



Nebraska Forest Restoration Partnership

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Nebraska Forest Service
Forestry and Fire Bureau Chief





Key Challenges

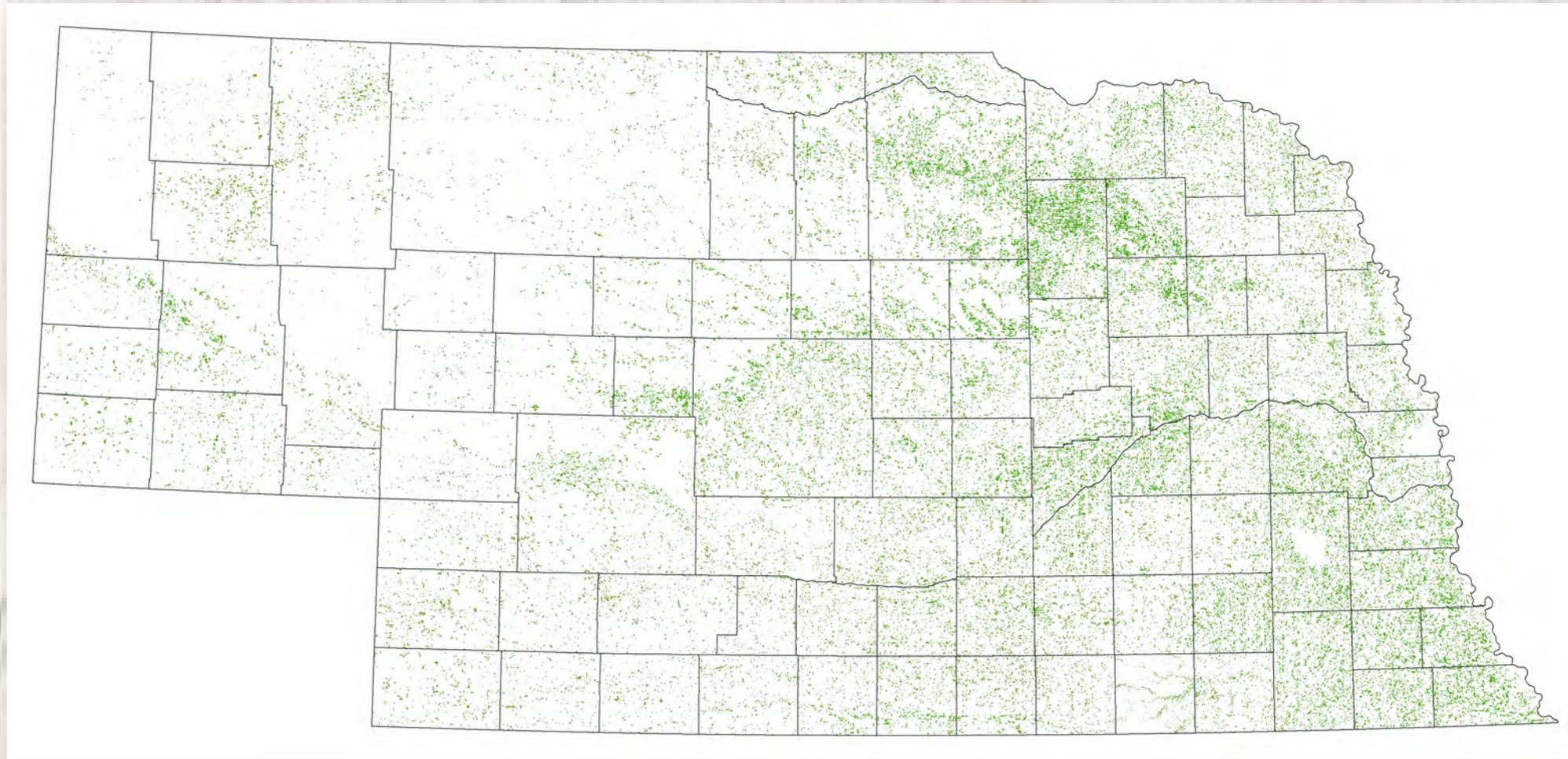
- Lack of forest regeneration
- Shifting forest composition
- Loss of rural tree canopy cover
- Decline of windbreak condition



