



MEADOWLARK
INITIATIVE



Meadowlark Initiative Programs

Initiative partners offer programs to assist producers and landowners in areas including:

- **Grazing System Enhancements**
- **Grassland Management**
- **Native Grassland Reconstruction**
- **Cropland to Grassland Transitions**
- **Grazing Mentoring**
- **Prairie Wetland Restoration/ Enhancement**

Partner Program Information

Audubon Dakota

- Conservation Forage Program
- Prairie Management Toolbox

Ducks Unlimited – Cover Crop and Livestock Integration Project II

Ecological Insights – Soil Health and Carbon Storage

Millborn Seeds – Seed/Seeding Technical Assistance

The Nature Conservancy – Restoring Fire to Native Grasslands

ND Game and Fish – PLOTS

ND Grazing Lands Coalition – Grazing Mentoring

Northern Great Plains Joint Venture

- Northern Grassland Restoration Incentive Program
- Sustaining Bird Habitat and Rural Communities

ND Natural Resources Trust

- Bakken Development and Working lands Program II
- Grazing Resiliency in the Bakken
- Working Grassland Partnership

USDA – Regional Conservation Partnership Program

Pheasants Forever – Southwest Grazing Lands Improvement Project

USFWS – Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program



North Dakota Conservation Forage Program (CFP)



The North Dakota Conservation Forage Program (CFP) will begin accepting applications starting on November 15, 2021.

Mission

CFP partners with North Dakota's producers to convert marginal crop lands back to grasslands to improve forage availability and quality. By providing support through financial and technical assistance to landowners, CFP aims to accelerate grassland establishment across the state.

Objective

The North Dakota Conservation Forage Program aims to improve forage availability and quality, soil health, and wildlife habitat by restoring and integrating grazing and haying land management techniques on privately owned land.

Resources Available

- 3-year transition payments
- 60% forage seed mix cost share*
- 50% grazing infrastructure cost share*

*Cost share reimbursements are based off of and cannot exceed 2020 NRCS Field Office Technical Guide rates.



Application Process

Collaborate with a technical service provider to complete the North Dakota Conservation Program producer application form.

Contact information by region can be found in the North Dakota Conservation Forage Program producer guide to enrollment.

The North Dakota Conservation Forage Program "moves us in the direction of true innovation, keeping the working land working, knowing we can provide something for wildlife and those who enjoy driving in the countryside and seeing all the great things we see and sometimes take for granted as farmers and ranchers." - Daryl Lies, ND Farm Bureau

Applicant's Responsibilities

- **Commit:** selected projects will enter into a project agreement with Audubon Dakota committing to maintain enrolled land in grassland habitat for at least 10 years from the signing date.
- **Plan:** work with an Audubon representative or project partner biologist, to develop an establishment management plan. Plans will include site preparation, seed composition, seeding rate, timing, and post-planting management.
- **Implement:** complete seeding and any infrastructure installation.
- **Manage:** monitor and actively manage, which may include practices such as: weed control, haying, resting, and prescribed burning.





Mallard. Photo: Robert Bunch

Private Lands Open to Sportsmen

Participating Landowners are encouraged to enroll their acres into the Private Lands Open to Sportsmen (PLOTS) Program through the North Dakota Game and Fish Department.

PLOTS provides financial and technical assistance to private landowners for habitat protection, enhancement and development. Landowners accepting assistance through PLOTS agree to allow public access for walk-in hunting.

Payment structures, payment types and agreement lengths vary depending on type of agreement and land use. Payments may be one-time, upfront or annual and agreement lengths vary from two years up to 30 years.

Enrollment in PLOTS is not required for participation in the Prairie Management Tollbox

Interested in utilizing the resources available through the Prairie Management Toolbox?

Please Contact Us

dakota@Audubon.org

This program is possible thanks to partnerships with these organizations:



The Prairie Management Toolbox is offered on a non-discriminatory basis without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, marital status or handicap. This program is supported by Audubon Dakota, an equal opportunity provider and employer.



PRAIRIE MANAGEMENT TOOLBOX

Grazing infrastructure resources



Photo: Audubon

RESOURCES AVAILABLE

Grazing Infrastructure

Funding available for projects to support grazing:

- Perimeter and cross fencing
- Wells
- Tanks
- Pipeline
- Pumps

Prairie Restoration

Funding available for projects to support native prairie restoration:

- High diversity seed mix
- Seeding labor



About

The Prairie Management Toolbox is a producer assistance program for working lands to provide:

- Financial support for producers interested in establishing or expanding grazing infrastructure.
- Technical assistance to producers aimed at enhancing forage productivity and sustainable use.
- Projects are approved on a rolling basis contingent on funding availability.

Toolbox programs are also available for Stutsman, Grand Forks, Eddy, Foster and Nelson Counties.



PARTICIPATION COMMITMENTS

Funding for the Prairie Management Toolbox is provided by the North Dakota Outdoor Heritage Fund and, thereby, subject to North Dakota state grant guidelines.

Producer Participation

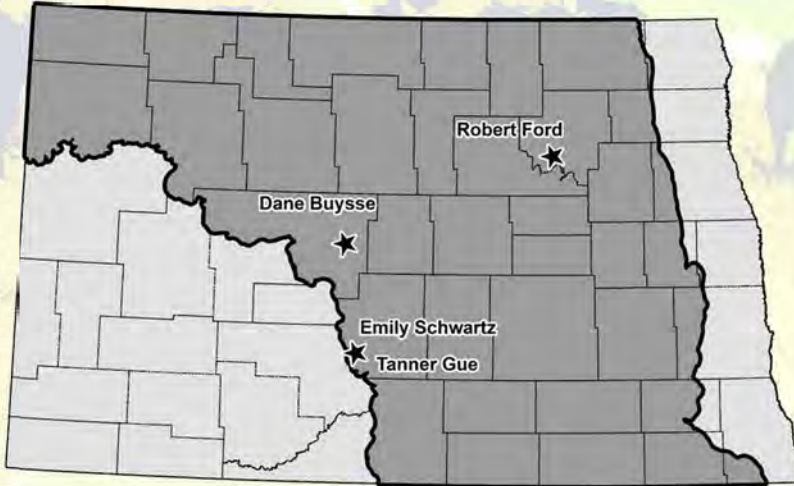
Producers participating in the program agree to:

- 40% cost-share for materials and labor.
- 5-10 year non-conversion.
- Recommended enrollment in Private Lands Open to Sportsmen (PLOTS) or posting “Ask Before You Enter” signs (*information on these programs are available through North Dakota Game and Fish and/or North Dakota Wildlife Federation*).



