



Prairie Bee balm

DES MOINES, IA • AUGUST 27-29, 2024

# MIDWEST GRASSLANDS



# SUMMIT



# SUMMIT ORGANIZERS:



***THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!***





# WELCOME NOTE

We're excited you are here at the Midwest Grassland Summit! Our hope is that we can spend some time this week better understanding one another, asking important questions, and connecting our interests in ways that create, restore, enhance and connect grasslands across the Midwest. We all understand the importance of grasslands for water quality, soil health, biodiversity, and livelihoods. Grasslands affect all our communities, and it will take all of us working together to ensure a future of healthy, connected grasslands across the Midwest.

Our invitation to you this week and beyond is to think creatively, question the current approaches, and challenge the status quo. Let's seek a common purpose and explore innovative ways to collaborate, turning obstacles into opportunities and challenges into learning. Together, we can redefine grassland conservation and create impactful strategies and partnerships that benefit our landscape.

Let's kick off the conversation on how we can leave the Midwest in better shape for the next generation—with cleaner water, thriving fish and wildlife, productive agriculture, and expansive, vibrant grasslands.

Thank you for dedicating your time and energy to this Summit. This is just the beginning, and we're excited to work with you to co-develop our vision for the next model of grassland conservation in the Midwest.

**Kelley Myers Tymeson**, *Midwest Landscape Initiative, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service*

**Doug Gorby**, *Upper Mississippi/Great Lakes Joint Venture*

**Todd Bishop**, *Iowa Department of Natural Resources*

## MIDWEST GRASSLANDS SUMMIT PLANNING TEAM:

Kelly VanBeek

Tyler Harms

Kayla Feist

Alex Wright

Kelley Myers Tymeson

Doug Gorby

Todd Bishop

Bill Moritz

Lisa Potter

Mark Norton

Leon Hinz

Sam Adams

Brent Rudolph

Jim Giocomo



## AGENDA

### Midwest Grassland Summit

Tuesday, August 27–Thursday, August 29, 2024

8:00 am–4:30 pm Central Time

Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden

909 Robert D. Ray Drive

Des Moines, IA

### SUMMIT GOALS:

- Shape a unified vision for native and surrogate tallgrass habitats across the Midwest that focuses on collective impact of all partners and organizations.
- Build an active coalition of people invested in increasing grasslands on the landscape.
- Identify collaborative actions (policy, funding, management, etc.) to pursue as next steps moving forward to realize the vision of this effort.

### MOBILE POLLING:

- Throughout the summit we will use mobile polling via the application Mentimeter to capture participant feedback.
- Please use the QR code here to access mobile polling opportunities during the summit, or navigate to this address:  
<https://www.menti.com/alvoh33qj4ea>
- The initial access code for the summit event is: **1449 4555**



Monarch nectaring

Specific time allocations may change based on discussion dynamics and evolving user group needs.

## DAY ONE: TUESDAY, AUGUST 27

Time	Agenda Item	Presenters
08:00am – 09:00am	<i>Registration &amp; Breakfast</i>	
09:00am – 09:15am	<b>Welcome, Agenda Review, Ground Rules</b>	Jason Gershowitz, Kearns & West
09:15am – 09:30am	<b>Opening Remarks</b>	Pete Hildreth, <i>Iowa DNR</i> Will Meeks, <i>USFWS</i>
09:30am – 10:00am	<b>Day 1 Kickoff Plenary</b>	Nathan Anderson, <i>Bobolink Prairie Farms</i>
10:00am - 10:30am	<i>Break</i>	
10:30am – 11:30am	<b>Initial Interests Identification Exercise</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Polling Activity</li> <li>• Small Group Discussion</li> </ul>	Jason Gershowitz, Kearns & West Summit Participants
11:30am – 12:30pm	<i>Lunch Break: Sponsored by ConocoPhillips, Ducks Unlimited, Pheasants Forever, and National Audubon Society</i>	
12:30pm – 01:00pm	<b>Panel Discussion 1: Tribal Nations Perspectives</b>	Gabriel Miller, <i>Prairie Island Indian Community</i> Shaun Grassel, <i>Buffalo Nations Grasslands Alliance</i>
01:00pm – 01:30pm	<b>Panel Discussion 2: Private Landowner Perspectives</b>	Grace Yi, <i>Practical Farmers of Iowa</i> Dave Haubein, <i>Partnerscapes</i> Jim Faulstich, <i>Landowners</i>
01:30pm – 02:00pm	<b>Panel Discussion 3: State and Federal Agencies Perspectives</b>	Todd Bishop, <i>Iowa Department of Natural Resources</i> Sergio Pierluissi, <i>US Fish &amp; Wildlife Service</i> Jeff Matthias, <i>Natural Resources Conservation Service</i>
02:00pm – 02:30pm	<b>Panel Discussion 4: Non-Governmental Organizations Perspectives</b>	Brent Rudolph, <i>Pheasants Forever</i> Ellen Herbert, <i>Ducks Unlimited</i> Christopher Wilson, <i>National Audubon Society</i>
02:30pm – 03:00pm	<i>Break</i>	
03:00pm – 04:15pm	<b>Initial Interests Identification Exercise &amp; Facilitated Discussion</b>	Jason Gershowitz, Kearns & West Summit Participants

