

Project 06-158 Statewide Grassland Enhancement Project

Project Legend:

Statewide Grassland Enhancement Project. Wildlife habitat benefits have decreased as Conservation Reserve Program grasslands have aged. With time, plant diversity and productivity decreases significantly, resulting in decreased use by pheasants and other grassland nesting birds such as bobolinks, dickcissels, and grasshopper sparrows. Programs such as CRP-Management Access Program (CRP-MAP), Focus on Pheasants (FOP), and a portion of “Wild Nebraska” specifically address grassland habitat enhancement across the state.

Proposal Context: Region

Duration: April 1, 2006–June 30, 2008

Cost: \$400,000 awarded from NET. The project accrued match worth \$1,443,221.98

NET Funding Objective: Habitat

Process:

- Grant money assisted in accomplishing several thousand acres of grassland habitat upgrades through the Focus on Pheasants Program. Lands were upgraded to improve habitat quality for nesting birds.
- Approximately 3,600 acres were upgraded per year.
- Educational tours of upgraded lands were also given. As a partner organization Pheasants Forever conducted six formal field tours and numerous informal tours were conducted on these properties to demonstrate techniques and results.
- Publication of CRP Map atlas was completed, supplies and educational materials were created, brochures and articles were prepared and distributed.
- Several research projects were conducted as part of this ongoing program
- Habitat improvements have made a direct positive impact on approximately 10,000 acres of land. Approximately 75,000 acres of grassland habitat has been indirectly affected

Domains: Because of the habitat restoration that has occurred throughout this project many native species have seen population growth and higher quality of life. The educational tours of the area that were given helped to show the value of these habitats. This project falls within the Environmental and Socio-Cultural domains.

Transferability: A majority of these land enhancements have been made to help improve habitat for nesting birds. Because of this, the transferability of this grant would be limited to communities or regions with nesting bird habitat.