

America's Grasslands Conference: Partnerships for Grassland Conservation

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

September 29 – October 1, 2015

Fort Collins, Colorado

Colorado State University Lory Student Center

DRAFT CONFERENCE PROGRAM – SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Tuesday, September 29th

Optional Field trips

8:00 – 3:00 Soapstone Prairie Natural Area and Meadow Springs Ranch

8:00 – 12:30 Soapstone Prairie Natural Area (Half Day)

8:00 – 3:00 Pawnee National Grasslands

4:00 – 6:00 Registration

4:00 – 6:00 Posters and Exhibitor Set Up

6:00-8:00 Opening Reception and Poster Session

Wednesday, September 30th

7:00 am – 8:00 am BREAKFAST & Registration

8:00 – 10:00 am Opening Plenary Session

8:00-8:15 Welcome and Introductions

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

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

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

9:30-10:00 **Keynote Address**

10:00 – 10:30 am BREAK

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

	Track 1: Monitoring and Predicting Grassland Conversion	Track 2: Climate Change and Grasslands	Track 3: New partnership efforts and strategies to conserve grasslands & promote rangeland health
10:30-10:50	Characterizing Land Use Changes in the Dakotas using Historical Satellite Sensor Data: 1984-2015. <i>Gaurav Arora, Iowa State University</i>	Grasslands and Carbon Markets: Overview, Opportunities, and Realities. <i>Billy Gascoigne, Ducks Unlimited</i>	A new partnership to conserve grasslands within the Chihuahuan Desert of far West Texas. <i>Ryan O'Shaughnessy, Sul Ross State University</i>
10:50-11:10	Plowprint: Tracking cumulative loss of grassland to cropland across the Northern Great Plains and beyond. <i>Anne M. Gage, World Wildlife Fund</i>	New Carbon Offset Protocol for Grassland Conservation. <i>Max DuBuisson, Climate Action Reserve</i>	Habitat Exchange. <i>Ted Toombs, Environmental Defense Fund</i>
11:10-11:30	Farmland Use Decisions and Grassland Conversion in the Dakotas, 2015 Survey and Analysis. <i>Larry Janssen, South Dakota State University</i>	Projecting Desert Wintering Capacity for Grassland Birds Under a Changing Climate. <i>Duane B. Pool, Bird Conservancy of the Rockies/RMBO</i>	Sustaining Bird Populations with a Conservation Atlas and Change Strategy for Midwestern Grasslands. <i>Dan Lambert, High Branch Conservation Services</i>
11:30-11:50	Mapping the potential for fire induced transitions of tallgrass prairie to shrubland and woodland: are we near a tipping point? <i>Zak Ratajczak, University of Virginia</i>	Vulnerability of shortgrass prairie bird assemblages to climate change. <i>Susan K. Skagen, U.S. Geological Survey</i>	Leopoldian Land Stewards – Fostering a Land Ethic. <i>Breanna Owens, Point Blue Conservation Science</i>
11:50-12:10	The Utility of the Cropland Data Layer for Monitoring US Grassland Extent. <i>David Johnson, USDA NASS</i>		An adaptive management framework for managing U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service prairies in the Northern Great Plains. <i>Vanessa Fields, US Fish and Wildlife Service</i>

