

Prairie Grassland Field Course & McIntyre Ranch Field Station

Prairie grasslands are the most threatened ecosystems worldwide. The flat and treeless landscape is easily altered to make way for crops, towns and development while grazing can be so intensive the land fails to support native wildlife or plants. About 80% of the plant and animal species listed as Species at Risk in western Canada occupy or formerly occupied the prairie grassland.



We are asking for support in education and research in prairie ecology that will contribute to student training and to the science-based conservation of Canada's grasslands through two initiatives:

Lower Student Costs

A bi-annual intensive two-week field course for 12 students to experience and conduct research in Grasslands National Park, SK and McIntyre Ranch, AB.

Students in the course receive scientific training in animal ecology and behaviour conducting research on grassland species from prairie dogs to bison, waterfowl and rattlesnakes. Students learn about the ecological, social and policy issues involved in conservation by interacting with scientists, ranchers, resource professionals, and First Nations representatives. Each student pays \$550 plus tuition. This fee is applied to travel, lodging and food. The student fees and the departmental funding is not sufficient to run the course. To continue to provide this opportunity without increasing the cost to students we need additional funding.

Needed: \$4,500 each year it runs

Up-Grade Field Station

In the field station at the McIntyre Ranch there is no lodging. Students stay in tents despite heavy rains during May. There are no facilities for personal hygiene or food preparation. There is no electricity or running water. Fundraising is necessary for a bunkhouse and washing and kitchen facilities.

Needed: \$25,000 one-time cost.

Support Our Students!

This course gives students their first exposure to ecological research and the prairie grasslands. Past participants describe the experience as highly rewarding, many moving on to related graduate studies or jobs within resource management.

Your gift to The Prairie Grassland Field Course and McIntyre Ranch Field Station will enable students to sleep in dry conditions and wash and cook onsite while keeping participation affordable.



This course would not be possible without contributions from: McIntyre Ranch, Friends of Grasslands National Park, Parks Canada, The Crossing Campground and Resort, Nature Calgary, Environment Canada, Province of Alberta, university professors (University of Manitoba, University of Regina, University of Lethbridge, University of Winnipeg), Cabela's Canada and Eagle Optics Canada, who loaned us essential optical equipment valued at over \$7,000.

Make a gift online at uwinnipegfoundation.ca. Don't forget you can make a big impact by pledging a gift over time, or by matching pledges with a friend.