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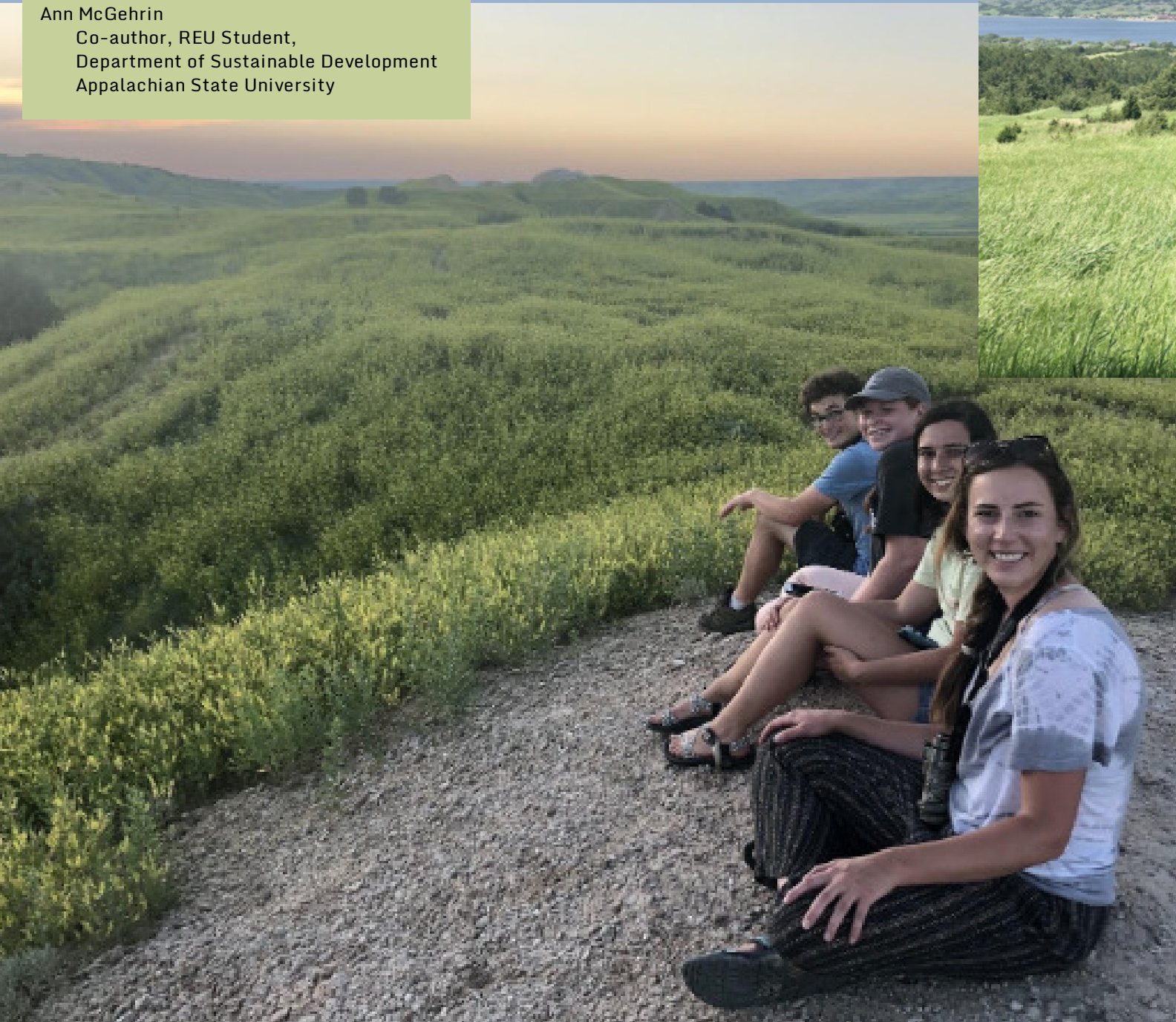
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Perceptions of Multifunctional Landscapes Along the Missouri National Recreational River

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The communities along the Upper Missouri River Basin (UMRB) are among the least densely populated regions in the contiguous United States, and primarily utilize the land for agriculture and energy production. Considering the UMRB region is home to many people of rural and urban areas, it would be anticipated that people in particular sized communities may value their landscapes differently. The purpose of this research was to evaluate whether land-use values were different among residents in rural, micropolitan, and metropolitan communities in the UMRB. This research focuses on the top three most common values consistent among across all communities, which were agricultural, recreational, and conservation/ stewardship. This research analyzed data from 1,019 in-person surveys that took place in rural, micropolitan, and metropolitan communities in North Dakota, South Dakota, Wyoming, and Montana from June 2018 through July 2019. Survey participants were asked to assign 100 total points to up to four value choices out of a list of 11 choices to evaluate what people value the most for the land in their area. The top three land-use values were consistent among metropolitan, micropolitan, and rural communities, though the extent to which each category was valued differed among the community sizes. Metropolitan communities valued recreation the most, while micropolitan and rural communities valued agriculture the most. The results show that values for rural and metropolitan communities had the most contrast, with micropolitan communities often being intermediate between the two. These results may be linked to the most prevalent occupations or average length residence in each community. In conclusion, social values impact the ways in which people engage with their natural environment; therefore, recognizing what people in different locations value is important in our understanding of how social and ecological systems are interconnected.