Traditional Forests



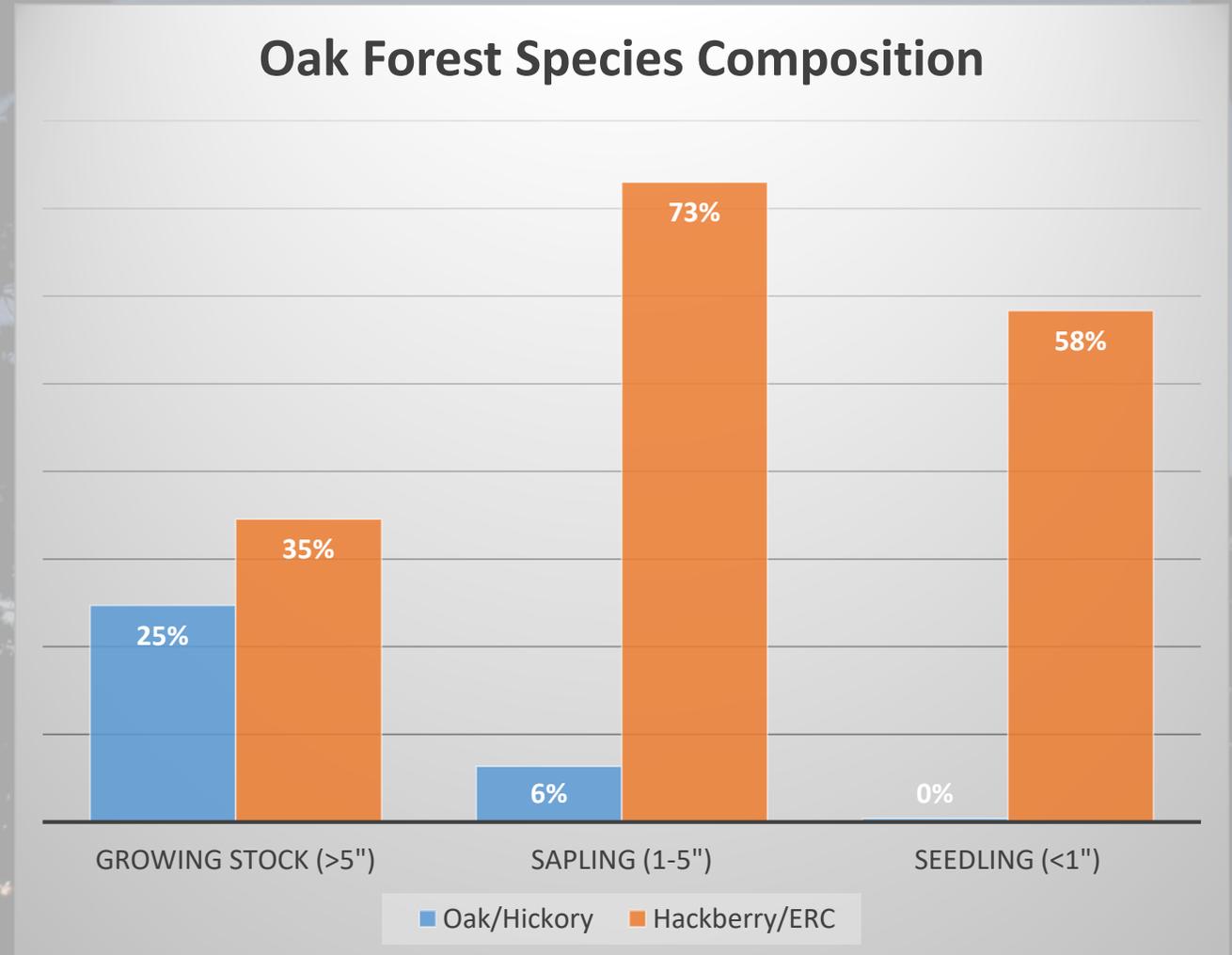
"Trees Outside of Forests"



