

Wildlife Sub Committee

November 5, 2019

Wildlife Fund Pool - Nebraska

10% of EQIP Funding for Wildlife Practices

Wildlife Related EQIP Contracts FY '19

- WIN 71 contracts / \$1.4 million / 32,000 acres

Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)



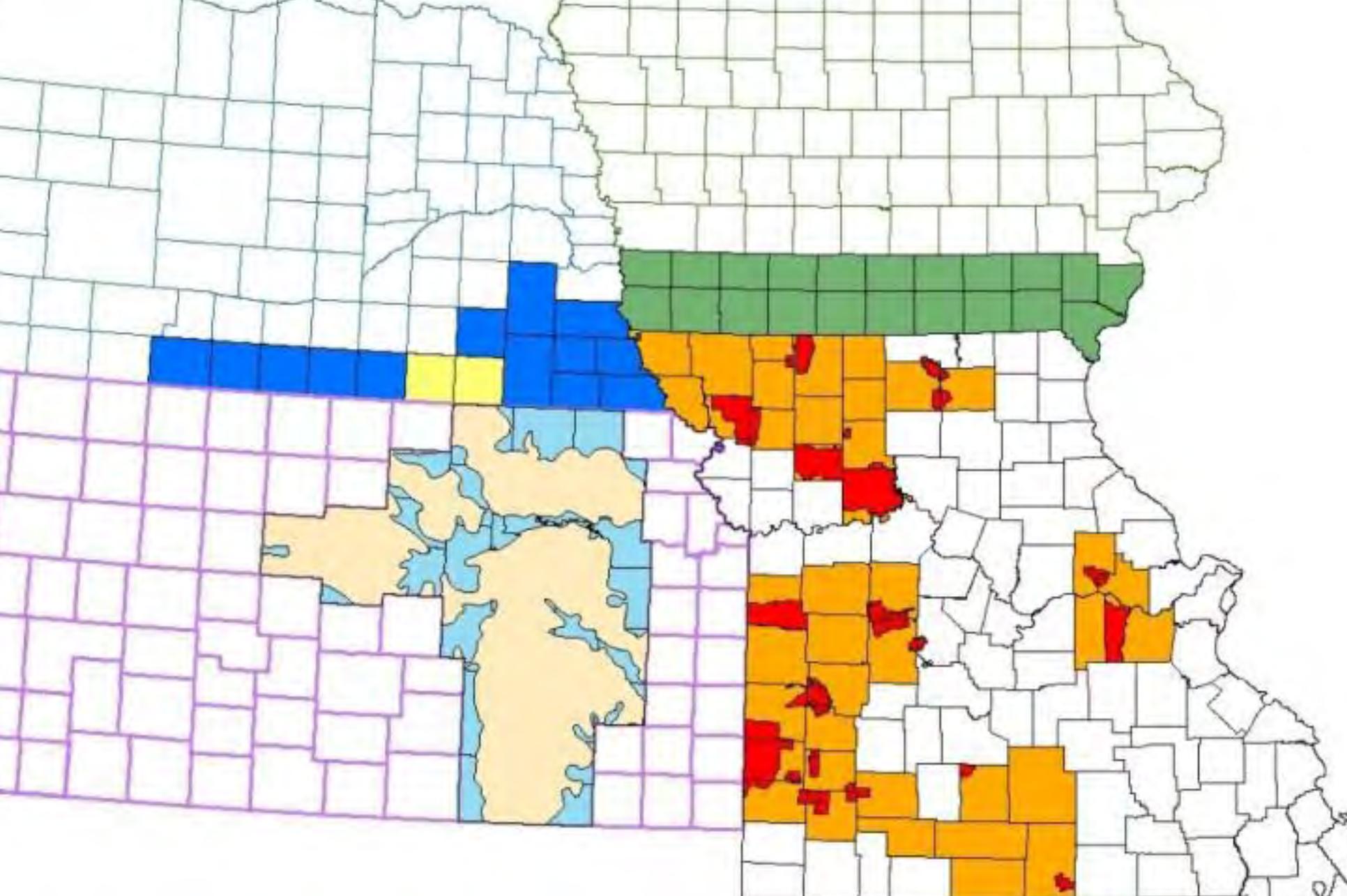
FY15 RCPP Approvals - Nebraska

■ State Fund Pool

- Ogallala Aquifer & Platte River Recovery (5 Years, 2015 – 2019)
 - CPNRD, TPNRD, TMID, SCC, CDC
 - \$ 1.7 million

