



## *Native Prairie Speaker Series*

**Title:** Pronghorn: A Focal Species for Grassland Connectivity

**Speaker:** Andrew Jakes, Wildlife Biologist, National Wildlife Federation

### **Presentation Summary:**

The Northern Sagebrush Steppe is the northern periphery of the Great Plains of North America and consequently, the northern limit of many species ranges. Pronghorn are a holdover from the Pleistocene Epoch and are known for their keen speed and eye-sight; adaptations that make them well-suited for open landscapes. For this seminar, I will present findings related to movement behaviors, seasonal range requirements as well as challenges and opportunities faced by this endemic species. I will also present approaches to multi-species conservation, which depend on balanced efforts by producers and farmers.

### **Speaker Bio:**

Andrew Jakes is the regional wildlife biologist for National Wildlife Federation, based out of Missoula, MT. Andrew received his B.S. from James Madison University, VA (1998), and his M.S. at Towson University, MD (2001), where he studied beaver habitat selection at the Savannah River Ecology Lab, SC. He then moved out West and worked several years for federal and state agencies on a variety of species and systems until starting his PhD on pronghorn movement ecology at University of Calgary, AB, which he completed in 2015. He was a post-doctoral researcher at University of Montana from 2015-2017, using multi-species approaches to study the effects of fencing on wildlife movement and habitat selection. He seeks to use science to guide implementation of on-the-ground efforts for wildlife. Andrew enjoys hiking & camping, hunting, playing the guitar and laughing with his family & friends.

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