

NEBRASKA



Introduction and General Description

Nearly 1,000 landowners in Nebraska have joined with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) through its Partners for Fish and Wildlife (PFW) program to restore fish and wildlife habitat on their lands. The PFW program provides assistance to help farmers and ranchers realize their goal of making their land a better place for fish and wildlife while sustaining profitable farming and ranching operations.



The PFW program was first implemented in Nebraska in 1991 and has been growing ever since. Since the early 1990's, approximately 1,000 projects have been accomplished, resulting in a substantial amount of habitat restored for Federal trust species (e.g., migratory birds, fish, threatened and endangered species).

Nebraska is located in the heart of the Central Great Plains, and its wildlife resources are highly diverse and very dynamic. The PFW program works with farmers and ranchers to restore wetlands, streams and river corridors, riverine backwaters and sloughs, native prairies, grasslands, and other important fish and wildlife habitat.

Focus Areas

In Nebraska, the PFW program focuses in ecosystems or watersheds where such efforts will result in the greatest number of benefits. Seven major geographic areas are recognized as priorities for the PFW program.

Nebraska's PFW Focus Areas

- Rainwater Basin
- Central Platte River
- Sandhills
- North Platte River
- Loess Hills/Loup Rivers
- Loess Canyons
- Eastern Tallgrass Prairies

These focus areas were identified with both internal and external stakeholder input. A strategic plan was developed from the comments and laid the foundation for a 5-year work period.

Project Delivery



The Nebraska PFW staff is technically proficient. They bring proven restoration and enhancement techniques to the landscape. In many instances, the program also provides financial assistance to alleviate costs for cooperators. Finding common sense solutions to complicated ecological problems is a trademark of the program.



Partners

The key to the success of the PFW program in Nebraska has been the partnerships developed with private landowners, agencies, and organizations. Major partners include the hundreds of landowners located throughout Nebraska that have participated in the PFW program, as well as the partners listed below.



- Nebraska Game and Parks Commission
- Nebraska Environmental Trust Fund
- Rainwater Basin Joint Venture
- Sandhills Task Force
- Platte River Whooping Crane Maintenance Trust
- The Nature Conservancy
- Ducks Unlimited, Inc.
- USDA - Natural Resources Conservation Service
- National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
- Platte River Basin Environments
- Omaha Tribe of Neb and Iowa
- Santee Sioux Tribe of Nebr.
- Prairie Plains Resource Institute

- Weed Management Associations
- Nebraska Natural Legacy Project
- Great Plains GIS Partnership
- Numerous Natural Resource Districts across Nebraska
- The Platte River Recovery and Implementation Program
- National Audubon Society
- Nebraska Cattlemen
- Pheasants Forever
- National Arbor Day Foundation
- Bureau of Indian Affairs
- Nebraska Board of Educational Lands and Funds

Accomplishments

Between 1992 and 2013, the PFW program has entered into nearly 1,000 voluntary agreements with private landowners throughout Nebraska. These projects have resulted in the restoration and/or enhancement of approximately:

- **53,000 acres of wetland habitat**
- **225,000 acres of upland habitat**
- **400 miles of river/stream habitat**

These projects have benefitted federally listed species (e.g., whooping cranes, least terns, and piping plovers), migratory waterbirds (e.g., waterfowl, shorebirds, and wading birds), grassland nesting birds, and numerous other fish and wildlife species.

Future Needs

Hundreds of requests are received each year for technical and financial assistance for habitat restoration on private lands throughout Nebraska.



The PFW program will continue to restore/establish wetland, grassland, riverine, and riparian habitat on private land within identified focus areas in Nebraska.

Contact

Kenny Dinan

Nebraska PFW Program

Nebraska Field Office

9325 South Alda Road

Wood River, NE, 68883

308 382-6468, extension 214

<http://nebraskapartners.fws.gov>