COVER CROP & LIVESTOCK INTEGRATION PROJECT II

A WORKING-LANDS CONSERVATION PROGRAM FOR NORTH DAKOTA FARMERS AND RANCHERS



Primary Program Area
 10% of funds available

DIVERSIFY YOUR OPERATION

Cover crops and livestock will improve soil health and functionality by restoring organic matter, increasing aggregate development, reducing soil compaction, and increasing water infiltration.

✓ 5-Year Program

✓ Technical Assistance

Experts from **Pulse USA** and **Millborn Seeds** and **Ducks Unlimited** can help design custom mixes and grazing plans for your operation

✓ 60% Cost Share

- GRAZING INFRASTRUCTURE ON CROPLAND
 - ~ Perimeter Fence
 - ~ Cross Fence
 - ~ Water Wells
- ~ Pipe
- ~ Pumps
- ~ Tanks
- ~ Windbreak Panels

✓ 60% Cost Share

- COVER CROP SEED
 - ~ Grazing Mixes
 - ~ Wildlife Mixes
 - ~ Custom Mixes
 - ~ Aerial Seeded Mixes



Improve Soil Health!

Reduce input costs!

Increase your bottom line!

First-Come, First-Served

No Batching Periods

TANNER GUE

Biologist 701-355-3592
tgue@ducks.org

DANE BUYSSE

Biologist 701-425-4852
dbuysse@ducks.org

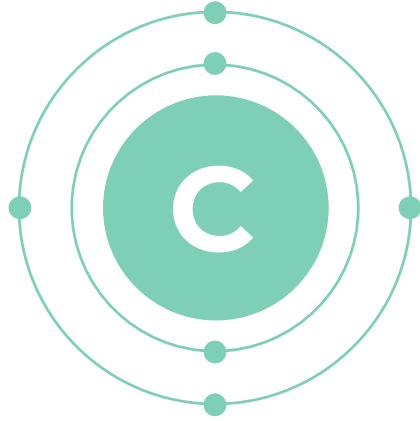
ROBERT FORD

Biologist 701-230-2141
rford@ducks.org

EMILY SCHWARTZ

Agronomist 701-805-1987
eschwartz@ducks.org





ecological insights

CORPORATION

Ecological Insights Corporation works with farming, ranching and conservation communities to advance the science and education of ecosystem health and regeneration.

Dr. Rebecca Phillips designs carbon cycle research and education projects to raise awareness of the role of regenerative agriculture in sequestering carbon. Based in Hazelton, North Dakota, Ecological Insights is a non-profit, 501(c)3 corporation.



REBECCA L. PHILLIPS

130 69th Street SE, Hazelton, ND
701-425-6456

services

- Teacher professional development courses and field workshops
- Soil coring, nutrient analyses, soil health, and physicochemical data collection
- Carbon flux measurement, modeling and hypothesis testing
- Carbon in the classroom curriculum design
- Carbon monitoring and mapping



MILLBORN SEEDS

Founded in 1987, our roots run deep in agriculture, conservation and restoration of native landscapes. At Millborn Seeds our team is dedicated to the specialty seed industry, simplifying the procurement and delivery process for our customers.

Headquartered in Brookings, South Dakota, the primary blending and storage facility is a 50,000 square foot climate-controlled warehouse that provides a clean, stable environment for seed storage. An additional 50,000 square foot facility expansion for expanded blending and packaging will be completed in 2022. A second location in Black Hawk, South Dakota, serves as a western distribution center and storefront.

Our inventory of more than 1,000 species of plants allows us to fulfill even the most challenging and specialized orders, from highly diverse cover crop blends, to pollinator mixes for solar farms, and native seed mixes for anything from CRP contracts to mine reclamation.

At Millborn Seeds, we pride ourselves on our logistic capabilities. We ship seed to all 50 states and several foreign countries. Our operations, processing, blending, logistics, and accounting teams continue to grow their capabilities for order fulfillment as Millborn Seeds continues to expand.

We know our products inside and out. We stay deeply connected to the industries we serve and look to stay ahead of new seed trends and emerging applications for existing products. Millborn Seeds' team of specialists provide expertise on forages, cover crops, conservation, commercial and turf, native restoration, and pollinator programs. This team of experts can offer helpful advice to ensure that the products are accurately represented and properly utilized to fulfill your needs.





Restoring Fire TO NATIVE GRASSLANDS

Fire can help restore native grasslands and provide benefits to people and nature.

Fire is a natural part of the grassland ecosystem

- helps maintain its health, vigor, and diversity
- reduces residual duff build-up, allowing sunlight to penetrate
- warms up the soil and increases microbial activity
- releases and recycles nutrients from decaying plant material
- stimulates new grasses and flowers need to grow
- reduces brush and suppresses invasive species

The Nature Conservancy supports the safe and ecologically appropriate use of fire to maintain grasslands and their plant and animal diversity in North Dakota.

Here are a few of the many benefits that fire provides to people and nature:

CONTROLLING BRUSH AND INVASIVE SPECIES

Fire, sometimes in combination with cattle or bison grazing, is used to control trees, woody shrubs and invasive species and keep grasslands healthy. After a fire, grazing animals are attracted to the lush re-growth of grass and concentrate their grazing in that burned area. As new areas are burned, grazers shift to the most recent burned area, allowing previously burned areas to recover.

PROMOTING HEALTHY PRAIRIES

Periodic fire enhances native plant communities by removing dead plant material and improving access for new plant growth. Properly timed fire suppresses exotic grasses like Kentucky bluegrass and smooth brome, increasing species diversity. Fire in grasslands also increases grass nutritive quality, palatability, availability and yield.

PROVIDING GRASSLANDS FOR WILDLIFE

As Native Americans did before settlers arrived, land managers today use fire to maintain grasslands for wildlife including ducks, deer and other game species. Healthy grasslands provide food and cover for wildlife all year long. They can also provide nutritious forage for cattle.



