

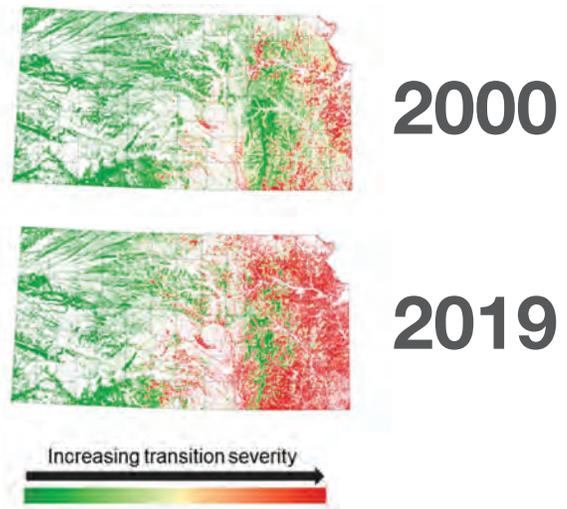
RANCHER DRIVEN, SCIENCE INFORMED, AGENCY SUPPORTED

Transitioning from productive grassland to woody plant dominance is the greatest threat facing grasslands in Kansas. Ranchers have new tools, science, and a funding opportunity to help address woody plant encroachment on targeted rangelands through the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

Woody plant encroachment puts pressure on working rangelands by decreasing livestock production and increasing wildfire risk as well as harming grassland biodiversity and increasing threat to animal species living in this biome.

New scientific tools now provide unprecedented opportunities to track woody encroachment and develop strategic approaches to combat it. When combined with landowner expertise, Kansas ranchers and NRCS can defend intact grasslands, reduce vulnerability to future encroachment, and cut long-term maintenance costs.

USDA NRCS is adopting a new approach to addressing this widespread threat through the Kansas Great Plains Grassland Initiative (GPGI). The initiative is part of the NRCS Working Lands for Wildlife (WLFW) framework calling to conserve the last remaining iconic grassland regions in the Great Plains biome.



GPGI provides technical and financial resources to eligible ranchers in specific geographic rangelands to address woody plant encroachment. This initiative provides an opportunity for producers to reduce the vulnerability of Kansas core grasslands from woody encroachment.

Core grasslands include targeted areas within the Flint Hills, Gypsum Hills, and Smoky Hills regions of Kansas.

Treatment strategies will rely on an integrated pest management conservation system plan to manage woody species encroachment on identified planned land units (PLUs) within the core grassland areas.

**KANSAS GREAT PLAINS
GRASSLAND INITIATIVE**

KANSAS GREAT PLAINS GRASSLAND INITIATIVE



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Natural Resources Conservation Service

CALL TO ACTION

Producers managing grasslands throughout Kansas can implement this new approach to combating woody encroachment. Refer to details of this new approach in Reducing Woody Encroachment in Grasslands (<https://wfw.rangelands.app/great-plains/>).

Producers in targeted rangelands are eligible to receive Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) funding related to addressing woody plant encroachment.

Please visit <https://www.farmers.gov/coronavirus/service-center-status> to check the status of your local USDA Service Center or to locate and schedule an appointment.

Learn more about the Kansas GPPI at:

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/ks/programs/financial/eqip/?cid=NRCSEPRD1763028>

Kansas GPPI Core Grassland Areas



**Kansas NRCS State Office
Salina, Kansas
785.823.4500**

WORKING LANDS FOR WILDLIFE

Working Lands for Wildlife (WLFW) is the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service's (NRCS) premier approach for conserving America's working lands to benefit people, wildlife and rural communities.

WLFW uses win-win solutions to target voluntary, incentive-based conservation that improves agricultural productivity and wildlife habitat on working lands.

In 2020, a multi-state areawide planning initiative produced the first biome-scale frameworks for wildlife conservation on sustainable working rangelands in the Great Plains grasslands and sagebrush biome.

This initiative features two action-based frameworks for 2021-2025 focused on addressing the most severe and large-scale threats to biomes: exotic annual grass invasion, woodland expansion, land use conversion, and riparian/meadow degradation.

Learn more at: <https://www.farmers.gov/consERVE/wildlife>

