



Karin Newman

Botanist and Ecologist

Bio

Karin Newman is a consultant botanist, ecologist and writer. She has conducted botanical inventories and rare and invasive plant surveys for over 15 years for habitat stewardship, environmental impact and monitoring projects. She has worked with government and private organizations, often in sensitive sites in prairie, wetland and boreal habitats, throughout Manitoba. Karin completed a M.Sc. (Botany) from the University of Manitoba. Prior to graduating, she spent eight field seasons assisting in university, government and non-governmental organization-initiated biological research projects in Alberta, Manitoba, North West Territories and Nunavut. Over the course of her career, Karin has worked on pasture lands providing environmental impact assessment for development projects and monitoring for rare species with landowners and in community pastures. She has studied the effects of rotational grazing on privately owned native range and the presence of breeding grassland birds in native pastures.



Canadian Forage & Grassland Association
Association Canadienne pour les Plantes Fourragères

CFGA NATURE FUND PROJECT MEET THE PROS

Role in CFGA Nature Fund Project

The Canadian Forage and Grassland Association contracted Karin to contribute regional information to its national Nature Fund Project. As part of this project's introduction to the Prairies, Karin is coordinating information on the various habitats and associated plants and animals that occur within the agricultural areas of Manitoba. Karin will assemble relevant species' distribution and habitat data to match beneficial management practices developed by experts from agriculture and conservation in Manitoba.

Project description

The CFGA Nature Fund Project provides the opportunity to put the best available conservation information into the hands of the land stewards who are working towards the preservation or enhancement of habitat for native species within Canada's agricultural landscape. The centerpiece of the project is the Habitat and Biodiversity Assessment Tool, an online tool developed in Alberta that enables interested agricultural producers to integrate the needs of multiple native species in the management of their land.

The Habitat and Biodiversity Assessment Tool provides an opportunity for landowners, farmers and livestock producers to access a broad list of management options based on their location and the habitat types present on their land. As an access point to information, it allows each user to review a range of management options that can help foster the persistence of native plants or animals, including those at risk, by maintaining or improving the quality of habitat on their agricultural land. In addition, the online tool provides confirmation of the positive effects that many current management practices have on the quality of habitat for local native species.



Photo Credit: Karin Newman



Photo Credit: Karin Newman



Photo Credit: Karin Newman

Under the leadership of the CFGA, the online tool is being adapted and customized for use in provinces across Canada as a source of conservation information for all of those interested in habitat stewardship. The project is scheduled for release in Manitoba in 2021.

Link to forages and grasslands

Manitoba boasts a diversity of pasture and cultivated lands. Natural habitat, such as native pastures, or fragments of forest, grasslands, wetlands and riparian areas, form an integral part of the agricultural landscape. Remnants of a previous time, these habitat patches can provide important refuge for plants and animals that were once more widespread across the landscape.

This project focuses on wild species and natural habitats that occur within agricultural areas across southern Manitoba. The information compiled for this project will directly relate to the management of grasslands and other habitat types by providing information on practices that will maintain or enhance the presence of wild species in Manitoba's agricultural landscape.

Why is it important

Across Canada, private landowners have long been providing responsible stewardship for wild lands. In many areas, landowners have taken responsibility for maintaining habitat for numerous species, including species at risk, at their own expense. Many landowners have developed their specialized management plans over seasons and generations. While national and provincial protected areas play an important role in habitat conservation, the role of private landowners is not to be underestimated in keeping wild spaces and species on the landscape.

The Habitat and Biodiversity Assessment Tool generated by this project will present interested landowners with an opportunity to access detailed information on a range of beneficial management practices relevant to their areas and the habitat on their lands.

This project was undertaken with the financial support of:
Ce projet a été réalisé avec l'appui financier de :



Environment and
Climate Change Canada

Environnement et
Changement climatique Canada