

THE CENTRAL GRASSLANDS ROADMAP: A Collaborative Strategy for a Working Lands Biome



2022 SUMMIT PROGRAM
MAY 23RD – 25TH ~ FORT COLLINS, CO

**GUIDING US TOWARDS RESILIENT AND SUSTAINABLE
GRASSLANDS AND HUMAN COMMUNITIES**



OBJECTIVES & OVERVIEW

The first summit in 2020 focused on defining the Roadmap's vision and defining high level priorities that elevated grasslands across the 3 countries and 8 sectors. The executive summary produced during that 2020 virtual summit has been guiding conversations and actions in the interim. Working groups have been working on policy, communications, metrics and biological and science tools that are needed to help save our grassland landscapes and human communities. The newest edition of the Roadmap, published in April 2022, is a culmination of this work, and provides a collaborative framework for the 2022 Summit.

The 2022 Summit is designed to meaningfully engage participants, encourage interaction, increase trust and collaborative will, and build shared understanding through story circles, roundtable conversations, and diverse opportunities for networking and dialogue that will propel the collective work forward.

It is time to come together as a diverse community to:

- Receive guidance on the Roadmap's next steps from at least 250 people that represent the 8 sectors and three countries of the Central Grasslands Roadmap
- Solidify and celebrate leaders' and delegates' current and future contributions to reaching the Central Grassland Roadmap's vision, goals, and strategies
- Participate in cross-sector discussions to learn from one another and find areas of collaboration and overlap
- Collectively identify and prioritize immediate action steps to implement the Roadmap in the next 1 – 3 years and make measurable changes toward our collaborative scorecard
- Affirm steering committee leaders to steward the Roadmap for the coming years

PARTICIPATION

- ~300 people that live and work on the Central Grasslands will attend in-person or virtually
- Delegates will represent the 3 countries and 8 sectors of the Roadmap
- Influential organizational, state/province, and federal leaders, including policy makers
- Ahead of the Summit, Delegates read the recently published draft of the Roadmap
- Leaders and Delegates can also commit support (or recommit) to the vision and overarching goals, criteria, and priorities at or prior to the 2022 Summit



BRIEF SCHEDULE

MONDAY, MAY 23RD

- Travel Day and Arrival in Fort Collins, Opening Reception at Museum of Discovery

TUESDAY, MAY 24TH

- 7:30 am: Registration Opens (Ballroom)
- 7:45 am – 8:45 am: Breakfast Buffet (Ballroom)
- 8:45 am – 12 pm: Opening, Story Circles, and Six Plenary Talks, Framing (Ballroom)
- 12 pm – 1 pm: Lunch (Ballroom)
- 1 pm – 2:15 pm: Developing Priority Actions for Scorecard Goals (Breakout Rooms)
- 2:30 pm – 3:45 pm: Developing Priority Actions for Scorecard Goals (Breakout Rooms)
- Dinner at Lincoln Center in Fort Collins

WEDNESDAY, MAY 25TH

- 8:00 am – 9:00 am: Breakfast Buffet (Ballroom)
- 9:00 am – 10:15 am: Prioritizing Actions for Scorecard Goals (Ballroom & Breakout Rooms)
- 10:30 am – 12 pm: Strategizing for Key Initiatives to Build Collaboration (Breakout Rooms)
- 12 pm – 1 pm: Lunch (Ballroom)
- 1 pm – 2:30 pm: Strategizing for Key Initiatives to Build Collaboration (Breakout Rooms)
- 2:45 pm – 4:15 pm: Rendezvous by Sector (Breakout Rooms)
- 4:30 pm – 5:30 pm: Report Outs by Sector, Closing (Ballroom)
- 6:30 pm: Closing Dinner and Celebration (Ballroom)

THURSDAY, MAY 26TH

- Departure from Fort Collins



SCHEDULE IN DETAIL

MONDAY, MAY 23RD

- Travel Day and Arrival in Fort Collins, Opening Reception at Museum of Discovery

TUESDAY, MAY 24TH

Registration: Opens at the Lory Student Center at 7:30 am

Breakfast Buffet ~ 7:45 am – 8:45 am (Ballroom C/D)

Come early to get registered, grab some food, and meet friends, colleagues and new collaborators for conversation! The Buffet will close prior to the start of Session 1.



Session 1 ~ 8:45 am – 9:30 am: Opening Ceremony (Ballroom C/D)

Please join us as we kick-off the Summit through a welcoming planned by the Roadmap Indigenous/First Nations Workgroup, local Fort Collins-area leaders, and special guests Ava Hamilton and Monica RattlingHawk.

Session 2 ~ 9:30 am - 10 am: Story Circles (Ballroom C/D)

Attendees bring an object/photo that epitomizes what the grasslands mean to them and/or why they are champions of the grasslands, and we'll take this opportunity for everyone to share and explain their story to others.



Session 3 ~ 10 am – 11:15 am: Highlights Structured by Strategy Areas (Ballroom C/D)

The Roadmap is structured under the three Strategy Areas of *Partnership & Engagement*, *Policy & Funding*, and *Research & Evaluation*. This session is designed to frame and illuminate for attendees six key initiatives, opportunities, or examples of how the Roadmap can enact change through its three strategy areas.

