



AGENDA

2025 Society for Range Management & Natural Legacy Conference

East Campus Union, Lincoln, Nebraska

October 7-9, 2025

Note: Meals are available only to paid, registered attendees

Tuesday, October 7th

1:00 – 1:30 Check-In & Information (*outside Great Plains Room, [East Campus Union Floor Plan](#)*)

1:30 – 1:40 **Welcome**—Martha Mamo, Department Head of Agronomy & Horticulture (*Great Plains Room*)

1:45 – 3:15 Concurrent Sessions (*3rd floor of East Campus Union*)

Time	Room: Prairie Suite Landowner Stories, Values, and Perspectives	Room: Arbor Suite Advancing Mammal Conservation
1:45	<i>Understanding the values that inform regenerative ranching in the Northern US Great Plains.</i> Gwendwr Meredith (UNL)	<i>Evaluating Wildlife Crossing Feasibility for Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep in Nebraska: A Data-Driven Conservation Approach.</i> Dillion Dittmer (HDR)
2:10	<i>Learning to Care for Land: A Landowner/Artist's Perspective.</i> Pat James (Nebraska Master Naturalist)	<i>Beyond the Chirps: Evaluating AutoID and Manual Review Bat Acoustic Evaluation.</i> Robert H Hibbitts (Felsburg Holt & Ullevig)
2:35	<i>Ranching, Consumer direct beef, and eco-tourism.</i> Aaron Shropshire (Magill Farms)	<i>NABat Nebraska 2025 Update.</i> Derek Krueger (NGPC)
2:50	<i>International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists, an opportunity to increase grassland awareness.</i> Bob Broweleit (Seven Pines Ranch)	

3:15 – 4:30 Break

3:30 – 5:00 Society for Range Management Council Meeting (*room: Garden Room*)



Tuesday, October 7th (continued)

- 4:30 – 5:30 Social Hour (*Great Plains Room BC, 2nd floor*) & Plant ID contest and Undergraduate Range Exam (*Great Plains Room A*)
- 5:30 – 7:00 Buffet Dinner, Welcome, and Conservation & Education Legacy Awards (*Great Plains Room BC*)
- 7:30 – 9:00 Voices of the Grasslands: International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (IYRP) Film Showcase (*Hardin Hall on East Campus, [click here for a map](#)*)

Wednesday, October 8th

- 8:00 – 8:30 Check-In & Information (*outside Great Plains Room*)
Breakfast pastries sponsored by Center for Grassland Studies (*Great Plains Room BC*)
- 8:30 – 12:00 Concurrent Sessions

Time	Room: Prairie Suite Fire and Grazing Management	Room: Arbor Suite Collaborative Conservation
8:30	<i>Timing of Prescribed Fire. Or, Why Do We Do This to Ourselves.</i> Kent Pfeiffer (Northern Prairies Land Trust)	<i>Empowering participation in wetland conservation: a social-structural approach.</i> Katherine A. Graham (Ducks Unlimited Inc. & UNL)
8:55	<i>Prescribed Fire as a Primary Driver of Cattle Distribution in the Nebraska Sandhills.</i> Hannah K. Allen (UNL, student)	<i>Collaborative Nature of a Partnership Position and Its Benefits to Private Lands Conservation Work.</i> Katherine Crawley (Bird Conservancy of the Rockies)
9:20	<i>Patch Mow Grazing: Investigating the Effects of Mowing on Forage Nutritive Value, the Biomass Nutritive Value Relationship, and Herbivore Habitat Selection.</i> Trace Stauble (UNL, student)	<i>Sandhills Creek Renovation Story: West Birdwood Creek.</i> Tevyn Pieper & Ashley Garrelts (Sandhills Task Force)
9:45	<i>Monitoring Sandhills plant diversity with remote sensing under different rangeland management approaches.</i> Catherine Chan (UNL, student)	<i>Saline Wetland Conservation Partnership.</i> Tom Malmstrom (City of Lincoln) & Will Inselman (Lower Platte South NRD)

- 10:10 – 10:25 Break: Snacks sponsored by School of Natural Resources

Wednesday, October 8th (continued)

Time	Room: Prairie Suite Bird Conservation	Room: Arbor Suite Pollinator and Insect Habitat & Monitoring	Room: Great Plains A High school SRM Youth Forum
10:25	<i>Removal of Eastern Redcedar Benefits the Sandhills Grassland Bird Community.</i> Rachel Rusten (UNL, student)	<i>Rangeland in Nebraska and nearby states can support more milkweeds and monarch butterflies.</i> Timothy L. Dickson (UNO)	<i>High school SRM Youth Forum.</i>
10:50	<i>Prairie Grouse Distribution Models Inform Conservation Return-On-Investment Modelling For Woody Management in Nebraska.</i> Bryan O'Connor (NGPC)	<i>Understanding Rangeland Wildflower Forage Value for Livestock.</i> Rae Powers (Xerces)	
11:15	<i>Leveraging big data for grassland bird conservation: Grassland Outcomes Tool for Birds and the Central Grasslands Bird Working Group.</i> Anne Bartuszevige (Playa Lakes Joint Venture)	<i>Description of Southern Plains Bumblebee (<i>Bombus fraterus</i>) Habitat within the Central Platte River Valley based on 5 years of Monitoring Data.</i> Emma Richards (Crane Trust)	<i>Society for Range Management Business Meeting.</i>
11:40	<i>Piping Plovers and Climate Change.</i> Elsa Forsberg (Crane Trust, UNL, NGPC)	<i>Not Quite Nebraska: Using necrophagous beetles to assess ecosystem function in western Missouri prairies.</i> Andrea Malek (NGPC)	

