

## **Impacts of wetland removal on the Prairies and how to communicate them**

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Wetlands in the Prairie Pothole Region provide many ecosystems services including surface water storage, nutrient retention, flood attenuation, biodiversity, wildlife habitat, and ground water recharge. Wetland management is of interest to many stakeholders in the region; thus, increased understanding of the impacts of wetland removal or drainage was one of the goals of the Prairie Water project identified in collaboration with partners from outside of academia. We found that retaining a variety of wetland types makes the Prairie landscape resilient to the stressors, including those associated with climate change, while removing wetlands from the landscape has impacts that are expected to be worse in a changing climate. These realities are important for water management in the Prairies, but effective communication can be challenging due to the social dimensions of water management and stakeholder diversity. As one tool to communicate the value of wetlands and changes under different climate and drainage conditions, we created infographics which will be on display at this meeting.