

# WILDLIFE CONSERVATION THROUGH SUSTAINABLE RANCHING

**W**orking Lands for Wildlife (WLFW) is the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service's 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.**

Through the Farm Bill, NRCS provides technical and financial assistance to participants who voluntarily make improvements to their working lands.

## CONSERVATION ACROSS BOUNDARIES

In 2020, a multi-state, areawide planning effort produced the first biome-scale framework for grassland wildlife conservation on the region's sustainable working rangelands.

The frameworks provide a common vision and coordination to address resource concerns and ecosystem threats across state boundaries.



## A CALL TO ACTION IN THE GREAT PLAINS

A 'Call to Action' has emerged in the Great Plains to scale-up conservation on private lands and meet the sustainability targets that benefit both agriculture and wildlife.

This work features an action-based framework for 2021-2025 focused on addressing the two most severe and large-scale threats to the Great Plains biome: woodland expansion and land use conversion.

[WLFW.RANGELANDS.APP](https://www.wlfw.gov/rangelands/app)

# A FRAMEWORK FOR CONSERVATION ACTION





# CONSERVATION OBJECTIVES

# 2021-2025

## TARGETING THREATS ON 8.9 MILLION ACRES



Woodland Expansion

Photo: Dirac Twidwell

**OBJECTIVE:** Arrest woodland expansion through preventative management and target restoration within priority landscapes.



Land Use Conversion

Photo: Jeremy Roberts/Conservation Media

**OBJECTIVE:** Avoid further land use conversion within grassland cores and strategically restore marginal croplands back to grassland.

## GET INVOLVED

By combining landowner expertise with new scientific tools, ranchers and NRCS can defend intact grasslands, reduce vulnerability to future woody encroachment, and cut long-term maintenance costs.

Your local NRCS service center is the best place to start. Visit the NRCS Service Center Locator: <https://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app?agency=nrcs> and click your state and then county for contact information.

