

2:35 - 3:10

Temporospatial Shifts in Sandhill Crane Staging in the Central Platte River Valley in Response to Climatic and Habitat Change - Mallard Room

We analyzed long-term trends in the spatial distribution and chronology of Sandhill Cranes staging on the Platte River and examine potential conservation implications.

- Andy Caven, Crane Trust

Working Lands for Wildlife – A Leveraged Approach for Beef, Birds, & Beetles in Nebraska’s Sandhills - Pintail Room

Learn what the WLFW initiative is and how partners support the initiative that provides technical and financial assistance for improving rangeland health, controlling eastern red cedars, and implementing prescribed fire in 10 counties in the eastern Sandhills.

- Ryan Lodge, Pheasants Forever

Farm Bill Update - Goose Room

A new Farm Bill has passed but what’s in it? Are there more dollars for wetland conservation? Will we have more CRP on the landscape? We’ll discuss that and more.

- Eric Zach, NGPC

3:15 - 3:50

Considering Social and Ecological Factors in Assessing Playa Wetland Vulnerability - Mallard Room

Playa wetlands provide crucial habitat for migratory birds, but they face many threats, including climate change. This presentation will discuss the social and ecological aspects of climate change and their impacts on playas.

- Rachel Owen, University of Missouri

Platte River Recovery Implementation Program - Pintail Room

Two public agencies (PRRIP and NGPC) have used a private corporation to meet land acquisition goals for endangered species while increasing public recreation access opportunities.

- Bruce Sackett, Platte River Recovery Implementation Program and Justin Haahr, NGPC

Migratory Bird State Acres for Wildlife - Goose Room

The Migratory Bird SAFE is an option available in the Conservation Reserve Program. Eligibility criteria, restoration practices, and results for the last two sign-ups will be highlighted.

- Cody Strong, NGPC

Thank you for attending!

The Rainwater Basin Joint Venture thanks its funding partner for helping make this seminar possible . . .



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The Rainwater Basin Joint Venture thanks the Grand Island Convention and Visitors Bureau for its assistance.



GRAND ISLAND NEBRASKA

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RAINWATER BASIN JOINT VENTURE

24TH ANNUAL
INFORMATIONAL SEMINAR

FEBRUARY 7, 2019

RAMADA MIDTOWN

2503 SOUTH LOCUST STREET

GRAND ISLAND, NEBRASKA

Welcome!



JOINT VENTURE

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8:30 - 9:30 Registration

9:30 - 9:45 Welcome - Andy Bishop, Rainwater Basin Joint Venture Coordinator

Plenary Session: _____

9:45 - 10:30 Integrating Social Information into Joint Venture Goals and Planning

The 2012 North American Waterfowl Management Plan revision included a “people” goal. New information has and will continue to allow Joint Ventures to begin to achieve both sociological and biological goals.

- Mark Vrtiska, Waterfowl Program Manager
Nebraska Game & Parks Commission

10:30 - 10:45 Break

Concurrent Sessions:

10:45 - 11:20 _____

Beef Cattle Grazing Management in Rainwater Basin Wetlands - Mallard Room

In addition to being financially beneficial, cattle grazing in RWB wetlands is often done to achieve specific ecological objectives. We discuss how forage availability, grazing intensity, and the timing of seed production affect the success of these grazing efforts.

- Heidi Hillhouse, UNL

USFWS Rainwater Basin Wetland Management District Habitat Management Plan - Pintail Room

The RWB WMD plan will prioritize management of Waterfowl Production Areas through 2024. This presentation will highlight the planning process, goals, and strategies.

- Jeff Drahota, USFWS

Sandhills Conservation Projects - Goose Room

We will highlight how prescribed fire, lake renovations, cedar removal, and other practices improve wildlife habitat in the Sandhills.

- Chad Christiansen, USFWS, Bill Vodehnal, NGPC, and Ashley Garrelts, Sandhills Task Force

11:25 - 12:00 _____

Characterization of Wetland Condition and Ecological Impacts of Invasive Common Carp in Nebraska Sandhills - Mallard Room

Biological surveys were conducted on ephemeral and permanent Sandhills wetlands in 2018 to characterize ephemeral wetland condition and assess the ecological impacts of common carp in wetlands.

- Jen Grauer, NGPC and Bill Mausbach, Oklahoma State University

An Update on the Berggren Pheasant Plan - Pintail Room

Learn about the NGPC’s five-year initiative aimed at improving pheasant hunting in Nebraska.

- John Laux, NGPC

Atlanta Waterfowl Production Area Restoration - Goose Room

The Atlanta WPA provides important waterfowl and Whooping Crane habitat when flooded. This presentation will highlight wetland and watershed restoration actions completed since 2014 to maximize ponding frequency.

- Laurel Badura, USFWS

12:00 - 1:15 Lunch & Awards Presentation

1:15 - 1:50 _____

Rainwater Basin and Playa Soils - Mallard Room

Reviewing factors of soils formation, characterizing soil sedimentation, and how to best assess sedimentation and historical foot prints of the Rainwater Basins.

- Neil Dominy, USDA-NRCS

What’s New With the Nebraska Natural Legacy Project - Pintail Room

Updates on current NNLP initiatives, an online tool (CERT) to aid conservation planning, and the status of new legislation that would provide significant funding for conservation (Recovering America’s Wildlife Act).

- Rick Schneider, NGPC

Land Trades: A Win-win for Producers and Wetland Conservation - Goose Room

Learn how trading priority wetlands for high-quality agricultural lands on an appraised value-for-value basis help ag land to stay in production while conserving wetland habitats in the Rainwater Basin.

- John Denton, Ducks Unlimited

1:55 - 2:30 _____

Sustainability of Grassland Conservation in Working Landscapes - Mallard Room

We assess the sustainability of large-scale grassland conservation within Nebraska’s priority conservation landscapes and report on whether current conservation investments are sustaining ecoregion-scale grassland resources or only conserving local parcels within a changing landscape.

- Dillon Fogarty and Dirac Twidwell, UNL

The New and Improved Closed Upland Depression ESD - Pintail Room

This talk will define ecological sites, review the components of the Closed Upland Depression (CUD) Ecological Site Description (ESD), and provide information as to how they can be helpful to you.

- Nadine Bishop, USDA-NRCS

The Open Fields and Waters Program - Goose Room

Learn more about this program and what NGPC is doing to increase public access opportunities for hunting, fishing, and trapping.

- Josiah Dallmann, NGPC