **Opportunities for Grassland Conservation**
 Jim Faulstich, South Dakota Grasslands Coalition
- 11:30 – 12:00 **Overview of Federal Policy and Grasslands**
 Julie Sibbing, National Wildlife Federation
 Lynn Tjeerdsma, Office of Sen. John Thune
 Josh Tonsager, Office of Sen. Johnson

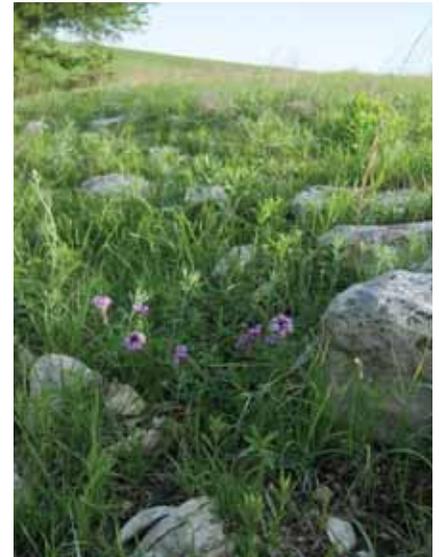


photo credit of Dave Leiker



Tuesday, August 16th *(continued)*

12:00 – 1:00 pm Lunch – Sponsored By POET *(meeting rooms 11-14)*
 Presentation on “Conservation Biomass”
Nathan Shock, POET and Steve Apfelbaum, The Earth Partners

1:00 – 3:00 pm First Concurrent Breakout Sessions

<p align="center">Status of Grasslands and Grassland-Dependent Wildlife</p> <p align="center"><i>(meeting rooms 1–2)</i></p> <p align="center">MODERATOR: Casey Stemler, USFWS, Prairie Pothole Joint Venture</p>	<p align="center">Grassland Management Practices</p> <p align="center"><i>(meeting rooms 6–7)</i></p> <p align="center">MODERATOR: Jack Norland, North Dakota State University</p>
<p>Dennis Skadsen <i>Day Conservation District, SD</i> Disappearing Prairie-Dependent Lepidoptera across the Remnant Tallgrass Prairies of Iowa, Minnesota, North and South Dakota</p> <p>Elise Clopton & Priscilla Crawford <i>University of Oklahoma</i> The 100 year decline of tallgrass prairie in Oklahoma: What is the future of the remaining prairie fragments?</p> <p>Nancy Drilling <i>Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory</i> Status and distribution of wintering grassland birds in the Chihuahuan Desert: will increasing threats permit their survival?</p> <p>Jason Garms and Fred Harris <i>Minnesota Department of Natural Resources</i> Documenting and Protecting Minnesota’s Remaining Native Prairies</p> <p>Kevin Doherty <i>USFWS Prairie Pothole Joint Venture</i> The State of the Prairie Potholes</p> <p>Sarah Olimb <i>World Wildlife Fund</i> Protecting the prairie: a historical, current and future look at the protected status of the Northern Great Plains</p>	<p>Michelle Ohrtman <i>South Dakota State University</i> Managing saltcedar (<i>Tamarix</i> spp.) with fire in northern grasslands</p> <p>Alexander Smart <i>South Dakota State University</i> Early Season Clipping, Fire, and Late Spring Nitrogen Application on Improving Native Tallgrass Prairie</p> <p>Brenda Koerner <i>Emporia State University</i> Patch-Burn Grazing Influences on Spring Fire Temperatures and <i>Sericea Lespedeza</i> (<i>Lespedeza cuneata</i>) Seed Viability</p> <p>Ryan Harr <i>Iowa State University</i> Investigating Patch-Burn Grazing in the Grand River Grasslands of Iowa and Missouri to Improve Habitats for Species of Greatest Conservation Need</p> <p>Patricia Kennedy <i>Oregon State University</i> Responses of a Pacific Northwest Bunchgrass Food Web to Experimental Manipulations of Stocking Rate</p>

