AMERICAN PRAIRIE

AMERICAN PRAIRIE

Location: Montana, USA

Wilder Rangelands Case Study

Grasslands & Rangelands Working Group,
Global Rewilding Alliance



Rewilding
THE GLOBAL ALLIANCE

Photo credits: Dennis J. Lingohr, American Prairie

Table of contents

OVERVIEW 03

APPROACH: LANDSCAPE-SCALE GRASSLANDS REGENERATION 04

OUTCOMES & IMPACT 05

PART OF A LARGER EFFORT 06



Photo credits: American Prairie

Overview

The Global Rewilding Alliance has convened Alliance Partners — including American Prairie — and cross-sector experts through its Grasslands & Rangelands Working Group to launch the Rewilding Rangelands Initiative: a coordinated effort to restore ecological function and foster coexistence across the world's grasslands and rangelands.

American Prairie's mission is to **create one of the largest nature reserves in the United States, a refuge for people and wildlife preserved forever as part of America's heritage** by reconnecting vast expanses of native grassland and supporting the return of wildlife and natural ecological processes.

By assembling a mosaic of private and public lands, they are addressing the rapid loss and fragmentation of one of the world's most endangered ecosystems: **temperate grasslands**.



Photo credits: gibsphotos, American Prairie

American Prairie is working to create one of the largest nature reserves in the contiguous United States by restoring native grasslands and reconnecting fragmented habitats.

APPROACH:

Landscape-Scale Grasslands Regeneration

Land Conservation & Connectivity

American Prairie acquires **private ranchlands** from willing sellers and links them with existing public lands. This landscape-scale approach enables wildlife movement and the **recovery of natural ecological processes across hundreds of thousands of hectares.**

Habitat Restoration

Degraded and previously cultivated lands and streams are restored using native grasses, wildflowers, shrubs, and trees. Restoration focuses on **increasing plant diversity and stream complexity, eliminating noxious and invasive weeds, and improving habitat** for grassland and riparian species through adaptive, science-based management.

Wildlife & Ecological Processes

The project supports the **return of native wildlife**, including **Bison**, which play a critical role in shaping grassland structure and nutrient cycles. A diverse assemblage of bird species, mammals, and insects benefits from restored habitat, conflict mitigation, incentivized tolerance.



Photo credits: American Prairie

Public Engagement & Partnerships

American Prairie works with public agencies, scientists, Indigenous partners, and local communities while providing opportunities for **research, education, and public access** to the prairie landscape.

Outcomes & Impact

- Protection and restoration of large, **connected grassland landscapes.**
- Recovery of **key wildlife species** and ecological processes.
- Restored prairie as a source of **public access**, tourism, cultural resilience, local pride, and **shared regional identity**.
- A **scalable rewilding model** for one of the world's most threatened biomes.



Photo credits: American Prairie

Large-scale grassland restoration combines rewilding, science, and a long-term vision.

American Prairie offers a powerful model for safeguarding temperate grasslands for future generations.

Learn more about them here.

Part of a larger effort

These case studies are part of the the **Rewilding Rangelands Initiative —** a collaborative effort to restore ecological functionality and uplift coexistence across grasslands and rangelands through coordinated action across disciplines, sectors, and geographies.

A growing coalition of the Global Rewilding Alliance, Alliance Partners and experts have joined the Grasslands & Rangelands Working Group.

Explore other **case studies** and learn more about the **Initiative**.

ABOUT THE GLOBAL REWILDING ALLIANCE

The Global Rewilding Alliance is a worldwide organisation catalysing the rewilding movement by bringing together an active network of over 300 partners, working on every continent to help nature heal herself and secure a thriving future for people, nature and planet.

Our mission is to mainstream rewilding in science, policy and practice.

The core support of our Global Rewilding Champions is enabling us to build the hopeful, growing, global rewilding movement.

Rewilding THE GLOBAL ALLIANCE

Published July 2026

© Global Rewilding Alliance
www.globalrewilding.earth

Partner of

HIGH AMBITION COALITION FOR NATURE AND PEOPLE

UNITED NATIONS DECADE ON ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION 2021-2030