

CONSERVATION VOCABULARY CURRICULUM ENHANCEMENTS

To help create measurable results and true understanding, it is important to teach the following 3 basic ecology concepts and the related vocabulary. They relate directly to our research and the Ramona Grasslands and ecosystems at large.

1. UMBRELLA SPECIES

The Golden Eagle as an umbrella species. If enough land is preserved to protect the nesting and foraging habitat of golden eagles, many other species are also protected.

Hands-on Teaching Method: This can be taught to this age group with an actual umbrella and artist's rendering of a family and their pets huddled under an umbrella, ALL staying dry and another drawing of a giant umbrella over a land mass with several flora and fauna beneath protected and the Golden Eagle at the top.

2. CONNECTIVITY/WILDLIFE CORRIDORS*

This can be visually explained first with maps of the Grasslands and surrounding preserves in SD County. Explain why the corridors are important.

Hands-on Teaching Method: Using a map type maze to see if the students can find a path for the various wild animals to find their home through various obstacles. Another way to demonstrate could be with streets to drive home and/or to compare hallways humans use in our homes to get from bedroom to kitchen, etc.

3. EDGE EFFECT*

This can be explained about large parks and playgrounds, but if a highway is going through the middle discuss the problems that would cause.

Hands-on Teaching Method: Using a piece of fine cloth or rug, measure the dimensions and area of the cloth or rug. Then cut up the cloth and show the frayed edges and yet the area stays the same. But are they equal? Why and why not? Have a rug cut up and have the total area the same or larger, but is it still a usable rug?