

AN INVITATION
"Border Grasslands"



We invite you to participate in our Spring Forum on **April 2 & 3, 2008** in **Elkwater, Alberta** to share information and discuss opportunities focusing on border grassland conservation issues.

The purpose of this meeting is to share research and monitoring results focusing on grassland birds; discuss critical habitat identification for imperiled species; and further coordination and cooperation on transboundary issues. Your participation will be valuable in moving forward.

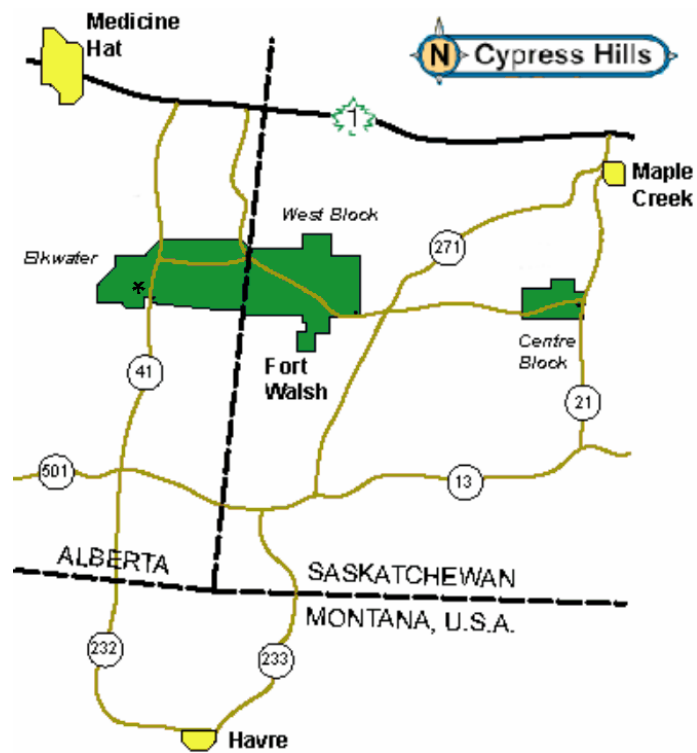
An agenda for the forum is attached. Please RSVP (RSVP to 306-295-3696 or suemichalsky@sasktel.net) by **March 21, 2008** so we may arrange for meals.

The spring forum will be held at the Elkwater Lake Lodge and Resort (www.elkwaterlakelodge.com) in Cypress Hills Interprovincial Park. A map to Elkwater is attached. Participants are responsible for booking their own hotel rooms. To book a room at Elkwater Lake Lodge, call 1-888-893-3811. The corporate group code is GMLINE. A block of rooms will be held until March 7.

Restaurant space is very limited in Elkwater, and restaurants do not open for breakfast before our forum begins each morning. Therefore, we will have breakfast and lunch catered for the forum, however, the cost of those meals are the responsibility of the participant and will be added to your room bill.

The Crossing the Medicine Line Network is a network of organizations working to share information, promote partnerships and coordinate conservation efforts on transboundary issues.

For more information on the CML Network, see
www.crossingthemedicineline.net



Wild Horse Border Crossing (HWY 232 from Havre to Alberta)
Hours of Operation: October 1 to May 14, 8:00 to 17:00
7 days a week

For information on requirements for US citizens traveling into Canada:
http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_1082.html

Crossing the Medicine Line Network: Spring Forum
Dates: April 2 & 3, 2008
Elkwater Lake Lodge & Resort, Elkwater, AB

Border Grasslands

Forum Purpose: First Nations used the Medicine Line to evade the armies and police of the United States and Canada. Today international and inter-provincial boundaries still influence the flow of information and management of ecosystems. The Crossing the Medicine Line Network is interested in improving the flow of information and facilitating cooperation in the management of the northern mixed grass prairie ecosystems that straddle international, state and provincial borders. The annual forum is designed to focus attention on selected transboundary conservation topics.

