



State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE) Approved Projects - Conservation Reserve Program

OVERVIEW

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE) initiative, part of the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), is an initiative to improve wildlife habitat. This fact sheet provides background on the initiative and a brief summary of each SAFE project.

CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM

CRP is a voluntary program that contracts with agricultural producers so that environmentally sensitive agricultural land is not farmed or ranched, but instead used for conservation benefits. CRP participants establish long-term, resource-conserving plant species, such as approved grasses or trees (known as “covers”), to control soil erosion and improve water quality. In return, FSA provides participants with rental payments and cost-share assistance. Contract duration is between 10 and 15 years.

Under CRP continuous (ongoing) enrollment authority, environmentally-sensitive land devoted to certain conservation practices can be enrolled in CRP at any time. Certain eligibility requirements still apply, but unlike CRP general enrollment authority, the acres offered for CRP continuous enrollment are not subject to competitive bidding. More information on CRP can be found at www.fsa.usda.gov/crp.

STATE ACRES FOR WILDLIFE ENHANCEMENT (SAFE)

With SAFE, agricultural producers within an approved SAFE area can submit offers to enroll acres in CRP contracts for 10-15 years. In exchange, these producers receive annual CRP rental payments, incentives and cost-share assistance focused on establishing conservation plant species that also improve or create higher-quality wildlife habitat. The first SAFE projects

were approved in 2008. To date, more than 1 million acres are enrolled nationwide in 98 SAFE projects in 37 states and Puerto Rico.

CREATING A SAFE AREA

Wildlife needs and conservation priorities vary across geographic and ecological regions. Conservation groups, nonprofit organizations, government agencies, biologists, farmers, ranchers and others have first-hand knowledge and experience to help address the needs of these species. These nonfederal partners develop SAFE proposals that identify wildlife which may be endangered, suffering population declines, or that provide value to the local community.

SAFE proposals are reviewed by FSA at the state level by an interdisciplinary team (FSA State Technical Committee). The team reviews the technical merits and benefits of each proposal and ranks each of the proposals on the potential to achieve the objectives of the program. FSA judges SAFE proposals to determine whether the selected practices would create the desired habitat. FSA establishes the maximum number of acres that can be enrolled in each SAFE project.

To be accepted by FSA, SAFE proposals are approved by qualified wildlife professionals and include a wildlife monitoring and evaluation plan. The proposals are based in science using accepted techniques. This flexible, results-oriented, locally-led approach is designed to encourage proposals that benefit more than a single species using a regional approach.

HIGH-PRIORITY WILDLIFE SPECIES

High-priority wildlife species may include: species that are listed as threatened, endangered or candidates for designation by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, such as the lesser prairie chicken, species that have suffered a significant population decline such as the sharp-tailed grouse or northern bobwhite quail, or socially or economically valuable

species or those that provide significant social or economic value to the community, such as salmon, steelhead, pollinators, game birds or other species that generate economic benefits or that are highly valued.

REQUIRED MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

Agricultural producers who enroll acres within each SAFE project will create beneficial habitat for the identified wildlife, such as planting trees, grasses, forbs or other flora as specified for the habitat. The conservation practices must be managed during the life of the contract. Fishing and hunting are allowed on CRP-enrolled land, including SAFE. As with other conservation practices and programs under CRP, certain restrictions apply. Contact your local FSA county office for more details.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Producers can offer land for approved SAFE areas by contacting their local FSA county office. For more information about CRP, visit www.fsa.usda.gov/crp. For more information on FSA conservation programs, visit www.fsa.usda.gov/conservation or contact your local FSA county office. To find your local FSA county office, visit <http://offices.usda.gov>.

APPROVED PROJECTS

Alabama

Alabama Black Belt Prairie Restoration SAFE

The goal of the Alabama Black Belt Prairie Restoration SAFE project is to enroll 3,800 acres in CRP to improve native grassland habitats for rare, threatened, endangered and declining species that are dependent on native prairie communities found within the Black Belt Prairie region of Alabama.

Arkansas

Arkansas Wetlands SAFE

The goal of the Arkansas Wetlands SAFE project is to enroll 2,500 acres in CRP to benefit targeted species to include the bald eagle, American black bear, American black duck and the Mississippi kite. In addition, many species on Arkansas' list of

greatest conservation concern in the State Wildlife Action Plan, including habitat needs related to the ivory-billed woodpecker, will benefit from this habitat restoration.

