

CENTRAL GRASSLANDS ROADMAP



<https://grasslandsroadmap.org>



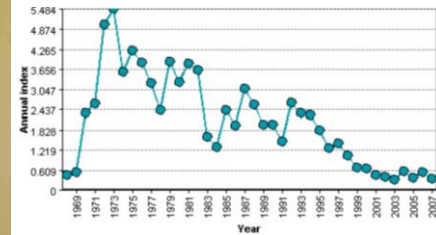
Context: Great Plains



Chestnut-collared Longspur (Vulnerable)



Context:
Great
Plains
endemism



Excessive ← Heavy — Moderate — Light → None



Mountain Plover

McCown's Longspur

Ferruginous Hawk

Long-billed Curlew

Lark Bunting

Chestnut-collared Longspur

Sprague's Pipit

Baird's Sparrow

Cassin's Sparrow

prairie plants & animals respond to grazing, wallowing (+fire, + drought, +)



Bare ← Short — Mixed — Mixed/Shrub →

Context:
Great Plains:
Ecological
“disturbance”






© PD-US - Julius Bien (1826-1909) biography

Context: Great Plains

THE
LOCUST PLAGUE
IN THE
UNITED STATES:
BEING MORE PARTICULARLY A TREATISE ON THE
Rocky Mountain Locust
OR SO-CALLED
GRASSHOPPER,
AS IT OCCURS EAST OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAINS,
WITH
Practical Recommendations for its Destruction.
BY
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STATE ENTOMOLOGIST OF MISSOURI; CHIEF OF THE U. S. ENTOMOLOGICAL COMMISSION;
LECTURER ON ENTOMOLOGY IN VARIOUS COLLEGES;
AUTHOR OF "POTATO PESTS," ETC.
WITH 45 ILLUSTRATIONS.
CHICAGO:
RAND, McNALLY & CO., PUBLISHERS.
1877.





Context: Great Plains

The carving up of the sea of grass into tiny parcels has profound implications for all life.

Rate of loss **continues** today

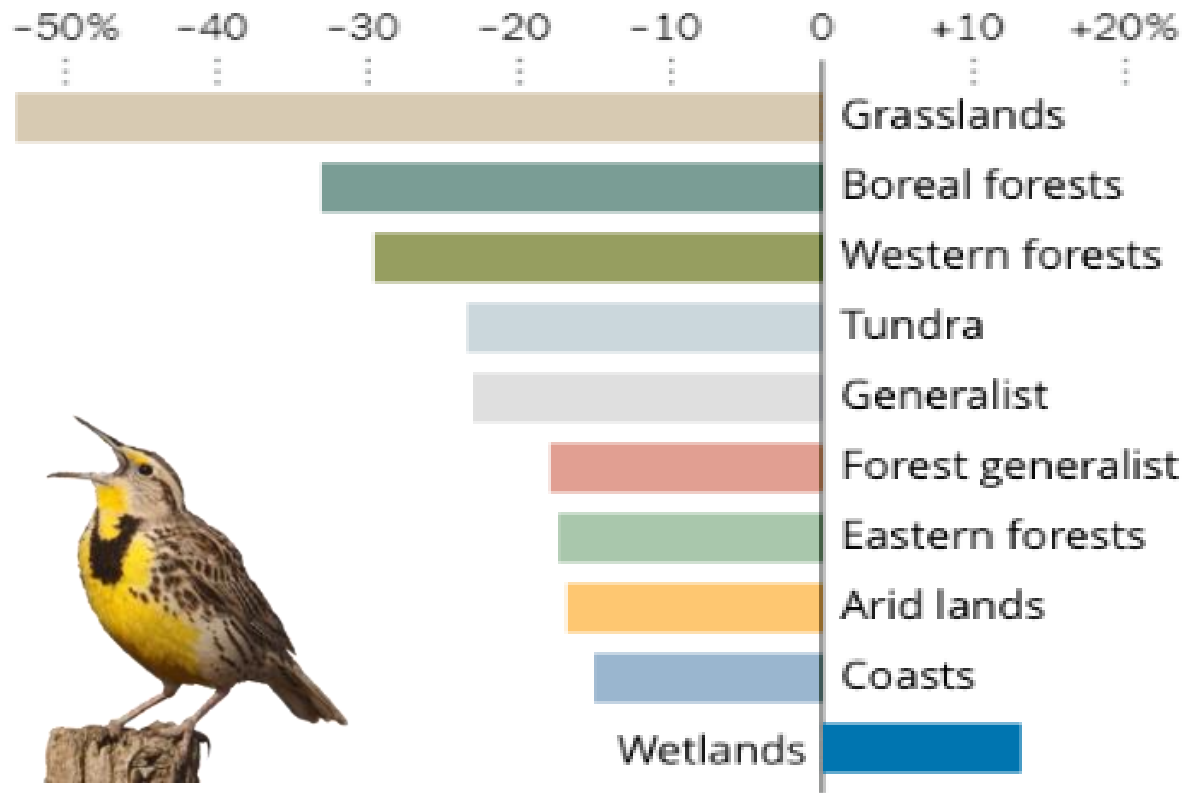
Ecosystem loss:

- Tall-grass prairie >99% lost
- Mixed-grass ~75 - 90% lost

**once converted, full function
almost irreparable!**



NORTH AMERICAN BIRD POPULATION CHANGE BY BREEDING HABITAT SINCE 1970



¼ of 3 billion birds lost = grassland birds

e.g. in Canadian law, 23% of all birds listed = grassland birds

Grassland Birds

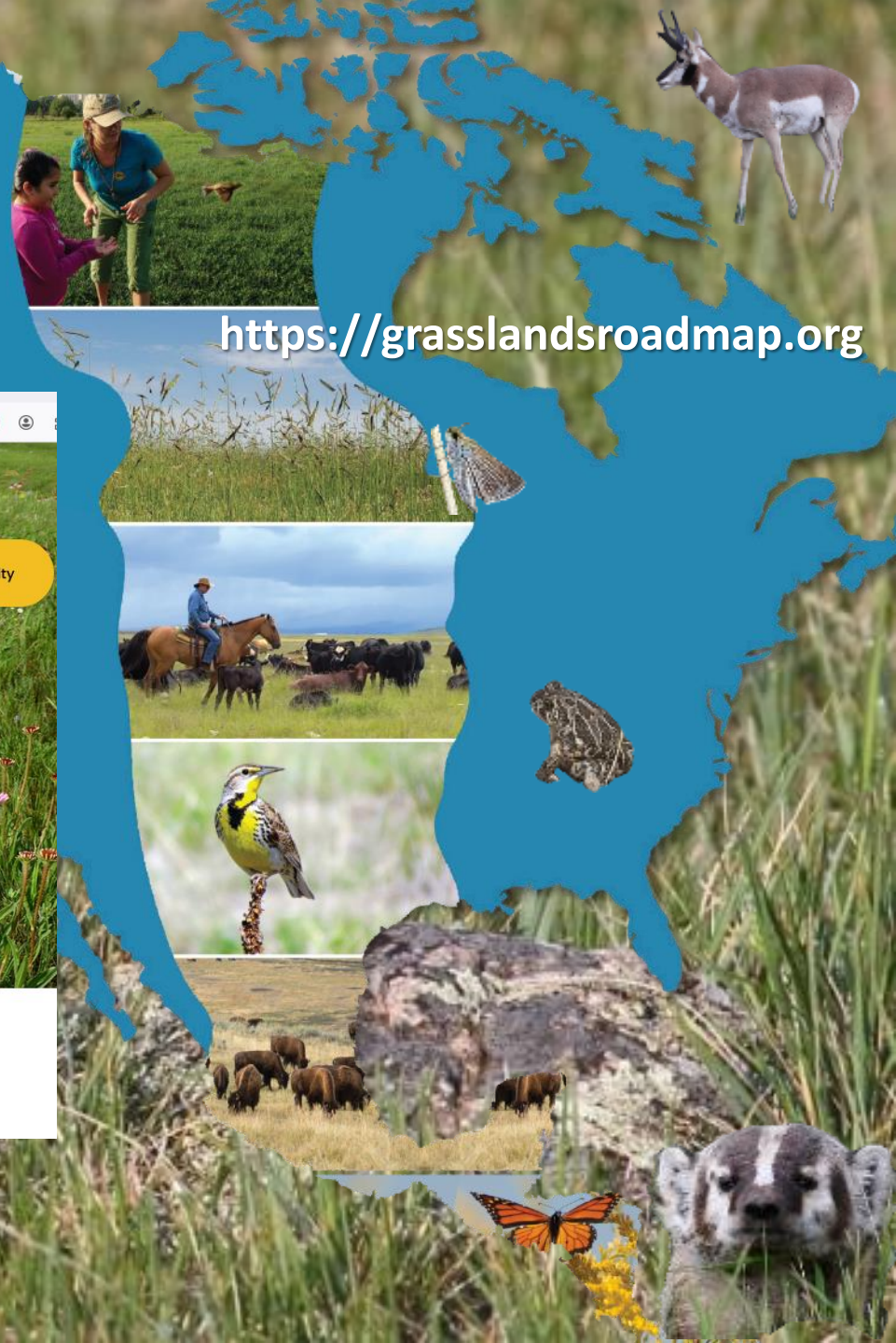
720
MILLION
GRASSLAND BIRDS
LOST SINCE 1970

