

**KEYNOTE ADDRESS:
DAKOTA GRASSLANDS, WETLANDS, AND
CLIMATE CHANGE: LAST NAIL OR SILVER LINING?**

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ABSTRACT

Grassland and wetland area in the Dakotas has been declining since settlement by European immigrants a century and a half ago. Strike one against this natural capital was the plowing up and farming a large portion of the grassland acreage; strike two was draining nearly half of the prairie wetlands; strike three may be climate change. Or will it? The prospects that climate change may either worsen or lessen the historic decline of our natural resource base and its delivery of ecosystem goods and services will be discussed.