

maintaining native grassland species, habitats and function is the mission of this dynamic collaborative.

GPCN's Bison Working Group supports bison restoration, and is actively engaged with tribes, parks and other partners working towards reintroduction of *linnii*, the name for bison in Blackfoot culture. Looking at barriers to prairie dog conservation, particularly where plague commonly decimates populations, the Prairie Dog Working Group creates better awareness of the importance of prairie dogs to prairie ecosystems. Concentrating on mapping and modelling the Mapping Working Group identifies significant landscapes for conservation that will form the basis for a conservation planning tool for black-tailed prairie dogs and grassland ecosystems.

Since GPCN's inception, AWA has been a strong supporter. Lindsey Wallis, on staff with AWA, serves as a Coordinator for GPCN. AWA contributes to monthly GPCN Steering Committee meetings, and helped organise the AGM held in February 25, 2022. With more than 70 people from across three countries (Canada, the United States, and Mexico) attending, the network is growing and gives hope the GPCN conservation goals can be achieved.

– Ruiping Luo

Great Plains Conservation Network

Nearly four months ago, I first had the opportunity to listen in on a virtual meeting of the Great Plains Conservation Network (GPCN) as a new Conservation Specialist with Alberta Wilderness Association. There, I had the pleasure of meeting a group of people strongly dedicated to the conservation of native prairie and our grasslands. It was inspiring and challenging, especially as I learned about all the involvement (and acronyms) of different people, projects and groups across the Great Plains.

GPCN is a collaboration of more than 25 non-profit and tribal organizations and dedicated individuals working together to conserve the Great Plains of North America. Restoring and