

Working Table: Ecosystem Conservation

Co-Chairs:

- **Alaine Camfield**, Manager, Priority Places Initiative, Canadian Wildlife Service / Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC), Canada.
- **Carlos Alberto Sifuentes Lugo**, Director Regional Noreste y Sierra Madre Oriental, Comisión Nacional de Areas Naturales Protegidas (CONANP), México.
- **Debbie DeVore**, Chief, Division of Natural Resources, National Wildlife Refuge System (NWRS), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), United States.

Facilitator:

- **Mexico: Héctor Pérez Hernández**, Asesor Técnico, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), (Hector.PerezHernandez@fao.org) (52) 55-5449-7000 Ext. 17273).
- **United States: Xiomara Labiosa**, Division of Natural Resources, FWS NWRS, (xiomara_labiosa@fws.gov /571-329-7813).

Venue and Meeting Location:

- Virtual

ECWT Priorities for 2026

- Coordination for Ecosystem Conservation
- Grassland Conservation
- Landscape Conservation
- Pollinator Conservation
- Biological Corridors

TUESDAY, May 12, 2026

12:00 – 2:00 pm ET	<p>Plenary – Theme: 30th Anniversary of the Trilateral Committee for Wildlife and Ecosystem Conservation Management</p> <p>Trilateral Committee welcome remarks from CA, US & MX (5 min each country = 15 min)</p> <p>Blessing by Elder Dan Ross (10 min)</p> <p>Plenary opening and setting the scene (Carolina Caceres – David Brackett, Canada – photo montage) (15 min)</p> <p>Plenary Session: (20 min each speaker)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Steve Wendt (CA) - Francisco “Paco” Abarca (US) - Dr. Felipe Ramírez Ruiz de Velasco (MX) <p>Summary / closing remarks (20 min)</p>
2:00 – 2:15 pm ET	<i>Break</i>
2:15 – 3:00 pm ET	<u>AGENDA ITEM 1:</u> Welcome, Introductions, Adoption of the Agenda, and Country Updates

	<p>COLLABORATORS and CONTACTS: Co-chairs – Carlos Alberto Sifuentes Lugo (CONANP), Alaine Camfield (ECCC), Debbie DeVore (FWS).</p> <p>DESCRIPTION: Welcome and introductions of new and returning participants to the working table. Provide an orientation to the table’s business for the week and each country co-chair will present a short country report with relevant information to the Ecosystem Conservation Working Table (ECWT), including any expectations for the week’s proceedings.</p> <p>BACKGROUND: Standard agenda item to present and underline relevant events that have occurred in each of the three countries and build consensus and ensure full participation.</p> <p>REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adoption of the agenda. • Monitor progress on action items and agreements.
<p>3:00 – 3:15pm ET</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Theme: Trilateral Coordination for Ecosystem Conservation</i></p> <p>AGENDA ITEM 2: Trilateral Island Initiative: Conservation and Restoration of the Islands of Canada, the United States, and Mexico</p> <p>COLLABORATORS and CONTACTS: Annie Little (NPS), Federico Méndez Sánchez (Conservación de Islas), Gregg Howald (Advanced Conservation Strategies), Patty Baiao (Island Conservation), Nick Holmes (The Nature Conservancy), Eric VanderWerf (Pacific Rim Conservation).</p> <p>DESCRIPTION: This agenda item focuses on a collaborative trilateral effort to conserve and restore marine island ecosystems, including seabird populations. Following the signing of the Letter of Intent (LOI) at the 2014 Trilateral Committee meeting, the three countries have been collaborating on multiple issues of shared interest related to island conservation. The Trilateral Island Working Group will update the Ecosystem Conservation table on the status of current collaborative efforts, including ongoing projects, new priorities, and efforts to further the LOI. We will highlight island conservation efforts that in particular relate to species conservation, technological innovation, and community engagement.</p> <p>BACKGROUND: Over the last decade, multiple bilateral and trilateral island restoration projects have been initiated. In order to further encourage coordination and collaboration on island projects, a Trilateral Island Working Group was created in 2012. This group developed the LOI that was signed by the three countries at the 2014 Trilateral Meeting in Querétaro, Mexico. The LOI documents that the three countries intend to engage in cooperative bilateral and trilateral activities to promote sustainable environmental policies and practices in support of island conservation. The Working Group will discuss achievements, priorities, and updates of recent collaborative efforts related to island conservation.</p> <p>REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We seek continued endorsement by the Trilateral Committee of collaborative conservation efforts on islands in Canada, United States, and Mexico.

<p>3:15-3:30pm ET</p>	<p><i>Break</i></p>
<p>3:30 – 3:50pm ET</p>	<p><u>AGENDA ITEM 3:</u> North American Intergovernmental Committee on Cooperation for Protected Areas Conservation (NAPA) General Update</p> <p>COLLABORATORS and CONTACTS: Jose Feliciano González Jiménez, General Director for Institutional Strengthening and International Affairs, Mexico’s National Commission of Natural Protected Areas, CONANP; Cynthia Martinez, Chief, National Wildlife Refuge System, FWS; Gilles Seutin, Chief Ecosystems Scientist, Parks Canada; Adam Hanson, NAPA Facilitator, WILD Foundation</p> <p>DESCRIPTION: An update on NAPA activities over the past year and plans for 2026. In 2025, the North American Intergovernmental Committee on Cooperation for Protected Areas Conservation (NAPA) advanced cooperation consistent with the objectives of the renewed 2023 Memorandum of Understanding. This presentation will highlight key areas of technical exchange and cooperation in 2025 and provide a brief outlook on priorities for 2026.</p> <p>BACKGROUND: The North American Intergovernmental Committee on Cooperation for Protected Areas Conservation (NAPA) includes the six largest North American land and resource management agencies: Canada—Parks Canada Agency (PCA); Mexico—Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, National Commission of Natural Protected Areas (CONANP); United States—Department of Agriculture, U.S. Forest Service (USFS); Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), and the National Park Service (NPS). The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) is an official partner. Through the NAPA collaboration, participating organizations exchange ideas, experiences, best practices, and innovative solutions to enhance stewardship of North America’s conservation lands.</p> <p>The NAPA member agencies recognize that protected areas play a critical role in conserving species and ecosystems and supporting human health and well-being. They provide recreation, education, and research opportunities and support the economy by providing resource benefits, ecosystem services, tourist destinations, and ecological resilience.</p> <p>REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Share information between the NAPA and the Trilateral ECWT—two distinct bodies both interested in trinational collaboration for ecosystem conservation in North America.
<p>3:50-4:10pm ET</p>	<p><u>AGENDA ITEM 4:</u> Connecting to Conserve: The Value of Protected Areas Partnerships in North America</p> <p>COLLABORATORS and CONTACTS: Eduardo Robelo, CONANP, Rick Gupman, National Park Service</p> <p>DESCRIPTION: “Sister Parks” as a practical cooperation mechanism to strengthen conservation across North America. Highlights how this flexible approach can connect</p>

