

Nebraska's Berggren Plan Habitat Accomplishments

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Rainwater Basin Joint Venture Seminar

Grand Island, NE

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DEDICATION



This plan is dedicated to the memory of Commissioner Lynn Berggren (1950-2016), whose passion, energy and enthusiasm for pheasants and pheasant hunting inspired all who helped create it.

Nebraska's Berggren Plan

Produce the best pheasant hunting experiences for the most people over the next five years.

Driving Factors

- 1) Increase p
- 2) Increase h
- 3) Increase th
- 4) Manage h

— THE BERGGREN PLAN —

NEBRASKA'S MEGA PLAN
IMPROVING PHEASANT HUNTING
"We're all in!"



NEBRASKA
— GAME PARKS —

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Nebraska's Berggren Plan

Produce the best pheasant hunting experiences for the most people over the next five years.

Guiding Principles

Consider all manageable aspects of the pheasant hunting experience, with habitat and access (particularly for youth) as cornerstone activities

Concentrate work where it will be most effective (i.e., where habitat, hunter access, and community support come together) based on sound science

Set realistic management targets and expectations, and use financial and human resources as efficiently as possible to meet them

Foster strong partnerships with other public entities, private conservation organizations, and local communities in reaching shared goals

Elements of Nebraska's Berggren Plan

Funding and Policy Environment

Manageable Factors Affecting Pheasant Abundance

- ✓ NGPC Private Lands Programs
- ✓ Partnership Assistance with USDA and NGO Conservation Program Delivery
- ✓ Acquisition and Management of NGPC Public Lands
- ✓ Pheasant Releases, Population Genetics
- ✓ Statutes and Regulations Affecting Hunting and Predator Populations
- ✓ Experiences and Education Influencing Landowner Values

Manageable Factors Affecting Hunter Access to Land

- ✓ Public and NGO Lands Open to Hunting
- ✓ Open Fields and Waters (OFW) Program Increasing Hunter Access to Private Lands
- ✓ Statutes and Regulations Affecting Controlled Shooting Areas (CSAs)

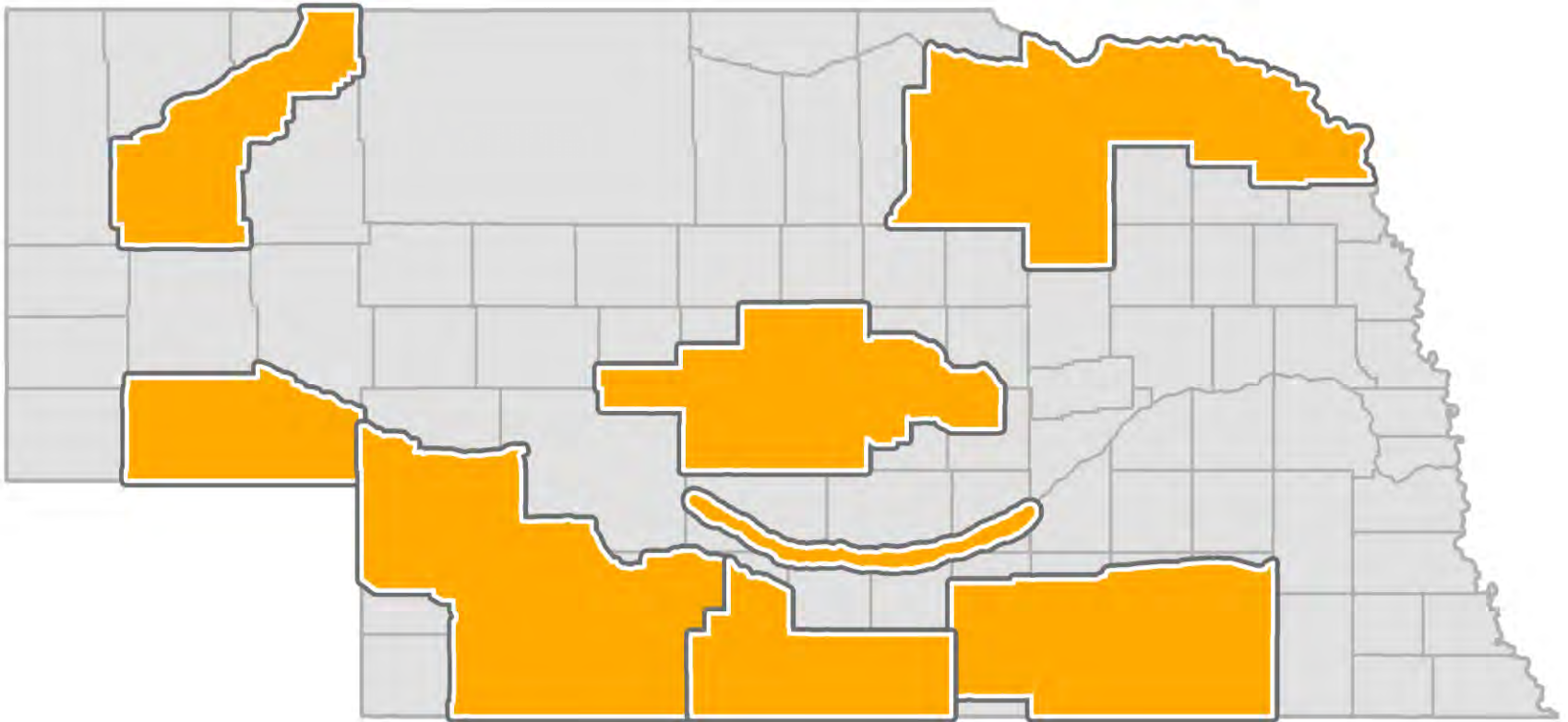
Manageable Factors Affecting Potential Pheasant Hunter Numbers