-53%
POPULATION LOSS
IN GRASSLAND
BIRDS SINCE 1970

3 IN 4
EASTERN MEADOWLARKS
LOST SINCE 1970



CENTRAL GRASSLANDS ROADMAP



<https://grasslandsroadmap.org>

The screenshot shows the homepage of the Central Grasslands Roadmap website. The background is a lush green field with pink and purple wildflowers. At the top, there is a navigation menu with links: "The Roadmap", "Support", "Gatherings", "ToolKits", "Calendar", "Contact", and "Accessibility". The main heading reads "The Central Grasslands Roadmap" with the tagline "Guiding us toward resilient & sustainable grasslands & human communities". At the bottom left, there is a "Recent Updates" section, and at the bottom right, there is a "Site Search" box with a search input field.

[The Roadmap](#) [Support](#) [Gatherings](#) [ToolKits](#) [Calendar](#) [Contact](#)

[Accessibility](#)

The Central Grasslands Roadmap

Guiding us toward resilient & sustainable grasslands & human communities

Recent Updates

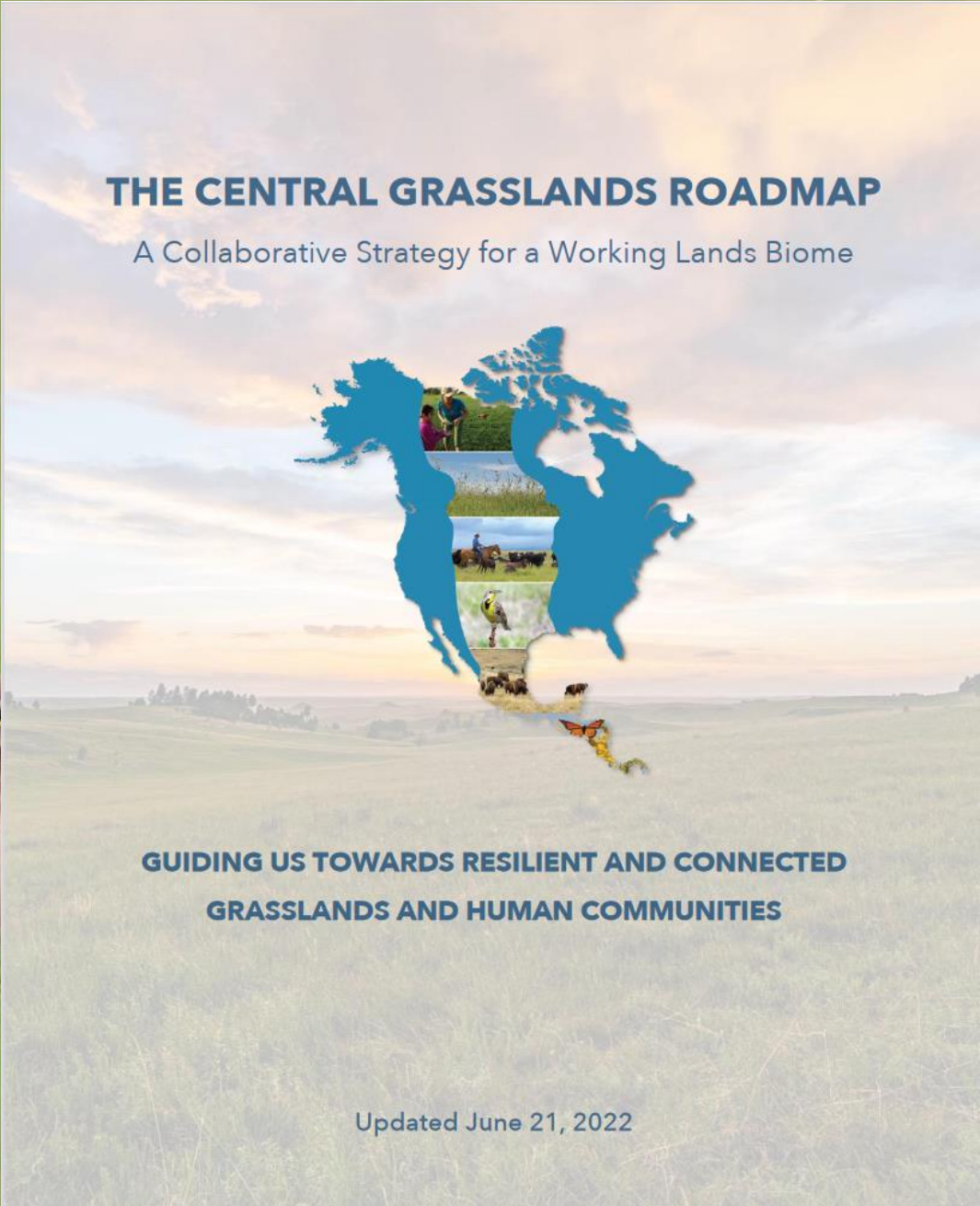
Site Search

PARTNERS

American Bird Conservancy | American Wind & Wildlife Institute | Audubon Rockies | Bird Conservancy of the Rockies
Blackfeet Nation | Canadian Wildlife Service | Colorado Parks and Wildlife | CONABIO | Conoco Phillips
Kansas State University | Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks | National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
National Wildlife Federation | Natural Resources Conservation Service | North Dakota Natural Resource Trust
NRCS South Dakota | Oaks & Prairies Joint Venture | Partners for Conservation | Government of Saskatchewan
Texas Parks and Wildlife | Tristate Energy | U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service | U.S. Forest Service International
Universidad Autonoma de Nuevo Leon | Winnett ACES | World Wildlife Fund



- 2019: ~ 1 year of planning including large gap analyses, U.S. landowner survey +++
- 2020: Virtual summit in August 2020 (350 people), formation of planning group
- 2021: information & gap analyses, e.g. land manager surveys
- 2022: In-person summit in May 2022 (60 travel awards)
Working Groups:
Communications
Policy
Metrics (soil, Water, birds, land +)
Indigenous Kinship Circle
Mexico
Canada
*Social science
- 2023: >600 people involved to date
Resource tab on website, many products
Story map in progress
- 2024: ***New coordinator begins in February***