	<p>protected areas that are either geographically adjacent or linked by shared ecosystems, migratory species, or common management challenges.</p> <p>Key elements include the exchange of technical knowledge, coordinated actions for species conservation, and the creation of institutional synergies. Emphasizes how partnerships can scale local efforts into regional impact, fostering a more integrated approach to ecosystem management.</p> <p>Addresses key challenges, such as regulatory differences, limited funding, and the need for structured monitoring and continuity. At the same time, outlines opportunities, including stronger collaboration networks, access to international cooperation, and innovation in governance models.</p> <p>Includes concrete examples of partnerships between Mexico and the United States, demonstrating tangible outcomes in conservation and capacity building.</p> <p>BACKGROUND: Sister Parks are a cooperation mechanism grounded in the recognition that conserving an ecosystem is difficult when it extends beyond the boundaries of a single protected area or into non-protected lands. This approach promotes collaboration between areas that share ecological characteristics to strengthen coordinated management.</p> <p>Effective management through partnerships encourages joint actions to conserve shared ecosystems, resources, and cross-cutting challenges. These include the protection of migratory and transboundary species, water management, pollution control, and emerging risks such as zoonotic diseases.</p> <p>In this context, Mexico and the United States have built a long-standing collaboration through their respective protected areas agencies, particularly CONANP and the National Park Service (NPS). Over the years, this partnership has helped address common conservation challenges through coordinated technical and operational efforts.</p> <p>REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initiate a structured and sustained trilateral dialogue among Mexico, the United States, and Canada—aiming to establish a working group to follow up on this issue—contributing to a broader and more shared understanding of protected area partnerships (Sister Parks) as a strategic conservation tool. • This dialogue is expected to increase awareness and technical knowledge of the concept, including its practical applications, benefits, and relevance in addressing shared environmental challenges across North America. Bringing together perspectives from the three countries, this session will help identify common priorities, opportunities for collaboration, and potential areas for expansion of existing partnerships.
<p>4:10-4:30 pm ET</p>	<p>AGENDA ITEM 15: Grassland and Bird Conservation in Coahuila: An Integrated Approach of Knowledge and Culture</p> <p>COLLABORATORS and CONTACTS: José Javier Ochoa-Espinoza, UAAAN, José Antonio Hernández Herrera, UAAAN, Eloy Alejandro Lozano-Cavazos, UAAAN, Michelle Ivonne Ramos Robles, UAAAN, Jorge Alberto Ramirez Albores, UAAAN, Francisco Cruz García, UAAAN, Salvador Navárez Torres, Pronatura Noreste A.C., Sofia</p>

Strozzi Guerra, Museo de las Aves de México, Samuel López de Aquino, Museo de las Aves de México

DESCRIPTION: Grasslands, viewed as grazing lands, cover more than 50% of the Earth’s surface, and among the wildlife they support, birds are one of the most diverse groups. In recent decades, concern for bird conservation across all natural environments has increased. Interactions within grassland habitats have been widely studied, both from a biological perspective and in relation to livestock production. In the state of Coahuila, environmental culture related to ornithology holds particular significance, as it is home to the most important bird-themed museum in Mexico. Coahuila has grassland areas in the southeast (e.g., Tokio), in the central region (e.g., Valle de Colombia and Cuatrociénegas), and in the north (e.g., the Sierra del Burro and the Maderas del Carmen–Big Bend region), forming a key landscape connection for bird migration. Additionally, extensive livestock grazing is an activity that, over the past decade, has incorporated certain management practices within grazing systems aimed at modifying vegetation structure, though these still need to be better documented. In this context, the designation of 2026 as the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists represents an opportunity to highlight the importance of both birds and grasslands, while also promoting research and emphasizing the relevance of key ecological indicators such as birds in the official regulation of grazing capacity, thereby positively influencing public policy.

BACKGROUND: This proposal brings together participants who work directly across academic, conservation management, and environmental education fronts, addressing both birds and grasslands. The group has extensive experience in wildlife management and in the dissemination of knowledge, both scientific and focused on building environmental awareness, integrating the conservation of birds and grasslands at the same level. There is active involvement in the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists initiative through the generation of scientific knowledge for decision-making, the creation of partnerships, and the potential to influence public policy. Extensive livestock and grassland management directly affect the conservation of habitats for grassland-specialist bird species; therefore, a model that synergistically integrates science, communication, and environmental management ensures effective scaling into public policy mechanisms that regulate the use of grazing lands in Mexico, taking Coahuila as an example.

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:

- Main Objective: To promote, before key institutions responsible for grazing management in Mexico (SADER, COTECOCA, SEMARNAT), the update or initial inclusion (as appropriate) of ecological indicators (vital signs) to improve decision-making in the conservation and management of grazing lands, using the state of Coahuila as a national reference framework.
- To systematically document the information needed to support the use of bird groups as key ecological indicators (vital signs) in lands subject to livestock grazing, with an emphasis on grasslands.
- To promote and implement key research topics in demonstration ranches in the region that strengthen existing efforts and have high practical applicability.
- To coordinate exchanges of experiences with similar groups in the United States and Canada, in order to replicate successful approaches with similar objectives and improve efficiency in achieving the main goal.
- To engage and involve key institutions at different levels of government (e.g., SADER delegations and COTECOCA offices) in the process, and to identify legal pathways to promote the inclusion of ecological indicators as key parameters in

	<p>decision-making for regulating grazing use in Mexican rangelands.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To disseminate information on the integrated topic of birds and grasslands in various forums within the framework of the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists and beyond. • To produce monitoring and final reports.
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WEDNESDAY, May 13, 2026

<p>1:00 – 1:20 pm ET</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Theme: Connecting science and action</i></p> <p><u>AGENDA ITEM 6:</u> Use of Automated Exposure Summary Reports to Assist with Refuge Management Decisions, Planning, and Adaptation Response</p> <p>COLLABORATORS and CONTACTS: Todd Jones-Farrand, FWS, Brian Klingbeil, FWS, Jaron Ming, FWS</p> <p>DESCRIPTION: The National Wildlife Refuge System developed summary reports to quickly provide easily digestible, up to date scientific information for decision makers and refuge managers. The reports are intended to be a conversation starter with decision makers to identify specific information needs to support planning for uncertain or changing future scenarios or for responding to currently changing environments. We'll cover report content, initial use cases, and potential pathways to improve information delivery to support conservation planning and management decisions under uncertainty.</p> <p>BACKGROUND: In 2024-2025, in collaboration with the National Park Service, the US Fish and Wildlife Service has developed an inexpensive, efficient, and automated process to generate summarized reports that can be customized and downsized to assist field stations and individual or groups of National Wildlife Refuges with their management and planning efforts. These exposure summary reports are useful for quickly providing easily digestible, up to date scientific information for decision makers and refuge managers that can assist with planning for uncertain or changing future scenarios or responding to currently changing environments.</p> <p>REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss applied use of exposure summary reports, share examples of how the reports have been used in planning, share barriers to development and use of the reports, and determine if other agencies/partners/countries are interested in coordinating or collaborating on improving information delivery to support conservation planning and management decisions.
<p>1:20 – 1:40 pm ET</p>	<p><u>AGENDA ITEM 7:</u> Fire Management in Protected Natural Areas: A Conservation Tool</p> <p>COLLABORATORS and CONTACTS: Julio Alberto Carrera, Treviño National Commission of Natural Protected Areas</p> <p>DESCRIPTION: The presentation aims to showcase the paradigm shift in fire management in Mexico within Protected Natural Areas, moving from fire suppression through wildfire control to its use as a tool for the management and restoration of fire-dependent and fire-adapted ecosystems, for the benefit of key priority species present in these ecosystems.</p>