- ✓ RDR Programs and Partnerships
- ✓ Statutes and Regulations

Manageable Factors Affecting Hunter Expectations

- ✓ NGPC Hunting Forecasts, Media, Marketing and Advertising

Nebraska Pheasant Habitat Suitability Model and Berggren Plan Priority Areas



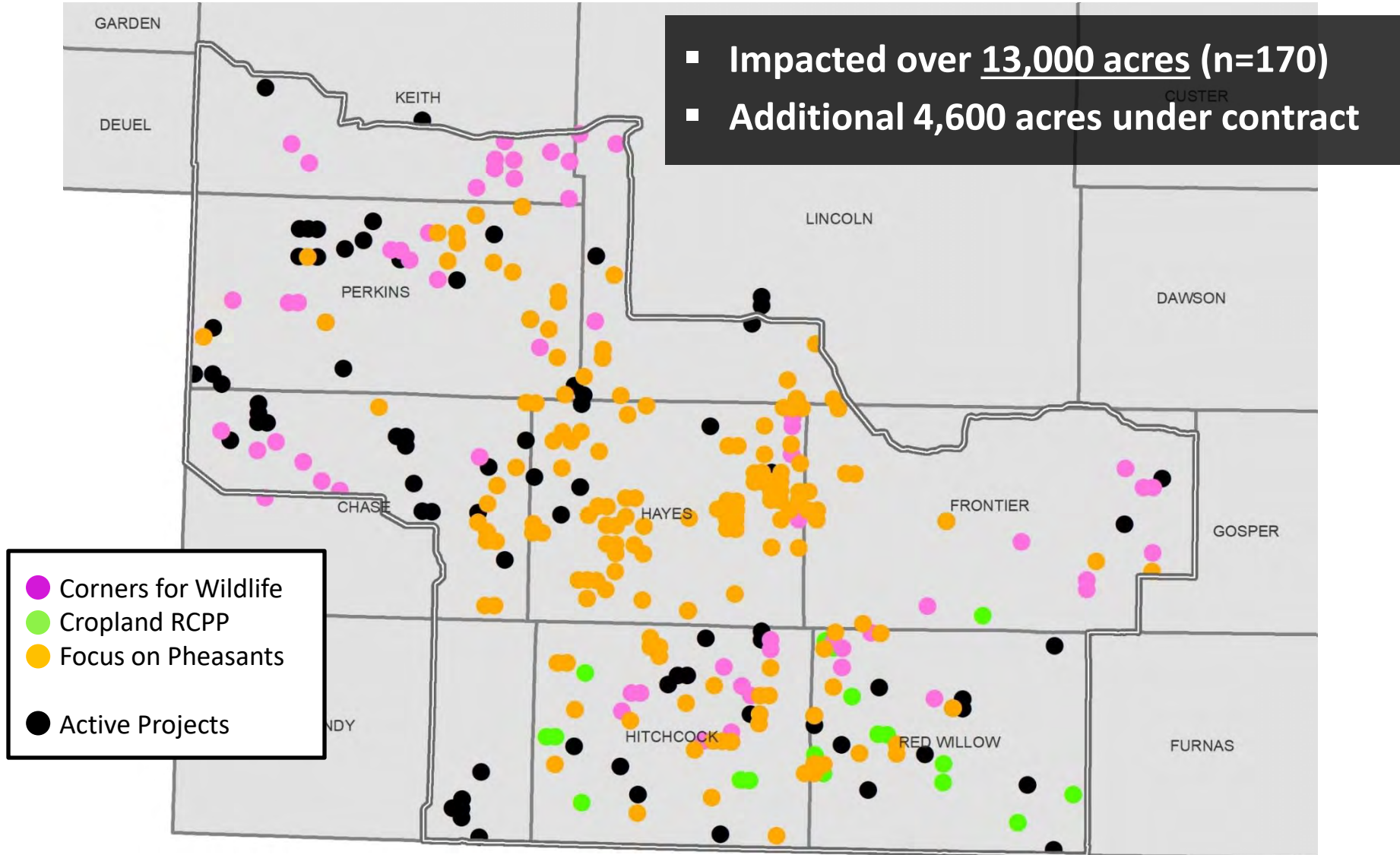
-  **Corners for Wildlife (CFW)** – PF partnership program targeting upland habitat establishment on pivot corners
-  **Cropland RCPP** – Incentivizes use of wildlife-friendly cover crops in existing crop rotations
-  **CRP TA** – Technical assistance provided by NGPC Partners staff towards CRP delivery
-  **Focus on Pheasants (FOP)** – NGPC’s umbrella program for upland habitat establishment and management
-  **Grassland Improvement Program (GIP)** – PF partnership program incentivizing rangeland deferment/Rx burning
-  **Grassland Bird RCPP** – Incentivizes grassland management activities to benefit quail and prairie grouse
-  **Habitat Share** – PF partnership program used to increase capacity in managing NGPC Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs)
-  **Legacy/PR Project** - Grant-funded, grassland/woodland restoration projects focused in Biologically Unique Landscapes (BULs)
-  **NET Stubble** – Incentivized leaving tall wheat and milo stubble for associated Ag/wildlife benefits (expired in 2017)
-  **Next Gen** – PF partnership program that incentivizes the establishment of pollinator habitat
-  **Rx Burn Trailer** – PF partnership program providing mobile burn units for use by private landowners/burn associations
-  **Wetland Incentives Program (WIP)** – NGPC’s umbrella program for wetland restoration and management

Southwest Focus on Pheasants (FOP) Area



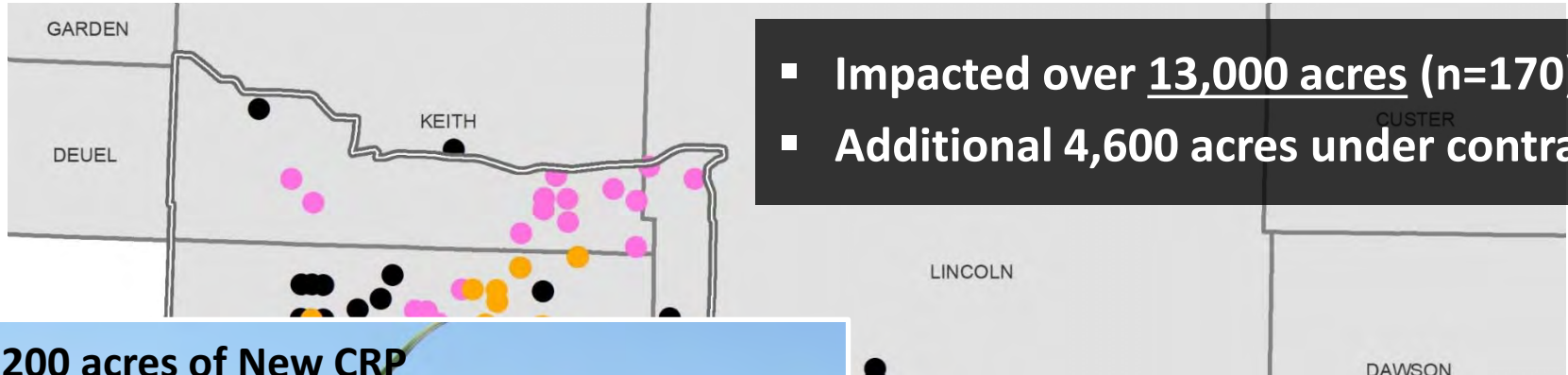
Southwest FOP

2018 Habitat Accomplishments



Southwest FOP

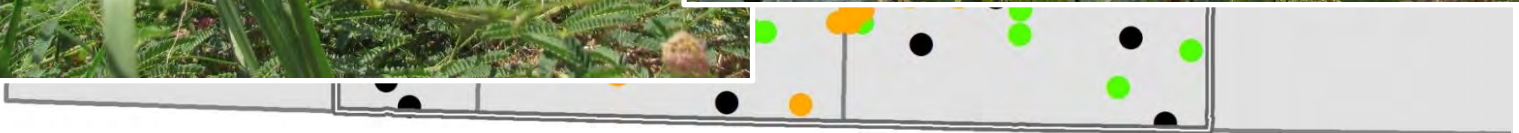
2018 Habitat Accomplishments



>4,200 acres of New CRP
>7,600 acres of Upgraded CRP (ReX/MCM)



>1,100 acres of Cover Crops
(Cropland RCPP)