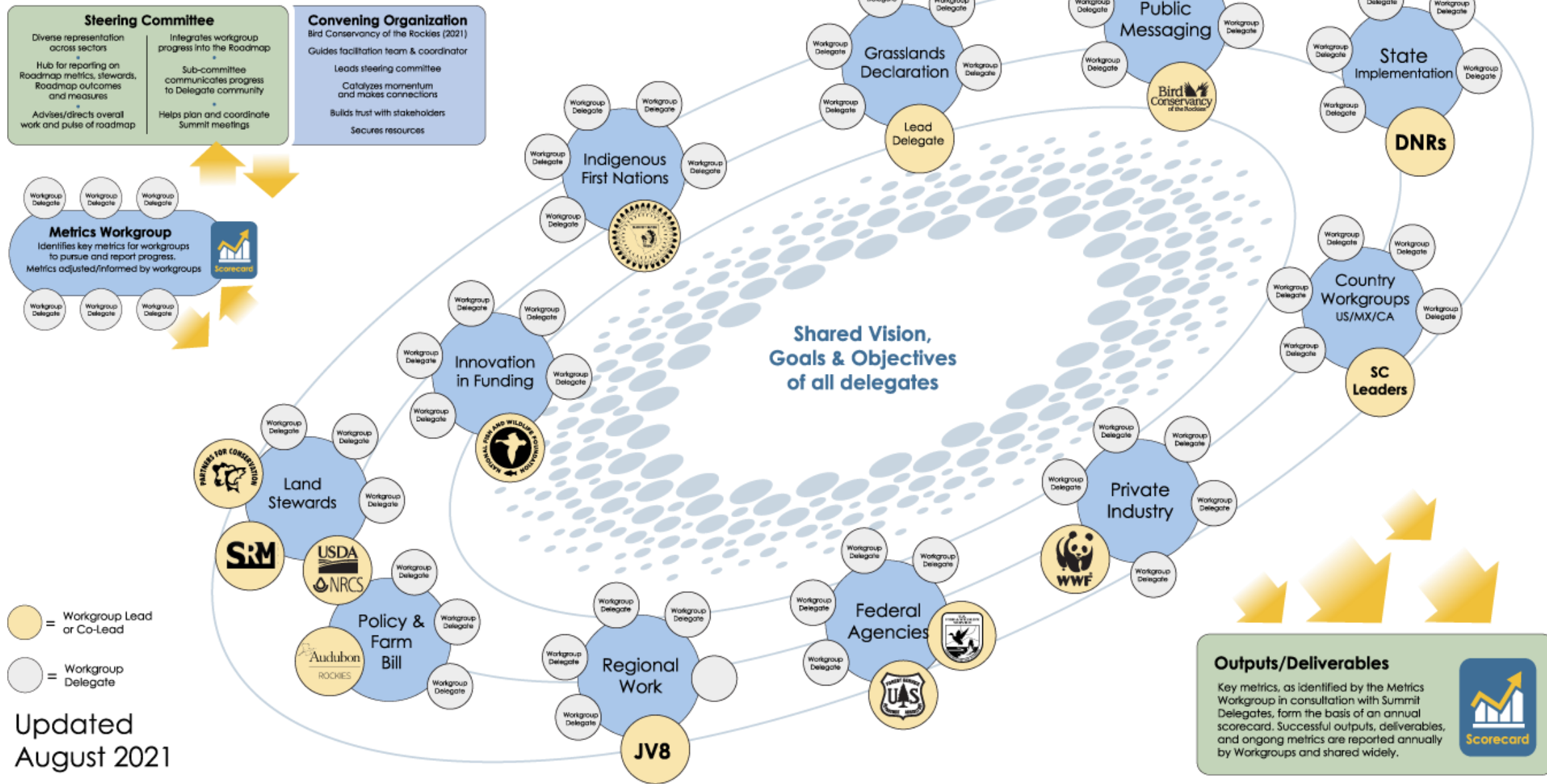
THE CENTRAL GRASSLANDS ROADMAP

A Collaborative Strategy for a Working Lands Biome

**GUIDING US TOWARDS RESILIENT AND CONNECTED
GRASSLANDS AND HUMAN COMMUNITIES**

Updated June 21, 2022

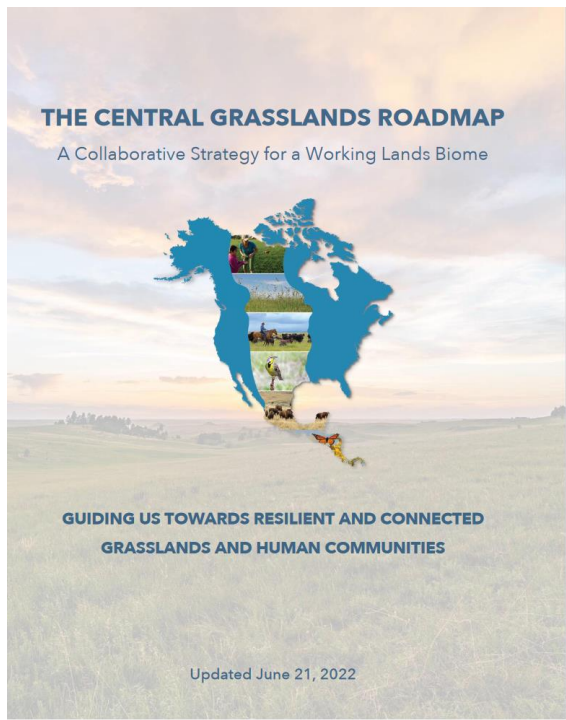
Constellation Governance Model



Long-form roadmap



Vision Goals Strategies Scorecard



The Central Grasslands Roadmap Executive Summary

The Central Grasslands span across more than 600 million acres of North America and are home to both diverse ecosystems and equally diverse human communities. As it stands, disparate efforts are not adding up, and measures of human community health and healthy grassland ecosystems across the biome continue to decline. We must think, collaborate, and act differently, and that starts with us working together. We must agree to the directions we need to go and focus on what we need to do more of, what we need to know more about, and which new strategies are the most critical to save our grasslands over the next ten years.

As a collective of stakeholders from across the Central Grasslands, eight diverse sectors and three countries have come together to identify common principles and shared priorities to address these challenges. By increasing support for coordinated conservation and fostering mutual respect for the diverse people living and working across the Central Grasslands, we can ensure resilient and connected grasslands and thriving human communities, now and for generations to come.

The Eight Roadmap Sectors

- Indigenous Communities & First Nations
- Private Land Managers, Owners, & Ranchers
- Federal Agencies
- Provincial & State Agencies
- Industry, Agriculture, & Private Sector
