

THE STEWARDSHIP SERIES

# BC Grasslands Stewardship Guide

A guide for  
ranchers and  
recreation  
users



## About this guide

This guide to BC grasslands stewardship was prepared for the people who own or use the province's grasslands. It is intended to be used as a framework or starting point for stewardship plans and practices.

A great deal of thought and consideration went into the content of this publication. We would like to thank all who helped review drafts of this guide.

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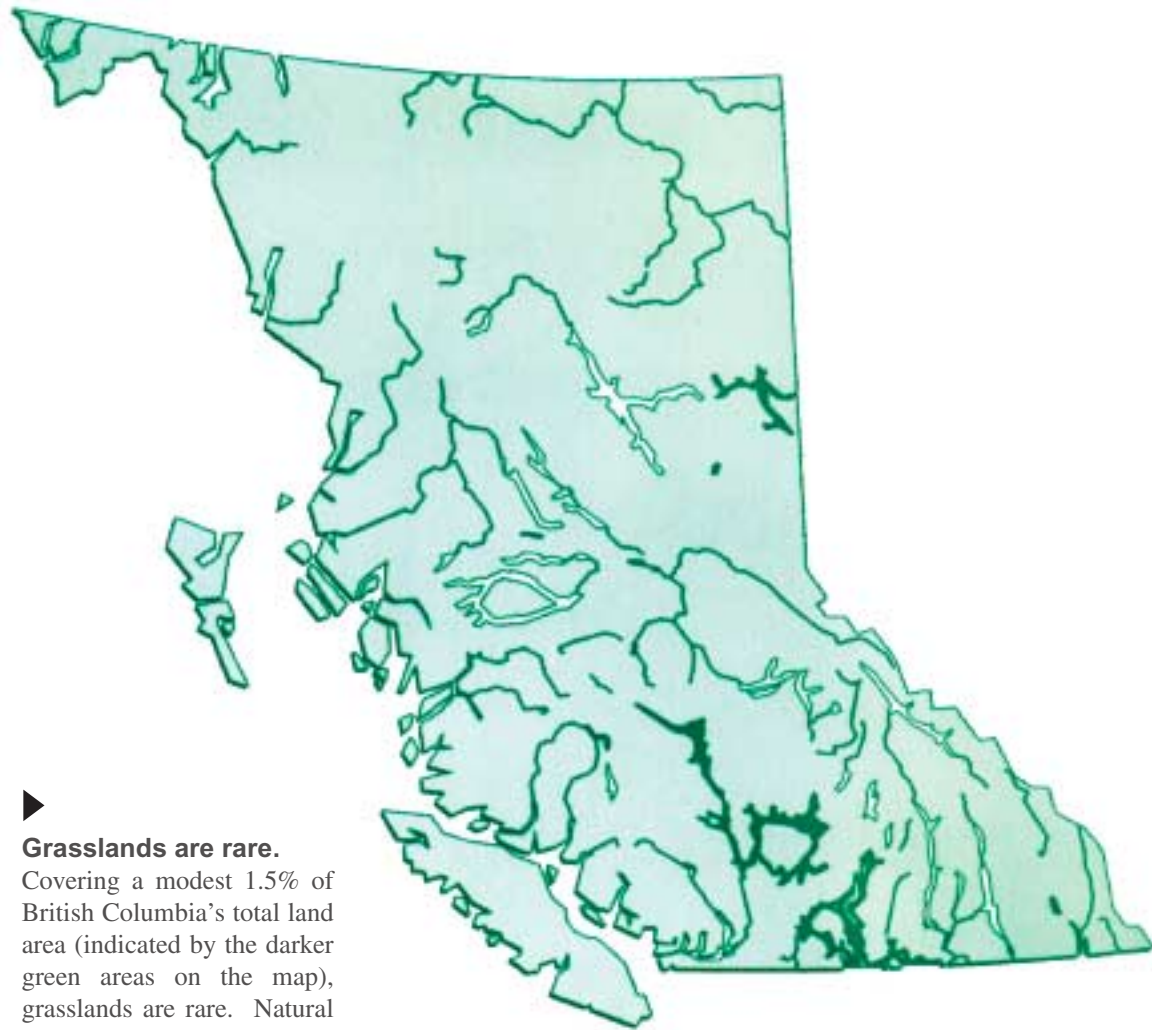
BC Ministry of Forests

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► **Grasslands are rare.**

Covering a modest 1.5% of British Columbia's total land area (indicated by the darker green areas on the map), grasslands are rare. Natural grasslands (including true grasslands, savannahs and dryland shrub areas) are limited to areas of low annual precipitation.

About 70% of grasslands are private lands concentrated in valley and mid-elevation areas. The remainder are Crown lands. Together, these Crown and private lands create the diverse and complex grasslands ecosystem.

Cooperative management of public and private lands is necessary to sustain a healthy ranching industry, diverse wildlife, and valuable recreation opportunities in BC's grasslands.

## Grasslands in British Columbia

Although they are rare, grasslands play an important role in the province of British Columbia. Grasslands support a unique variety of wildlife and plants, provide best quality grazing land for livestock, and offer excellent recreation opportunities for tourists, visitors and residents.

