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Spatial Ecology of Prairie Insect Communities
Dr. Brett Goodwin
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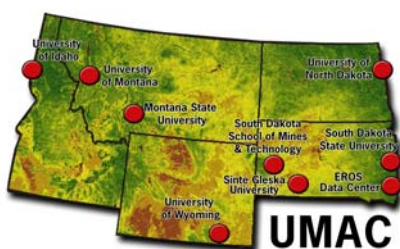
Grand Forks, ND – As with many other biomes such as tropical rainforests and deserts, tall-grass and mixed-grass prairie have been heavily altered by humans. Converting these natural areas for farming and other uses critically impacts native plants, animals and insect communities.

Dr. Brett Goodwin, an Assistant Professor of Biology at the University of North Dakota, will describe how prairie insects respond to land use changes in North Dakota and Minnesota on **Friday, March 30, 2007 at 4 pm in Clifford Hall Auditorium room 210 on the UND campus**. The public is welcome to attend. Refreshments will be served before the presentation at 3:30 pm.

Insects are an important component of prairie ecosystems either as food for other animals or pollinators for prairie plants. Understanding how animal populations and insect communities respond to land-use changes requires a spatial perspective. Dr. Goodwin will discuss how the size and shape of the prairie patch or the nature of the surrounding landscape influences population persistence or community structure, and how individuals respond to environmental heterogeneity.

Dr. Goodwin received his Bachelor's degree in Biology from McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario in 1993 and his Ph.D. in Landscape Ecology from Carleton University in Ottawa, Ontario in 2000. He was a Postdoctoral Research Associate at the Institute of Ecosystem Studies in Millbrook, NY from 2000-2002. In 2003 he joined the UND Biology Department where he teaches Ecology and Biometry courses. His research interests include insect population and community responses to landscape spatial structure, the role of space in predator-prey and host-parasite interactions, and measuring and modeling insect movement.

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