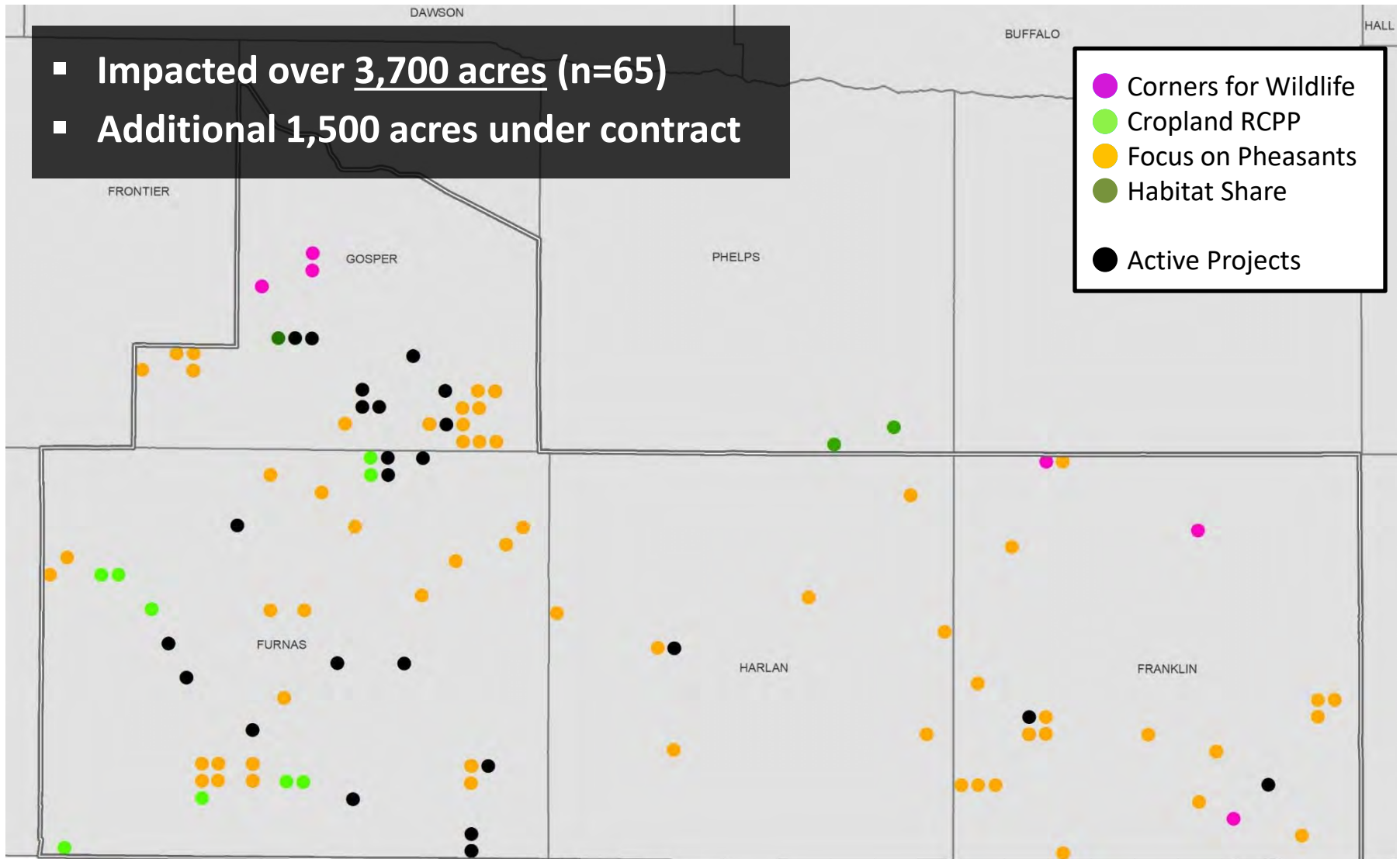
South-Central Focus on Pheasants (FOP) Area



South-Central FOP

2018 Habitat Accomplishments

- Impacted over 3,700 acres (n=65)
- Additional 1,500 acres under contract



South-Central FOP

2018 Habitat Accomplishments

- Impacted over 3,700 acres (n=65)
- Additional 1,500 acres under contract

- Corners for Wildlife
- Cropland RCPP
- Focus on Pheasants
- Habitat Share
- Active Projects

>670 acres of Cover Crops
(Cropland RCPP)



>1,400 acres of New CRP
>1,100 acres of Upgraded CRP (ReX/MCM)

