

Facts:

- Grasslands are considered to be one of the most imperiled habitat types in North America and worldwide.
- Grasslands are the predominant vegetation type in eastern Colorado. They cover approximately 40% of the state.
- The Nature Conservancy is working with partners, communities and individuals to protect the remaining 65% of Colorado's central shortgrass prairie.
- Grassland birds that inhabit the prairie have shown steeper, more consistent declines than any other group of vertebrate animals in North America.
- Mongolia contains some of the largest examples of temperate grasslands remaining in the world. A long history of nomadism and dependence of grazing has maintained the intact nature and condition of these grasslands.
- The world's most expansive and historically important grasslands are found in temperate regions where summers tend to be hot and winters cold. Temperate grasslands, including those in Colorado, harbor some of the world's most fertile soils and have been widely converted for agricultural production.
- China consumes one-quarter of the world's supply of meat. To meet this growing demand, traditional herders in the steppes of China and Mongolia have increased their cattle, sheep and goats from 100 million to more than 400 million head and now extreme over-grazing on lands that support many animals has created a crisis.
- To meet the growing challenges facing our grasslands, The Nature Conservancy is using the best available science to find ways to preserve Earth's dwindling native grasslands by balancing sustainable use with sustainable conservation. Pioneered in the Great Plains of North America, the Conservancy's grassland preservation strategies are based on the belief that no matter what the conservation challenge, people form the core of the solution.

The Nature Conservancy is a leading international, nonprofit organization that preserves plants, animals and natural communities representing the diversity of life on Earth by protecting the lands and waters they need to survive.

To learn more about the Conservancy's work in Colorado's grasslands visit nature.org/colorado.