3:00 – 3:30 pm Break



Tuesday, August 16th *(continued)*

3:30 – 5:00 pm

Second Concurrent Breakout Session

<p style="text-align: center;">Climate Change and Grasslands <i>(meeting rooms 1–2)</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">MODERATOR: Sean McMahon, The Nature Conservancy</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Grassland Management and Bird Populations <i>(meeting rooms 6–7)</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">MODERATOR: Doug Johnson, USGS Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center</p>
<p>Anne Schrag <i>World Wildlife Fund</i> Preparing the prairies: using applied science to prioritize climate adaptation activities in the Northern Great Plains</p> <p>Lawrence Igl <i>USGS Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center</i> Phenological changes on the prairie: Long-term trends in spring arrival dates of migratory waterfowl and other birds in south-central North Dakota</p> <p>Randal Dell <i>Ducks Unlimited</i> Opportunities and Barriers for Grasslands in Greenhouse Gas Markets</p> <p>Duane Pool <i>Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory</i> Integrating Climate Change Risk into the Evaluation of Habitat Program Efficacy: Conservation Program Contributions to Grassland Bird Conservation in the Context of Projected Climate Change</p>	<p>Marisa Lipsey <i>University of Montana</i> Grassland bird conservation in working landscapes: research in progress</p> <p>Maggi Sliwinski <i>University of Manitoba</i> Effects of cattle stocking rate and duration of grazing on songbirds of the mixed-grass prairie</p> <p>Randy Meidinger <i>Ducks Unlimited</i> Impact of Three Common Grazing Strategies on Yearling Cattle Performance and Duck Production in South Dakota</p> <p>Kevin Ellison <i>Wildlife Conservation Society</i> Effects of fencerow vegetation removal on grassland birds & their predators—4 year summary</p>

5:00 – 6:00 pm

Poster Session (Authors will be available for questions)

6:00 – 9:00 pm

Dinner – Barbeque at Sertoma Park, buses shuttle back and forth.
(Meet at main entrance to convention center to catch buses)



Hope on the Range

Grasslands enrich our world with epic wildlife that inspires us, food and water that nourishes us and ways of life that define us. Yet they are the most threatened, least protected habitat on Earth.

The Great Plains, which once spread like a vast sea of grass from the Rocky Mountains all the way to the Mississippi River, is no exception. Much of it has been plowed up or paved over.

Encouragingly, a common vision for protecting what remains is emerging among conservationists, ranchers and other landowners. The Nature Conservancy has a history of conservation success at sites throughout the Great Plains and the 2012 Farm Bill presents new opportunities for the Conservancy and partners to conserve grasslands.

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The Nature Conservancy's Hole-in-the-Mountain Prairie Preserve in Minnesota © Richard Hamilton Smith

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Wednesday, August 17th

- 7:00 – 8:00 am Breakfast (*meeting rooms 11–14*)
- 8:00 am – 4:00 pm *Concurrent Poster Session (meeting rooms 9–10)*
Vendors and Displays (Ballroom B)
- 8:00 – 10:00 am Third Concurrent Breakout Sessions

Energy Development and Grasslands <i>(meeting rooms 1–2)</i> MODERATOR: Genevieve Thompson, National Audubon Society	Grassland Restoration <i>(meeting rooms 6–7)</i> MODERATOR: Roger Gates, South Dakota State University
<p>Paul Nyren <i>North Dakota State University</i> Evaluation of Perennial Forages for Biofuel Production in Central and Western North Dakota</p> <p>Susan Rupp <i>South Dakota State University</i> Sustainable Harvest Strategies for Biofuels and Wildlife Production</p> <p>Doug Johnson <i>USGS Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center</i> Wind Development in Grasslands: What are the Issues?</p> <p>Chuck Loesch <i>U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service</i> Impacts of Wind Energy Development on Breeding Ducks in the Prairie Pothole Region of North and South Dakota</p> <p>Anne Bartuszevige <i>Playa Lakes Joint Venture</i> Development of Best Management Practices Documents for Wind Energy Development on Colorado's Eastern Plains</p> <p>Jennifer Rodgers <i>University of Manitoba</i> Effects of shallow-gas development on densities and diversity of grassland songbirds</p>	<p>Holly Hicks <i>Arizona Game and Fish Department</i> Re-establishment of a Keystone Species and its Contribution to Restoring the Grasslands of Arizona</p> <p>Kevin Ellison <i>Wildlife Conservation Society</i> Grassland Birds as Indicators of the Ecological Recovery of Bison</p> <p>Philip Gerla <i>The Nature Conservancy</i> The Glacial Ridge Project – Ten Years of Large-Scale Prairie Restoration</p> <p>Bruno Borsari <i>Winona State University</i> Restoring Biodiversity and Ecological Services in a Small Prairie Reconstruction in Southeastern Minnesota</p> <p>Carter Johnson <i>South Dakota State University</i> South Dakota's Prairie Farm: An experiment in ecologic and economic sustainability</p>