- Academia (Scientists, Researchers, Professors)
- Non-Governmental Organizations
- Foundations & Funders

HOW TO READ THIS DOCUMENT

The **Roadmap** is what you're reading here and describes the full scope of the cooperative process in detail. The **Roadmap Community** includes all stakeholders from the eight sectors and three countries across the biome - it identifies who is involved in the process (see Constellation Governance figure, p.21).

The primary purpose of the Roadmap is to describe what the Community wants to achieve, what actions they will take to get there, and how they will work together to do so (Figure 1). The **Vision** describes why the Roadmap Community is collaborating and the four **Principles** describe how the diverse Community should engage with one another when planning and implementing on-the-ground actions.

The seven **Scorecard Goals (the Goals)** describe what the Community will achieve, including goal-specific metrics, approaches to tracking progress, key questions, resources, and considerations. The three **Strategy Areas** each have four **Priorities**, which identify specific actions that contribute to achieving the Goals. Stakeholders in the Roadmap Community will report on their work and actions using a variety of reporting tools, which will be compiled in a bi-annual **Scorecard Report** to track overall progress and identify successes, continued gaps, and emerging needs.

Acknowledgements

PRESENTING SPONSORS



PLATINUM SPONSORS \$10,000+



GOLD SPONSORS \$5,000+



SCHOLARSHIP SPONSORS \$500-\$1,500

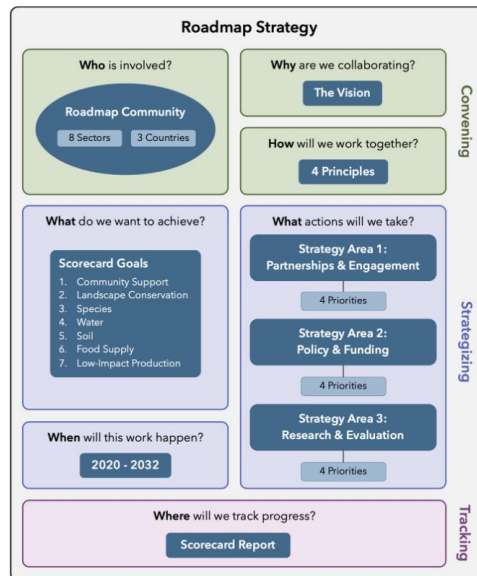


Figure 1. A visualization for how the many elements of the Roadmap fit together, and how each supports the overall goals of the Roadmap.