	<p>BACKGROUND: Fire management in Mexico has evolved significantly within the context of Protected Areas (PAs). Historically, public policy focused on the total suppression of wildfires, based on the premise that fire was solely a threat to ecosystems. However, this perspective began to shift as fire came to be recognized as a natural ecological process in many ecosystems, and that its absence can lead to fuel accumulation and increase the risk of high-severity fires.</p> <p>Since the 2000s, a more comprehensive approach has been consolidated through the involvement of institutions such as the National Commission of Natural Protected Areas (CONANP) and the National Forestry Commission (CONAFOR), incorporating the concept of fire management as part of environmental management.</p> <p>In this context, fire management has become a key component in the management of Protected Areas, transitioning from a reactive approach to a more comprehensive, preventive, and adaptive one that recognizes the interaction among ecological, social, and climatic factors.</p> <p>REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To highlight the efforts of the National Commission of Natural Protected Areas in fire management and to promote the exchange of experiences and scientific information with experts from the United States of America and Canada, in order to strengthen the capacities of Mexican technical personnel responsible for this strategic line at the national level.
<p>1:40 – 2:00pm ET</p>	<p>AGENDA ITEM 8: Towards improving conservation outcomes using bioacoustics in Parks Canada</p> <p>COLLABORATORS and CONTACTS: Jen Theberge, Parks Canada</p> <p>DESCRIPTION: Bioacoustic science has gained momentum as a tool to enhance understanding of ecosystems. This presentation will describe the emerging focus of acoustic ecology applications across Parks Canada places. The presentation will also explore the perspectives of park ecologists regarding challenges, potential solutions, and evolving synergies when implementing acoustic monitoring and research for a range of taxonomic groups (e.g., songbirds, bats, amphibians, marine mammals).</p> <p>Due to the increasing evidence that acoustics are important evolutionary components of ecosystems, it is becoming particularly prudent to consider acoustics in the stewardship and management of protected and conserved areas and their broader connected ecosystems. Examples will highlight where bioacoustic information has informed decision-making to enhance conservation outcomes in sites administered by Parks Canada. Considerations will also be explored regarding the use of artificial intelligence for bioacoustics in analysis and sound classification.</p> <p>BACKGROUND: In a rapidly changing world, the roles of protected and conserved area networks are increasingly vital (e.g., in conserving species, ecosystems and their services). Research and monitoring activities within these networks can provide important knowledge regarding the presence, decline, or other change, in regional species assemblages. Advances in bioacoustic research and monitoring have great potential to assist with increasing efficiency in the documentation of trends in sound-producing species or entire ecosystems (e.g., soundscapes) over time, thereby providing relative measures of biodiversity</p>

	<p>intactness, responses to restoration efforts, and real-time evidence or forewarnings of unfolding ecosystem change.</p> <p>Sound is inherent to the evolutionary ecology of species. It is, therefore, highly relevant for the stewards of protected and conserved areas to consider the documentation and protection of ‘natural’ acoustic environments. Particularly poorly understood are the impacts of anthropogenic sounds on species and ecosystems, and the cumulative impacts of the myriad of changes that are occurring in once pristine soundscapes.</p> <p>REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide an update on work to-date on Parks Canada’s bioacoustic monitoring and research; and seek feedback on opportunities for collaboration and learning with North American colleagues for this work.
<p>2:00-2:15pm ET</p>	<p><i>Break</i></p>
<p>2:15-2:35pm ET</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Theme: Joint Session on Monarchs with Species Table</i></p> <p><u>AGENDA ITEM 9:</u> U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service – Monarch Butterfly Updates</p> <p>COLLABORATORS and CONTACTS: Melissa Burns FWS, Ryan Drum FWS, Nicole Alt FWS</p> <p>DESCRIPTION: This presentation will provide a highlight of monarch butterfly conservation activities in the United States in 2025 and preview the work planned for 2026 and beyond. A population update for the eastern and western populations is included as well as an overview of the recent technological advancements, collaborative scientific research, and conservation successes benefiting monarch butterflies.</p> <p>BACKGROUND: For decades, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has partnered with states, tribes, private landowners, farmers, ranchers, and conservation organizations to support monarch butterflies and the habitat on which they depend. These voluntary efforts continue to be central to monarch conservation across North America.</p> <p>REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sharing updates and seeking discussion on shared priorities for coordination and implementation.
<p>2:35-2:55pm ET</p>	<p><u>AGENDA ITEM 10:</u> Conservation of the monarch butterfly (<i>Danaus plexippus</i>) (Mexico)</p> <p>COLLABORATORS and CONTACTS: Greisy Jocelyn Flores Sierra, CONANP, Antoine Asselin-Nguyen, Commission for Environmental Cooperation, Greg Mitchell, ECCC, Ryan G. Drum, USFWS</p> <p>DESCRIPTION: As a result of the ongoing efforts of the Scientific Committee, its members have prioritized the development and updating of the 2008 North American Monarch Butterfly Conservation Plan and Mexico’s 2018-2024 Monarch Butterfly Conservation Action Plan, as well as its update for the 2025-2030 period.</p> <p>Complementarily, the trinational efforts have been strengthened through the creation of the Trinational Alliance for the Scientific Conservation of the Monarch Butterfly, which serves as a collaborative platform among the three countries. In May 2024, this alliance met in</p>

	<p>Mexico to begin the reassessment of conservation priorities at a continental scale, continuing a long-term, coordinated process. This process builds upon the 2008 North American Conservation Plan and seeks to update it based on new scientific knowledge and emerging challenges. The resulting strategic framework is organized around three pillars: Coordination, Science, and Habitat.</p> <p>During the 2025–2026 winter season, Monarch butterfly colonies occupied 2.93 hectares of forest, representing a 64% increase compared to the previous season, when 1.79 hectares were recorded.</p> <p>Between February 2024 and February 2025, a total of 2.55 hectares of forest were affected, reflecting a 32 % reduction.</p> <p>BACKGROUND: In 2018 authorities from Mexico, the United States and Canada established the Trilateral Scientific Committee for Monarch Butterfly Conservation with the purpose of working towards the achievement of these goals.</p> <p>After a pause of several years, in 2023 the committee, formed by high-level scientists from the three countries, was reinvigorated under the framework of the Trilateral Committee Meeting and met in Mexico City in February 2024 to update the knowledge that so far had been obtained about the monarch butterfly and identify the main threats to its migratory patterns, restoration of critical habitats and the reduction of agrochemical use.</p> <p>REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue with the publication of the 2008 North American Monarch Butterfly Conservation Plan. • Promote the adoption of advanced monitoring technologies to improve understanding of spring migration patterns • Standardize monitoring methodologies and develop a coordinated data-sharing strategy to facilitate analysis, comparability, and collaboration among countries
<p>2:55-3:15pm Et</p>	<p><u>AGENDA ITEM 11:</u> Monarch - Domestic Updates (Canada)</p> <p>COLLABORATORS and CONTACTS: Greg Mitchell, ECCC, Elisabeth Shapiro, ECCC</p> <p>DESCRIPTION: This presentation will provide an update on monarch conservation status and conservation activities in Canada.</p> <p>REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drafting of North American Monarch Butterfly Conservation Plan. Seeking continued trilateral endorsement / support for this work.
<p>3:15 – 3:30pm ET</p>	<p><i>Break</i></p>
<p>3:30 – 4:00 pm ET</p>	<p><u>AGENDA ITEM 12:</u> North American Monarch Conservation - Trinational Science Update</p> <p>COLLABORATORS and CONTACTS: Greg Mitchell, ECCC, Wendy Caldwell, Monarch Joint Venture, Alma Villaneuva Rodriguez, FAO Mexico, Greisy Flores, CONANP</p>

