

America's Grasslands Conference 2017 Draft Agenda

please note that this agenda is in draft form and all times are tentative

Tuesday, November 14th

8:00am – 3:00pm Optional Full Day Field Trips (lunch included):

- Taggart Ranch and Smith Ranch
- Leo Ranch and Pittman Ranch
- Tandy Hills
- Clymer Meadow

8:00am – 1:00pm Optional Half Day Field Trips (lunch included):

- Taggart Ranch
- Tandy Hills
- Leo Ranch
- Clymer Meadow

3:00pm – 5:00pm Registration – Fort Worth Hilton

3:00pm – 5:00pm Set up for poster and exhibitors – Fort Worth Hilton

5:30pm – 8:00pm

Opening Reception at the Botanical Research Institute of Texas

(Free shuttles provided from Hilton starting 5:00pm)

Wednesday, November 15th

7:00 am – 8:00 am BREAKFAST & Registration – Hilton Fort Worth

8:00 – 10:00 am Opening Plenary:

8:00-8:15 Welcome

8:15- 8:45 Keynote

Robert Potts, President & CEO of the Dixon Water Foundation.

The Trim Tab Factor: Our role in rescuing the prairie

8:45-9:10 Plenary Talk 1 – Steve Apfelbaum, Applied Ecological Services

9:10 – 9:35 Plenary Talk 2 – Tyler Lark, University of Wisconsin

9:35-10:00 Plenary Talk 3 – Jerry Doan (ND Rancher)

10:00 – 10:30 am BREAK

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

	Track 1: Conservation Strategies	Track 2: Decision-making and Human Dimensions	Track 3: Grazing and Management
10:30-10:55	A working lands perspective – conserving one of the world’s great grassland landscapes Seth Gallagher, NFWF	Farmers’ motivation for grassland conversion in the Prairie Pothole Region of North and South Dakota <i>David Hennessy, Michigan State University</i>	Comparing Intensive And Extensive Grazing Management On Upland Bare Ground And Riparian Cover In New Mexico Grasslands <i>Rick Danvir, Western Landowners Alliance</i>
10:55-11:20	Recovering the American Serengeti in the Southern Plains <i>Nicole Rosmarino, Southern Plains Land Trust</i>	Farm-level patterns and drivers of grassland loss in the eastern Dakotas <i>Michael C. Wimberly, South Dakota State University</i>	Ducks Unlimited’s Cover Crop & Livestock Integration Project – A working lands approach to conservation <i>Tanner Gue, Ducks Unlimited</i>
11:20-11:45	Ecosystem Goods and Services Provided by Ranchers in the Western United States <i>Kristie Maczko, Sustainable Rangelands Roundtable</i>	Collaborative Adaptive Rangeland Management: A model for grasslands conservation? <i>Ted Toombs, Environmental Defense Fund</i>	Simulated impacts of grazing management practices on restoration of key ecosystem services <i>Srinivasulu Ale, Texas A&M AgriLife Research</i>
11:45-12:00	Updating Priorities for North American Grassland Conservation <i>Joanna Grand, National Audubon Society</i>	Engaging landowners in incentive programs for the restoration of grasslands <i>Sergio Fernandez, Simon Fraser University</i>	Improve Soil, Pasture, Wildlife and Profit Using High Stock Density Grazing <i>Michael Thiele, Grazing Club</i>

12:00 – 1:00 pm LUNCH

Welcome and Remarks – Collin O’Mara, President & CEO, National Wildlife Federation

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

	Track 1 Grass-Based Livelihoods	Track 2 Grassland-dependent birds	Track 3 Innovative Strategies and Tools	Track 4 Grasslands and Pollinators
1:00-1:20	Managing Grasslands To Regenerate Ecosystem Function And Rancher Livelihoods <i>Russ Conser, Texas A&M AgriLife Research</i>	Doing more with less: Removing trees in a prairie system improves grassland bird habitat <i>Jason Tack, US Fish and Wildlife Service</i>	The Bird-Friendliness Index: a novel metric for quantifying the success of conservation programs <i>Nicole</i>	All Hands on Deck: Conserving a Flagship Species <i>Laura Luken, Kyle Kasten, Monarch Joint Venture</i>

