

- Common Conservation Myths Answered* –
- Saskatchewan Prairie Conservation Action Plan -
Submitted by Michelle Clark (Manager)

Myth 1: If I have a Species At Risk on my land, the government can come and take my land away.

It is *your* land, and because it is privately owned land, the government has no jurisdiction to take it away. There has *never* been a case in Saskatchewan where the government has taken land away because Species At Risk were found there.

Myth 2: Conservation organizations will come in and tell me what to do on my land and how to run my operation if I have Species At Risk.

If you have Species At Risk on your land, you are *doing something right* and we recommend you *continue* doing what you are doing. All conservation groups, like Nature Saskatchewan, are here to help by giving recommendations and suggestions on how you can improve your operation and benefit from co-existing with Species At Risk.

Myth 3: If I have Species At Risk (animal or plant) on my land, I have to fence them off.

Fencing is usually discouraged as it may draw attention to the Species At Risk and prevent the movement of other wildlife. Many plant Species At Risk require some amount of disturbance, such as grazing, for their survival.

Myth 4: If I have Burrowing Owls in a pasture, I am not allowed to graze that pasture.

Burrowing Owls thrive with grazing! Burrowing Owls need the grass kept short to watch for predators. They also use the manure to line their burrows because it helps to 1) absorb water flowing into the burrow, 2) hide the owl's scent from predators, 3) regulate burrow temperature and 4) attract beetles/insects to the burrow.

Myth 5: Loggerhead Shrikes eat all of my cute songbirds.

Loggerhead Shrikes do eat songbirds but birds are only a *minimal* part of their diet. Although songbirds provide more energy for the shrike than smaller prey, it takes more energy to catch a songbird than a mouse or grasshopper. A shrike's main source of food is insects (grasshoppers/beetles), although this depends on prey availability.

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