

Restoring communities through ecological thinking and action

This webinar series will examine how ecological frameworks can serve as a primary way to restore our relationship with each other and the land. Many ecological restoration paradigms neglect to include human communities and food webs when planning and implementing projects. Speakers will explore the relationships between food, culture and ecology in this three-part series offered by the Society for Ecological Restoration (SER) Northeast chapter.

June 22, 2022 at 3:00 p.m. EST

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://swca.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJUvdu6qpjltHtTcMFwmTUwN73BGRmy-ogFu>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.



Efforts led by Native American Nations to restore North American Plains bison (*Bison bison bison*) to tribal lands can bring desired socio-ecological benefits to underserved communities while improving their capacity to influence the health of their lands, their people, and their livelihoods. The historically broad distribution of bison suggests they can adapt to a variety of conditions, making them resilient to a wide range of management systems and climates. Here we review bison's ecological, cultural, and economic value using four case studies from tribal communities within the NGP. This talk will discuss the potential contributions of bison to food sovereignty, sustainable economies, and conservation of a working landscape with limited protections.

About Jonny BearCub Stiffarm

Jonny, an enrolled member of the Fort Peck Assiniboine & Sioux Nation, is the business development manager for Native, a public benefit corporation dedicated to the advancement of renewable energy and carbon reduction projects. She brings a wealth of experience in negotiation, small business development, contracts, and leadership. She served in Mayor Wellington Webb's administration as the deputy director of the Mayor's Office of Contract Compliance for both the city and Denver International Airport and as his Native American Indian liaison to the local, regional, and national Indian Nation entities. She received her undergraduate from Brigham Young University and a juris doctorate from the University of Minnesota School of Law.

The Potential of Bison Restoration as an Ecological Approach to Future Tribal Food Sovereignty on the Northern Great Plains Frontiers in Ecology and Evolution

Restoring the ecological role of bison within the northern great plains (NGP) has potential due to cultural acceptance and the vast availability of suitable lands; however, it is critical to address tribal needs for funding support, enhanced community capacity, and solving complex landownership for these goals to be achieved. This talk will review bison's ecological, cultural, and economic value to tribal communities within the NGP and discuss the potential contributions of bison to food sovereignty, sustainable economies, and conservation of a working landscape with limited protections and significant risk of conversion.