



Buffalo Nations Grasslands Alliance

GRASSLANDS FOR GENERATIONS

22695 Little Bend Rd
Lower Brule, SD 57548
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Website: BNGAlliance.org

April 18, 2022

RE: Letter of Commitment to the Central Grasslands Roadmap

Dear Roadmap Steering Committee and Leaders:

As an organization that works to steward and conserve the Northern Great Plains, an area in the Central Grasslands, we are committed to the vision, priorities and guidance set forth in the Central Grasslands Roadmap as outlined in its Executive Summary. We are committed to the Roadmap collaboration to ensure that our way of life and one of the most important ecosystems on the planet, remains intact.

The Buffalo Nations Grasslands Alliance (BNGA) envisions Native nations uniting so that the diversity of life in the Northern Great Plains flourishes for current and future generations. BNGA's mission is to ensure that the 15 Native nations in the Northern Great Plains have the technical and financial resources to plan and act on the vision for their traditional lands and waters, which includes ensuring that:

- Tribal members thrive by sustainably stewarding and connecting with natural resources;
- Grasslands and native wildlife on tribal lands are restored or enhanced; and
- Tribal fish and game departments have the capacity to deliver conservation at scale.

The Central Grasslands are needed to support pollination, prevent erosion, and provide habitat for wildlife. Healthy grasslands also filter sediment, nutrients, and bacteria that otherwise end up in waterways, threatening fish and drinking water. Most importantly, the Central Grasslands ability to sequester carbon and help stabilize the climate is extensive, all while simultaneously producing critical food supplies and serving as the economic backbone of rural communities.

Our fish and wildlife, water, climate, food supply, and way of life are dependent on the collective effort laid out in the Roadmap. By working

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together and committing to mutually beneficial actions we can conserve essential habitat for future generations with Indigenous communities, ranchers, and producers at the center of the solutions, and provide sustainable economic opportunities where those are needed most.

Specifically, to help achieve the vision, we are focused on achieving the following goals over 10 years:

- 30% of Tribal land in the Northern Great Plains is under Native-led conservation management
- Ten paths of connectivity secured for Native nations in the Northern Great Plains, supporting culturally and ecologically important wildlife species through Native-led conservation management
- Create or expand 60 sustainable and natural resource-based enterprises and 300 jobs in Native communities
- Preserve and strengthen tribal members' understanding of connections between people and nature, promote indigenous lifeways (native foods, medicines, customs, etc.), and create opportunities for tribal members to engage with nature

You can contact us through our President, Shaun Grassel, by email: info.bngalliance@gmail.com or through our Coordinator, Libby Khumalo, by phone: (406) 214-1473.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Shaun Grassel".

Shaun Grassel, Ph.D.
President, Buffalo Nations Grasslands Alliance