



Native Prairie Speaker Series

Presentation: Mammal Monitoring in Alberta

Speaker: Brett Campbell, Stakeholder Engagement Coordinator, Alberta Biodiversity Monitoring Institute (ABMI)

Presentation Summary:

The ABMI is a value-neutral, non-profit scientific organization that tracks changes in Alberta's wildlife and habitats from border to border. We provide ongoing, relevant, and scientifically credible information on Alberta's living resources—to anyone, for free. We conduct field surveys at sites across Alberta. In doing so, we've collected data on habitat, disturbance, and on a diversity of taxa, including lichen, moss, plants, aquatic invertebrates, birds and mammals, and have even discovered species new to science!

In the past five years, wildlife monitoring in Alberta has fundamentally changed. Environmental sensors that include remote cameras are rapidly replacing conventional human survey techniques. The ABMI started to use remote cameras to monitor mammals across the province in 2015, including in southern Alberta. Because of the enormous amount of camera data that was being generated over the course of a field season, we developed a platform called WildTrax to support image data storage, management and processing efforts. WildTrax is an online platform designed for storing, managing, processing, and sharing environmental sensor data collected using such sensor technology. To effectively use this large and ever-growing data resource to address broad-scale questions, an integrated and collaborative approach to data collection, storage, and processing is needed, as well as novel techniques for generating value-add information

This presentation will provide a brief introduction to ABMI's monitoring program, and then dive deeper into our mammal monitoring activities, with particular attention on our activities and results in Southern Alberta.

Biography:

Brett Campbell has been the Stakeholder Engagement Coordinator for the Alberta Biodiversity Monitoring Institute since May of 2017. She has both a BSc in Environmental Sciences and an MSc in Natural Resource Economics from the University of Alberta. In her role with the ABMI, Brett has been sharing the story and science of Alberta's biodiversity with stakeholders and partners throughout the province. When she is not at work, you'll either find her enjoying the great outdoors or with her pottery wheel.

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