



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

2027 America's Grasslands Conference Site Selection and Co-Host

OVERVIEW

The National Wildlife Federation is seeking proposals for co-hosts and locations for the 2027 America's Grasslands Conference. This will be the eighth biennial conference, preceded by seven highly successful conferences held in Kearney, NE (2025), Cheyenne, WY (2023), Bismarck, ND (2019), Fort Worth, Texas (2017), Fort Collins, CO (2015), Manhattan, KS (2013), and Sioux Falls, SD (2011). Since the conference began in 2011, it has served a valuable role in connecting people working on grasslands throughout North America and has helped change the landscape of grasslands conservation over the years.

The America's Grasslands Conference continues to be the premier meeting for stakeholders who care about the conservation of grasslands, bringing together researchers, producers, conservationists, policy professionals and more. The conference provides an exceptional platform for networking and collaboration, and co-hosting the conference offers a unique opportunity to showcase regional initiatives and play a role in shaping the future of grassland stewardship.

Co-hosting the America's Grasslands Conference would mean working with NWF on a wide range of event planning activities, including, but not limited to: assisting with site selection (city and hotel), identifying speakers, proposing field trip options, contributing ideas for conference program development such as panel discussions and workshops, helping to coordinate and identify corporate or local sponsors, helping with logistics, and assisting with the opening/welcome night celebration. Anticipated attendance is approximately 250-350 participants. Priority dates will be summer 2027.

ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

Every other year, the [America's Grasslands Conference](#) brings together a diverse group of people from all over North America and beyond. Over the course of the three-day meeting, participants have the option to attend field trips to local grasslands, learn about the most important and emerging grasslands conservation issues, network with fellow professionals and stakeholders, develop strategies to advance federal, regional and local conservation goals and learn from successes. The conference is typically attended by researchers, conservation practitioners, and grasslands advocates, including policy experts, project implementation staff, communication staff, and executive directors of local, state, regional, and national environmental nonprofits.

Additionally, the conference draws representatives of state and federal agencies, first nations, community groups, business, agriculture, and industry.

The National Wildlife Federation is the sole fiscal agent for the conference and ensures that all funds raised go towards running the conference. NWF reserves the right to make the final choices on the conference timing, location, and other logistics. If your organization is interested in partnering with NWF for the 2027 America's Grasslands Conference, **please submit a comprehensive proposal outlining the following information:**

- **Organization Profile:** Please include a brief overview of your organization, including your organization's experience with grasslands conservation, and the key personnel who would be involved in conference planning. In addition, please let us know why it would be valuable for your organization to co-host the America's Grasslands Conference, including what would make your city/state a good location (see the Unique Location Opportunity section below for more information).
- **Unique Location Opportunities and Timing:** Are there any interesting ideas for field trips, opening reception/event, and local sponsors for various portions of the conference? Are there any special projects coming to fruition that will be especially important to highlight in the state or region in 2027?
- **Additional Partners:** Local partners (ex. Universities, other non-profits, companies, ranching groups, etc.) are key to a successful conference. Are there any additional local partners or sponsors that you would partner with in planning the conference? **Please have initial conversations about partnering for the conference before including them in your proposal.**
- **Hotel Logistical Considerations:** Please address the following logistical considerations-
 - Hotel needs/requirements:
 - Capacity – Sleeping rooms 250 minimum; meeting space 20,000 sq. ft minimum
 - Cost – Room rate \$175 maximum (NWF will negotiate)
 - Accessibility – Hotel distance from major airport or location; ideally less than 1 ½ hours from major airport
 - Other – Wildlife or nature centered hotel or location; site close to grasslands/ability to showcase local grasslands, natural setting, and outdoor activities
- **Field Trip Logistical Considerations:** Please address the following logistical considerations-
 - America's Grasslands Conference typically hosts one day of field trip options for participants to attend. Field trips for conference participants should highlight local work being done on grasslands, ranching management strategies, and allow participants to experience the unique identity of the conference host city and surrounding natural areas. Past field trips have included tours of local ranches, wildlife refuges, research rangelands, tours of National Grasslands, and more. You can find more information on previous field trips in the programs from previous conferences here: <https://www.nwf.org/Our-Work/Our-Lands/Americas-Grasslands-Conference>. Ideally field trip locations should be no more than 1 hour away from the conference venue.

Submission Guidelines:

Please submit your proposal **using this link** no later than March 12, 2026. If you have any additional questions please reach out to Lekha Knuffman (knuffmanl@nwf.org) or Aleta Dam (dama@nwf.org).