

## *Native Prairie Speaker Series*

**Presentation:** Sharp-tailed Grouse: Tools for managing in a changing landscape

**Speaker:** Brandon Burda, Masters of Science student at the University of Regina

**Presentation summary:**

Sharp-tailed grouse are a favorite species of hunters and nature lovers alike, and are well known for their dancing grounds known as leks. They can be found in a variety of habitats but are most commonly known as grassland birds. Grasslands today stand as one of the most impacted habitats on earth, with estimates of only 20-30% of North America's prairies remaining today. Development though in and around grasslands isn't going to stop any time soon, and as such it is important to study and manage for any disturbances these activities may cause. Sharp-tailed grouse are of particular interest economically as a hunted species, but also as a possible grassland health indicator as they require a variety of grassland characteristics to be successful. Please join me as I go through my current research at the University of Regina where I'm studying sharp-tailed grouse leks in order to develop various tools to aid in their conservation and management.

**Biography:**

Brandon Burda is a current Masters student at the University of Regina studying sharp-tailed grouse and their lekking habits. Originally from Ontario, Brandon completed his undergraduate degree at Carleton University studying both biology as well as earth sciences. After which he also completed Algonquin Colleges Outdoor Adventure Naturalist program. When not working on his Masters he can be found camera in hand exploring Saskatchewan.

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