If you are an owner or user of grasslands, you have an unique opportunity to make a difference in the future of this province through grasslands stewardship.

# Inside this guide:

## THE CHALLENGE

**Grasslands stewardship** ..... 2

## WHAT ARE GRASSLANDS?

**More than just grass** ..... 4

## GRASSLANDS HABITATS

**Each habitat has a function** ..... 6

## PAST AND PRESENT

**Grasslands in history** ..... 8

**Stewardship today** ..... 9

## MEETING THE CHALLENGE

### Problems and solutions

Agriculture ..... 10

Recreation ..... 14

Weeds, roads and fire ..... 16

## THE RESULTS OF STEWARDSHIP

**Well-managed grasslands** ..... 18

## PARTICIPATION IN STEWARDSHIP

**It is time to get involved** ..... 20

**Where to get more info** ..... 21

## SYMBOLS USED IN THIS GUIDE



**Problem:** Indicates activities which can negatively affect grasslands.



**Solution:** Indicates activities which contribute positively to responsible grasslands use.



**Question:** Gives further details or indicates how to find more information on a subject.

## Grasslands...

support a wide variety of animals and plants. They provide grazing for cattle and wildlife and give enjoyment for a growing number of recreation users. ...4



## The problem...

is that grasslands are fragile, and agriculture, recreation and wildlife uses are not always compatible. Past misuse makes grasslands less useful for people, livestock and wildlife. ...10



## The solution...

focuses on ways to create sustainable use through stewardship. Recreation users, ranch hands, managers and owners can make a real difference. ...18





## Grasslands stewardship

The beauty and diversity of BC's grasslands are unique. Grasslands are home to everything from lichen to curlews, salamanders to cacti, sharp-tailed grouse to elk. Visitors and residents use the grasslands for recreation. The cattle industry depends on healthy grasslands to help provide a secure food supply. Both users generate economic benefits for the people of the province.

Despite their diversity, grasslands are not limitless and are in fact very fragile. They cannot accommodate endless growth and change. Whether we are cattle ranchers, week-end hikers, hunters or anglers, it makes sense for all of us to cooperate, to plan for and together achieve the best possible future for BC's grasslands.

### ◀ Grasslands damage is a serious problem.

Damage from poorly managed recreation and livestock grazing (left) may appear to be limited, but fragile grasslands can take many decades to recover to excellent conditions (*insert*).

## community feedback



*Bill Harpur  
Double Diamond Ranch*

"We take responsibility for enhancing wildlife habitat on our ranch and challenge all grasslands users to participate in resolving wildlife-agriculture conflicts. Annual losses of feed crops to White-tailed Deer is a problem for us, but we think a solution is possible if wildlife managers and other grasslands users work together."



*Dan Code  
Regional Referee, BC Interior  
Canadian Motorcycle Assoc.*

"Lack of information has led to habitat damage caused by ATV users. By participating in government planning processes, ATV users can learn how to prevent damage in future. Some local planning groups are considering how government operated trails could help provide ATV recreation opportunities and also maintain healthy grasslands."

▼ **Ranchers and recreation users all benefit from grasslands stewardship.**

*Bottom:* Healthy grasslands produce heavier calves. *Top left:* Participating in weed control helps reduce private and public costs as well as loss of productivity caused by weeds. *Top right:* Healthy grasslands support a greater diversity of wildlife for the enjoyment of all.



**? What is grasslands stewardship?**

Grasslands stewardship is the process of caring for grasslands, and conducting our activities based on an understanding of the requirements of the plants and animals that rely on grasslands to survive. It is our opportunity to build a future which includes what we value most in the grasslands, and it is a challenge to consider the values of others in our plans.

## stewardship benefits you...

**If you are a cattle rancher:**

- Healthy grasslands bring better ongoing economic return on your investment in time, work and land.
- Sustainable grazing systems can produce heavier calves, higher calf survival, and more productive cows.
- When you share your knowledge with others, you can make a difference in BC's grasslands for the benefit of future generations.

**If you use grasslands for recreation:**

- Healthy grassland give you a richer recreational experience.
- Preventing damage from poor recreation practices saves taxpayers' money.
- Responsible use reduces the need for restrictions on access and activity.

**If you care about the future of grasslands:**

- You can play an important role in maintaining and enhancing the variety of grasslands, animals, plants and habitats.



# More than just grass...

British Columbia's grasslands are much more than land covered with grass. They are a network of interacting habitats including open deciduous forest stands, open evergreen forest stands, shrubby areas, wetlands, stream corridors, rocky cliffs and grassy areas.

Distinguished from other North American grasslands by the wide variety of biological, geological and climatic conditions which support them, BC's grasslands range from Antelope Brush/Red Three-awn grasslands of the Okanagan to Sagebrush/Bluebunch Wheatgrass of the Thompson, and the Fescue grasslands of the Nicola Valley to the Needle-and-Thread grasslands of the Cariboo.