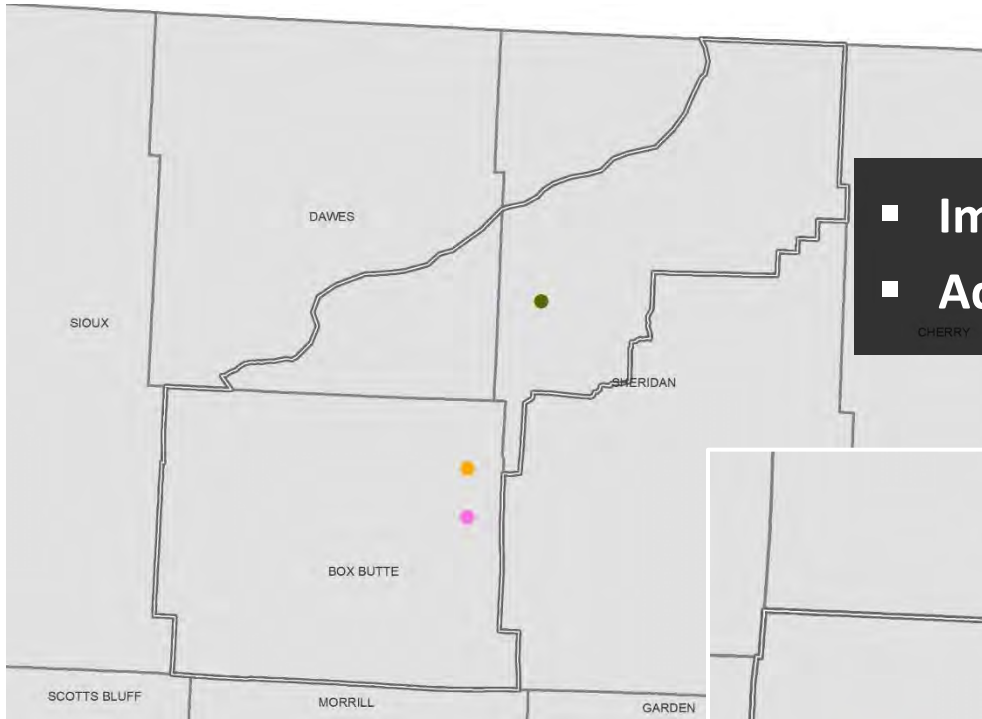


Northern and Southern Panhandle Pheasant Opportunity Areas

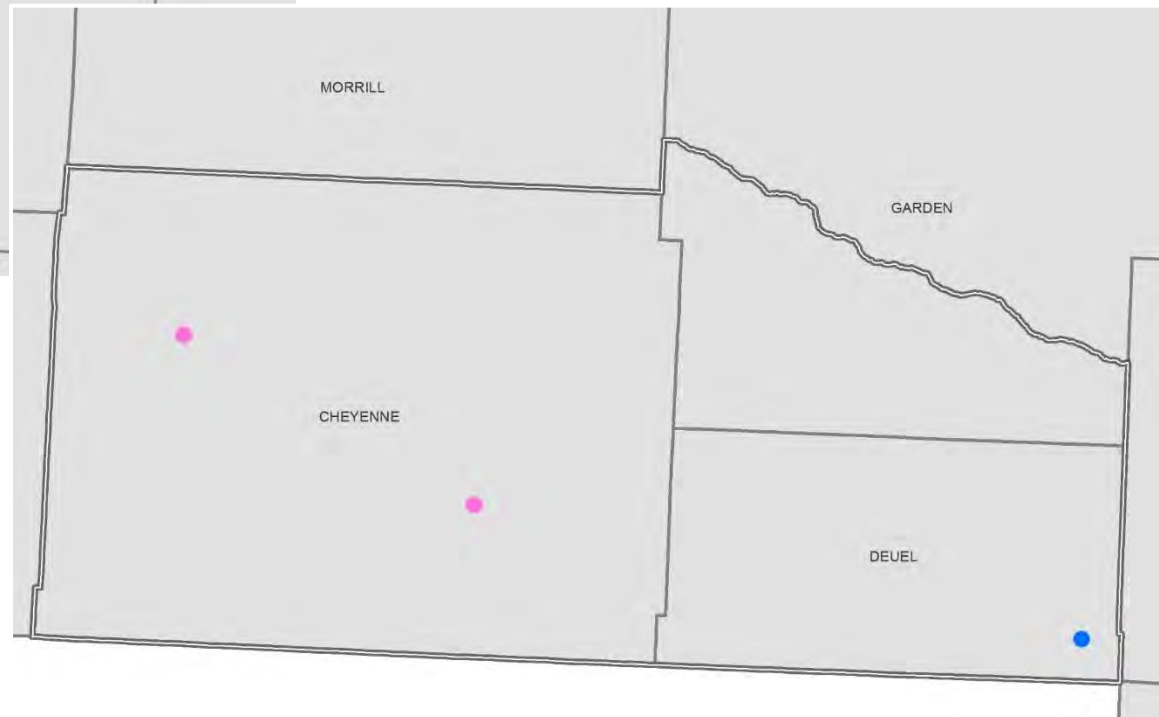


Northern and Southern Panhandle POAs

2018 Habitat Accomplishments



- Impacted over 300 acres (n=7)
- Additional 330 acres under contract



- Corners for Wildlife
- Focus on Pheasants
- NextGen
- WIP
- Active Projects

Northern and Southern Panhandle POAs

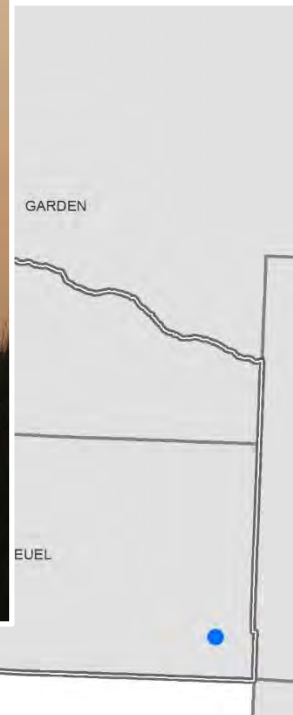
2018 Habitat Accomplishments



- Impacted over 300 acres (n=7)
- Additional 330 acres under contract

>300 acres of New CRP

- Corners for Wildlife
- Focus on Pheasants
- NextGen
- WIP