	<p>DESCRIPTION: The Trinational Monarch Conservation Science Partnership will provide an update on trinational monarch conservation science activities:</p> <p>Greg Mitchell (STB, ECCC) - Update on trinational science initiatives (e.g., tagging, decision support tool for investment in conservation)</p> <p>Wendy Caldwell (MJV) will present the results of the CEC supported project to develop an evidence informed North American Monarch Butterfly Conservation Plan "Strengthening Evidence-based Collaborative Monarch Conservation Action"</p> <p>BACKGROUND: Drafting of North American Monarch Butterfly Conservation Plan. Seeking continued trilateral endorsement / support for this work.</p> <p>REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drafting of North American Monarch Butterfly Conservation Plan. Seeking continued trilateral endorsement / support for this work.
<p>4:00-4:20</p>	<p>AGENDA ITEM 13: Priority Actions for Monarch Conservation in North America: Advancing a Renewed Trinational Framework for the Migratory Monarch: A Joint Session with the Ecosystems Working Table</p> <p>COLLABORATORS and CONTACTS: Christine Chase, Monarch Joint Venture, Alyssa Taylor, Monarch Joint Venture, Wendy Caldwell, Monarch Joint Venture</p> <p>DESCRIPTION: The migratory monarch butterfly is one of North America’s most iconic and internationally shared species, linking ecosystems, cultures, and communities across Canada, Mexico, and the United States. In response to evolving conservation challenges and nearly two decades of new scientific knowledge, partners across the continent have collaboratively developed Priority Actions for Monarch Conservation in North America. This is a renewed trinational framework designed to guide coordinated monarch conservation efforts.</p> <p>This presentation will introduce the updated framework and highlight the collaborative process that shaped its development. Over the course of one in-person and ten virtual meetings throughout 2025, representatives from government agencies, academic institutions, and nongovernmental organizations across all three countries contributed to refining and strengthening shared priorities for monarch conservation.</p> <p>The presentation will summarize the framework’s three interconnected focus areas: Systems for Collaboration and Communication, Coordination of Science and Monitoring, and Strategic Habitat Initiatives. It will also explore how the framework can support decision-making, strengthen existing initiatives, align investments and partnerships, and mobilize collective action across jurisdictions and sectors.</p> <p>BACKGROUND: The original <i>North American Monarch Conservation Plan</i> was released in 2008 as a landmark effort in trinational collaboration for monarch conservation. Since that time, monarch conservation status, scientific understanding, and cross-border partnerships have evolved significantly. In 2025, the Commission for Environmental Cooperation engaged the Monarch Joint Venture to facilitate a collaborative process with the Trinational Monarch Conservation Science Partnership to identify updated priorities for monarch conservation across Canada, Mexico, and the United States. The resulting</p>

	<p>framework reflects current science, shared experience, and a renewed commitment to coordinated continental conservation action.</p>
<p>4:20- 4:40 pm ET</p>	<p><u>AGENDA ITEM 14:</u> US Fish and Wildlife Service – Center for Pollinator Conservation Updates</p> <p>COLLABORATORS and CONTACTS: Ryan Drum, USFWS, Nicole Alt, USFWS, Melissa Burns USFWS</p> <p>DESCRIPTION: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s Center for Pollinator Conservation serves a unique role as the only US federal entity dedicated to monarch butterfly and pollinator conservation. The Center’s efforts span collaboration, engagement, and applied science functions. This presentation will highlight recent progress, including technological advancements, collaborative scientific research, and conservation successes benefiting monarch butterfly, other native pollinators, and their habitats.</p> <p>BACKGROUND: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service mission is working with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats. The Center for Pollinator Conservation, established in 2022, promotes working together to address declining pollinator populations in America. This national center is a place for land managers, decision and policy makers, scientists, program leaders and others to explore, coordinate and share best practices and approaches. We work collaboratively with partners to implement conservation that benefits pollinator species, habitats, and human communities.</p> <p>REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sharing updates and seeking discussion on shared priorities for coordination and implementation.

THURSDAY, May 14, 2026

<p>1:00- 1:30pm ET</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Theme: Grasslands - Joint Session with the Migratory Bird Table</i></p> <p><u>AGENDA ITEM 15:</u> Advancing Trinational Grassland Conservation Through the Central Grasslands Roadmap Initiative</p> <p>COLLABORATORS and CONTACTS: Maggie Hanna, Central Grasslands Roadmap Initiative, Bird Conservancy of the Rockies, Rogelio Maciel, ProNatura, Diana Doan Crider, Indigenous Kinship Circle Coordinator, Ali Duvall, JV8 Coordinator, USFWS, NGOs, academic institutions</p> <p>DESCRIPTION: The Central Grasslands Roadmap Initiative (CGRI) is a voluntary, partnership-driven effort to conserve one of North America’s most imperiled ecosystems—the central grasslands biome spanning Canada, the United States, and Mexico. This presentation will highlight how CGRI aligns conservation actions, funding, and science across borders to achieve durable outcomes for grasslands, wildlife, and the communities that depend on them.</p> <p>We will share recent progress, including the development of decision-support tools for grassland birds, expansion of cross-border partnerships, and upcoming initiatives such as the CGRI Summit in Chihuahua, Mexico. The session will emphasize how coordinated,</p>
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	<p>landscape-scale approaches can improve habitat connectivity, enhance biodiversity, and support working lands.</p> <p>The presentation will also explore opportunities for deeper trinational collaboration under the Trilateral Committee, including aligning priorities, leveraging investments, and supporting locally led conservation delivery. CGRI offers a scalable model for integrating science, policy, and community engagement across jurisdictions.</p> <p>BACKGROUND: North America’s central grasslands have experienced significant loss and fragmentation, making them one of the most threatened ecosystems globally. These landscapes support migratory birds, native biodiversity, and rural livelihoods across all three countries.</p> <p>The Central Grasslands Roadmap Initiative was established to bring together diverse partners to coordinate conservation efforts across this biome. By focusing on shared priorities, such as habitat connectivity, sustainable grazing, and species conservation, CGRI provides a framework for collaborative, cross-border action.</p> <p>The Trilateral Committee presents a unique opportunity to strengthen alignment among national efforts and accelerate conservation outcomes at a continental scale.</p> <p>REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase awareness and engagement of Trilateral Committee members in grassland conservation efforts • Identify opportunities for alignment between CGRI and national/regional conservation priorities • Strengthen cross-border collaboration and information sharing • Support integration of science and decision-support tools into conservation planning • Explore mechanisms to leverage funding and policy support for grassland conservation
<p>1:30-2:00pm ET</p>	<p><u>AGENDA ITEM 16:</u> Indigenous Kinship Circle</p> <p>COLLABORATORS and CONTACTS: Paulette Fox, Harmony Walkers Inc., Diana Doan Crider, Animo Partnership</p> <p>DESCRIPTION: The Indigenous Kinship Circle (IKC) is a community of practice working across the grasslands of Turtle Island to strengthen relationships between Indigenous peoples, communities, and the lands that sustain and nourish us. The IKC grew out of the Central Grasslands Roadmap (CGR) as a way to help bring Indigenous voices, knowledge systems, and priorities alongside grassland conservation and stewardship efforts across Canada, the United States, and México. For many of us, grasslands are much more than ecosystems. They are connected to language, identity, cultural memory, responsibility, and long-standing relationships with Mother Earth and all our relations. Together, we developed a framework that outlines our shared priorities and commitments. Including how we support willing partners and agencies, such as the CGR and other grassland conservation efforts to build much needed awareness and understanding, broadly, as well as how to connect to communities where knowledge systems are place-based. This</p>