10:00 – 10:30 am Break



Wednesday, August 17th *(continued)*

10:30 am – 12:00 pm Fourth Concurrent Breakout Sessions

<p>The Role of Federal Policy in Grassland Conversion</p> <p><i>(meeting rooms 1–2)</i></p> <p>MODERATOR: Scott Stephens, Ducks Unlimited</p>	<p>Grassland Management and Conservation I</p> <p><i>(meeting rooms 6–7)</i></p> <p>MODERATOR: Ryan Stockwell, National Wildlife Federation</p>
<p>Carol Johnston <i>South Dakota State University</i> Cropland Expansion into Prairie Pothole Wetlands, 2001-2010</p> <p>David Hennessy <i>Iowa State University</i> Land Use Consequences of Crop Insurance Subsidies</p> <p>Ruiqing Miao <i>Iowa State University</i> Land Retirement Program Design and Empirical Assessments in the Presence of Crop Insurance Subsidies</p> <p>Brad Redlin <i>Izaak Walton League</i> Grasslands in the 2012 Farm Bill: How Conservation Compliance and Crop Insurance Can Be Modified to Achieve Conservation Benefits</p>	<p>Amy Symstad <i>USGS Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center</i> Factors affecting plant species richness and diversity in Great Plains grasslands: What do we know?</p> <p>Brian Martin <i>The Nature Conservancy</i> Community-based Conservation and the use of Grassbanking in the Northern Prairies of Montana</p> <p>Paul Bockenstedt <i>Bonestroo</i> Developing remnant prairie grazing plans for with conservation as the highest priority for the Minnesota Native Prairie Bank Program</p> <p>Ryan Harr <i>Iowa State University</i> Strengthening Fire and Grazing Science Transfer Mechanisms in the Midwest and Great Plains</p>



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Wednesday, August 17th *(continued)*

12:00 – 1:00 pm Lunch *(meeting rooms 11–14)*

1:00- 3:00 pm Fifth Concurrent Breakout Session

<p>The Role of Federal Policy in Grassland Conservation</p> <p><i>(meeting rooms 1–2)</i></p> <p>MODERATOR: Brad Redlin, Izaak Walton League</p>	<p>Grassland Management and Conservation II</p> <p><i>(meeting rooms 6–7)</i></p> <p>MODERATOR: Alexander Smart, South Dakota State University</p>
<p>Scott McLeod <i>Ducks Unlimited</i> The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP): The Past, Present and Future</p> <p>Lawrence Igl <i>USGS Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center</i> Grassland bird use of Conservation Reserve Program fields in the Great Plains and Interior Lowlands: A long-term, regional perspective</p> <p>Chris Flann <i>US Fish and Wildlife Service Chase Lake Prairie Project</i> The Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program: Celebrating a Legacy of Partnership in Dakota Grassland Preservation and Management</p> <p>Johann Walker <i>Ducks Unlimited</i> Integrated targeting of grassland easement acquisition for waterfowl increases conservation benefits in the Prairie Pothole Region</p> <p>Noel Matson <i>US Fish and Wildlife Service Huron Wetland Acquisition Office</i> The Past, Present and Future of Grassland Easements in South and North Dakota</p> <p>Rick Warhurst <i>Ducks Unlimited</i> Grasslands for Tomorrow—A Model for Protecting the Prairie and Wetland Ecosystem</p>	<p>Nicola Koper <i>University of Manitoba</i> Conservation grazing in Grasslands National Park, Saskatchewan, Canada</p> <p>Dan Svingen <i>US Forest Service Dakota Prairie Grassland</i> Management of the National Grasslands: an example from the Northern Great Plains</p> <p>Milton Haar <i>Badlands National Park</i> Grassland Management in Badlands National Park</p> <p>W.R. Teague <i>Texas AgriLife Research, Texas A&M University System</i> Grazing management impacts on vegetation, soil biota and soil chemical, physical and hydrological properties in tall grass prairie</p> <p>Guojie Wang <i>Central Grasslands Research Extension Center, North Dakota State University</i> Grazing management effects on the plant community in mixed-grass prairie within the Missouri Coteau region</p>

