

2:50 - 3:25

Assess Soil Erosion Ratio and Sediment Deposition of Playa Wetlands in the Rainwater Basin - Mallard Room

This project uses the RUSLE2 model and fly ash testing technology to calculate soil erosion ratio and determine the age of deposition for playa wetlands in the Rainwater Basin.

- Dr. Zhenghong Tang, UNL College of Architecture

Body Condition of Spring Migratory Female Northern Pintails and Use of Plasma Lipid Metabolites to Assess Habitat Quality in the Rainwater Basin - Pintail Room

Results of research examining the temporal, spatial and age relationships between body condition and the ability of spring migratory female Northern Pintails to gain lipid reserves in the Rainwater Basin will be presented.

- Dustin Casady, Contracting Wildlife Biologist, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

New Farm Bill, New Opportunities - Goose Room

The new Farm Bill makes changes to wetland conservation – both for incentive programs like the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) and the Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP,) as well as regulatory aspects. An overview of these changes and possible impacts to Nebraska wetlands will be covered.

- Ritch Nelson, Wildlife Biologist, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

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 . . .



Convention & Visitors Bureau

The Rainwater Basin Joint Venture thanks the Grand Island Convention and Visitors Bureau for its assistance.

RAINWATER BASIN JOINT VENTURE

19TH ANNUAL
INFORMATIONAL SEMINAR
FEBRUARY 11, 2014

MIDTOWN HOLIDAY INN
2503 SOUTH LOCUST ST
GRAND ISLAND, NEBRASKA

Welcome!



8:30 - 9:30 Registration

9:30 - 9:45 Welcome - Andy Bishop,
Rainwater Basin Joint Venture
Coordinator

Plenary Session: _____

9:45 - 10:30 The North American Waterfowl Management Plan (NAWMP) and Hunters - *The 2012 revision of NAWMP included a goal directed at the human dimensions side of waterfowl and wetlands conservation. This new goal will provide challenges as well as opportunities for the Rainwater Basin Joint Venture.*

- Mark Vrtiska, Nebraska Game & Parks
Commission

10:30 - 10:40 Break

10:40 - 11:25 Getting it Straight From the Source - *How using focus group research helped understand landowner attitudes, opinions and willingness to participate in playa conservation.*

- Phil Seng, Vice-president, D.J. Case &
Associates

11:25 - 11:35 Break

11:35 - 12:20 Why do farmers choose to adopt (or not adopt) new management techniques? - *Ten years of research looking at the characteristics of farmers, conservation practices, and communities/watersheds that lead to greater adoption will be summarized.*

- Dr. Linda Prokopy, Purdue University

12:20 - 1:30 Lunch & Award Presentation

Concurrent Sessions: _____

1:30 - 2:05

Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) Management in Nebraska: Past, Present, and Future

- *Mallard Room*

The history of WRP acquisition in Nebraska, what the management status of our WRP easements is now, and where we hope to take them from here.

- Nate Walker
WRP Management Biologist
Nebraska Game & Parks Commission

Effects of Land Use on Greenhouse Gas Fluxes in Playa Wetlands and Associated Watersheds - *Pintail Room*

The goal of this project was to determine the influence of the Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) and the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) on greenhouse gas emissions from playas and uplands in Nebraska.

- Dale Daniel, Department of Zoology,
Oklahoma State University

Wetland Grazing: The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly; a Producer's Perspective. - *Goose Room*

Steve and Brian Shaw were early adopters of wetland grazing. Grazing wetlands, allowed the Shaw's to expand their operation, but it has come at a cost. This presentation will highlight operational changes, challenges, and solutions.

- Steve Shaw, Landowner

2:10 - 2:45 _____

It's Not Easy Being Green: An Assessment of Amphibians in the Rainwater Basins - *Mallard Room*

Amphibians are considered potential indicators of ecosystem health. Results from aural surveys from roadsides and using automatic recorders will be presented and discussed.

- Nick Smeenk, Michelle Hellman, and Craig Allen, Nebraska Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, UNL

Shorebird Migration in Nebraska: Stopover Habitat Decisions in a Vanishing Landscape -

Pintail Room

Our ongoing study concerns how land use change influences the habitat decisions of shorebirds in the Rainwater Basin, and whether consequences of those decisions may have important implications for migratory populations.

- Caitlyn Gillespie and T.J. Fontaine, Nebraska Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, UNL

Wetlands in a Working Landscape - *Goose Room*

How one landowner teamed up with the Natural Resources Conservation Service, Rainwater Basin Joint Venture, US Fish & Wildlife Service, and Nebraska Game & Parks Commission to integrate wildlife habitat into his farming operation.

- Jerry Stevens, Landowner

Program continued . . .