



The Nebraska  
Environmental Trust

*preserving NATURAL NEBRASKA™ for future generations*

# 2013 Annual Report

**“Water, Wildlife and Wetlands”**



The Nebraska Environmental Trust  
is funded by the Nebraska Lottery

# NEBRASKA ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST 2013 BOARD



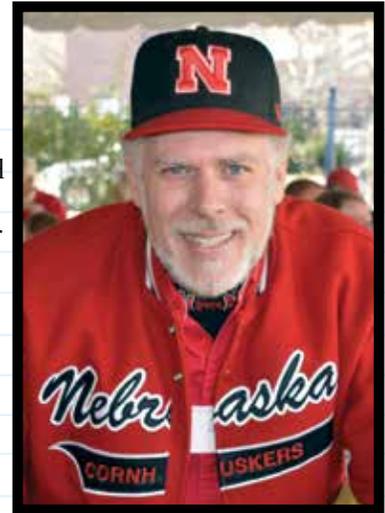
Front row (left to right): Dr. Acierno, Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services;  
Barb Batie, Lexington; Brian Dunnigan, Nebraska Department of Natural Resources;  
Greg Ibach, Nebraska Department of Agriculture; Robert Krohn, Omaha; Henry “Rick” Brandt, Roca.

Second row (left to right): Paul Dunn, Omaha; James Stuart, Jr., Lincoln; Sherry Vinton, Whitman;  
Gloria Erickson, Holdrege; Jim Douglas, Nebraska Game & Parks Commission; Gerry Lauritzen, Omaha.

Back row (left to right): Mike Linder, Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality;  
Rod Christen, Steinauer.

## MESSAGE FROM BOARD CHAIR

As I write this, commercials are running for the annual showing of *Frosty the Snow Man*, a classic holiday special like so many others. My favorite part of this particular show is that every time the magic hat is placed on Frosty's head he shouts out Happy Birthday! Maybe we should all look at life like Frosty, come to life and shout out Happy Birthday—every day—what could it hurt! The Trust has finished up the year-long celebration of our 20th Birthday, making us 21 and legal I guess, so Happy Birthday! But every year is a special birthday for the Trust and to the state, to the flora and fauna, the creepy crawlers, the critters, the shoots of grass and towering trees, the blossoms, the people and most of all, the future of Natural Nebraska and all of us. Each year we start new projects, we gain new partners, have new adventures and learn new things.



Besides birthdays, this last year has been a year of goodbyes as well; a lesson well taught by Frosty to his special friend Karen. This year, three people connected with the founding of the Trust, have moved on. Vince Kramper was a board member from the beginning, but due to redistricting was ineligible to be reappointed but I think having a lake named after you is a nice consolation prize. Rex Amack, Nebraska's longest serving Director of Game and Parks decided to trade in his desk for more time in a duck blind. Leaving at the end of the year is Mike Linder, Director of the Department of Environmental Quality (NDEQ) who was the legal counsel of NDEQ when the Trust was started and helped write the foundation documents of the Trust before becoming part of the board when elevated to Director of NDEQ. Two others leaving the board have been Dr Joann Schaffer, the State's Chief Medical Officer who is now in a newly created job in the insurance industry. John Campbell, who represented the second district, decided to retire and enjoy life and look for new adventures.

So now Gloria Erickson and I are the old folks on the Board and we welcome four great new people: Henry (Rick) Brand representing District I, Gerry Lauritzen representing District II, Jim Douglas the new Director of Game and Parks and Dr Joseph Acierno Chief Medical Officer. Joining us before year's end is the acting Director of NDEQ Pat Rice.

If you remember the original Frosty the Snowman special, you'll remember there are moments of drama and rejoicing; of being divided, alone and coming together. That's much how this and most years have been for the Trust. But unlike Frosty, we're not waving goodbye, we're here to stay.

With gratitude,

Paul L Dunn

P.S. Besides Christmas specials I've also had time to watch the preliminary version of the Trust's new promotional video that will be making the rounds to a service organization or club near you. How do you tell the story of 20 plus years, \$200 million dollars and countless organizations and not turn it into a mini-series? You'll have to see for yourself. Contact a board member or the Trust office to arrange a showing for your organization of any size.

# WATER, WILDLIFE AND WETLANDS

The Trust experienced an extraordinary year in 2013. Approximately 134 projects were funded totaling \$24,247,260 in grant awards. This was a record disbursement for the Trust resulting from high lottery proceeds and project refunds. Once again, the grants made a huge impact across the state of Nebraska benefiting all 93 counties with over 1,500 projects since 1993. Support for the Trust has been immense and citizens from all across Nebraska have expressed their support and appreciation for the work of the Trust and for the projects that have come forth from all the grants which otherwise would not have been possible.

The Trust has the Nebraska Lottery to thank for being one of its beneficiaries. The Trust receives 44.5 percent of Lottery proceeds after the first \$500,000 is paid to the Compulsive Gamblers Fund.

The theme for this year's Annual Report is "Water, Wildlife and Wetlands", focusing on two of our five funding categories. Habitat; Surface and Groundwater; Waste Management and Recycling; Soil Management and Air Quality. The Annual Report this year will focus on the areas of Habitat and Surface and Groundwater. These funding categories will be revisited in 2015 with several Roundtable meetings being held in different locations of the state. Anyone who would like their voice heard should stay tuned to the Trust's website or newsletter to come for one of these meetings.

The Trust would certainly not exist without the multitude of support received from its partners, grantees and interested citizens. It is with this support that the Trust has thrived in the programs and projects undertaken. In 2014, the Trust will announce its 21st round of award recommendations in February. The Trust is proud to have worked with so many positive individuals, groups and organizations in fulfilling its mission and goals. Serving the citizens of Nebraska will always be a top

priority for the Trust. Corresponding pages will illustrate examples of some of the finest projects our grantees have put forth.

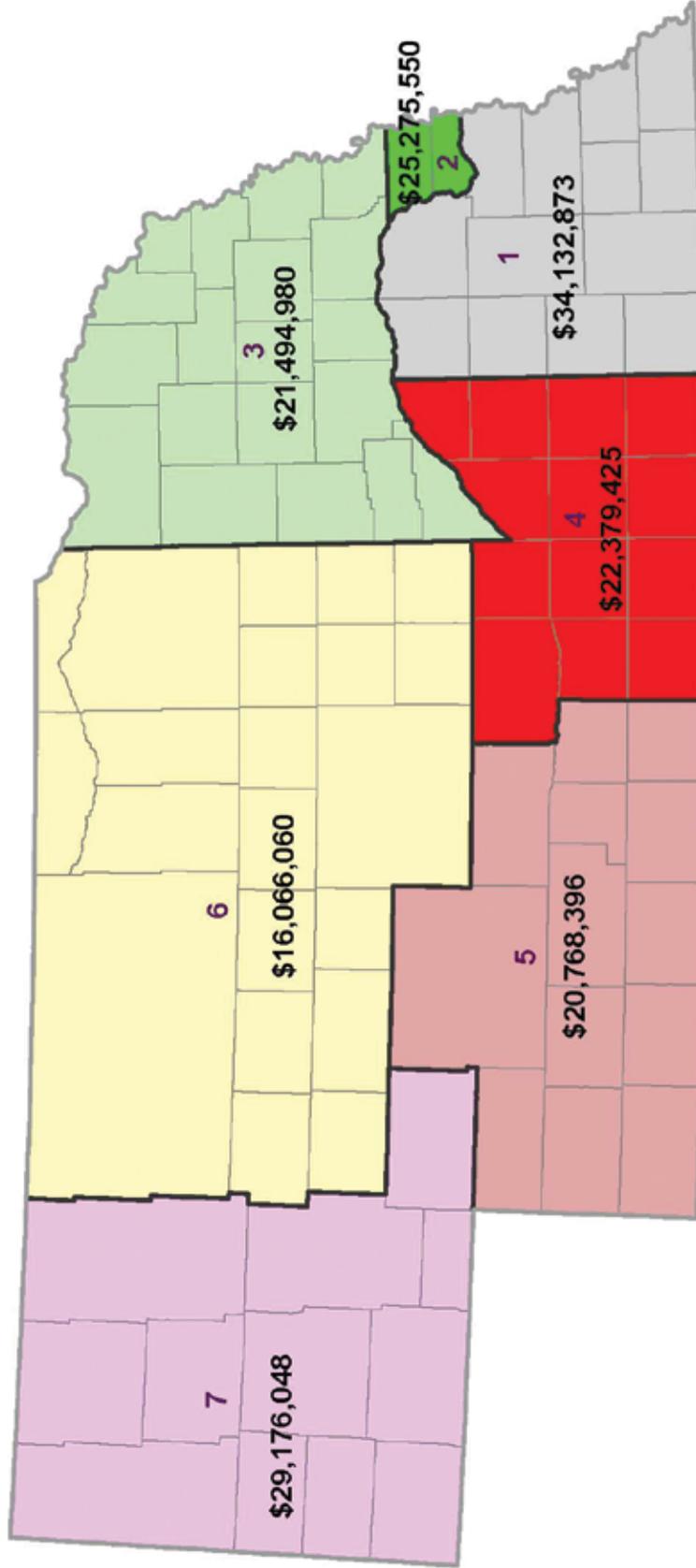
It only seems appropriate to re-state the mission of the Nebraska Environmental Trust:

***The Nebraska Environmental Trust is established to conserve, enhance and restore the natural environments of Nebraska. A prosperous future requires a sound natural environment. We must act dynamically, progressively and systematically to ensure bountiful and thriving natural resources.***

***The Trust is to complement existing activities, stimulate private investment and emphasize long term gain. The Trust is to lead in the development of a vision of Nebraska's future environment. The Trust is to collaborate with public and private efforts to achieve that vision.***

# GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF AWARDS 1994 - 2013

## Geographic Distribution of Awards (1994 - 2013) Nebraska Environmental Trust



	1994-2012 Awards	2013 Awards
1	\$30,999,183	\$3,133,690
2	\$18,434,889	\$6,840,661
3	\$20,643,425	\$ 851,555
4	\$20,604,683	\$1,774,742
5	\$18,378,133	\$2,390,263
6	\$14,592,550	\$1,473,510
7	\$28,432,096	\$ 743,952
Statewide	\$39,235,117	\$7,038,886

Figures on the map represent geographic area award totals for 1994 - 2013: \$169,293,333

Awards with Statewide Benefits for 1994-2013 (not included in map figures): \$46,274,003

Total Amount Awarded  
1994 - 2013: \$215,567,336



Nebraska Environmental Trust  
Revised 04/13

**C**onserving Water Through Irrigation Management - University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Irrigation accounts for over ninety percent of the annual withdrawal of freshwater from groundwater and surface water supplies in Nebraska and surrounding states. Withdrawals affect groundwater storage and streamflow, but also support a strong irrigated agricultural economy. Their goal is to educate irrigators and water management personnel to implement improved management practices to conserve water and energy, maximize the productivity of water supplies and protect the quality of water resources by reducing runoff and deep percolation.



The project focuses on preparing and delivering educational programs for irrigators and center-pivot industry personnel across the state to highlight new technology and management practices that help reduce groundwater pumping or surface water diversion. Educational efforts to conserve water simultaneously reduce energy consumption through pumpage reduction. Attendance in daylong workshops during the project exceeded 1,000 irrigators and water managers. They also developed a Center Pivot Management CD Handbook for use in the workshops and as a stand-alone reference document. Educational programs were held at the Husker Harvest Days to reach an audience that may not typically attend Extension programs. Management practice changes through education have long-lasting impacts as improved practices occur annually in the future. The project involves a partnership of the University of Nebraska Extension in the Biological Systems Engineering Department and the Nebraska center pivot manufacturers (Lindsay Corporation, Reinke Manufacturing Company, Inc., T-L Irrigation Company and Valmont Industries, Inc.), the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources and the Nebraska Environmental Trust. Funding from the center pivot manufacturers augments support from the Trust. The project is a unique partnership between agricultural, environmental and water resource management personnel to build a program to improve management of scarce water resources. The program is receiving attention within Nebraska and in surrounding states.

**C**offin Springs Watershed Erosion Repair - Fontenelle Nature Association

The 1,400 acre Fontenelle Forest, near Bellevue, Nebraska, has roughly half its acreage in the steep and highly erodible loess bluffs bordering the Missouri River. The upland bluff region is divided into seven major watersheds. Four of these are entirely within the Forest boundary and their protective cover of trees and native ground cover helps control erosion and maintains a natural hydrology.



Three of the larger watersheds, however, extend beyond the Fontenelle boundary into a large region altered by subdivision development. These housing areas were built in the 1960's and 70's, before the advent of regulations controlling the discharge of storm water. Storm runoff from hundreds of roof tops and adjoining driveways and streets generates damaging storm surges that flow through Fontenelle Forest, then directly into the Missouri River or onto wetlands on the Forest's floodplain.

Over time these storm surges have caused severe soil erosion, toppled trees, washed away hiking trails and foot bridges and contributed to silting in of valuable spring fed wetlands. The scope and severity of the problem was enormous and solutions required the help of other agencies. Fontenelle staff organized a watershed task force whose members included Fontenelle Forest, City of Bellevue, Papio-Missouri NRD and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The Corps offered to conduct a watershed stabilization study and to propose engineered solutions.

Enter the Nebraska Environmental Trust and a \$50,000 cost share grant to help fund the watershed study. The study, which documented problems and proposed solutions, has since been the basis of additional grant requests to stabilize and repair the three watersheds. To date NET has funded five cost share grants totaling \$1,316,648 toward watershed solutions. Repairs include replacing concrete storm channel flumes with native grass cover, building basins to contain storm surges, extending and redirecting culverts and filling in and stabilizing washed out slopes. The improvements offer immediate and long lasting protection. Work on the smallest of the three watersheds was completed in August 2011. Just three weeks later, the Bellevue area received a six inch rainstorm. The watershed repairs functioned as designed with no new erosion. Fontenelle Forest wrote, "Without the help of the Nebraska Environmental Trust, repair work of this scope and expense would not be possible. Thank you NET!"

## Analyzing Western Nebraska Hydrogeology - North Platte Natural Resources District

In an effort to provide the most accurate and up-to-date information to our water managers, the North Platte, South Platte, and Twin Platte Natural Resources Districts (NRDs) continue to innovate and improve our water management tools. The NRDs have partnered with the Environmental Trust and the U.S. Geological Survey to provide three dimensional maps of aquifers within fully and overappropriated portions of the Platte River Basin. The airborne and surface geophysics, when used with traditional geologic methods, will provide a substantially more accurate data interpretation. The maps will be used to enhance understanding of the hydrogeologic framework and reduce uncertainty within ground and surface water models. The models will be used to evaluate impacts of water management decisions.



In western Nebraska, water management is essential to preserving our natural resources. The NRDs have to find the balance between our agricultural based economy, habitat preservation, downstream demands and municipality needs. Finding this balance will help Platte River Basin communities plan for the future. The project fits in perfectly with the Trust's goals "to conserve, enhance, and restore the natural environments of Nebraska". A better understanding of the connectivity between surface and ground water will allow our models to more accurately depict the workings of our water system. With a better understanding, water managers can make sound management decisions to protect the water supply. "It has been a privilege to partner with an organization such as the Nebraska Environmental Trust. Our partnership will provide the water managers in the Platte River Basin with the most up-to-date and reliable information possible and help several of the communities that rely on the river a chance to prosper." - General Manager John Berge.

Irrigation Water Management Monitoring Program  
- Lower Niobrara NRD

In 2009 the Lower Niobrara Natural Resource District received a grant from the Nebraska Environmental Trust to create an irrigation water management monitoring program. This program was developed on the premise of a cost share on irrigation flow meters. This cost share program provided incentive for producers to install flow meters on their irrigation system. This three year grant resulted in the installation of 85 flow meters across the District.