3:00 – 3:30 pm Break



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Wednesday, August 17th *(continued)*

3:30 – 5 pm

Wrap Up Session (*Ballroom B*)

Trends and Threats to Grasslands in the Northern Great Plains: Contrasting policies and lessons learned from the Canadian Prairies

Scott Stephens, Ducks Unlimited

Panel Discussion

Plenary Speakers

Moderator: **Ryan Stockwell**

Closing Comments

Julie Sibbing, NWF & Susan Rupp, SDSU

6:00 – 11:00 pm

Dinner on your own—bus provided to downtown

(Meet at main entrance to convention center to catch buses)

Thursday, August 18th

8:00 am – 4:00 pm

Grassland Policy Summit

Convened by National Wildlife Federation, Ducks Unlimited, The Nature Conservancy and World Wildlife Fund



SOUTH DAKOTA GRASSLAND COALITION

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June 17-18
Bird Tour, Headley Ranch, White Lake

July 26
Cooper Ranch Pasture Walk, Custer

July 29
Doud Ranch Tour
SD Leopold Award Winner, Midland

August 15-17
America's Grassland Conference, Sioux Falls

September 12-14
Grazing School, Oacoma

September 14-16
Grazing School, Oacoma



Poster Presentations

meeting rooms 9-10

Marissa Ahlering

The Nature Conservancy

Monitoring the Effects of Patch-Burn Grazing on the Plant Species Composition of High Diversity Prairie at Lac Qui Parle WMA and Chippewa Prairie Preserve, Minnesota

Amy Alstad

Eastern Tallgrass Prairie and Oak Savanna Fire Science Consortium

Development of a fire science network and delivery system for the Northern Tallgrass Prairie, Central Tallgrass Prairie, Prairie Forest Border, and North Central Till Plain Ecoregions of the Upper Midwest U.S.

Nancy Anderson

Olson Agricultural Analytical Services Laboratory, SDSU
Selenium in South Dakota Grasslands

Larry Cihacek

North Dakota University

Carbon Distribution between Plant and Soil Components of Selected Grass Monocultures

Kevin Ellison

Wildlife Conservation Society

Pox seroprevalence and missing digits in the Henslow's Sparrow

Peter G. Eyheralde

Dept. of Natural Resource Ecology & Management, Iowa State University

Bison mediated seed dispersal in a tallgrass prairie reconstruction

Milton Haar

Badlands National Park

Spurge Flax, a New Grassland Weed for Southwestern South Dakota

R. Kyle Heimerl

Graduate Student, Plant Science Department, South Dakota State University

Spatial comparison of soil properties between native prairie and restored agricultural land

Elliot Liepold

South Dakota State University

The Contribution of Arbuscular Mycorrhizal (AM) Fungi to Biomass Production of Prairie Cordgrass (*Spartina pectinata*) under Nitrogen and Phosphate Limitation

Tonya Lwiwski

University of Manitoba

Effects of grazing intensity on plant biodiversity and vegetation structure in a northern mixed-grass prairie

Neal Mundahl

Winona State University

Bird Communities of Restored Grasslands: Unmanaged vs. Biomass Harvest Sites



photo credit of Dave Leiker

Carmelita Nelson

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

Monitoring the Impacts of Pesticides on Bluebirds

Jack Norland

North Dakota State University

Estimating the Probability of Prairie Restorations Outcomes in E. North Dakota and W. Minnesota

Bob Patton

North Dakota State University

The effect of grazing intensity on the grasslands and cattle performance

Matthew Rigge

South Dakota State University

Detecting channel riparian vegetation response to BMP implementation in western South Dakota ephemeral streams using SPOT imagery



Kyle Schell

South Dakota State University

Restoring Native Tallgrass Prairie and Improving Profitability on Eastern South Dakota Grasslands with Intensive Early Stocking

Carolyn Schmitz

University of Wisconsin-Madison

Impacts of potential herbaceous bioenergy crops on wildlife: grassland bird use across a diversity gradient of native warm season grass fields in southwestern Wisconsin

Adrienne Tastad

University of Manitoba

The relative effects of grazing by bison and cattle on plant community heterogeneity in northern mixed prairie

Shauna Waughtel

South Dakota State University

Utilizing Fire, Nitrogen, and Herbicide to Increase Warm-Season Biomass



Protecting the Future of Nature



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

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The Department of Natural Resource Management at SDSU provides a diverse array of majors and career options for students. Educational opportunities for both undergraduate and graduate students range from broad ecological perspectives to highly applied degree programs and research.



