



Prairie Conservation and Endangered Species Conference

Calgary, Alberta | February 21-23 2023

“Prairie Collaboration, Connection and Conservation (PC3)”

Program Overview

Tuesday, February 21, 2023

2:00 - 5:00 pm	Art show setup, Poster setup (<i>Enmax Conservatory</i>) Registration (<i>Safari Lodge</i>) Pre-conference Activities (<i>Safari Lodge</i>)
7:00 - 9:00 pm	Opening reception and Art Show (<i>Enmax Conservatory</i>)

Wednesday, February 22, 2023

7:30 - 8:30 am	HOT BREAKFAST AND REGISTRATION (<i>Safari Lodge</i>)		
8:30 - 9:30 am	Welcome, Conference Opening		
9:30 - 10:20 am	Plenary 1: Role of Conservation Breeding and Release of At-Risk Prairie Species – Insights from the Wilder Institute/Calgary Zoo Colleen Baird, Graham Dixon-MacCallum, Caitlin Slade, Kristina Stephens, Darío Fernandez-Bellon, James Glacier, Rebecca Stanton, Dr. Doug Whiteside and Patrick Thompson		
10:20-10:40 am	HEALTH BREAK		
Rooms	<i>Safari Lodge A</i>	<i>Safari Lodge B</i>	<i>Enmax Conservatory</i>
	SESSION 1: Collaborations	SESSION 2: Endangered Species Conservation	SESSION 3: Decision-making
10:40-11:00 am	Prairie Collaboration, Connection and Conservation – Perspectives of a Grassroots Conservation Organization Laurie Hamilton, Alberta Native Plant Council	Burrowing Owl Head-Starting in Alberta: 2016 – 2022 Graham Dixon-MacCallum, Wilder Institute/ Calgary Zoo	Using decision analysis for conservation planning: a conservation translocation case study Laura Keating and Lea Randall, Wilder Institute/Calgary Zoo
11:00-11:20 am	Mistawasis Guardians – Buffalo Trace to Land Water Sky. Digit Guedo, Parks Canada and Daniel Sylvestre, Mistawasis Nêhiyawak	Conservation Actions for Burrowing Owls in the Canadian Prairies Geoff Holroyd and Helen Trefry, Beaverhill Bird Observatory	Habitat suitability and reintroduction site selection criteria for the northern leopard frog (<i>Lithobates pipiens</i>) Rebecca Stanton, Wilder Institute/Calgary Zoo
11:20-11:40 am	Shared Legacy: Nature, Culture & Economy	A Multi-partner Collaboration in Conserving	Adaptation and Rollout of the Habitat and

	Norm Gregoire, RM of Stuartburn and Christine Chilton, Nature Conservancy of Canada	Alberta's at-risk Greater sage-grouse Population. Mecah Klem and Joel Nicholson, Alberta Environment and Protected Areas	Biodiversity Assessment Tool Across Canada Heather Peat Hamm, Canadian Forage and Grassland Association
11:40 am-12:00 pm	It Takes a Village: The Value of Partnerships in a Successful Butterfly Conservation Program Laura Burns, Assiniboine Park Zoo	Save the last dance – ten years of Greater Sage-grouse recovery in Grasslands National Park Stefano Liccioli, Grasslands National Park	A New Approach to Assessing and Managing Multiple Species at Risk Sue Michalsky, Paskwa Consultants Ltd and Carolyn Gaudet, SK Prairie Conservation Action Plan
12:00-12:20 pm	Working Together to Restore Matsiyikkapisaa/ Northern Leopard Frog at Paahtómahksikimi Kimberly Pearson, Parks Canada and Alvin First Rider, Blood Tribe Land Management	Locating Critical and Important Bat Habitat in Saskatchewan Erin Swerdfeger, SK Ministry of Environment and Jeff Lane, University of Saskatchewan	Species at Risk - Accelerating Collaboration Tom Hilditch, Colucent Environmental Inc.
12:20 - 1:20 pm	LUNCH (<i>Safari Lodge</i>)		
1:20 - 2:20 pm	Plenary 2: Sand Dune Habitat Restoration and Ord's Kangaroo Rat Recovery - Sandi Robertson, Alberta Fish and Wildlife		
2:20 - 2:40 pm	HEALTH BREAK		
Rooms	<i>Safari Lodge A</i>	<i>Safari Lodge B</i>	<i>Enmax Conservatory</i>
	SESSION 4: Restoration	SESSION 5: Community Dynamics	SESSION 6: Landowner Engagement
2:40 - 3:00 pm	Recovery Strategies for Industrial Development in Native Prairie – the Dry Mixedgrass Jane Lancaster, Grassland Restoration Forum	Extreme weather reduces reproductive output of grassland songbirds, including several species-at-risk Ryan Fisher, Royal SK Museum and Stephen Davis, Canadian Wildlife Service	Securing a Home for Bats in the Milk River Watershed Allison Choquette, Milk River Watershed Council Canada
3:00 - 3:20 pm	Can Removing Topsoil Help with Restoration of Forests and Native Grasslands: An Exploration on a Novel Approach to Ecological Restoration Chris Tenszen, Trace Associates	Connecting the Dots between Grassland Birds, Insects and Vegetation – The Silver Sage Research Project Phil Rose, Alberta Conservation Association	Operation Grassland Community (OGC): Restoring a Legacy of Conservation Christina Reesor and Everett Hanna, Operation Grassland Community
3:20 - 3:40 pm	Collaborations: Working together to increase the availability of diverse native	Grazing Impacts on Grassland Insect Communities	A Living Lab for the Prairie Ecoregions