Lunch 12:05 – 12:50 pm (*Great Plains Room BC*)

12:50 – 1:50 **The Kitchen Table: A Conservation Starter Presentation** (*Great Plains Room BC*)
Ann Dvorak (World Wildlife Fund) and Laura Nelson (Nebraska Grazing Lands Coalition)

1:50 – 2:00 Break



Wednesday, October 8th (continued)

2:00 – 4:05 Concurrent Sessions (3rd floor)

Time	Room: Prairie Suite Woody Encroachment & Invasive Species	Room: Arbor Suite Conservation Outreach	Room: Great Plains A Pollinator Monitoring (continued)
2:00	<i>Beneath the boughs: What does eastern redcedar (<i>Juniperus virginiana</i>) encroachment mean for the future of woodlands along the Niobrara?</i> Lillie Hoffart (UNL, student)	<i>Nebraska Fungi Project.</i> Chance Brueggemann & Derek Zeller (NGPC)	<i>Monitoring Monarchs and Regal Fritillaries in Nebraska.</i> Stephanie Paris (NGPC)
2:25	<i>Redcedar Stand Reclamation in the Eastern Nebraska Sandhills.</i> Jacob Harvey (UNL)	<i>Restoring Landscapes, Reimagining Engagement.</i> Joel Bramhall (Crete Public Schools)	<i>Nebraska's Big Butterfly Count.</i> Brianna Nugent (NGPC)
2:50	<i>Updating Nebraska's Terrestrial Invasive Plant Species List: Additions and Considerations.</i> Shannon Smith & Josh Nelson (NE Invasive Species Council & Weed Control Association)	<i>Kearney Welcome Center.</i> Sarah Focke (Kearney Visitors Bureau)	<i>Nebraska Bumble Bee Atlas.</i> Katie Lamke (Xerces)
3:15	<i>Cheatgrass management opportunities in western Nebraska.</i> Mitch Stephenson (UNL)	<i>Enhanced Snake Exhibits and Snake Saunter Class at Schramm Education Center.</i> Jennifer Ruyle (NGPC)	
3:40	<i>Prairies Under Pressure: How Climate Stressors Are Opening the Door to Weedy Plant Expansion in Nebraska Grasslands.</i> Ben Beckman & Ryan Benjamin (University of Nebraska – Extension)	<i>Tales from the Scaled Side: Nebraska Reptile Month Highlights.</i> Monica Macoubrie (NGPC)	

4:05 – 6:00 Break

6:00 – 9:00 Buffet Dinner, Keynote Speaker, and SRM Student Auction (*Great Plains Room BC*)
Keynote Speaker – Dr. Walt Schacht, Emeritus Sunkist Fiesta Bowl Professor of Agronomy



Thursday, October 9th

8:00 – 8:30 Check-In & Information (*outside Great Plains Room*)

Breakfast pastries sponsored by School of Natural Resources (*Great Plains Room BC*)

8:30 – 10:15 Concurrent Sessions

Time	Room: Prairie Suite Natural Legacy Project: Updates & Demonstration Sites	Room: Arbor Suite Aquatic Species Monitoring
8:30	<i>The Nebraska Natural Legacy Project: Updates to the State Wildlife Action Plan.</i> Brett Andersen (NGPC)	<i>Gaining Mussel: Evaluating Reintroduction Success of Native Freshwater Mussels in Nebraska and Eastern Wyoming.</i> Travis Moore (UNL, student)
8:55	<i>Restoring an Oak Savanna at a Natural Legacy Demonstration Site: Schramm Park SRA.</i> Krista Lang (Northern Prairies Land Trust)	<i>First Signals in the Sandhills: A PIT Tag Pilot Study of Northern Pearl Dace Movement to Guide Future Connectivity Research.</i> Joe Spooner (NGPC)
9:20	<i>Women and the Woodlands: Supporting our Future.</i> Hanna Barnes (Northern Prairies Land Trust)	<i>Missouri River Pallid Sturgeon Monitoring.</i> Jerrod Hall & Ryan Ruskamp (NGPC)
9:45	<i>Managing Working Lands in the Public Eye.</i> Brady Karg & Ed Hubbs (Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center)	<i>Structured decision-making to inform management of Plains Topminnow (<i>Fundulus sciadicus</i>) in Nebraska</i> David A. Schumann (University of Wisconsin-La Crosse)

10:10 – 10:30 Break, pick up boxed lunches (*Great Plains Room*)

10:30 – 1:30 Field Trip to Little Salt Fork Marsh Preserve and Little Salt Creek West WMA

1:30 Conference concludes

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