

Native Prairie Speaker Series

Title: “Restoring a Prairie Icon: Sage-grouse recovery in the Grasslands National Park and South of the Divide”

Speaker: Dr. Maggi Sliwinski-Tetreau, Vegetation Ecologist, Grasslands National Park

Presentation Summary:

Grasslands National Park is working with partners and stakeholders to recover the greater-sage grouse in Canada. Sage-grouse are an icon of the Great Plains: they are the largest grouse in the North America and males perform a spectacular mating display every spring. With past and ongoing habitat loss, populations have severely declined; in Saskatchewan, only two active leks currently exist, both in Grasslands National Park (GNP), and the population is at imminent risk of extirpation. In this presentation, Maggi will cover sage-grouse ecology, and describe the different actions that GNP is taking to recover the species, including research to understand what is contributing to their ongoing declines, partnerships to bolster the population while long-term habitat restoration and management projects are carried out, and collaborations with local ranchers to reintroduce beneficial grazing and optimize habitat quality. Expanding these initiatives beyond the boundaries of the Park will be crucial to the recovery of the species.

Speaker Bio:

Maggi is the Ecologist Team Leader at Grasslands National Park, where she works with her team to develop and implement grazing, restoration, fire, and invasive plant management programs with a focus on Species at Risk recovery. Before joining GNP, she worked with producers in southwest Saskatchewan through the “Species at Risk Partnerships on Agricultural Land” program and as an auditor for Audubon’s Bird Friendly Beef program. Maggi earned her doctorate degree from the University of Nebraska, where her research focused on the relationships between ranch management and wildlife habitat. Maggi and her husband’s family ranch south of McCord, SK.

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