BENEFITTING THE FOODCHAIN

Fire can also be used to increase wildflower diversity in grasslands, which benefits butterflies, moths and other pollinators, providing a variety of food sources throughout the growing season. Diverse grasslands also provide the different types of vegetation and structure that pollinators need during different times in their life-cycles.

SUSTAINING CRITICAL HABITATS FOR ENDANGERED BIRDS

Fire is critical to maintaining the habitat of grassland-dependent birds, including meadowlarks, dickcissels and chestnut-collared longspurs, whose populations are declining dramatically across North America and other parts of the world.

IT'S SAFE!

A team of highly skilled and experienced professionals and volunteers applies fire to Nature Conservancy preserves and project areas. A burn boss organizes and supervises the event around a written plan and schedule.

Strict safety procedures ensure the safety of the team members, nearby residents and private property. Conditions such as weather, wind and drought factors must be right before a fire is started.

GOOD FIRE TAKES TEAMWORK

With many government agencies and non-profits like the Conservancy working to conserve the grasslands in North Dakota with limited resources, it is important that we work together.

The Conservancy works with agency partners including the National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Forest Service, N.D Game and Fish Department, and with other partners and private landowners to share information, provide training opportunities and implement burns collaboratively.

Program Contact

Chris Gordon, ND Fire Manager
Cross Ranch, 1401 River Rd Center, ND 58530
chris_gordon@tnc.org
Office: 701-794-8741



PLOTS

NORTH DAKOTA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT

CONSERVATION PLOTS PROGRAM FACTSHEET

PRIVATE LAND INITIATIVE

The Mission of the North Dakota Game and Fish Department is to protect, conserve and enhance fish and wildlife populations and their habitats for sustained public consumptive and nonconsumptive use.

PRIVATE LAND INITIATIVE

The Department's Private Land Initiative (PLI) is the primary mechanism for applying this mission onto the private landscape of North Dakota. The PLI accomplishes this through the following goals:

- Conservation of habitats for fish and wildlife populations.
- Provide landowners interested in wildlife conservation with cost share assistance for developing and protecting habitat.
- Provide the public with opportunities to access fish and wildlife resources on private land.

The primary goal is habitat development and hunting access, primarily through the Conservation PLOTS (Private Land Open To Sportsmen) program.

WHAT ARE PLOTS?

Private Land Open To Sportsmen is a component of the North Dakota Game and Fish Department's Private Land Initiative. An agreement between the private landowner and the North Dakota Game and Fish Department allows walk-in public access for hunting on private land. PLOTS lands are identified in the PLOTS Guide, which is produced annually by the Department.

WHY PLOTS?

Since more than 93 percent of land in North Dakota is held in private ownership, it is important for the Department work with private landowners to manage wildlife, habitat, and access. The hunting heritage is strong in North Dakota and access to private land is important for ensuring hunter retention and welcoming the next generation of hunters.

HOW IS PLOTS FUNDED?

In 1997, the passing of HB1395, created the Private Land Habitat and Access Improvement Fund, which is funded by the sales of hunting licenses and interest accrued from the Department's general fund balance.

Funding for PLOTS is generated from hunting license fees. No general fund state tax dollars are used to fund the PLOTS program.



PLOTS CONSERVATION



PLOTS OPTIONS

There are several different options available for private landowners through the PLOTS program. PLOTS provides financial and technical assistance to private landowners for habitat protection, enhancement, development, and walk-in public hunting access.

Payment structures, payment types and agreement lengths vary depending on type of agreement and land use. Payments may be upfront or annual and agreement lengths vary from two years up to 30 years.

PLOTS PRACTICES AND INCENTIVES

Native grass plantings
Tame grass plantings
Wildlife food plots
USDA Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) incentives
USDA Wetland Reserve Easement (WRE) incentives

HOW TO APPLY

Landowners can contact a private land biologist in their area at any time, however the deadline to enroll land into the PLOTS program is June 30th.

A biologist will be able to discuss specific details and program information, including agreement terms and provisions and payment rates.

Department private lands biologists are also knowledgeable about other conservation programs and opportunities available through other state, federal and private conservation organizations.

Learn more at gf.nd.gov/plots/landowner
or sign up to receive text or email alerts
for PLOTS information at
[https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/NDGF/
subscriber/new](https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/NDGF/subscriber/new)

NORTH DAKOTA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT PRIVATE LAND BIOLOGISTS

Jaden Honeyman, Dickinson – 701-260-3546 (Adams, Grant, Hettinger, and Sioux)

Ryan Oberhelman, Dickinson – 701-495-2736 (Billings, Bowman, Golden Valley, Slope and Stark)

Jens Johnson, Bismarck – 701-527-3764 (Burleigh, Emmons, Kidder, Morton, and Oliver)

Andrew Ahrens, Devils Lake – 701-662-9385 (Bottineau, Cavalier, Grand Forks, Nelson, Pembina, Ramsey, Rolette, Towner, and Walsh)

Erica Sevigny, Williston – 701-770-3815 (Burke, Divide, McKenzie, Mountrail, and Williams)

Terry Oswald, Jr., Lonetree – 701-324-2211 (Benson, Eddy, Foster, Pierce, Sheridan, and Wells)

Renae Schultz, Jamestown – 701-320-4695 (Barnes, Cass, Dickey, Griggs, Stutsman, Lamoure, Logan, McIntosh, Ransom, Richland, Sargent, Steele, Traill)

Ryan Huber, Riverdale – 701-527-8963 (Dunn, McLean, McHenry, Mercer, Renville, and Ward)



gf.nd.gov

NORTH
Dakota | Game and Fish
Be Legendary.™





ND Grazing Lands Coalition
PO Box 1091
Bismarck, ND 58502

701-355-4458

www.ndglc.com

contact@ndglc.com



North Dakota Grazing Lands Coalition

A member organization
dedicated to the
mentoring and guidance
of grazing land managers



Background

The North Dakota Grazing Lands Coalition (NDGLC) was organized in 1996 as a grassroots group promoting the health and sustainability of North Dakota's 13.5 million acres of grazing lands.

The NDGLC believes that through voluntary actions, respect for private property rights and education on the values and multiple benefits of well-managed grazing resources, these goals are achievable.