	<p>presentation provides an overview of the IKC shared priorities. Including opportunities to connect to the collective work of the Trilateral Committee.</p> <p>BACKGROUND: IKC has presented previously at Trilateral meetings on projects across the grasslands biome in Canada, U.S.A. and Mexico. Paulette Fox in particular has been instrumental in advancing the Grasslands and Bison LOIs, as well as other engagement over the past 5 years.</p>
<p>2:00 – 2:15pm ET</p>	<p><i>Break</i></p>
<p>2:15 – 2:35pm ET</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Theme: Other Topics - Joint Session with the Migratory Bird Table</i></p> <p><u>AGENDA ITEM 17:</u> JV8 Central Grasslands Conservation Initiative</p> <p>COLLABORATORS and CONTACTS: Jennie Duberstein, Sonoran Joint Venture; Andy Bishop, FWS; Karen Chapman, Rio Grande Joint Venture, Ali Duvall, JV8 Manager; Mara Erickson, Prairie Habitat Joint Venture; Lauri Hanauska-Brown, Prairie Pothole Joint Venture; Robert Perez, Oaks and Prairies Joint Venture; Rich Schultheis, Playa Lakes Joint Venture; Barry Robinson, Prairie Habitat Joint Venture and Catherine Wightman, Northern Great Plains Joint Venture</p> <p>DESCRIPTION: The JV8 Central Grasslands Conservation Initiative (JV8) brings together eight Migratory Bird Joint Ventures working to address the decline of grassland habitat, wildlife species, and the impacts to communities and economies across the Central Grasslands from Canada to Mexico. In 2025 we published the JV8 Business Plan to Recover North America’s Central Grasslands: Strategies, Funding, and Partnerships Needed to Save One of the World’s Most Endangered Ecosystems, creating a bold and ambitious blueprint that supports and scales up grassland habitat collaboration. JV8 has since focused on putting the Business Plan into action, including conducting step-down planning to achieve Business Plan goals, developing an app to track investments and outcomes across JVs, designing and launching https://jv8.org, bringing partners together from Canada, the U.S., Mexico, and Indigenous Nations to discuss shared interest and opportunities for collaboration, and received funding to scale up successful JV conservation actions. For the coming year JV8 will focus on continuing to develop and implement a unified, transparent, trusted system for tracking JV conservation outcomes across the Central Grasslands, increasing conservation delivery capacity across JVs, reducing duplication of efforts by strengthening relationships and sharing capacity, expanding funding streams, including corporate and non-traditional sources, and undertaking clear, compelling, and strategic communications that demonstrates collective impact and attracts new support and engagement.</p> <p>BACKGROUND: The JV8 vision is that the grasslands from Canada to Mexico support stable, thriving, and diverse communities of birds, other wildlife, and people into the future. Our mission is to engage and expand Migratory Bird Joint Venture (JV) partnerships across North America for the stewardship of native grassland ecosystems.</p> <p>JV8’s role is to support stewards and stakeholders working across the Central Grasslands to deliver proactive, voluntary grassland habitat conservation using western science and</p>

	<p>Indigenous knowledge. JV8 focuses on supporting and strengthening local and regional partnerships to stem grassland habitat loss and negative impacts to migratory birds.</p> <p>REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss opportunities for collaboration on scaling up successful grassland conservation efforts, including financial and institutional support, across Canada, the U.S., and Mexico, including Indigenous Nations. • Continued support by the parties of the Trilateral Committee and Work Groups for collaborative conservation efforts for the Central Grasslands of North America.
<p>2:35 – 2:55pm ET</p>	<p>AGENDA ITEM 18: A partnership to strengthen binational collaboration: Migratory Bird Joint Ventures and the National Commission for Protected Natural Areas</p> <p>COLLABORATORS and CONTACTS: Jennie Duberstein, Sonoran Joint Venture, Celene Moncayo, Sonoran Joint Venture, José Feliciano González Jiménez, CONANP, Angélica Narváez Casillas, CONANP, Carlos Alberto Sifuentes, CONANP, Héctor Antonio Pérez Hernández, CONANP, Karen Chapman, Rio Grande Joint Venture Jesús Franco, Rio Grande Joint Venture</p> <p>DESCRIPTION: For many years, the National Commission for Natural Protected Areas (CONANP), the Rio Grande Joint Venture, and the Sonoran Joint Venture have collaborated on binational conservation efforts, though often in informal and inconsistent ways. Recently, these entities expressed their intention to coordinate efforts more formally through the development of an institutional agreement—a Letter of Intent (LOI)—to establish a clear framework for participation and collaboration.</p> <p>The draft LOI, now in its final stages of review and approval, underscores the importance of binational collaboration in the following priority areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • conservation and restoration of terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems; • conservation and/or monitoring of priority species; • research and/or application of scientific knowledge; • capacity building, outreach, and environmental awareness; and • environmental variability. <p>Examples of proposed collaboration include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • formal participation of a CONANP representative on the Management Board of each Joint Venture; • capacity building to strengthen the conservation and restoration of federal protected areas; • exchange of information and data related to conservation and restoration; and • development of outreach and environmental awareness programs. <p>Institutional collaboration will be coordinated to develop conservation plans that guide the implementation of mutually beneficial priority activities.</p> <p>BACKGROUND: The National Commission for Natural Protected Areas (CONANP) is primarily responsible for conserving Mexico’s natural heritage through a system of federally designated protected natural areas. Its core responsibilities include promoting and managing the establishment of these areas, as well as fostering and developing activities aimed at conserving their ecosystems and their biodiversity.</p> <p>The Rio Grande Joint Venture and the Sonoran Joint Venture are transboundary regional</p>

