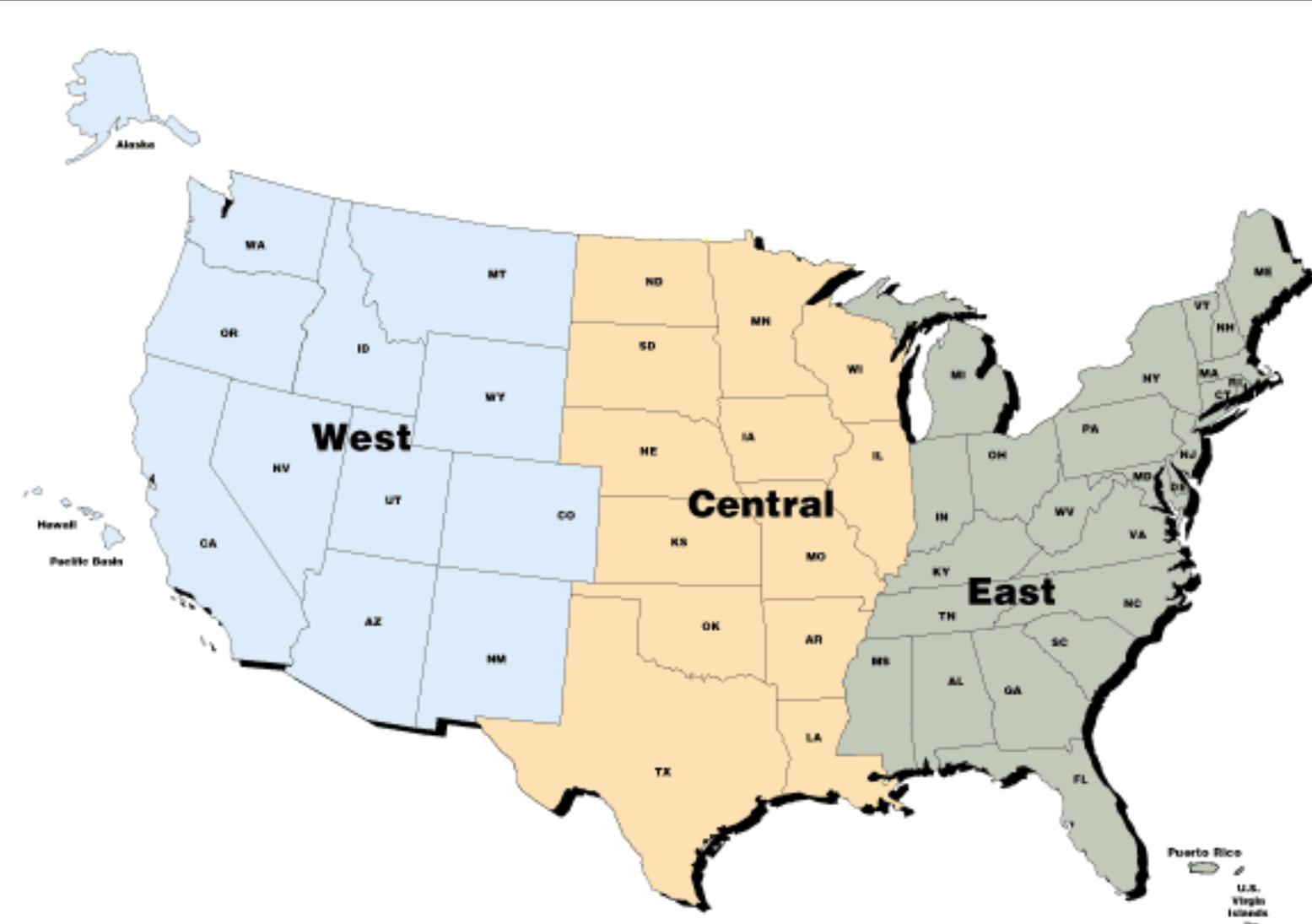


High Plains Regional Assessment  
Meeting, Texas Tech University,  
June 6-7, 2006

A photograph of a wetland area. In the foreground, there is a fence line with a wooden post and a wire. The water is calm and reflects the sky. In the middle ground, there are patches of reeds and other aquatic plants. The background shows a flat landscape with a line of trees or a fence under a clear sky.

# Playa Wetland Conservation: Identification of Technology Transfer Opportunities

# NATIONAL TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT CENTERS



# FUNCTIONS OF THE NTSCs

- Provide direct technical assistance to States
- Acquire/develop new science and technology
- Technology transfer and training
- Develop and maintain technology standards

# STRUCTURE

Each NTSC has two types of teams:

- Core Team (Technology Transfer)
- National Technology Development Teams

# Core Team Make-Up

- Conservation agronomist
- Wildlife & Aquatic biologists
- Water management engineer
- Environmental engineer
- Agricultural engineer
- Forester
- Agricultural economist
- Soil scientist
- Plant materials specialist
- Technology specialist (2)
- Grazing land specialist (2)
- Public affairs specialist
- Ecologist – Environmental Compl.
- Rangeland management specialist

# Technology Development Teams

- National in scope
- Focus on developing new technical tools and information
- Responsible for coordinating initial implementation and training
- Nine Teams

# National Technology Development Teams

- Greensboro
  - Animal Waste Utilization
  - Social Sciences
  - Soil Quality
- Fort Worth
  - Wildlife
  - Wetlands
  - Grazing Lands
- Portland
  - Water Quality / Quantity
  - Air Quality / Atmospheric Change
  - Bioenergy