Part 1: 10:00 am – 10:30 am

- **Partnerships:** Ranchers and Producer Collaboratives (Bill Milton)
- **Partnerships:** First Nations Summit in Canada (Kansie Fox)
- **Scaling Partnerships:** Joint Ventures (JV8) Updates (Graeme Patterson)

Break ~ 10:30 am – 10:45 am: Refreshments available in Ballroom C/D

Part 2: 10:45 am – 11:15 am

- **Funding:** National Fish & Wildlife Foundation Grant Highlights (Seth Gallagher)
- **Research and Monitoring:** Integration of Bird Data (Chris Latimer)
- **Action:** Proactively Responding to Green/Yellow Areas on the Map (Dirac Twidwell)



Session 4a ~ 11:15 am – 11:30 am: Respond to Opening Speakers (Ballroom C/D)

Each speaker will provide a different discussion prompt for attendees to discuss at their table. People are welcome to get up and move tables to meet other participants and join other conversations, or work through one or all of the prompts through discussion at their table.

**Session 4b ~ 11:30 am – 12:00 pm: Framing the Roadmap (Ballroom C/D)**

We'll hear from Roadmap catalyst, Tammy VerCauteren, and facilitator, Matt Gray on how we arrived at today, key insights learned, and what to expect from the rest of the Summit.

Lunch ~ 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm (Ballroom C/D)

Please pick-up lunch and use this time to rejuvenate, connect with familiar faces, and meet new people. Continue the morning's conversation and share more stories.

Sessions 5 and 6: Brainstorming Actions for Scorecard Goals**Session 5 ~ 1 – 2:15 pm: Brainstorming Actions for Scorecard Goals (in Breakout Rooms)**

This is the first of two discussion-based, participant driven sessions to brainstorm priority actions focused on the seven goals described in the Scorecard section of the Roadmap and its connected appendices. Each breakout room will focus on one scorecard goal. Participants will brainstorm specific actions for single Scorecard goal in this session and then have the opportunity to brainstorm for another Scorecard goal in Sessions 6. Session 7 tomorrow (Wednesday) will give everyone the opportunity to help prioritize actions.

Transition/Break ~ 2:15 pm – 2:30 pm: Refreshments available in Ballroom C/D

Session 6 ~ 2:30 – 3:45 pm: Brainstorming Actions for Scorecard Goals (in Breakout Rooms)

This is the second of two discussion-based, participant driven sessions to brainstorm priority actions focused on the seven Goals described in the Scorecard section of the Roadmap and its connected appendices. Each breakout room will focus on one scorecard goal. Participants will brainstorm specific actions for a single Scorecard goal in this session and then have the opportunity to prioritize actions during Session 7.

Breakout Rooms for Sessions 5 & 6**Room #322 – Goal 1: Human Dimensions Goal *[Interpretation offered during Session 5 only]***

Each year, First Nations/Indigenous land stewards, ejidos, and family ranchers across the biome report the ability to sustain their connection to the land and their working operations, as well as report that they have sufficient access to financial and technical assistance resources that fit their land management and stewardship decisions.





Room #304/306 – Goal 2: Landscape Conservation Goal [*Interpretation offered during Session 5 only*] By 2032, ensure that hundreds of millions of acres/hectares of grass are improved, restored, or kept intact for conservation to the benefit of nature and people across the biome from Mexico to Canada.



Ballroom B – Goal 3: Species Goal [*Interpretation Offered during Session 6 only*]
By 2032, wildlife populations will be stabilizing, stabilized, or remain stable, relative to current trends, understood through a chosen suite of species representing birds, insects, and mammals. **This goal will be held in Ballroom B and immediately broken into three sub-goal sections:** 3a – Insects, 3b – Birds, and 3c – Mammals



Room #308 – Goal 4: Water Goal [*Interpretation Offered during Session 7 only*]
By 2032, water extractions from groundwater and surface water sources will be reduced as necessary to sustain dynamically stable groundwater levels, baseflows, and lake/pond levels.



Room #310 – Goal 5: Soil Goal [*Interpretation Offered during Session 7 only*]
By 2032, multiple stakeholders will collaborate on improving comprehensive soil health to achieve the benefits of increasing resilience to drought, availability of livestock forage and wildlife habitat, and carbon sequestration, sequestering more carbon than is emitted.

Breakout Room #324 – Goals 6 & 7

Goal 6: Industry, Private Sector and Land Conversion

Food companies, agribusinesses, supply chain actors and businesses immediately work to increase the positive impacts of agricultural production and stop grassland conversion.

Goal 7: Transportation, Energy Industry and Careful Siting and Restoration

Transportation and energy industry companies of the Roadmap community, immediately work to ensure careful siting of energy, transportation and other commercial/industry development on all projects including wind, solar, oil, gas, coal, and transmission.