The flowmeters have had a huge impact on producers. They were surprised at how much water they were actually using now that they could tell by using their flow meters. By knowing how much water they were putting on, they could determine overtime how much water was actually needed and some producers were able to cut back 2-3 rounds with their irrigation system. This difference in water usage is not only important in maintaining the sustainability of our groundwater supply, but also in protecting the quality of our groundwater. By using less water, the applied fertilizer has less opportunity to leach into our groundwater. Several producers remarked on how it saved them in fertilizer costs by cutting the amount needed. By knowing your acre inches applied by your flow meter measurement, producers were able to calculate how much nitrogen credit they were getting in their water, further reducing their input costs and unnecessary nitrogen being applied.

By managing the irrigation water being applied a producer is able to dramatically reduce the amount of runoff carrying various crop chemicals into susceptible wildlife habitat. Areas such as drainages, wetlands and riparian areas contain some very delicate plants, insects and other organisms that are vital to the ecosystem. In our State's recent past we have seen a decline in our wetland areas. These areas are crucial in removing pollutants and chemicals that we expose the environment to, and are also a key habit area to many organisms. Wetlands are dependent on the water table keeping its hydric soils saturated and when that water table drops it can no longer support the unique environment associated with wetlands.

These producers are also gaining interest in more conservation practices. They are becoming more aware of no-till farming, variable rate irrigation systems and soil moisture monitoring. These flow meters opened the eyes of producers and opened doors for them to manage their operations in a sustainable fashion that is getting the attention of all who see their success.

**B**ridging The Gap in Source Water Protection - The Groundwater Foundation

Since its inception the Nebraska Environmental Trust has played a significant role in making the Groundwater Foundation's projects successful, and it does make a difference! Recently the Editorial Board of the Lincoln Journal Star wrote: "There is not a shred of doubt that the Groundwater Foundation's work has been instrumental in increasing awareness and knowledge about groundwater...Now generation after generation of children have learned the basics of hydrology, which makes it easier to create sound public policy on use of the water that all people must share."



This does not mean that the work is done, nor does it mean we expect the next generation to find all of the solutions. In fact, the Groundwater Foundation continues to develop and implement projects that educate people and inspire action to ensure clean, sustainable groundwater for future generations. An example is Bridging the Gap in Source Water Protection project, which is funded in part by the Trust. The project fosters water conservation and protection in individuals by showcasing best management efforts that have had proven environmental benefits. It provides Nebraskans with the tools to replicate these practices in their everyday life. This project addresses the fact that most people are not aware of the impact their practices have on our finite resource – and it enables them to turn their actions into a positive impact!

The work the Trust has made happen has benefitted communities across the state – and therefore is playing a significant role in ensuring that our future generations will benefit from our life-sustaining resource, groundwater!

## Waterwise Landscape Initiatives - Nebraska Statewide Arboretum

Water, our most precious resource, is poorly managed in most communities. Nebraska ranks the fifth highest in the nation in community per/capita water consumption. Most of this water is used for landscape irrigation, a usage further increased by recent drought. Nebraska communities also are facing water quality issues—non-point source pollution, bank-erosion and increased temperatures—caused by stormwater runoff.



Habitat is also critical. In the United States we now have 4 million miles of roads and 62 million acres in mowed grass. Nebraska Statewide Arboretum (NSA) is addressing these problems through innovative initiatives aimed at enhancing green infrastructure in Nebraska communities. NSA's Waterwise Initiative, Trees For Nebraska Towns and Sustainable Schoolyard Initiative focus on water conservation and water quality landscapes, while providing habitat through use of native and regionally adapted plant materials.

Through the Waterwise Initiative, NSA is increasing public awareness of green infrastructure's many benefits and encouraging communities to adopt solutions wherever possible. We also want to empower Nebraska citizens, through outreach and demonstration projects, to make choices in their own landscapes on behalf of the environment. Projects completed in Omaha used cutting edge design principles which are now being adopted throughout the region, and shared with colleagues around the U.S. In Scottsbluff, a project that removed concrete to capture stormwater in parking lots has led to conversation, design and action in greening other areas of the downtown.

The Nebraska Environmental Trust has been critical to the Arboretum's success in implementing community landscape projects, giving more than \$5 million toward the projects above and an older Green Space Initiative. Through these programs, 500 sustainable landscape projects have been implemented in more than 168 Nebraska communities—and they continue to seek project partners and allocate dollars.

These projects have encouraged and enabled Nebraska communities to use environmentally-sound landscape practices that conserve water, improve water quality, create habitat, improve air, save energy and restore community forests. The ultimate goal of these efforts is to change how we think about our landscapes—our yards, streets, or parks—from an ornamental to an ecological view. The momentum is building, the body of research is growing and federal non-point source pollution regulations are helping the cause. The next step is to focus more on our community spaces as habitat, so there is still a lot to learn.

**W**ater Exhibit Renovation - Lincoln Children's Museum

The Water exhibit at Lincoln Children's Museum fosters a greater understanding of the impact all living creatures have on water, our most valuable natural resource. The hands-on educational experience that happens in this space would be impossible without the funding provided by the Nebraska Environmental Trust.



The exhibit spans approximately 2,000 square feet and rises 18 feet into the air. Its most prominent feature—a mountain—contains a splash table for toddlers to discover the uniqueness of water's movement, viscosity and texture. Rain falls from clouds onto the mountain and forms streams, eventually working its way to the river demonstrating the water cycle to older children. Vibrant, educational signage reinforces the importance of pollution control, water conservation and the protection of all natural resources.

"The impact this exhibit makes is unmistakable," said Museum Executive Director Paul Durban. "Parents and grandparents learn alongside their little ones. Collectively, they deepen their appreciation for what makes the good life great. The exhibit reinforces stewardship today to reduce negative impact on future generations."

A record attendance was achieved in 2012 with more than 170,000 people visiting. The Museum is on track to achieve the same goal in 2013. While the majority of visitors come from Lincoln, more than 35% visit from outside of the city limits. Additionally, school groups visit from a diverse segment of the state, including nearby locations like Beatrice, Crete, Wahoo and Fremont as well as more distant locales such as Norfolk, Amherst, Bloomfield and Falls City. Furthermore, the Museum has welcomed more than 2.5 million guests in its nearly 25-year history.

**W**ildlife Habitat Improvement Through Prescribed Grazing - Nebraska Game & Parks Commission

The plant and animal life of Nebraska's pre-settlement wetlands were highly adapted to a variety of natural disturbances, including grazing. Historically these wetlands were grazed by large herds of bison and elk. Periodic prescribed grazing is essential to maintain and enhance wetland quality, plant and animal communities, and ecosystem processes. Today, we do not have large herds of wild bison and elk in many parts of Nebraska, so to obtain the needed grazing disturbance, we use cattle and prescribed grazing to better manage wetlands by improving the diversity of plant community structure, increasing seed producing annual plants that provide wildlife food and helping to control invasive plant species.



To address the need to have the option to better manage wetlands using prescribed grazing, the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission has obtained four grants from the Nebraska Environmental Trust over the past 10 years. Grant funds were used to improve grazing infrastructure on Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) and Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) tracts. For the three grants that have been completed, a total of 23 different private landowners enrolled in WRP have benefited, resulting in the improvement of over 7,000 acres of habitat on private lands, and a total of 21 WMAs have been upgraded, resulting in the improvement of over 12,000 acres of public land habitat. Partners to these grants have included private landowners, Nebraska Cattlemen and the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

## Pheasants Forever

For the past 19 years, the Trust has been one of the most critical partners in the state in delivering the habitat mission of Pheasants Forever (PF) and Quail Forever (QF). Over that two decade period, this partnership has produced many programs that address our joint wildlife habitat and water quality concerns. Nearly every one of these partnerships is an innovative program that was first developed in Nebraska and then successfully exported to other areas of the country.



