

Appendix 1. In-person interview survey instrument for use with Grand River Grasslands landowners. Use of this instrument governed by Iowa State University's Institutional Review Board approval #09-426.

LANDOWNER QUESTIONS AND PROMPTS BY INTERVIEW ORDER

Script

Thanks for agreeing to talk with me about your land management decisions. Our discussion should take about 45 minutes. Here is our project informed consent document. [Interviewer will read aloud the key components of the document with the interviewee] Do you have any questions? Would you please sign that you have read this document and agreed to this interview? Give me one copy and keep the other for your records. Our conversation will be audio taped and transcribed. If you would like a copy of the transcript, let me know and we will send you a copy.

Here is a copy of the questions I'll be asking today. We can skip any that you do not wish to answer and you may end this interview at any time.

Questions and Prompts

1. I'd like to begin by asking you a little about your land:

- a. How many acres of land do you own, rent or manage?
- b. About how much of this is grass? How many of these acres do you graze?
- c. How many years have you owned/rented/managed land in this area?
- d. How important is it that you derive income from this land?
- e. How important is the recreational value of your land to your family and others?

2. Land Management – cattle operator

You said you graze about ___ acres.

- a. What kind of cattle do you have (prompt: cow-calf, stocker, other)? How many cattle do you have?
- b. Describe how you manage grazing on your land and why you manage grazing in this manner?
- c. How do you determine your stocking rate (number of animals per area for the grazing season)?
- d. To what extent are you concerned about drought forage shortfalls for your cattle? What steps have you taken to assure sufficient forage?
- e. How have your land management/grazing practices changed over the years?
(If they have farmed here awhile) – What changes in landscape, wildlife, grazing, or farming have you noticed over the years?
- f. What are some management practices you'd like to implement but don't think you have the money, time, skills, or labor support to carry out?
- g. Would you be willing to try new land management techniques to increase wildlife species on your land? What would make you increase your interest in managing for wildlife on your land?

2. Land Management – non-cattle operating landowner

- a. What are your goals for your land?

- b. What kind of management practices are you using on your land so it meets your goals?
- c. What are some management practices you'd like to implement but don't think you have the money, time, skills, or labor support to carry out?
- d. Would you be willing to try new land management techniques to increase wildlife on your land?
- e. (If the answer to 1b is "no") Have you ever considered grazing? Do you have any interest in grazing your land? How could you be convinced to graze your land for the benefit of wildlife?

3. Redcedar

- a. Are you familiar with the tree called redcedar?
- b. Have you noticed a change in the amount of redcedar?
- c. Do you consider redcedar an asset on your land? In what way?
- d. In your opinion, is red cedar a problem on your lands and/or neighboring lands?
- e. How much red cedar is ok before you worry about it?
- f. Do you see problems stemming from redcedar?
- g. If it is a problem, what are you doing about it?

4. Managing red cedar and other non-native nuisance vegetation

- a. Have you ever used controlled fire [other than brush piles] on your land to manage your grassland? If so, how many times (and acres per year) have you used controlled fire?
- b. What have been your experiences related to burning as a land management tool?
- c. What are your views on prescribed burning?
- d. To what extent do you think your neighbors view prescribed burning as acceptable?

5. Your vision for the grasslands

- a. How important are wildlife to you on your lands?
- b. What kinds of wildlife do you like seeing on your land and your neighbors?
- c. To what extent do you think this area has the kind of habitat needed to support the kinds of wildlife you like to see?
- d. How interested or concerned do you think other landowners in the area are in conserving the grasslands and wildlife that prefer grassland habitat?
- e. Who are some of your friends or neighbors that you think share your desire to protect and improve the grasslands? [might give us some leads on additional people to invite]
- f. What's your vision for what the grasslands will look like 10 years from now?

Concluding statement

We have been conducting research in this area for a number of years. We have a new grant this year to extend our data collection on private lands. Would you be interested in participating in this project? [provide details of their options to participate]