ROADMAP PLANNING PARTNERS

- American Bird Conservancy | American Wind & Wildlife Institute | Audubon Rockies
- Bird Conservancy of the Rockies | Oglala Sioux Representatives | Canadian Wildlife Service
- Colorado Parks and Wildlife | CONABIO | Conoco Phillips | Kansas State University
- Pronatura | National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
- National Wildlife Federation | Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Northern Great Plains Joint Venture | Partnerscapes | Government of Saskatchewan
- JV8 | Tristate Energy | U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
- U.S. Forest Service International | Universidad Autonoma de Nuevo Leon
- Winnett ACES | World Wildlife Fund

FACILITATION AND STRATEGY PARTNERS



Cover Photo: Sunset near Ekalaka, Montana

Footer photos (in order of first appearance): Bison, Montana; Cattle, Montana; Tall Grass Prairie.



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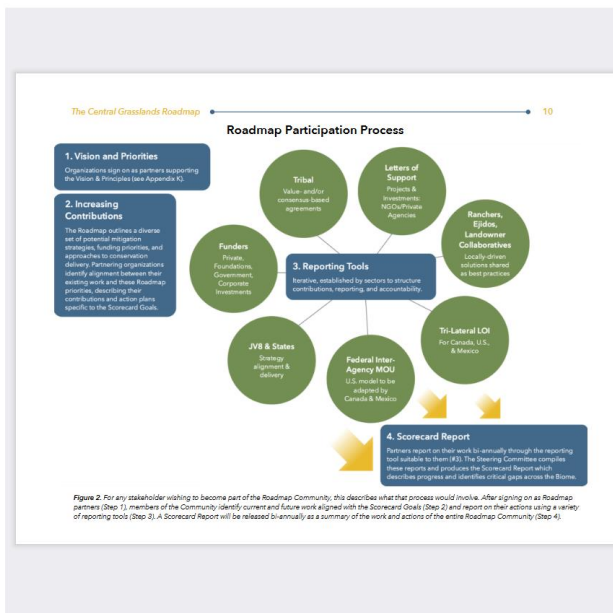


Figure 2. For any stakeholder wishing to become part of the Roadmap Community, this describes what that process would involve. After signing on as Roadmap partners (Step 1), members of the Community identify current and future work aligned with the Scorecard Goals (Step 2) and report on their actions using a variety of reporting tools (Step 3). A Scorecard Report will be released bi-annually as a summary of the work and actions of the entire Roadmap Community (Step 4).



12 priorities → 4 big buckets

- Increase support of collaborative initiatives and funding for what works
- Build legislative & policy tools → incentive-based programs & innovate with existing
- Communication strategies to garner broad support
- Address knowledge gaps and layer in diverse knowledge systems and disciplines

GRASSLANDS AND YOU

Grasslands contribute to the air you breathe, the water you drink, the food you enjoy, and the landscapes you explore. They offer natural beauty and rich cultural heritage. They help feed millions and support livelihoods and rural economies.



Outdoor Recreation

Grasslands are places to explore with stargazing, hunting, fishing, hiking, and many other recreational activities.

Food Security
Grasslands and rural agriculture communities are the backbone of North America's food supply.



Good for the Herd—and Birds

Grasslands need grasses to thrive. Sustainable cattle ranching improves grassland health, provides jobs, food, and creates habitat for wildlife.



Water for Many

Grasslands support watersheds, ponds, rivers, and streams—and recharge aquifers—ensuring clean, safe water for drinking, wildlife, agriculture and industry.

Traditional Knowledge

Indigenous peoples are finding connection by restoring traditions that provide benefits for grasslands and indigenous communities.



Super Soil

Soil holds water, improving drought resilience and plant growth. Roots, organic material, and microbes capture carbon to help fight climate change.