Arkansas Trees SAFE

The goal of the Arkansas Trees SAFE project is to enroll 6,200 acres in CRP to restore trees, primarily hardwoods, to create habitat that will benefit the following species: American woodcock, swallow-tailed kite, bald eagle and American black bear.

Arkansas Grass SAFE

The goal of the Arkansas Grass SAFE project is to enroll 10,200 acres in CRP to restore early successional habitat that will benefit bobwhite quail. In addition, another 53 species on Arkansas' list of greatest conservation concern in the State Wildlife Action Plan will potentially benefit from this SAFE.

Colorado

Colorado Lesser Prairie Chicken SAFE

The goal of the Colorado Lesser Prairie Chicken SAFE project is to restore and enhance 36,500 acres of short and midgrass sand sagebrush prairie to maintain and enhance lesser prairie chicken populations in Colorado.

Colorado Plains Sharp-tailed Grouse SAFE

The goal of the Colorado Plains Sharp-tailed Grouse SAFE project is to improve nesting and brood rearing cover for plains sharp-tailed grouse populations in northern Colorado through the re-enrollment and enhancement of 8,475 acres of existing grassland habitat in CRP that serve as critical habitat for the bird's population in the state.

Colorado Shortgrass Prairie SAFE

The goal of the Colorado Shortgrass Prairie SAFE project is to preserve the integrity and expand the extent of shortgrass prairie managed for wildlife species in eastern Colorado. Project partners hope to accomplish this by enrolling 11,475 acres in CRP.

Colorado Western Slope Grouse SAFE

The goal of the Colorado Western Slope Grouse SAFE project is to restore and enhance habitat for

the Columbian sharp-tailed grouse, greater sage grouse and Gunnison sage-grouse. The project seeks to enroll 14,600 acres in CRP.

Georgia

Georgia Restoring Native Pine Savanna SAFE

The goal of the Georgia Restoring Native Pine Savanna SAFE project is to establish and maintain 12,800 acres of pine savanna habitat for northern bobwhite and other species that depend on native groundcover (grass/forb/shrub) and are in decline.

Idaho

Idaho Columbian Sharp-Tailed Grouse SAFE

The goal of the Idaho Columbian sharp-tailed grouse SAFE project is to enroll 137,300 acres in CRP to increase quality grassland, shrub steppe, mountain brush and riparian habitat for the Columbian sharp-tailed grouse.

Western Idaho Upland Game Bird SAFE

The goal of the Western Idaho Upland Game Bird SAFE project is to enroll 25,000 acres in CRP to improve habitat for ring-necked pheasant, gray cartridge, California quail, Columbian sharp-tailed grouse, and sage grouse by establishing shrubs, grasses, forbs, and legumes on cropland throughout the SAFE project area to provide nesting, brood rearing, and wintering cover.

Illinois

Illinois Mercer County SAFE

The goal of the Illinois Mercer County Pheasant SAFE project is to increase pheasant habitat within the county by 2,800 acres over a five-year period by enrolling land in CRP. The project emphasizes the establishment of permanent native grasses and forbs that also will benefit other species of upland wildlife.

Illinois Prairie Habitat SAFE

The goal of the Illinois Prairie Habitat SAFE project is to restore grassland and wetland habitats in upland landscapes occupied by tallgrass prairie and herbaceous wetlands. Enrolling 17,600 acres in CRP will benefit the Massasauga rattlesnake and other wetland prairie species such as Kirkland's watersnake and the northern crawfish frog.

Illinois Spoon River SAFE

The goal of the Illinois Spoon River SAFE project is to enroll 3,600 acres in CRP to enhance habitat primarily for pheasants. Other upland game and song bird species also will benefit from the increased acreage of habitat, thus providing increased economic and recreational opportunities.

Illinois Sangamon SAFE

The goal of the Illinois Sangamon SAFE project is to enroll 2,000 acres in CRP in Sangamon County, Ill., to benefit northern bobwhite quail and many other grassland species, including four state-listed species: the northern harrier, Franklin's ground squirrel, Kirtland's water snake and the lined snake.

Indiana

Indiana American Woodcock SAFE

The goal of the Indiana American Woodcock SAFE project is to enroll 1,150 acres in CRP to restore grassland and shrubland complexes as nesting, brood rearing, and migratory habitat for American Woodcock, whose populations are at-risk and have suffered significant population declines.