■ National Fund Pool

- Regional Grassland Bird & Grazing Enhancement Initiative (5 years, 2015 – 2019)
 - Missouri, Nebraska, Kansas, Iowa
 - \$ 885,000 (Nebraska allocation)



- | | | | |
|---|--|--|--|
|  Kansas Focus Area |  Missouri Focus Area |  NE Quail Focus Areas |  Iowa Eligible Counties |
|  Kansas Eligible Counties |  Missouri Eligible Counties |  Nebraska Eligible Counties | |

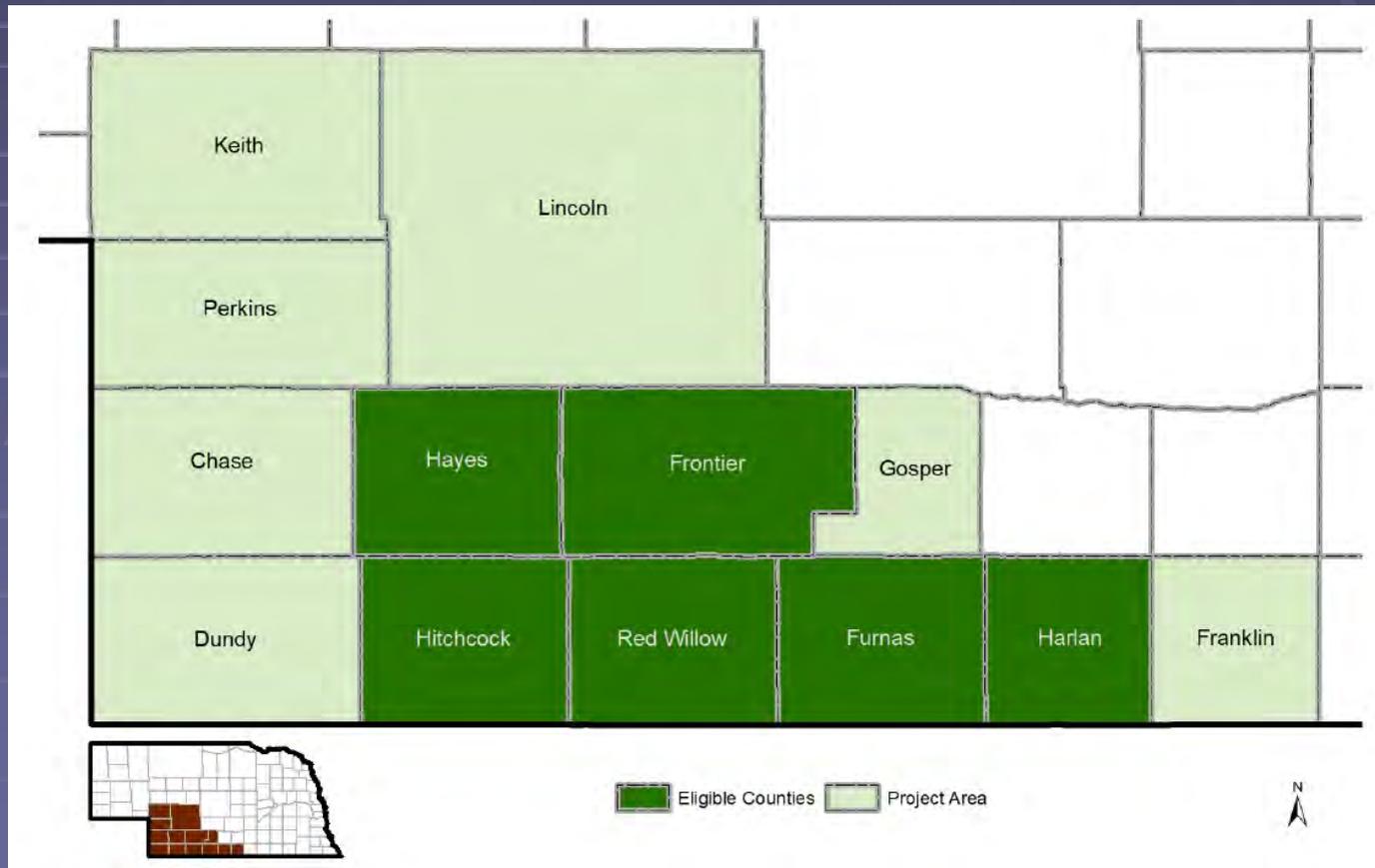
Regional Grassland Bird and Grazing Enhancement Initiative RCPP

- Grassland Bird RCPP Contracts 2019
 - 12 contracts / \$250,000 / 3,000 acres
 - **Project has ended**

FY16 RCPP Approvals – Nebraska State Fund Pool

- **3 Proposals Approved**
 - **Cropland Cover for Soil Health and Wildlife – NGPC \$700,000**
 - **Lower Elkhorn Water and Soil Conservation Project \$400,000**
 - **Republican Basin Conservation Partnership – LRNRD (Lead), MRNRD, URNRD \$2.1 million**

Cropland Cover for Soil Health and Wildlife - RCPP



Cropland Cover for Soil Health and Wildlife RCPP

FY '19

48 contracts / \$270,000 / 6,249 acres

The future...