	seed species and of local genetics for restoration on the Manitoba mixed grass prairie. John Skinner, Skinner Native Seeds and Julie Sveinson Pelc, Nature Conservancy of Canada	John Wilmshurst, Canadian Wildlife Federation	Adrienne Tastad, South of the Divide Conservation Action Program Inc
3:40 - 4:00 pm	Developing a Collaborative Framework for a National Native Seed Strategy (NNS) Carolyn Callaghan, Canadian Wildlife Federation, Kate Hewitt, Centre for Indigenous Environmental Resources	Spatiotemporal interactions of a grassland community in southern Alberta Paul Jones, Alberta Conservation Association	Climate Change Perceptions and Associated Characteristics in Prairie Agricultural Producers Sheena Stewart, Prairie Adaptation Research Collaborative
4:00 - 4:20 pm	Why Ecological Restoration Projects Fail: How Teamwork, Connection, and Collaboration Lead to Success Chris Tenszen, Trace Associates	Estimating grassland bird densities in Grasslands National Park to inform prescribed fire and grazing management decision making. Julia Put, Parks Canada	Supporting Beef Producers and Grassland Conservation Kasie Cullen, Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation
4:20 - 6:00 pm	DEDICATED POSTER SESSION AND CASH BAR (<i>Enmax Conservatory</i>)		
6:00 - 9:00 pm	BANQUET, SILENT AUCTION AND EVENING PROGRAM (<i>Safari Lodge</i>)		

Thursday, February 23, 2023			
7:30 - 8:15 am	HOT BREAKFAST (<i>Safari Lodge</i>)		
8:15 - 8:30 am	Opening remarks		
8:30 - 10:00 am	Plenary 3: Panel Discussion - Canadian & Indigenous perspectives on the Central Grassland Roadmap Miles Anderson (rancher), Christian Artuso (CWS), Carolyn Callaghan (CWF), Alvin First Rider (Blood Tribe Land Management), Kate Hewitt (CIER), Cheyenne Ironman (Sioux Valley Dakota Nation), Ruiping Luo & Cliff Wallis (Alberta Wilderness Association)		
10:00-10:20 am	HEALTH BREAK		
Rooms	<i>Safari Lodge A</i>	<i>Safari Lodge B</i>	<i>Enmax Conservatory</i>
	SESSION 7: Case studies	SESSION 8: Biodiversity and Agriculture	SESSION 9: Planning and Incentives
10:20-10:40 am	Are Golden Eagles in Saskatchewan's Mixed-grass Prairie faring better than ever? Joe Schmutz, University of Saskatchewan	Precision conservation in prairie landscapes: win-wins for biodiversity and crop yields Paul Galpern, University of Calgary	Piloting a results-based landowner incentive program to further conservation of tall-grass prairie in Manitoba. Meg Lovett, Nature Conservancy of Canada

