Ecosystem Challenges

Prairie Habitat and the Decision Making Process
About Us

• 112 Year Old, 5th generation family farm
• Sell Purebred, Commercial cattle, Grass Finished Beef, EG&S and Custom Grazing
• Roughly 4500 acres, breeding approximately 300 cows, custom grazing 200 c/c pairs
• Approx. 3000 acres of native range at our Vermilion operation.
• 1000 acres at Meadow Lake, SK.
Prairie Parkland

- The Most Endangered Ecosystem in the World
- Work very hard to utilize this carefully
- 85% Native
Terrainally Challenged

• How do you cost effectively manage an ecosystem or riparian zone when you can’t get there from here?
Creativity

Highly valued

Often not rewarded in conventional programs
Conservation vs Restoration

• BIG CHALLENGE
  • There is no money for conservation
  • There is big money for restoration

• In other words...
  • There is no money for changing oil
  • There is money for a new car
Early Adopter Penalty

- People are paid to catch up
- Encourage the early adopters to move faster
How to Help

- Cost
- Expertise – providing and recognizing
- Gentle Hand – Carrot vs. Stick
- Really Partner – needed to maintain enthusiasm!
Where to Now?

• BELIEF THAT EG&S HAVE VALUE
• IT TAKES A COMMITMENT
• IT TAKES LOCAL AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
• IT TAKES FARMERS AND NON-FARMERS
• A BELIEF THAT FARMERS ARE BEST EQUIPPED TO DELIVER EG&S ON A LOCAL SCALE WITH GLOBAL IMPACT

• LAND/STEWARDSHIP ETHIC