Some of the successful habitat and water-quality partnerships include:

**The Grassland Improvement Program:** a program that assists landowners in improving the forage quality of grasslands in the state by removing invasive cedar trees, conducting prescribed burns and establishing rotational grazing systems. The program is offered in selected areas of the state and fully enrolled each year within a 30-day period.

**Corners For Wildlife Program:** The flagship partnership with the Trust has been offered to landowners across the state since 1995 and establishes high-quality wildlife habitat on the corners of center pivot irrigation systems. The wildlife benefits are obvious, but it also produces significant water quality and soil saving benefits. Since 1995, the program has enrolled 10,710 acres across the state.

**No-till Grass Drills:** The Trust has partnered with local PF and QF chapters to purchase 41 no-till grass drills since 1996. These drills are needed to plant the specific habitat mixtures designed to produce high quality wildlife habitat across the state.

**Public Information Events:** Since 2004, the Trust has worked to help PF and QF conduct 419 events for 10,376 landowners, resource professionals and the general public. Some of these events include prescribed burn workshops, habitat tours, CRP signup meetings and Habitat Help events. Each year, an average of 90 events are held for the public across the state.

**Safe & Effective Prescribed Burning:** Beginning in 2008, the Trust has supported prescribed burning activities in the state by helping obtain prescribed burn equipment, host training events and support the formation of local prescribed burn associations. To date, those activities have helped conduct 414 prescribed burns on 27,199 acres across the state.

Like all great partnerships, these successful programs have included additional partners that include the Nebraska Game & Parks Commission, USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service, Natural Resource Districts, US Fish & Wildlife Service and others.

## Wild Nebraska Program - Nebraska Game & Parks Commission

The Nebraska Environmental Trust has been critical in helping the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission meet its mission of: "Stewardship of the state's fish, wildlife, park, and outdoor recreation resources in the best long-term interests of the people and those resources." In particular, the private lands section (or Partners Section) of the Commission has greatly benefited from our relationship with the Trust.

Over 97% of Nebraska is in private ownership, which means some of our greatest impact on habitat and wildlife resources is in partnership with the many landowners of the state. These lands provide livelihood and quality of life to many Nebraska residents (and non-residents).

Opportunities to view and harvest wildlife generate a large economic impact to the state at \$654 million per year. The WILD-Nebraska program works with a variety of partners, both government and non-government to enhance habitat to benefit the wildlife resources of the state.

Since 2011, the WILD-Nebraska program has impacted over 4,353 acres of grassland, 25,451 acres of wetlands, and 160 acres of woodlands in 28 counties across the state. In addition to the direct benefit of habitat enhancements, such as grassland renovations, wetland restoration and enhancement of native woodlands, Commission staff and our many partners provide technical assistance to landowners about wildlife habitat benefits and techniques.

Below is an example of a project that was completed through the WILD-Nebraska program: it involved a slough restoration along a river. Backwater sloughs along the river have become silted in and invasive species such as cattails, reed canary grass, Russian Olives and Eastern Red Cedars have become established. Cedar and Russian Olive removal was done on 25 acres within the 110 acre project area before the slough restoration. This project benefited many game and non-game species along the river corridor. The pictures below show a before and after project view.



### Tallgrass Prairie Conservation on Private Lands IV - Northern Prairies Land Trust

Tallgrass prairie and oak woodlands are among the most threatened habitats in North America and southeast Nebraska contains some of the largest and highest quality remaining areas of these habitats. Most are privately owned, making cooperation between landowners and conservationists essential for their conservation. Many of the prairies and woodlands are threatened by encroachment of invasive plants, inadequate grazing practices, and lack of fire. Consequently, in 2003, we formed a partnership involving agencies, private conservation organizations, and landowner groups with several objectives: 1) improve the native vegetation of the tallgrass prairie and oak woodland remnants, 2) improve wildlife habitat for the benefit of at-risk species, 3) improve the long-term economic sustainability of the prairies and oak woodlands, and 4) Provide landowners and communities information about prairie ecology and management. Once we began working in the area, word spread quickly among landowners wanting to initiate projects on their land and little promotion was needed.

To date, we have worked with over 150 landowners to enhance nearly 60,000 acres of tallgrass prairie and oak woodlands. Initially, mechanical removal of invasive trees was the primary conservation practice implemented on project sites. However, we have never viewed tree clearing, as an end in itself, but rather a means to promote sustainable, and ecologically sound grazing practices using prescribed fire. Evidence of landowner acceptance is demonstrated by the fact that prescribed fire is becoming our primary project type and tree clearing is playing a reduced role.

We are beginning to change the land management traditions in the area. Farmers and ranchers, even many with whom we have never worked, are implementing new grazing strategies and prescribed fire on their own. Over the next few years, we hope to continue to expand our efforts to preserve ecologically and economically important prairies and woodlands.



## **E**nhancing Habitat Management in Nebraska - Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory

The Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory (RMBO) works across the western plains and inter-mountain west to conserve grassland habitat and species, conducting their work through a combination of science, stewardship, and education. Using education and outreach as the primary tools, RMBO has been working to conserve and enhance habitat in the Nebraska panhandle through funding from the Nebraska Environmental Trust. They believe that life-long conservation education curricula targeting K-12 students, resource professionals, and area landowners and ranchers is an integral part of conserving Nebraska's biologically unique landscape. Here in the panhandle, RMBO aims to create a more environmentally-literate citizenry.



Education, whether in a classroom setting, a landowner-focused workshop, or at an Earth Day Festival, is a necessary part of habitat and water conservation. The programs that they run reach at least a third of the panhandle students every year, and by working with pre-school students through high school, we help ensure that students receive multiple opportunities to interact with the natural world of the panhandle. As RMBO continues and expands its work here in western Nebraska, they are looking for new ways to connect and interact with the local community. By increasing their programs for the general public, including a citizen science program focused on swift fox population surveys and an annual Earth Day Festival held in conjunction with local partners, they will grow support for habitat and species conservation.

Working with the Trust over the years has provided RMBO with the necessary funds to start and fully implement many successful education programs that continue to reach students and adults every year. Programs such as the Educational Bird Banding Stations would not be the success they are without the funding of the Environmental Trust, and the Trust's backing of habitat enhancement and conservation through education.

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**W**etland Habitat Restoration, Protection, Enhancement - Rainwater Basin Joint Venture (RWBJV)

The Nebraska Environmental Trust grant provided the RWBJV partners \$320,000, these funds have been matched with \$337,800 in partner funds to benefit 4,050 acres (2,500 wetland and 1,550 adjacent upland acres). Project acres were roughly split between public and private lands. On public lands the Nebraska Environmental Trust dollars were matched with agency funds to develop livestock grazing infrastructure. This infrastructure included perimeter fence, cross fence, livestock wells, and pipelines. This infrastructure has allowed public land managers to more effectively manage their wetlands and promote desired habitat conditions.



On private lands two major projects were completed as part of the Wetlands Reserve Enhancement Program. The program provides financial incentives to local landowners to restore flood prone cropland to wetland habitat. The Nebraska Environmental Trust funds applied to these projects were used to modify pivot irrigation systems to reduce impact to the wetland and offset restoration and easement costs.

Programs like the RWBJV's Working Lands Initiative and Wetland Reserve Enhancement Program have allowed the RWBJV partners new opportunities to ensure wetlands in the Rainwater Basin (RWB) can be integrated into agriculture operations.

The funding provided is critical for the RWBJV partners to implement conservation actions to benefit playa wetlands. The RWBJV partners actively match Nebraska Environmental Trust funds with other federal and nonfederal funds to complete these conservation actions. The projects completed as part of this grant positively impacted 25% of the remaining RWB wetlands.

**H**ydrologic Restoration of Rainwater Basin Wetlands - Friends of the Rainwater Basin

Friends of the Rainwater Basin is a grassroots organization formed by local duck hunters with an ultimate goal of having more hunting opportunities in the fall. At first, the goal was to pump groundwater into these wetlands, for hunting. However, the RWBJV partners worked with this group to develop a more long-term solution, watershed restoration to increase flooded acres and restore the hydrological function of RWB wetlands.