Source: USDA Forest Service – Forest Inventory and Analysis program

Oak Forest Decline

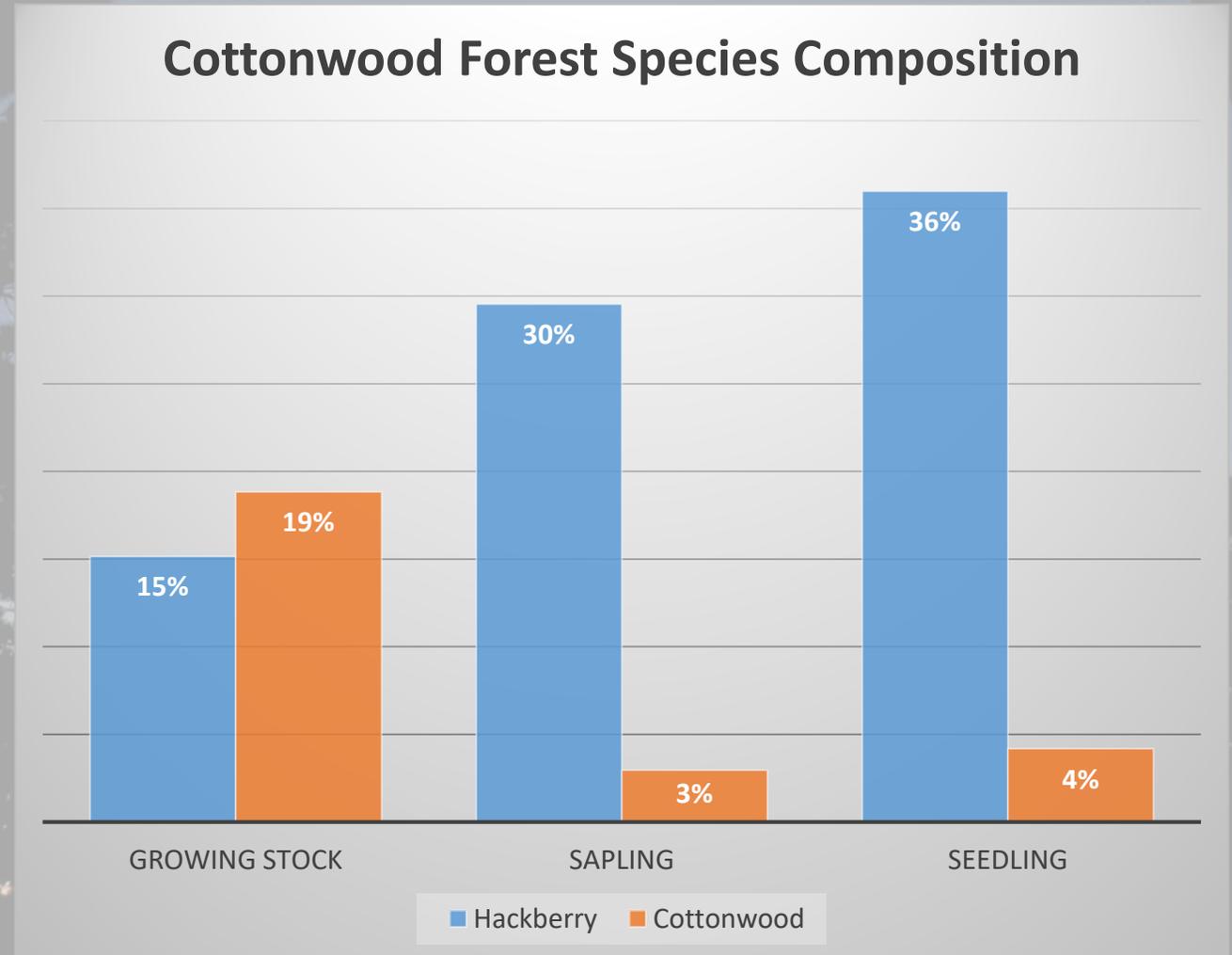
- Oak forests need fire for regeneration
- Significant concern across US for the future of oak forests
- In absence of fire...
 - Redcedar is unmanaged
 - Hackberry thrives on shaded forest floor