- Active Projects

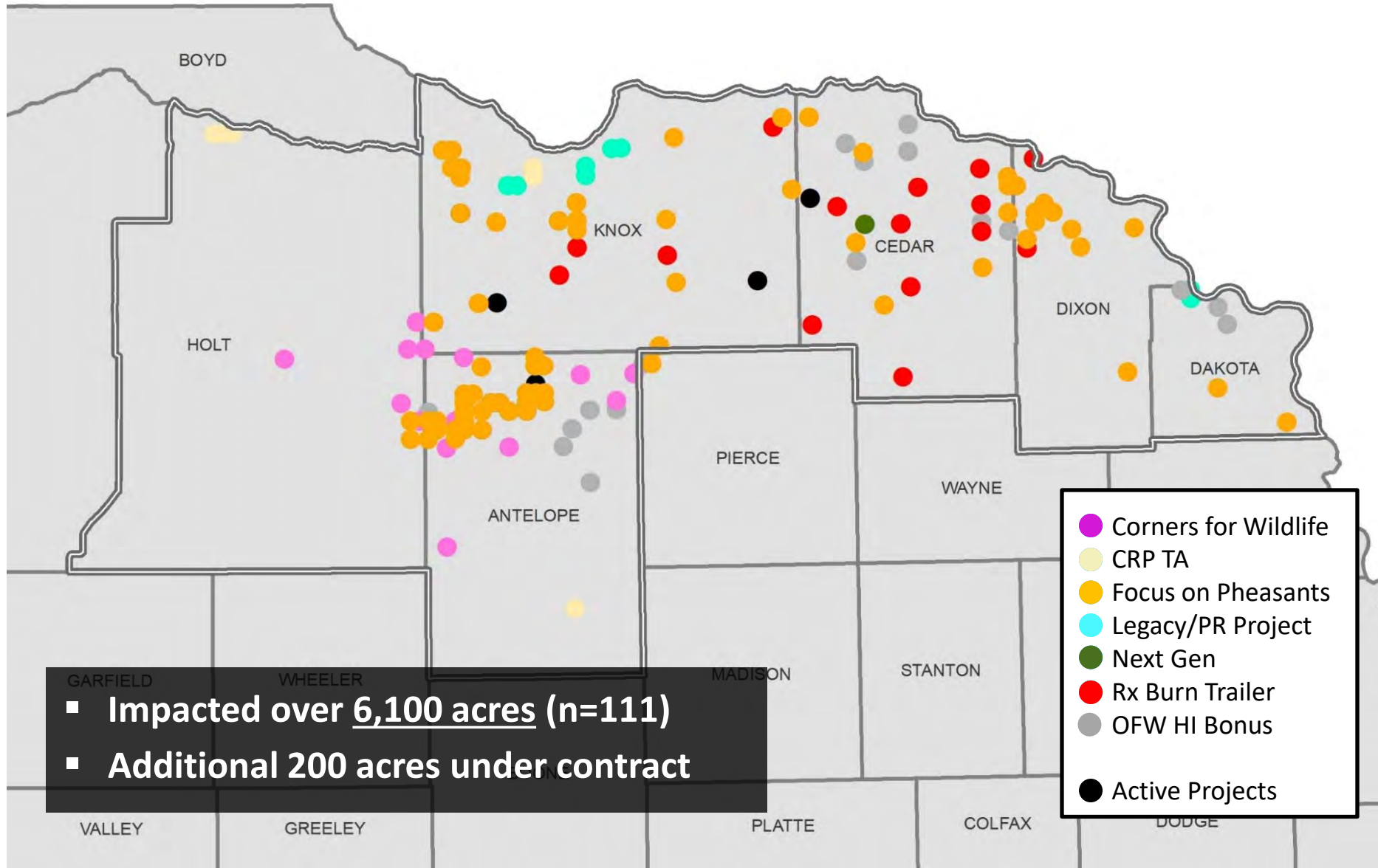




Northeast Pheasant Opportunity Area

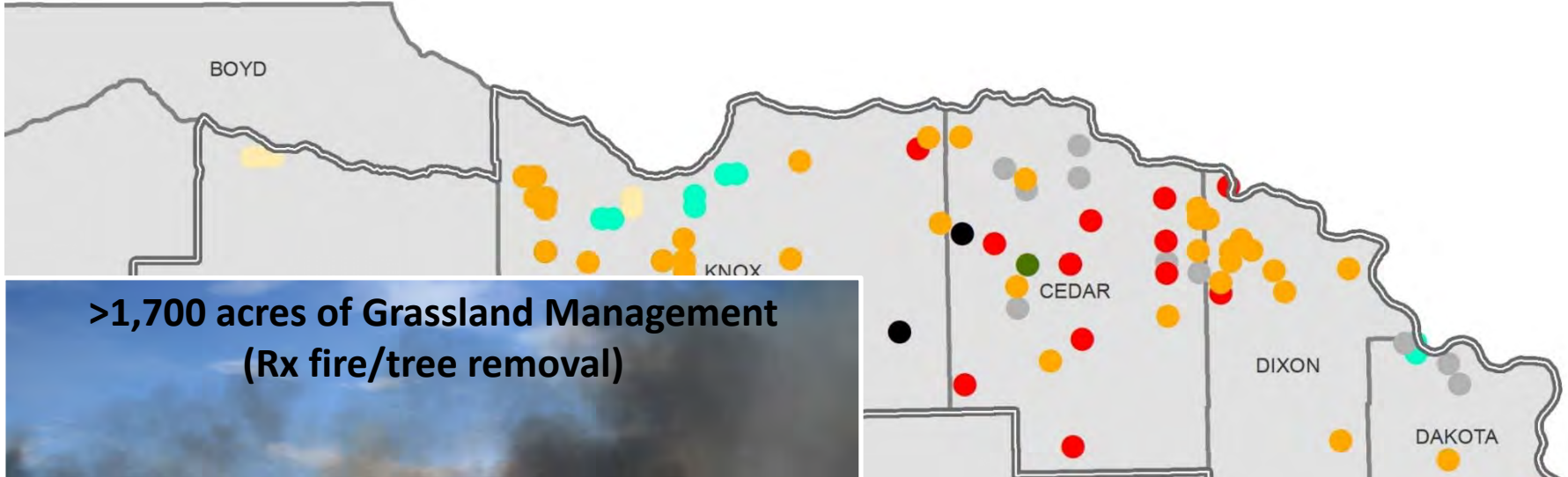
Northeast POA

2018 Habitat Accomplishments



Northeast POA

2018 Habitat Accomplishments



VALLEY

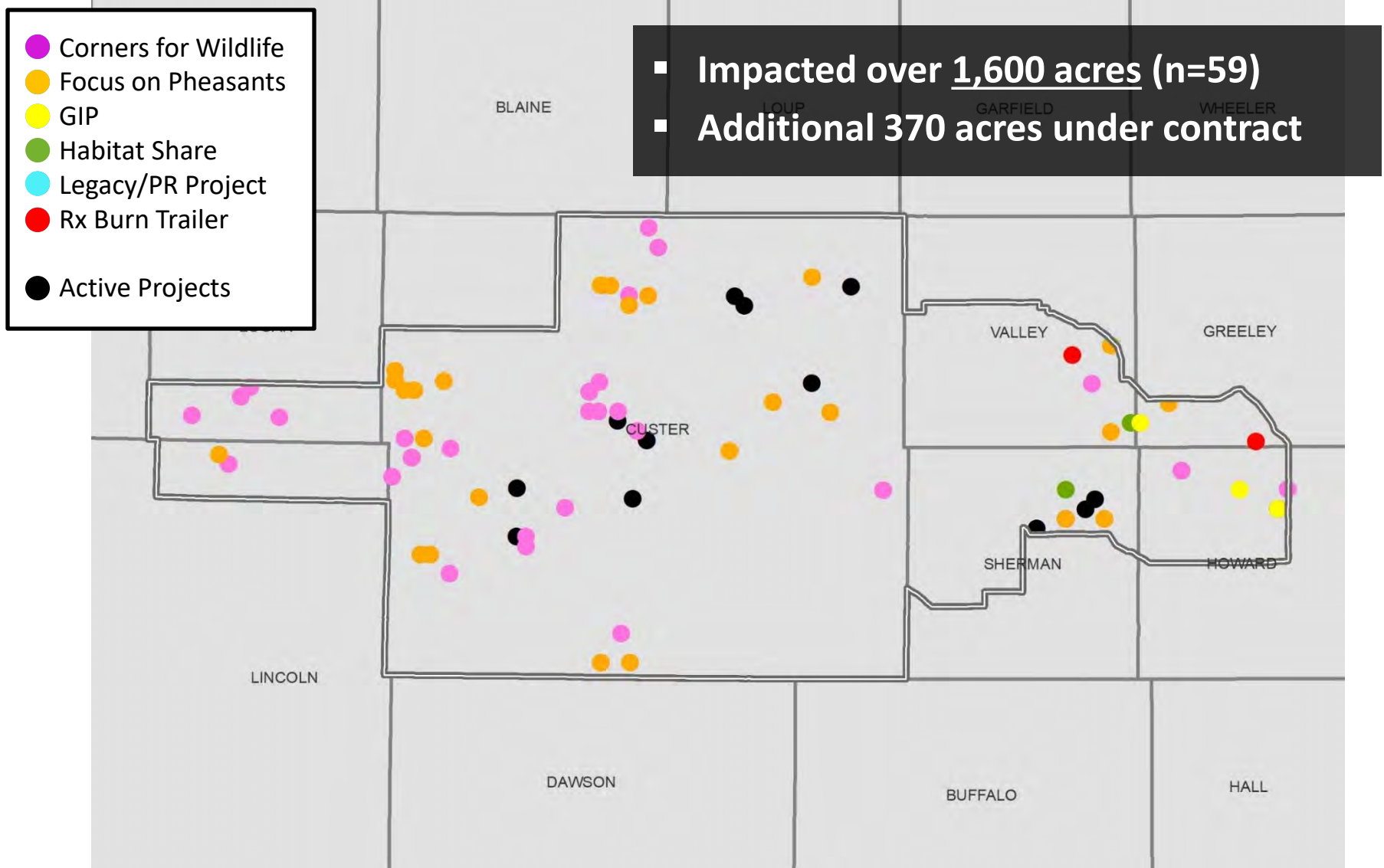
GREELEY

Central Pheasant Opportunity Area



Central POA

2018 Habitat Accomplishments



Central POA

2018 Habitat Accomplishments

- Corners for Wildlife
- Focus on Pheasants
- GIP
- Habitat Share
- Legacy/PR Project
- Rx Burn Trailer

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- Impacted over 1,600 acres (n=59)
- Additional 370 acres under contract