The Friends of the Rainwater Basin were awarded \$334,925. These funds were matched with \$482,750 from various conservation partners to fill 52 abandoned irrigation reuse pits in the watersheds of 18 public wetlands, owned and managed by the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. These watershed restoration actions are expected to directly impact 5,722 acres of playa wetlands. Annual monitoring completed by the RWBJV has documented a shift of 540 acres of upland vegetation communities, within the hydric soil footprint, that have transitioned to wetland vegetation communities. Much of this transition has been attributed to the RWBJV Watershed Restoration initiative, suggesting that ecological process and ecosystem services, like increased wildlife habitat, nutrient cycling and groundwater recharge are being achieved by these actions.

## North Platte River Alkaline Wetland Acquisition – Ducks Unlimited

With the success of the North Platte River Alkaline Wetlands Acquisition grant from the Nebraska Environmental Trust, Ducks Unlimited is excited to report the purchase of the Anest property in Morrill County. The property located just west of Bridgeport, Nebraska is a 246-acre tract of native grasslands and wetlands that provide unique seasonal wetland habitat to waterfowl and many other species of wildlife. The acquisition is the first of two planned acquisitions from the Anest family and will ultimately be owned and managed by the Platte River Basin Environments, Inc. The acquisitions are not only important because of the wetland habitat that will be restored and protected, but because the land will be open to a variety of public uses. The Anest properties are a rare mix of freshwater and alkaline wetlands, providing diverse habitats that will benefit migratory birds, upland game, and unique species such as tiger beetles. The shallow, ephemeral wetlands on the property will be particularly important to waterfowl during spring migration, when the wetlands will provide abundant food resources to waterfowl migrating north to their breeding grounds.



Beginning in 2001, Ducks Unlimited and the Nebraska Environmental Trust forged an important and innovative partnership dedicated to protecting and restoring key wetland complexes in critical regions of the state. Historically, Nebraska has lost over 90% of its wetlands in the heart of some of its most important wildlife landscapes. Because of the Trust's continued dedication to support these efforts, as a partnership we have conserved over 16,000 acres of habitat. The Trust has awarded Ducks Unlimited 19 grants for a total of over \$5.5 million. Through these awards, Ducks Unlimited and its partners have been able to leverage an additional \$17 million from federal programs, foundations and private donations.

## Spotted Tail Wetlands Complex, Tottenhoff Acquisition

The Spotted Tail Wetlands Complex – Tottenhoff Project focused on the acquisition, restoration and enhancement of an additional 250 acres to the now 1,500 acres wetland/riparian Spotted Tail Complex. The complex provides year round habitat for deer, turkey, upland and shore birds as well as significant spring and winter migration habitat for waterfowl and song birds. It is open to the public for a variety of recreational, educational and scientific uses.

Over the last twenty-four years, a significant portion of our efforts have been directed at water, wetlands and habitat. We believe and our science tells us, that water, wetland and habitat are important components to a healthy environment and wildlife population, all of which contribute to economic, social well being and quality of life for our state's population. One of the aims of Platte River Basin Environments, Inc., is to assist in the stabilization of North Platte River stream flows through ground water recharge, improvement of wetland habitat for waterfowl and other aquatic life, and filtration of the water before returning it to the stream, thus reducing silt load. Maintaining river grasslands and native riparian plants contributes to a sound and healthy ecosystem.

Wetlands are a critical and important component of wildlife habitat in all areas of Nebraska. But because of limited precipitation in the western reaches of the state and a greater dependence on mountain snowpack runoff, the wise use and conservation of wetland and water resources seem more pressing.

The mission of Platte River Basin Environments, Inc. is to preserve, conserve and enhance the usage of water, wetland and habitat resources of the region and to ensure that public access for recreation and education is maintained for the long term enjoyment of the citizens of the state.

Nebraska Academy of Sciences - 2013 Public Information and Education (PIE) Grant Summary

Total awards for four quarters in 2013 = \$48,758  
 Total recipients = 18  
 Total applications received = 36  
 Total dollars requested = \$94,502

The Nebraska Academy of Sciences has now administered the Public Information and Education mini-grants 18 full quarters for the Nebraska Environmental Trust, 17 funded quarters. During 2013 a total of 36 applications (in four quarters) requesting \$94,502 were received and 18 grants were awarded totaling \$48,758. Grant recipients were well represented from all across the state and from numerous entities including schools, environmental non-profit groups, city and county administrations, as well as NRDs, Extension, 4-H groups and individuals. A review committee of four to five people evaluated all the applications and rated them according to criteria provided by the Nebraska Environmental Trust. Our reviewers have a broad variety of backgrounds and expertise, and are from various areas in the state.

The variety of applications continues to be amazing. Grant requests were received for publicity for special meetings and conferences, nature education projects in schools, festivals, wildlife projects, recycling projects, habitat preservation and education and small research projects.

Grant recipients have one year to turn in their final report from the date their grant was awarded. The Academy has received 16 (through Nov 15) final reports this year and here is a brief description of those grant results.

Nebraska Environmental Trust funds supported Community Crops with a grant to further Sustainable Gardening Education. Funding also supported the WasteCap Nebraska Sustainability Summit and the Rainwater Basin Joint Venture Informational Seminar. Trust funds also were awarded for the 2013 Veg Fest. The Children’s Groundwater Festival, the Prescribed Burn Task Force and the “Have You Seen Mary” book project were all awarded grants in 2013. For more more information on the PIE grants, contact:

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Picture on the right shows gardening education through Community CROPS.

The Nebraska Environmental Trust....  
 ...is funded by the Nebraska Lottery. The Lottery has transferred more than \$209 million to the Trust in the last 20 years.

... covers the cost of operations through interest earnings. The Trust has operated with overhead expenditures equaling less than 2.5% of income since it was created.

...has completed 20 grant cycles and will announce the results of the 21st round of award recommendations in February 2014.

Operation Expenses Were Less Than 2.5% of Total Revenue

FY 12-13

Income

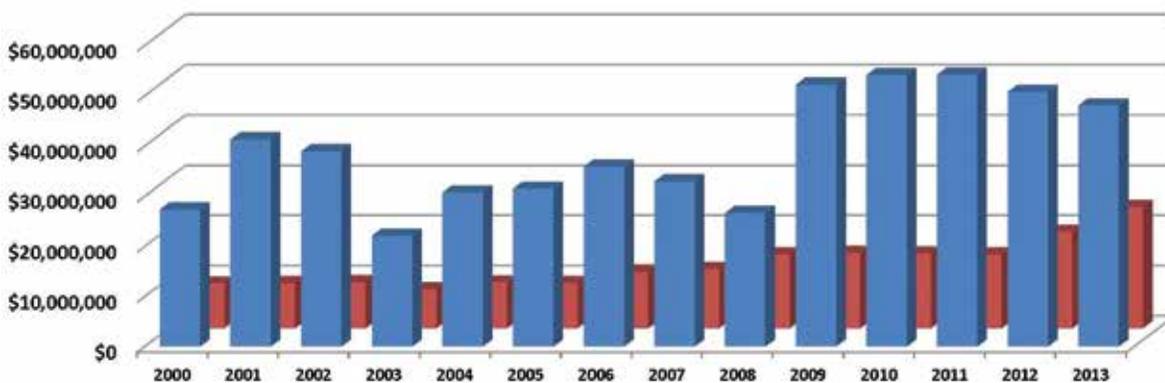
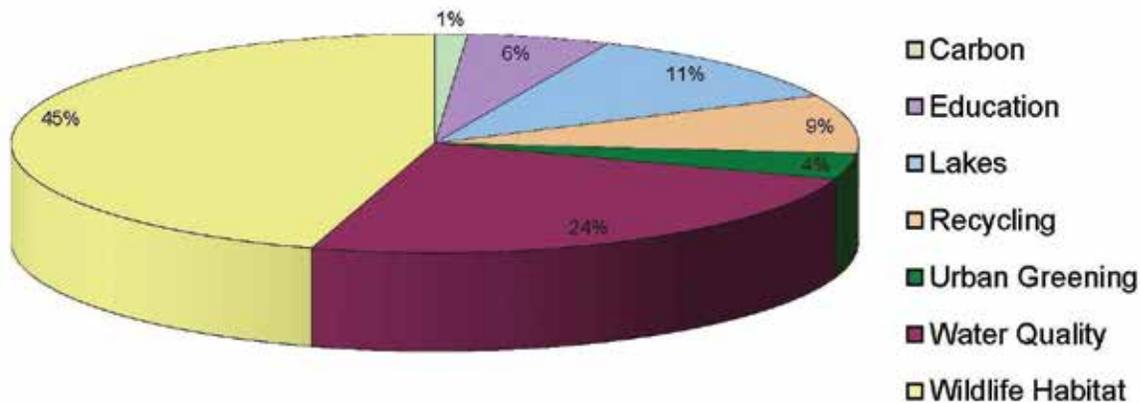
Interest Income	\$	859,121.81
Lottery Proceeds	\$	17,584,042.00