Source: USDA Forest Service – Forest Inventory and Analysis program

Cottonwood Forest Decline

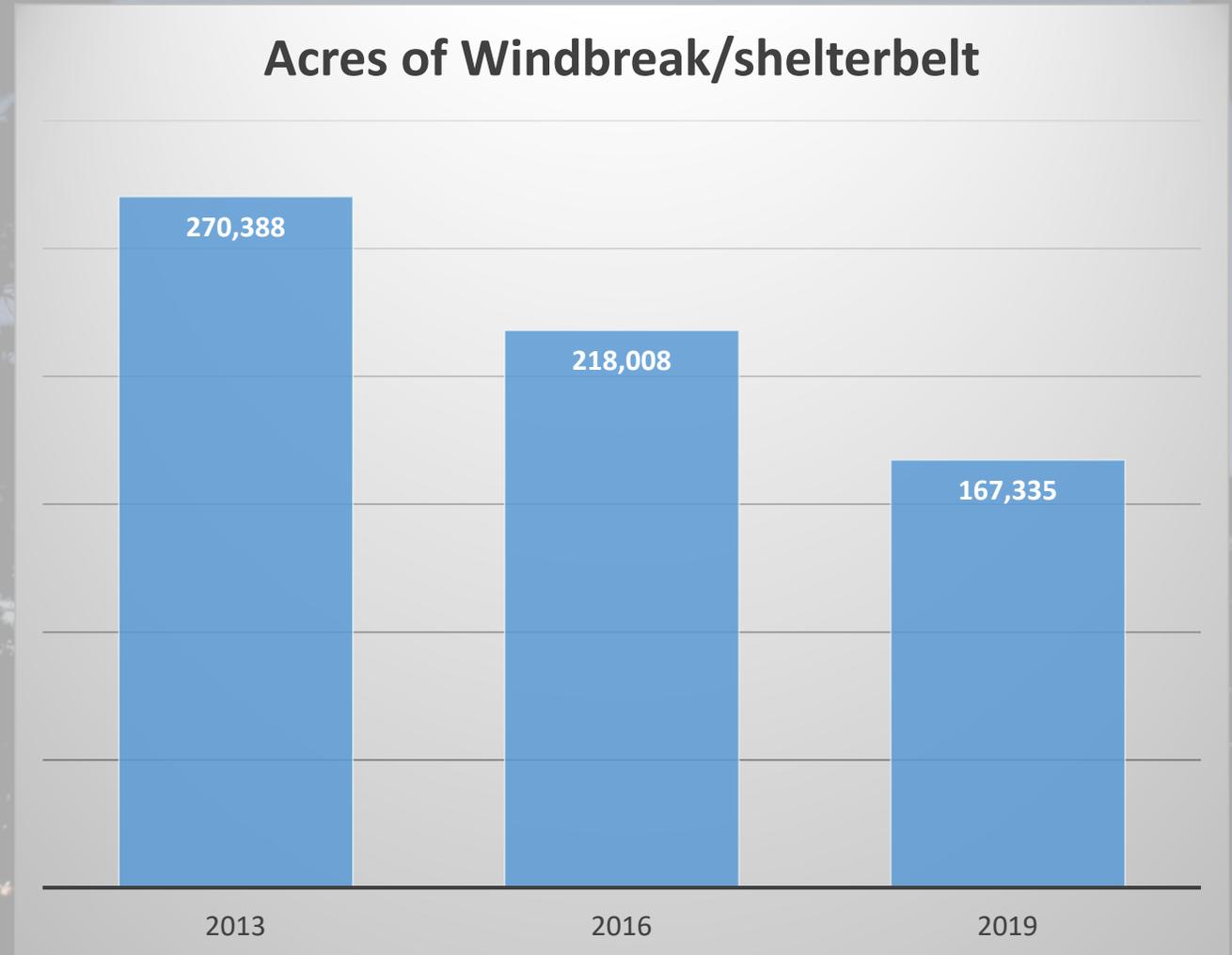
- Natural flooding deposited sand and silt, ideal seedling establishment
- Shift towards shade tolerant species
- In absence of flooding...
 - Redcedar is unmanaged
 - Hackberry thrives on shaded forest floor