10:40-11:00 am	Growth and development of an endangered prairie butterfly Kirstyn Eckhardt, University of Manitoba	Canadian Prairie Wetlands and Bumblebee Communities Abigail Cohen, University of Calgary	Rangeland Management Plans Improving on Native Rangeland Conservation Carol Graham, Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation
11:00-11:20 am	Cooperating for Conservation: The role of Conservation Easements on the Canadian prairies Forrest Hisey, University of Toronto, Mississauga	Habitat diversities effects on bee diversity and abundance in Southern Manitoba. Sydney Shukla-Bergen and Kyle Bobiwash, University of Manitoba	Engaging Ranchers in Effective Conservation Actions in Southwest Saskatchewan. Diego Steinaker, South of the Divide Conservation Action Program Inc.
11:20-11:40 am	Integrating social and natural science for Purple Martin conservation Glen Hvenegaard, University of Alberta	Landscape-level effects of agricultural intensity in the Saskatchewan Prairies on diet source, condition and post-fledging success of juvenile Barn and Tree Swallows Ana Maria Diaz, University of Saskatchewan	Implementing Habitat Management Plans on Native Grasslands in South West Saskatchewan Tom Harrison, Saskatchewan Stock Growers Foundation
11:40 am-12:00 pm	Biophysical Assessment of a Unique Alberta Habitat and the Application to Environmentally Significant Areas Ron McNeil and Allison Choquette, Milk River Watershed Council Canada	GPS tracking and fecal DNA analysis reveal the importance of prairie wetlands for multiple species in a declining avian guild Mercy Harris and Christy Morrissey, University of Saskatchewan	Term Conservation Easements: Ranching for the Future Mindy Hockley, Saskatchewan Stock Growers Foundation
12:00 - 1:00 pm	LUNCH (<i>Safari Lodge</i>)		
1:00 - 1:35 pm	Plenary 4: The Kainai linnii Rematriation Project, Restoring the plains bison as an ecological and Cultural Keystone – Justin Bruised Head, Blood Tribe Land Management		
Rooms	<i>Safari Lodge A</i>	<i>Safari Lodge B</i>	<i>Enmax Conservatory</i>
	SESSION 10: Fire's Role on the Prairies	SESSION 11: Connecting People	SESSION 12: Conservation Tools
1:40 - 2:00 pm	Prairies on Fire: Prescribed Fire Exchanges as a Collaborative Tool Dinyar Minocher, Canadian Prairies Prescribed Fire Exchange	Building Capacity for Species at Risk Conservation Efforts and Facilitating the Continuation of Cultural Knowledge Gathered from the Land Through Youth-Elder Connections in Piikani Nation Noreen Plain Eagle, Piikani Nation Lands and Carleigh	Understanding WPE in the prairie grasslands using remote sensing Yihan Pu and Xulin Guo, University of Saskatchewan

		Grier-Stewart, Parks Canada	
2:00 - 2:20 pm	Integrating Prescribed Fire and Targeted Grazing to Enhance Species at Risk Habitat in an Urban / Semi-Urban Landscape Renny Grilz, Meewasin Valley Authority	The "Eyes on iNaturalist" Program in Prince Albert National Park Ffion Cassidy, Parks Canada	Collaborative native grassland mapping in Saskatchewan using Google Earth Engine Thuy Doan and Beatriz Prieto Diaz, SK Ministry of Environment
2:20 - 2:40 pm	Burning the prairie: a systematic analysis of the grassland productivity and diversity response to fire Roy Vera-Velez, University of Saskatchewan, Canadian Prairies Prescribed Fire Exchange	A partner and community-first approach to the development of the Southwest Manitoba Priority Place Integrated Conservation Implementation Plan Rebekah Neufeld, Nature Conservancy of Canada and Ron Bazin, Canadian Wildlife Service	Designing and Implementing Successful Targeted Grazing Projects in Western Canada Sue Michalsky, Paskwa Consultants Ltd. and Amanda Miller, Palouse Rangeland Consulting
2:40 - 3:00 pm		Parks Canada Leadership in Multi-species Action Planning and Implementation: Collaboration, Connection, and Conservation for Prairie Species at Risk Laura Gardiner and Stefano Liccioli, Parks Canada	Reverse Auction to Restore Native Prairie Grasslands in Saskatchewan Marika Sherman and Tom Harrison, Saskatchewan Stock Growers Foundation
3:00 - 3:20 pm	HEALTH BREAK (<i>Safari Lodge</i>)		
3:20 - 4:35 pm	Plenary 5: Ranchers Panel Discussion – Providing the Necessary Resources to Ranchers to Help Support Prairie Conservation Stratton Peake (Flying U Cattle Company), John Ross (Ross Ranch), Sheldon Atwood (Tomahawk Ranch), Kim Wachtler (Burke Creek Ranch) and Roger Thomson (TR Cattle Corp)		
4:35 - 5:00 pm	CLOSING THE CONFERENCE		