	<p>alliances that work to conserve birds and their ecosystems in the southern United States and northern Mexico. Within their geographic scope in Mexico, there is a significant number of protected natural areas.</p> <p>Strengthening efforts to effectively conserve and restore Mexico’s protected natural areas directly supports the conservation and management goals shared by these three organizations.</p> <p>REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inform the Ecosystem Conservation Working Table and the Trilateral Committee about this binational initiative. • Generate discussion and ideas regarding additional collaboration opportunities for the conservation of shared ecoregions and migratory bird species. • Confirm the commitment of the three institutions to signing the Letter of Intent and to undertaking the necessary actions to achieve measurable success. • Formally recognize the importance of coordinated collaboration for the conservation of shared priority natural protected areas.
<p>2:55 – 3:05pm ET</p>	<p>AGENDA ITEM 19: Two Decades of Grassland Bird Research and Conservation in the Chihuahuan Desert of Mexico</p> <p>COLLABORATORS and CONTACTS: Irene Ruvalcaba Ortega, Universidad Autónoma de Nuevo León, Ricardo Canales del Castillo, Universidad Autónoma de Nuevo León, Arvind Panjabi, Bird Conservancy of the Rockies, José Juan Flores Maldonado, Especies, Sociedad y Hábitat, Antonio Moreno Talamantes, Especies, Sociedad y Hábitat, Brandt Ryder, Bird Conservancy of the Rockies, Angela Dwyer, Bird Conservancy of the Rockies, Salvador Narvaez, Pronatura Noreste, Alberto Macías Duarte, Universidad Estatal de Sonora.</p> <p>DESCRIPTION: Research on grassland birds overwintering in the Chihuahuan Desert of Mexico has progressed through several phases aimed at answering key questions to inform conservation planning and actions. The first collaborative monitoring effort, conducted between 2007 and 2013, documented important variation in migratory grassland bird densities among sites and years, while also identifying habitat characteristics associated with higher bird densities. Subsequent radio-telemetry studies found that taller shrub cover and low temperatures negatively affected overwinter survival. Research has also revealed geographic patterns in the male-to-female ratios of grassland specialists, while functional genetic diversity in migratory and endemic species remains high but correlated with population size. More recently, migratory connectivity has become a focus through collaborations with the Motus and Bird Genoscape Project initiatives.</p> <p>Particular monitoring and research efforts have also been conducted within the GPCA El Tokio, a distinctive region that includes shortgrass prairies maintained by the endemic Mexican prairie-dog (<i>Cynomys mexicanus</i>), mixed grasslands, arid scrublands, and agricultural habitats such as potato fields and fallow lands. This area is especially important for shortgrass specialists and supports unique resident populations of grassland birds, including Mountain Plover, Savannah Sparrow, Cassin’s Sparrow, Botteri’s Sparrow, Horned Lark, and Loggerhead Shrike, as well as the Chihuahuan Desert endemic Worthen’s Sparrow.</p>

	<p>BACKGROUND: Grassland birds in North America have experienced severe population declines for more than half a century, mainly due to the loss and degradation of grassland ecosystems. Because most breeding grassland birds of the Great Plains overwinter in the Chihuahuan Desert (CHD), large-scale research efforts began in the region, particularly in Mexico, in 2006 and continue to this day. These efforts have required transboundary collaboration and the participation of numerous institutions and organizations. In addition, focused regional initiatives have continued in key areas such as the Grassland Priority Conservation Areas (GPCAs) El Tokio and other important grasslands in Mexico, addressing not only migratory grassland birds, but also resident populations, as well as endemic and endangered species.</p> <p>REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss opportunities and strategies to strengthen and sustain research collaboration, including mechanisms for long-term financial and institutional support. • Discuss strategies to improve the communication and dissemination of research findings among landowners, decision-makers, and policymakers in order to elevate the importance of grassland conservation in Mexico. • Highlight the importance of including and supporting the long-term monitoring and research of resident and endemic grassland bird populations in Mexico.
<p>3:05 – 3:15pm ET</p>	<p>AGENDA ITEM 20: Grasslands of Mexico: National Efforts within the CGRI and IYRP International Initiatives</p> <p>COLLABORATORS and CONTACTS: Javier Ochoa, International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists, Maggie Hanna, Central Grasslands Roadmap Initiative, Bird Conservancy of the Rockies, Vicente Rodríguez, Comisión Nacional para el Conocimiento y Uso de la Biodiversidad</p> <p>DESCRIPTION: This presentation outlines the strategic efforts of the Mexican working group within the Central Grassland Roadmap Initiative (CGRI) and its mission to secure the future of North America’s central grasslands. We will discuss the specific priorities established for the Mexican territory, highlighting the upcoming Summit in Chihuahua scheduled for November 2026. This summit is designed as a pivotal collaborative space where diverse stakeholders, including ranchers, scientists, and policymakers, will converge to share best practices and strengthen regional conservation networks.</p> <p>Furthermore, we will explore how these efforts are strategically aligned with the global framework of the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (IYRP). By linking the CGRI’s actions with the IYRP’s international agenda, it is being demonstrated how intersectoral collaboration networks are necessary and can multiply the results of conservation efforts in an ecosystem as vulnerable as grasslands.</p> <p>BACKGROUND: Grasslands are among the most ecologically vital yet critically endangered biomes on the planet, providing essential ecosystem services such as carbon sequestration, water filtration, and a unique habitat for specialized biodiversity. Despite their importance, these landscapes face unprecedented threats from land-use conversion, climate change, and unsustainable management, leading to rapid degradation. In Mexico, these ecosystems are particularly vulnerable, making their preservation a matter of both environmental urgency and national heritage.</p>

	<p>To address these challenges, the Central Grassland Roadmap Initiative (CGRI) and the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (IYRP) serve as international frameworks designed to elevate the conservation practice and promote the value of the grassland ecosystem, sustainable rangeland management and pastoralist livelihoods. Specifically in Mexico, these initiatives have cemented a robust conservation community focused on the country's most threatened grasslands. By fostering international collaboration and adopting international goals into local impact, these efforts unite ranchers, scientists, and policymakers in a shared mission to restore ecological health and ensure the long-term resilience of Mexico’s landscapes.</p> <p>REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Network Expansion: Identify and engage new partners to join the Mexican conservation network, broadening the collaborative reach of both the CGRI and IYRP. • Visibility and Advocacy: Increase global awareness of Mexico’s specific grassland challenges and successes • Collaborative Synergy: Formalize strategic alliances with academic, governmental, and private institutions to strengthen transboundary cooperation for the Chihuahua 2026 Summit. • Funding and Resource Mobilization: Identify and discuss mechanisms to leverage international funding and direct financial resources toward Mexican grassland conservation projects.
<p>3:15 – 3:30pm ET</p>	<p><i>Break</i></p>
<p>3:30- 3:50pm ET</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Theme: Various Topics</p> <p><u>AGENDA ITEM 21:</u> Pan Canadian Approach to Transforming Species at Risk Conservation in Canada</p> <p>COLLABORATORS and CONTACTS: Alaine Camfield, ECCC, Christian Malouin, ECCC, Tara Goetz, ECCC, Liz Sauer, ECCC, Joscelyn Coolican, ECCC</p> <p>DESCRIPTION: Environment and Climate Change Canada will provide an overview and update on the implementation of the Pan-Canadian Approach to Transforming Species at Risk Conservation in Canada. In 2018 the federal government, in collaboration with the provinces and territories, agreed to the implementation of this approach in Canada. This approach seeks to transform Species at Risk conservation from single-species to a multi-species and ecosystem-based approach, moving from a broad, independent effort to targeted and collaborative efforts and shifting from assessment and planning to implementation. Priority Places, Priority Sectors and Priority Species implementation are supported by Indigenous partnerships. This approach is filling an important gap by directly addressing biodiversity crisis through stewardship, to halt and reduce biodiversity loss where securement approaches are not the sole solution.</p> <p>Almost eight years into this transition, progress has been significant, aided by funding from the Canada Nature Fund and through matched funding by partners. Collaborative work has advanced in 12 Priority Places and 18 Community Nominated Priority Places, progress has been made towards conservation outcomes for each of the six priority species and significant advances have been made toward the co-creation of strategic conservation frameworks for agriculture, forest and urban development sectors with provincial and</p>