Source: USDA Forest Service – Forest Inventory and Analysis program

Windbreak Decline

- Large-scale planting began in the 1930s
 - Continued age-driven decline
- Pest and disease pressure
- Climate variability



Financial Assistance

- No EQIP sign-up required
- Continuous, open “enrollment”

Conservation Practice	RCP P Cost-share	Comments
Forest Stand Improvement	50% (Based on statewide docket) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• HU – 75%	Requires Forest Stewardship Plan, Practice Plan, Financial Agreement with NFS
Fence (exclusion fencing only)	50% (Based on statewide docket) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• HU – 75%	
Tree/Shrub Establishment	Up to 25% (Based on local docket)*	Implemented as “supplemental cost-share” in addition to existing NRD assistance funding
Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment	Up to 25% (Based on local docket)*	
Windbreak/Shelterbelt Renovation	Up to 25% (Based on local docket)*	
Tree/Shrub Site Preparation	Up to 25% (Based on local docket)*	

* Few exceptions





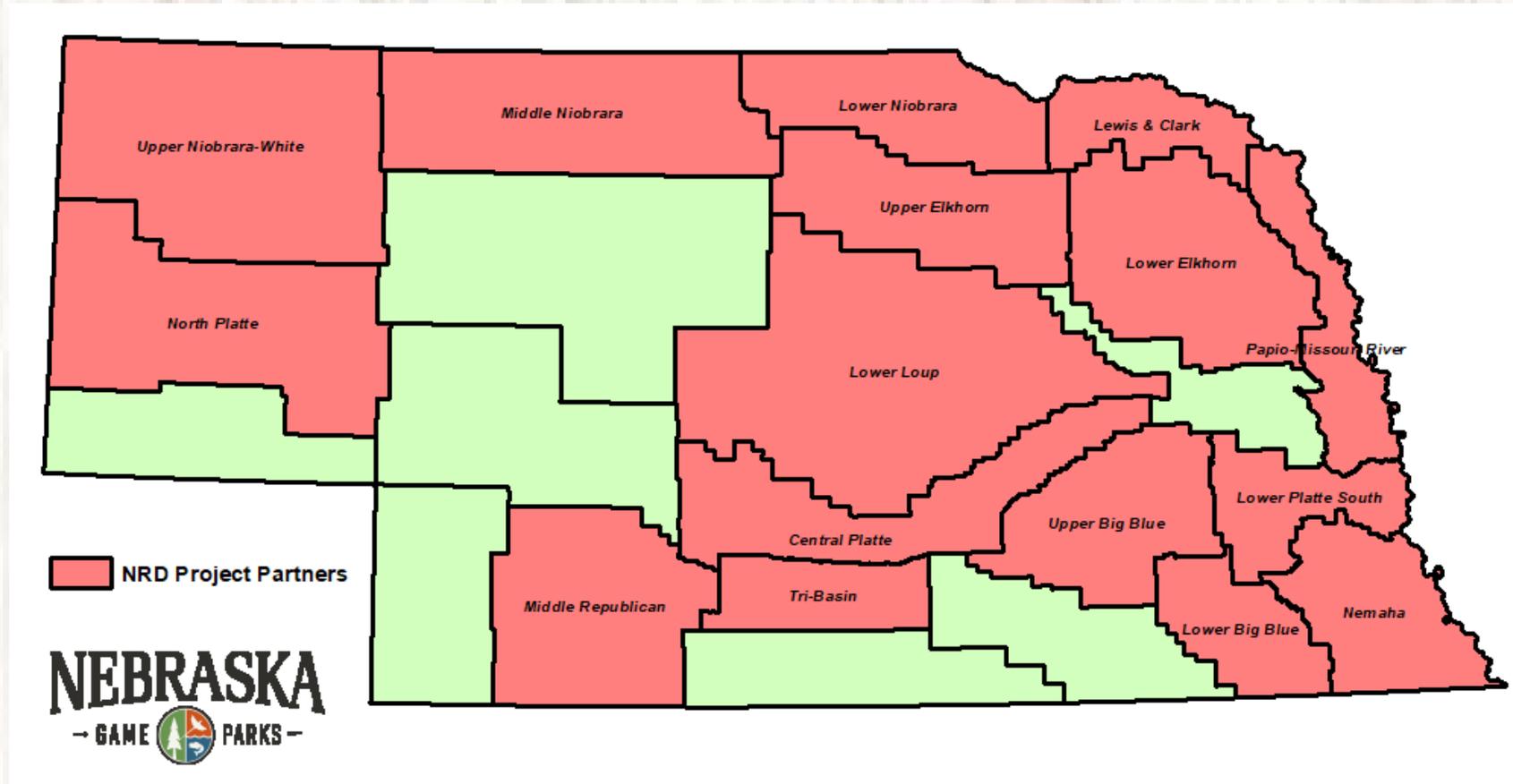
Partners and Roles

RESTORE – RENOVATE – RECOVER

Leverage statewide network of Nebraska natural resource organizations to provide technical and financial resources to landowners to restore the quality, sustainability and resiliency of Nebraska's trees and forests

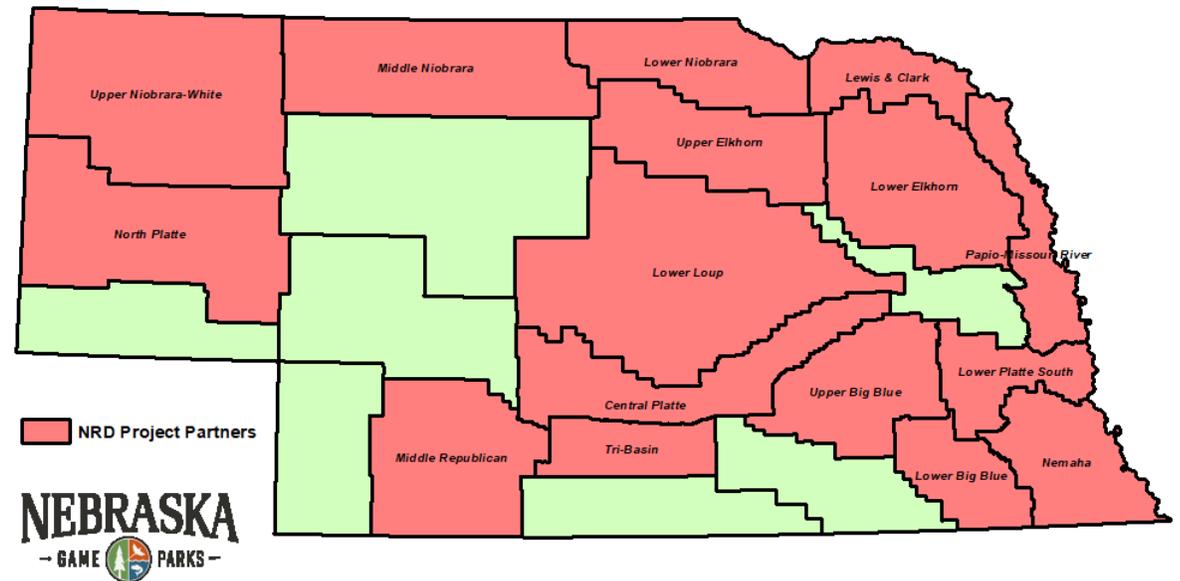


The "Partnership"



