



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

May 1-3, 2025. Kimberley BC

PRELIMINARY PRESENTER LIST

Last updated March 13, 2025

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

Kiah Allen, Bc Ministry Wildfire Service: Research and Knowledge lead for prescribed and cultural fire program. *Panelist: Kootenay ʔa·kin̓uku TREX program (prescribed fire training exchange)*

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

Abra Brynne, Dalhousie University, settler PhD candidate, and FarmFolk CityFolk policy advisor

Gale Berg, rangeland ecologist (retired). *Panelist: 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. *Panelist: Elk science overview and the Elk Stewardship Plan and provincial data summary on elk populations*

Leanne Colombo, BC Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program. *Panelist: Ranching, ecosystem services and grasslands health*

Jonathan Farr, 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*

Mike Malmberg, Kootenay Boundary Farm Advisors farm advisor, agrologist and economist. *Panel: Ranching, ecosystem services and grasslands health.*

Val Miller, Inter-Ministry Invasive Species Working Group chair, BC Ministry of Forests. *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!*

Ashley O'Neil, ʔa·kinq̓uku Fire Manager, Aq'am. *Panelist: Kootenay ʔa·kinq̓uku TREX program (prescribed fire training exchange)*

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*

Caitlin Phillips, Cultural Coordinator, Ktunaxa Nation Council. *Panelist: Grasslands health and Indigenous food systems.*

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*

Aden Stewart, independent biologist. *Keep off the grass: An analysis of legislative tools for the management of recreational activities on crown land*

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*

Greg Utzig, Kootenai Nature Investigations. *Panel: Grasslands climate and restoration*

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. *Panel: Ranching, ecosystem services and grasslands health.*

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