

Politics of Grasslands – Concurrent Session

Key Points

- There is a willingness, and less reluctance than we perceive, but more direction is needed.
- Collaboration with local and regional governments is fundamental to fostering change.
- Citizens support environmental values and but they do not necessarily want to pay for it and are hesitant about the effects socially, economically and environmentally.

Science of Grasslands – Concurrent Session

Key Points

- Get people outside
- Focus on interpretation to engage the general public
- Inform municipalities on grasslands (parks, containment boundaries)
- Important to meaningfully extend science to municipality (e.g. Planning for Change)
- Establish legal mechanism for conservation of grasslands at all government levels
- Keep working ranches working
- Consolidation of land titles, in relation to working ranches
 - Talk to Law Foundation
 - Incentives
 - Covenants
- Lack of funding for projects and political will
- Link in with Heritage Society BC annual planners meeting to engage planners
- GCC supports working ranches but needs to link in ranchers to National Park feasibility
- Get the public engaged in the importance of grassland (e.g. Chris' grassland book)
- Work on information sharing (e.g. data, documents)
- Grasslands are underrepresented in protected areas. Needs to determine representation target based grassland condition & connectivity and more.... Need to define protection/representation.

Economics of Grasslands – Concurrent Session Key Points

- Protecting Farming
- a) ALR - Act is to preserve **farmland**, but NOT to protect **farming**
- b) Farmers want to keep farming – Urban residents value grassland for other purposes WIN/WIN
- c) Policy development should be supporting farms and farming that contributes to health of entire community and the environment.
- d) Education – large blocks of contiguous grassland are most valuable commodity – promotion of this would answer question of why should I care