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## JOIN THE CROWD: STANDARDIZED MONITORING PROTOCOLS FOR PRAIRIE AND SAVANNA

Diane Larson, Research Wildlife Biologist, USGS, Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center, University of Minnesota

Rebecca Esser, Wildlife Biologist, USFWS, Detroit Lakes Wetland Management District (WMD), Detroit Lakes, Minnesota

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**Title:** Join the Crowd: Standardized Monitoring Protocols for Prairie and Savanna

**Presentation Abstract:** Most every prairie or savanna management or restoration plan has a monitoring component. If we (perhaps generously) assume that monitoring is carried out as planned, there is a trove of data languishing in paper or electronic files with little hope of contributing to goals beyond the site where monitoring occurred. Reasons for this are many and include personnel turnover and incompatible methodology among practitioners. This webinar will describe standardized monitoring protocols that can be adapted to availability of personnel and time, but that also will provide consistent and compatible data across sites. Combined across many sites, these data can accelerate our learning and improve reconstruction, restoration, and management outcomes.



**Amanda McColpin**  
**Contractor**  
**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**  
**Inventory and Monitoring Branch**

Amanda McColpin is a contractor with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Great Lakes Region, Inventory and Monitoring Branch. She received her MS in Fisheries and Wildlife from the University of Missouri. Amanda has worked on waterbirds and wetlands in the Northeast and Midwest. She is currently serving as Project Coordinator for the Prairie Reconstruction Initiative Advisory Team, a collaboration among individuals from several organizations working to improve the prairie reconstruction process.



**Rebecca Esser**  
**Wildlife Biologist**  
**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**

Rebecca Esser is a wildlife biologist with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Detroit Lakes Wetland Management District (WMD) located in Detroit Lakes, Minnesota. She attended South Dakota State University where she received her BS and MS in Wildlife Sciences. Rebecca has worked at National Wildlife Refuges and WMDs in Colorado, North and South Dakota, Iowa, and Minnesota. Rebecca's primary role is monitoring prairie and savanna habitats and evaluating whether reconstruction, restoration, and management actions meet habitat objectives.



**Diane Larson**  
**Research Wildlife Biologist**  
**U.S. Geological Survey**  
**Northern Prairie Research Center**

Diane Larson is a research wildlife biologist with the US Geological Survey, Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center, located at the University of Minnesota. She received her MA from the University of Colorado, Boulder and PhD from the University of Illinois, Chicago. Diane's research focuses on plant-and-animal interactions and has ranged from biological control of invasive weeds to pollination of rare endemic plants. She has recently been involved in a series of studies on how to improve the outcome of prairie reconstruction projects.