12:10 – 1:00 pm LUNCH

1:00 – 2:40 pm Second Concurrent Breakout Sessions

	Track 1 Grassland-dependent wildlife Part 1	Track 2 Landscape planning and management for grassland conservation	Track 3: Managing rangelands as social-ecological systems-Part 1	Track 4: Grasslands Alliance Symposium
1:00-1:20	Shortgrass Prairie Bird Abundance, Availability and Distribution. <i>Robert A. Sparks, RMBO</i>	Using range wide collaborations to conserve Pacific Northwest prairies. <i>Elsbeth Kim, Center for Natural Lands Management</i>	Managing knowledge, people and natural resources to provide ecosystem services. <i>David D. Briske, Texas A&M University</i>	<p>Grasslands Alliance: building partnerships with the beef supply chain to better incentivize grassland conservation.</p> <p><i>Jonathan Gelbard, NRDC</i></p> <p><i>Gabriel Krenza, Strategic Advisor, NRDC and Green Sports Alliance</i></p> <p><i>Michael Hale, Magpie Ranch – Producer of Bunchgrass Beef; Consultant to Food Alliance</i></p> <p>Part I: Why a certification standard?</p> <p>Part II: How will the Grasslands Alliance foster collaboration and partnerships for advancing grasslands conservation?</p>
1:20-1:40	Migratory grassland birds of the Great Plains: a comparison of migrations of five species and the implications for conservation. <i>Kevin S. Ellison, World Wildlife Fund</i>	Considering birds and ecosystem services to inform grassland bird conservation in an urban context. <i>Chad B. Wilsey, National Audubon Society</i>	Exploring rancher mental models for adaptive management: The case of Lonesome Pines Land and Cattle. <i>Hailey Wilmer, Colorado State University, Jim Sturrock Lonesome Pines Land and Cattle</i>	
1:40-2:00	Designing a Habitat Credit Exchange: Landowner Preferences for Ecosystem Service Provision in Wyoming. <i>Esther Duke, Colorado State University</i>	Landscape Design as a process to develop goal-based, collaborative grassland conservation in shortgrass prairie region of Nebraska. <i>Anne Bartuszevige, Playa Lakes Joint Venture</i>	Adaptive grazing management for beef and birds in the western Great Plains <i>David Augustine USDA-Agriculture Research Service</i>	
2:00-2:20	The lesser prairie chicken range-wide conservation plan implementation: A new paradigm in wildlife management. <i>Bill Van Pelt, Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies</i>	Using landscape design principles to conserve grasslands under near-future forecasted agricultural development. <i>Kyle Taylor, Playa Lakes Joint Venture</i>	Identification of win-win solutions for landowners and wildlife: The key to successful conservation delivery. <i>Aaron Trujillo, Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory</i>	
2:20-2:40	Bird Community Response to Plague Management in Prairie Dog Colonies. <i>Reesa Yale Conrey, Colorado Parks and Wildlife</i>	Oaks and Prairies Joint Venture Strategic Habitat Conservation for grassland birds on working lands in Oklahoma and Texas. <i>Jim Giocomo, Oaks and Prairies Joint Venture</i>	Beyond a taxonomy of knowledge: What do we learn from each other? Operationalizing participatory research in northwestern Colorado Rangelands. <i>Retta A. Bruegger, Colorado State University</i>	

2:40 – 3:10 pm BREAK

3:10 pm – 4:30 pm Third Concurrent Breakout Sessions

	Track 1: Grazing and Grasslands Management	Track 2: Grasslands and Federal Policy	Track 3: Managing rangelands as social-ecological systems- Part 2	Track 4: Monarchs and grassland conservation
3:10-3:30	Evaluation of Increased Vegetation Cover in Grazing Lands through Holistic Management on a Cattle Ranch in Eastern Colorado. <i>Teresa Chapman, Colorado Chapter of The Nature Conservancy</i>	Grasslands and the 2014 Farm Bill: An overview. <i>Aviva Glaser, National Wildlife Federation</i>	Integrating monitoring data and ecological site descriptions to achieve multi-species bird conservation in sagebrush rangelands. <i>David C. Pavlacky Jr., Rocky Mt. Bird Observatory</i>	Partnering to Conserve the Monarch Migration: The Monarch Joint Venture. <i>Wendy Caldwell, Monarch Joint Venture</i>
3:30-3:50	Using Avian Focal Species to Inform Rangeland Management in California Grassland and Oak Savannah. <i>Geoffrey Geupel, Point Blue Conservation Science</i>	Prairie Pothole Politics: Conserving Grasslands through Public Policy. <i>Eric Lindstrom, Ducks Unlimited</i>	Managing for multiple species in Northwestern Colorado: Sage-grouse and songbirds. <i>Jennifer Timmer, Colorado State University</i>	Creating a state-wide monarch strategy: A report-out from the Missouri Monarch Summit. <i>Carol Davit, Missouri Prairie Foundation</i>
3:50-4:10	Spatial Variation in Ecological Function of Rangelands with Different Grazing Practices in Coastal California. <i>Carlene Henneman, Point Blue Conservation Science</i>	Working towards a “Natives First” Policy for USDA Conservation Programs. <i>Jef Hodges, National Bobwhite Conservation Initiative</i>	Greater sage-grouse (<i>Centrocercus urophasianus</i>) population response to grazing management and precipitation across broad scales in Wyoming. <i>Adrian P. Monroe, US Geological Survey/CSU</i>	U.S. Fish and Wildlife’s Monarch Conservation Work. <i>Heather Johnson, Partners for Fish and Wildlife.</i>
4:10-4:30	Collaboratively expanding grass-based agriculture in the Upper Mississippi. <i>Allison Van, Winrock International</i>		Discussion (Facilitator, <i>Maria Fernandez-Gimenez, Colorado State University</i>)	

4:45 – 9:00 pm **DINNER** - at Sylvan Dale Guest Ranch
 Buses leave from Lory Student Center and Hilton, Fort Collins.