Like the habitats that support them, grasslands wildlife species are also diverse. Grasslands support species like Mule Deer and Red-Tailed Hawks common to other ecosystems, and they also support rare species like Sage Thrashers, Night Snakes and Pallid Bats found only in grasslands.

### Grasslands habitats.

► *Right:* This aerial photograph on a grasslands area shows some of the habitats of this diverse ecosystem.

1. Rocky cliff
2. Open evergreen forest stand
3. Wetlands
4. Shrubby area
5. Open deciduous forest stand
6. Grassy area
7. Stream corridor



# grasslands are wildlife too



## Each habitat supports wildlife diversity.

For example, these are species of Wetland/Stream habitats.

◀ *Top left:* The rare Tiger Salamander depends on a limited number of alkaline wetlands in South Okanagan grasslands.

*Lower left:* Some orb-weaver spiders build webs like this one to trap wetland insects. The majority of grasslands animals are insects. *Below:* Grassland streams, ponds and lakes are home to a variety of fish, such as this rainbow trout. ▼



Photo: Brian Chan



## Every habitat is important.

◀ *Top left:* Colonial Yellow-Bellied Marmots often dig burrows in or near rocky areas. *Bottom left:* Sharp-Tailed Grouse depend on shrub habitat for winter food. *Top right:* A common perennial,

Arrow-Leaf Balsam-Root grows in open grassy areas where it provides food for grazing wildlife. *Below right:* Mountain Bluebirds nest in aspen and cottonwood tree cavities in grassland forest stands. ▼



Photo: Richard J. Cannings



### ▲ Multiple habitats.

Many wildlife species depend on multiple grasslands habitats. *Above:* The Long-billed Curlew uses both wetlands and short-height grass sites in grasslands.

### ► Grassy areas.

*Right:* Healthy grassy habitats contain areas where grass is tall in height, as well as areas where grass is short. Tall cover helps conceal ground nests and shelters a variety of insect species and rodents.

### ? What are the grasslands habitats?

- Grassy areas
- Shrubby areas
- Rocky areas
- Forest stands
  - Deciduous
  - Coniferous
- Wetlands/stream corridors

## Each habitat has a function

The variety of habitats across a grassland landscape helps provide places where many species of wildlife can survive and find the food, water, cover and space they require. Some species depend on only one kind of habitat but most require more than one. Many species thrive in habitat edges where two habitats meet, and features of both habitats are present.



Owners and users of grasslands can contribute to stewardship by learning to identify different habitats and recognizing what makes them healthy and valuable to wildlife.



### ▲ Shrubby areas.

*Above:* Often located in draws, natural depressions or wetter sites, shrub habitats are an important part of healthy grasslands. Shrubby areas provide food for both mammals and birds in late summer, fall, and winter.



► **Rocky areas.**

*Right:* Valuable rocky habitat in the grasslands is undisturbed and inaccessible to people and livestock. It can shelter bird nests, lichens, snakes, and roosting bats.



◀ **Problems show up in certain habitats first.**

While some problems occur in all habitat types, sites with trees (like aspen or cotton-wood) and shrubs (like wild rose, birch and willow) or areas near water tend to be more intensively used by wildlife, cattle and people.



▲ **Forest stands.**

*Above:* Healthy forest areas include trees (saplings, mature, snags and fallen logs) and a variety of shrub species. Wildlife find food, nesting cover, and shelter from weather and predators in this habitat. Evergreen forest stands are more common in BC grasslands than in grasslands elsewhere in North America.



◀ **Wetlands/streams.**

*Left:* Surrounded by tall cover, healthy wetlands are very diverse. The banks of healthy streams have a well-developed band of cover that may include shrubs and trees which limit erosion.

Streamside corridors are particularly important for fish, and are also used by wildlife moving from one habitat to another. Both wetlands and streamside corridors provide more than just water. Here, wildlife also find food and cover.

**First inhabitants.**

BC's grasslands were established between 8 and 12 thousand years ago when the glaciers retreated.

► *Right:* Ungulates like Elk, Big Horned Sheep and White-Tailed Deer were among the first inhabitants of BC's grasslands.



▼ *Below:* First Nations people used fires to influence the landscape long before the arrival of Europeans.



# Grasslands

## in history

People, livestock and wildlife have all been important in shaping the history of BC's grasslands. Although we know little about BC's grasslands prior to 1850, our knowledge of recent history helps us to understand today's landscape and improve future grasslands management to sustain multiple uses.

**A ranching tradition.**

▼ *Below:* The majority of BC's grasslands were sold between 1820 and 1900 to pioneers. These people began a tradition of ranching and a commitment to staying on the land that continues today.

Grasslands use has changed significantly over the past 125 years. Many grasslands which today are grazed by cattle, were used a century ago for growing hay and cultivated crops, or grazing sheep and horses.



*All photos on this page courtesy Nicola Valley Archives Association*



## ◀ Private land stewardship.

*Left:* A Burrowing Owl gets a new home on private land, where suitable habitat quality, controlled public access, and cooperation of owners helps establish a new population of this rare species.

## what's working

Agriculture and recreation users are doing many things to help keep grasslands healthy.

