

PRAIRIE DAY JUNE 5, 2021

WHEREAS, North Dakota Prairies are a biologically-diverse grassland ecosystem within the larger Northern Great Plains region, containing vegetation species such as Big Bluestem, Side-oats Grama, Black-eyed Susan and Purple Prairie Clover; and

WHEREAS, Indigenous tribes including the Three Affiliated Tribes, comprised of the Mandan, Arikara, and Hidatsa, the Oceti Sakowin, comprised of the Lakota, Dakota, and Nakota, and the Anishinabe of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa are recognized as original and current stewards of North Dakota's prairies; and

WHEREAS, North Dakota prairies contribute to global climate health by providing ecological services such as water purification, carbon sequestration and soil stability during flooding and drought; and

WHEREAS, the prairies of North Dakota are home to a variety of species, such as hawks, eagles, owls, wolves and bison, which carry great cultural significance within tribal communities; and

WHEREAS, birds depend on North Dakota's prairie grassland habitat, and prairies provide respite and recreation for outdoor enthusiasts of all ages including birders, hikers and hunters; and

WHEREAS, private landowners are essential partners in restoring and reclaiming prairie habitat using management practices such as native prairie seeding, rotational grazing and prescribed fire; and

WHEREAS, recognition of Prairie Day in North Dakota creates appreciation for this legendary habitat, fosters awareness of its threats and builds support of its conservation practices.

NOW, THEREFORE, as Governor of the State of North Dakota, I do hereby proclaim June 5, 2021, PRAIRIE DAY in the State of North Dakota.



Doug Burgum GOVERNOR

ATTEST:

Alvin A. Jaeger SECRETARY OF STATE