Thursday, October 1st

7:30 – 8:30 am BREAKFAST

8:30 am – 10:10 am Fourth Concurrent Breakout Sessions

	Track 1: Maintaining and improving grasslands for grazing	Track 2: Success stories and case studies of partnership efforts to conserve grasslands	Track 3: Grassland-dependent wildlife – Part 2
8:30-8:50	Point Blue conservation Science’s Rangeland Watershed Initiative: Rewatering California, One Ranch at a Time. <i>Wendell Gilgert, Point Blue Conservation Science</i>	Utilizing Stakeholder Developed Grassland Corridors to Guide Collaborative Habitat Restoration in Northern Arizona. <i>Jessica Gist, Arizona Game & Fish Department</i>	Working Lands and the Long-billed Curlew. <i>Cheryl Mandich, American Bird Conservancy</i>
8:50-9:10	Improving Grazing Production and Wildlife Habitat in the Eastern Tallgrass Prairie Region with Federal, State, and Local Programs; Three Landowner Success Stories in Missouri. <i>Ryan Diener, Pheasants Forever</i>	Conservation Partnership Efforts to Conserve Eastern Texas Prairie Landscapes. <i>Jason R. Singhurst, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department</i>	Arizona Antelope Foundation Southeastern Arizona Grasslands Pronghorn Initiative. <i>Glen Dickens, Arizona Antelope Foundation</i>
9:10-9:30	Grassland Conservation From one Generation to the Next: How conservation easements are working for ranchers on the Eastern Plains of Colorado. <i>Erik Glenn, Colorado Cattlemen’s Agricultural Land Trust</i>	Results of Grassland Stakeholder Survey of Collaborative Grassland Management Approaches. <i>Mollie Walton, Quivira Coalition</i>	Grasslands Conservation by Managing Plague: a Vaccine for the Future? <i>Holly Hicks, Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies</i>
9:30-9:50	Restoring the Health of the Sage-Steppe Ecosystem. <i>Terry Z. Riley, North American Grouse Partnership</i>	Empowering landowners to achieve conservation goals, The Oaks and Prairies Joint Venture. <i>Jon Hayes, Oaks and Prairies Joint Venture</i>	Are Northern Bobwhite an umbrella species for grass and scrub-shrub birds in the Central Hardwoods BCR? <i>Cara J Joos, Central Hardwoods Joint Venture</i>
9:50-10:10	Influence of fire, grazing and drought on cattle herbivory, endophyte infection, and alkaloid concentration of tall fescue invaded grasslands. <i>John Derek Scasta, University of Wyoming</i>	Multi-institutional collaborations to manage federally protected areas. <i>Luis Enrique Ramirez, Denver Zoological Foundation</i>	Movement Patterns in Grassland Sparrows Wintering in the Chihuahuan Desert. <i>Erin H. Strasser RMBO</i>

10:10 – 10:45 am BREAK

10:45 – 12 pm Roundtable Discussions

Discussion 1: Grass-fed beef

Discussion 2: Future research needs

Discussion 3: Communicating and educating about grasslands

Discussion 4: Improving federal programs for grasslands
Discussion 5: Economics of grass-based agriculture
Other discussions: TBD

12:00– 1:00 pm LUNCH

1:00 – 2:20 Fifth Concurrent Breakout Session

	Track 1: Grassland Livelihood Panel (TBD)	Track 2: Energy Development in Grasslands	Track 3: Prairie Pollinators and Invertebrates
1:00-1:20	A panel discussion featuring 4-5 ranchers focusing on the challenges and opportunities with maintaining a livelihood through ranching. Moderated by Steve Wooten of the Colorado Cattlemen’s Association	Understanding the Future of Wind Development in Montana and Wyoming. <i>Claire Hood, World Wildlife Fund</i>	Understanding the effects of habitat fragmentation on grassland pollination. <i>Marika Olynyk Natural Resources Institute, University of Manitoba</i>
1:20-1:40		Role of Ethanol Plants in Dakotas’ Land Use Change: Analysis Using Remotely Sensed Data. <i>Gaurav Arora, Iowa State University</i>	Responses of a grassland spider community to habitat structural heterogeneity driven by fire and bison grazing disturbances interactions. <i>Jesús E. Gómez, Kansas State University</i>
1:40-2:00		Recent cropland expansion concentrated around ethanol refineries suggests a gap in US regulation of biofuel feedstock sourcing. <i>Ben Larson, National Wildlife Federation</i>	Evaluating Bee Diversity in Rangeland and Cropland with Pollinator Habitat Strips. <i>Rachael Jaffe, Colorado State University</i>
2:00-2:20		<i>Megan Kram, The Nature Conservancy</i>	The First National Seed Strategy. <i>Peggy Olwell, BLM (invited)</i>

