



The mission of the Great Plains Landscape Conservation Cooperative is to lead the development, facilitation and integration of science and management to ensure strategic natural resource conservation on the Great Plains.

MORE INFORMATION

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The Great Plains Landscape Conservation Cooperative (GPLCC) is a partnership that provides applied science and decision support tools to assist natural resource managers in their efforts to conserve plant, fish and wildlife in the mid- and short-grass prairie of the southern Great Plains. It is part of a national network of public-private partnerships—known as Landscape Conservation Cooperatives (LCCs)—that work collaboratively across jurisdictions and political boundaries to leverage resources and share science capacity. The Great Plains LCC identifies science priorities for the region and helps foster science that addresses these priorities, thus supporting wildlife conservation efforts throughout the Great Plains. It also assists partners in building their own capacity to address scientific challenges associated with our rapidly changing environment.

AN APPLIED SCIENCE PARTNERSHIP

The Great Plains LCC is an inclusive partnership that represents broad interests and knowledge to address all plant, fish and wildlife species found throughout the geographic area. There are numerous stressors acting on the landscape, including the loss and fragmentation of habitats, invasive species, loss of water quantity and

quality, and climate variability. Through the capacity and expertise of the conservation community, and the cooperation of private landowners, this partnership is addressing regional scale stressors and providing applied science to support a sustainable landscape. Partners are working together to increase applied science capacity, complement and build upon each other's efforts, identify gaps in knowledge, avoid duplication, and provide a venue for collaborative conservation planning.

PRIORITY HABITATS & SPECIES

The Great Plains LCC has identified several habitats as high priorities. These habitats, while not inclusive of all plants, fish and wildlife within the region, are important for a variety of reasons.

Temperate grasslands represent one of the most altered ecological systems on Earth; their biodiversity and ecological processes are threatened by habitat loss and degradation. Despite these issues, grasslands in the Great Plains still include an assemblage of over 2,000 native plant and animal species.

Playas, one of the most unique wetland ecosystems in the United States, are also

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found in the Great Plains. Playas are ephemeral shallow wetlands that provide important seasonal habitat for a variety of wildlife species. It is estimated that over 90 percent of wintering waterfowl in the Texas panhandle utilize playas as their primary habitat. Throughout the year, playas serve as biodiversity centers, hosting more than 200 species of birds and other wildlife.

In addition, the Great Plains landscape overlays the world's largest aquifer—the High Plains (Ogallala) Aquifer—and is recharged by playa wetlands. It is the single most important water source in the Great Plains region and is critical to the health and survival of both human populations and wildlife in the heartland of America. Prairie streams are also a unique habitat on the Great Plains.



The following is a list of the GPLCC priority habitats and related species.



Black-tailed prairie dog. Photo provided by Denis Radovanovic.



Snowy plover. Photo provided by Tom Grey.



Arkansas River shiner. Photo provided by Garold Sneegas.

Grasslands

Burrowing Owl, black-tailed prairie dog, American bison, American burying beetle, black-footed ferret, Mountain Plover, Ferruginous Hawk, Long-billed Curlew, Lesser Prairie-Chicken, Grasshopper Sparrow, Cassin's Sparrow, Lark Bunting, Harris' Sparrow, Prairie Falcon

Playa Wetlands

Northern Pintail, Sandhill Crane, Least Sandpiper, Western Sandpiper, Long-billed Dowitchers

Non-playa Wetlands

Whooping Crane, Snowy Plover

Saline Lakes

Snowy Plover, Sandhill Crane, Wilson's Phalarope, Least Sandpiper

Prairie Rivers, Streams & Riparian Corridors

Arkansas River shiner, Piping Plover, Interior Least Tern, Sandhill Crane, Whooping Crane, Bell's Vireo, Arkansas darter, Topeka shiner, Pallid and Shovelnose sturgeon, paddlefish, Snowy Plover

Savannahs, Shrub Lands and Sand Dunes

Lesser Prairie-Chicken, sand dune lizard, blowout penstemon, American burying beetle

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Since its inception in 2010, the GPLCC Steering Committee has approved a charter and mission statement, developed science priorities for the partnership, and is currently finishing the operations plan. Additionally, the Great Plains LCC has committed nearly \$1.6 million to fund 16 science research projects that address the predicted impacts of environmental stressors on priority species and habitats in the Southern Great Plains. The Great Plains LCC is also helping to build partner states' capacity through \$347,000 in State Science Partnership grants.

The Steering Committee will also use the results of an exhaustive geospatial community survey and a science needs assessment to further set the LCC's strategic direction. The geospatial community survey and science needs assessment are part of the process to document present capacity, capacity gaps and requirements of GPLCC partners. The outcome of this process will result in specific recommendations for further development of shared capacity, as well as greater cohesiveness and communication within the GPLCC community.