Indiana Bat SAFE

The goal of the Indiana Bat SAFE project is to enroll 5,800 acres in CRP to restore forest habitat and forested riparian habitat for the Indiana bat which occurs throughout the state and is a federally listed endangered species.

Indiana Northern Bobwhite SAFE

The goal of the Indiana Northern Bobwhite SAFE project is to enroll 16,275 acres in CRP to restore grassland and shrubland habitats for the northern bobwhite quail. This species has declined significantly throughout the state, as well as the Midwest, and is of significant social and economic value to the people of Indiana.

Indiana Henslow's Sparrow SAFE

The goal of the Indiana Henslow's Sparrow SAFE project is to enroll 11,675 acres in CRP to restore grassland habitat for the Henslow's sparrow which is at risk and has suffered significant declines throughout the state and Midwest. More specifically, the project will restore grassland habitat and maintain the cover in a diversity of

successional stages and vegetation structure that meets the nesting and brood rearing requirements of the Henslow's sparrow as well as other grassland songbirds.

Indiana Ring-Necked Pheasant SAFE

The goal for the Indiana Ring-Necked Pheasant SAFE project is to restore 10,000 acres of grassland and permanent wildlife habitat for the Ring-Necked Pheasant and maintain the cover in a diversity of successional stages and vegetation structure that meets the Ring-Necked Pheasants nesting, brood rearing, and winter cover requirements.

Indiana Sedge Wren/Grasshopper Sparrow SAFE

The goal of the Indiana Sedge Wren/Grasshopper Sparrow SAFE project is to enroll 8,050 acres in CRP to restore wetland and grassland complexes as migratory habitat for shorebirds and nesting habitat for the sedge wren and grasshopper sparrow. Their populations are at risk and have suffered significant population declines. Indiana is a significant migratory corridor for these species.

Iowa**Iowa Early Successional/Neotropical Birds SAFE**

The goal of the Iowa Early Successional/Neotropical Birds SAFE project is to enroll 1,200 acres in CRP to develop habitat required by numerous bird species that are showing nationwide decline.

Iowa Gaining Ground SAFE

The goal of the Iowa Gaining Ground SAFE project is to increase populations of ring-necked pheasant, dickcissel, bobolink and eastern meadowlark by enrolling 117,150 acres in CRP. The project seeks to enhance native plant communities in buffers around and near existing remnants of native prairie.

Iowa Grand River SAFE

The goal of the Iowa Grand River SAFE project is to restore native habitat for five grassland-dependant bird species of greatest conservation need in the Kellerton Bird Conservation Area in southeast Ringgold County. This will be accomplished by enrolling 2,200 acres of cropland

or other acreage in CRP to create higher quality native grasslands.

Iowa Pheasant Recovery SAFE

The goal for the Iowa Pheasant Recovery SAFE project is to restore 64,000 acres of top quality pheasant winter and nesting habitat in Iowa's primary and secondary pheasant counties by establishing blocks 20-160 acres of habitat or expanding existing habitats up to 160 acres.

Kansas**Kansas Upland Game Birds SAFE**

The goal of the Kansas Upland Game Birds SAFE project is to improve populations of bobwhite quail and other grassland-associated wildlife by creating nesting/brood-rearing habitat on portions of crop fields. This SAFE effort will establish and maintain 59,900 acres in CRP consisting of diverse native grass and forb cover. Quail, pheasant and other grassland birds are species that will benefit from SAFE enrollments.

Kansas Lesser Prairie Chicken Habitat SAFE

The goal of the Kansas Lesser Prairie Chicken Habitat SAFE project is to enroll 104,400 acres in CRP to restore mixed-grass prairies to maintain and enhance lesser prairie chicken populations. The lesser prairie chicken is a candidate for federal listing as a threatened or endangered species.

Kentucky**Kentucky Early Successional and Bottomland Hardwood Restoration SAFE**

The goal of the Kentucky Early Successional and Bottomland Hardwood Restoration SAFE project is to enroll 12,700 acres in CRP to benefit the northern bobwhite quail, which is a species that has suffered significant population decline throughout the state and is of significant social and economic value to the people of Kentucky.

Louisiana**Louisiana Gulf Coast Prairies SAFE**

The goal of the Louisiana Gulf Coast Prairies SAFE project is to enroll 1,000 acres in CRP to enroll 1,000 acres in CRP to restore grassland and

shallow water habitats in the Gulf Coast Prairies region of Louisiana.

