

Why are Biologists Removing Trees from Wildlife Habitat Areas? - Pintail Room

Nebraskans have a long history of planting and nurturing trees. However, while some wildlife species benefit from trees, many are negatively affected by them. Balancing those conflicting needs is tricky.

- Chris Helzer, The Nature Conservancy

RWBJV Private Land Programs Panel - Goose Room

Ongoing from the last break-out session.

2:30 - 3:10

Aquatic Macroinvertebrate Communities at Buffered and Non-buffered Wetland Sites on Federal Waterfowl Production Areas in the Rainwater Basin

- Mallard Room

Pollution runoff in the Rainwater Basin may be negatively affecting waterfowl food sources such as macroinvertebrates. Here we examine the success of vegetated buffer strips to filter pollution.

- John Riens, University of Nebraska-Kearney

Managing on a Landscape Scale - Pintail Room

An overview of the accomplishments of the Ducks Unlimited disking effort and of spraying invasive species in the Rainwater Basin.

- Tim Horst, Ducks Unlimited; Jeff Drahota & Mark Pfof, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Pit-Fill Options - Goose Room

Pits are a "thing of the past" so why not fill them? The biological and hydrological reasons behind pit fills in the Rainwater Basin region.

- Laurel Badura, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

3:15 - 3:55

Beyond the Basins: Sustaining Bird Populations Across the RWBJV Region - Mallard Room

The RWBJV is charged with conservation of all bird species across the RWBJV region. Using a strategic approach, we are setting priorities and establishing measurable objectives for sustaining bird populations.

- Jill Liske-Clark, Nebraska Bird Partnership

Grazing and Seed Production in Rainwater Basin Wetlands - Pintail Room

What is currently known about seed production in the Rainwater Basin, and what work is being done to help understand the impacts of grazing on seed production?

- Heidi Hillhouse, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Wetlands with Center Pivots and the Wetlands Reserve Program - Goose Room

What is the potential to create a Wetlands Reserve Program option that allows pivots to cross restored wetlands? Discussion of ecological impacts and land-owner opportunities.

- Scott Luedtke, Nebraska Game & Parks Commission

Thank you for attending!

Please fill out an evaluation before leaving today. Your comments help us meet your needs for future seminars. Thanks again!

The Rainwater Basin Joint Venture thanks its funding partner for helping make this seminar possible . . .



RAINWATER BASIN JOINT VENTURE

15TH ANNUAL
INFORMATIONAL SEMINAR

FEBRUARY 3, 2010

QUALITY HOTEL & CONVENTION CENTER

2205 OSBORNE DR. EAST

HASTINGS, NEBRASKA

Welcome!



8:15 - 9:00 Registration

9:00 - 9:15 Welcome - Andy Bishop, Rainwater Basin Joint Venture Coordinator

Plenary Sessions _____

9:15 - 9:30

The “BIG Picture” of the RWBJV: Who We Are and What We Do.

Just 100 years ago, there were ten times as many Rainwater Basin wetlands as there are today. In response, the Rainwater Basin Joint Venture was formed in 1992 to confront the problem of habitat loss.

- Bob Bettger, Landowner and RWBJV Management Board Chair

9:30 - 10:15

Habitat Objectives Within the RWB

New information will be shared about the quantity and quality of habitat needed to meet the goal of the RWBJV, and potential options to achieve this goal will be discussed.

- Ted LaGrange & Mark Vrtiska, Nebraska Game & Parks Commission

Concurrent Sessions _____

10:25 - 11:05

Vegetation Response to Sediment Removal - Mallard Room

Wetlands are important for providing key ecosystem services within the RWB. This research project compared plant composition and community characteristics between restored, reference and agricultural wetlands.

- Ben Beas, Oklahoma State University

Upland Game Birds in Relation to RWB

Management - Pintail Room

The Rainwater Basin is a top destination for many Nebraskans to pursue pheasants and quail. Proper management in the basins can produce some phenomenal upland game bird habitat.

- Jason Sykes, Pheasants Forever

The Financial Benefits of WRP From a Landowner’s Perspective - Goose Room

A wetland owner provides insight into how wetlands can generate a financial return that is competitive with other land uses and investments.

- Mel Taylor, Landowner

11:10 - 11:50 _____

The Role of RWB Wetlands in Recharging Groundwater - Mallard Room

This presentation will cover the hydrology of specific wetlands in the RWB and how the vertisol sediments can influence the timing and rate of recharge.

- Rich Wilson, Sarah Foster & Dr. Ed Harvey, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

RWB Management from an Agency Perspective - Pintail Room

Wildlife management takes many forms causing confusion between the public and land management agencies. Why does land management in the RWB seem contrary to other parts of the country?

- Gene Mack, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Maintenance of Wetlands Reserve Program Tracts After Completion - Goose Room

How should completed WRP wetlands be managed and what is the process to get this done?

- Ritch Nelson, Natural Resources Conservation Service

12:00 - 1:00 Lunch & Award Presentation

1:00-1:40 _____

Effectiveness of Wetland Buffers as a Conservation Tool for Playas - Mallard Room

Playa function is negatively impacted by eroded sediment and other contaminants. How effective are vegetative buffers in removing contaminants?

- Lacreacia Johnson, Texas Tech University

Engineering Tools for Maximizing Wetland Benefits in the Rainwater Basins - Pintail Room

Certain engineering design can improve biological responses and avoid adverse consequences by predicting inundation depths during the wetland growing season.

- Nate Garrett, Natural Resources Conservation Service

RWBJV Private Land Programs Panel* - Goose Room

These panel members will discuss the following:

- Wetlands Reserve Program - Jeremy Jirak
- Ducks Unlimited Easement/Working Landscapes - Steve Donovan & Jonas Davis
- U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Public Works Plan - Laurel Badura & Kenny Dinan
- Nebraska Game & Parks Commission Wetland Initiative Program - Matt Steffl

** This program will not break at 1:40, but will continue on into the next break-out session.*

1:45 - 2:25 _____

Monitoring Temporal Variations of Agricultural Contaminants in Nebraska’s Rainwater Basin Wetlands- Mallard Room

Eight Rainwater Basin wetlands are used to monitor surface and ground water chemistry. Chemical and isotopic analysis show how contaminants persist throughout the year and evaporation effects on the wetlands.

- Sarah Foster, Rich Wilson & Dr. Ed Harvey, UNL