2:20 – 2:50 pm BREAK

4:00-4:25 Report backs from roundtable discussions

2:50- 4:00 Plenary Panel: *Partnerships for Grassland Conservation: Opportunities, Challenges, and Lessons Learned*

4:25-4:50 Closing Keynote

4:50 – 5:00 Close of 2015 America’s Grasslands Conference

Posters:

1. The influence of arboreal habitat on the ecology and conservation of arthropods in Colorado grasslands: Eric M. Knutson, Colorado State University
2. Utilizing Diverse Cover Crop Mixes in Conjunction with Seasonal Grazing in the Establishment of Native Grasses: Chris McLeland, Missouri Department of Conservation
3. Conservation and Restoration of South Sound Prairies: Patrick Dunn, Center for Natural Lands Management
4. A theoretical, comparative evaluation of impacts of unconventional energy development on rangelands in the western US: Kristie A. Maczko, Sustainable Rangelands Roundtable, University of Wyoming
5. Bison as seed dispersers in a reconstructed tallgrass prairie: Sue Fairbanks, Oklahoma State University
6. Directionality, Magnitude, and Duration of Precipitation Extremes Within a Mesic Grassland: Andrew Felton, Dept. Biology, Colorado State University
7. The California Partners in Flight Grassland Bird Conservation Plan: A Conservation Decision Support Tool: Ryan DiGaudio, Point Blue Conservation Science
8. Assessing Responses to Extreme Drought in North American Grasslands: Melissa Johnston, Colorado State University
9. The Conservation Caravan: Promoting grassland conservation through urban-rural connections: Mara E. Erickson Operation Grassland Community, Alberta Fish and Game Association
10. Measuring land-use and land-cover change using the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Cropland Data Layer: Cautions and Recommendations: Tyler Lark, University of Wisconsin-Madison
11. Control of <i>Sericea Lespedeza</i> : Impact of Fuel Load, Burn Season, and Fire Frequency on Plant Density: Milan Piva, Emporia State University,
12. Predicting ecosystem function changes following simulated plant species extinction scenarios for sustainable Mongolian grassland use: Yu Yoshihara, Tohoku University
13. Genetic differentiation and local adaptation of dominant prairie grass <i>Andropogon gerardii</i> along the climate gradient of the US Midwest: Modeling shifts in distribution of ecotypes with climate change: Loretta Johnson, KSU
14. Using time series NDVI to monitor grassland phenology and characteristics in Montana: Sarah K. Olimb, Northern Great Plains Program, World Wildlife Fund

15. Central Arizona Grasslands Decision Support Tool Development: Julie Mikolajczyk, Arizona Game and Fish Department
16. Central Arizona Grasslands Conservation Strategy: Kelly Wolff-Krauter, Arizona Game and Fish Department
17. Desert Grasslands Restoration: A Successful Collaborative Effort. Wilma Renken USDA-NRCS
18. Understanding ranchers' perceptions of heterogeneity in the Northern Great Plains: Maggi Sliwinski, University of Nebraska-Lincoln
19. The Optimal Cow Size for Intermountain Cow-Calf Operations: The Impact of Public Grazing Fees on the Optimal Cow Size: Jesse Russell, Colorado State University
20. Using Early Grazing to Control Kentucky Bluegrass: Bob Patton, North Dakota State University
21. Assessing consequences of bison reintroduction for grassland birds, mammals, and recreationists in northern Colorado: Kate Wilkins, Colorado State University
22. Medicinal Plants of the Prairie: Randy Kidd (Not yet confirmed)
23. Conservation of Prairie Dogs and Reintroduction of Black-footed Ferrets Requires Commitment & Courage of Landowners in Some States: Ron Klataske, Audubon of Kansas (Not yet confirmed)
24. Ecology of the Montezuma Quail in the Capitan Mountains of New Mexico: Dr Ryan S. Luna, Borderlands Research Institute, Sul Ross State University
25. Evaluating the Simple Biosphere Model versus observations during drought in the U.S. Great Plains from 2010-2012: Renee Curry, Program of Ecology, Colorado State University
26. Relative importance of vegetation and weather to nest survival of shortgrass steppe passerines: Amber Carver, University of Colorado Denver
27. Northern Plains Conservation Network, Dawn Montanye. (Not yet confirmed)
28. Shawn Hutchinson - (Not yet confirmed)