# Biology Technical Notes



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Natural  
Resources  
Conservation  
Service



October 2004

## Creating Early Successional Wildlife Habitat Through Federal Farm Programs: An Objective- driven Approach with Case Studies



March 2005

## Wetlands Reserve Program Grassland Workgroup Report

## Migratory Bird Responses to Grazing



Draft  
May 2005

## Aquatic Condition Response to Buffer Establishment on Northern Virginia Streams



# Fish and Wildlife Habitat Management Leaflets



## Native Pollinators



## Mule Deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*)

May 2005

Fish and Wildlife Habitat Management Leaflet

Number 35



## Swift Fox (*Vulpes velox*)

May 2005

Fish and Wildlife Habitat Management Leaflet

Number 38

### General information

The swift fox (*Vulpes velox*) is one of the small



## Wading Birds

May 2005

Fish and Wildlife Habitat Management Leaflet

Number 16



## Native Warm-Season Grasses and Wildlife

May 2005

Fish and Wildlife Habitat Management Leaflet

Number 25

### Introduction

Native grasslands once covered vast expanses of North America, providing habitat that supported more than 800 native species of plants and animals. Native warm-season grasses were the dominant component of these prairie grassland ecosystems. Native warm-season grasses have minimal requirements for supplemental water or fertilizer. Once established, they are drought tolerant and almost completely disease free. Peak growth periods of these mostly perennial bunch grasses are from June through August. Like other native plants, they have coevolved with the local climate, soils, and rainfall, and are well suited to the growing conditions found in different regions across North America. Likewise, wildlife associated with grasslands are adapted to the habitats that native warm-season grasses provide.



Reconstructed tall-grass prairie

Billy Trank, NRCS

When Europeans began to settle the North American prairies in the late 1800s, they converted large tracts of native grassland to crop production and introduced cool-season grasses. They also began suppressing fire, which had been essential to maintaining natural grasslands. Many of the introduced cool-season grasses

stock as well as wildlife. The deep root systems of native grasses hold soil in place, reducing erosion and decreasing runoff, which helps keep waterways healthy and recharges ground water. When native grasses die, their roots decay and add significant amounts of organic matter throughout the soil, replenishing fertility.



## Mourning Dove (*Zenaida macroura*)

May 2005

Fish and Wildlife Habitat Management Leaflet

Number 31

### General information



## Farm Pond Ecosystems



## Cropped Wetlands and Wildlife

May 2005

Fish and Wildlife Habitat Management Leaflet

Number 33



## Greater prairie-chicken (*Tympanuchus cupido*)

May 2005

Fish and Wildlife Habitat Management Leaflet

Number 27

### General information

The greater prairie-chicken is an upland game bird, comprised of three distinct subspecies that inhabit the tallgrass and mixed-grass prairies of the central and southern United States. This species can be identified by its chicken-like body shape; expandable yellow-orange throat skin, or tympani, in males; and brown, barred plumage. Except for its slightly larger size and darker coloring, its appearance resembles that of the lesser prairie-chicken, with which it locally interbreeds. The greater prairie-chicken is also closely related to the sharp-tailed grouse, and these two species are known to interbreed, as well.



Greater prairie-chickens inhabit North American prairies, as their name implies. Both tallgrass and mixed-grass prairies support prairie-chickens, but much of these habitats have been degraded or lost during the last two centuries.

During the 1800s, greater prairie-chicken populations shifted north and westward across North America, thriving on the limited agriculture brought by expanding European settlement. The combination of scattered woodlands and agricultural practices degraded remaining

# Recently released leaflet on cropped wetlands and wildlife



## Cropped Wetlands and Wildlife

February 2006

Fish and Wildlife Habitat Management Leaflet

Number 32

### Introduction

Wetlands are areas where water covers the soil or is present at or near the surface of the soil for at least part of the year. The saturated conditions in wetlands favor the growth of specially adapted plants, called hydrophytes, and the development of anaerobic (low oxygen) soils, called hydric soils. Historically, wetlands were not widely recognized as valuable or appreciated, and they were readily drained for agriculture and other land uses. In colonial times, there were 215 million acres of functioning wetlands in the continental United States. Today, less than half (98 million acres) remain. About 87 percent of wetland losses have resulted from agricultural activities. More recently, however, the enormous importance of wetlands has been recognized. Wetlands provide many ecological, social, and economic benefits such as wildlife habitat, flood control, and hunting and fishing opportunities.

Some wetlands are wet only during parts of the year, such as the spring or fall, and may be dry during the



Cropped wetlands may retain wildlife value.

NRCS

### Distribution

Cropped wetlands are most prevalent in four distinct regions in North America. They are the Prairie Pothole Region, Nebraska's Rainwater Basin and Sandhills, the Playa Lakes Region, and the Mississippi Alluvial Valley.

# Technology Development Projects

Team manages an annual line item to fund fish and wildlife competitive grants based on RFPs

- basic research (life history and habitat requirements)
- technical tool development (habitat assessment)
- evaluate the effects of conservation

# Competitive Grants

- Requests for proposals are advertised annually
- Projects require 50 % cost share
- State Conservationists must review and approve
- Each proposal is individually evaluated and ranked
- Process just happened for 2006

# Fish and Wildlife Training

- Fish and wildlife habitat management

# Wetland Training

- Advanced hydric soils for soil scientists
- Hydrology tools for wetland restoration and determinations
- Hydric soils for wetland delineation
- Wetland restoration and enhancement
- Wetland restoration, management, and compatible use