Louisiana Bayou Bartholomew SAFE

The goal of the Louisiana Bayou Bartholomew SAFE project is to identify, protect and restore critical examples of quality mussel and bald eagle habitat known to occur in the Bayou Bartholomew Watershed by enrolling 700 acres in CRP. The project will restore targeted areas to bottomland hardwood, native grasses and riparian buffers.

Maine**Maine New England Cottontail SAFE**

The goal of the Maine New England Cottontail SAFE project is to restore New England cottontail rabbit habitat in York and Cumberland counties in Maine. The historic range of this species of rabbit is estimated to have shrunk by over 83 percent.

Maine Upland Sandpiper SAFE

The goal of the Maine Upland Sandpiper SAFE project is to enroll 2,250 acres to develop and maintain nesting and brood-rearing habitat for at-risk grassland birds and restore or enhance grassland vegetation for upland sandpipers, bobolinks and meadowlarks.

Michigan**Michigan Diverse Grassland SAFE**

The Michigan Diverse Grassland SAFE project seeks to enroll 10,000 acres of diverse native grassland to benefit a variety of rare or declining species and species of significant importance. The project area is the lower peninsula of Michigan.

Michigan Native Pollinators SAFE

The goal of the Michigan Native Pollinators SAFE project is to enroll 3,500 acres of practices over the next five years to benefit native pollinators. These practices will consist of grasslands which provide diverse sources of nectar and pollen along with bare soil patches for ground nesting pollinators. Bees, butterflies and moths are among the pollinators that will benefit.

Minnesota**Minnesota Back Forty SAFE**

The goal of the Minnesota Back Forty SAFE project is to enroll 72,000 acres to restore and enhance habitat for ring-necked pheasant populations. The project seeks to build upon existing habitats to enhance waterfowl, greater prairie chicken and grassland bird populations.

Mississippi**Mississippi Black Bear SAFE**

The goal of the Mississippi Black Bear SAFE project is to enroll 2,450 acres to increase habitat for the federally threatened Louisiana black bear and the state-endangered American black bear. The project seeks to restore native bottomland hardwood forests in portions of the Mississippi Alluvial Valley, which has been identified as an important zone for black bear recovery.

Mississippi Black Belt SAFE

The goal of the Mississippi Black Belt SAFE project is to enroll 5,000 acres in CRP to increase native grassland habitats for rare, threatened, endangered and declining species in the Black Belt Prairie region of Mississippi.

Mississippi Bobwhite Quail SAFE

The goal of the Mississippi Bobwhite Quail SAFE project is to enroll 10,450 acres to increase native grassland habitats in Mississippi for northern bobwhite quail populations within three years by restoring quality native grassland habitat.

Missouri**Missouri Bobwhite Quail SAFE**

The goal of the Missouri Bobwhite Quail SAFE project is to enroll 30,180 acres in CRP to provide nesting and brood-rearing habitat necessary for bobwhite quail. The project will provide and maintain 25 percent of bare ground for quail brood-rearing, which research has shown is needed to sustain optimum bobwhite quail populations.

Missouri Delta Stewardship SAFE

The goal for the Missouri Delta Stewardship SAFE project is to enroll 6,000 acres to address high priority wildlife needs in the state through habitat protection and restoration on eligible cropland acreage in parts of Stoddard, Scott, Mississippi, New Madrid, Dunklin, and Pemiscot counties in southeast Missouri, which fall within the following three large watersheds:

- New Madrid Floodway and St. John's Bayou;
- Lower St. Francis River;
- Little River Drainage District.

Missouri Sand Grassland SAFE

The goal of the Missouri Sand Grassland SAFE project is to enroll 7,550 acres in CRP to restore sand prairie, sand woodland and sand savannas in specific land-type associations in Southeast Missouri with unique sandy soils, benefiting state endangered and state species of conservation concern, including the Illinois chorus frog, eastern spadefoot toad and northern bobwhite.

Missouri Nesting Habitat SAFE

The goal of the Missouri Nesting Habitat SAFE project is to enroll 1,500 acres in CRP within six Missouri Conservation Opportunity Areas to significantly increase available nesting habitat to benefit the state endangered greater prairie-chicken and other grassland-dependent birds.

Montana**Montana Pheasant Winter Cover SAFE**

The goal of the Montana Pheasant Winter Cover SAFE project is to enroll 27,100 acres to provide blocks of grass or shrub cover for ring-necked pheasant and other upland birds near existing permanent winter cover.

