



Nebraska State Wildlife Grant Success Stories

In the five years since its inception, the State Wildlife Grants Program has played an important role in the conservation of Nebraska's wildlife. The following are some of the projects funded through State Wildlife Grants:



Male Bluebird, Photo
Courtesy of Nevada GPC

Conservation: Protecting Imperiled Land, Water, and Wildlife **Short Grass Bird Management**

The short grass bird conservation region of western Nebraska is home to more than two dozen grassland birds that are found only in this region. The Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory in partnership with local ranchers, farmers, and the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission has been conducting surveys of these birds, including mountain plovers, ferruginous hawks, and burrowing owls. State Wildlife Grants are funding surveys to determine the abundance and habitat characteristics of these species. Information obtained from this project will contribute significantly to our limited knowledge of grassland birds, helping make the best decisions to cost-effectively conserve wildlife for future generations.



Nebraska Wetland, Photo
Courtesy of USFWS

Management: Proactive Measures that Benefit Wildlife and People **Wetland Restoration Evaluation**

The central Platte River provides critical habitat for many birds. However, more than 90 percent of the landscape's wet meadows have been lost or degraded. During the last decade federal, state, and private conservation organizations have embarked on an ambitious attempt to restore and re-create river habitat. State Wildlife Grant funds will be used to evaluate these wetland restorations for the first time. Information obtained through this project will result in critical management recommendations to conservation organizations that will result in improved future wetland restoration projects.



Oak Savannah, Photo
Courtesy of USFWS

Restoration: Working with Partners to Bring Back Wildlife and Natural Areas **Oak Savannah Habitat Establishment**

Two hundred years ago the Lewis & Clark expedition encountered expansive oak savannahs along their journey. Today oak savannahs are one of the rarest plant communities found in North America. State Wildlife Grant funds are now being used to restore 180 acres of marginal cropland to high diversity oak savannah along the shores of the Missouri River. Once restored, the savannah will be available as a field laboratory and natural area for visitors using the nearby Missouri National Recreational River Resource and Education Center currently under construction at Ponca State Park. The project will benefit both wildlife and people by conserving this vital natural landscape for future generations.

Congress has appropriated \$4.4 million in State Wildlife Grants to Nebraska since 2001. This has been matched with at least \$1.4 million state and partner dollars.