### Conservation

Ranchers are working with private and public conservation agencies...

- to enhance wetlands and reservoirs;
- to reduce erosion in river corridors;
- to reintroduce threatened wildlife species to private lands.

### Grassroots planning

Ranchers, sportsmen, naturalists and others are participating in...

- education, habitat enhancement, and monitoring projects;
- integrated land use planning of private and public lands.

### Financial input

Contributions to support the cost of managing and maintaining healthy grasslands are made through...

- crown range fees;
- hunting and fishing licenses;
- land taxes;
- private donations.

# Stewardship today

Many agriculture and recreation users are providing leadership in grasslands conservation management. Their dedication to improving grasslands health deserves our thanks and support, and their achievements challenge us to build even healthier grasslands on this foundation.

Grasslands users get involved.

- ◀ *Left, top:* A group of grasslands users meet to plan their use. Many agriculture and recreation users participate in integrated planning to manage and maintain healthy grasslands. *Middle:* A dam is constructed. Many ranchers volunteer to manage their irrigation reservoirs to enhance and create habitat for fish, waterfowl, and other wildlife. *Bottom:* A young angler purchases a fishing license. Revenue collected from hunters and anglers is a major source of funding for fish and wildlife habitat enhancement.



# Problems & solutions

## Problem

### Grasslands damage.

Some human activities damage grasslands and reduce their value for wildlife, recreation and agriculture.

The following pages give some examples of problems to look out for in agriculture and recreation use.

## Solution

### Responsible use.

Learn to recognize damage to grasslands and demonstrate responsible methods of use.

Some possible solutions to agriculture and recreation use problems are provided in this section for you to consider.

## Solution

### Recognize important shelter areas.

Learn to recognize areas that provide important shelter for wildlife.

► *Right:* Found in Canada only in the extreme southern part of BC's Okanagan, Big Sagebrush/Antelope Brush is one grasslands habitat that supports many rare wildlife species.

Understanding the needs of grassland wildlife and recognizing stewardship activities of ranchers and recreation users is crucial to the successful conservation of diverse, healthy grasslands. Recognizing typical problems associated with grassland use and considering possible solutions can also help.

## Agriculture

Although livestock grazing on grasslands benefits some wildlife species, it

is helpful to recognize when grazing is adversely affecting wildlife habitat, and learn to manage livestock in ways that support healthy grasslands.

## Problem

### Agriculture use warning signs

Watch for these warning signs associated with excessive livestock grazing:

- Lack of grass and shrub cover for wildlife;
- Lack of grass mulch and litter;
- Extensive winter kill of grazed plants;
- Broken or heavily browsed shrubs;
- Poorly developed root systems of plants;
- Increase in variety and abundance of weeds.

## Solution

### Monitor tall cover sites.

Monitor tall cover sites in grassy and shrubby areas to ensure they remain in good condition. Manage livestock grazing to ensure sufficient grass and shrubs.

► *Right:* This is excellent tall cover in a Sage-brush/Bluebunch Wheatgrass area near Kamloops.



Photo: Sydney G. Cannings



Photo: Sydney G. Cannings



## Problem

### Excessive grazing.

Poorly managed livestock grazing leads to unhealthy, unproductive grasslands and poor quality wildlife habitat.

◀ *Left:* Warning signs of excessive grazing include bare ground, soil erosion and lack of vegetation cover, as seen in this close-up view of a damaged grasslands site. Below: A long-range shot of this same site, taken in 1968.



## Solution

### Plan livestock grazing.

◀ *Left:* Twenty-five years later, with several new fences and a well-designed rotational grazing system, the damaged grassland site shown above now has a more productive and diverse plant community. Bare, eroded soil has been replaced with productive plants, providing better cover for animals like mice and voles. Above: A long-range view of the site, taken in 1994.

## What you can do!

- Plan livestock grazing to maintain areas of ungrazed vegetation and well-developed layers of litter under and between plants;
- Evaluate your grazing plan and assess your results regularly;
- Learn more about the specific needs of other grasslands users, including those of wildlife in your area.



## Problem

### Wetlands damage.

▲ *Above:* Cattle are attracted to and spend more time in areas near water. Siltation, soil disturbance, trampling of plants and other damage can occur if livestock's use of wetlands and stream sides is not carefully managed.