Agenda

Tuesday, April 1, 2008

19:30 Evening speaker – Shannon Christie, University of Saskatchewan, Transboundary Management and Conservation – Socioeconomic Dimensions of Conservation Planning and Implementation

April 2, 2008

Research Updates & Transboundary Monitoring of Grassland Songbirds

7:30: Continental breakfast

8:30 – 9:00: Welcoming Remarks– Pat Fargey, Parks Canada

Introduction to session – Brian Martin, The Nature Conservancy

9:00 – 9:30: Effects of Shallow Gas Infill Drilling on Grassland Passerines at CFB Suffield NWA
- Brenda Dale, Canadian Wildlife Service

9:30 – 10:00: Grassland Bird Winter Monitoring in Mexico -Arvind Panjabi – Rocky MT Bird
Observatory Denver

10:00 – 10:30: Coffee

10:30 – 10:50: Grazing Biodiversity Experiment in Grasslands National Park, Saskatchewan – Dr.
Nicky Koper, Univ. of Manitoba

10:50 – 11:10: Linking Remote detection of grass biomass to management – Dr. Xulin Guo, Univ. of
Saskatchewan

11:10 – 11:30: Grassland Ecosystem Management Support Model – John Wilmshurst, Parks
Canada

11:30 – 11:45: Update on sage-grouse winter migration from Grasslands National Park to Valley
County, MT - Dave Naugle, University of Montana, Missoula.

11:45 – 12:00: Petroleum development impacts on grassland birds on PFRA pastures – new
research project – Dr. Stephen Davis, Canadian Wildlife Service

12:00 – 12:15: Wind Power Development and Grassland Birds – Brian Martin, The Nature
Conservancy

12:15 – 13:30: Lunch

13:30 - 15:00: Grassland Bird Monitoring Round Table – participants working on monitoring programs will give an informal 5 or 10 minute update on their program

15:00 – 15:15: Coffee Break

15:15 – 16:30: Round table discussion on advancing collaborative transboundary (and beyond) monitoring efforts.

16:30 – 17:00 Steps Forward: Wrap-up of round table discussion – Brian Martin, TNC

Dinner on your own

April 03, 2008

Moving from Habitat Identification to Influencing Land Management

- 7:00: Continental breakfast
- 8:00 - 8:15: Introduction to Session – Pat Fargey, Parks Canada
- 8:15 – 8:30: Swift fox critical habitat modeling – Axel Moehrensclager, Calgary Zoo
- 8:30 – 8:45: Sprague’s pipit critical habitat modeling – Dr. Stephen Davis, Canadian Wildlife Service
- 8:45 – 9:00: Loggerhead shrike critical habitat modeling – Andrew Didiuk, Canadian Wildlife Service
- 9:00 – 9:15: Songbirds in the PPR of MN and IA: from planning to implementation Dave Naugle, University of Montana, Missoula.
- 9:15 – 9:30: Sage-grouse and energy development: where do we go from here? - Dave Naugle, University of Montana, Missoula.
- 9:30 – 10:00: Cumulative effects, habitat modeling and the management of sage grouse habitat in Alberta – Dale Eslinger, AB Fish & Wildlife.
- 10:00 – 10:20: Coffee Break
- 10:20 - 10:45: Preliminary strategies for Sage Grouse habitat management in Saskatchewan. Ron McNeil, Landwise Inc. Lethbridge.
- 10:45 – 11:05: From Strategies to Action: A proposal for a multi-species action plan for SW Saskatchewan.– Doug Campbell, SK Environment
- 11:05 – 11:30: Site Conservation Planning for Natural Areas – Sarah Green, Nature Conservancy Canada
- 11:30 – 12:00: Birds that know no boundaries: a genetic study of the Northern Montana Sage-Grouse population. Krissy Bush, University of Alberta
- 12:00 – 13:00: Lunch
- 13:00 – 14:30 Round table discussion of collaborative development and integration of habitat modeling.
- What are we doing well and what needs to be improved.
 - Emerging issues and ideas for future Forums.
- 14:30 – 15:00: Wrap-up of round table session – Pat Fargey

Head home.