## DAY ONE: TUESDAY, AUGUST 27 (CONT.)

04:15pm – 04:30pm	<b>Closing Reflections</b>	Jason Gershowitz, <i>Kearns &amp; West</i>
04:30pm	<i>Adjourn</i>	
05:30pm – 08:30 pm	<b>Grasslands Summit Social – Dinner and drinks provided.</b> Sponsored by ConocoPhillips, Ducks Unlimited, Pheasants Forever, and National Audubon Society Iowa Taproom: 215 E 3rd St Ste 100, Des Moines, IA 50309	

## DAY TWO: WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 28

Time	Agenda Item	Presenters
08:00am – 09:00am	<i>Breakfast</i>	
09:00am – 09:15am	<b>Welcome, Agenda Review, Ground Rules Opening Remarks</b>	Jason Gershowitz, <i>Kearns &amp; West</i>
9:15am-9:45am	<b>Day 2 Kickoff Plenary</b>	Abigail Derby Lewis, <i>Field Museum</i>
09:45am – 10:00am	<b>Introduction to the Day 2 Breakout Group Sessions</b>	Jason Gershowitz, <i>Kearns &amp; West</i>
10:00am – 10:30am	<i>Break</i>	
10:30am – 11:30am	<b>Community Breakouts:</b> What is your community doing? What is it achieving? What gaps or challenges are ahead?	Summit Participants
11:30am – 12:30pm	<i>Lunch Break:</i> Sponsored by ConocoPhillips, Ducks Unlimited, Pheasants Forever, and National Audubon Society	
12:30pm – 01:30pm	<b>Community Breakouts Continued:</b> Preparing to Report Out	Jason Gershowitz, <i>Kearns &amp; West</i>
01:30pm – 02:45pm	<b>Plenary Discussion</b> Breakout Reports & Facilitated Discussion	Jason Gershowitz, <i>Kearns &amp; West</i> Representatives from Breakout Tracks
02:45pm – 03:00pm	<i>Break</i>	
03:00pm – 03:30pm	<b>Plenary Discussion</b> Identifying Cross-cutting Themes	Jason Gershowitz, <i>Kearns &amp; West</i>
03:30pm – 04:30pm	<b>Grasslands Visioning:</b> Collective Mural Drawing	Summit Participants
04:30pm	<i>Adjourn</i>	

## DAY THREE: THURSDAY, AUGUST 29

Time	Agenda Item	Presenters
08:00am – 09:00am	<i>Breakfast</i>	
09:00am – 09:15am	<b>Welcome, Agenda Review, Ground Rules</b>	Jason Gershowitz, Kearns & West
09:15am – 09:45am	<b>Day 3 Kickoff Plenary</b>	TBD
09:45am – 10:00am	<b>Introduction to the Day 2 Breakout Group Sessions</b>	Jason Gershowitz, Kearns & West
10:00am – 10:30am	<i>Break</i>	
10:30am – 11:30am	<b>Cross-cutting Breakouts: Searching for Solutions</b>	Jason Gershowitz, Kearns & West
11:30am – 12:30pm	<i>Lunch Break:</i> Sponsored by ConocoPhillips, Ducks Unlimited, Pheasants Forever, and National Audubon Society	
12:30pm – 2:30pm	<b>Cross-cutting Breakouts Continued:</b> Workshopping Solutions	Jason Gershowitz, Kearns & West Representatives from Breakout Tracks
02:30pm – 03:00pm	<i>Break</i>	
03:00pm – 04:15pm	<b>Plenary Discussion</b> Cross-cutting Breakout Reports & Facilitated Discussion	Jason Gershowitz, Kearns & West Randall D. Jackson, <i>University of Wisconsin-Madison</i> Representatives from Breakout Tracks
04:15pm – 04:30pm	<b>Closing Statements and Thank You</b>	Summit Planning Team
04:30pm	<i>Adjourn</i>	

Grazing cattle





Grassland sunset

