



Native American Fish & Wildlife Society Great Plains Regional Conference

April 17-18, 2024
Big Horn Resort – Billings, MT

2024 Great Plains Regional Conference Agenda Wednesday, April 17, 2024

8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. **Registration & Information**
Coordinators: Jennifer Bills, Management Partners

8:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. **Exhibitors & Vendors**
Coordinator: Jeff Kelly, NAFWS Great Plains Regional Director

GENERAL SESSION

Moderator: Jeff Kelly, NAFWS Great Plains Regional Director

9:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. **Opening Ceremony**
Parade of Colors
Drum Group: TBD
Invocation: TBD
Welcoming Remarks:
*Shaun Grassel, Ph.D., CEO, Buffalo Nations Grasslands Alliance and
Great Plains Regional Director*
Jeff Kelly, NAFWS Great Plains Regional Director
Julie Thorstenson, Ph.D., NAFWS Executive Director

9:30 a.m. – 10:15
a.m. **Keynote Address - "Weathering the Storm"**
*Presenter: Marcia Pablo, Tribal Liaison for the Montana/ Dakotas Bureau
of Land Management*

10:15 a.m. – 10:30
a.m. **Legislative Updates & National Initiatives**
Presenter: Julie Thorstenson, Ph.D. Executive Director, NAFWS

10:30 a.m.- 11:00
a.m. **BREAK**
Sponsored by US Fish and Wildlife Service

11:00 a.m. -11:30
a.m. **Bureau of Indian Affairs- Regional and National Updates**
Presenter: Desi Rollefson, Bureau of Indian Affairs

11:30 a.m. - 12:00
p.m. **The National Bison Initiative**
Presenter: Thomas Mendez, Bureau of Indian Affairs

12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Business Luncheon

Coordinator: Shaun Grassel, Ph.D., NAFWS Great Plains Regional Director
Elections

Incumbent: Jeff Kelly
NAFWS National Updates

Presenter: Julie Thorstenson, Ph.D., NAFWS Executive Director

CONSERVATION LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING

1:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Conservation Law Enforcement Officers: Great Plains Regional Qualifications & Shoot Competition

Location: **Blue Creek Sports Shooting Complex and Preserve**

GENERAL SESSION

Moderator: Shaun Grassel, Ph.D., NAFWS Great Plains Regional Director

1:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Overabundance of Feral Horses

Presenter: Arthur Lawson, Shoshone and Arapaho Fish and Game

2:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Collecting and Integrating Indigenous Knowledge into the Yellowstone Bison Species Status Assessment

Presenter: Jim Boyd, US Fish and Wildlife Service

2:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

BREAK

Sponsored by USGS

3:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Rocky Boy Indian Reservation Buffalo Project

Presenter: Jason Belcourt

3:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

American Badgers Management: TEK/LEK and Western Perspectives

Presenters: Hunter Grove, Oregon State University

4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Black-footed Ferret Recovery Across Tribal Nations in the Northern Great Plains

Presenters: Megan Ahern – Crow Tribe

Tevin Messerly – Fort Belknap Indian Community

Adriann Killsnight – Northern Cheyenne Tribe

Isaac Johnson – Lower Brule Sioux Tribe

Chalmer Combellick – Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe

Waylon Little Eagle and Kiefer Demery – Standing Rock Sioux Tribe

5:00 p.m.

ADJOURN

6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Dinner and Film: *Bring Them Home* | Aiskótáhkapiyaaya

Thursday, April 18, 2024

8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Registration & Information

Coordinator: Jennifer Bills

8:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Exhibitors & Vendors

Coordinator: Jeff Kelly, NAFWS Great Plains Regional Director

GENERAL SESSION

Moderator: Ashley Mueller, M.S., NAFWS Education Coordinator

9:00 a.m.- 12:00 p.m. **Workshop: State of the Science: Chronic Wasting Disease Management**
Presenters: USGS - Daelyn Zagurski, Brian Dugovich, Nicholas Cole, Paul Cross
Presented in cooperation with the USGS Biothreats Program
- 9:00 – 10:00 Chronic Wasting Disease: Introduction and state of the science
- 10:00 – 11:00 Open Discussion of Experiences and Needs
- 11:00 – 12:00 Developing Management / Response Plans

9:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. **Montana Department of Wildlife and Parks- Working with Tribes in Montana**
Presenter: Kayn Kuta, Tribal Liaison

9:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. **US Fish and Wildlife Service Mountain/Prairie Regional Updates**
Presenter: Cassie Powell, US Fish and Wildlife Service

10:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. **The Central Grasslands Roadmap: Multi-national Collaborative Landscape Conservation**
Presenter: John Carlson, US Fish and Wildlife Service

10:30 a.m.- 11:00 a.m.

BREAK

Sponsored by South Dakota Game, Fish, and Parks

11:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. **America the Beautiful Challenge (AtBC) Grant Program**
*Presenters: Andy Edwards, NAFWS AtBC Field Liaison
Katie Schultz, NAFWS AtBC Field Liaison*

11:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. **Bighorn Sheep Project Collaboration**
Presenter: Micheal Thompson, Oglala Sioux Parks and Recreation Authority

12:00 p.m.- 1:30 p.m.

LUNCH BREAK

1:30 p.m.- 5:00 p.m. **Workshop: Hunter Safety Educator Certification**
Presenter: Sean Cross, NAFWS Fish and Wildlife Biologist

GENERAL SESSION

Moderator: Andy Edwards, AtBC Field Liaison

1:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. **Conservation Canines to Support Food Sovereignty and Environmental Justice in Amskapi Pikuni Nation of the Blackfeet Confederacy**
Presenter: Souta Calling Last, Indigenous Vision

2:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. **STEM Pathways in Tribal Program Mentorships on the Wind River Indian Reservation**
Presenter: Tarissa Spoonhunter, PhD, University of Wyoming High Plains Indian Research Institute

2:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

BREAK

Sponsored by Bird Conservancy of the Rockies

3:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. **Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate MOU with US Fish and Wildlife Service for Co-stewardship of the Waubay National Wildlife Refuge**
Presenter: Charlene Miller, Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate Fish and Wildlife

- 3:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. **Community-based Black-footed Ferret Recovery Plan on the Northern Cheyenne Reservation**
Presenter: Jason Whiteman, Northern Cheyenne Tribe Natural Resources
- 4:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. **First Nations Development Institute 2024 North Great Plains Resource Opportunities**
Presenter: Jackie Francke, First Nations Development Institute
- 4:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. **Returning Buffalo: Developing Climate Smart Strategies with Bison**
Presenter: Dawn Sherman, Tanka Fund
- 5:00 p.m. **ADJOURN**
- 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. **Banquet**
Retire the Colors
Master of Ceremony: Jeff Kelly & Shaun Grassel, PhD
Award Announcements:
Biologist of the Year
Conservation Officer of the Year Shoot Competition
Silent Auction and Raffle

Thank You to Our Sponsors:



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