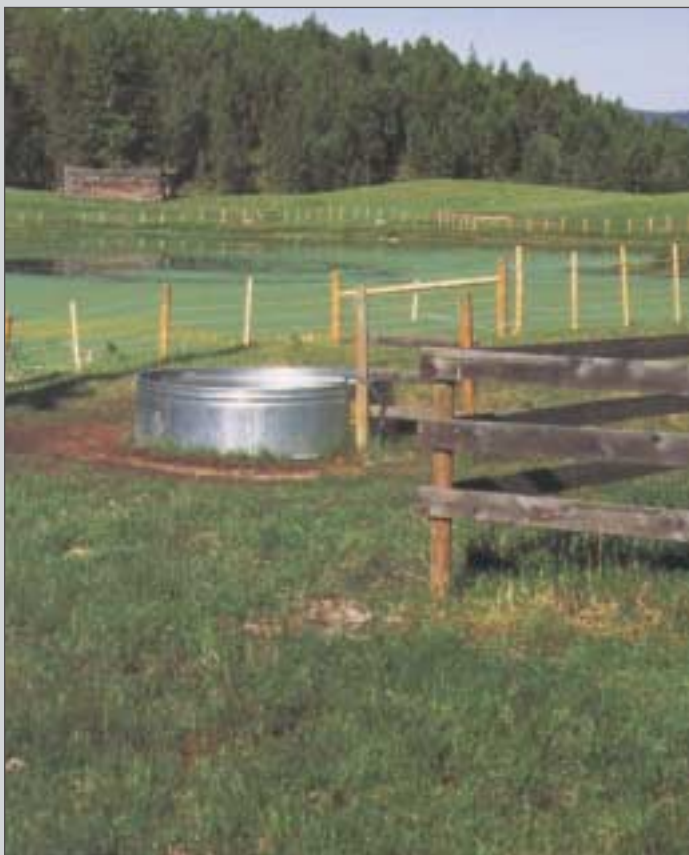
## Agriculture in Sensitive Habitats

When agriculture negatively affects grasslands habitat and wildlife, problems tend to show up first in three habitats: Aspen stands, shrubby areas and wetlands/streams. You can help protect these sensitive habitats by practicing the management solutions outlined here.

## Problem

### Wetlands/streams warning signs

- Heavy erosion;
- Soil disturbance and compaction;
- Decreased variety and abundance of plants and animals;
- Increased evaporation/water loss;
- Siltation and higher water temperature.



## Solution

### Supplement natural watering sites.

Consider adjusting grazing plans to maintain healthy wetlands and streams including changing season of use, cattle numbers, grazing duration and grazing timing. Supplementing natural watering sites with water troughs or dugouts can also help.

◀ *Left:* In the most sensitive sites such as areas with fine-grained silty soils, fencing to exclude cattle from wetlands and stream sides may be the most successful option. Stockwater access can be provided in various ways including pumping water via solar power to a stock trough outside the wetland area as shown at left.

## Solution

### Use fencing to manage livestock grazing.

▶ *Right:* Avoid season-long grazing whenever possible. Consider dividing large grassland areas with fences to limit the duration of use by livestock.





## Problem

### Shrub and tree damage.

◀ *Left:* In large areas of open grasslands, small groups of shrubs and trees attract livestock and wildlife providing essential cover and shade. Intensive grazing and trampling can kill young trees and shrubs, and extensive damage to bark can also cause older trees to die.



## Problem

### Salt use in sensitive habitats.

▲ *Above:* Because salt attracts livestock, placing salt within or adjacent to sensitive habitats, such as near wetlands, increases the chance of habitat damage.



## Solution

### Monitor use of shrubs and tree stands in winter.

◀ Closely monitor fall and winter use of shrubs and tree stands. Damage to these habitats is more likely to occur when grass plants are dormant or covered with snow. When lush grass is not available, cattle may browse shrubs or trees instead in order to obtain protein.

## Solution

### Use salt as a tool to help sensitive habitats.

Salt can be used as a tool to move livestock away from sensitive sites. Plan salt locations to avoid sensitive habitats, including shrubby areas, wetlands/streams and small aspen stands.

## Solution

### Encourage shrub and sapling growth.

◀ Planned grazing and regular monitoring of cattle use helps to maintain healthy trees and shrubs. *Left:* A well-designed rotational grazing plan has helped encourage more new shrubs and saplings.



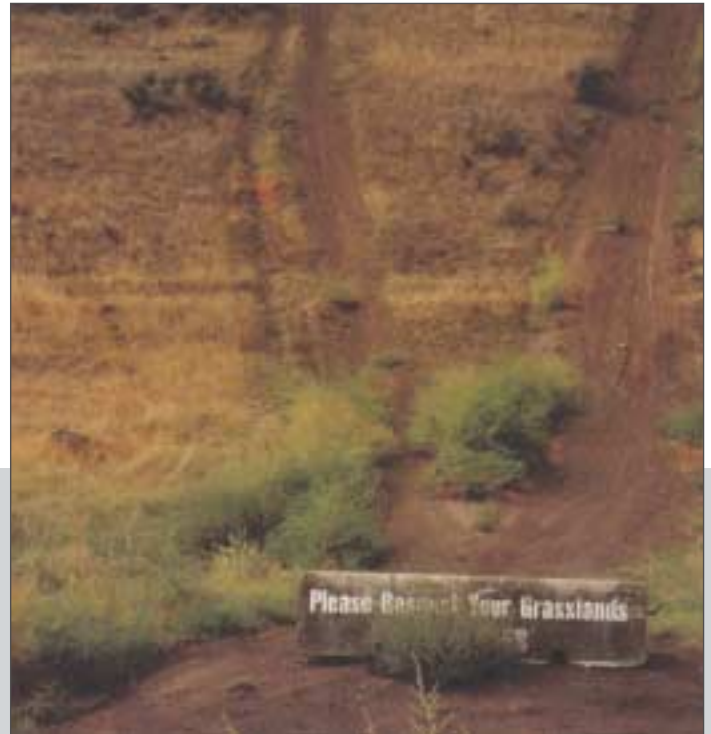
## Recreation

Everyone wants to spend time having fun, but it is not all fun and games for those concerned about keeping grasslands healthy. As with agriculture, recreation can cause changes to grasslands that threaten wild plants and animals. As a grasslands user, you have the opportunity to make a real difference.

