

## ***America's Grasslands Conference: Partnerships for Grasslands Conservation***

A conference co-hosted by the National Wildlife Federation, Colorado State University, and the Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory



### **Call for Papers and Posters**

Conference Date: September 29- October 1, 2015

Location: Fort Collins, CO

**Deadline for Abstracts: June 22, 2015**

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***America's Grasslands: Partnerships for Grasslands Conservation*** will bring together researchers, natural resource professionals, ranchers, policy experts and conservationists for two days to discuss relevant issues related to the conservation of North America's grasslands. This year's conference will have a particular focus on collaborative partnerships to conserve grasslands. The conference will take place September 30<sup>th</sup> - October 1<sup>st</sup>. September 29<sup>th</sup> will be a day of optional field trips to local grasslands around the Fort Collins area.

The organizing committee is issuing this call for presentations and posters on a range of topics related to native grassland and grazing land conservation and restoration in North America. We are interested in summary presentations as well as presentations on new and innovative applied research on or approaches to the following topics:

- 1) Success stories and case studies of partnerships and collaborative efforts to conserve grasslands and/or promote rangeland health through rancher-supported initiatives
- 2) Grazing lands and the Endangered Species Act
- 3) Grasslands in federal policy, including Farm Bill program utilization for grassland conservation
- 4) Grassland-dependent wildlife (including pollinators, migratory birds and game and non-game species: topics might include status, trends, and conservation efforts)
- 5) Grasslands and grazing (topics might include maintaining grasslands for grazing, cattle grazing for wildlife management, etc.)
- 6) Monitoring and predicting grassland conversion and implications (topics might include rates of conversion and economic factors leading to conversion)
- 7) Use of easements and open space initiatives to conserve grasslands
- 8) Energy development in grasslands (topics might include wind, biomass, oil, and transmission)
- 9) Climate change and grasslands (topics might include impacts of climate change, adaptation needs, and greenhouse gas mitigation)
- 10) Wetland, riparian and aquifer re-charge and efforts to support sustainable grassland landscapes
- 11) Other relevant issues related to grasslands and grazing lands

## Conference Structure

All interested participants are encouraged to respond to this call for presentations and posters that fit within any of the topic areas described above.

Oral presentations will be approximately 15 minutes long, followed by five minutes for questions. There will also likely be facilitated discussion time for each topic area consisting of comments, questions, and answers. Accepted posters will be prominently displayed throughout the conference area and there will be several opportunities during breaks for viewing and interaction with authors.

Those presenters chosen will be required to submit a short paper of approximately two to three pages to be included in the conference proceedings to be released after the conference.

## Submission Guidelines

- Title of presentation
- Contact person with affiliation and email address
- Presenter and affiliation
- Other author(s) and affiliation(s)
- Selected topic area
- Presentation or poster?
- Abstract of 350 words or less, single spaced

All submissions must be sent to Aviva Glaser at [GlaserA@nwf.org](mailto:GlaserA@nwf.org)

Abstracts will be transmitted to reviewers for consideration. The abstract should emphasize objectives and results or main contributions to the body of knowledge on grasslands. Inclusion of tentative or final conclusions and/or will greatly strengthen abstract proposals.

Abstract reviews will be based on the following criteria:

1. Importance and relevance of topic
2. Innovation and contribution to knowledge base and/or useful synthesis of current knowledge
3. Overall quality

Abstracts are due June 22<sup>th</sup>. Notification of acceptance will be made in early July.

Abstracts from students and from all professional sectors addressing the topic areas are encouraged.