



Update from Social Efforts

Grasslands Roadmap Scorecard Forum
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GOAL 1: COMMUNITY SUPPORT

GOAL 2: LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION

GOAL 3: SPECIES

GOAL 4: WATER

GOAL 5: SOIL

GOAL 6: FOOD SUPPLY

GOAL 7: LOW IMPACT PRODUCTION



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GOAL 7: LOW IMPACT PRODUCTION



Whose voices are included in the metrics and what are they saying?

How can this group connect with/support the social efforts of other working groups?



Partners


American Bird Conservancy
Bird Conservancy of the Rockies

Canadian Wildlife Service
Commission for Environmental Cooperation
Oregon State University
Playa Lakes Joint Venture

Rosebud Sicangu Lakhóta Oyáte
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

University of Manitoba
University of Nebraska Lincoln
University of Wyoming

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Current Efforts

- CEC social science summary and needs assessment
- In-person meetings at conferences
 - Proceedings
- Continued virtual meetings



CEC Grassland Management Soc. Sci. Summary and Needs Assessment

- 1) **literature review** of conservation social science related to Central Grassland landowner decision-making
- 2) **systematic and iterative Delphi process** to gather information about conservation challenges, opportunities, and social science information needs of practitioners and prioritize these needs to guide future efforts.
- 3) **combined summary of pre-existing CEC funded surveys** to understand the challenges and opportunities for conservation identified by rancher respondents in the U.S., Mexico, and Canada.
- 4) **Plan that identifies :**
 - opportunities and challenges for Central Grassland conservation delivery
 - gaps between applied social science needs as identified by practitioners and current knowledge
 - prioritization of needs for new social science inquiry and integration



A photograph of two brown bears in a forest. One bear is in the foreground, seen from the back, with its head turned slightly to the right. The second bear is behind it, looking towards the camera with its mouth open, showing its teeth. The background is a dense forest of green evergreen trees. The image is framed by a light green border at the top and bottom.