Transition/Break ~ 3:45 pm – 4:15 pm



Dinner ~ Buses depart for Lincoln Center in Fort Collins at 5:15 pm

Join us for this exciting evening celebration and field trip to see first-hand an incredible Natural Area that was restored and revitalized because of extensive collaboration from diverse sectors, and hear welcoming talks from several key leaders of the Central Grasslands Biome!



WEDNESDAY, MAY 25TH

Breakfast Buffet ~ 8:00 am – 9:00 am (Ballroom C/D)

Grab some food and join a table to continue yesterday's conversations and settle in for another day of great sessions and events. The Buffet will close prior to the start of Session 7.

Session 7 ~ 9:00 am – 10:15 am: Prioritizing Actions for Scorecard Goals (Start in Ballroom C/D and then move to breakout rooms. Participants can move through different rooms)

This session builds on yesterday's Sessions 5 and 6. Starting in the Ballroom, participants will hear and see a brief summary of where each Scorecard Goal landed yesterday, and then attendees will be invited to move through the breakout rooms for an "open house" to help prioritize actions. **Room numbers listed above.** Participants will end the open house at the Scorecard Goal of their choice to finalize the recommended prioritization.

9:00 am ~ Framing: Summary of yesterday's sessions and updates on today's work

9:15 am ~ Open House: Voting on Scorecard Goal Actions

9:45 am ~ Final Prioritization: Stay with the goal of your choice to help final prioritization

Transition/Break ~ 10:15 am - 10:30 am: Refreshments available in Ballroom C/D

Sessions 8 and 9: Strategizing for Different Initiatives

Session 8 ~ 10:30 am – 12:00 pm: Strategizing for Different Initiatives (In Breakout Rooms)

Sessions 8 and 9 convene cross-sector, conversation-based forums for collaboration on specific policy, communication, and other wide-scale initiatives that are happening across the Biome. This is time focused on strategizing for these initiatives, learning new information, or coming together in nation-based workgroups to discuss action planning. Sessions 8 and 9 are repeats of one another: pick one to join for Session 8, and one to join for Session 9!

Room #322: Topic 1 (for Session 8) ~ Tribal Food Sovereignty and Indigenous Engagement with Ted Hibbeler and Monica Rattling Hawk

Room #322: Topic 1 (for Session 9) ~ Tribal Engagement and Ecosystem Relationships including Discussion on the 4 Rs (Responsibility, Reciprocity, Redistribution and Relationship) with Monica RattlingHawk, Diana Crider, and other wonderful guests

Room #310: Topic 2 (Sessions 8 & 9)~ North American Grasslands Conservation Act (NAGCA): How can we support NAGCA?

Ballroom B: Topic 3 (Sessions 8 & 9) ~ Policy: What changes do we want to elevate in the 2023 Farm Bill? How can we prepare for Recovering America's Wildlife Act (RAWA) by elevating grasslands species to State Wildlife Action Plans to increase resources? How can we influence and be ready for America the Beautiful?





Room #308: Topic 4 (Session 8 only) ~ Canada Rendezvous



Room #308: Topic 5 (Session 9 only) ~ Mexico Rendezvous

Room #304/306: Topic 6 (Sessions 8 & 9) ~ How Might We Increase Collaboration amongst Academics, Researchers, & Ranchers?



Room #324: Topic 7 (Sessions 8 & 9) ~ Increasing Grass-fed and Grass-finished Beef and Bison Production: How can we better collaborate to increase effectiveness?

Lunch ~ 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm (Ballroom C/D)

Pick up lunch in Ballroom C/D and head to a table inside or enjoy some fresh air outside. What opportunity for collaboration have you heard about at the Summit so far that most excites you?

Session 9 ~ 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm: Strategizing for Different Initiatives (In Breakout Rooms)

Sessions 8 and 9 convene cross-sector, conversation-based forums for collaboration on specific policies, programs, and other wide-scale initiatives that are happening across the Biome. This is time focused on strategizing for these initiatives. **See the topics and breakout rooms above.** Pick one to join for Session 8, and one to join for Session 9!

Transition/Break ~ 2:30 pm - 2:45 pm: Refreshments available in Ballroom C/D

Session 10 ~ 2:45 pm - 4:15 pm: Rendezvous by Sector (In Breakout Rooms)

All of the sessions so far have been cross-sector examinations of goals, strategies, and points of collaboration. This is an opportunity to come together as a sector to reflect and think about our next steps. What have we learned as a sector? What do we want to elevate as our highest collaborative priority actions to implement the Roadmap in the next 1-3 years?

Transition/Break ~ 4:15 pm - 4:30 pm



Session 11 ~ 4:30 pm – 5:30 pm: Elevating Priority Actions by Sector (Ballroom C/D)

Join back together as a full Summit to hear from Sector Leaders/Steering Committee Reps about the priorities discussed and elevated during the Sector Rendezvous.

Part 1: 4:30 – 5:15 ~ Sector leads report out priorities

Part 2: 5:15 – 5:30 ~ Indigenous/First Nations-led closing

Dinner ~ 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm: Social Time and Good-byes @ the Lory Student Center

