

Great Plains Research

Submission Guidelines for 2026 Themed Issue:

Futures of the Great Plains

(Last Updated: October 5, 2025)

About Great Plains Research

Great Plains Research publishes original, peer-reviewed research and integrative syntheses that illuminate the peoples, cultures, ecologies, and economies of the Great Plains. By connecting scholars, practitioners, and communities, the journal serves as a dynamic platform for dialogue, discovery, and meaningful impact.

About the 2026 Issue

Great Plains Research invites submissions for its 2026 themed issue, “**Futures of the Great Plains**.” This issue coincides with the Center for Great Plains Studies’ 50th anniversary celebration and annual conference. We invite scholars, practitioners, and community partners to imagine diverse and resilient futures for the region’s peoples, cultures, and landscapes.

Areas of Focus

We welcome contributions addressing themes including, but not limited to:

- Indigenous sovereignty, futurisms, and knowledge systems
- Climate resilience, land, and water futures
- Community wellbeing, demographic change, and migration
- Arts, culture, and identity in a changing region
- Policy, governance, and innovation shaping the region

Contribution Types

We welcome diverse forms of research and scholarship that engage with the upcoming issue’s theme through interdisciplinary, community-centered, and culturally sustaining approaches. Submissions may include, but are not limited to:

- **Academic Research & Community-Partnered Scholarship:** Research that generates new understandings of the Great Plains through diverse methodologies and ways of knowing. We particularly encourage collaborative works that center relationships, reciprocity, and co-authorship with Indigenous and local community members.

- ***Integrative Synthesis & Critical Analysis:*** Integrative research that bridges multiple disciplines, epistemologies, or theoretical perspectives to offer new insights into the environmental, social, and cultural dynamics of the Great Plains.
- ***Creative Scholarship as Research:*** Artistic and literary works, including visual art, poetry, music, and multimedia, that serve as methods of inquiry and knowledge production. Submissions must be accompanied by a critical artist's statement that situates the work within scholarly or regional discourse.

If your contribution does not fit within these categories but aligns with the issue's scope, please provide a brief description of its format and intent.

Key Milestone Timeline

The following timeline outlines the submission, review, and publication process:

- Abstract Submission Deadline: January 5, 2026
- Notification of Abstract Decisions: February 1, 2026
- Full Manuscript Submission: April 1, 2026
- Peer Review Completion: June 1, 2026
- Revised Manuscript Submission: August 1, 2026
- Final Acceptance & Publication: Fall 2026

Abstract Submission

Submit abstracts via [this link](#) by January 15, 2026.

Full Manuscript Submission Requirements

Manuscript Length & Format

- Title Page: Submit a separate title page with author name(s), affiliation(s), and acknowledgments. This page will not be sent to reviewers. The manuscript title must also appear above the abstract.
- Title: Aim for an impactful title of up to 10 words (or 82 characters) without subtitles.
- Author bio: Maximum 50 words per author.
- Abstract: Maximum 200 words summarizing the focus, relevance, and key insights.
- Keywords: Include 5–8 keywords relevant to your manuscript.
- Length: Up to 5,000 words, excluding abstract and references.
- Font & Spacing: 12-point Times New Roman, double-spaced, with 1-inch margins.
- Headings: Use clear section headings (e.g., Introduction, Methods, Results, Discussion).
- Footnotes: Informational footnotes are not accepted.
- References: Follow the most recent edition of Chicago Style.
- Line Numbering: Line numbers are required to facilitate the review process.

Visual & Data Presentations

General Guidelines

All figures, illustrations, maps, tables, and other visual or data elements must be submitted as separate files rather than embedded within the manuscript. Each article may include up to three (3) visual elements. Additionally, each visual must be accompanied by:

- Captions: Submit a separate file listing captions for all figures, illustrations, and maps. Captions should provide concise descriptions and necessary contextual information.
- Alt Text: Provide a separate file with brief but descriptive alt text for each visual to ensure accessibility for screen readers and other assistive technologies.
- File Format: Figures, illustrations, and maps should be submitted in TIFF, EPS, or high-quality PDF formats. Tables should be created using Word's table feature and placed within the manuscript where they are intended to appear.

Images & Figures

- Use a sans serif font such as Arial for any labels or text within figures.
- Reference all illustrations (including maps) in the text using Arabic numerals in parentheses. Example: *Rainfall increases with elevation (Fig. 1).*
- Captions must be submitted as a separate file and should not be embedded within the illustration.
- File format: Submit figures as TIFF, EPS, or high-quality PDF files.
- Image dimensions:
 - Single-column width: 3.25 inches
 - Two-column width: 6.625 inches
 - Maximum height: 9.0 inches
- Resolution requirements:
 - Standard figures: Minimum 350 dpi

- Line illustrations: Minimum 1200 dpi
- Do not submit figures embedded in the manuscript or as Word or PowerPoint graphics. Instead, upload them separately via email or a cloud-based file server.
- Maximum Number of images & figures: 6 per article (special exceptions considered)

Maps

- Include a bar scale (in kilometers) and a north arrow on all maps.
- If showing an enlarged detail, ensure that it is to scale.
- All geographic locations referenced in the text should be clearly shown on the map.
- Use a sans serif font such as Arial for any labels.