>800 acres of New and Upgraded CRP



DAWSON

>750 acres of Rx Burning

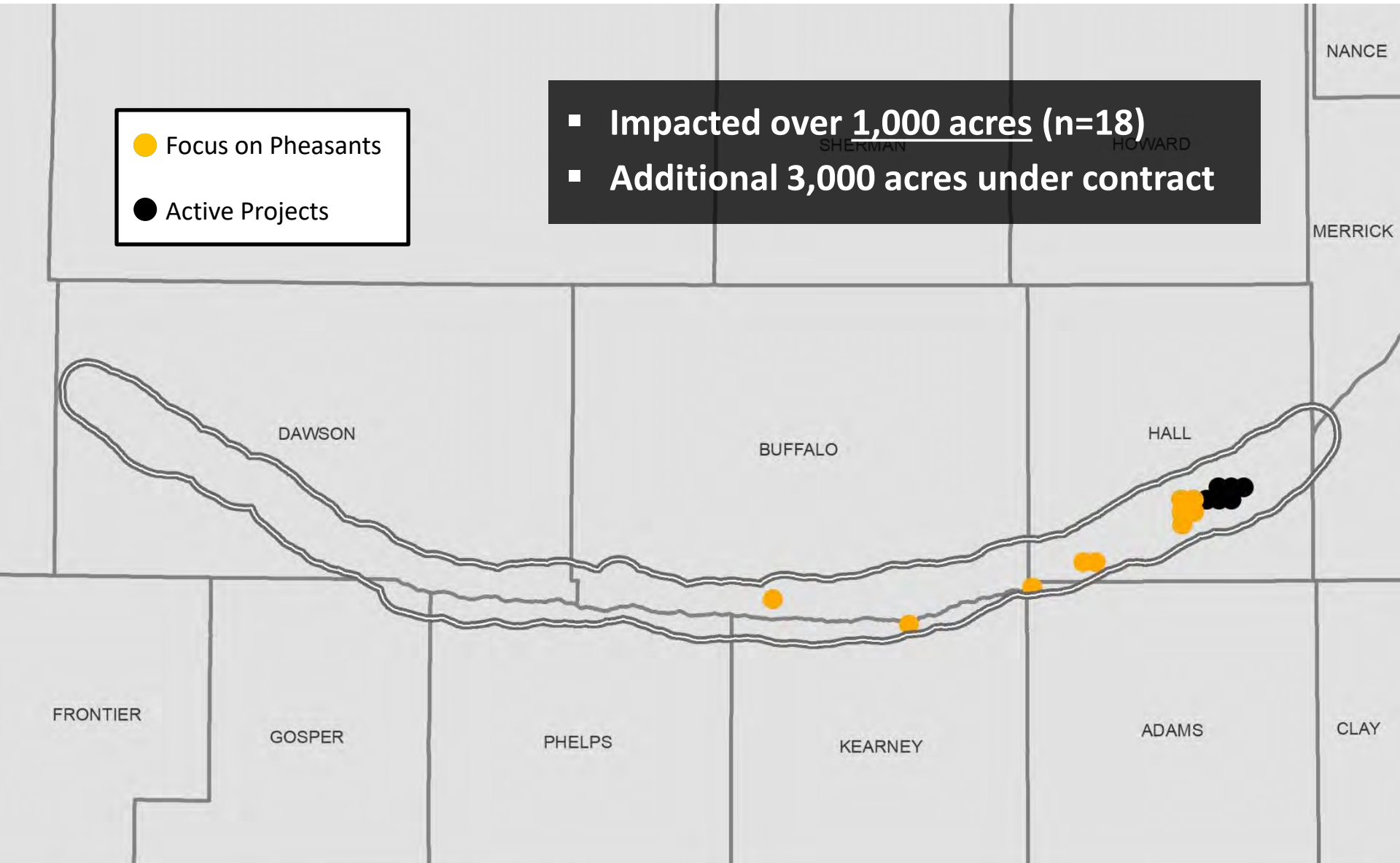


Central Platte Pheasant and Quail Opportunity Area



Central Platte POA

2018 Habitat Accomplishments



Central Platte POA

2018 Habitat Accomplishments

- Focus on Pheasants
- Active Projects

- Impacted over 1,000 acres (n=18)
- Additional 3,000 acres under contract

Rx Burn Equipment - 1 unit/PPE
>200 acres of Rx Burning
(Conservation Partner Lands)



>300 acres of Grassland Management
and Wetland Restoration

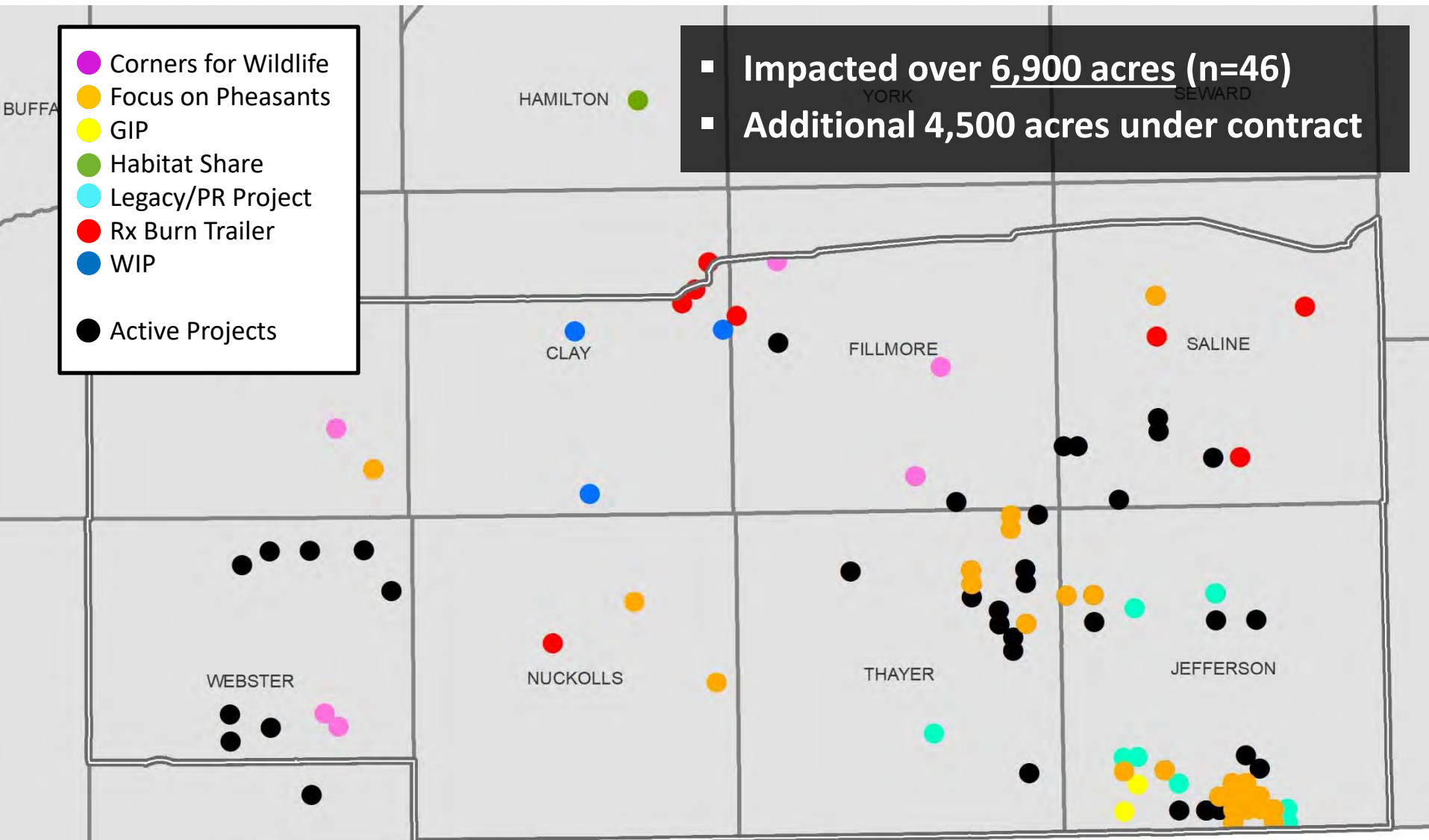


Southeast Pheasant and Quail Opportunity Area



Southeast POA

2018 Habitat Accomplishments



Southeast POA

2018 Habitat Accomplishments

- Corners for Wildlife
- Focus on Pheasants
- GIP
- Habitat Share
- Legacy/PR Project
- Rx Burn Trailer
- WIP

