



CASE STUDY

Nebraska Game and Parks Commission



ASSOCIATION of
FISH & WILDLIFE
AGENCIES

Private Lands Working Group

Agriculture Conservation Committee

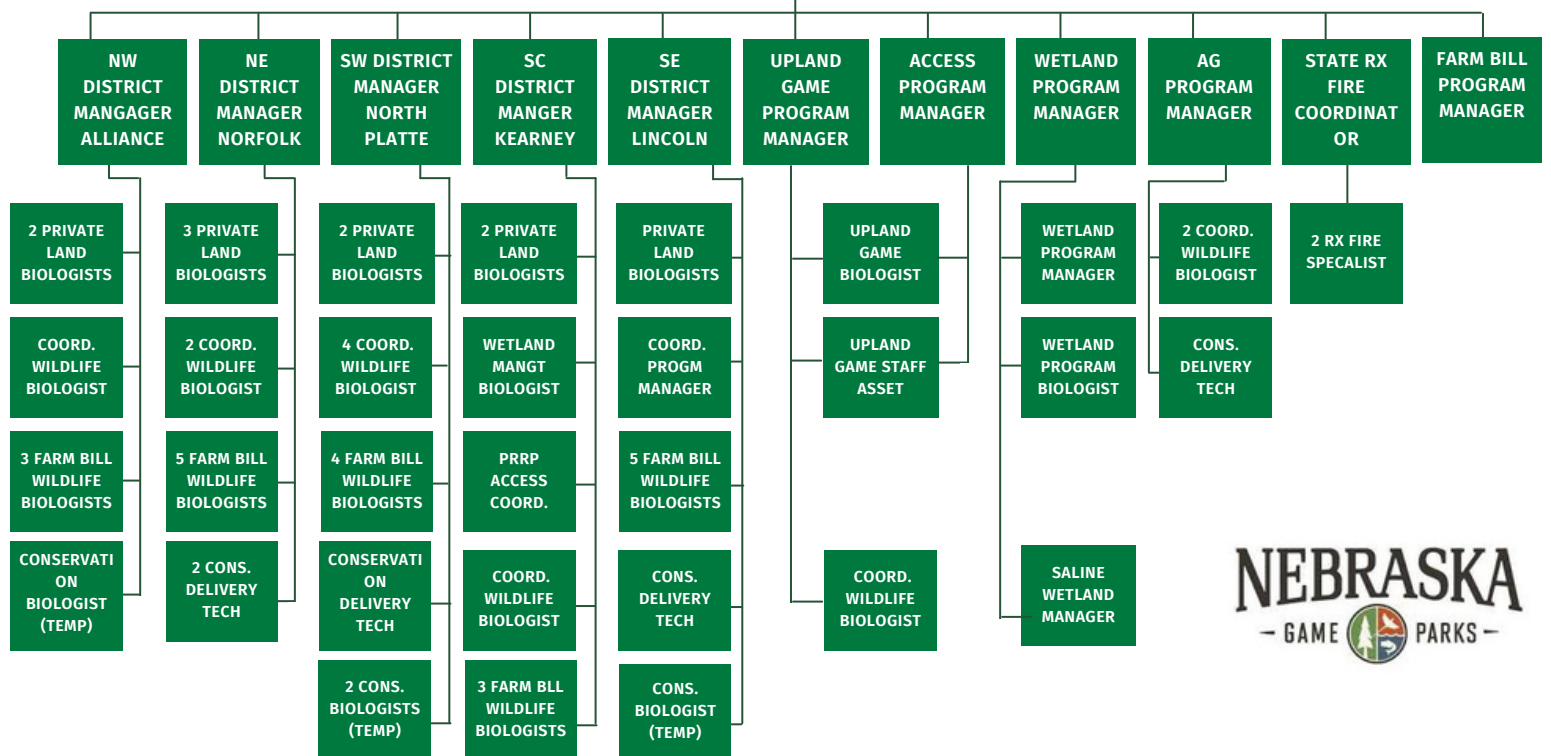


STATE AGENCY PRIVATE LANDS PROGRAM CASE-STUDY

The Nebraska Game and Parks Commission private lands program was initiated over 30 years ago. Nebraska Game and Parks provides private lands programs and resources to help landowners, towns or cities enhance their property in support of wildlife, habitat and outdoor recreation.

**HABITAT PARTNERS SECTION
WILDLIFE DIVISION
APRIL 2024**

ASSISTANT DIVISION ADMIN



STATE AGENCY PRIVATE LANDS PROGRAM CASE-STUDY: NEBRASKA

PRIMARY PARTNERS

- Pheasants Forever/Quail Forever
- NRCS
- USFWS PFW
- Rainwater Basin Joint Venture
- Nebraska Grazing Lands Coalition
- 23 Natural Resource Districts
- Northern Prairies Land Trust
- Bird Conservancy of the Rockies
- Ducks Unlimited
- Audubon Great Plains
- Sandhills Task Force
- Nebraska Forest Service
- Landowner Cooperatives
- Prescribed Burn Associations
- Tribes and Academic: University of Nebraska Lincoln, Chadron State College



EMPLOYEE RECRUITMENT

- College graduates (mostly University of Nebraska – Lincoln, University of Nebraska – Kearney, Chadron State College, and others)
- NGO's and partners
- Internal hires



PRIMARY PROGRAMS

- Berggren Pheasant Plan: Pheasant Habitat and Access Improvement Program
- WILD Nebraska
- Open Fields and Waters: Public Access Program
- Nebraska Natural Legacy Project
- USDA Farm Bill Programs



PRIMARY MARKETING AND ENGAGEMENT STRATEGIES YOUR AGENCY USES TO ENGAGE PRIVATE LANDOWNERS

Direct mailings, landowner workshops and field tours, radio, newspapers, Facebook, Twitter, Podcasts, and communicating with local USDA offices, etc. Word of mouth (neighbor to neighbor) provides the best return.

NEBRASKA PRIVATE LANDS CONSERVATION EFFORTS: WHAT WORKS?

Having staff (agency and/or shared positions) scattered around the state with the opportunity to become involved with, and eventually become a part of the “landowner communities” while working towards “win-win” situations.

NEBRASKA PRIVATE LANDS CONSERVATION EFFORTS: CHALLENGES?

- **Relevancy and awareness** – we have had private lands staff for nearly 30 years and there are still landowners that don't know we are here to help them.
- **Communication and coordination** across partners/overlapping programs and partnerships
- **“Hand-offs”** – we are in unprecedented times with the amount of funding available for conservation efforts but we still struggle to get “hand-offs” from one entity to another when one program from one partner may not work for a landowner, but another program from another partner still could.
- **Finding “champions”** and leaders from our landowners that are willing to lead landowner cooperatives – and passing the baton to someone else once we do...
- **Telling our success stories** – we always move to the next project, or the next program and don't have/take/make the time to share our successes (which is working back towards the first bullet above)
- Revisiting old sites to learn ‘what works/what doesn't’ in the long term (fits in with telling our success stories too).

Supporting Information

The Story of Saving the Loess Canyons: www.wlfw.org/the-story-of-saving-the-loess-canyons

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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PRODUCT OF THE AFWA AGRICULTURE
CONSERVATION COMMITTEE
PRIVATE LANDS WORKING GROUP