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Presenters

Dr. David Archer is an agricultural economist at the USDA-ARS Northern Great Plains Research Laboratory, Mandan, ND. He has 12 years research experience with ARS, both in Mandan and in Morris, MN, conducting research linking agricultural systems field research to economic and environmental impacts, including carbon sequestration and greenhouse gas emissions. Before joining ARS, Dave was an USDA-NRCS agricultural economist in Bismarck, North Dakota and in Spokane and Colfax, Washington. He received a Ph.D. in Agricultural Economics from Iowa State University in 1995. His general research interests include sustainable agricultural systems, risk management, simulation modeling, decision aid development, and decision making to achieve both economic and natural resource goals. He is currently working on integrated crop-livestock systems and evaluating the economic and environmental impacts of cellulosic bioenergy feedstock production. He is a member of the Agricultural and Applied Economics Association, Western Agricultural Economics Association, Soil and Water Conservation Society, American Society of Agronomy, and the Soil Science Society of America, and is an associate editor for *Agronomy Journal*.

Bob Budd is the Executive Director of the Wyoming Wildlife and Natural Resource Trust, a program established to enhance wildlife habitats and the natural resource heritage of Wyoming. Prior to helping launch the WWNRT program, Budd was manager of Red Canyon Ranch, and Director of Land Management for The Nature Conservancy in Wyoming. In his work there, he was credited with developing and maintaining large-scale ecological process, while maintaining economic production on a working cattle ranch. Before his tenure with TNC, Bob spent 15 years with the Wyoming Stock Growers Association, ten as Executive Director.

Bob Budd has a Master of Science degree in Range Management, and Bachelor of Science degrees in Agricultural Business and Animal Science, all from the University of Wyoming. He is also trained in Holistic Resource Management, and is a Certified Professional in Rangeland Management. He is a past-president of the international Society for Range Management, and has worked in North America, China, and Africa to resolve natural resource issues. He has facilitated development of management plans for the Big Sandy River, Sage-grouse, and Bighorn Sheep in Wyoming. Budd has been recognized for his stewardship by the Bureau of Land Management, United States Forest Service, and Wyoming Game and Fish Department, among others.

His writings have appeared in a variety of forms, most recently "Otters Dance" in *Home Land*, and three chapters in *Ranching*

West of the Hundredth Meridian. He and his wife Lynn live in Lander, Wyoming and have three children, Joe, Jake, and Maggie.

Dr. Kevin Doherty is the science coordinator for the United States Fish & Wildlife Service's Prairie Pothole Joint Venture in Bismarck, ND. In this position he is responsible for creation and integration of applied conservation research that addresses migratory bird issues within the PPJV. Dr. Doherty has published 27 scientific peer reviewed papers and book chapters on topic including: landscape ecology, sage-grouse and sagebrush ecology, movement ecology, as well as conservation planning and mitigation policy in relation to energy development. His expertise in GIS based habitat modeling and landscape ecology has influenced conservation policy and land management decisions by providing the scientific basis on which multi-stakeholder groups developed plans to balance energy development with conservation. His published systematic conservation planning research for sage-grouse has been adopted across the entire range of sage-grouse and has been endorsed by the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, the Bureau of Land Management, and is being used by the NRCS to strategically target millions in habitat conservation through the sage-grouse initiative. Dr. Doherty received a Ph.D. in Wildlife Biology from the University of Montana in 2008, a M.S. in Wildlife Conservation with a minor in statistics from the University of Minnesota in 2004, and a B.S. in Wildlife Science from Virginia Tech in 1997.



photo credit of Dave Leiker

Jim Faulstich from Highmore, SD, is a 1972 graduate of SDSU with a BS degree in General Agriculture. He and wife Carol (72) own and operate Daybreak Ranch, which is a multi-enterprise grass based ranch. Jim has for many years, been an advocate for sustainable land use and placing conservation of SD natural resources as a priority, especially native grasslands and water.



Jim is vice chairman of the SD Grassland Coalition, represents SD on the national board of directors of Partners for Conservation, attends the NRCS state technical meetings and subcommittees, led the movement to bring the Leopold Conservation Award Program to SD in 2010, and gives presentations on ranch adaptive management and resource conservation to many groups including the SD grazing school.