Expenses

Operations	\$	437,275.11
Grant Awards	\$	24,247,260.00

Average Operation Expenses to Income Percentage from 1994-2013 = 1.66%

Grant Awards by Category 1994 - 2013



Amount Requested vs Awarded 2000-2013

■ \$ Requested     ■ \$ Awarded

# 2013 Grant Listing

The following is a listing of the 2013 grants awarded by the Nebraska Environmental Trust. The Trust can provide grants over a three year period and the funding is noted accordingly. Due to space limitations, only the project sponsor and a brief description of the project have been outlined; to find out about additional project information, contact the Trust office at 402-471-5409 or visit our website at: [www.environmentaltrust.org](http://www.environmentaltrust.org)

## Central Platte NRD

To help maintain critical flows in the Platte River and more effectively manage water resources in Nebraska. \$70,000 (yr. 1 of 3)

## City of Gothenburg

A multi-agency effort to improve water quality and reduce risks at Lake Helen. \$308,301 (yr. 1 of 1)

## Clean Green Chesapeake

Funding to develop robust bioprocessing capabilities to produce algae using nutrient-rich anaerobic digester liquid effluent. \$90,000 (yr. 1 of 1)

## Community CROPS

Installation of ready to use gravity driven drip systems. \$58,728 (yr. 1 of 1)

## Cornhusker Council, Boy Scouts of America

Development of a renewable energy Environmental and Conservation Education Center. \$150,000 (yr. 1 of 2)

## Crane Trust, The

To develop and sustain a conservation-training program for college students and young professionals called REACH (Research Experience to Achieve Conservation of Habitat) to improve restoration of migratory bird habitat along the Platte River. \$125,000 (yr. 1 of 2)

## Ducks Unlimited

Habitat restoration project on property owned by the Cottonwood Ranch LLC consisting of over 140 acres. \$13,000 (yr. 1 of 2)

To maximize the habitat on both the roundout and the Hamon WPA through the various conservation activities. \$74,550 (yr. 1 of 1)

To acquire and restore the Genar property, an important "roundout" to the Rolland Waterfowl Production Area. \$78,850 (yr. 1 of 2)

Restoration activities planned on public land along the Central Platte river. \$58,800 (yr. 1 of 2)

To assist with restoration activities on the "Wild Tract", formerly owned by Freda Wild. The 120-acre Wild property is a high priority "roundout" to the Ritterbush Waterfowl Production Area. \$78,180 (yr. 1 of 1)

To assist with restoration activities on the Bergen Tract. This 160 acre property is owned by Ducks Unlimited. \$83,275 (yr. 1 of 1)

To restore 60 acres of critical limiting habitat for at-risk species dependent upon the Platte River for some portion of their lifecycle. \$87,000 (yr. 1 of 2)

The Platte River Wetlands Conservation project is a concerted effort of habitat partners to protect and restore five parcels of private land that contain or have the potential to restore sensitive wetland environments within the North Platte River watershed. \$168,293 (yr. 2 of 2)

The Darr Strip Habitat Complex Proposal consists of five individual projects that collectively will protect and restore 1,250 acres of central Platte River habitat. \$127,215 (yr. 2 of 2)

## Five Rivers Resource Conservation and Development Inc.

Cost share program that would assist in making effective invasive weed species control affordable. \$46,250 (yr. 1 of 3)

## Fontenelle Forest Association

To repair storm runoff damage in the two remaining watersheds, Childs and Mill Hollows, over a two year period. \$231,438 (yr. 2 of 2)

## Friends of Heron Haven

Funding for nine projects in partnership with the NRD, to expand nature and environmental education programs and accomplish a series of improvements to physical facilities of Heron Haven. \$30,231 (yr. 1 of 3)

## Gracie Creek Landowner's Association

Project will conserve and enhance habitat for key bird and plant species across a large privately owned landscape. \$60,000 (yr. 3 of 3)

## Grand Island Area Clean Community System

Leasing and modification of a 5,000 sq. ft. household hazardous waste facility. \$75,000 (yr. 3 of 3)

## Green Recycling Enterprises

Placing recycling containers throughout the City of Omaha and at public events statewide. \$147,293 (yr. 1 of 2)

## Gretna High School

Project to educate the public and students on ecologically appropriate plantings, ecosystem relationships, soil health, and resource sustainability. \$70,321 (yr. 1 of 1)

## Habitat for Humanity of Omaha

Continuing effort to serve low-income families and provide an efficient way to recycle usable building and home improvement materials. \$485,000 (yr. 1 of 1)

## Joslyn Castle Institute for Sustainable Communities

Development of a "strategic communications design for sustainable development" electronic handbook. \$150,000 (yr. 1 of 2)

## Keep Alliance Beautiful

Partial funding to retain personnel and education at the recycling transfer center in Alliance and Box Butte County. \$98,247 (yr. 1 of 3)

## Keep Nebraska Beautiful

Removing inappropriate, outdated, unknown and unnecessary chemicals from schools. \$23,736 (yr. 1 of 1)

## La Vista, City of

Thompson Creek Watershed restoration to significantly improve water and habitat quality. \$525,000 (yr. 1 of 3)

## Lauritzen Gardens

Construction of a Conservation Center to promote imperiled plant conservation. \$800,000 (yr. 1 of 1)

## Lewis and Clark Natural Resources District

Funding to drill test holes, record down-hole data, construct monitoring wells and install dedicated water-level readers and two dedicated pumps to establish baseline information about groundwater quality, quantity, and aquifer composition. \$103,500 (yr. 1 of 3)

## Lincoln Parks Foundation

Funding towards revitalization of Centennial Mall. \$200,000 (yr. 2 of 2)

## Lincoln, City of

Conservation of the Eastern Saline wetlands located in the Saltcreek watershed. \$730,000 (yr. 2 of 3)

Expansion of prairie and riparian habitat areas, build recreational and educational connections, and promote enhancement and preservation of one of southeast Nebraska's most valuable resources - tallgrass prairie. \$500,000 (yr. 1 of 3)

## Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department

Efforts to better manage unwanted, expired, and excess pharmaceuticals in Lancaster County and across the state of Nebraska. \$152,192 (yr. 1 of 2)

## Little Blue Natural Resources District

To restore watershed functions of wetlands throughout the Rainwater Basin Region of southcentral Nebraska with the primary objective of filling at least 60 irrigation reuse pits. \$135,000 (yr. 1 of 3)

## Loup Basin Resource Conservation and Development Council

This project aims to increase pollinator populations and public awareness of pollinator protection through pollinator habitat development and restoration along the Loup Rivers Scenic Byway. \$62,500 (yr. 1 of 2)

## Lower Big Blue Natural Resources District

Funding to install and operate a district-wide monitoring well network that will provide data suitable to the long-term goals of groundwater quality and quantity management. \$50,000 (yr. 1 of 2)