● A

HAMILTON

- Impacted over 6,900 acres (n=46)
- Additional 4,500 acres under contract

>600 acres of Tree Removal



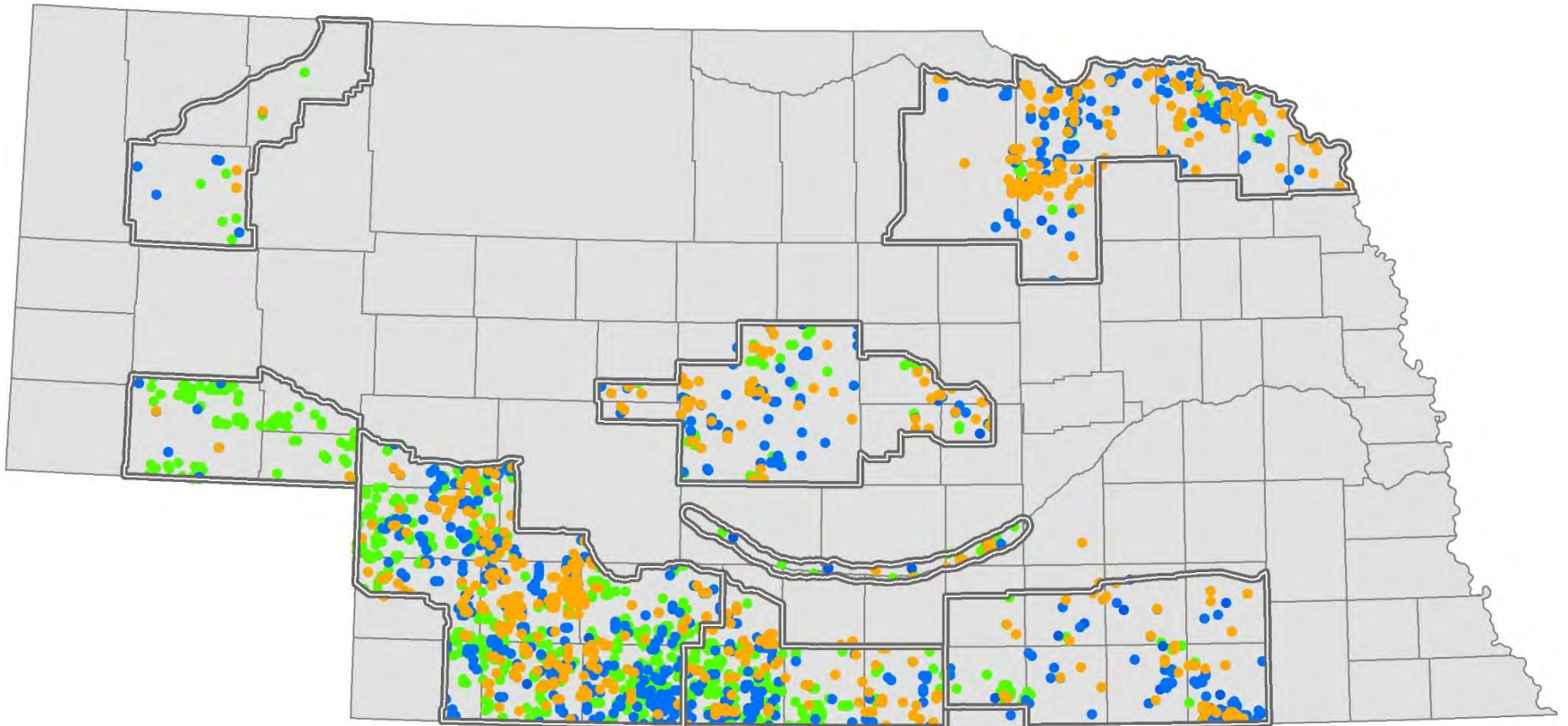
>5,900 acres of Rx Burning

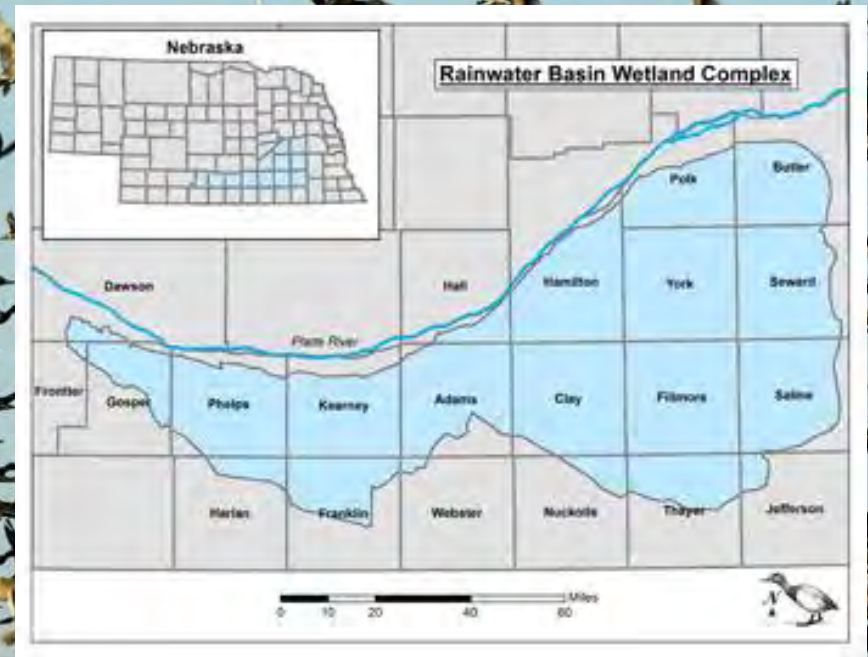


Berggren Plan Habitat Accomplishments

- CY 2016 (72,935.6 acres)
- CY 2017 (52,104.6 acres)
- CY 2018 (33,050.4 acres)

Years #1-3:
>158,000 Acres
(1,720 projects)



