Managing Habitat

Or Balancing the needs of Agriculture, Wildlife and Industry on the Prairie Landscape
Antelope Creek Habitat Development Area

• Neal Wilson P.Ag
• Co-Manager ACHDA
  • Day to day operation of the ranch
  • Maintenance of everything on the ranch
  • Set stocking rates and grazing rotation in consultation with SRD
  • Support any researchers on the ranch
  • Extension work for the ranch
  • Cattle health
  • Irrigation
Antelope Creek Habitat Development Area

- Located 20 Km west of Brooks Ab
- Established in 1986 as a partnership between:
  - Alberta Fish and Wildlife
  - Ducks Unlimited Canada
  - Wildlife Habitat Canada
  - Alberta Fish and Game Association
Great Blue Heron
Northern Harrier
American White Pelican
Black-necked Stilt

Tiger Salamander
Boreal Chorus Frog
Plains Spadefoot Toad

Muskrat
Beaver
White-tailed deer

American Bittern
Sora
Northern Pintail
Yellow Rail
Baird’s Sparrow
Bobolink
Loggerhead Shrike
Long-billed curlew

Short-eared owl
Sprague’s Pipit
Swainson’s Hawk
Upland Sandpiper

Long-tailed Weasel
Pronghorn
American Badger
Coyote
Oil and natural gas development has mixed effects on the density and reproductive success of grassland songbirds.

Sarah M. Ludlow,1* R. Mark Brigham,1 and Stephen K. Davis1,2

The Condor: Ornithological Applications 117:64–75, Q2015
Cooper Ornithological Society
Ground disturbance

• Minimal disturbance vs. full strip

• Plowing vs directional drill or trackhoe
Trailing

• Driving off the right-of-way
• Going off the lease
• Short cuts from lease to lease
Vegetation Control

- Consistency needed
- Mechanical vs chemical
- Timing of control is important
Weed Issues

• Deal with them quickly
• Believe the landowner/manager when they say there are weeds out there
• Abandoned/suspended wells???
New technology has made the appearance on the landscape much less intrusive.
Other Benefits of having Industry operating on the ground

• Road Maintenance and access
• Another set of eyes out in the prairie
• Last but definitely not least is the financial aspect.
Conflicts avoidance and Resolution

- There will be differing opinions they can be solved
- Get to know the operators/landowners where you are working
- Find one person that can be called when you have problems that can and is willing to get to the bottom of it
- Gates
Questions?

Neal Wilson
antelopecreekranch@eidnet.org
Phone (403)793-2544