

NORTHERN GREAT PLAINS JOINT VENTURE

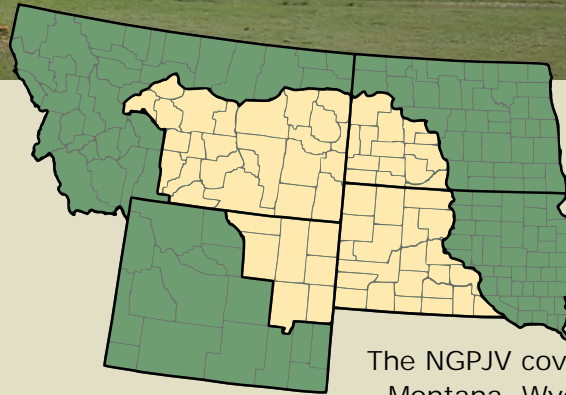
Sustaining bird habitat and rural communities



Dan Casey

A Shared Vision

The Northern Great Plains Joint Venture (NGPJV) is a voluntary partnership of private landowners and industry working alongside federal and state agencies, non-profit organizations, tribes, academia, and others. NGPJV partners work together to build and sustain a healthy world for birds, other wildlife, and people.



The NGPJV covers portions of Montana, Wyoming, North Dakota, and South Dakota.

A Successful Model of Collaboration

- ✦ Working lands conservation
NGPJV partners support conservation practices that work for birds and for the people who depend on the Northern Great Plains. Our collaborative approach to conservation helps sustain local producers and the economic vitality of rural and indigenous communities.
- ✦ Resilient lands and communities
Our conservation projects help recharge aquifers, improve water quality, stabilize soils, sequester carbon, sustain bird and pollinator populations, and improve sustainable forage production for ranching.
- ✦ Non-regulatory solutions
The NGPJV supports voluntary and proactive conservation, which reduces the need for additional regulations such as species listings under the Endangered Species Act.



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Declining Grassland Birds

The Northern Great Plains provides some of the most important and intact breeding habitat for grassland birds, a group that has experienced a population decline of 53% since 1970. Approximately 53% of the global populations of lark bunting and 24% of the global populations of chestnut-collared longspur breed and raise their young in the Northern Great Plains. The region also supports globally significant numbers of mountain plover and greater sage-grouse. Conservation actions in this region have direct, positive impacts on these declining birds.



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Working Lands Conservation

The NGPJV is providing voluntary cost-share funding to support working lands conservation through the [Northern Grasslands Restoration Incentive Program](#) (N-GRIP). Practices include:

- ✦ Reseeding cropland to native grassland
- ✦ Grazing infrastructure to help transition idle grounds to grazed pasture
- ✦ Grazing management practices that help enhance the productivity and diversity of native range
- ✦ Process-based mesic restoration on working rangelands

Through N-GRIP, the NGPJV has worked with landowners and other partners to restore and enhance 16,353 acres of priority grassland and wetlands.



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Planning Support & Tools

The NGPJV fosters collaboration and enhanced information sharing among the network of conservation professionals working within the region. Our [Conservation Guidance Web Tool](#) is designed to help public and private land managers understand the regional significance of the lands they manage and help natural resource professionals prioritize project support in areas of highest importance to grassland birds.



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Ongoing Challenges

Grassland loss continues. In 2019, almost 600,000 acres of grasslands in the Northern Great Plains were converted to cropland according to the World Wildlife Fund's Plowprint Report. Acres enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program are expiring, leading to additional potential losses of vegetative cover and ecosystem services. Invasive annual grasses are increasing within the region, further stressing the sustainability of diverse grassland resources. Many wetlands and riparian systems are degraded by years of runoff, poor filtration, and stream channelization.

NGPJV partners are dedicated to continuing to work with public and private land managers to address these and other challenges. In doing so, we can build a sustainable, productive future for the people and wildlife of the Northern Great Plains.

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Catherine Wightman, Coordinator
cwightman@ducks.org
406-599-7384
www.ngpjbv.org