

Northwest Iowa Sierra Group – 2014 Highlights

Soren Rundquist of the Environmental Working Group demonstrated the degradation of natural prairie lands in Iowa since 2008 using GIS pictures. Iowa's land is close to 100% privately owned. The recent profits from corn and soybean farming further impacted our already diminished 1% remaining native prairie.

Clayton Daughenbaugh, SUWA, helped us kick off the 50 year anniversary of the Wilderness Act by showing us the Utah Red Rock Canyonlands project.

April 17 - **Strong Women of the Four Directions**, their families, and some NWIA Sierra Group members enjoyed our second annual Perry Creek path clean up.

May - NWIA Sierra Group members and friends attended two **Iowa Wildflower Month** hikes.

May 19 - We held a public forum for **Woodbury County Supervisor** candidates.

May 30 & June 1 - **Loess Hills Prairie Seminar** - Members attended; we also had a display.

June 10 - NWIA Sierra Group members and friends joined the **Boys Club** on a scavenger hunt with an environmental twist.

July 10 - NWIA Sierra Group members and friends visited the **NICC** campus to learn about the school's sustainability program and gardening program.

July 14 - Attended a citizen hearing in Buena Vista County on the **EPA's carbon pollution standards**.

August 21 - **Strong Women of the Four Directions**, their families, and NWIA Sierra Group members met with **Becky Conway** for a tour of **St. Thomas Community Gardens**.

September 12 - NWIA Sierra Group members helped feed several hundred local sixth graders at **"Riverfication"**, an environmental educational outreach event at the Missouri riverfront.

October 18 - Volunteered for **"Friend Me on the River"**, a Siouxland Missouri River clean up.

September 7-11 - Several of us attended **Iowa Prairie Network** events. These included: Prairie Walk at Sioux City Prairie, South Ravine Park Prairie Walk in Sioux City, Our Prairie Heritage program, Third Annual "A Little Reading on the Prairie", and Seed 'n Feed in Plymouth County.

October 11 - We attended the **Spirit Knoll Dedication** archeological talk and hike.

November 20 - Met with Leadership Siouxland class to share mission, activities, and needs.

December 1 - Members participated in an informational meeting on the **Dakota Access Bakken Oil pipeline** across the state of Iowa.

December 31 - Shared a booth with **Strong Women of the Four Directions** at a New Year's Eve Sobriety Pow Wow.

*We also host monthly **"Fourth Tuesdays"** programs open to the public at the Unitarian Church basement (2508 Jackson St, Sioux City). The speaker/topic begins at 6:30, but come as early as 5:45 for potluck and conversation.*