### Problem

#### **Vehicle tracks.**

▼ *Below:* ATV scars like these promote weed infestation and remain visible even decades later.



### Problem

#### **Recreation warning signs**

- Soil erosion and weeds along roads and offroad trails;
- Scars of vehicle tracks on grasslands;
- Excessive human activity near wetlands and streams in spring and early summer (wildlife breeding season);
- Garbage and sewage disposal problems.

### Solution

#### **Use care with gates.**

▼ *Below:* Simple actions like leaving gates as you find them can help keep livestock where they belong. When careless people open closed gates and leave them open, livestock may return to recently grazed pastures, causing habitat damage.



### Solution

#### **Respect access limitations.**

You can achieve sustainable use by planning your recreation activities with the health of grasslands in mind.

► *Right:* Be sure to observe signs that request you to limit your activities in certain areas. Cooperation of all recreation users - hikers, campers, hunters, ATV drivers, etc. - is essential.



# Recreation Sensitive Habitats

Problems associated with recreation use also tend to show up first in certain habitats. These include aspen stands, wetlands/streams, and hillside grassy areas. You can help prevent damage by participating in careful stewardship of these sensitive habitats.



## Problem

### Driving on hillsides.

◀ *Left:* Driving off-road vehicles on grassy hillsides causes soil compaction, erosion and weed infestations. Hillsides are particularly sensitive areas in grasslands.

## Problem

### Shoreline damage.

▼ *Below:* Intensive recreation use of shoreline areas can reduce plant cover, compact soil and disturb nesting birds. Accidental introduction of fish or aquatic plants can also reduce or change the unique variety of wetlands wildlife including amphibians, insects and plants.



## Problem

### Removing trees and shrubs.

Cutting aspen and cottonwood trees removes important feeding, nesting and roosting sites for wildlife.

## Solution

### Leave dead trees.

▼ *Below:* Dead trees, also called snags, are not wasted wood. Snags are often rare and heavily used by nesting birds, bats, insects and other grasslands species. Avoid cutting them for firewood.



## Solution

### Restrain pets around wetlands and stream corridors.

▼ *Below:* Restrain pets and train hunting dogs at a distance from wetlands and stream corridors during the spring and summer. Plan your recreation use of these areas and be especially careful to avoid disturbing waterfowl during the nesting season (May to July).



## What you can do!

- Refrain from traveling off roads with ATVs, 4X4s and motorcycles;
- Train hunting dogs away from wetland potholes and lakes in spring and summer;
- Bring your own firewood or use wood provided at campsites rather than cutting grassland trees;
- Check for and remove aquatic plants from boats, boat motors, and trailers before transporting them.

## Weeds, Roads and Fire

To achieve healthy grasslands, we must look beyond management of the direct effects of agriculture and recreation use. Problems associated with weeds, roads and fire are the indirect result of all people who use grasslands. Solutions depend on cooperation between user groups and participation of all grasslands users.

### Problem

#### Fire suppression.

► *Right:* Fire suppression encourages forest encroachment. Fire is a natural force in the grasslands, one that historically prevented forest encroachment and rejuvenated vegetation. Fire suppression encourages the gradual conversion of grasslands to forests, and increases the risk of catastrophic “hot fires” which are destructive to soil, plants and animals.



### Problem

Roads created in grasslands disturb habits by eliminating vegetation, promoting weed growth and soil erosion, altering drainage, changing natural predation and hunting patterns for wildlife, and bringing increased use by people.

### Solution

#### Use roads carefully.

► *Right:* When driving vehicles along roads, plan to drive when the road surface is hard, in order to avoid creating ruts and parallel trails. You can also help by reseeding disturbed soil to avoid weed infestations. In addition, users and owners of grasslands can establish access plans and avoid creation of roads wherever possible.



### Solution

#### Use managed fires to rejuvenate grasslands.

▲ *Above:* Prescribed “cool” or “surface” fires can be used to rejuvenate grasslands and prevent forest encroachment.

### How can you find out more about using fire?

Contact the BC Forest Service before planning to use “cool” fires. The Forest Service can tell you how users and owners of grasslands can use prescribed fires as part of a long-term grasslands stewardship plan.

## Problem

### Weed infestation.

▼ *Below:* Noxious weeds like Hound's Tongue are everyone's problem. They displace valuable forage plants and reduce land productivity. Some are poisonous to both livestock and wildlife. Weed infested areas are unattractive for recreation use and expensive to rehabilitate. People, livestock, wildlife and vehicles all spread weeds.



## Problem

### Knapweed.

◀ *Left:* Knapweed is a threat to grasslands in BC. If allowed to spread, knapweed could cause a significant decline in diversity of native plants and animals including deer, Big-Horned Sheep, mice and ground-nesting birds.



