

ELLI BLAINE

the SAN JUAN
PRESERVATION
TRUST

THE LOWDOWN ON MOWING

LOPEZ ISLAND

DEAR CONSERVATION EASEMENT PARTNER,

It's a matter of timing. Patience is a virtue when it comes to mowing your fields and meadows. Wildlife, especially grassland songbirds that are laying eggs and raising their offspring, need the spring season to bring their first round of chicks to fledge. **Grassland-nesting birds are in decline, and this is a way to help them.**

More mowing tips:

- Waiting to mow after peak nesting and pollination activity (spring–early summer) helps reduce harm to wildlife.
- Mow fields from the inside out. This allows birds and animals to flush while working your fields.
- Reduce mowing frequency and raise height of mower blade to at least three inches (higher is better).
- Where possible, leave unmown prairie strips to maintain safe zones for wildlife.
- Ungrazed pastures dotted with shrubs can provide great year-round habitat.
- Walk areas before mowing to check for bird nests, and avoid those sections
- Brush-hog fields only once in late fall to discourage invasive species.

For more information or ideas about maintaining your grassland areas, get in touch with your Stewardship Team at stewardship@sipt.org.

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