Through a cooperative effort, the coalition's goal is to provide local leadership, guidance, information and technical assistance to grassland managers. Given the appropriate tools and training, grassland managers will be better prepared to make cost-effective and environmentally sound decisions.



Grazing land is a collective term for land supporting suitable plants for harvest by grazing animals and managed primarily through good grazing practice. This may include rangeland, grassland, native prairie, pastureland, grazed forest, native and naturalized pasture, hayland and grazed cropland.

North Dakota Rangeland Facts

Rangelands:

Comprise about one-third, or 13.5 million acres, of the land area of North Dakota, including 10.3 million acres of privately owned.

Provide the principal source for forage for domestic livestock and wildlife in North Dakota.

Are primarily used for grazing cattle and sheep. Grass production is the basic goal of the rancher - maintenance or improvement of range resources is just as important as livestock husbandry.

Provide essential habitat for many kinds of wildlife, including both game and non-game species.

Provide watershed protection and aid in recharging underground water supplies.

Enhance aesthetic and recreational values, including vast open spaces for personal pleasure.

Have developed vegetation under centuries of grazing use by native herbivores (plant eaters) prior to settlement.

Values

Coalition members believe in:

- ⇒ Learning from the trials and experiences of peers.
- ⇒ Opening doors to grass management expertise.
- ⇒ Sharing alternatives and different perspectives.
- ⇒ Discovering common goals and objectives and
- ⇒ Generating new ideas.

Membership

Beginning in 2015, farmers and ranchers may now become members of the North Dakota Grazing Lands Coalition for an annual \$30 fee.

Members will receive quarterly newsletters plus email notifications of pertinent events, legislation and other opportunities on a regular basis. Members may also attend field days and other workshops at a discounted rate.

Mentors

The North Dakota Grazing Lands Coalition has established a grass roots-based network of North Dakota grazing land managers who have agreed to provide guidance and council to interested ranchers and agency personnel on grassland management.

Mentors provide advice based on knowledge and experience gained on their own operations plus interaction with ranchers across the state. Since no two ranches are alike, what you may learn from these individuals may need to be adapted to your own goals, resources and management abilities.

See the list of mentors on the other side and their areas of expertise.

Topics:

1. Goal Setting/Decision Making
2. Monitoring & Record Keeping
3. Fencing
4. Economics of Grazing Management
5. Cropland Aftermath Grazing
6. Grazing Management/Rotations
7. Livestock Movement
8. Water Development/Placement
9. Complementary Grazing
10. Livestock as a Management Tool
11. Grazing Lands for Wildlife
12. Pest Management
13. Grazing Irrigated Pasture
14. Grazing Management for Expired CRP
15. Cover Crops
16. Grass Finishing
17. Winter Grazing Strategies
18. Energy Development Impacts & Grazing

Grazing Management Mentoring Network

Keith Bartholomay
14618 57th St S, Sheldon, ND 58068
701-882-3460
kbarth@mlgc.com
Topics 3, 4, 5, 6, 14, 15

David Bauer
34575 158th St. NE, Regan, ND 58477
701-286-6290 or 701-400-1165
dave_bauer@msn.com
Topics 3, 6, 7

Wayne Berry
1611 11th Ave W, Williston, ND 58801
701-572-9183
wberry@wil.midco.net
Topics 1, 2, 4, 6, 10, 11, 17

Gabe Brown
3752 106 St NE, Bismarck, ND 58503
701-222-8602 or 701-527-5570
brownranch@bektel.com
Topics 1-4, 6-8, 10, 11, 14, 15, 17

Paul Brown
12550 71st Ave NE, Bismarck, ND 58503
701-527-5573
paul_brown_24@hotmail.com
Topics 2, 3, 6, 10, 14, 15, 17

Jerry Doan
6295 Co Rd 23, McKenzie, ND 58572
701-673-3441 or 701-220-8442
jdoan1882@gmail.com
Topics 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 15, 16, 17

Nick Faulkner
1921 21st St NW, Ruso, ND 58778
701-448-9210
nick@rusoranch.com
Topics 3, 8, 16, 17

Donnie and Trisha Feiring
PO Box 725, Beach, ND 58621
701-872-5888 or 701-228-4622
feiringcattleco@yahoo.com
Topics 3, 6, 7, 8, 10, 15, 16, 17

Steve Fettig
3792 68th St SE, Wishek, ND 58495
701-452-2813
ssfettig@bektel.com
Topics 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8

Lance Gartner
6285 46th St, Glen Ullin, ND 58631
701-348-3740
svcattle@westriv.com
Topics 1, 3, 6, 7, 8, 10, 17

Gene Goven
1824 15th Ave NW, Turtle Lake, ND 58575
701-448-2405 or 701-301-2872
genegov46@westriv.com
Topics 1-8, 10-12, 15, 17

Lewis Heaton
28051 10th Ave SE, McKenzie, ND 58572
701-400-9369
lrheaton@bektel.com
Topics 4, 5, 6, 11

Christof Just
8225 71st St SE, Berlin, ND 58415
701-388-1112 or 701-883-5615
christof_just@yahoo.com
Topics 3, 5, 15

Rob Kramer
5849 1st Ave N, Denbigh, ND 58758
701-822-2018
rkramer1964@gmail.com
Topics 1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 9, 10, 17

Keith Kronberg
10174 75th Ave SE, Forbes, ND 58439
701-357-7171
kronberg@drtel.net
Topics 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 15

Pete Kronberg
10174 75th Ave SE, Forbes, ND 58439
701-357-7171 or 701-710-1711
pete_kronberg@hotmail.com
Topics 4, 5, 6, 7, 8

Thomas Kronberg
9729 73rd Ave SE, Forbes, ND 58439
701-357-7791 or 701-535-1138
tkronberg7@gmail.com
Topics 3, 5, 7, 8

Myron Lick
1919 21st St NW, Ruso, ND 58775
701-448-9160
mglick@westriv.com
Topics 1-12, 16

Brian Maddock
4261 53rd Ave NE, Maddock, ND 58348
701-438-2765
Topics 3, 4, 7, 8

Justin Maddock
4261 53rd Ave NE, Maddock, ND 58348
justin@anglemcattle.com
701-438-2581
Topics 3, 5, 7, 8