Jim, with the support of his family, has received the National Cattleman's Beef Association Environmental Stewardship Award for Region VII, Society for Range Management's Excellence in Grazing Award, SD Wildlife Society's Citizen Award, and the National Natural Resource Conservation Excellence in Conservation Award.

Dr. Susan Rupp is currently an Assistant Professor in the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences at South Dakota State University. As an ungulate ecologist with expertise in ecological modeling and habitat-use relationships, Susan's work aims to integrate theory with empirical studies in an adaptive management environment. Dr. Rupp was recently awarded the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation "2007 Budweiser Renewable Energy and Wildlife Conservation Research Prize." Dr. Rupp graduated as a University Honors Scholar from Colorado State University. She completed both her Masters and PhD degrees in the Department of Range, Wildlife, and Fisheries Management at Texas Tech University. Prior to her employment at SDSU, Dr. Rupp worked for the Colorado Division of Wildlife, New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, and Los Alamos National Laboratory. She was awarded the Canon National Park Science Scholars Award in 2002. Dr. Rupp is a Certified Wildlife Biologist with The Wildlife Society and currently chairs the Biofuels Committee and the Certification Committee for the SD State Chapter of TWS.

Julie Sibbing is Director of Agriculture Programs at the National Wildlife Federation (NWF), where she has been on the staff since 2000. Sibbing directs NWF's efforts to promote sustainable management of private agricultural lands with a focus on wildlife and climate change. Ms. Sibbing has worked extensively for the last six years on promotion of sustainable, low carbon biofuels/bioenergy, with a special focus on implications for wildlife. She developed the framework and successfully advocated for inclusion of an incentive program in the 2008 Farm Bill to help farmers begin to grow next generation energy crops. She serves on the board of the Council for Sustainable Biofuels Production and The Wildlife Society's biofuels technical review committee. Prior to joining NWF, Ms. Sibbing worked for the National Audubon Society, the Manomet Bird Observatory, and the U. S. Peace Corps in Honduras. Sibbing hails from 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.