			<i>Michel, The National Audubon Society</i>	
1:20-1:40	Birds, Herds, and Stewards: Sustainable Working Lands for the Future <i>Cheryl Mandich, American Bird Conservancy</i>	Nest microhabitat and survival in ground-nesting shortgrass prairie songbirds <i>Amber Carver, University of Colorado Denver</i>	Leveraging the Carbon Market for Grassland Conservation: Success Stories <i>Max DuBuisson, Climate Action Reserve</i>	The Effects of Cattle Grazing on Prairie Pollinators and Floral Resources: A Review <i>Ray Moranz, Xerces Society</i>
1:40-2:00	Birds, Herds, and Stewards: From Grazing Alternatives to Grassland Sustainability <i>Jerome Schaar, Schaar Farms</i>	Habitat associations of overwintering grassland birds in the Chihuahuan Desert <i>Curtis Burkhalter, The National Audubon Society</i>	Chihuahua Desert Grassland Conservation Investment Strategy <i>Aimee Roberson, Rio Grande Joint Venture</i>	Monarch Conservation in the Mid-America Region <i>Claire Beck, Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies</i>
2:00-2:20	Leveraging Market Forces For Grassland Conservation: Audubon's Conservation Ranching Program <i>Iliana Pena, Audubon Texas</i>	A Baird's Life: Full Annual Cycle conservation of Ammodramus Sparrows across North America <i>Mo Correll, Bird Conservancy of the Rockies</i>	The Texas Coastal Exchange <i>Jim Blackburn, Rice University</i>	Providing Urban Planners With Tools To Position Grassland Habitats For Social And Ecological Values <i>Kelley Myers, US Fish & Wildlife Service</i>
2:20-2:40	Lesser Prairie Chicken Initiative: A Collaborative Partnership implementing Voluntary Conservation Across the Five state range <i>Jordan Menge, Pheasants/Quail Forever</i>	Studying Long-billed Curlews (<i>Numenius americanus</i>) throughout the Annual Cycle <i>Jay Carlisle, Boise State University</i>	Thirty years of species conservation banking in the U. S.: Comparing policy to practice <i>Ted Toombs, Environmental Defense Fund</i>	Support of native bees by prairie fragments and restored prairies <i>Steven Pennings, University of Houston</i>
2:40-3:00	Facilitated discussion on challenges and opportunities of grass based livelihoods	Home Range and habitat use of Baird's and Grasshopper Sparrows in the Marfa Grasslands, Texas <i>Denis Josefina Perez-Ordonez, Sul Ross State University</i>	The Southeastern Grasslands Initiative (SGI): Dedicated to Preserving and Rebuilding America's Forgotten Southeastern Grasslands <i>Dwayne Estes, Botanical Research Institute of Texas</i>	USDA practices that Benefit pollinators – <i>Ryan Diener, Pheasants/Quail Forever</i>

3:00 – 3:30 pm BREAK

3:30 pm – 5:00 pm Third Concurrent Breakout Sessions

	Track 1 Innovative Strategies and Tools	Track 2 Southern Plains Prairie Restoration	Track 3 The Ethanol Mandate as a Driver of Conversion and Carbon Emissions	Track 4 Grassland-Dependent Wildlife
3:30-3:50	Grassland Conservation: A Wicked Problem <i>David Wolfe, Environmental Defense Fund</i>	Invasive Grass Species Distributions at Well Pad Sites in South Texas <i>Forrest Cobb, Texas A&M</i>	Land use and environmental implications of the RFS <i>Tyler Lark, University of Wisconsin</i>	Pronghorn Restoration Efforts in the Trans-Pecos, Texas: Where are we now? <i>Whitney Gann, Sul Ross State</i>
3:50-4:10	Buffalo-People: A Path Back for Bison and Plains tribes <i>Dennis Jorgensen, World Wildlife Fund</i>	Restoring Native Grasslands in Texas <i>Darrell Murray, Tarleton State University</i>	GHG emissions of biofuel feedstock production	Bird and mammalian carnivore response to plague in prairie dog colonies <i>Reesa Yale Conrey, Colorado Parks and Wildlife</i>
4:10-4:30	A Community-based Approach to Conserving North Dakota's Badlands <i>Claire Hood, World Wildlife Fund</i>	The Effects of Soil Amendment Use on an Urban Prairie Reconstruction in Texas <i>Heather Bass, Botanical Research Institute of Texas</i>	Carbon balance effects of biofuel expansion <i>John DeCicco, University of Michigan</i>	Evaluating the use of modified fence sites by Pronghorn in the northern sagebrush steppe <i>Paul F. Jones, Alberta Conservation Association</i>
4:30-4:50	Landscape Conservation Strategy for Agency Decision Support - TBD	The state of Native Seeds in Texas <i>Forrest S. Smith, Texas A&M - Kingsville</i>	Discussion on policy opportunities <i>David DeGennaro, NWF</i>	Use of GPS Collared Pronghorn to Inform Fence Modification Efforts in Northern Arizona <i>Jeff Gagnon, Arizona Game and Fish Department</i>