Shane Maddock
4615 46th St NE, Esmond ND 58332
shane@anglemcattle.com
Topics 1, 5, 6, 10, 15, 17

Ken Miller
5705 Hwy 1806, Fort Rice, ND 58554
701-415-0308 or 701-202-9183
kennethmiller@bektel.com
Topics 2, 3, 8, 12, 13, 15, 17

Chad and Amanda Njos
9202 152nd Ave SW, Bowman, ND 58623
701-574-3195
cowchip@ndsupernet.com
Topics 1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 8, 10, 15, 17

John Lee Njos
8109 163rd Ave SW, Rhame, ND 58651
701-279-6920
njios@ndsupernet.com
Topics 1, 3, 6, 7, 8, 11

Darrell Oswald
29570 327th St NE, Wing, ND 58494
701-943-2441
darrell.oswald@nd.nacdn.net
Topics 3, 8, 14, 15

Jay Reiser
1024 18th Ave SW, Washburn, ND 58577
701-400-1497 or 701-793-2021
reiser_ranch@yahoo.com
Topics 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 10, 11, 16, 17

Jed Rider
13975 45th St NW, Alexander, ND 58831
58831 701-572-0440 or 701-770-2139
buford8070@yahoo.com
Topics 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 16, 17, 18

Kalie Rider
13968 45th St NW, Alexander, ND 58831
701-580-2457
kaliejorider@gmail.com
Topics Health Benefits of Grass-fed Beef

Brad Sand
9051 94th St SE, Ellendale, ND 58436
701-349-4381 or 605-228-6449
Topics 1-3, 5-8, 10, 11, 15, 17

Cody and Deanna Sand
10064 66th Ave SE, Ashley, ND 58413
701-357-7011 or 701-535-1052
sands@drtel.net
Topics 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 10, 14, 17

For more information contact
NDGLC Field Rep Trisha Feiring at
feiringcattleco@yahoo.com or 701-537-3136.

WE ARE A MEMBER SUPPORTED ORGANIZATION. Join the NDGLC today, please complete this form and mail it to NDGLC, PO Box 1091, Bismarck, ND 58502. Or, visit www.ndgjc.com and become a member online.

My contact information is New An update or correction

Name:

Address:

City:

State:

Zip:

County:

Email address:

Phone:

Yes - I want to be a member. Here is my annual \$30 membership. (check # _____) plus an additional donation of \$ _____
TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$ _____





NORTHERN GREAT PLAINS
JOINT VENTURE

Northern Grassland Restoration Incentive Program



A Shared Vision

The Northern Great Plains Joint Venture (NGPJV) is a voluntary partnership of private landowners and industry working alongside federal and state agencies, non-profit organizations, tribes, academia, and others. NGPJV partners work together to build and sustain a healthy world for birds, other wildlife, and people.

The Program

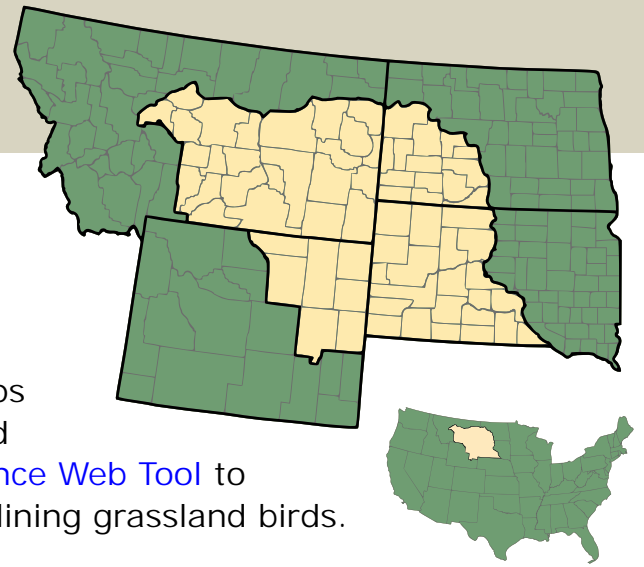
In collaboration with our many partners, the NGPJV offers the Northern Grassland Restoration Incentive Program (N-GRIP) to support local partnerships and build capacity for focused conservation. N-GRIP is designed to:

- ✦ Support and add value to local conservation partnerships and landowners.
- ✦ Help bring people together around shared conservation values.
- ✦ Offer targeted financial assistance for voluntary working lands practices that support ranching operations and maintain habitat for declining grassland birds.
- ✦ Provide conservation practitioners with additional tools and information.

Practices include:

- ✦ Reseeding cropland to native grassland.
- ✦ Infrastructure to help transition cropland or idle grounds to grazed pasture.
- ✦ Grazing management practices that help enhance productivity and diversity of native range.
- ✦ Process-based mesic restoration on working rangelands.

N-GRIP assistance is available for projects occurring within the NGPJV boundaries, which cover portions of Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wyoming.



High Priority Projects

The NGPJV works with our partners' conservation delivery staff to identify high quality projects. Private lands practitioners are the first line of conservation, working directly with producers through the relationships they build together. N-GRIP relies on local expertise and planning tools such as the NGPJV's [Conservation Guidance Web Tool](#) to ensure projects benefit both local communities and declining grassland birds.

Typical project characteristics:

- ✦ Located in a priority area for one or more declining grassland birds
- ✦ Local support
- ✦ Ecological benefits
- ✦ Favorable cost to benefit ratio
- ✦ Potential to inspire future conservation work

Program Requirements

The program requires a term agreement with an NGPJV partner entity and at least 50:50 cost-share; in-kind landowner contribution is eligible with proper documentation. Enrolled landowners may, at their discretion, allow bird monitoring to inform efficacy of practices or field tours to showcase successes.



To date, the NGPJV has worked with landowners and other partners to restore and enhance 16,353 acres of priority grasslands and wetlands through N-GRIP. The NGPJV is dedicated to continuing to work with public and private land managers to provide a sustainable, productive future for the people and wildlife of the Northern Great Plains.



