

The 29th Prairie Grouse Technical Council

4-6 October, 2011

Hays, Kansas



Conference Announcement and Call for Papers

The Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism is honored to host the 2011 (29th) meeting of the Prairie Grouse Technical Council (PGTC). We invite prairie grouse conservationists from wherever you hail to Hays, Kansas to share your knowledge, data, and appreciation of prairie grouse populations throughout their range. The meeting location is near an expanding population of lesser and greater prairie chickens, and the only place these two species overlap in range. Hybridization has been documented in this area. This will be a unique opportunity to see the impact of Farm Bill programs, such as the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), on prairie grouse populations in western Kansas. Grouseers will not be disappointed in the wide open prairies of the area. David Dahlgren (785) 628-8614 (dave.dahlgren@ksoutdoors.com) and Jim Pitman (620)342-0658 (jim.pitman@ksoutdoors.com) are co-chairs for this meeting. Questions regarding the technical program should go to Jim, all other logistical questions for the meeting should go to Dave.

We expect most attendees to use October 3rd and 6th or 7th for travel days. We will have an evening social on the 3rd. October 4th and 6th are planned for paper presentation sessions, and October 5th for the field trip with the banquet that evening. Details about the field trip will be forth coming in future announcements.

Participants are expected to make their own travel and lodging arrangements, but we will provide you with as much information to assist you as possible. The Holiday Express Inn (785-625-8000) and the Best Western Butterfield Inn (785-621-4337) in Hays, KS will have government rates available for qualified persons up to September 18th, however government rates guaranteed rooms go fast so don't wait to reserve. Shuttles from the hotels (listed above) to the meeting

place at Fort Hays State University will be provided at specified times. Registration will be handled separately from lodging arrangements.

Registration

A registration form accompanies this announcement see the second link. If you cannot access the registration form contact David Dahlgren (dave.dahlgren@ksoutdoors.com).

Registration Includes:

- Welcome Reception evening of October 3rd at Holiday Inn Express
- Registration Materials
- Technical Program
- Field Trip Transportation
- 3 Lunches (Oct. 4th, 5th, and 6th)
- 1 Banquet evening meal (Oct. 5th)

Registration fees are:

Regular (Received prior to September 1)	\$125
Regular (Received after September 1)	\$185
Student	\$70
Spouse	\$50
Banquet only	\$30
Daily	\$50/day

Travel Considerations to Hays, KS

Hays is located in west-central Kansas along I-70. Hays has a small airport with service from Denver International Airport on Great Lakes Airlines. Shuttle services from the airport to the hotels and back may be available upon request. Please contact David Dahlgren (785-628-8614) as early as possible (no later than September 1st) to make arrangements for this service.

Lodging

Currently lodging is available at The Holiday Express Inn (785-625-8000) and the Best Western Butterfield Inn (785-621-4337) located just off Exit 159, I-70. Each hotel has a continental breakfast provided each morning. A limited amount of rooms (doubles and singles) are available at each hotel at government rates (currently \$77/night; subject to change) for qualified persons. There are a variety of other hotels on Exit 159 to consider as well; however, shuttling to and from the conference as well as field trip pickup will take place at one or both of the above locations.

Hunting and Fishing

The early prairie chicken season goes from Sept. 15th to Oct. 15th and will be open during this meeting. The western boundary (Highway 281; see regulations for early season at (<http://www.kdwp.state.ks.us/>) of the open area is approximately 30 miles east of Hays. Though there is a little travel time involved, it is a great opportunity to chase early season greater prairie chickens. We do not have an early season on lesser prairie chickens in Kansas. Walk-in Hunting Areas (WIHA) are abundant in the open area, just make sure you consider access dates for individual properties. WIHA atlases are available online (<http://www.kdwp.state.ks.us/>) or at license dealer locations. The 2011-2012 fall atlas will likely not be published until early September. There is ample fishing available around Hays, with Webster, Kirwin, Cedar Bluff, and Wilson Lake/Reservoirs providing great crappie and walleye fishing that time of year. Fishing and hunting permits can be purchased online (<http://www.kdwp.state.ks.us/>) or at the Hays KDWP Region 1 office located at 1426 Highway 183 Alt. in Hays (just west of Fort Hays State University campus) or other license dealers throughout the state.

Call for Papers

Abstracts for the 29th Prairie Grouse Technical Council meeting are now being accepted. **The deadline for receipt of the abstracts is 15 August 2011.** Authors will be notified about the acceptance of their submissions by at least 1 September. All selected papers will be scheduled at 20-minute intervals. Presentations should therefore be limited to 15 minutes to allow 5 minutes for questions and comments. Speakers will be notified of the day, time and location of their presentations.

An example of the abstract format is given below. First give title in caps, double space, then provide author(s) and their affiliation. Capitalize all authors' names and state abbreviations. In cases of two or more authors, place an asterisk after the name of the person presenting the paper. Then double space again and start the abstract. Do not indent any part of the abstract. Abstracts, including authors and title lines, should be no more than 250 words (including title and authors).