Montana Prairie Pothole SAFE

The goal of the Montana Prairie Pothole SAFE project is to enroll 21,900 acres to expand habitat for ducks, ring-necked pheasant, Hungarian (gray) partridge, native sharp-tailed grouse and neo-tropical birds by supplementing existing habitat by seeding herbaceous vegetation in areas of high wetland densities or areas adjacent to semi-permanent wetlands.

Montana Sagebrush SAFE

The goal of the Montana Sagebrush SAFE project is to enroll 2,500 acres to restore cropland to sagebrush habitat suitable for a variety of wildlife, including sage grouse and other sagebrush obligate birds such as sage sparrow and sage thrasher.

Nebraska**Nebraska Tallgrass SAFE**

The goal of the Nebraska Tallgrass SAFE project is to enroll 28,850 acres to expand habitat in the Nebraska tallgrass prairie region for greater prairie chickens.

Nebraska Upland Birds SAFE

The goal of the Nebraska Upland Birds SAFE project is to enroll 58,050 acres to enhance habitat for upland wildlife such as upland game birds, including northern bobwhite quail and ring-necked pheasant.

Nevada**Nevada Sage Grouse Habitat Improvement SAFE**

The goal of the Nevada Sage Grouse Habitat Improvement SAFE project is to enroll 400 acres to maintain, restore, and improve sagebrush habitat for sage-grouse populations and other sagebrush obligate species. Acres enrolled in the SAFE project will be designed to provide habitat needs, such as nesting, brood rearing, winter roosting, and escape cover for sage-grouse. Acres enrolled in the SAFE project will also reduce invasion of invasive weeds, improve water quality, and reduce soil erosion.

New Jersey**New Jersey Grassland SAFE**

The goal of the New Jersey Grassland SAFE project is to enroll 750 acres in CRP to benefit rare and declining grassland-dependent birds across New Jersey, such as bobolink, vesper sparrow, eastern meadowlark, northern bobwhite quail, grasshopper and savannah sparrows, and upland sand

New Jersey Raritan-Piedmont SAFE

The goal of the New Jersey Raritan-Piedmont SAFE project is to enroll 550 acres in CRP to benefit grassland birds by protecting and restoring habitat.

New Jersey Agricultural Heritage SAFE

The goal of the New Jersey Agricultural Heritage SAFE project is to enroll 450 acres in CRP to benefit grassland nesting birds by restoring native warm- and cool-season grasslands embedded within large agricultural landscapes.

New Mexico**New Mexico Lesser Prairie Chicken SAFE**

The goal of the New Mexico Lesser Prairie Chicken SAFE project is to enroll 2,600 acres in CRP in the eastern part of the state to benefit the lesser prairie chicken by restoring native grasslands for breeding and brood-rearing. In eastern New Mexico, this bird and other species have been petitioned for listing under the Endangered Species Act.

New York**New York Grassland SAFE**

The goal of the New York Grassland SAFE project is to enroll 4,900 acres in CRP to benefit grassland birds such as the grasshopper sparrow, Vesper's sparrow, Henslow's sparrow, eastern meadowlark, horned lark, northern harrier, savannah sparrow, sedge wren, upland sandpiper, bobolink, short-eared owl and barn owl.

North Carolina**North Carolina Grassland SAFE**

The goal of the North Carolina Grassland SAFE project is to enroll 2,600 acres devoted to early successional habitat to benefit several grassland bird species identified as high-priority. These species include northern bobwhite, loggerhead shrike, grasshopper sparrow, eastern kingbird, eastern meadowlark, common yellowthroat and field sparrow.

North Dakota**North Dakota Coteau-Drift SAFE**

The goal of the North Dakota Coteau-Drift SAFE project is to enroll 74,653 acres in the Missouri Plateau and Drift Prairie region to maintain and increase habitat for priority species of waterfowl, water birds, shorebirds and terrestrial birds.

North Dakota Sagebrush SAFE

The goal of the North Dakota Sagebrush SAFE project is to enroll 2,000 acres to increase sage grouse populations by restoring cropland to sagebrush habitat. This ecosystem is suitable for sage grouse and other sagebrush birds such as sage sparrow, sage thrasher, sharp-tailed grouse, grey partridge and mule deer.