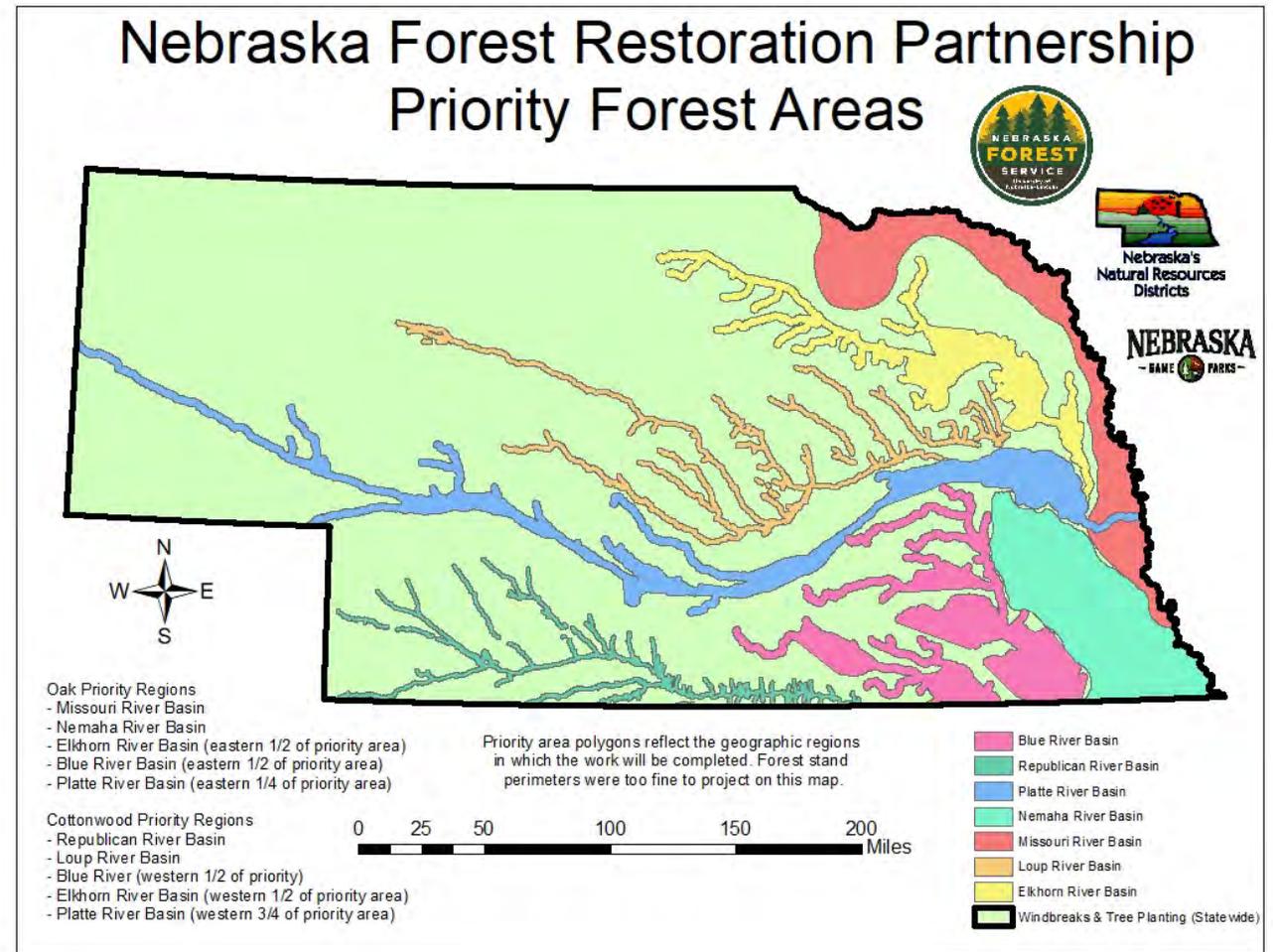
Natural Resource Districts

- Program available in participating NRDs
- Lead implementation of tree planting practices
 - Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment
 - Windbreak/Shelterbelt Renovation
 - Tree/Shrub Establishment
 - Tree/Shrub Site Preparation
- Utilize their local cost docket to set prices and declare funded practices
- Funding administered through existing NRD program processes



NFS and NGPC

- Program available in identified priority areas
 - Based on NFS Priority Forest Landscapes and NGPC Biologically-Unique Landscapes
- Lead implementation of forest management practices
 - Forest Stand Improvement
 - Fence
- Practice costs based on statewide EQIP payment schedule