5:00 – 9:00 pm **DINNER and evening social at Fort Worth Nature Center**
(buses will shuttle back and forth)

Thursday, November 16th

7:00 – 8:00 am BREAKFAST

8:00 am – 9:00 am Roundtable Discussions

Discussion 1: Setting a science and policy agenda for grasslands conservation.

Discussion 2: The evolution of collaboration across large landscapes: Sharing experiences and expertise using the Northern Plains Conservation Network as a case study.

Discussion 3: TBD

9:00 am – 10:15 am Fourth Concurrent Breakout Sessions

	Track 1 Threats, Monitoring and predicting grassland conversion and implications	Track 2 Cooperative Partnerships for Grasslands Conservation	Track 3 Grasslands and the 2018 Farm Bill
9:00-9:20	Global reduction in greenhouse gas emissions diminishes climate change vulnerability of grassland birds in North America <i>Chad Wilsey, National Audubon Society</i>	Restoring South Texas Grasslands through the Grassland Restoration Incentive Program <i>Jesús Franco, Rio Grande Joint Venture/American Bird Conservancy</i>	Setting the stage for the 2018 Farm Bill: Politics, Timing, and Opportunities Conservation Gains <i>Chris Adamo, National Wildlife Federation</i>
9:20-9:40	Tracking cropland conversion in the Great Plains and quantifying the benefits of conserving grassland <i>Anne Gage, World Wildlife Fund</i>	Implementing Conservation Partnerships for the Prairie Dog Ecosystem to Help Prevent Federal Regulation <i>Lindsey Sterling Krank, Prairie Dog Coalition of The Humane Society of the US</i>	Natives First - A Native Vegetation Standard for the Conservation Title of the Farm Bill <i>Jef Hodges, National Bobwhite Conservation Initiative</i>
9:40-10:00	Understanding and addressing threats on National Grasslands: A Review of Forest Service Research <i>Deborah Finch, USDA Forest Service</i>	North Texas Tallgrass Prairie Remnant Conservation; Urgency and Focus <i>Ken Steigman, University of North Texas</i>	Sodsaver: Expanding and strengthening the sodsaver provision to reduce grassland loss <i>Aviva Glaser, National Wildlife Federation</i>
10:00-10:15	Canada's grasslands need our help! Why protection of Canada's native grasslands is declining <i>Carolyn Callaghan, Canadian Wildlife Federation</i>	Working Lands, Conservation and Cooperation: Agricultural Grasslands and Grassland Birds in Ontario, Canada <i>Paul Smith, Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs</i>	Grassland and Grazing Land practices in working lands conservation programs. <i>Alyssa Charney, National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition</i>

10:15 – 10:45 am BREAK

10:45 am – 11:40 pm Roundtable Discussions

Discussion 3: Grasslands in a changing world

Discussion 4: 2018 Farm Bill - strategies and opportunities

Discussion 5: Continental Conservation- grassland conservation across the borders

11:40– 1:00 pm Fifth Concurrent Breakout Session

	Track 1 Large Scale Landscape Level Partnerships	Track 2: Landowner/Producer Perspectives	Track 3 Education and Communication
11:40-12:00	How large scale partnerships are supporting conservation in the Great Plains through innovative landscape planning and design <i>Jon Hayes, USFWS</i>	Building Shared Success for Community and Conservation in North Central Montana <i>Leo Barthelmess, Rancher & Rancher Stewardship Alliance</i>	Research and educational efforts to communicate about the biodiversity of wet meadows and prairies along rivers of central Nebraska <i>Mary Harner, University of Nebraska-Kearney</i>
12:00-12:20	Landscape design planning for national wildlife refuges: Muleshoe and Rio Mora National Wildlife Refuges <i>Anne Bartuszevige, Playa Lakes Joint Venture</i>	Bambi and Bevo: Restoring Wildlife Habitat through Custom Grazing in South Dakota <i>Tracy Rosenberg, Producer</i>	Teaching environmental stewardship through use of outdoor classrooms: A multi-campus restoration initiative <i>Greta Bowling and Ping-Sha Sheffield, Tarrant County College</i>
12:20-12:40	Grassland Roles in Ecosystem Services: Precision Conservation Blueprint v1.5 <i>Gwen White, USFWS</i>	TBD	Tandy Hills BioBlitz 2016: Biodiversity and the Role of Endemic Species in Conservation Biology <i>Bruce Benz Texas Wesleyan University, John Tandy</i>
12:40-1:00	NRCS Area Wide Planning Opportunities to maintain and enhance America’s Grassland Ecosystems <i>Kyle Wright, USDA-NRCS</i>	TBD	Creating Awareness of Grassland Ecology through Conservation Education <i>Janell Ortiz, Texas A&M -Kingsville</i>