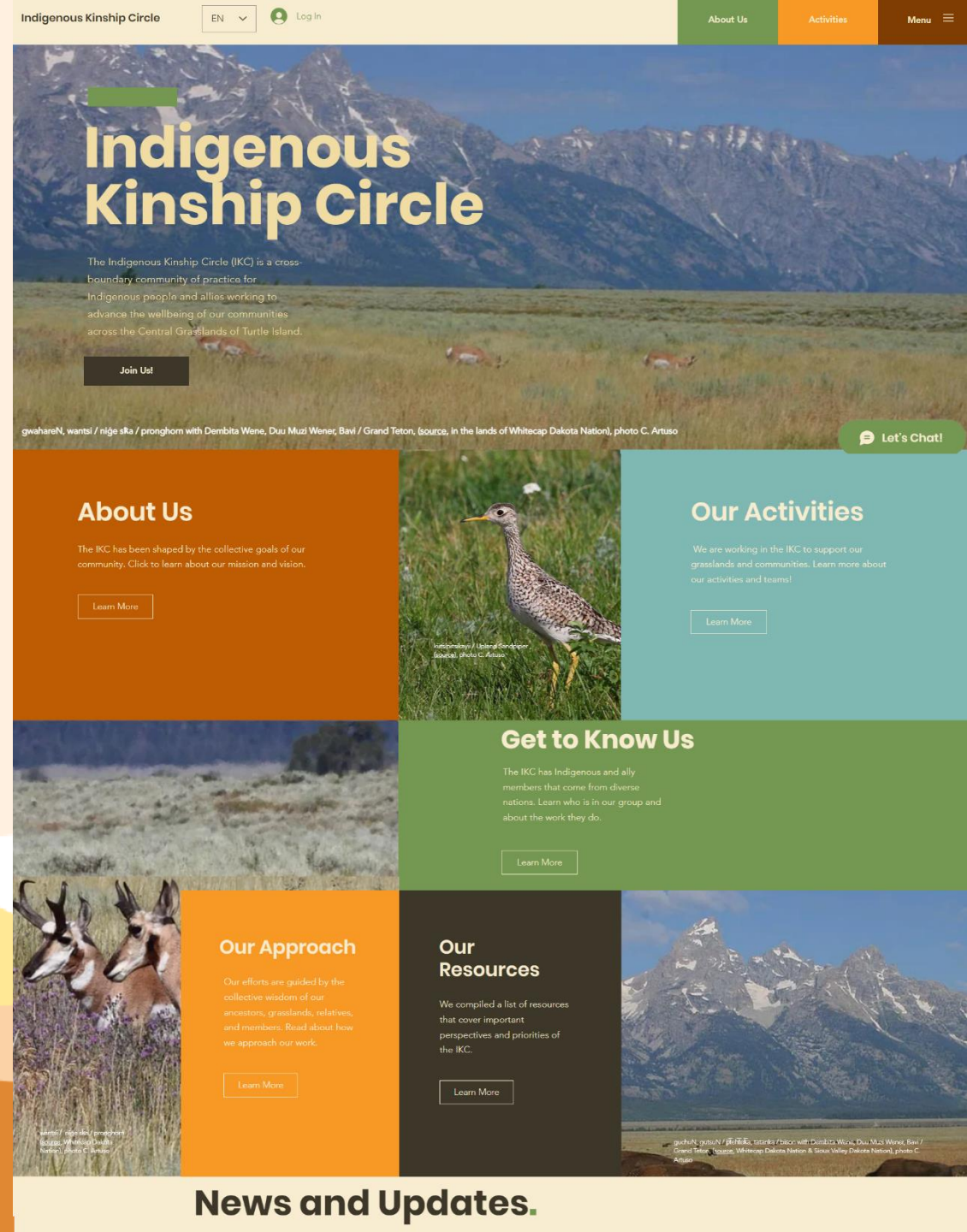
Immense Biodiversity

Hoops of birds, herds of ox and pronghorn, and butterflies and flowers are vibrant examples of the many plants and animals found on grassland.



Indigenous Kinship Circle

The Indigenous Kinship Circle is building a cross-boundary community of practice for Indigenous people and allies working to advance the wellbeing of Indigenous communities and grasslands. The community offers members a space to elevate Indigenous voices, find support, reconnect with Indigenous knowledge, share beneficial practices, collaborate on projects, and bridge with the Western environmental and conservation communities on Indigenous perspectives and needs.





Canadian Working Group

- Monthly meetings – collaborative plans
- Catalyzed great relationships & built bridges = e.g. Funding opportunities, comms, invited plenaries
- “network of networks”



Saving Grasslands

We are working with Indigenous organizations, governments, academia, non-government organizations, and the agricultural community to support grassland conservation.

www.grasslandsroadmap.org



Hoja de Ruta para la Conservación de los Pastizales Centrales de América del Norte



Reunión Grupo México
9/noviembre/2023





Questions