## Lower Elkhorn Natural Resources District

Project to construct an annual water budget for two drainage basins in different topographic regions, one in the Sand Hills and one in the Dissected Plains. \$64,410 (yr. 1 of 2)

Understanding Cyanobacteria, also known as blue-green or toxic algae that poses a health threat to people and animals. \$58,180 (yr. 2 of 3)

## Lower Loup Natural Resources District

Assistance with renovation and modernization of Pibel Lake Recreation Area in central Nebraska. \$60,000 (yr. 1 of 3)

No-till grass drill to be used by landowners within the Lower Loup Natural Resources District boundaries for promoting the establishment of cool and warm season grasses. \$20,000 (yr. 1 of 1)

## Lower Platte River Corridor Alliance

Removal of at least five "buried" piers in the middle of the Platte River channel to provide ecosystem restoration and habitat benefits. \$354,000 (yr. 1 of 1)

Quantifying channel morphologic and hydraulic conditions that favor high-quality tern and plover sandbar habitat. \$51,900 (yr. 1 of 3)

## Lower Republican Natural Resources District

Installing soil moisture sensor technology at field level on 80,000 irrigated acres to conserve water by managing water use. \$130,000 (yr. 1 of 2)

## Metropolitan Community College

Creation of a green roof shelter for stormwater management best practices demonstration and teaching. \$15,000 (yr. 1 of 1)

## Metropolitan Utilities District

Project to facilitate the expanded use of Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) fueled vehicles in the Omaha Metro Area. \$497,000 (yr. 1 of 3)

## Middle Niobrara Natural Resources District

A watershed plan for Long Pine Creek, located in Brown County. \$150,000 (yr. 1 of 1)

## Midland Recycling

Funds to purchase recycling containers that will help divert recyclable materials from the Lincoln landfill. \$50,000 (yr. 1 of 1)

## National Wild Turkey Federation

Forest stand improvement on four western WMAs. \$81,588 (yr. 1 of 3)

## Nebraska Academy of Sciences

Administration of the Public Information and Education Grants to support the presentation and dissemination of information and perspectives that will stimulate enhanced environmental stewardship. \$56,600 (yr. 3 of 3)

## Nebraska Agricultural Education

A soils project that educates Nebraska Agricultural Educators, Ag students and Nebraskans to improve Nebraska soils and land health. \$15,000 (yr. 3 of 3)

## Nebraska Association of Resources Districts

Grant to help restore wetlands and reduce groundwater use, while being compatible with landowner's agriculture operations. \$70,000 (yr. 1 of 3)

## Nebraska Big Game

Goal of project is to provide wildlife water sources on private land in the arid regions of the Pine Ridge and Wildcat Hills of Nebraska's panhandle. \$10,000 (yr. 1 of 2)

## Nebraska Bird Partnership

Funding of the Capacity Building Grant program to assist local conservation partnerships. \$40,000 (yr. 3 of 3)

## Nebraska Cattlemen

The Nebraska Leopold Conservation Award Video Project seeks to capture the landowners' ethic in their own words and images, giving the recipients an opportunity to share their story. \$10,000 (yr. 1 of 1)

Funding for the Leopold Conservation Award recipients for the overall purpose of interaction between recipients, landowners and representatives from a variety of agricultural and environmental sectors \$90,000 (yr. 1 of 1)

## Nebraska Department of Natural Resources

Funding for the Water Resources Cash Fund pursuant to the legislative mandate of LB229, 2011. \$3,300,000 (yr. 2 of 3)

## Nebraska Forest Service

Conversion of the 240-acre Horning State Farm Demonstration Forest in Plattsburgh from a limited-access forestry research facility to a broadly accessible and critically needed Forestry Education Center. \$93,321 (yr. 2 of 2)

## Nebraska Game & Parks Commission

Restoring Nebraska's Unique Biological Diversity to continue and expand implementation of our ongoing conservation actions throughout the state by improving over 100,000 acres of habitat over the next three years. \$621,000 (yr. 1 of 3)

Offering incentives to agricultural producers to encourage them to leave their wheat and/or milo stubble taller and standing in place to provide valuable habitat for pheasants, quail and other wildlife. \$500,000 (yr. 1 of 3)

The objective of this project is to improve wildlife habitat on private and public lands by installing fencing and watering facilities to allow for prescribed grazing management. \$110,000 (yr. 2 of 3)

Funding to renovate Missouri River floodplain habitats on public and private lands impacted by flooding. \$103,600 (yr. 2 of 3)

Project to complete grassland habitat improvements on 25,000 acres across Nebraska. \$340,000 (yr. 2 of 3)

Medicine Creek State Recreation area shoreline stabilization. \$115,844 (yr. 2 of 2)

WILD Nebraska program which will be made available to the landowners to foster better stewardship on the landscape, create better wildlife habitat and increase public use opportunities. \$80,000 (yr. 3 of 3)

A prescribed burn program for the Oak Woodlands in Ponca State and Indian Cave State Parks. \$35,000 (yr. 3 of 3)

#### Nebraska Grazing Land Coalition

Financial support for targeting grazing land manager education along with public educational events. \$70,000 (yr. 3 of 3)

#### Nebraska Land Trust

Schramm Bluffs/Patterson Farm Preservation Project. \$432,200 (yr. 1 of 2)

#### Nebraska One Box Foundation

Funding to assist with the purchase of two new Great Plains 10' No-till Habitat Drills. \$25,000 (yr. 1 of 2)

#### Nebraska Renewable Energy Systems

Vineyard and Winery Waste Recycling Program. Funds will be used to support the creation of a pilot scale grape waste processing program in Lyons, NE. \$50,000 (yr. 1 of 2)

#### Nebraska Solar Energy Society

Solar greenhouse initiative to increase adoption of an innovative agri-business model for food entrepreneurs throughout Nebraska using solar energy. \$73,317 (yr. 1 of 1)

#### Nebraska State Irrigation Association

Continuation and growth of the Water Leaders Academy through an organized education program. \$54,822 (yr. 2 of 3)

#### Nebraska State Recycling Association

Recycling equipment grant to help NSRA build their recycling infrastructure across Nebraska by continuing the "smaller grants" program that has been done for 10 years. \$250,000 (yr. 2 of 2)

#### Nebraska Statewide Arboretum

Sustainable Schoolyard Partnership (SSP) is a statewide, three year initiative aimed at dramatically improving the natural environment of school grounds through innovative development and management of green infra-structure. \$193,827 (yr. 2 of 3)

Trees for Nebraska Towns (TNT) is a statewide, three-year initiative aimed at reversing the decline of Nebraska's community forests by promoting and investing in intensive tree planting, sound resource management, community capacity building and public education. \$400,000 (yr. 3 of 3)

#### Nebraska Weed Management Area Coalition

Building a statewide coalition of weed management areas. \$200,000 (yr. 1 of 1)

#### Niobrara Council

Brown County Conservation Easement project. \$126,500 (yr. 1 of 1)

#### Northeast Nebraska RC & D

Integrated management of noxious weeds in biologically sensitive areas. \$24,733 (yr. 2 of 3)

#### Northern Prairies Land Trust

Native habitat conservation in southeast Nebraska. Enhancing tallgrass prairie on private lands through tree clearing, prescribed fire, planned grazing and re-seeding. \$265,500 (yr. 2 of 3)

#### Omaha Children's Museum

Funding to create a Tinkering Studio and Recycling Exhibit within the Museum. This exhibit will provide children with a chance to use recycled materials to create their own devices and explore different scientific phenomena. \$30,000 (yr. 1 of 1)

#### Omaha, City of

Rehabilitation of a concrete-lined urban stream that is nearly devoid of aquatic habitat. \$500,000 (yr. 1 of 3)

Funding to fulfill the restoration visions for Spring Lake Park that began in 1939. \$683,000 (yr. 2 of 2)

Funding for construction of the wetland and stormwater detention components of a natural stormwater treatment system to reduce flooding and improve water quality in the Saddle Creek basin. \$230,366 (yr. 2 of 3)