	<p>territorial governments, Indigenous People, industry and stakeholders.</p> <p>BACKGROUND: Important principles guide collaborative work under the Pan-Canadian Approach to Transforming Species at Risk Conservation in Canada:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • shared priorities and leadership • Indigenous engagement • strengthened evidence-base for decision making • aligned investments <p>We identify priorities using defined criteria, followed by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • cooperative action planning • investment and implementation of actions • monitoring and reporting of results <p>The results and benefits of action under the Pan-Canadian Approach are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • better conservation outcomes for more species at risk • improved return on investment • increased co-benefits for biodiversity and ecosystems <p>The federal government is committed to engaging with Indigenous Peoples and other partners and stakeholders on priority initiatives. We are also working closely with them to help shape and test tools to implement the <i>Species at Risk Act</i> (SARA), and to identify new priorities for future action. The Pan-Canadian Approach will also seek to renew relationships and strengthen collaboration between our governments and Indigenous Peoples.</p> <p>REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To provide updates on the implementation of Canada’s approach to species at risk conservation in Canada and facilitate a discussion about integrating species at risk conservation and ecosystems conservation approaches.
<p>3:50-4:10pm ET</p>	<p><u>AGENDA ITEM 22:</u> Beyond Protected Areas: Mexico’s Vision for Alternative Measures of Conservation</p> <p>COLLABORATORS and CONTACTS: José Feliciano González Jiménez, CONANP</p> <p>DESCRIPTION: The session will present Mexico’s perspective and experience on alternative conservation measures as strategic opportunities to expand area-based conservation and strengthen ecological connectivity at the regional level. In a context where biodiversity conservation requires more comprehensive and collaborative approaches, these measures include tools such as OECMs (Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures), Voluntarily Designated Areas for Conservation (Áreas Destinadas Voluntariamente a la Conservación, ADVC), and other governance mechanisms that complement traditional Protected Areas by recognizing territories that generate effective and sustained outcomes for biodiversity conservation, even without a formal protected area designation.</p> <p>From Mexico’s experience, the session will address the process of incorporating these figures into national conservation strategies, as well as the main institutional, technical, and conceptual challenges related to their recognition, implementation, and long-term management. Particular attention will be given to their role in strengthening ecological</p>

	<p>connectivity, supporting community participation, and promoting more integrated conservation landscapes across North America.</p> <p>BACKGROUND: Alternative conservation measures have gained increasing relevance within the framework of the Convention on Biological Diversity as part of a broader recognition that biodiversity conservation does not occur solely within formally designated Protected Areas. With the adoption of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, particularly Target 3, the global agenda strengthened the objective of conserving at least 30% of terrestrial and marine areas by 2030 through Protected Areas and other effective conservation measures. This broader vision recognizes that conservation can also be achieved through Indigenous territories, community-managed lands, sustainable productive landscapes, ecological corridors, and other governance models that generate long-term biodiversity outcomes and strengthen ecological connectivity.</p> <p>In Mexico, this approach is particularly relevant due to the country’s land tenure structure, where a significant proportion of the territory is under social property regimes such as ejidos and agrarian communities. This has made voluntary and community-based conservation essential to national policy, especially through instruments such as Voluntarily Designated Areas for Conservation (Áreas Destinadas Voluntariamente a la Conservación, ADVC), which allow landowners, communities, and Indigenous peoples to voluntarily commit lands to conservation under CONANP recognition. More recently, in 2025, the Roadmap to Achieve or Exceed Target 3 formally introduced OECMs into the national agenda, creating an opportunity to complement the Protected Areas system and strengthen a more integrated conservation strategy.</p> <p>REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote a trilateral dialogue among Mexico, the United States, and Canada on the role of alternative conservation measures, including OECMs and Voluntarily Designated Areas for Conservation (ADVC), as complementary tools to strengthen biodiversity conservation and ecological connectivity across North America.
<p>4:10-4:30pm ET</p>	<p>AGENDA ITEM 23: National Parks in Canada: Everything including the Carbon Sink</p> <p>COLLABORATORS and CONTACTS: Alice Yue, Parks Canada, Adam Collinwood, Parks Canada, Karen Richardson, Parks Canada</p> <p>DESCRIPTION: Parks Canada has been modelling and measuring carbon in forest, peatland, coastal blue, and grassland ecosystems in national parks and national park reserves in Canada. Canada stores a significant proportion of the world’s carbon in its ecosystems, and by measuring it, we can better understand how these protected ecosystems help to regulate climate. The results of this work are shared on the Parks Canada Interactive Carbon Atlas (PCICA), an online platform that is home to park-level maps, data, and analyses that quantify ecosystem carbon dynamics at Parks Canada sites. Maps in the atlas show how much carbon is sequestered, where it is stored, how much is released back into the atmosphere, and how these change over time. This practical tool provides an evidence-base for conservation strategies on-the-ground and aims to strike a balance between accessible and scientific information to make carbon data easily available.</p> <p>BACKGROUND: Parks Canada is developing guidance for ecosystem carbon stewardship. Guidance will focus on protecting and limiting loss of currently stored carbon</p>

	<p>and restoring ecosystems to better manage carbon over time. To support this guidance, Parks Canada has modelled and measured ecosystem carbon in national parks. These data have been shared using a geomatic-based tool to support conservation decision-making. This guidance will be used by individual parks to inform management decisions, including with respect to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Park zoning ○ Asset or infrastructure development ○ Ecological restoration ○ Boundaries of new parks ○ Educational programing <p>REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Provide an update on work to-date and next steps on the Parks Canada Interactive Carbon Atlas and carbon stewardship.
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FRIDAY, May 15, 2026