**NORTHERN
GRASSLAND
RESTORATION**
INCENTIVE PROGRAM

For More Information

Steve Riley, Assistant Coordinator
402-433-5078, sriley@ducks.org

ngpjb.org/conservation-action/n-grip



NORTHERN GREAT PLAINS
JOINT VENTURE

Northern Great Plains Joint Venture

Sustaining bird habitat and rural communities



A Shared Vision

The Northern Great Plains Joint Venture (NGPJV) is a voluntary partnership of private landowners and industry working alongside federal and state agencies, non-profit organizations, tribes, academia, and other partners. NGPJV partners work together to build and sustain a healthy world for birds, other wildlife, and people.

A Successful Model of Collaboration

- ❖ Working lands conservation – NGPJV partners support conservation practices that work for birds and for the people who depend on the Northern Great Plains. Our collaborative approach to conservation helps sustain local producers and the economic vitality of rural and indigenous communities.
- ❖ Resilient lands and communities – Our conservation projects help recharge aquifers, improve water quality, stabilize soils, sequester carbon, sustain bird and pollinator populations, and improve sustainable forage production for ranching.
- ❖ Non-regulatory solutions – The NGPJV supports voluntary and proactive conservation, which reduces the need for additional regulations such as species listings under the Endangered Species Act.

Importance of Region for Declining Grassland Birds

The Northern Great Plains provides some of the most important and intact breeding habitat for grassland birds, which as a group have experienced a population decline of 53% since 1970. Approximately 53% of the global populations of lark bunting and 24% of the global populations of chestnut-collared longspur breed and raise their young in the Northern Great Plains. The region also supports globally significant numbers of mountain plover and greater sage-grouse. Conservation actions in this region have direct, positive impacts on these declining birds.



October 2021

Working Lands Conservation

The NGPJV is providing voluntary cost-share funding to support working lands conservation through our *Northern Grasslands Restoration Incentive Program (N-GRIP)*.

Practices include:

- Reseeding cropland to native grassland,
- Grazing infrastructure to help transition idle grounds to grazed pasture,
- Grazing management practices that help enhance the productivity and diversity of native range, and
- Process-based, mesic restoration on working rangelands.



Through N-GRIP, the NGPJV has worked with our landowner and other partners to restore and enhance 16,353 acres of priority grassland and wetlands.

Planning Support and Tools

The NGPJV fosters cross-program collaborations and enhanced information sharing among the network of conservation professionals working within the region. Our Conservation Guidance [Web Tool](#) is designed to help public and private land managers understand the regional significance of the lands they manage and help natural resource professionals prioritize project support in areas of highest importance to grassland birds.

Ongoing Challenges

Grassland loss continues. In 2019, almost 600,000 acres of grasslands in the Northern Great Plains were converted to cropland according to the World Wildlife Fund's *Plowprint Report*. Acres enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program are expiring, leading to additional potential losses of vegetative cover and ecosystem services. Invasive annual grasses are increasing within the region, further stressing the sustainability of diverse grassland resources. Many wetlands and riparian systems are degraded by years of runoff, poor filtration, and stream channelization. NGPJV partners are dedicated to continuing to work with public and private land managers to address these and other challenges to provide for a sustainable, productive future for the people and wildlife of the Northern Great Plains.

For More Information

Catherine Wightman, Coordinator
406-599-7384, cwightman@ducks.org, www.ngpju.org



Working lands



Mesic restoration



Collaborative management



Rangeland infrastructure

Bakken Development and Working Lands Program II (BDWLP)



FOR LANDOWNERS IN OIL-PRODUCING COUNTIES

Assistance with:

- Developing prescribed grazing strategies.
- Recommendations for cover crops well-suited for grazing and soil quality rehabilitation.
- Seed-mix recommendations for native and tame grass seedings.
- Establishing vegetation and habitat around energy development sites.

Cost-share on:

- Grass seeding, which may include payment during the establishment phase.
- Installation of range infrastructure.
- Implementation of restoration activities.

GRAZING & SEEDING PROJECTS

- 60/40 Cost-share on fencing & water.
- Assistance with cover crop planning and grass seeding for soil quality rehabilitation.
- Payment while native grass seeding gets established.
- Creation of map for infrastructure installation.
- Cultural review assistance.



AGRICULTURE / ENERGY SITE PROJECTS



- Cost-share for vegetative cover establishment adjacent to or “square-off” well pads/energy sites.
- Ideal for wildlife habitat creation areas.

Photo Credit: Vern Whitten Photography



If Interested, contact:

ND Natural Resources Trust
1605 East Capitol Ave, Suite 101
Bismarck, ND 58501
Office: (701) 223-8501

Email: Jesse@naturalresourcestrust.com

Or Contact your local,

- NRCS/Soil Conservation District Office
- Partners for Fish & Wildlife Office
- Game & Fish Private Lands Biologist



Grazing Resiliency in the Bakken

Provides cost share on practices designed to increase the resiliency of ranch lands to weather droughts by implementing rotational grazing systems with fencing and water development support.

- Fencing provided to landowners at 60% cost-share payment based on NRCS cost-share payment rates.
- Water developments will use NRCS rates for agreement development but will pay 60% cost-share based on actual costs.
- The landowners will provide the remaining 40% cost-share on both

Soil Conservation Districts and other delivery partners like US Fish and Wildlife Service will work with producers to develop management plans and necessary infrastructure specific to the

For more information contact:

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Bismarck, ND 58501

701-223-8501

Or Email:

Jesse@naturalresourcestrust.com

Eric@naturalresourcestrust.com



Counties included: Adams, Billings, Bottineau, Bowman, Burke, Divide, Dunn, Grant, Golden Valley, Hettinger, Mercer, McHenry, McKenzie, McLean, Montrail, Morton, Oliver, Renville, Sioux, Slope, Stark, Ward, & Williams



Funding provided from a grant through the North Dakota Outdoor Heritage Fund



WORKING GRASSLAND PARTNERSHIP



The Working Grassland Partnership (WGP) program promotes livestock grazing as a management tool for improving grassland bird conservation. The WGP will provide landowners with voluntary options to help develop expiring CRP acres into a livestock grazing systems that will also benefit grassland birds.



