

# Identifying and Prioritizing Crucial Wildlife Habitats and Migratory Corridors in the Northern Great Plains

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Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota



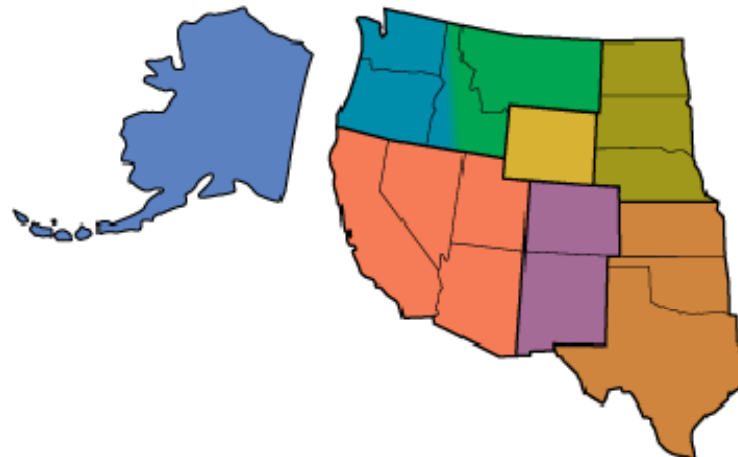
# Project Approach

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Three state pilot project

Two contracts:      Nebraska = Rainwater Basin JV  
                             Dakotas = South Dakota State University

Western Governors' Wildlife Council  
*Pilot Projects*

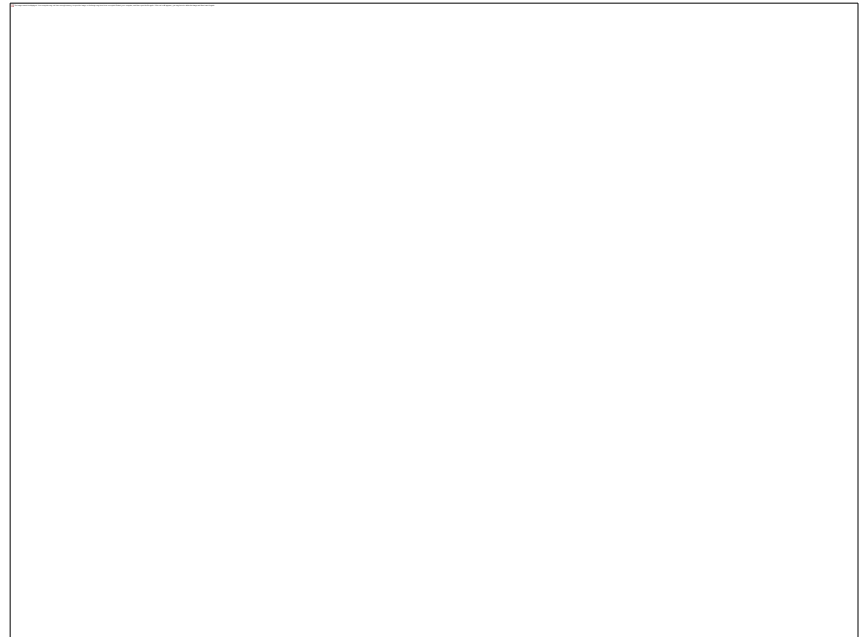


# Project Approach - continued

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Pilot project will produce data from species distribution models to identify crucial areas.

Focus on Species of Greatest Conservation Need among the three states that could be potentially impacted by wind energy development.





# Project Approach - continued

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Identify and assemble GIS data on natural resources

Develop species distribution models for selected species

Develop and apply criteria for crucial habitats and corridors across states

Generate viewable data layers on the internet

# Priority Wildlife Species

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Priority Species:	Whooping Crane	Sage Grouse
	Greater Prairie Chicken	Sharp-tailed Grouse
	Ferruginous Hawk	Golden Eagle
	Burrowing Owl	Bat species



# Project Deliverables & Timeframe

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Foundation for each state to build a more comprehensive DSS

GIS shape-files depicting key habitats

Interactive web-based tool for energy developers and managers





# Data

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## Habitat Data:

Wetland complexes  
Migratory stopovers  
Native grasslands  
Native woodlands  
Sagebrush  
Conservation lands  
Land Cover Data

## Wildlife Species Data:

Species distribution modeling  
Lek data  
Nesting data  
Bird distribution

## Sources of Data:

State Wildlife Agencies  
US Fish & Wildlife Service  
Joint Ventures  
NGO's  
University researchers  
Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory  
Natural Heritage Programs  
National Renewable Energy Lab  
Tribal Wildlife Agencies

Non-agency data



# Future of DSS

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Multi-state DSS will facilitate regionally compatible wildlife DSS

- Brings state agencies and partners to the table

- Provides funding likely not available for these efforts

- Emphasizes the need to develop compatible tools

- Using the same modeling will help provide compatibility

## State DSS

- Internal capacity (development for all species and habitats)

- Resources to complete the species list

- Resources to maintain and update information

- Revisions of State Wildlife Action Plans