

CP38 SAFE (STATE ACRES FOR WILDLIFE ENHANCEMENT) REVISION

NGPC – Eric Zach

Pheasants Forever, NRCS, and FSA

SAFE Process

- CRP897 notice requests new SAFE proposals and revisions of existing SAFE projects.
- State Technical Committee review and recommendations
- FSA State Committee forwards recommended proposals to FSA CEPD (National)
- Must be submitted to CEPD by June 19, 2020

Existing SAFEs

- Tallgrass Prairie SAFE
 - 42,013 acres enrolled
- Upland Gamebird SAFE
 - 86,001 acres enrolled
- No available acres since 2017
- Began in 2008 and contracts are starting to expire.
- Continuous Practice with SIP and PIP
- SU 54 SAFE moved to General CRP – 5,503 acres

Existing SAFEs

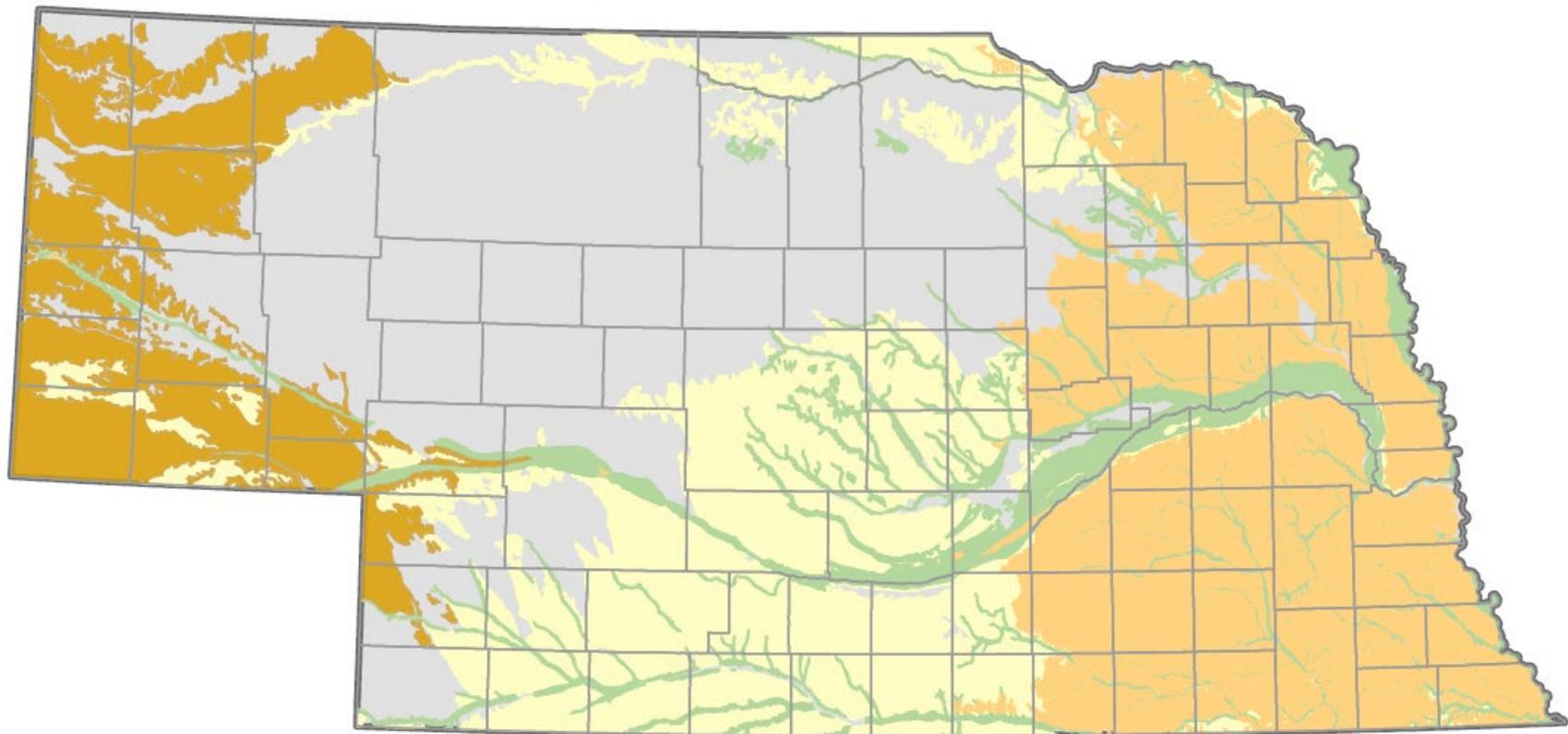
- SAFE partners decided to combine existing SAFEs
- Why?
 - Overlapping objectives
 - Using the same practices
 - Changes needed to each
 - CRP897 allows only one SAFE for each habitat type

Revised SAFE Proposal

- Upland wildlife habitat first priority
- Enroll acres to maintain/improve upland game bird populations:
 - Greater prairie-chicken
 - Northern bobwhite
 - Plains sharp-tailed grouse
 - Ring-necked pheasant
- * Designed to also provide benefits for grassland songbirds and pollinators (monarchs)

Upland Wildlife and Pollinator SAFE

- Practices: CP4D Wildlife Habitat, CP25 Rare and Declining Habitat, CP42 Pollinator
- Must meet general CRP SU eligibility
- Wildlife biologists develop tailored conservation plans
 - Multiple plantings/cover types
 - Shrub cover optional
 - Field size, location, surrounding habitat, shrub component, pollinators
- Management activities valuable in achieving structural and vegetative diversity within CRP fields



Eligible Areas by Prairie

- Loess Mixed Grass Prairie
- Lowland Tallgrass Prairie
- Mixed & Shortgrass Prairie
- Upland Tallgrass Prairie
- Ineligible Area

Summary

- Goal is to provide the best possible wildlife habitat on SAFE acres
- Provide flexibility for landowners and wildlife biologists to tailor CRP plantings to meet the SAFE program and the landowner's goals.