Funding towards the Gene Leahy mall lagoon renovation project. \$150,000 (yr. 2 of 2)

#### Omaha's Henry Doerly Zoo

Project to expand recycling by deploying standard recycling containers and recycling-related education signage across Zoo grounds. \$23,333 (yr. 1 of 1)

#### Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District

Project seeks to buyout property owners, removing people and property from flood-prone areas, and returning land to its pre-development state. \$282,660 (yr. 1 of 1)

Construction of a setback levee at the confluence of the Platte and Missouri Rivers for the purpose of environmental restoration. \$950,000 (yr. 1 of 3)

#### Pheasants Forever, Inc.

Establishing permanent wildlife habitat. \$325,000 (yr. 2 of 3)

Continuation of a unique, proven and successful partnership called the Grassland Improvement Program. \$310,000 (yr. 1 of 3)

#### Platte River Basin Environments, Inc.

Funding to address the degrading factors impacting North Platte River Valley habitats. \$51,000 (yr. 1 of 3)

#### Platte River Whooping Crane Maintenance Trust

Funding towards a trail system at the Nebraska Nature and Visitor Center. \$72,000 (yr. 2 of 3)

#### Prairie Plains Resource Institute

Purchase of Sherman Ranch which is located within a Biologically Unique Landscape (BUL) area. \$150,000 (yr. 1 of 3)

#### Prairie Land RC & D

This statewide educational project will build on and expand existing efforts to increase the adoption and sustainable use of Continuous No-till by one million acres. \$100,000 (yr. 1 of 3)

#### Prescribed Burn Task Force

Opportunity to foster the relationship between regional fire departments and the prescribed fire community. \$53,702 (yr. 1 of 1)

#### Quail Forever

To continue the process of building Mobile Prescribed Burn Units, forming prescribed burn associations and conducting landowner education outreach events. \$80,000 (yr. 1 of 1)

#### Rainwater Basin Joint Venture

Project to restore and enhance wetland and associated upland habitats in the Rainwater Basin landscape. \$350,000 (yr. 1 of 3)

This project will address the management of aggressive and invasive vegetation negatively effecting wetlands in the Rainwater Basin region of south-central Nebraska. \$75,000 (yr. 1 of 3)

Grant to work with local producers to develop infrastructure that will facilitate grazing on abandoned wetlands throughout the Rainwater Basin Landscape. \$112,838 (yr. 2 of 3)

#### Robert J. Hamilton

Funding to provide Superior, NE with a full scale recycling center. \$150,000 (yr. 1 of 1)

#### Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory

Conserving grassland and cropland species in western Nebraska. \$125,000 (yr. 1 of 2)

Addressing threats to at-risk species and to the shortgrass prairie and ponderosa pine habitats of the Nebraska panhandle. \$105,000 (yr. 1 of 3)

#### Sandhills Task Force

Build capacity to enhance the entire ecosystem, its abundant surface and ground water, its grasslands, and its wildlife. \$180,000 (yr. 2 of 3)

Complete the acquisition of a conservation easement on approximately 25,450 acres of Sandhill grassland and wetlands in Loup County. \$125,000 (yr. 2 of 3)

#### Sargent Irrigation District

Constructing a series of jetties above Milburn diversion dam. \$40,000 (yr. 1 of 3)

#### Seward County Bridges

Project to dredge, drain and restore a sustainable aquatic wildlife habitat at the City of Seward pond. \$225,000 (yr. 1 of 1)

#### South Sioux City, City of

Students to design and build a floating fishing observation room that is compatible with and can be connected to the existing city fishing dock. \$47,000 (yr. 1 of 1)

#### Southwest Weed Management Area

Continue to build upon the current work of the Western Republican Riparian Improvement Project. \$300,000 (yr. 1 of 1)

#### Spencer Area Development

Project is to rejuvenate the wildlife habitat of a 9.7 acre pond. \$121,639 (yr. 2 of 2)

#### St. Augustine Indian Mission

An outdoor classroom to be used by St. Augustine Indian Mission. \$15,000 (yr. 1 of 1)

#### The Groundwater Foundation

Funding for Hydrogeology: Water for the World, a science event that challenges secondary school students to research and identify solutions to eliminate or mitigate groundwater degradation. \$79,277 (yr. 1 of 3)

Funding for phase II of the Growing Groundwater Awareness in Nebraska (GGAN) program to effectively expand the groundwater conservation and protection work to more communities. \$47,726 (yr. 1 of 3)

Collaborative project with Girl Scouts Spirit of Nebraska. \$74,895 (yr. 1 of 3)

Project to foster groundwater protection and conservation actions in Nebraska homeowners. \$42,559 (yr. 2 of 3)

#### The Nature Conservancy

Future management practices across the state for wildfires. \$154,932 (yr. 1 of 3)

#### The Transit Authority of the City of Omaha

introduction of hybrid sedans to Omaha Metro to dramatically increase fuel economy and reduce emission of pollution and greenhouse gases. \$52,000 (yr. 1 of 1)

#### Tri-Basin Natural Resources District

Restoration of approximately 160 acres of Rainwater Basin wetlands and native prairie uplands on private lands in Phelps County. \$60,479 (yr. 1 of 1)

#### Tri-Tails District, Longs Peak Council

Tree replant joint venture between the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission and the Boy Scouts of America to replace ponderosa pine tree seedlings in a nearly 50,000 acre burn that occurred in 1989. \$15,000 (yr. 1 of 1)

#### Twin Valley Weed Management Area

The Eastern Republican and Little Blue Riparian Improvement Project continues ongoing efforts to control invasive riparian plants along the Republican River. \$568,000 (yr. 1 of 1)

#### University of Nebraska Board of Regents

Evaluation of management techniques for prairie restoration efforts. \$10,000 (yr. 3 of 3)

Conserving water through irrigator education is the focus of this project. \$30,000 (yr. 3 of 3)

#### University of Nebraska - Omaha

Purchase approximately 105 acres (the West Watershed) to extend the western boundary of Allwine Prairie so as to incorporate the entire upper drainage of the Glacier Creek watershed. \$442,000 (yr. 2 of 3)

#### Upper Loup Natural Resources District

Funding to help provide a portion of the monies needed to offer flowmeters and crop water sensors to irrigators. \$100,000 (yr. 1 of 1)

#### Upper Republican Natural Resources District

Moisture Monitoring Program to reduce crop irrigation water use in Perkins, Chase and Dundy Counties, thereby helping preserve the Ogallala Aquifer. \$50,000 (yr. 1 of 2)

Funds would be used to help return nearly 3,300 acres of cropland that has been heavily irrigated for decades with Ogallala Aquifer water to native rangeland in the Sandsage Prairie core that abuts Rock Creek Fish Hatchery and Rock Creek State Recreation Area. \$105,000 (yr. 1 of 1)

#### WasteCap Nebraska

Project to educate local community leaders and businesses about the need for a Zero Waste approach in Nebraska. \$151,791 (yr. 1 of 2)



# The Nebraska Environmental Trust

*preserving NATURAL NEBRASKA™ for future generations*

*700 S. 16th St.*

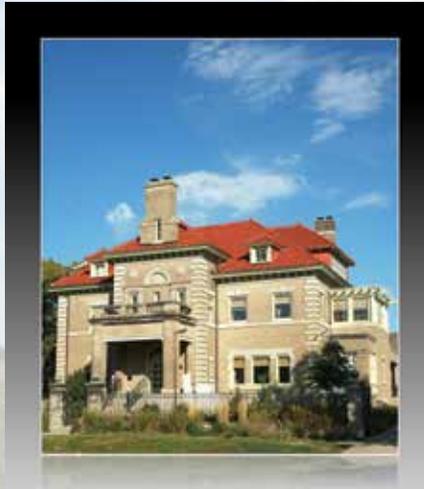
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The Historic Ferguson House  
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Sheila Aikanathan-Johnson - Public Information Officer

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