

## Conservationist to focus on private land practices

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Jeffery Langholz may be a citizen of the world, but he's a Midwesterner at heart.

He grew up in tiny Dunlap, Iowa, graduated from Dana College in Blair and spent a few Saturday afternoons at Memorial Stadium.

So Langholz, who will give an April 1 lecture in Lincoln on private wildlife conservation, feels qualified to make a football analogy.

Nebraska farmers and ranchers should think of themselves as offensive coordinators, he said.

"They need a full playbook so they don't have to try to pound it up the middle on every play," he said. "They're pounding it up the middle with corn and beans and cows. The idea is to expand the playbook."

To continue the analogy, Langholz is like an advance scout, except he has a Ph.D. in natural resource policy and management. His professional interests have taken him across the globe to observe private land conservation at its best — and worst.

"Most landowners aren't going to have the chance to go around the world culling these best practices," he said. "So instead, we're going to ... bring those best practices back to Nebraska."

His address is titled "Global Developments in Private Conservation: Do They Apply to the Northern Great Plains?" He is sponsored by the

Grassland Foundation as part of its annual "Grassland Conservation and Sustainable Communities" lecture.

Langholz is associate professor at the Monterey Institute of International Studies where he teaches and researches topics related to biodiversity protection. He has written journal articles on privately owned protected areas and is co-author of a book titled "You Can Prevent Global Warming (and Save Money!): 51 Easy Ways."

The conservation of land, flora and fauna cannot fall purely to government. In the past two decades, the acceleration of privately protected parks and preserves is well documented.

At its best, a private land use should provide environmental stewardship for wildlife, economic viability for landowners and tangible benefits for nearby communities, Langholz said.

Farmers and ranchers in Nebraska and the Great Plains increasingly have opportunities to do all three. At the least, they can diversify their businesses and make more income by incorporating nature-based recreation, tourism, hunting or other options.

In many cases, the status quo isn't working for landowners or wildlife.

"We're going to win or lose the race to save habitat where most of it occurs, and that is private land."

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