

Native Prairie Speaker Series

Title: Conservation of Sage-grouse Critical Habitat and Implications for Prairie Songbirds

Speaker: Phil Rose, Alberta Conservation Association

Summary: A popular approach for conserving multiple species in a given region is to identify one or more umbrella species. Identifying and managing for species that have a high degree of overlap in their habitat requirements with a broader suite of organisms is expected to enhance the effectiveness of conservation actions when resources are limited. The greater sage-grouse has received considerable attention as a potential umbrella species for shrub-steppe flora and fauna in the core of its range. However, the extent to which conserving sage-grouse habitat benefits mixed-grass prairie songbirds, such as chestnut-collared longspur, Baird's sparrow, Sprague's pipit, and lark bunting, in the northern portion of its range is unclear. Our objective was to determine the extent to which the conservation of greater sage-grouse critical habitat at the northern edge of its range might benefit mixed-grass prairie songbirds, and whether sage-grouse in this region could suffice as an umbrella species for the grassland songbird community.

About the Speaker: Phil is a wildlife biologist from southwest Manitoba and completed his master's degree at the University of Regina on grassland songbirds. The topic of his thesis was developing habitat management targets for species at risk that could be achieved on native rangelands through ranching and grazing. Phil has also worked for the Native Plant Solutions division of Ducks Unlimited Canada on wetland and native grassland restoration projects. For the last three years Phil has worked for the Alberta Conservation Association on the MULTISAR program collaborating with ranchers to develop habitat plans for species at risk on their properties. His job entails surveying for species at risk, as well as providing ranchers with information and funding for habitat enhancement projects.

This Native Prairie Speaker Series Webinar is Presented by:



Supporting Sponsors:

Camp Wolf Willow

This project was undertaken with the financial support of:
Ce projet a été réalisé avec l'appui financier de :



Environment and
Climate Change Canada

Environnement et
Changement climatique Canada