<p>1:00 – 1:20 pm ET</p>	<p>Theme: Corridors</p>
	<p>AGENDA ITEM 24: Connecting landscapes at a national scale: an update on Parks Canada's National Program for Ecological Corridors</p> <p>COLLABORATORS and CONTACTS: Ariane Marin-Perreault, Parks Canada, Christine Drake, Parks Canada</p> <p>DESCRIPTION: The presentation will provide an update on key program elements of Parks Canada's National Program for Ecological Corridors including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● development of national criteria and guidance for ecological corridors in Canada, ● national-scale mapping of priority areas where ecological corridors are most needed, ● support for on-the-ground efforts and catalyzing action in support of corridor initiatives, and ● information about funded projects and collaborations that have advanced ecological connectivity and corridors across Canada. <p>BACKGROUND: While protected and conserved areas play a crucial role in preserving essential ecosystem functions, habitats and species, it is now understood that for ecosystems to be healthy and resilient, they must be connected. The creation of ecological corridors is a crucial - and growing - part of global conservation.</p> <p>Parks Canada's National Program for Ecological Corridors was funded in 2021 as part of a suite of nature-based solutions to halt and reverse biodiversity loss. The first in North America, it focuses on strengthening the network of protected and conserved areas across the mid- to southern latitudes in Canada, and contributes to several goals and targets under the KMGBF and Canada's National Adaptation Strategy.</p> <p>Parks Canada launched the program in April 2022 and has engaged with many levels of government, Indigenous partners and organizations, experts, stakeholders and the public to develop and implement it. Key outcomes, learnings and successes are ready to be shared.</p> <p>REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide an update on the Parks Canada National Program for Ecological Corridors and seek opportunities for collaboration and learning with North American colleagues.
<p>1:20 – 1:40 pm ET</p>	<p><u>AGENDA ITEM 25:</u> Biocultural corridors: Lessons, Opportunities and Challenges</p> <p>COLLABORATORS and CONTACTS: José Antonio Gonzalez Azuara, CONANP</p> <p>DESCRIPTION: This presentation provides an overview of CONANP’s approach to conservation through the lens of biocultural landscapes and protected areas, highlighting the close relationship between biodiversity conservation and the knowledge, practices, and governance systems of Indigenous Peoples and local communities. It explores how conservation efforts increasingly recognize that ecological integrity and cultural heritage are interconnected, particularly in territories where communities have historically maintained sustainable relationships with nature through traditional resource management, productive systems, and community-based stewardship.</p> <p>The presentation also addresses the role of protected areas, voluntary conservation mechanisms, and landscape-scale strategies such as biocultural corridors in strengthening ecosystem connectivity. Special attention is given to the importance of integrating local knowledge, participatory governance, and cross-sector collaboration in conservation planning, as well as to the opportunities and challenges associated with advancing conservation models that balance environmental protection with social inclusion and territorial development. Through this perspective, the presentation aims to share experiences and promote dialogue on innovative approaches to biodiversity conservation in megadiverse and multicultural contexts.</p> <p>BACKGROUND: The biocultural concept emerges from the intersection of two major international priorities: the recognition of the rights, knowledge, and governance systems of Indigenous Peoples and local communities, and the growing global environmental agenda focused on biodiversity conservation. This perspective recognizes that biological and cultural diversity are deeply interconnected, particularly in territories where communities have historically maintained close relationships with nature through traditional resource management, sustainable production practices, and community-based stewardship.</p> <p>Mexico represents a significant example of this approach as one of the world’s megadiverse and multicultural countries, where a substantial portion of the national territory overlaps with lands inhabited and managed by Indigenous Peoples and local communities. It is estimated that approximately 24 million hectares—around 12.4% of the national territory—have an Indigenous presence exceeding 80%. These areas function as complex socioecological systems in which worldviews, traditional knowledge, productive practices, food systems, and community governance contribute to maintaining biodiversity, ecosystem functionality, and the long-term conservation of natural heritage.</p> <p>REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initiate a structured and sustained trilateral dialogue among Mexico, the United States, and Canada, aiming to establish a working group to follow up on this issue—contributing to a broader and more shared understanding of corridors and associated concepts. • Identify and engage the competent authorities of the three countries.

<p>1:40 – 2:00 pm ET</p>	<p>AGENDA ITEM 26: From Fenced to Free: Restoring Pronghorn Access to Critical Winter Habitat in Wyoming’s Red Desert</p> <p>COLLABORATORS and CONTACTS: Brad Milley, FWS, Kourtney Stonehouse, FWS</p> <p>DESCRIPTION: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Partners for Fish and Wildlife (PFW) Program works with private landowners and tribes to do habitat restoration and enhancement work on a voluntary and non-regulatory basis. One of the PFW Program’s priorities is supporting big game winter range and migration corridor work in support of Secretarial Order 3362. This presentation will give an overview of the PFW Program, our work to support big game, and will share an example from Wyoming where PFW Program staff worked to remove fencing barriers to access to 9,000 acres (3,642 hectares) for pronghorn and elk.</p> <p>BACKGROUND: On February 9, 2018, the Secretary of the Department of the Interior (DOI) signed Secretarial Order (S.O.) 3362, Improving Habitat Quality in Western Big- Game Winter Range and Migration Corridors. S.O. 3362 directs appropriate bureaus within the DOI to work in close partnership with the states of Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming to enhance and improve the quality of big game winter range and migration corridor habitat on Federal lands under the management jurisdiction of the DOI in a way that recognizes state authority to conserve and manage big game species and respects private property rights.</p> <p>Since 2018, the focus of S.O. 3362 has been centered around enhancing winter and migration corridor habitat for Rocky Mountain elk, mule deer, and pronghorn within priority areas in State Action Plans (which were developed in response to S.O. 3362) and for specific priority projects on Tribal lands.</p> <p>The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Partners for Fish and Wildlife (PFW) Program works with willing landowners and tribes to efficiently achieve voluntary habitat restoration on private lands through financial and technical assistance. The PFW Program has played an important role in advancing the priorities of S.O. 3362 by building partnerships with willing landowners to conserve and restore big game wildlife habitat through improvements in seasonal habitats and migration corridors.</p> <p>Restoring big game habitat and migration corridors not only supports species like Rocky Mountain elk, mule deer, and pronghorn, but also provides vital benefits to a host of other wildlife. By ensuring these habitats are healthy and thriving, we create a better environment for Federal trust species that rely on the same ecosystems. This restoration work is a win-win for many species, enhancing the resilience of our landscapes.</p> <p>The project example for this presentation is from work completed by the PFW Program in Wyoming along with collaborators including a private landowner, Wyoming Game and Fish Department (WGFD), the Bureau of Land Management, and several supporting organizations, including the Wyoming Wildlife and Natural Resource Trust, the Knobloch Family Foundation, the WGFD Trust, Muley Fanatics, The Wildlife Fund, and the Wyoming Governor’s Big Game License Coalition.</p> <p>REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:</p>
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29th Meeting of the Canada/Mexico/United States
 Trilateral Committee for Wildlife and Ecosystem Conservation and Management
 May 12 – 15, 2026

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Share awareness of ongoing/future efforts taking form in the United States
2:00-2:15pm ET	<i>Break</i>
2:15 – 3:15pm ET	<p>EXECUTIVE TABLE PREPARATION</p> <p>COLLABORATORS and CONTACTS: Co-chairs – Carlos Alberto Sifuentes Lugo (CONANP), Alaine Camfield (ECCC), Debbie DeVore (FWS).</p>
3:15 – 3:30pm ET	<i>Break</i>
3:30-4:45pm ET	<p>EXECUTIVE TABLE: Co-Chairs Report to Executive Table Co-Chairs</p> <p>COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Co-chairs – Carlos Alberto Sifuentes Lugo (CONANP), Alaine Camfield (ECCC), Debbie DeVore (FWS).</p> <p>DESCRIPTION: The EWCT Co-Chairs will present highlights from the week’s discussions, including major themes and action items.</p> <p>REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Highlight a summary from the discussions at the ECWT. ▪ Present any proposals or outcomes for consideration by the Executive Table.
4:45 – 5:00pm ET	Closing (open to all): Closing remarks from CAN, US & MX - 5 min each country