8/8/19



8/21/19



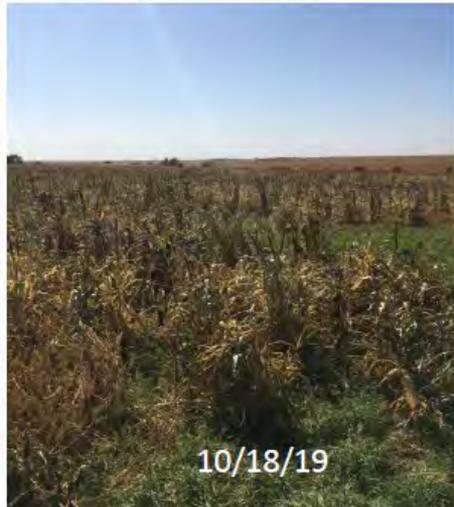
9/5/19



9/19/19



10/3/19



10/18/19

FARM #1

- Planted 7/28/19
- Custom Mix
- County- Harlan



Farm #2

- County- Harlan



8/8/19



8/21/19



9/5/19



10/3/19



10/18/19

Farm #4

- Planted 7/28/19
- County Harlan



8/21/19



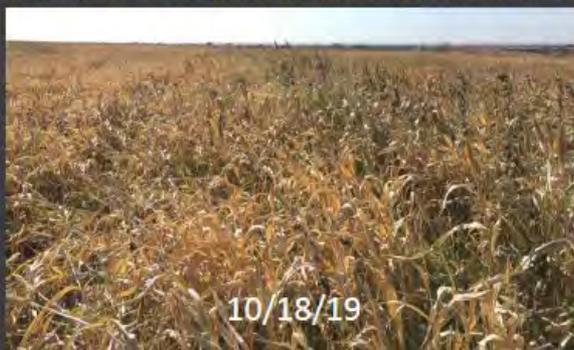
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10/3/19



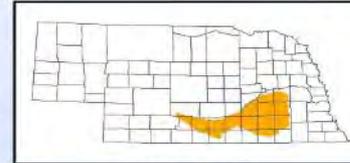
10/18/19

FY17 RCPP Approvals - Nebraska

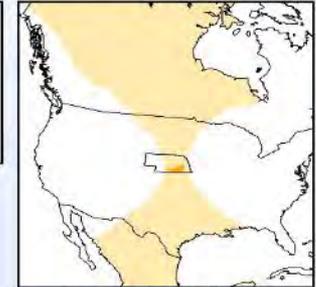
- **State Fund Pool**
 - **Divots in the Pivots**
 - **UBBNRD and RWBJV Partners**
 - **Combination of ACEP-ALE, ACEP-WRE and EQIP**
- **Critical Conservation Area (CCA) Fund Pool**
 - **Wahoo Creek Water Quality Sites 26 & 27**
 - **LPNNRD Partner**

