

(2023 October 28) Save the Grasslands

<https://www.ecowatch.com/great-plains-grasslands-destruction-wwf.html>

Shortly after I moved here in the early 70s and saw firsthand the sad state of our rangelands -- known scientifically by several classifications from the broad desert grassland to site-specific designations like yucca- mesquite grassland, the type here where I live) -- I had a bumper sticker on my pickup that proclaimed SAVE THE GRASSLANDS.

For many years that was my main environmental cause, underlying all the various campaigns I hot involved in. Seeing everyday, everytime I stepped outside or drove down the road the destruction caused to this once-rich ecosystem, was a major impetus for my work against urban sprawl on the one hand, but on the other an even greater push against "modern" farming and ranching industries with their attendant herbicides, chemical fertilizers, pollution, overgrazing, overpumping, monocultures and other forms of habitat and species destruction.

Seeing the wastelands created by a century of essentially unregulated cattle culture strengthened my commitment to lacto-ovo vegetarian diet and decision to not use leather in any form.

Saving the grasslands in those days was already a campaign issue in the Plains and Prairie parts of the US and Canada as well as other parts of the world where maximum-production ranching and industrial agriculture were wiping out native biomes. Now, with climate change, as noted in the WWFN story linked here, the urgency is being felt again. SAVE THE GRASSLANDS!