

# Fourth Annual Natural Legacy Conference

*Conserving Nebraska's flora, fauna, and habitats*



**Gering Civic Center, NE**

**October 8–9, 2014**

- 8:00 AM** Check-in and Continental Breakfast
- 8:30** Welcome  
Meet the Coordinating Wildlife Biologists  
*Kristal Stoner, NE Game & Parks Commission*
- 8:45** Conserving Wildlife and Natural Resources in the North  
Platte River Basin  
*Hod Kosman, Platte River Basin Environments*
- 9:10** Keynote  
Taking Action for the Natural Environments of Nebraska  
*Mark Brohman, Nebraska Environmental Trust*
- 9:55** **BREAK**

## **Morning Session A**

*Moderator: Rebekah Jessen*

## **Morning Session B**

*Moderator: Rachel Valenziano*

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| <p><b>10:20 AM</b> Nebraska Ducks Unlimited Conservation Update<br/><i>John Denton, Ducks Unlimited</i></p>                    | <p><b>10:20 AM</b> Pines, Buttes, and Community-based Conservation Initiatives<br/><i>Dave Sands, Nebraska Land Trust</i></p>                                       |
| <p><b>10:40</b> Rehabilitation of Deer Creek<br/><i>TBA, NE Game &amp; Parks Comm.</i></p>                                     | <p><b>10:40</b> Save the Habitat, Save the Hunt<br/><i>Jared McJunkin, National Wild Turkey Federation</i></p>  |
| <p><b>11:00</b> Platte River Recovery Implementation Program Reaches Milestones<br/><i>Bruce Sackett, Headwaters Corp.</i></p> | <p><b>11:00</b> Setting Conservation Priorities: Biologically Unique Landscape Planning in the Pine Ridge<br/><i>Melissa Panella, NE Game &amp; Parks Comm.</i></p> |
| <p><b>11:20</b> Results of Boater Surveys About Zebra Mussels,<br/><i>Allison Zach, Nebraska Invasive Species Program</i></p>  | <p><b>11:20</b> An Introduction to Landscape Design<br/><i>Alex Daniels, Playa Lakes Joint Venture</i></p>  |

## Morning Session A (continued)

Moderator: Rebekah Jessen

**11:40 AM** Improving Piping Plover Protection at Lake McConaughy by Evaluating Recreationists' Awareness and Attitudes  
*\*Joel Jorgensen (NE Game & Parks Comm.) and Mary Bomberger Brown (Univ. of Neb.–Lincoln)*

**12:00 PM** Monitoring Protocol for Volunteers  
*Kent Skaggs, Audubon Nebraska*

**12:30** LUNCH is served.

### 1:45 PM Workshop 1

HOW TO DEVELOP YOUR QUALITY GRASSLAND CHECKLIST  
*Chris Helzer, The Nature Conservancy*

### Workshop 2

BUILDING CONSERVATION SCENARIOS IN THE PINE RIDGE  
*Daniel Uden (Univ. of Neb.–Lincoln) and Kristal Stoner (NE Game & Parks Comm.)*

### Option 3

MEETING SPACE AVAILABLE FOR YOU!

Feel free to use this time and location to meet with others during the conference to discuss issues and make plans.

## Afternoon Session A

Moderator: Marian Langan

**3:00 PM** Telemetry of Golden Eagles  
*Brian Smith, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service*

**3:20** Breeding Time in a Migratory Songbird is Predicted by Drought Severity and Group Size  
*\*Mary Bomberger Brown (Univ. of Neb.–Lincoln) and Charles R. Brown (Univ. of Tulsa)*

### 3:40 BREAK (Afternoon Snack)

**4:10** The acoustic characteristics of Greater Prairie-Chicken vocalizations  
*\*Cara Whalen (UNL), Mary Bomberger Brown (UNL), JoAnn McGee (Boys Town National Research Hospital), Larkin Powell (UNL), Jennifer Smith (UNL), and Edward J. Walsh (Boys Town National Research Hospital)*

## Morning Session B (continued)

Moderator: Rachel Valenziano

**11:40 AM** UNL Climate Change Assessment  
*Don Wilhite, Univ. of Neb.–Lincoln*

**12:00 PM** Climate Change Adaptation Strategies: Helping Biodiversity Cope  
*Rick Schneider, NE Game & Parks Comm.*

## Afternoon Session B

Moderator: Eric Zach

**3:00 PM** Swift Fox in Nebraska  
*Lucia Corral, Univ. of Neb.–Lincoln*

**3:20** Improving Habitat, Save the Pollinators  
*Amber Schiltz and Kelsey Drey, Pheasants Forever*

**4:10** Functional Connectivity of Remnant Prairie Fragments for Wild Bees  
*\*Bethany Teeters (Univ. of Neb.–Lincoln), Craig Allen (NE Coop. Fish & Wildlife Research Unit), and Chris Helzer (The Nature Conservancy)*

**Afternoon Session A** (continued)

*Moderator: Marian Langan*

- 4:30** Examining Private Landowner Perceptions and Motivations for Protecting Mountain Plover Nests on Croplands  
*Angela Dwyer, Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory*

**Afternoon Session B** (continued)

*Moderator: Eric Zach*

- 4:30** Outdoor Exploration: Raising Tomorrow's Biologists  
*Amanda Filipi, NE Game & Parks Comm.*

**5:00 PM Poster Session**

Honor Bar

Beer and Wine available for participants 21 or older. Place cash in the basket for your drink(s).

**6:00 PM DINNER is served.**

**Biodiversity in Pictures**

*Chris Helzer, The Nature Conservancy*

October 9, 2014

- 8:00 AM** Continental Breakfast and Check-in for New Arrivals
- 8:25** Good Morning – *Melissa Panella*
- 8:30** Gearing up for Field Tours  
*Gerry Steinauer, NE Game & Parks Comm. and Emily Munter, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service*
- 8:40** Conservation in the Pine Ridge  
*Jane Darnell, U.S. Forest Service*
- 9:25** Bats of the Wildcat Hills and Pine Ridge  
*Keith Geluso, Univ. of Neb.–Kearney*
- 9:50** **BREAK**
- 10:15** Mountain Lions  
*Sam Wilson, NE Game & Parks Comm.*
- 10:40** Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep  
*Laura McHale, Univ. of Neb.–Kearney*
- 11:30** **LUNCH TO GO**  
Field Tours:  
North Platte River  
Wildcat Hills

\* Presenting author is indicated with an asterisk.