## Solution

### Identify and report weeds.

▼ *Below:* Learn to identify noxious weeds and report new infestations to the district BC Forest Service office. Help prevent infestations by avoiding activities that disturb soils, including driving vehicles off roads. Check vehicle undercarriages for weeds regularly. Reseed disturbed soils (using native grass species if possible) before weeds can become established.



### Where can you find out about native grass seed?

Contact BC Environment or see Naturescape British Columbia, another volume in the Stewardship Series, for local sources of grass seed (contact information is on page 21 of this guide).

## Sharing grasslands

It may sometimes be necessary to reserve some grassland areas from agriculture and recreation use in order to preserve certain highly sensitive wildlife species.

However, if users can learn to recognize problems and cooperate to design and implement more and better stewardship techniques, the need for areas excluding recreation and agriculture use can be minimized.

# Well-managed grasslands

Each grassland site is unique and benefits from stewardship management designed to suit the habitat values, wildlife species and management goals for that particular site. The illustration on this foldout page shows how techniques discussed in this guide can be applied to achieve well-managed grasslands.

► **Healthy grasslands.** *Right: Can you spot all the stewardship techniques being used in this illustration of a healthy grasslands site? Here are just a few:*

1. Cooperate with other grasslands users.
2. Maintain diversity in tree stands.
3. Help make grazing plans successful with fencing.
4. Use water troughs to help move cattle away from sensitive wetland sites.
5. Plan, monitor and adjust plans regularly.
6. Monitor grasslands to maintain tall cover.
7. Include shrub habitats in your plans.
8. Camp away from sensitive wetlands.
9. Drive only on roads that are designated for the use of your vehicle.
10. Restrain pets.
11. Learn to recognize and control noxious weeds.

## ► Biodiversity

*Right: Healthy grasslands support a large variety of wildlife including insects like this damselfly.*



► **Sensitive habitats.**

Wetlands/streams, aspen stands and shrubby areas require careful management of livestock use (near right). These same areas, as well as grassy hillsides, require carefully planned recreation use (far right).



► **Planning and monitoring of activities.**

Right: Users can become more effective managers by planning, monitoring the results, and readjusting plans based on results.