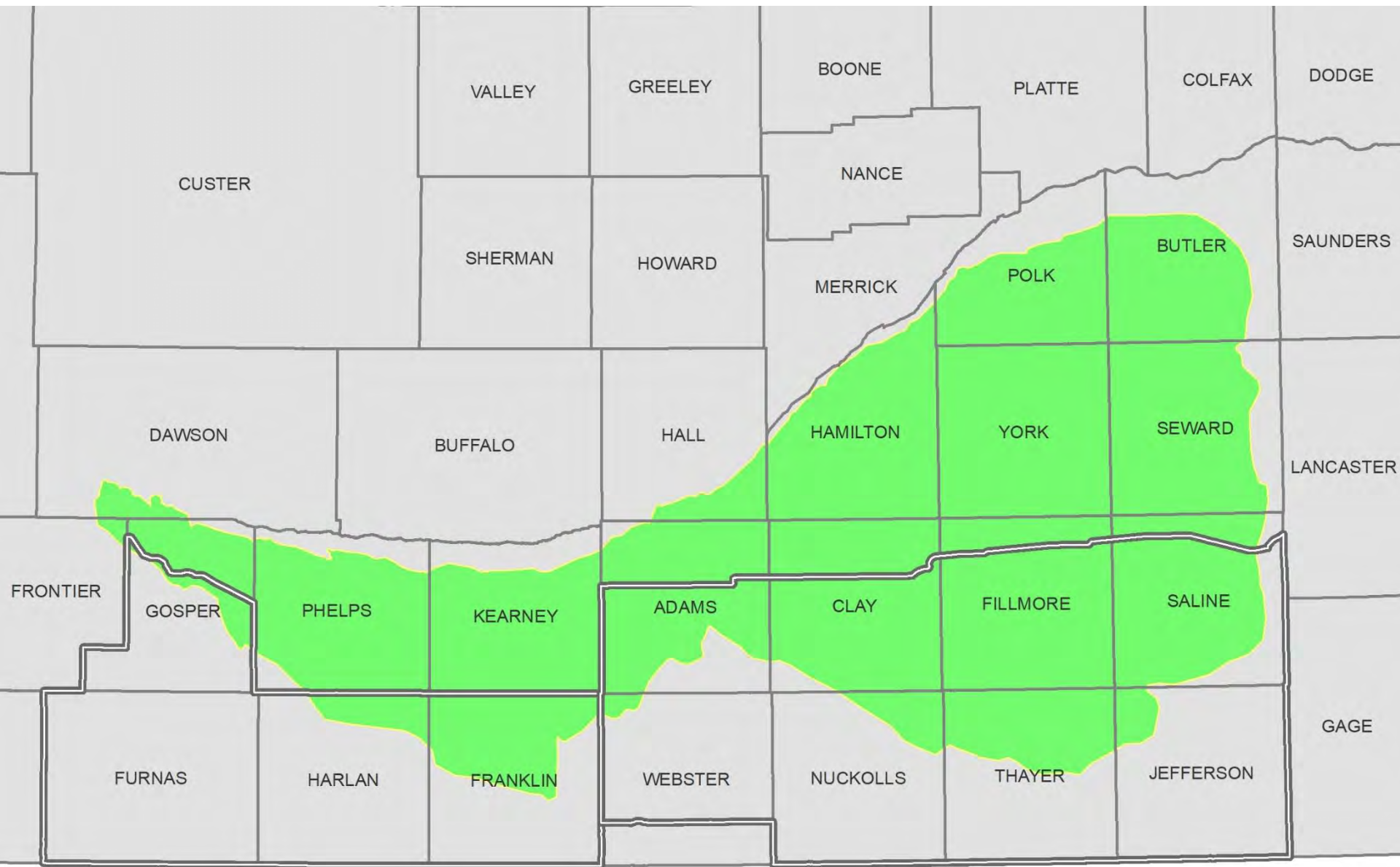












↑
South-Central FOP Area

↑
Southeast POA

Southeast Pheasant Opportunity Area (POA)

Wetland Restoration/Management Incentives

*Up to 100%
of project costs*

- Sediment removal
- Pit fills
- Tree Removal
- Grass Seeding
- Control of Invasive Vegetation
(chemical, disking, etc.)



Southeast Pheasant Opportunity Area (POA)

Wetland Restoration/Management Incentives



Pivot Crossing Systems – tires, tracks, VRI

- *Only for restored wetlands*
- *Requires 15% landowner contribution*

Southeast Pheasant Opportunity Area (POA)

Wetland Restoration/Management Incentives

Rx Grazing Infrastructure

- *Boundary fence/well development*
- *Only for restored wetlands*
- *Up to \$2.25/LF*
- *Requires 15% LO contribution*



Southeast Pheasant Opportunity Area (POA)

Grassland Restoration/Management Incentives

Prescribed Fire

- ***\$10/ac not to exceed 160 acres***

Invasive Tree Removal

- ***Up to \$300/ac***
- ***Requires 25% LO contribution and use of Rx fire***

Fire-Driven Grazing

- ***\$10/ac to burn 1/3 of pasture annually and \$15/ac to stock @ ~1AU/ac (up to 3 years)***

Grazing Infrastructure

- ***Up to \$2.25/LF on fencing/well development to facilitate patch-burn or rest-rotation grazing systems***
- ***Requires 25% landowner contribution***

Grassland Renovation (re-seeding)

- ***Up to \$125/ac not to exceed 160 acres***

Southeast Pheasant Opportunity Area (POA)

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Incentives

New CRP/CCRP Seeding and Re-enrollment Upgrades

- ***Up to \$20-80/acre (max rate for access)***
- ***Applies to both grassland (e.g., CP38, CP33, CP42) and wetland practices (e.g., CP23, CP27, CP38B)***
- ***Hunting Access: \$50/ac Signup Bonus on new seedings enrolled in Open Fields and Waters (plus per-acre payments)***

CRP Mid-Contract Management

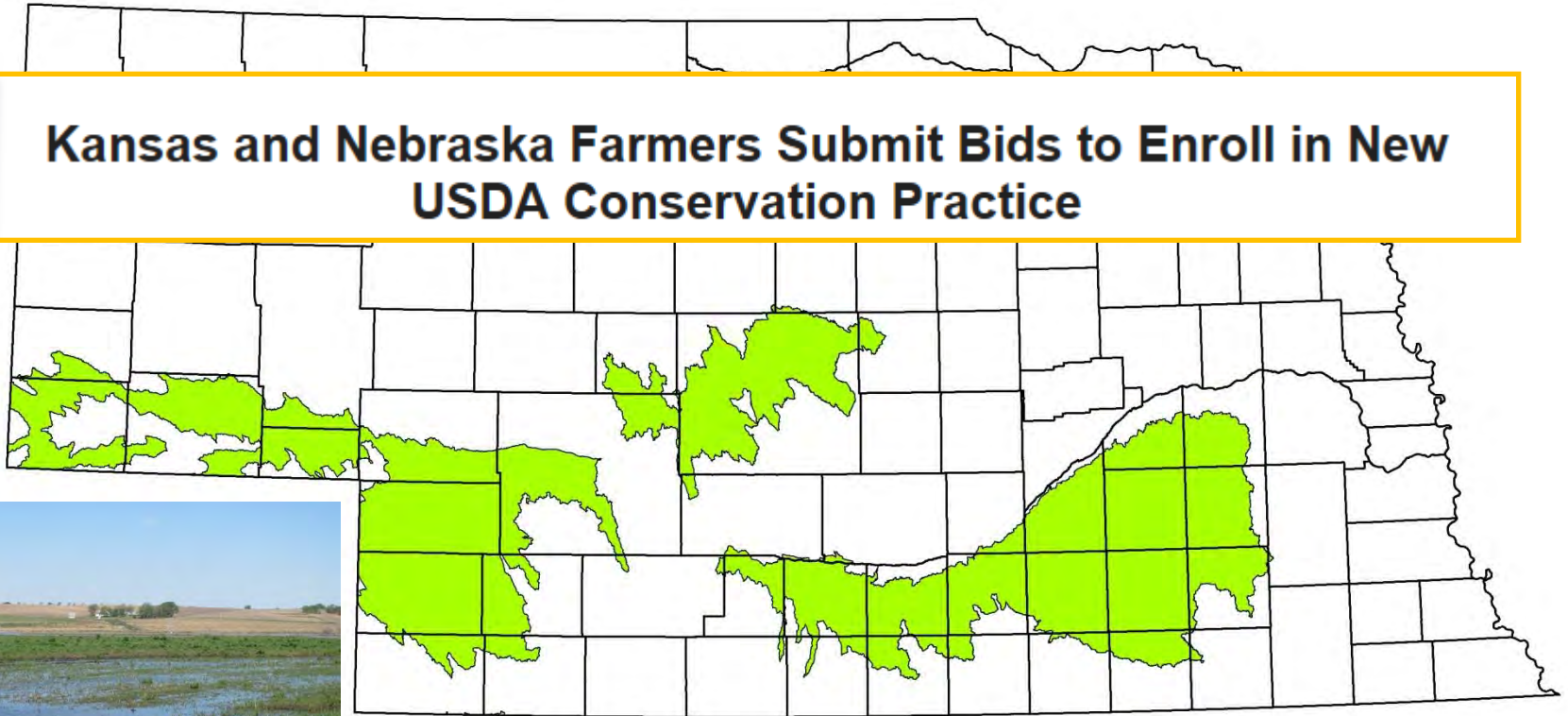
- ***Up to \$20-80/acre (max rate for access)***



Migratory Bird State Acres For wildlife Enhancement (SAFE) Eligible Areas of Nebraska

(CP38B: 10K acres)

**Kansas and Nebraska Farmers Submit Bids to Enroll in New
USDA Conservation Practice**



Eligible Wetland Areas

 High Playa Wetland Density HUCs



0 35 70 105 140
Miles



Produced by the Rainwater Basin
Joint Venture, Grand Island, NE