North Dakota Tallgrass SAFE

The goal of the North Dakota Tallgrass SAFE project is to enroll 8,990 acres to restore cropland to native tall-grass prairie habitat to maintain and increase greater prairie-chicken and sharp-tailed grouse populations in the project area.

North Dakota Habitat for Pheasants SAFE

The goal of the North Dakota Habitat for Pheasants SAFE project is to enroll 47,500 acres of habitat for economically significant species such as ring-necked pheasants, sharp-tailed grouse, Hungarian partridge, waterfowl, big game and other non-game species.

Ohio**Ohio Big Island/Killdeer SAFE**

The goal of the Ohio Big Island/Killdeer SAFE project is to restore 1,925 acres of native grasslands, prairies and wetlands to benefit pollinators and grassland dependent migratory bird species.

Ohio Grand River/Mosquito SAFE

The goal of the Ohio Grand River/Mosquito SAFE project is to restore native grasslands, prairies and wetlands to benefit pollinators and grassland dependent and migratory bird species.

Ohio Killbuck SAFE

The goal of the Ohio Killbuck SAFE project is to restore native grasslands, prairies and wetlands to benefit pollinators and grassland dependent migratory bird species.

Ohio Kitty Todd SAFE

The goal of the Ohio Kitty Todd SAFE project is to restore 700 acres of native grasslands, prairies and wetlands to benefit pollinators, including Karner blue butterfly and grassland dependent migratory bird species.

Ohio LaSuAn Grasslands SAFE

The goal of the Ohio LaSuAn Grasslands SAFE project is to restore 6,350 acres of native grasslands, prairies and wetlands to benefit pollinators, waterfowl and grassland dependent migratory bird species.

Ohio Paint Creek SAFE

The goal of the Ohio Paint Creek SAFE project is to restore 1,675 acres of native grasslands, prairies and wetlands to benefit pollinators and grassland-dependent bird species.

Ohio Western Lake Erie Marshes SAFE

The goal of the Western Lake Erie Marshes SAFE project is to restore 1,400 acres of native grasslands, prairies and wetlands to benefit pollinators, waterfowl and grassland-dependent bird species.

Ohio Grassland Bird SAFE

The goal of the Ohio Grassland Bird SAFE project is to restore 1,850 acres of native grasslands, prairies and wetlands to benefit pollinators and grassland-dependent bird species.

Ohio Grasslands for Pheasants SAFE

The goal for the Ohio Grasslands for Pheasants SAFE project is enroll 43,700 acres to either create high-quality pheasant habitat or rehabilitate habitat suitable primarily for pheasants, and secondarily, other grassland birds including game species that are threatened, endangered or in decline.

Oklahoma**Oklahoma Mixed Grass Prairie SAFE**

The goal of the Oklahoma Mixed Grass Prairie SAFE project is to enroll 15,100 acres in CRP to restore mixed-grass prairie type associations in northwestern Oklahoma to benefit northern bobwhite, Cassin's sparrow and other grassland birds.

Oregon**Oregon Heppner Mule Deer SAFE**

The goal of the Oregon Heppner Mule Deer SAFE project is to enroll 5,500 acres of high-quality mule deer forage in the northern foothills of the Heppner Big Game Management Unit. Additionally, the habitat created in many of these CRP stands can provide benefits for multiple species including Rocky Mountain elk, pheasants, Hungarian partridge, chukar, and many grassland obligate bird species.

Pennsylvania**Pennsylvania Seasonal Pools/Early Successional/Grass SAFE**

The goal of the Pennsylvania Seasonal Pools/Early Successional/Grass SAFE project is to enroll 2,600 acres in CRP to improve habitat for and populations of sensitive wildlife identified in the Pennsylvania State Wildlife Action Plan.

Puerto Rico**Puerto Rico Sub-Tropical Forest SAFE**

The goal of the Puerto Rico Sub-Tropical Forest SAFE project is to enroll 1,300 acres to improve, connect or restore healthier quality habitat and to promote healthier ecosystems. The project will benefit high priority species including Puerto Rican boa, Puerto Rican sharp-shinned hawk, Puerto Rican pigeon, Puerto Rican rock frog and candidate species Elfin-woods warbler.

South Carolina**South Carolina Restoring Native Grasses SAFE**

The goal of the South Carolina Restoring Native Grasses SAFE project is to enroll 2,300 acres to increase early successional habitat in Allendale, Bamberg and Barnwell counties to benefit birds in decline.

