

Agenda
Northern Plains Conservation Network
Biannual Meeting

Northern Plains Resource Council
220 S 27th Street
Billings, MT
October 7th with field trip October 6th, 2016

Meeting October 7th
8:30-4:30

Chair – Martha Kauffman, World Wildlife Fund
Facilitator - Dawn Montanye, Northern Plains Conservation Network (NPCN)
Notetaker – Cliff Wallis, Alberta Wilderness Association

8:30-8:45

I. Welcome, review of agenda-Martha Kauffman, Dawn Montanye

8:45-10:00

II. Introductions, Participant and Initiative Updates (successes, challenges, emerging issues/new ideas)-Dawn

10:00-10:15 **Break**

10:15-10:45

III. Continue Introductions

10:45-11:00

IV. NPCN Administration-Dawn

- Budget status and Fundraising update
- Goals update
- Status of key action items from May 2016 meeting in Rapid City, SD
- Approval Steering Committee and Chair (renewed at each Network meeting): Martha Kauffman, World Wildlife Fund (chair); Jonathan Proctor, Defenders of Wildlife; Cliff Wallis, Alberta Wilderness Association; Cheryl Mandich, American Bird Conservancy

11:00-11:30

V. Gather Input for Collaboration Needs Survey-Martha Kauffman

NPCN recently received a sub grant from the Margaret A Cargill Foundation through WWF to develop and distribute a survey in collaboration with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. The survey will identify collaboration needs and how NPCN can more effectively meet those needs. Staff from NFWF and MAC Foundation will be in attendance at the meeting to listen and provide input.

11:30-12:15

VI. Presentation: Building Drought Resilience in Montana-Ann Schwend, Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation

Montana and the National Drought Resilience Partnership (NDRP) are channeling federal and state resources to build local capacity and empower communities to develop locally-adapted

drought management plans in the Missouri Headwaters Basin. These community-led drought plans will provide the basis for a Basin plan to connect mitigation strategies across the broader landscape. This pilot project will develop a model for replication in the region.

12:15-1:00 **Lunch** – *Lunch will be served in the conference space. We are asking for a \$10 contribution to help offset costs*

1:00-1:45

VII. Presentation: Pallid Sturgeon and Threat from Dam Construction on Yellowstone River-Steve Forrest Defenders of Wildlife

Pallid sturgeon have been prevented from accessing spawning grounds due to dam development in the upper Missouri River Basin. Defenders of Wildlife and the Natural Resources Defense Council, with the support of a number of other Montana conservation organizations and the Montana fish science community, have challenged a proposal to build a new dam on the Yellowstone River. Steve Forrest will give an update on the growing collaborative effort to engage this issue, outreach to delegations, growing input from scientists and uncertainty, and next steps.

1:45-4:00

VIII. NPCN Initiatives Updates and Break Out Groups

Initiative Updates

1:45-2:00

Sage Grouse/Grassland Birds-Kevin Ellison

Bison-Dennis Jorgensen

Break Out Sessions

2:00-3:30

Sage Grouse/Grassland Birds-Kevin Ellison

Bison-Dennis Jorgensen

Riparian Management

Other-We will convene a break out group on any issue that people would like to discuss

We will break into groups that identify strategies and actions going forward (what NPCN is going to do that will make a difference and where NPCN is uniquely positioned to take action). This session provides the opportunity to explore questions and brainstorm ideas in small groups. Discussion in these break-out sessions have led to some innovative on the ground activities. We'll hear about one such partnership and program in the morning introduction round.

Report Out in Plenary

3:30-4:00

4:00-4:25

IX. Video: Keeping all the Pieces-Jan Swenson

North Dakota Wildlife Federation and Badlands Conservation Alliance have put together a short film that explores oil and gas impacts on North Dakota's western public lands, including Theodore Roosevelt National Park and the one-million-acre Little Missouri National Grassland — and what that may mean to North Dakotans

4:25-4:30

X. Set date for next meeting/Adjourn

Field Trip October 6th

8:30-4:30

The group will travel North of Billings about an hour and a half to tour two sites on the Musselshell River. We'll be joined by Leon Hammond, Deadmans Basin project manager, Laura Nowlin, coordinator for the Musselshell Watershed Coalition and Mike Ruggles fisheries biologist with Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP).

The group will first tour of the recently completed Deadmans Basin Dam Rehabilitation Project with fish passage. We'll also hear about the positive impact cooperation and collaboration of various user groups for the Musselshell, have had on this nearly 200 mile river between Shawmut and Mosby Montana.

The group will stop for lunch at Deadmans Reservoir Fishing Access Site before heading to our second tour site. Downstream from the Deadmans Diversion, the group will visit a dam removal project by FWP and a local landowner. Removal of the Egge Diversion Dam will restore natural flow patterns and bank lines of the Musselshell River while maintaining fish passage.

Transportation will be provided. There will be an opportunity to purchase lunch on our way out of Billings.