NFS and NGPC

Duties	Nebraska Forest Service	Nebraska Game and Parks Commission
Develop “Forest Stewardship Management Plan” (FSMP) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • USFS mandated property-level, “all stands” forest management plan • To be developed in online “Stewardship Mapping And Reporting Tool” 	X	
Develop practice plans (based on recommendations from FSMP) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project-specific management plan • Detail management prescriptions • To be developed in new online portal <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Currently under development 	X	X
Complete financial agreement with landowners <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1-2 page to accompany practice plan • Including W-9/ACH with UNL 	X	
Provide guidance to contractors during project	X	X
Certify projects as complete	X	X
Process payments for landowners	X	

NRCS

- Verifying landowner eligibility
 - HEL compliance
 - Wetland conservation compliance
- Historically underserved certification
- Provide farm tract number





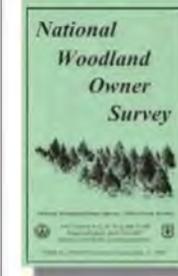
Landowner Outreach and Capacity Building

- Workshops
- “Walk in the Woods”
- Technical Trainings
- Hands-on Technology Transfer



Landowner Outreach

- Tree and forest management goes beyond financial assistance
- Goals:
 - Engage landowners in forest stewardship
 - Empower landowners to make confident management decisions
- Activities Planned
 - Hands-on tech transfer workshops
 - Basic forest management workshops (emphasizing specific-topics such as wildlife habitat)
 - “Walk in the Woods” showcasing planned or completed management projects



NWOS Table Maker Ver 2.0

(based on data collected from 2011 to 2013)
 USDA Forest Service
 Forest Inventory and Analysis Program
 National Woodland Owner Survey
 160 Holdsworth Hall
 Amherst, MA 01003
 (413) 545-1387
 Email: bbutler01@fs.fed.us
<http://www.fia.fs.fed.us/nwos>

Area

Area of private forests (thousands of acres)

in Nebraska, where private ownership is Family Minimum acres=10

	None
Management - Plan Implementation	Total
Total	1,188
Yes	145
No	969
No answer	73
Other	-

in Nebraska, where private ownership is Family Minimum acres=10

	None
Management -Reasons for no plan	Total
I don't want/need one	194
Reason for not having a management plan - too busy	48
Reason for not having a management plan - too expensive	73
Reason for not having a management plan - too complicated	48
Reason for not having a management plan - other	145

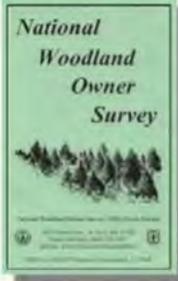
Statewide Capacity Building

- Forestry is not a common specialty across Nebraska natural resource organizations
 - Or for Nebraska landowners
- Statewide significant staffing changes/recent hires
- Goals:
 - Increase the capacity of natural resource professionals to identify management needs and prescribe management activities
 - Increase collaboration and interaction between organizations
- Activities Planned
 - Technical trainings for natural resource professionals
 - leveraging the expertise of NFS, NRDs, NGPC, NRCS, USFS to better meet the needs of landowners

UPCOMING ONLINE WINDBREAK SERIES



National Woodland Owner Survey



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Area

Area of private forests (thousands of acres)

in Nebraska, where private ownership is
Family Minimum acres=10

	None
Management - Plan Writer	Total
Total	1,188
The owner	24
Private consultant forester	-
Forest industry forester	-
State or local government forester	73
Federal government forester	-
Other	24
No answer	97
Skipped	969
Not asked	-



Current Status and Outlook



Current Status

- NFS and UNL are reviewing and completing entries into Programmatic Partnership Agreement
- NRDs are providing partnership and programmatic details to NFS
 - Including 2021 cost docket to be used
- Beginning discussions about outreach and promotion
- NFS and NGPC are identifying potential project for Forest Stand Improvement
- NFS developing online portal for practice plans
- NFS planning online windbreak technical training series
 - To begin early 2021
- Significant early interest from landowners and partners



Future Outlook

- Planning for program agreements in place in January
- Identifying projects and planning for future cost-share awards (i.e. spring 2021 windbreak plantings) can begin now
- Outreach and promotional information provided to partners
- Expect programmatic and process training to begin in January
 - Working in the online practice plan portal
 - Developing practice plans
 - Certifying projects
 - Documenting progress
 - Submitting reimbursement invoices (NRDs)



Questions?

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