PATHWAYS 2023

Managing Wildlife in an Era of Mutualism

24
participants

The Sixth Biennial Conference on the Conservation of America's Grasslands

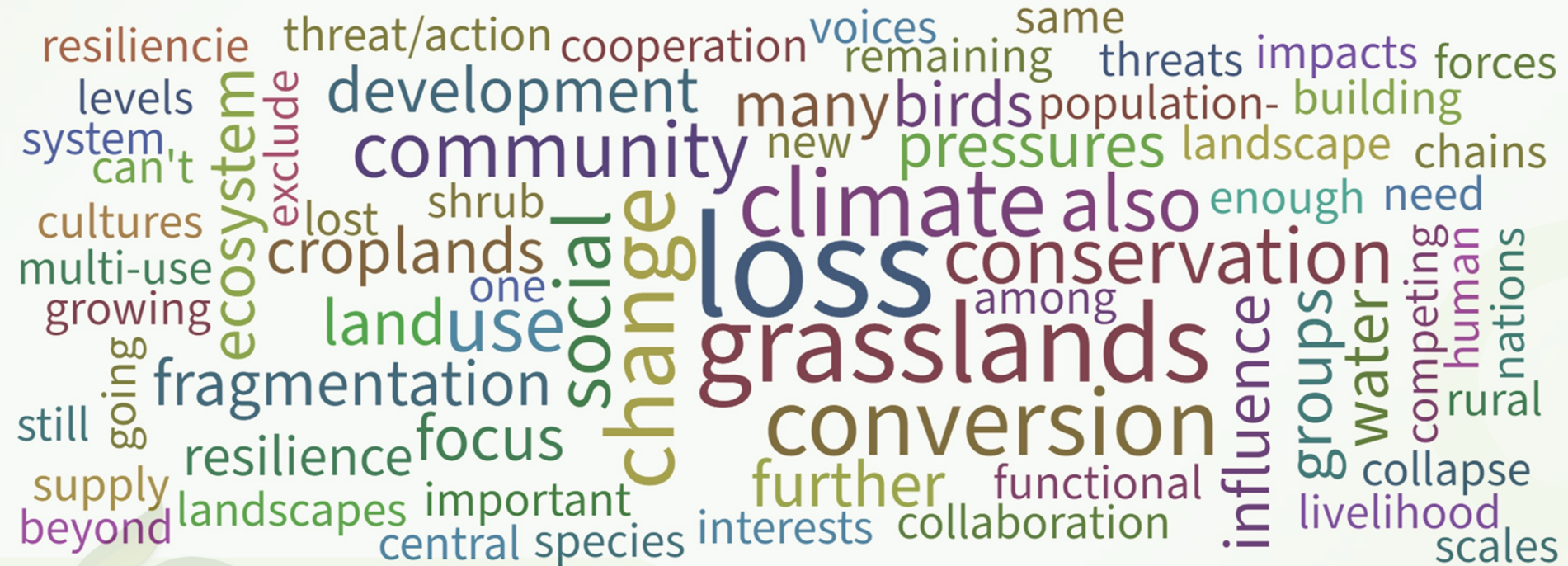
August 8-10, 2023
Cheyenne, Wyoming

40
participants





Pressing concerns for the future of the central grasslands




Social issues which could improve outcomes for people; wildlife in grasslands - Pathways and AGC


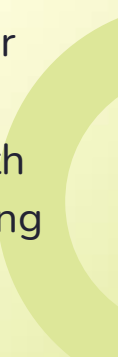
- **Advancing inclusion; equity; and diversity** and equitable collaboration with marginalized and local communities and building authentic relationships
- Addressing **inequitable distributions of risks** and funding and addressing disparities
- **Coordinating efforts across sectors and scales**; addressing research-implementation gaps; and connecting issues and efforts
- **Employing socioecological perspective that values all communities on the land**
- Recognizing systems that contribute to perverse incentives and constrain conservation
- Increasing awareness about importance of grasslands


Perceptions of who is involved and who missing in “conservation” of grasslands in the Western paradigm

- **Included:** Eurocentric views; scientists; ranchers; landowners; wealthy people; white men; federal and state agencies; conservation groups; practitioners;
- **Missing:** underserved, people (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color; poor; immigrants); women; environmental justice communities, youth; rural and urban people; community leaders; conservation practitioners; ejidatarios
- **Needs:** intentional and equitable engagement of underserved groups; changing top-down approach; changing current narrow reflection of diversity; all working together respectfully; grasslands influencers; making youth feel welcome; ways to prevent people being overwhelmed; materials in accessible formats




Ideas for strengthening connections and growing this network

- **Community:** establishing community of practice with conversations and webinars; resources for hiring personnel; wisdom & mutual care (recognizing common threats); structured collaboration across fields of study & conservation community; planning for integration/sharing with field staff; silo-busting + interdisciplinary approaches; strengthen conservation social networks to be more relevant (better outcomes for grasslands);
 - **Equity:** equitable collaboration; support existing efforts; informing movement with community priorities; invitation not enough (space must be welcoming); subsidizing Indigenous languages; youth engagement; focus on wellbeing for all species & people; diversity of conservation approaches;
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Ideas for strengthening connections and growing this network

- **Economy:** more tangible economic analysis/discussion; understanding costs to achieve conservation goals; more funding for Indigenous Nations and underserved people (restoration projects +); funding from carbon tax
 - **Communications:** increased communication for coordination and collaboration; regular dialogue (online spaces; bridging gap of time); mutual check-in and sharing; more clear goals; expectations; creative use of all media to generate love for Indigenous science and grasslands
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Formalizing Group Input

- PURPOSE
 - What do I want from the group?
 - What do I bring to the group?
- VISION
 - In 5-10 years; what will we have accomplished together that we wouldn't have on our own?
- GOAL(S)
 - What ideas do you have about short; mid; or long-term goals for the group?
- ROLES
 - What role(s) would the group play in the Central Grasslands?
- PRIORITY ISSUES
 - From your perspective; what issues are the highest priority for the group to focus on?
 - Your name (optional)



Formalizing Group Input

- PURPOSE
 - Create diverse network to engage diverse communities and perspectives; to coordinate social science and conservation efforts
 - VISION
 - Create diverse coalition across nations and sectors; improve equity of funding; set conservation priorities across landscape
 - GOALS
 - Short term: equitably engage; identify diverse priorities and needs and current research
 - ROLES
 - Build equitable conservation lens; summarize and coordinate social science efforts; address barriers to stewardship
 - PRIORITY ISSUES
 - Equity; justice; invasive woody plant encroachment; habitat loss/degradation; impacts from drought and climate change; diversity; social science coordination; shared research priorities; social scientist support and communication; cultural; inclusive approaches; integration of disciplines
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Next Steps for Our Efforts

- Figuring out how to weave scientific and community needs
- Conversations that reimagine conservation
- Call in December - Let us know if you are interested in joining

How can this group connect with/support the social efforts of other working groups?

