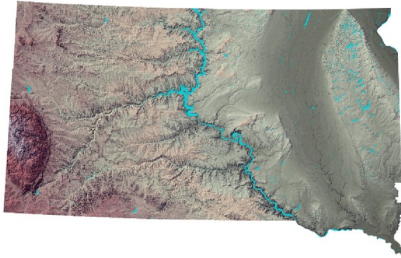


Conservation Implementation Strategy Project

Using the Long-Billed Curlew as a Focal Species for Improving Rangeland Wildlife Habitat and Livestock Forage in Areas with High Grassland Bird Density



For more information, go to:

<https://bit.ly/SDNRCS-CIS>

This Project At-A-Glance

Partners

American Bird Conservancy
Pheasants Forever
Bird Conservancy of the Rockies
Northern Great Plains Joint
Venture
Northwest Resource Unit
Conservation Districts

- o Harding County
- o Perkins County
- o Tri-County

South Dakota Department of
Game, Fish and Parks
World Wildlife Fund

Funding for this project is provided by the EQIP Program and partners with financial and in-kind contributions.

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The Conservation Implementation Strategy (CIS) is a new phased-in approach to deliver conservation programs to farmers and ranchers across South Dakota. Funding for CIS comes through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP). Funding and support from other agencies and groups can be leveraged and coordinated to focus on mutual issues of the highest priority.

Background

Grassland bird numbers are declining as native grasslands/rangelands are converted for agricultural, industrial, and developmental purposes. This project addresses wildlife habitat quality as a primary resource concern using the Long-Billed Curlew as a focal species, an endemic grassland specialist species which prefers medium grass height and is easily recognized by humans as North America's largest shorebird.

Resource Concern(s)

Loss of native grassland/rangeland to conversion for agricultural, industry, and development purposes has resulted in a decrease in grassland bird numbers, impacting populations of Long-Billed Curlews along with many other species. Also, decreased plant diversity from monoculture croplands and pasturelands has been shown to reduce bird abundance, species richness, and species diversity.

Goal

The goal is to improve and increase the amount of prime habitat within the core Long-Billed Curlew area. Practices that improve grazing management and increase grassland habitat will help the birds in this area thrive.

Desired Results

Results should see an increase in the grassland/rangeland habitat for the core area by establishing an additional 670 acres of perennial cover through seeding by end of this initiative term. The aim is to establish prescribed grazing on 21,000 acres in the target area over the initiatives proposed 3-year term.

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