South Dakota**South Dakota Sagebrush SAFE**

The goal of the South Dakota Sagebrush SAFE project is to enroll 500 acres in CRP to benefit the sage grouse population by restoring cropland to sagebrush habitat suitable for sage grouse and other sagebrush obligate birds such as sage sparrows and sage thrashers.

South Dakota Pheasants SAFE

The goal of the South Dakota Pheasants SAFE project is to enroll 94,500 acres in CRP to provide block grass acreages for ring-necked pheasants and other upland birds in the form of nesting, brood-rearing, winter-roosting and escape cover. This will help increase the overall population of ring-necked pheasants and other economically significant species such as sharp-tailed grouse, prairie chicken and upland nesting ducks.

South Dakota Western SD Grassland Wildlife Habitat

The goal of the South Dakota Western SD Grassland Wildlife Habitat SAFE project is to enroll 40,800 acres of habitat critical to declining grassland birds native to western South Dakota. Some of the targeted species include the short-eared owl, grasshopper sparrow, dickcissel, bobolink, sharp-tailed grouse, long-billed curlew and upland nesting waterfowl.

Tennessee**Tennessee Wetlands SAFE**

The goal of the Tennessee Wetlands SAFE project is to enroll 400 acres in CRP to restore high-quality wetlands habitat that will provide high-quality breeding, feeding and winter habitats necessary to waterfowl, shorebirds, amphibians, reptiles, crustaceans and other wetlands wildlife.

Tennessee Trees SAFE

The goal of the Tennessee Trees SAFE project is to enroll 300 acres in CRP to establish high quality bottomland hardwoods on wetlands that are important not only for waterfowl but also for many forest-dependent songbirds, amphibians, and reptiles. Key wildlife species that will benefit from bottomland hardwoods include the cerulean warbler, Mississippi kite, Rafinesque's big-eared bats, and southeastern bats.

Tennessee Grass SAFE

The goal of the Tennessee Grass SAFE project is to enroll 11,500 acres in CRP to develop critical habitats that will provide high-quality nesting, brood-rearing and protective woody cover and winter habitats necessary for bobwhite quail and other declining wildlife species that depend on native "early successional" type habitats and travel corridors between habitat blocks.

Texas**Texas Gulf Coast Prairies SAFE**

The goal of the Texas Gulf Coast Prairies SAFE project is to enroll 500 acres to restore grassland and shallow water habitats in the Gulf Coast Prairie region of Texas for a variety of bird species.

Texas Lower Rio Grande Thornscrub SAFE

The Texas Lower Rio Grande Thornscrub SAFE project seeks to enroll 2,000 acres to restore Tamaulipan thornscrub habitat for the endangered ocelot and other wildlife species.

Texas Mixed Grass SAFE

The goal of the Texas Mixed Grass SAFE project is to enroll 150,000 acres in CRP to reconnect geographically and reproductively isolated populations of lesser prairie chickens by creating native mixed grass prairie and travel corridors.

Virginia**Virginia Culpeper Basin SAFE**

The goal of the Virginia Culpeper Basin SAFE project is to enroll 500 acres to restore native trees, shrubs and warm season grasses for grass and shrubland-dependent bird habitats along the Rappahannock and Rapidan Rivers, as well as upland habitat adjacent to their tributaries.

Virginia Longleaf Pine SAFE

The goal of the Virginia Longleaf Pine SAFE project is to enroll 1,000 acres to re-establish longleaf pine stands in more than two dozen Virginia counties that benefit a variety of wildlife. The project seeks to increase habitat for red-cockaded woodpecker, Bachman's sparrow and redheaded woodpecker.

Virginia Rare & Declining Habitats SAFE

The goal of the Virginia Rare & Declining Habitats SAFE project is to enroll 300 acres to restore migratory bird habitat. This project will use native hardwood trees, shrubs and grasses to restore and maintain habitats along the Eastern Shore of Virginia.

Virginia Riparian Buffer SAFE

The goal of the Virginia Riparian Buffer SAFE project is to enroll 500 acres to expand riparian forest buffers for interior forest and riparian birds, as well as other wildlife. The project will establish forest buffers using native hardwood tree plantings and control invasive species through various land management techniques.

Washington**Washington Coastal Roosevelt Elk SAFE**

The goal of the Washington Coastal Roosevelt Elk SAFE project is to increase habitat for the declining Olympic elk herd. Elk herds throughout the Olympic Peninsula have declined by 30 percent due to increased mortality or decreased productivity from declining habitat quality and quantity.