WHAT WGP OFFERS:

- 10 Year Agreements with buyback provisions.
- 60% Cost-Share on Boundary and Cross Fencing.
- 60% Cost-Share on Water Development; wells, rural water hook-ups, pipeline, tanks, etc.
- One-time upfront payment of \$5 per acre per year on expired or expiring CRP acres in 2021 and 2022.
- Technical advice on grazing systems and cultural review when appropriate
- NDGFD PLOTS access options
- Available Statewide

BENEFITS:

- Improve grassland productivity and condition
- Improve water quality and soil health
- Enhancing wildlife habitat for grassland birds
- Create working grazing lands for livestock operations
- Improve the sustainability and profitability of existing livestock operations





The WGP program is made possible through a grant from the Outdoor Heritage Fund (OHF). OHF is a state grant program which provides funds for projects that include access to public and private lands for sportsmen, implementation of best management practices for farming and ranching stewardship of the land and water, fish and wildlife habitat preservation, and development of parks and outdoor recreation areas.



Partners in the Working Grasslands Partnership Program:



HOW TO APPLY?

If interested, contact NDNRT or one of our partners:

Terry Allbee, Biologist/Business Manager

Terry@NaturalResourcesTrust.com

Cell: (701) 223-8501

Visit our website for details & other available programs

www.NDNRT.com

Since 1986, the North Dakota Natural Resources Trust has been committed to preserve, restore, manage and enhance wetlands and associated wildlife habitat in the state of North Dakota.



North Dakota Natural Resources Trust

**1605 E. Capitol Avenue
Suite 101
Bismarck, ND 58501
(701) 223-8501**

Regional Conservation Partnership Program

North Dakota Meadowlark Initiative

What is the Meadowlark Initiative?

The Meadowlark Initiative is a strategy initiated by the North Dakota Game and Fish Department, tapping into the collective insights, resources, and efforts of conservation, agriculture, and industry partners to enhance, restore, and sustain native grasslands in North Dakota. Healthy, diverse native grasslands make up vital habitat for North Dakota's state bird, the Western Meadowlark, the ambassador for this proactive, comprehensive effort to conserve grasslands in the state. The vision of the Meadowlark Initiative is to promote and create healthy, thriving grasslands that provide biodiversity and prosperity for wildlife, pollinators, ranching operations and communities.

Why the Meadowlark Initiative?

- The Western Meadowlark is declining 1.3% per year in North Dakota.
- 72% of the native prairie has been converted to other uses; currently only one-quarter of North Dakota's land mass is grassland.
- The number of U.S. cattle ranches is declining 1% per year.
- 2 out of every 5 farms (39%) produced cattle in 2002 in North Dakota; in 2017, just 1 out of every 3 farms (34%) produced cattle.
- 1 out of 4 bumble bees are at risk of extinction within 50 years.

- Four grassland dependent insects have been added to the threatened and endangered species list in North Dakota since 2014.
- -53% population loss in grassland birds since 1970 (about 720 million birds).
- Of the nearly 5 million natural wetland acres in North Dakota, 60% have been converted or lost.

Meadowlark Initiative and RCPP

A main component of the Meadowlark Initiative is the USDA Regional Conservation Partnership Program. The North Dakota Game and Fish Department, along with 13 contributing partners leveraged their funds and resources to work collaboratively across the state on the Meadowlark Initiative.

Where is the Meadowlark Initiative?

RCPP is available statewide. The primary focus of RCPP is planting marginal cropland to diverse native perennial grasses and enhancing grasslands through grazing.



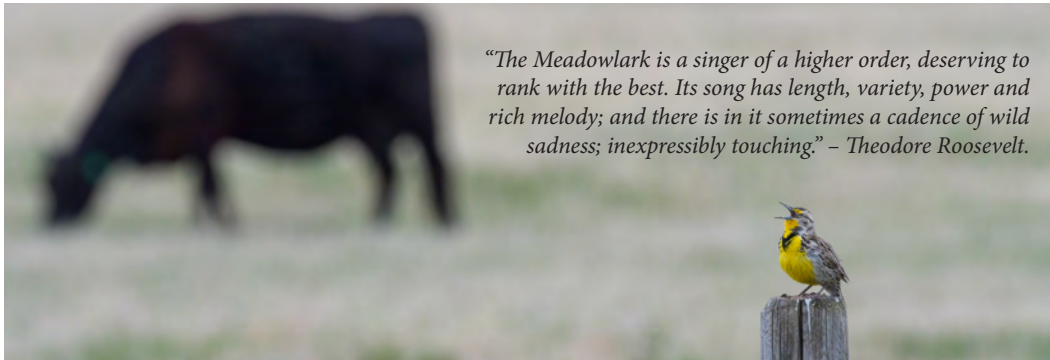
MEADOWLARK INITIATIVE

The overarching goal of the Meadowlark Initiative is to revitalize, reconnect, and sustain existing working grasslands and ranches for the recovery of rare and declining grassland species.



Regional Conservation Partnership Program

North Dakota Meadowlark Initiative



What Practices Are Available Through the Meadowlark Initiative?

Producers have the opportunity to plant marginal cropland to diverse native perennial grasses for grazing. Cost share to establish grass, install grazing infrastructure, and grassland enhancements is also available.

During the first three years of grass establishment, producers are eligible to receive a rental payment as the land transitions from cropland to grazing land.

Additionally, many of the contributing partners have programs and services available to private landowners as part of the Meadowlark Initiative as well.

How to Apply

Applications for RCPP may be obtained and filed with NRCS at any USDA Service Center.

Additionally, many of the conservation partners have programs and services available to private landowners as part of the Meadowlark Initiative as well.

Please visit your local USDA Service Center or one of the conservation partners listed at <https://gf.nd.gov/meadowlark-initiative> to learn more about additional conservation opportunities.



USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.



MEADOWLARK INITIATIVE

North Dakota Game and Fish Department
US Fish and Wildlife Service
Audubon Dakota
North Dakota Natural Resource Trust
Delta Waterfowl
Ducks Unlimited
Pheasants Forever
The Nature Conservancy
Mule Deer Foundation
World Wildlife Fund
Northern Great Plains Joint Venture
Ecological Insights
Millborn Seeds
North Dakota Grazing Lands Coalition

Natural
Resources
Conservation
Service

nrcs.usda.gov/



SOUTHWEST GRAZING LANDS IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

(SWGLIP) PHASE II

PROJECT OBJECTIVE

The objective of SWGLIP Phase II is the overall health and vigor of grasslands, soil health, water quality and wildlife habitat by working with ranchers interested in increasing the overall sustainability of their operation.