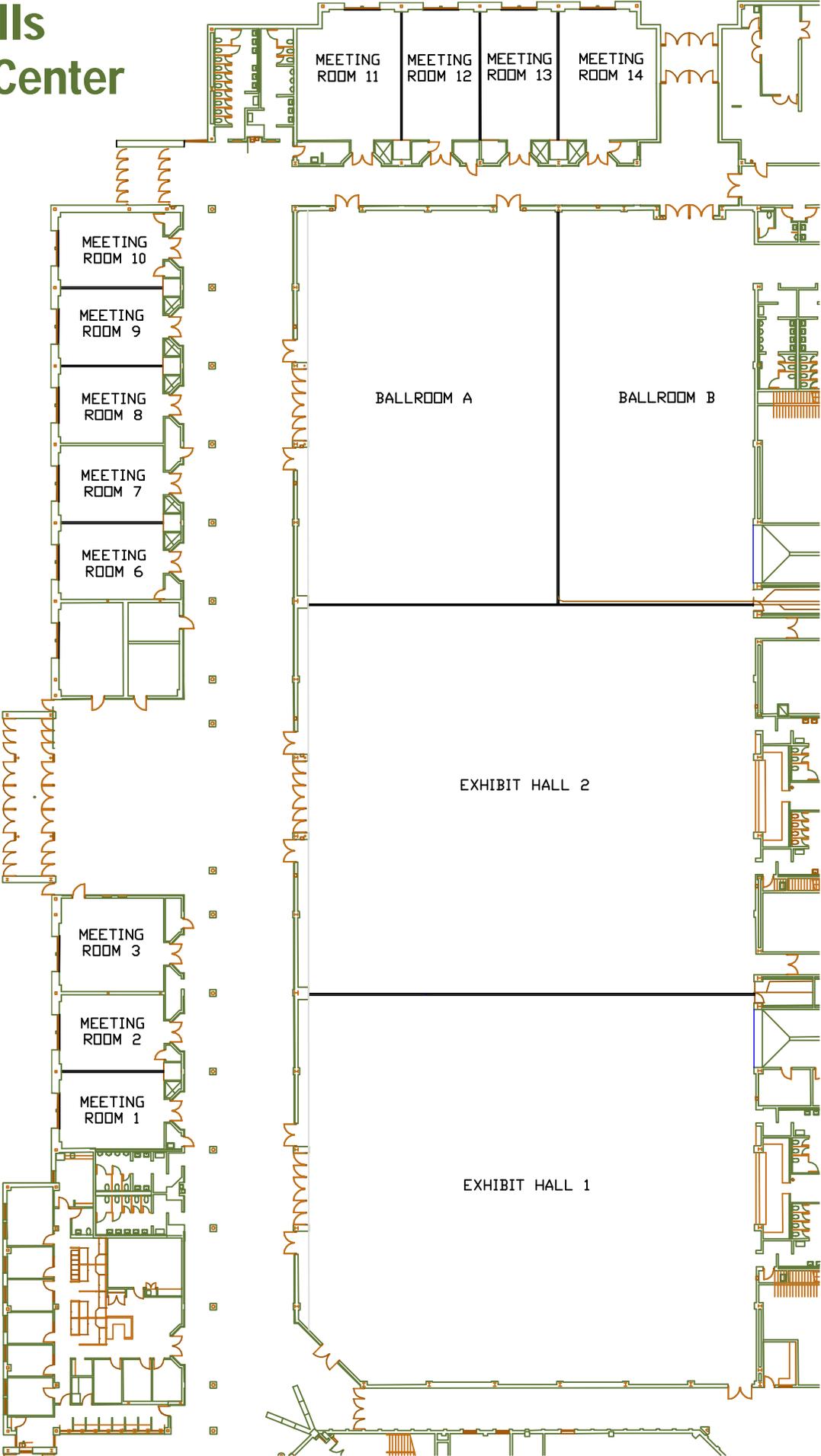
Dr. Scott Stephens is the Director of Regional Operations for Ducks Unlimited Canada's Prairie region where he works with DUC staff to deliver DU's conservation work across Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba. He has a Bachelor's degree from Northwest Missouri State, a Master's degree from Mississippi State, and a Ph.D. from Montana State University. Scott has been employed with DUC since 2010 and previously spent 15 years with DU Inc. overseeing research and conservation planning across the Great Plains of the U.S. Scott has conducted research across the Canadian prairies, the Dakotas, Nebraska, Missouri, Mississippi, and Maryland. His research focused on the landscape influences on demographic rates for grassland nesting birds and predictive models of landscape change. Scott lives with his wife of 16 years, 8-year old daughter and 10-year old son in Stonewall, MB where they enjoy time outdoors as often as they can.

Lynn Tjeerdsma is a Senior Policy Advisor for South Dakota Senator John Thune, a role he played in 2007 and 2008 for Senator Thune, prior to being named Assistant Deputy Administrator for Farm Programs at USDA's Farm Service Agency. Prior to his first term in Sen. Thune's office, Tjeerdsma served as Policy Initiatives Manager for the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership (TRCP), fulfilling this role under a long-term agreement with the Department of Agriculture (USDA) as a liaison between the conservation and wildlife community and USDA. Before beginning his position at TRCP, Tjeerdsma served as Chief of Farm Service Agency's (FSA) Emergency Preparedness and Programs Branch, County Executive Director of the Moody County ASCS Office, located in Flandreau, South Dakota, legislative assistant to U.S. Senator Larry Pressler, and County Executive Director of the Cass County FSA Office, located near Omaha, Nebraska. Tjeerdsma grew up on a diversified crop and livestock family farm located in South Central South Dakota and attended the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology. Tjeerdsma currently owns two farms in South Dakota, one being the family farm on which he was raised, and which was homesteaded by his great-great grandfather in 1883; he is married with three children and five grandchildren.

Kurt Forman is the Private Lands Coordinator for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) in South Dakota. For the past 18 years he has worked for the USFWS's private lands program and has been the State Coordinator since 2003. Kurt received a B.S. in Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences from South Dakota State University and an M.S. in Wildlife Biology from the University of Montana. In his current position with the USFWS Kurt develops and administers a variety of conservation programs to assist private landowners. Since 1986 the USFWS Private Lands Program has partnered with over 5,800 landowners to implement voluntary incentive-based grassland and wetland conservation projects throughout South Dakota. Kurt is a member of the Prairie Pothole Joint Venture Technical Committee, Northern Great Plains Working Group and past president of the South Dakota Chapter of The Wildlife Society.



Sioux Falls Convention Center



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