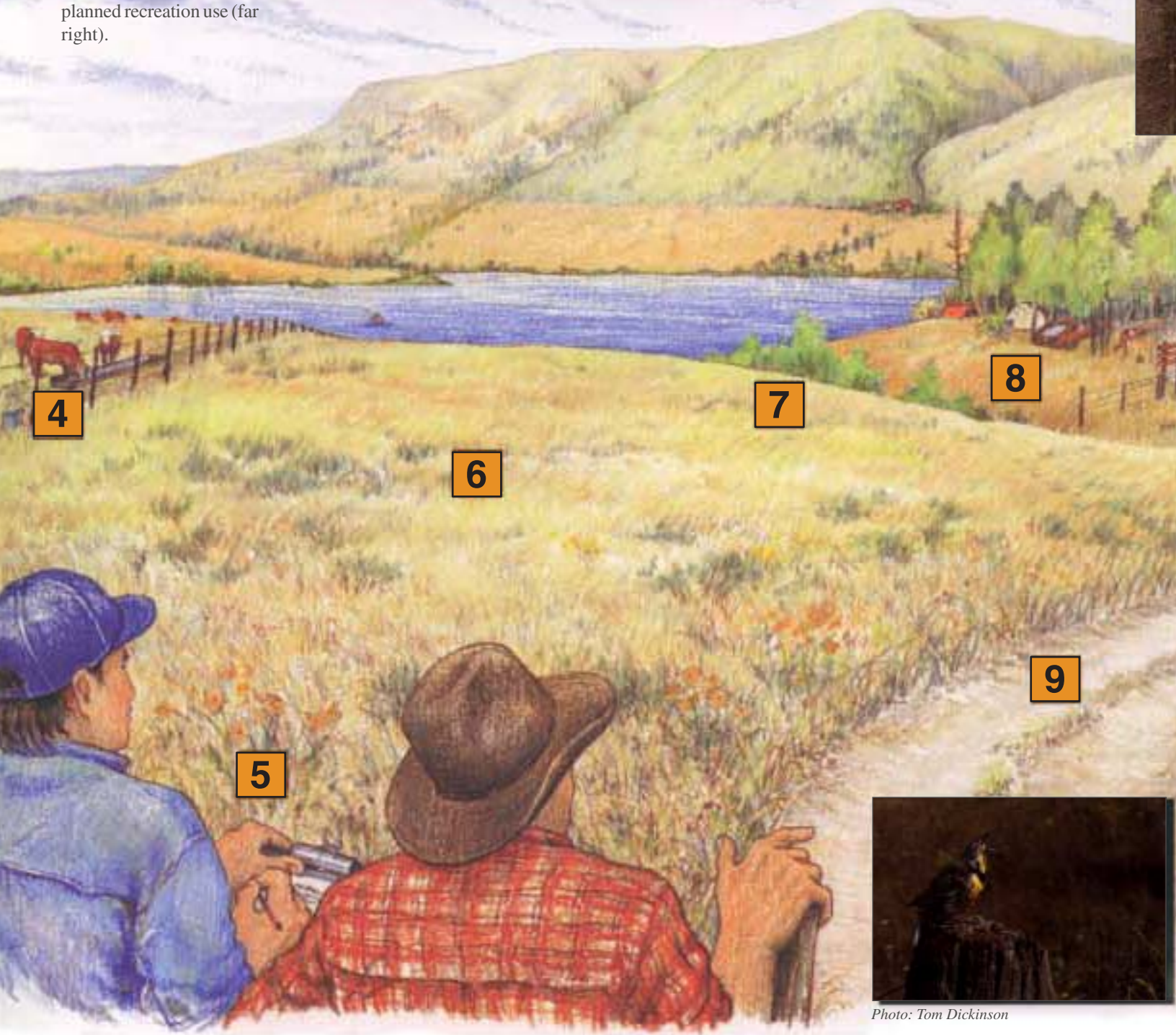


Photo: Tom Dickinson

## What you can do!

### If you are a rancher:

- Implement grazing plans that include the needs of wildlife and other user groups;
- Manage livestock and help protect sensitive habitats by using salt, water development and fencing techniques;
- Monitor your property and know the danger signs;
- Share your experience and knowledge with others in the ranching community.

### If you use grasslands for recreation:

- Follow access plans and refrain from driving offroad;
- Leave gates as you find them;
- Report any damage that you see;
- Encourage others to respect the needs of other users and leave grasslands as they find them.

### If you care about the future of grasslands, regardless of your reasons for use:

Think carefully before using grasslands. Your presence creates change that can either be positive or negative. Take responsibility!

# It is time to get involved

Everyone who uses grasslands can help keep them healthy. Set a good example. With your help in practicing stewardship techniques (see sidebar, left), your children and grandchildren will be able to enjoy healthy grasslands too. BC's Grasslands include wild plants and animals, livestock and people, Crown and deeded land. By working together, we can collectively make a difference in the landscape, enhancing grasslands for the enjoyment of all grasslands users.



## community feedback



▲ “Grasslands must be protected for the benefit of wildlife, ranching, and recreation users who appreciate the natural setting. We believe that every user, including those enjoying weekend recreation, must commit to enhancing and conserving grasslands. This belief is included in our constitution which binds all our members.”

*Dennis Robbins*

*Labrador Retriever breeder and founding member of the Northwest Labrador Retriever and Waterfowler Society.*



◀ “Naturalists treasure the beauty and diversity of grasslands. They participate to conserve grasslands wildlife including the Bluebird Trail nestbox program. Members work in cooperation with private landowners to install, monitor and maintain nesting sites used by Mountain Bluebird and many other wildlife species.”

*Frances Vyse*

*Past President, Federation of British Columbia Naturalists*



◀ “The challenge of keeping our grasslands healthy for both cattle and wildlife has become a priority for our operation. By removing stock prior to the rapid growth stage of perennial grasses, we have been able to use grasslands for rotational spring grazing and improve grasslands condition successfully.”

*Bob Haywood-Farmer Indian Gardens Ranch*

## thank you

Thank you for taking the time to read this guide and to consider the ideas it has presented. Your participation in grasslands stewardship is important, not only to the future of this province's grasslands habitats, but also to future generations of grasslands users.

## Where to get more info

For further information about grasslands stewardship, management techniques and related topics, please contact:

Agriculture Canada  
3015 Ord Road  
Kamloops, BC V2B 8A9  
(250) 554-5200

BC Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food  
162 Oriole Road  
Kamloops, BC V2C 4N7  
(250) 371-6050

BC Environment  
1259 Dalhousie Drive  
Kamloops, BC V2C 5Z5  
(250) 371-6200

BC Forest Service  
515 Columbia Street  
Kamloops, BC V2C 2T7  
(250) 828-4131

Ducks Unlimited  
954A Laval Crescent  
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(250) 374-8307

Other guides in the Stewardship series:

*Stream Stewardship: A Guide for Planners and Developers*  
ISBN 0-7726 2237X  
Call: (604) 666-3545

*Community Stewardship: A Guide to Establishing Your Own Group*  
ISBN 0-7726-2499-2  
Call: (604) 660-1177

*Naturescape British Columbia: Caring for Wildlife Habitat at Home*  
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## Feedback about the BC Grasslands Stewardship Guide:

“BC’s grasslands are magical places, rich in biological diversity. This guide will help maintain this and other values for future generations.”

*Ted Lea  
Member  
Botany BC*

“It is refreshing to read this publication and find support and recognition for voluntary grasslands stewardship by cattlemen.”

*Lorne Leach  
British Columbia  
Cattlemen’s Association*

“Individual personal care is essential to maintaining the beauty and diversity of our natural environment. This guide is one of a growing number of well-crafted tools that we in British Columbia can use to become better caretakers of the land.”

*Ed Hennan  
Provincial Biologist,  
Ducks Unlimited*



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