Washington Columbia Basin SAFE

The goal of the Washington Columbia Basin SAFE project is to enroll 150 acres to benefit ring-necked pheasant and California quail. In
Page 10

addition, the project will benefit at-risk species such as the burrowing owl and Washington ground squirrel, which are known to inhabit irrigated circle corners and other unfarmed areas.

Washington Ferruginous Hawk SAFE

The goal of the Washington Ferruginous Hawk SAFE project is to enhance foraging habitat around ferruginous hawk nests in Benton, Franklin and Adams Counties of eastern Washington by establishing shrubs, grasses and forbs on 20,000 acres of cropland within the selected 3.3-mile hawk nest buffers.

Washington Palouse Prairie SAFE

The goal of the Washington Palouse Prairie SAFE project is to enroll 3,228 acres to improve and increase Palouse Prairie habitat for a variety of wildlife species by re-establishing diverse stands of grasses, forbs and shrubs. Converting cropland to fields and corridors of permanent native plant communities will benefit wildlife species, including at-risk wildlife, such as grassland and shrubland-nesting birds, and native pollinators.

Washington Shrub-Steppe SAFE

The goal of the eastern Washington Shrub-Steppe SAFE project is to enroll 18,722 acres to benefit shrub-steppe bird species that have declined because of ongoing habitat loss and fragmentation throughout the West. These are the at-risk species with federal or state listing status that use the land in the project area: sharp-tailed grouse, sage grouse, sage sparrow, sage thrasher and loggerhead shrike. The grasshopper sparrow, savannah sparrow and Brewer's sparrow will also benefit from the SAFE project.

Washington Sage and Sharp-Tailed Grouse

The goal of the Washington Sage and Sharp-tailed Grouse SAFE project is to enroll 73,000 acres to benefit native prairie grouse and other shrub-steppe wildlife species that have declined because of ongoing habitat loss and fragmentation throughout the West.

Wisconsin**Wisconsin Glacial SAFE**

The goal of the Wisconsin Glacial SAFE project is to establish a mosaic of grasslands and wetlands in a predominately agricultural landscape by enrolling 5,250 acres. This will result in more favorable habitat conditions for self-sustaining populations of waterfowl, pheasants and grassland songbirds.

Wisconsin Shortgrass SAFE

The goal of the Wisconsin Shortgrass SAFE project is to increase Karner Blue butterfly habitat by enrolling 2,500 acres of shortgrass prairie. Karner Blue butterfly habitat requires a certain degree of disturbance to maintain a stable system, particularly for the larva's sole food source, wild blue lupine. The project will enhance the understanding of wild blue lupine establishment, linking Karner Blue butterfly use and occupation with short-grass prairie restoration and enhancement in the project area.

Wisconsin Southwest Grassland SAFE

The goal of the Wisconsin Southwest Grassland SAFE project is to restore and maintain 12,000 acres of grassland and prairie habitat for 14 bird species of greatest conservation need in Wisconsin.

Wisconsin Central Grassland SAFE

The goal of the Wisconsin Central Grassland SAFE project is to enroll 500 acres to restore native mid-shortgrass and wetland habitats for four species of neo-tropical migrant songbirds: Henslow's sparrow, grasshopper sparrow, sedge wren and bobolink.

Wisconsin Western Prairie SAFE

The goal of the Wisconsin Western Prairie SAFE project is to benefit grassland-dependent species of greatest conservation need (SGCN) by maintaining 2,000 acres of current grassland, while establishing new acres of native and introduced grasses, and native perennial legumes.

Wyoming**Wyoming Northeast Wyoming Habitat Restoration Area**

The goal of the Wyoming Northeast Wyoming Habitat Restoration Area SAFE project is to enroll 10,000 acres to create, enhance or restore critical habitat by the conversion of cropland to permanent introduced or native perennial plant communities. This habitat restoration will help restore cropland to early-seral/early-successional stage habitats and grassland, such as sagebrush habitats suitable for sage grouse, sharp-tailed grouse, grey partridge, ducks, geese, mule deer, pronghorn antelope, wild turkeys and small mammals.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all of its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, political beliefs, genetic information, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Stop 9410, Washington, DC 20250-9410, or call toll-free at (866) 632-9992 (English) or (800) 877-8339 (TDD) or (866) 377-8642 (English Federal-relay) or (800) 845-6136 (Spanish Federal-relay).

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.