

IT'S THE LITTLE THINGS THAT COUNT – PHOTOS AND STORIES OF PRAIRIE DIVERSITY

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Abstract: There are two things that most attract people to prairies. The first is an “ocean of grass” that engenders a variety of emotions, including an easy imaginative jump to historic sweeping prairie landscapes. The second is the incredible diversity of life living beneath the canopy of grass and the ever-changing composition of that diversity throughout the year. There are relatively few prairies that still qualify as an ocean of grass, but all prairies have incredible diversity if you look for it. Exploring prairies for invertebrate and floral diversity can build excitement about and connections to prairies for people, and is a vital component of prairie conservation. People care about what they know about. A series of photos of prairie plants and animals is presented, accompanied by natural history stories, as a way to inspire others to explore their own prairies with a renewed sense of discovery and excitement.