

**2005 CONSERVATION INNOVATION GRANTS (CIG)  
NEBRASKA STATE COMPONENT  
RECIPIENTS AND SUMMARY**

**RECIPIENT:** Pheasants Forever, Inc.

**PROJECT TITLE:** Improve Grazing Land Health and Vigor

**PURPOSE:**

To restore the grazing land health and vigor in Central Nebraska to include: Greeley, Howard, Nance, and Sherman counties. In some cases, pastures in the area have been overgrazed, or are grazed with a single paddock system, leading to invasion by eastern red cedar and cool season grasses that diminish the overall health and quality of the pasture. Project will offer deferred grazing payments to allow for fuel loads for prescribed burning and interseeding where appropriate.

**AWARD AMOUNT: \$70,000**

**TOTAL COST: \$140,000**

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**RECIPIENT:** University of Nebraska (Nebraska Forest Service)

**PROJECT TITLE:** Restoring the Health and Utilization of the Pine Ridge Forests

**PURPOSE:**

- Restore forest health by providing incentives for private forest landowners to contract with fuel treatment vendors to conduct thinning treatments of small diameter timber stands.
- Reduce fuel loading in overstocked, stagnated forests as a step toward avoiding future catastrophic (i.e. stand-destroying crown fire, insect/disease outbreaks and negative impacts of drought).

**AWARD AMOUNT: \$70,000**

**TOTAL COST: \$140,000**

**RECIPIENT:** University of Nebraska Lincoln (Dept. of Biological Systems Engineering)

**PROJECT TITLE:** Irrigation of Subsurface Drip-Irrigation and Reduced Tillage Systems to Conserve Irrigation Water in South Central Nebraska.

**PURPOSE:**

The project will integrate several cutting-edge technologies to determine water savings with management of subsurface drip irrigation in combination with reduced tillage systems on corn in South Central Nebraska. The project will utilize improved irrigation scheduling techniques built on automation and instrumentation using the crop water stress index and canopy temperature methods. In addition, the project will measure water conservation resulting from various levels of irrigation management, quantify consumptive water use, and determine the allowable crop water stress that can be imposed.

**AWARD AMOUNT: \$70,000**

**TOTAL COST: \$140,000**



**RECIPIENT:** Prairieland Resource Conservation & Development Council

**PROJECT TITLE:** Using Permacrop System to Improve Soil and Water Quality, Sequester Carbon for Improving Air Quality and to Increase Habitat Diversity for Wildlife on critical slopes in the Shell Creek Watershed in Nebraska.

**PURPOSE:**

The purpose of the project is to demonstrate the use of a permacropping system as a practice for the Shell Creek Watershed and to demonstrate through data and observation the effectiveness of permacrop to reduce erosion and runoff. Soil maps of participants will be used to identify areas where the winter component of the permacrop will be planted in the fall. The boundary of the areas to be treated will be delineated and mapped using GPS.

**AWARD AMOUNT: \$24,610**

**TOTAL COST: \$49,220**

**RECIPIENT****Loess Canyon Rangeland Alliance (LCRA)****PROJECT TITLE:**

Reducing Risk of Prescribed Burns as a Rangeland Conservation Practice in Nebraska for the Control of Invasive Eastern Red Cedar

**PURPOSE:**

Introduce a pilot program for prescribed burning in Nebraska identifying risk management strategies in control of invasive eastern red cedar on 5000 acres. Land blocks will be prioritized according to risk, and burn plans developed over a three year period. The LCRA will provide support to reduce landowner risk and liability so that adoption of this practice becomes more attractive and feasible to local landowners. Prescribed burns will be planned through technical assistance-provided by the project's technical team.

**AWARD AMOUNT: \$15,391****TOTAL COST: \$30,782**