



# NE CONSERVATION TOOLBOX

## 39-Mile, Ft. Randall to L&C Lake

(October 2007)

Program	Income Opportunities / Requirements	Contact
Sloughing Easement	Advanced landowner compensation for allowing existing erosion to continue, in lieu of bank stabilization. Payment rates will vary and are based on current fair market value of the perpetual easement (less fee title). Landowner retains ownership and some uses of the property and is obligated to comply with all terms and conditions set forth in the easement.	US Army Corp of Engineers
Protection and Enhancement for Fish and Wildlife (Section 514)	Modify and create side channels to protect and enhance fish and wildlife habitat; restore and create island fish and wildlife habitat; create riverine fish and wildlife habitat. Total project costs include final design plans, lands, construction, and monitoring. Costs are shared 65% federal and 35% nonfederal. Need sponsor to cost share the project, secure lands needed for project, and accept operation and maintenance of the project.	US Army Corp of Engineers
Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration (Section 206)	To restore historic habitat conditions (aquatic ecosystems) at any location to benefit fish and wildlife resources. Types of work that can be accomplished under this program are structural or operational changes to improve the environment, such as reconnecting old river channels and backwaters, creating wetland sub impoundments on the perimeters of reservoirs, improving water quality through the reduction of erosion and sedimentation, manipulating wetlands and vegetation in shallow headwaters of reservoirs, and planting woody vegetation in flood plains. Costs are shared 65% federal and 35% nonfederal. Need sponsor to cost share the project, secure lands needed for project, and accept operation and maintenance of the project. Applicable to tributaries.	US Army Corp of Engineers
Project Modifications for Improvement of Environment (Section 1135)	To modify the structures or operations of previously constructed Corps water resources projects to improve the quality of the environment in the public interest. Types of work are structural or operational changes to existing projects for restoration or enhancement of environmental values, especially fish and wildlife values. Costs are shared 75% federal and 25% non-federal. Need sponsor to cost share the project, secure lands needed for project, and accept operation maintenance of the project.	US Army Corp of Engineers
Planning Assistance to States and Tribes (Section 22)	Provides planning assistance in designing a wide variety of projects such as flood control, water supply, water conservation, water quality, hydropower, navigation, recreation, environmental studies, flood warning systems, flood hazard mitigation, and floodplain delineation. Costs are shared 50% federal and 50% non-federal. Need sponsor to cost share the project, secure lands needed for the project, and accept operation and maintenance of the project.	US Army Corp of Engineers
WILD Nebraska	Assist private landowners, financially and/or technically, to restore, enhance, and develop grassland, wetland, and woodland wildlife habitat. Agreement length is 5 to 10 years. Cost share rates on various habitat management and development practices are variable. Potential annual rental payment based on county average rates. Landowner retains ownership rights and responsibilities and is obligated to comply with terms and conditions of agreement. Public access is an option with additional payment.	NE Game & Parks Commission (In partnership with Lower Niobrara NRD)

Landowner Incentive Payment (LIP)	Assist private landowners, financially and/or technically, to restore, enhance, and develop grassland, wetland, and woodland wildlife habitat. Focus of LIP is directed toward native “species of concern” such as grassland birds, declining plant communities (tall grass prairie), etc. Agreement length is 10 years. Cost share rates on various habitat restoration and management practices are variable. Landowner retains ownership rights and responsibilities, and is obligated to comply with terms and conditions of agreement.	NE Game & Parks Commission (In partnership with US Fish and Wildlife Service)
Land Acquisition	Acquire land from willing sellers for wildlife habitat conservation and public recreation. Payment for land is based on fair market value. Fee title acquisition is required by NE Game and Parks Commission.	NE Game & Parks Commission
Technical Assistance on Wildlife Habitat Issues	Provide technical assistance to private landowners interested in restoration, enhancement, and development of grassland, wetland, and woodland wildlife habitat. Staff primarily coordinates habitat restoration, enhancement, and development activities between private landowners and USDA programs and staff. The goal of the Wildlife Habitat Partners staff is to assist private landowners meet conservation and stewardship objectives on their lands in the most effective and practical fashion. No formal agreement or payment, other than those of applicable land conservation/stewardship programs. Landowner retains ownership rights and responsibilities.	NE Game & Parks Commission
Conservation Reserve Program (general and continuous)	To protect environmentally sensitive land. Agreement lengths range from 10 to 15 years. Annual payments are based on soil rental rates established for each county. 50% to 90% cost share assistance is available. Landowner must comply with conservation agreement. General signup offers grass seeding, tree practices, wildlife habitat, wetland restoration, erosion control (just to name a few). Continuous practices include grass plantings, tree plantings, wildlife corridors, grassed waterway, shallow water area for wildlife, timber establishment, filter strips, riparian buffers, farmable wetland, marginal pasture wildlife habitat, and field borders.	USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA)
Wetland Reserve Program (WRP)	Restore and enhance wetland areas. Landowner may enter into a 10 year, 30 year, or perpetual easement. Payments vary with length of contract – 100% of appraised land value for perpetual easement, 75% of appraised land value for 30 year, and 75% of restoration cost for 10 year agreement. Landowner retains ownership and is obligated to comply with terms and conditions of easement or agreement.	USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP)	Improve and protect wildlife habitat on private and Tribal lands. Agreement length varies from 2 to 10 years. Up to 75% cost share available for conservation practices. Landowner must comply with conservation agreement.	USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP)	Provide assistance to farmers and ranchers who face threats to soil, water, air, and related natural resource concerns on cropland, grazing lands, wetlands, wildlife land, and other agricultural land. Agreement length varies from 2 to 10 years. Up to 75% cost share available for structural, vegetative, or management practices. Landowner must comply with conservation agreement	USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
Grassland Reserve Program (GRP)	Restore and protect grassland under threat of conversion. Landowner may enter into a 10, 15, 20, or 30 year contract or a permanent easement. Per acre rates of payment are established on a county basis. Landowner retains ownership and is obligated to comply with terms and conditions of agreement or easement.	USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program (FRPP)	Protect prime and important land from conversion to non-agriculture use. Perpetual easement required. USDA provides matching funds to organizations with existing protection programs. Landowner retains rights for agriculture use as outlined in terms and conditions of easement.	USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

