

# Kansas Grassland Restoration for Lesser Prairie-Chickens SAFE

## State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE)



### Overview

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks are partners in implementing a State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE) project to enroll agricultural land in 39 counties in western Kansas. The purpose of the Kansas Grassland Restoration for Lesser Prairie-Chickens is to restore grassland habitat considered highly beneficial to lesser prairie-chickens.

### Background

SAFE is part of the USDA Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). CRP is a federally funded voluntary program that contracts with landowners and agricultural producers to establish and manage vegetative covers that control soil erosion, improve water quality, and provide wildlife habitat.

SAFE is a unique type of CRP that offers organizations the opportunity to partner with the USDA to establish habitat for high-priority wildlife species on agricultural land. SAFE sponsors work with the USDA to identify the wildlife species, the vegetative cover that provides habitat for the target species, and the location in the state where the habitat is needed. A partnership is formed between the SAFE sponsor and the USDA, and federal funds are made available to allow for CRP enrollment on eligible land within the SAFE project location.

(NRCS) or a technical service provider. The conservation plan will provide details on how to plant, establish, and manage habitat for lesser prairie-chickens. The habitat being established is diverse native grasslands containing forbs and legumes. After the habitat is established, it will need to be maintained and managed by approved site-specific management activities such as burning, disking, and interseeding conducted on a rotational basis at least once in each 10-year segment of the contract. Proper habitat establishment, maintenance, and management will maximize benefits for lesser prairie-chickens.



Tony Ifland, USFWS

### Target Wildlife Species

The goal of the Kansas Grassland Restoration for Lesser Prairie-Chickens project is to provide habitat for lesser prairie-chickens. Lesser prairie-chickens are important to Kansas because they are currently a listed species under the Endangered Species Act and Kansas provides a significant amount of important habitat for the species.

### Habitat

Landowners and agricultural producers participating in Kansas Grassland Restoration for Lesser Prairie-Chickens are required to develop a conservation plan with assistance from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

## Project Location

The Kansas Grassland Restoration for Lesser Prairie-Chickens project location is the species' occupied range in Kansas including a 10-mile buffer that includes all or a part of the counties of Barber, Barton, Clark, Comanche, Edwards, Ellis, Finney, Ford, Gove, Graham, Grant, Gray, Greeley, Hamilton, Haskell, Hodgeman, Kearny, Kiowa, Lane, Logan, Meade, Morton, Ness, Pawnee, Pratt, Rooks, Rush, Russell, Scott, Seward, Sheridan, Sherman, Stafford, Stanton, Stevens, Thomas, Trego, Wallace, and Wichita.

## Eligible CRP Practices

This SAFE project uses the following CRP practices:

- ◆ CP38E-2, Establishment of Permanent Native Grasses
- ◆ CP38E-4D, SAFE Permanent Wildlife Habitat
- ◆ CP38E-25, Rare and Declining Habitat

## Haying and Grazing

Emergency and non-emergency haying is allowed on 50% of the contract acres according to standard CRP policies. Emergency grazing is allowed according to standard CRP policies with certain restrictions during persistent drought conditions. Non-emergency grazing is allowed according to standard CRP policies and may require a grazing plan.

## Eligibility Requirements

Because SAFE is part of CRP, certain land and participant eligibility rules apply. To begin with, land must be in the project area and meet cropping history. CRP participant eligibility rules also apply to SAFE.

## Payments and Incentives

In exchange for participation in CRP SAFE, the Farm Service Agency (FSA) provides participants with annual per acre rental payments, cost-share to assist with habitat establishment expenses, and in some cases additional monetary incentives.

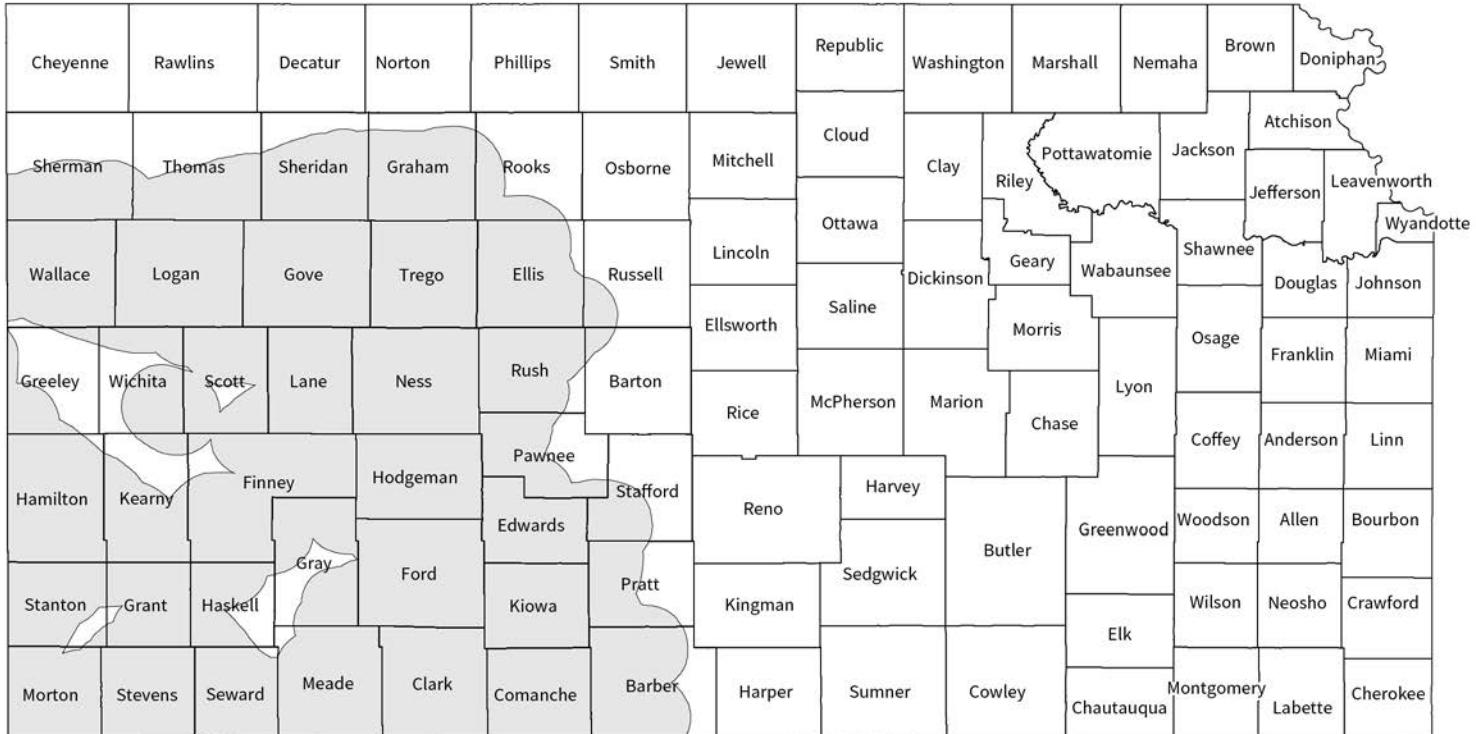
## For More Information

This fact sheet is provided for informational purposes only; other restrictions or requirements may apply. Consult your local FSA office for details. For more information, contact your local service center and USDA Farm Service Agency office: [farmers.gov/service-locator](http://farmers.gov/service-locator).



Matt Bain, The Nature Conservancy (TNC)

# Kansas Grassland Restoration for Lesser Prairie-Chickens SAFE Project Map



## Legend

- FSA County Boundary
- Kansas Grassland Restoration for Lesser-prairie Chicken SAFE Project Area