1:00- 2:00 pm LUNCH

2:00 – 3:20 pm Rancher Plenary Panel:

Jerry Doan, Tracy Rosenberg, and other ranchers and producers will provide insight on enterprises ranging from cow calf, custom grazing, farming, hunting/outfitting, Agri-Tourism and participating in USDA programs.

3:20 – 4:30 pm Closing Plenary Panel

United for Grassland Conservation: How ranchers, researchers, practitioners, and other conservationists can work together to save America’s grasslands *A discussion with leading grasslands conservation voices*

Posters:

Note that posters will be on display throughout the conference, and attendees are encouraged to peruse the posters during breaks

1. **Using Adaptive Management on Lonesome Pines Land and Cattle: A Case Study from the Shortgrass Steppe**
Jim Sturrock Owner/Operator Lonesome Pines Land and Cattle LLC, Grover, Colorado
2. **Comparative Diet Analysis of Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*) and Long Eared-Owl (*Asio otus*) in the Blackland Prairie of North-Central Texas**
Matthew Jones, University of North Texas
3. **Harnessing the power of the marketplace for prairie conservation**
Sarah Hewitt, Audubon-Dakota
4. **Perennial Warm Season Grasses for Winter Stockpiling in West-Central Texas**
Brandon Carr, USDA/NRCS
5. **Seasonal home range characteristics and habitat use in Sprague's Pipits**
Erin Strasser, Bird Conservancy of the Rockies
6. **Nesting ecology of Baird's and Grasshopper sparrows in the Northern Great Plains**
Jacy Bernath-Plaisted, Bird Conservancy of the Rockies
7. **Identifying and Rectifying Misclassifications Between the National Wetland Inventory and WWF Plowprint Data (2009-2015)**
Sarah K. Olimb, World Wildlife Fund
8. **Homes on the Range- a Range wide assessment of priority areas for the conservation of prairie dog ecosystems: integrating habitat suitability, land use patterns and climate change**
Lindsey Sterling Krank, Prairie Dog Coalition of The Humane Society of the U.S.
9. **Does grasshopper diversity affect grassland ecosystems?**
Angela N Laws, University of Houston
10. **Getting to the Root of Woody Encroachers**
Seton Bachle, Kansas State University
11. **Fire and browsing: Tools for restoring woody encroached grasslands**
Rory O'Connor, Kansas State University
12. **Using Goals and Profitability to Determine What to Plant in Pastures**
Megan Clayton, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension
13. **Native Grass Restoration at the Connemara Meadow Nature Preserve**
Bob Mione, Connemara Conservancy Foundation
14. **Plateau: The "new" silver bullet for Johnson grass**
Richard Freiheit, University of North Texas
15. **North Texas Tallgrass Prairie Remnant Conservation**
Ken Steigman, University of North Texas

- 16. Field Level Observations on the Use of Metsulfuron Methyl in Controlling Invasive "Pensacola" Bahia Grass on Tallgrass Restorations in Texas**
Tim Siegmund, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
- 17. Converting Bermudagrass to Native Grasslands in the Cross Timbers and Blackland Prairie**
Julia Shipman, Texas A&M AgriLife Research
- 18. Black-tailed Prairie Dog Mitigation- a Pilot Program**
Lindsey Sterling Krank, Prairie Dog Coalition of The Humane Society of the U.S.
- 19. Grasslands: The Great Carbon & Water Catch-Connecting Plants, Microbes, Nutrients and Soil**
Betsy Ross, Sustainable Growth Texas
- 20. Developing Decision Support Tools for Optimizing Retention and Placement of USDA Conservation Reserve Program Grasslands in the Northern Great Plains**
Sean Fields, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service