



## *What's the Future of Grasslands and Rangelands in the East Kootenay?*

May 1-3, 2025. Kimberley BC

### **PRELIMINARY PRESENTER LIST**

The following presenters (listed in alpha order) are confirmed participants at this symposia, and will be delivering/participating a combination of oral presentations, facilitated discussions and field tours. An event schedule will be posted by mid-March on the [event webpage](#).

**Jen Baron**, Centre for Wildlife Coexistence, and University of British Columbia. *Colonial legacies, fire deficits, and the path to ecocultural restoration through fire*

**Gale Berg**, rangeland ecologist (retired). *Panelist to discuss history of range management in East Kootenay*

**Edward Bork**, University of Alberta, Faculty of Agricultural, Life and Environmental Science. *Grasslands value and threats – an overview from the North American context to the local*

**Emily Chow**, BC Ministry of Water, Lands, Resource Stewardship. *Elk Sustainability Plan and provincial data summary on elk populations*

**Jonathan Farr & Mark Hebblewhite**, University of Montana. *Change on the range - Habitat changes from 2001-2024 for elk, bighorn sheep, and reintroduced bison in the central Rocky Mountains of Alberta*

**Don Gayton**, retired ecologist, range manager and writer. *Trees, grass and fire – An ecologist's perspective*

**Sera Grover**, University of Saskatchewan. *Long-term recovery of dry-mixed grasslands following wildfire and the effects of grazing and grazing exclusion*

**Randy Harris**, Retired registered professional forester and habitat biologist. *Rocky Mountain Trench Ecosystem Restoration Program*

**Kristi Iverson**, BC Ministry of Forests, primary author for the grassland section of Land Management Handbook 71, A field guide to ecosystem classification and identification for southeast British Columbia: The East Kootenay.

*Biogeoclimatic Ecosystem Classification of grassland ecosystems and conservation concerns in the East Kootenay; and Ecological dynamics of high elevation grasslands in the Elk Valley*

**Clayton Lamb**, Wildlife Science Centre - Biodiversity Pathways, University of British Columbia. *Science review on ungulates in relation to grassland health*

**Shawna LaRade**, Range Stewardship Officer, Ministry of Forests, Province of British Columbia. *Resilient rangelands: Navigating the past, present and future of sustainable management in British Columbia*

**Catriona Leven**, Columbia Wetlands Stewardship Partners. *Threats to upland wetlands in the Columbia Valley*

**Megan MacPhee**, East Kootenay Invasive Species Council. *Have you seen me? Medusahead and North African Grass*

**Val Miller**, Provincial Invasive Plant Officer, Inter-Ministry Invasive Species Working Group – chair, Ministry of Forests, Province of British Columbia. *Invasive plant species in the East Kootenay: History and current management challenges*

**Tyler Morison**, Kootenay Livestock Association. *Navigating agriculture and abundant wildlife populations*

**Larissa Murdoch**, Thomson Rivers University. *Assessing and comparing habitat selection across three herds of bighorn sheep in Kamloops, BC*

**Allana Oestriech**, senior habitat biologist with the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development. *Field Tour coordination with eight presenters confirmed thus far ... stay tuned!*

**Becky Phillips**, Senior Wildlife technician with Vast Resource Solutions, & **Doris Hausleitner**, Selkirk College. *Igniting Change: Enhancing at-risk species habitats in the East Kootenay Trench – The Indian Springs case study*

**Melanie Redman**, Seed specialist, Nupqu Native Plants. *Habitat value of native vs. agronomic grasses and the associated impacts on the grassland community health and encompassing ecosystem*

**Katie Reid**, East Kootenay Invasive Species Council. *Protecting high elevation grasslands: Restoring lower grasslands to preserve bighorn sheep habitat and native ecosystems*

**Sonya Rokosh**, Kamloops-Thompson School District 73 BC & **Wendy Gardner**, Thompson Rivers University. *Increasing education and awareness on grassland ecosystems through the development of curriculum*

**Baylie Sjodin**, Keefer Ecological Services. *Revitalizing Indigenous knowledge to restore grasslands with the Stswecem'c Xget'tem First Nation*

**Darrel Smith**, Rangeland Stewardship and Programs Manager, Government of Alberta. *Reflections on history of range management in BC, and Novel range management and monitoring approaches from Alberta*

**Tiffany Traverse**, Indigenous researcher, Secwépemc/séme7 Land and Seed Steward, Fourth Sister Farm. *Food Sovereignty and grassland health*

**Kate Walsh**, Elk Valley Resources Operations Limited & **Lavinia Haase**, Trace Associates Inc. *Using reclamation monitoring success criteria to inform adaptive management for revegetation practices in grasslands*

**David Zehnder**, Farmland Advantage and Zehnder Ranch. *Ranching, ecosystem services and grasslands health.*

.... And others - check back for updates!