

Native Prairie Speaker Series

Presentation: Swift Fox and the Montana Conservation Strategy

Speaker: Heather Harris, Wildlife Biologist with Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Presentation Summary:

Swift fox (*Vulpes velox*) are native to the Northern Great plains, however they were designated extirpated in Montana in 1969. Reintroductions initiated in Canada from 1983-1997, reestablished a self-sustaining population in southern Alberta and Saskatchewan and northeastern Montana. Swift foxes are listed as a threatened species in Canada. In Montana, at the northern edge of the species range, swift fox are considered a furbearer.

Opportunities to improve swift fox distribution and status appear to exist, especially in the northern portion of the species historical range where gaps appear to occur in Montana. The swift fox conservation strategy was developed intending to promote swift fox conservation and guide management by formulating a statewide strategy that facilitates coordinated and effective efforts on the part of interested organizations. This includes development and use of the best available science and promotions of efficient allocation of resources based on common priorities.

This presentation will discuss, swift fox ecology, distribution and status in Montana, and the 4 priorities identified in the Montana swift fox conservation plan.

Biography: Heather Harris is a wildlife biologist for Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, out of the Glasgow office. She started her position in 2014 and as the nongame and furbearer specialist for Region 6 (northeastern Montana) has worked with a wide variety of prairie species including a large amount of time on monitoring and management of swift fox. She grew up in North Bay, Ontario Canada and moved around for a variety of technician positions and post-secondary education before landing permanently in Montana.

This Native Prairie Speaker Series Webinar is Presented by:



Crescent Point



Supporting Sponsors:

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