Measurements

- Use SI units (expanded metric system) for all measurements.
- If necessary, non-metric units may be included in parentheses alongside the SI measurement.

Tables

- Create tables using Word's table feature rather than inserting them as images.
- Place tables in the manuscript at their intended location.
- Use Times New Roman font for table text.
- Size guidelines:
 - Single-column width: 3.25 inches
 - Two-column width: 6.625 inches
 - Maximum height: 9.0 inches

How to Submit the Full Manuscript

The submission method will be communicated to each invited contributor via email.

Ethical Research & Human Participants Protections

Great Plains Research is committed to fostering ethical, relational, and community-centered research. Ethical scholarship is not solely about compliance - it is about building trust, reciprocity, and accountability, particularly when engaging with Indigenous nations and peoples, marginalized communities, and human participants.

Human Participants & Institutional Review Board (IRB) Approval

For any research involving human participants, including interviews, surveys, oral histories, participatory research, or ethnographic fieldwork—authors must provide proof of Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval or exemption at the time of full manuscript submission.

Community-Centered Research Ethics

Authors engaging in research with Indigenous, rural, or systemically excluded communities should uphold ethical practices that go beyond institutional requirements, including:

- **Community Consultation & Consent:** Engaging in ongoing dialogue with Indigenous and local communities, respecting community research protocols, and seeking approval from tribal or community research review boards where applicable.

- **Co-Authorship & Attribution:** Recognizing and crediting community knowledge holders appropriately, including offering co-authorship when their contributions are foundational to the research.
- **Ethical Citation & Data Sovereignty:** Citing oral histories, Indigenous knowledge, and community-generated data in ways that respect permissions, uphold the rights of knowledge keepers, and align with data sovereignty principles.

Research should adhere to relevant ethical frameworks, including but not limited to:

- CARE Principles for Indigenous Data Governance
- United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP)
- Community-specific research ethics protocols

Inclusive, Accessible & Responsible Scholarship

Great Plains Research is committed to fostering an inclusive, accessible, and responsible publishing environment that reflects the diverse voices, stories, and knowledges of the Great Plains. We expect all submissions to uphold principles of integrity, representation, and respect in knowledge-sharing.

Inclusive & Culturally Responsive Language

Use identity-affirming and culturally respectful language, particularly when referencing Indigenous nations, racial and ethnic groups, gender identities, and disability communities. Defer to community-preferred terms and naming conventions when describing peoples, places, and histories.

Accessibility & Readability

Ensuring accessibility and readability is essential to fostering meaningful engagement with diverse audiences, including scholars, policymakers, educators, and community members. Authors are encouraged to use clear and engaging language, minimizing overly technical or discipline-specific terms where possible and providing context when specialized terminology is necessary. Thoughtful communication can help connect disciplines and make research more impactful, resonating across multiple communities and fields of knowledge.

Responsible Authorship & Community Engagement

Authorship should reflect genuine contributions and uphold ethical standards of collaboration and acknowledgment. Community collaborators, artists, and interdisciplinary partners should be credited appropriately, whether as co-authors or in acknowledgments. Research involving community participation should be conducted with reciprocity and care, ensuring that knowledge is not extracted without meaningful engagement, attribution, and benefit to the communities involved.

Journal Indexing and Visibility

Authors publishing in Great Plains Research benefit from broad interdisciplinary reach and accessibility through the following indexing services: America: History and Life, BIOSIS Previews, Biological Abstracts, Environment Abstracts, Historical Abstracts, Geographical



Abstracts and GEOBASE, Meteorological and Geostrophysical Abstracts, and CSA Sociological Abstracts, Inc.

About the Center for Great Plains Studies

[The Center for Great Plains Studies](#) is directed by Margaret Jacobs (Professor of History, University of Nebraska–Lincoln). The center is a regional research and teaching program established in 1976 at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln. The mission of the Center is to foster the study of the people and the environment of the Great Plains.

A sparsely populated region with highly variable weather set against grassy, rolling land, the Great Plains stretches westward from the Missouri River at Omaha and Kansas City to the Rocky Mountains, and northward from southern Texas into the Canadian Prairie Provinces.

The region invites inquiry into the relationships between its natural environment and the cultures brought to it by its various inhabitants, as scholars and residents work both to preserve healthy ecosystems and to build thriving human communities.

Contact & Additional Information

For inquiries, please reach out to: gpr@unl.edu. We look forward to your contributions and appreciate your engagement with *Great Plains Research*.