

SCHEDULE

PROGRAMS & SPEAKERS

NEW THIS YEAR! Concurrent sessions will be offered in an effort to include as many updates about our current work as possible.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2020

6:00 - 8:00 PM
8:30 PM

Workshop: Exploring Systemic Power
(Optional) Social Hour

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2020

10:30 - 11:30 AM

Campaign Coffee Hours: Short programming followed by discussion on three concurrent topics (choose your favorite!):
A) How Northern Plains is Working to Expand Soil Health in Montana
B) C-PACE Flash Talk
C) Move Your Ash: short film and discussion
Lunch

11:30 - 12:00 PM

12:00 PM - 1:15 PM

Session 1: Indigenous Land Acknowledgment, and the Next Steps to Work With Native Americans

1:15 PM - 5:15 PM

Extended Break

5:15 PM - 5:30 PM

Chair's Welcome

5:30 PM - 6:30 PM

Keynote Speech: Josh Slotnick

7:00 PM - 7:30 PM

Social Hour

7:30 PM - 8:30 PM

Friday Night Entertainment

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2020

8:00 AM - 12:00 PM

MEETING OF THE MEMBERSHIP

12:00 PM - 1:00 PM

Lunch

1:00 PM - 2:00 PM

Concurrent Session 2A: Montana's Changing Climate

OR 2B: The State of our Food System (Pandemic and Beyond)

2:00 PM - 2:15 PM

Flash Talk 1: Soil Practitioners' Stories: Charter Beef

2:15 PM - 2:30 PM

Break

2:30 PM - 3:00 PM

Session 3: Ranching Atop the Signal Peak Coal Mine

3:00 PM - 3:15 PM

Flash Talk 2: The Radioactive Oil Waste Success Story

3:15 PM - 3:45 PM

Break

3:45 PM - 4:00 PM

Awards

4:00 PM - 4:15 PM

Flash Talk 3A: From Corporate Cash to Bundy Blowups

4:15 PM - 4:25 PM

OR 3B: Can Biochar Revive Soil Health on Degraded Land?

4:25 PM - 4:55 PM

Flash Talk 4: Bequests: "Leave Your Mark"

4:55 PM

Session 4: Film: *Sparks That Started the Prairie Fire*

5:30 PM

Closing Announcements

Online Auction Closes

Schedule is subject to change.

Workshop: Exploring Systemic Power

What are "power structures" or "systems of power"? Have you heard these terms thrown around and wondered what they meant? This training will explore the concept of power at a systemic level, and help us wrestle with the way in which individual lives and institutions are shaped by the beliefs, practices, and cultural norms around us.

Campaign Coffee Hour: How Northern Plains is Working to Expand Soil Health in Montana

Producers across Montana are discovering the power and promise of healthy soils. Healthy soils cultivate better produce, improve water quality, sequester carbon, and are better for people, animals, and the planet. Join Northern Plains' members John Brown and Steve Charter to learn about the Soil Task Force's soil health advocacy and policymaking efforts, and to find out how you can help!

Campaign Coffee Hour: C-PACE Flash Talk

We all know that clean energy upgrades save more money than they cost over the long term, but the upfront costs are just too high for many Montanans. Join us to learn how we can save money, create jobs, and fight climate change with C-PACE (Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy)!

Campaign Coffee Hour: Move Your Ash

Join Mark Fix from our Coal Task Force for an informal chat over coffee on the nation's second largest industrial waste stream - coal ash. We'll show a short documentary and hear about Northern Plains' work to secure responsible cleanup of one of the nation's largest coal impoundments outside the Colstrip Power Plants in Montana.

Indigenous Land Acknowledgment, and the Next Steps to Work With Native Americans, Dr. Johnel H. Barcus (Amskapi Piikani/Blackfeet)

"We were a people before "We the People." - Jefferson Keel (Chickasaw), 2013

This presentation will introduce you to acknowledging the traditional land upon which you are conducting your gatherings, events, and activities. Opening public events with this acknowledgement will not only remind participants of the Indigenous population of these lands, but honors and respects their engagement in our organization. Further steps will be presented to realize the genuine benefits of working "with" Native people. Facilitated by Dr. Johnel H. Barcus (Amskapi Piikani/Blackfeet), Native American Development Corporation-Billings Urban Indian Health and Wellness Center.

The State of our Food System (Pandemic and Beyond)

The pandemic has brought national attention to what we've always known: our food system is broken. It's built to serve Ag corporations first, resulting in unstable prices for producers, food shortages for consumers, and unsafe (and at times, deadly) conditions for workers. Yet the pandemic also

provides urgency and opportunity for solving these problems. Join us to hear from a panel of those working to change our food system for the better. Our panelists will share their stories, how they've been impacted by the pandemic, and how you can take action to support Montana's farmers and ranchers.

Montana's Changing Climate

Doctors Lori and Robert Byron will discuss the impacts of Montana's changing climate on our health and our communities. Their session will highlight the solutions we can all work towards to create a cleaner, healthier and more just future for all Montanans.

Flash Talk: Soil Practitioners' Stories: Charter Beef

For over 25 years, Charter Ranch has implemented holistic cell grazing to produce quality Montana beef. But producer innovation is a never ending journey. Join Steve Charter and Annika Charter-Williams as they discuss transitioning Charter Ranch to direct marketing and a fully grass finished operation.

Ranching Atop the Signal Peak Coal Mine

Giant cracks in the ground, springs and wells running dry, and a mining CEO indicted by the US Dept. of Justice - this session has it all! Bull Mountain Land Alliance members Steve Charter and Ellen Pfister discuss what it's like to ranch north of Shepherd, MT atop Montana's only underground coal mine. Plus, a special focus on what happens when water, an irreplaceable resource in eastern Montana, is damaged.

Flash Talk: The Radioactive Oil Waste Success Story

Join us to hear how Montanans east and west banded together to create policy, and protect this place we love. Glendive rancher and Northern Plains member Seth Newton will share the six-year story of our fight for Montana's radioactive oil waste rules - a story that takes more twists and turns than a cheap garden hose!

From Corporate Cash to Bundy Blowups

Travis McAdam from the Montana Human Rights Network will give an overview of what the grasstops, corporate-funded "wise use" movement is; how it hijacks the debate around property rights; and the role it played in paving the way to the Bundy Family's armed standoffs in Nevada and Oregon.

Flash Talk: Can Biochar Revive Soil Health on Degraded Land?

A growing number of producers are turning to biochar—plant matter burned in low oxygen environments—as a soil amendment. Biochar can bring benefits such as increased soil fertility and water holding capacity, making it an attractive solution to revive degraded agricultural land. Join Jim Amonette, a Northern Plains member and soil scientist, for a breakdown on the science behind biochar.