Easement Programs Conservation / Scenic / Sloughing	Protect Riverfront from development and maintain or enhance native vegetation. Perpetual easement required. Payment is variable and based upon appraised value. Eligible landowners within the MNRR boundary retain ownership and are obligated to comply with terms and conditions of easement or agreement.	USDI National Park Service
Fee Title Acquisition	To protect riverfront, meet landowner desires, provide public access to MNRR. Perpetual easement required. One time payment of 100% of appraised value. Only willing landowners within MNRR boundary are eligible.	USDI National Park Service
Fish and Wildlife Habitat Improvement Program	Improve and protect fish and wildlife habitat. Agreement lengths and payment are variable. Only landowners within MNRR boundary are eligible. Landowner must comply with conservation easement.	USDI National Park Service
Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance	Provide technical planning assistance to locally led efforts that result in the conservation of rivers, preserving open space, and development of trails and greenways. Agreement length varies from 1 to 2 year projects to short-term consulting. No payments associated. Applicant commits to working towards 'on the ground' results, significant public participation, and protection of natural and/or cultural resources and enhancement of outdoor recreational opportunities.	USDI National Park Service
Partners for Fish and Wildlife	Provide funding and technical assistance for the design, layout and construction of different types of voluntary habitat restoration and development. Agreement length is 10 to 20 years. Typical conservation practices implemented via the PFW program include grassland restorations, grazing management, wetland creation and wetland restoration. Participating landowners sign a cost-share agreement and agree to maintain the conservation practice for a specified period of time.	USDI Fish and Wildlife Service
Nebraska Soil & Water Conservation Program	Provide cost share assistance for installation of various conservation practices. Agreement length is 10 years. Landowner will receive 50% to 65% cost share assistance. Conservation practice must remain in place for at least a 10 year period.	Nebraska Natural Resources Districts (Lower Niobrara)
Conservation Easements	Purpose is for protection of land from development, including natural areas, wildlife habitat, low-impact agriculture and historic sites. Agreement length is perpetual. Donated easements are preferred but purchase may be an option on unique or rare sites. Every conservation easement is different, but they will typically prohibit any development, subdivision, or activity on the land that would harm the natural/historical resources being protected.	The Nebraska Land Trust
Conservation Easements & Technical Assistance	Northern Prairies Land Trust (NPLT) works directly with landowners to preserve lands utilizing long-term, legally sound strategies based on the landowners vision for the property, potential income and estate tax benefits, available conservation programs and benefits to the local rural community. NPLT is a nonprofit corporation and is authorized to provide land preservation and protection tools such as conservation easements, in both SD and NE. NPLT can also assist conservation minded landowners with habitat improvement projects, depending on eligibility.	Northern Prairies Land Trust

For additional information please contact the following:

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Missouri River Futures	Theresa Smydra <a href="mailto:theresa.smydra@ne.usda.gov">theresa.smydra@ne.usda.gov</a>	Hartington, NE	402-254-6858 ext.114
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US Fish and Wildlife Service	Mike Happold <a href="mailto:mike_happold@fws.gov">mike_happold@fws.gov</a>	Yankton, SD	605-665-3352
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USDA Service Centers	Knox County, NE Boyd County, NE	Bloomfield, NE Spencer, NE	402-373-4914 402-589-9019

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