This project aims to work with livestock producers to assist with the installation of grazing systems to promote rotational grazing that encompasses short periods of exposure followed by long periods of rest, aiding in the regeneration of those landscapes.

AVAILABLE PRACTICES

This project will be accomplished by assisting with the installation of grazing systems on private lands.

Grazing system development may include:

- Fence
- Pipelines
- Watering Facility (includes water source, pumps, and tanks)
- Grazing plans

Practices are cost shared at 60% of USDA NRCS practice costs.

WHERE IS THE SWGLIP AVAILABLE?

The project area encompasses Adams, Billings, Bowman, Dunn, Golden Valley, Grant, Hettinger, McKenzie, Mercer, Morton, Oliver, Slope, Sioux and Stark Counties.



CONTACT INFORMATION

Rachel Bush
Pheasants Forever
PO Box 7403
Bismarck, ND 58507
rbush@pheasantsforever.org
701- 799-0766



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program



The North Dakota Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program works to efficiently achieve voluntary habitat restoration on private lands, through financial and technical assistance, for the benefit of Federal Trust Species. The Program serves as a bridge to owners and managers of private lands to develop partnerships to restore important wildlife habitat and for the enjoyment of the American people. Our approach is simple: **Engage**

willing partners, through non-regulatory incentives, to conserve and protect fish and wildlife values on their property.

Since 2007, the Program has been operating in accordance with the Partners Program National Strategic Plan. The Plan guides the Program towards (1) clearly defined national and regional habitat goals, (2) improved accountability for federal dollars expended in support of the Program and its goals, (3) enhanced communication to achieve greater responsiveness to local plans and conservation priorities, and (4) an expanded commitment to serving additional partners.

The program's voluntary, incentive-based approach to restoring habitat on private lands in North Dakota has led to more than 4,000 landowner agreements. Most of North Dakota is privately owned and requires cooperation to achieve landscape-scale conservation. The ND PFW program is widely known for working with private landowners and conservation partners to identify common sense conservation solutions to complex ecological problems. In general, ND PFW program provides financial and/or technical assistance on the following 4 primary conservation practices:

- Grass Restoration;
- Grazing Systems (i.e. fencing, water developments, grazing plans, etc.);
- Wetland Restoration;
- Wetland Establishment (i.e., small stock dams)

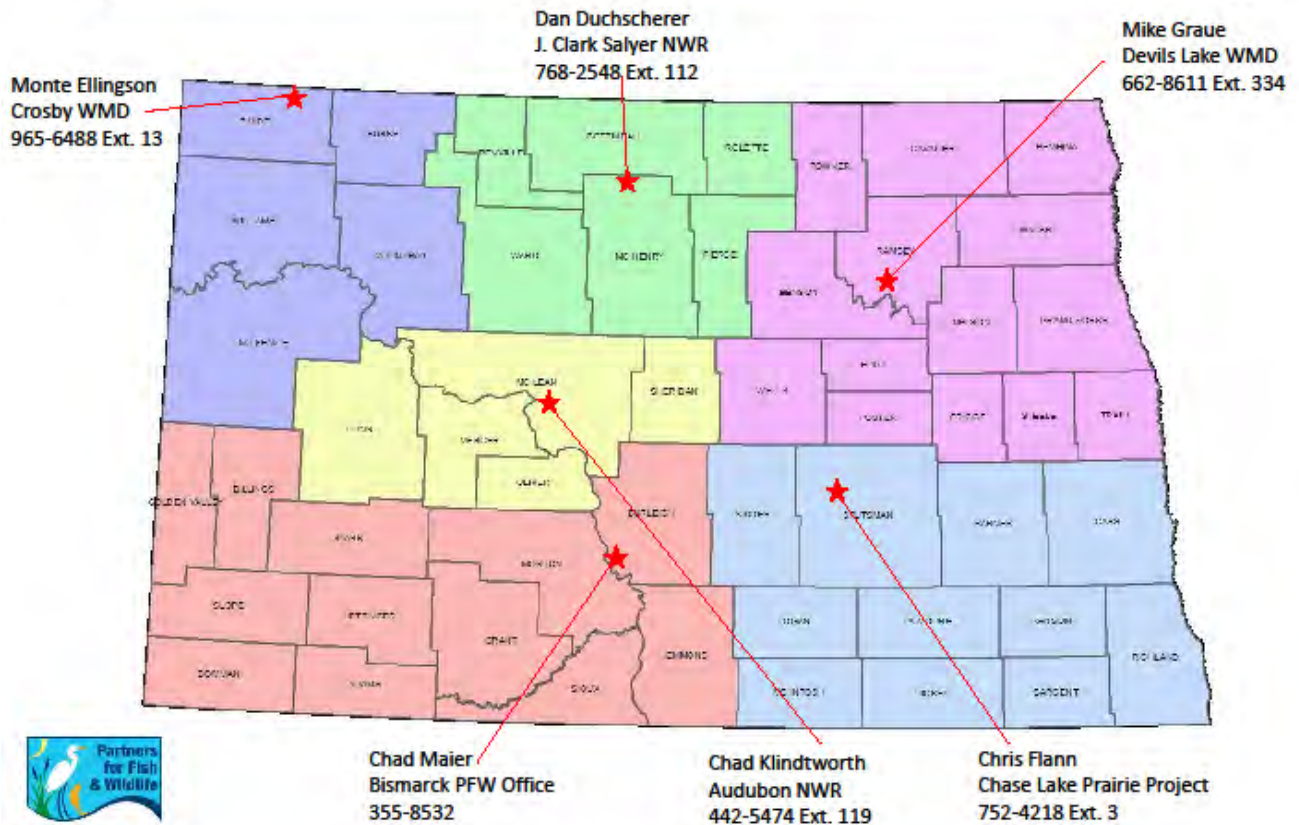
The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's mission is working with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people.



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program

NORTH DAKOTA PARTNERS FOR FISH AND WILDLIFE



Contact:

Scott McLeod
 North Dakota Coordinator
 Partners for Fish and Wildlife
 3425 Miriam Avenue
 Bismarck, ND 58501
 701-355-8526 (office)
 701-390-4696 (cell)
 scott_mcleod@fws.gov