Following the abstract, provide the following information:

- 1) E-mail address (if available) for corresponding author
- 2) Full address of corresponding author
- 3) Telephone number of corresponding author
- 4) Type of presentation (LECTURE or POSTER)
- 5) Audio-visual needs (SLIDE PROJECTOR, POWER-POINT PROJECTOR, OVERHEAD PROJECTOR, VIDEOTAPE PLAYER, AUDIO TAPE PLAYER, etc.)
- 6) Any additional comments about the presentation.

Abstracts should include a statement of objectives, brief description of methods used, presentation of results, and a summary of conclusions/inferences drawn.

Sample abstract:

ALL PROBLEMS OF PRAIRIE GROUSE RESOLVED.

I. M. SMART*, Dept. Biological Sciences, Slapout Univ., Slapout, OK 73848 USA, N. O. ITALL and D. UNNIT, Oklahoma Conservation Dept., Foraker, OK 74000 USA.

Biologists have been plagued by problems of prairie grouse conservation since time immemorial. Our research has shown that the solution to all of these problems is ...

imsmart@slapout.edu

I. M. Smart
Department of Biological Sciences
Phillips Building
123 Highway 270
Slapout, OK 73848
580-555-1212
LECTURE

SLIDE PROJECTOR, LAPTOP, POWERPOINT PROJECTOR, ETC.

NOTE: This presentation should come at the end of the meeting.

Please e-mail abstracts to Jim Pitman (jim.pitman@ksoutdoors.com) in MSWord or plain text format. If you do not have e-mail available, you may mail or fax the abstract (in the same format) to:

Jim Pitman
Small Game Coordinator
1830 Merchant
Emporia, KS 66801
Fax: 620-342-6248

Again, the deadline for receipt of the abstracts is 15August 2011, so act now! Persons submitting abstracts will be notified of their receipt.

Call for Hamerstrom Award Nominations

The Awards Committee is currently seeking nominations for possible recipients of the Hamerstrom Award for the 29th PGTC Conference. As you know, this award was established in honor of Fred and Fran Hamerstrom, pioneers of prairie grouse research and management. It will be awarded during the banquet held on Wednesday night of this year's PGTC meeting. The award will consist of a plaque with the engraved name of the recipient. **The deadline for nominations is September 4, 2011** so please begin thinking and submitting nominations now.

Award Criteria:

1. To recognize an individual(s) and organization(s) who have made significant contributions in prairie grouse research, management or other support programs which have enhanced the welfare of one or more species of prairie grouse in a particular state or region.
2. The contribution should be evidenced by a sustained effort over at least 10 years.
3. The contribution may be related to research, management activity, promotion of an integrated program, or some combination thereof. The relative importance given to these three categories of contributions is the prerogative of the Awards Committee but it should be based on how it has helped the overall welfare and survival of prairie grouse.

Selection Procedure:

1. The selection of award recipients will be made by the three-member Executive Board and two additional members appointed by the Chairman.
2. Nominations will be accepted at large as well as from members of the Awards Committee.
3. Nominations will be submitted to the designated Awards Committee Chairman at least one month before (deadline is September 4, 2011) the biennial meeting of the Prairie Grouse Technical Council.
4. Nominations should include the following information:
 - A. Name, address, and phone number of nominee.
 - B. Biographic sketch of individual or brief history of an organization.
 - C. Overview of contributions indicating the nature of the contributions, duration, how it has contributed to the welfare of one or more species of prairie grouse, and the geographic area influenced by the contributions.
5. A maximum of two individual awards and two organization awards may be presented at a biennial meeting. No awards will be given if the Awards Committee feels that no deserving individuals or organization are available at the time.

The Awards Committee consists of Grant Beauprez (grant.beauprez@state.nm.us), K. C. Jensen (kent.jensen@sdstate.edu), and David Dahlgren (dave.dahlgren@ksoutdoors.com). Send your nominations, preferably in electronic format (Word, WordPerfect or .PDF), directly to:

David Dahlgren
Small Game Specialist
KDWP
1426 Highway 183 Alt.
Hays, KS 67601
dave.dahlgren@ksoutdoors.com

Call for Agenda Items and Banquet Speaker Suggestions

If you have a topic of importance you wish placed on the business meeting agenda for discussion, please contact Dave Dahlgren (785) 628-8614 or dave.dahlgren@ksoutdoors.com. Also, we have not yet secured a banquet speaker so your suggestions are welcome.

Auction Items Needed

As at previous meetings, we plan to have an auction. Funds from the auctions are used to support the meeting (and therefore keep your registration low). But to have an auction, we need something to sell! We rely on your donated items to fill out our catalog. Could you please donate items for the auction? Items may be small and fun, or go up to whatever you may want to give. Previous auction items have included caps with state or province wildlife department logos; t-shirts; food items; sets of note cards with wildlife motif; books, etc.

Needed Auction Items

Caps

T-shirts

Books

Pictures / Paintings

Food Items

Etc.

Please contact Dave Dahlgren (dave.dahlgren@ksoutdoors.com) at (785) 628-8614 if you have auction items to donate.

Call for State Reports and Updates

Please submit your state reports and updates via email attachment to Jim Pitman (jim.pitman@ksoutdoors.com) by August 15, 2011. They will be included in the conference materials distributed at the meeting. Please include information on hunting and harvest of prairie grouse species in your state (if applicable), population trends, conservation programs, and recent or ongoing research activities.