

# Great Plains Research

## Statement of Publishing Ethics

(Last Updated: April 10, 2026)

**Great Plains Research (GPR)** is committed to a publishing process that is thorough, transparent, and fair to all participants. The following principles govern the conduct of editors, reviewers, and authors.

### Editorial Integrity

All editorial judgments are made by qualified human editors. No automated system will assess scholarly merit or determine publication outcomes. The Editor reserves the right to decline manuscripts that fall outside GPR's mission or do not meet the journal's ethical standards. Desk rejections will include a brief explanation.

### Peer Review Process

GPR publishes on an annual cycle. Authors are invited to submit abstracts each fall; those selected are invited to submit full manuscripts the following spring. All manuscripts accepted for full review undergo double-anonymous peer review by a minimum of two qualified reviewers. Submissions are evaluated on clarity of purpose, contribution to regional knowledge, methodological transparency, and ethical practice. Authors are notified of one of four decisions: accept, accept with revisions, revise and resubmit, or reject. Manuscripts accepted with revisions proceed to the publication process upon satisfactory resubmission. Manuscripts invited to resubmit are treated as new submissions and assigned to new reviewers. Manuscripts that receive a rejection decision will not be considered again for publication. Accepted manuscripts are copyedited and published in collaboration with the University of Nebraska Press.

### Confidentiality

Submitted manuscripts are treated as confidential intellectual property. Access is restricted to the Editor, relevant associate editors, and assigned peer reviewers. No manuscript content may be shared, cited, or discussed outside the editorial process without written permission from the author. Reviewers' obligations of confidentiality do not expire when the review is submitted.

### Conflicts of Interest

Editors and reviewers must disclose and recuse themselves when they have co-authored with submitting authors within the past five years, hold a current or recent mentorship relationship with submitting authors, share an institutional affiliation with submitting authors, or have a financial interest in the research or its outcomes. Undisclosed conflicts will be investigated.

### Reviewer Conduct

Reviewers should accept invitations only when they have genuine expertise and sufficient time. Delegating a review, in whole or in part, including to graduate students, is not permitted without prior Editor approval. Reviewer feedback must be specific, constructive, and addressed to the work itself; hostile or ad hominem commentary is not acceptable. Reviewers may not request self-serving citations or use unpublished ideas encountered in review for their own work.



## Author Responsibilities

By submitting to GPR, authors enter a scholarly pact with the journal, its reviewers, and its readership. Submitted work must be original and not under consideration elsewhere.

All sources must be cited accurately, including Indigenous knowledge systems and community-sourced data, and all substantive contributors credited, from research participants and community partners to funding sources. All listed authors must have contributed significantly, approved the final version, and agreed to submission.

Authors must disclose any conflicts of interest and any use of AI or generative tools in the research or writing process. Research involving human participants, animal subjects, or Indigenous or marginalized communities requires documentation of institutional or community ethical approval.

Errors discovered after submission or publication must be reported to the Editor without delay.

## Artificial Intelligence and Generative Tools

GPR welcomes the responsible use of AI and generative tools in the research process, provided that use is balanced with essential human oversight and fully disclosed. Transparency regarding AI use strengthens the integrity of the scholarly record. These standards apply to authors, reviewers, and editors alike.

### Authors

AI tools serve as assistants to human expertise; they do not meet the criteria for authorship and cannot bear legal responsibility for published work. Authors remain the primary stewards of their research and are responsible for verifying all facts, citations, and data regardless of how they were produced.


All manuscripts must include a Statement on the Use of Generative AI. Authors whose work involved substantive AI use, in drafting, analysis, data synthesis, or figure generation, are additionally required to submit an AI Disclosure Record as a supplementary document at the time of submission. The AI Disclosure Record must specify the tool name and version, the purpose for which it was used, and the prompts employed. This document is reviewed by the editorial team and is not shared with peer reviewers, preserving the integrity of the double-anonymous review process. AI Disclosure Records are retained by the editorial team for a minimum of three years following publication.

Authors are responsible for ensuring that any AI tools used adequately protect the confidentiality of unpublished manuscript content and research data. Submitting sensitive data to tools with public-sharing terms is prohibited. Authors must also retain records of all research and writing completed prior to AI tool use; these must be made available to the editorial team upon request.

For full guidance, including the Statement on the Use of Generative AI, AI Disclosure Record template, and compliant and non-compliant examples, see GPR's Author Submission Guidelines.

### Reviewers

Peer review is an act of expert human judgment. Reviewers must not upload any portion of a submitted manuscript to a generative AI tool, nor use AI to generate, summarize, or assess the manuscript on their behalf. Reviewers may use AI tools to improve the clarity or grammar of their written feedback, provided the substance and judgments are entirely their own and any such use is disclosed upon submission of the review. Undisclosed or prohibited use of AI in the review process violates GPR's confidentiality and integrity standards and will be investigated



under GPR's misconduct procedures. For full guidance, including disclosure requirements and permissible uses, see GPR's Reviewer Guidelines.

### **Investigation and Correction**

GPR will promptly and impartially investigate any credible allegation of misconduct, including fabrication, falsification, plagiarism, or undisclosed conflicts. The process includes: acknowledgment within ten business days; preliminary review by the Editor; notification to the relevant author(s) with opportunity to respond; and resolution through correction, retraction, or editorial notice, with a transparent public record of the outcome.

### **Reporting Concerns**

These principles apply to GPR's own conduct as much as to authors and reviewers. Concerns about the journal's adherence to its commitments may be directed to the Editor at [gpr@unl.edu](mailto:gpr@unl.edu) or the Director of the Center for Great Plains Studies at [cgps@unl.edu](mailto:cgps@unl.edu).

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