Divots Under the Pivots

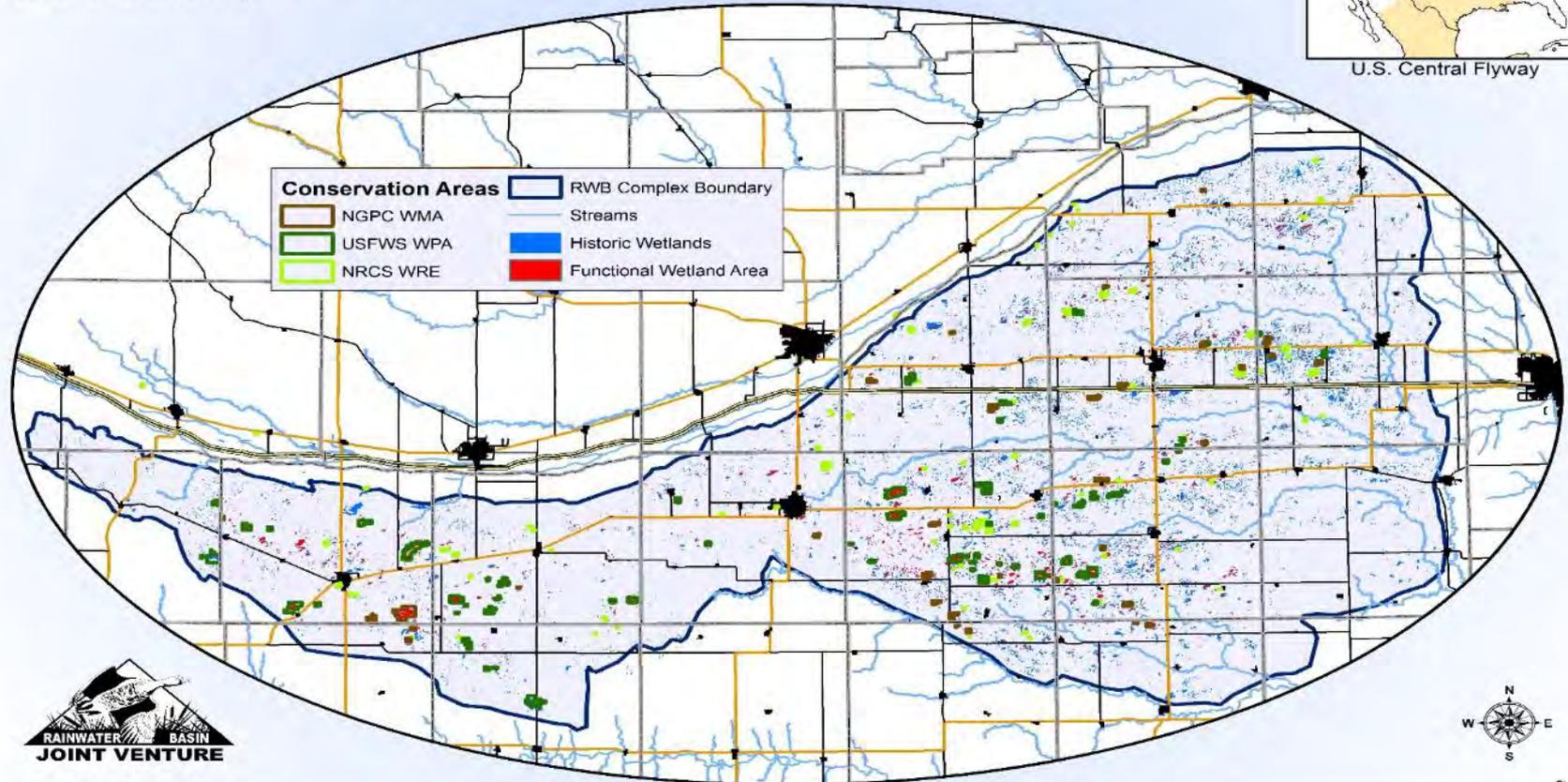
The Rainwater Basin is completely contained in Major Land Resource Area (MLRA) 75, the Central Loess Plains. In Nebraska this region lies South of the Platte River and North of the Republican River. This landscape intersects 21 counties including: Adams, Buffalo, Butler, Clay, Dawson, Fillmore, Franklin, Frontier, Gosper, Hall, Hamilton, Harlan, Kearney, Nuckolls, Phelps, Polk, Saline, Seward, Thayer, Webster, and York. This landscape was characterized by rolling loess plains with deep deposits of wind-blown silt with a high density of clay pan playa wetlands. Historically there were more than 11,000 playa wetlands covering just over 204,000 acres in the RWB (Bishop and Vrtiska 2008). To maximize agriculture production, a majority of the wetlands were drained. Today only 40,000 acres or 20% of the historic wetland acres remain (Bishop and Vrtiska 2008, Raines et al. 1990, Schildman and Hurt 1984), while only 10% of the historic footprints (1,100 footprints) demonstrate some level of function (pond water or grow hydrophytes). Approximately 50% of these functioning wetlands are in public ownership while the others remain in private ownership. Restoration and enhancement of these privately owned 20,500 acres of wetlands are the priority. Based on the Farm Service Agency Common Land Unit these tracts are owned by 2,369 different landowners with 1,576 different farm operators working these lands.



State Location



U.S. Central Flyway



Divots in the Pivots RCPP

5 ALE Easements

- Wetland restoration beginning this fall
- Variable rate irrigation installed this fall

3 WRE Easements, in process

720 acres

\$1 million in RCPP funding

\$1 million in non-federal funds

Questions?

