



*Buffalo Nations Grasslands Alliance*  
GRASSLANDS FOR GENERATIONS

BUFFALO NATIONS GRASSLANDS ALLIANCE, PO Box 246 / 22695 Little Bend Rd, Lower Brule, SD 57548,  
605-473-5666, [www.bngalliance.org](http://www.bngalliance.org)

RESOLUTION

**Title: Support for the proposed North American Grasslands Conservation Act**

Resolution No. 2022-001

WHEREAS, the mission of the Buffalo Nations Grasslands Alliance (BNGA), a native-led 501(c)3 organization, is to ensure that Native Nations have the technical and financial resources to plan and act on the vision for their traditional lands and waters; and

WHEREAS, the BNGA was established to ensure that tribal members thrive by sustainably stewarding and connecting with natural resources; and

WHEREAS, the BNGA was established to support efforts of Native Nations to ensure grasslands and native wildlife are restored or enhanced; and

WHEREAS, the BNGA was established to ensure Tribal Fish and Game Departments have the capacity to deliver conservation impacts at scale; and

WHEREAS, the BNGA supports 15 Native American Tribes located within the Northern Great Plains ecoregion that have similar histories, cultures, and goals including the conservation and restoration of grasslands; and

WHEREAS, grasslands and sagebrush shrub-steppe continue to be one of the most endangered ecosystems in the world; and

WHEREAS, grassland ecosystems, which are comprised of tallgrass, mixed grass, and shortgrass prairies, sagebrush shrub-steppe and savannah grasslands, are in many cases working lands that are critical for rural economies, carbon sequestration, and wildlife habitat; and

WHEREAS, over the last decade alone, millions of acres of grasslands in North America have been converted to cropland, and lost to residential and commercial development; and

WHEREAS, grasslands are further threatened by fragmentation, invasive species, and degradation; and

WHEREAS, many species of wildlife, particularly grassland and sagebrush birds, are experiencing steep population declines due to the loss of grassland and sagebrush shrub-steppe habitat; and

WHEREAS, current funding for programs to conserve and restore grasslands and sagebrush shrub-steppe is inadequate; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Buffalo Nations Grasslands Alliance hereby supports the proposed North American Grasslands Conservation Act that would create a flexible and innovative grant program for voluntary, incentive-based conservation and restoration of North American grasslands and sagebrush shrub-steppe while supporting farmers, ranchers, Native communities, sportsmen and women, and rural communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Buffalo Nations Grasslands Alliance respectfully requests a Tribal Section within the act that provides a separate funding pool for Tribes and tribal organizations, waivers of any matching requirements, the allowance of funds to be used as match, and allows for the acquisition of land for grassland and sagebrush shrub-steppe conservation and restoration purposes; and

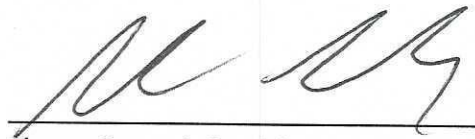
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Buffalo Nations Grasslands Alliance respectfully requests that Tribal representatives are included in any Council or Advisory Group created to develop programs or to assist in the delivery of programs; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Buffalo Nations Grasslands Alliance supports that such legislation meant to conserve and restore grasslands and sagebrush shrub-steppe must be inclusive of Tribes and that resources must be dedicated to assist Tribes for their work to conserve and restore grasslands and sagebrush shrub-steppe on tribal lands.

#### Certification

This resolution was enacted by the affirmative vote of the Buffalo Nations Grasslands Alliance Board of Directors held on January 11, 2022. The vote is \_\_6\_\_ voting in favor, \_\_0\_\_ voting against, \_\_0\_\_ abstaining, and \_\_1\_\_ absent.

Dated this 10th day of January, 2022.



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Shaun Grassel, President

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Monica Rattling Hawk, Vice-President

Attest:

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Emily Boyd-Valandra, Secretary/Treasurer  
Buffalo Nations Grasslands Alliance