



Grassland Restoration Forum

P.O. Box 1297, Pincher Creek, Alberta, T0K 1W0

<https://grasslandrestorationforum.ca>

Greetings from the GRF!

We are still alive and have been working on ways to get in touch and share information amidst rapidly changing pandemic situations and restrictions... more information will be released later this spring on our planned in-person and hands-on training events for 2021.

Meanwhile, we are pleased to introduce a couple of **GRF HOSTED FREE WINTER WEBINARS**
Wednesday, March 10th & Wednesday March 24th, 2021 from 12:00 – 13:00 MST.

To attend you must register via the GRF Website homepage at <https://grasslandrestorationforum.ca> by adding the no cost webinar item(s) to cart and providing the required information. You will receive a meeting invitation and webinar access instructions from Donna (corpirate@shaw.ca). See below for more details on these upcoming webinars.

Winter Webinars for 2021

1. AEP Native Prairie Protocol for Reclamation Certification of Salt-Affected Wellsites **Wednesday March 10th, 2021 12:00-13:00 MST – *Gordon Dinwoodie P.Ag. of Alberta Environment and Parks***

- Alberta Environment and Parks released the *Native Prairie Protocol for Reclamation Certification of Salt-Affected Wellsites* in November, 2019. The goal of the Native Prairie Protocol is to avoid the disturbance of sensitive native grasslands associated with remediation of salt contamination when it can be shown that the contamination is not causing an adverse effect. Alberta Environment and Parks has successfully worked with the oil and gas industry to encourage minimal disturbance construction and operation on native grassland. Remediation of salt contamination typically requires excavation and disposal of salt contaminated soil, resulting in significant disturbance to this sensitive landscape. The Native Prairie Protocol provides an approach for identifying sites where adverse effects from elevated salinity are not occurring, and are not expected to occur in the future. Sites that meet the conditions specified in the Native Prairie Protocol are eligible for reclamation certification without further remediation even though salt concentrations may exceed Alberta Tier 1 guidelines.

2. Working in Native Grassland: A primer for Project Managers and Contractors working in the Oil and Gas Industry **Wednesday March 24th, 2021 12:00-13:00 MST – *Marilyn Neville, Gramineae Services Ltd.***

The oil and gas industry and government regulatory authorities have developed principles, guidelines and tools that reduce the footprint of industrial activity in this multiple use landscape. Project managers and contractors must understand where they are working, the applicable regulatory authority and the operating conditions that apply for the proposed activity in native grasslands. This presentation provides a step-by-step guidance and links to information for:

- Minimizing Surface Disturbance in Native Grassland
- Obtaining approvals and maintaining compliance
- Access and Work Plans
- Reclamation and Recovery Strategies

Thanks we look forward to hearing from everyone!

Donna Watt
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*The Foothills Restoration Forum has changed its name to the “**Grassland Restoration Forum**” to more accurately reflect the scope of its work, which includes native grasslands of the prairies and surrounding parkland, foothills and montane subregions of Alberta.*

