



State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE) Approved Projects - Conservation Reserve Program

OVERVIEW

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE) initiative, part of the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), is an initiative to improve wildlife habitat. This fact sheet provides background on the initiative and a brief summary of each SAFE project.

CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM

CRP is a voluntary program that contracts with agricultural producers so that environmentally sensitive agricultural land is not farmed or ranched, but instead used for conservation benefits. CRP participants establish long-term, resource-conserving plant species, such as approved grasses or trees (known as “covers”), to control soil erosion and improve water quality. In return, FSA provides participants with rental payments and cost-share assistance. Contract duration is between 10 and 15 years.

Under CRP continuous (ongoing) enrollment authority, environmentally sensitive land devoted to certain conservation practices may be enrolled in CRP at any time. More information on CRP can be found at www.fsa.usda.gov/crp.

STATE ACRES FOR WILDLIFE ENHANCEMENT (SAFE)

SAFE is a flexible, results-oriented, locally led initiative that creates a continuous CRP enrollment opportunity for producers to address wildlife habitat resource concerns for specific species in a targeted region. Eligible producers can submit offers to enroll eligible land within a CRP SAFE project area in CRP contracts for 10 to 15 years. In exchange, these producers receive annual CRP rental payments, incentives and cost-share assistance to establish conservation cover that improves or creates wildlife habitat for specific species. The first CRP SAFE projects were

approved in 2008. To date, about 1.45 million acres are enrolled nationwide in 106 CRP SAFE projects available in 36 states and Puerto Rico.

PROPOSING A CRP SAFE PROJECT

Wildlife needs and conservation priorities vary across geographic and ecological regions. Conservation groups, nonprofit organizations, government agencies, biologists, farmers, ranchers and others have first-hand knowledge and experience to help address the needs of particular species in an area. These organizations may develop CRP SAFE project area proposals that identify ‘high-priority’ wildlife species that may be threatened or endangered, suffering population declines or that provide value to the local community. CRP SAFE encourages proposals that provide multiple environmental benefits in a targeted region and address habitat resource concern for a variety of ‘high-priority’ wildlife species.

CRP SAFE project proposals are reviewed by FSA at the state level by an interdisciplinary team (Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) State Technical Committee). The team reviews the technical merits and benefits of each proposal, as well as the potential to achieve the objectives of the program. If the proposal is supported by the state team, it is then reviewed by qualified conservation professionals at FSA to determine if the project should be approved and incorporated into the program.

ESTABLISHING AND MANAGING CRP SAFE PRACTICES

Producers who enroll acres in CRP SAFE will convert eligible cropland to beneficial habitat for the targeted wildlife species. CRP SAFE projects have specific requirements and participants work with NRCS to develop a conservation plan for establishment, maintenance and management of the conservation cover. All CRP practices, including

CRP SAFE, must be managed during the life of the contract. Fishing and hunting are allowed on CRP land, including SAFE; certain restrictions apply.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Producers can offer land for approved SAFE areas by contacting their local FSA county office. For more information about CRP, visit www.fsa.usda.gov/crp. For more information on FSA conservation programs, visit www.fsa.usda.gov/conservation or contact your local FSA county office. To find your local FSA county office, visit <http://offices.usda.gov>.

APPROVED CRP SAFE PROJECTS

Alabama

Alabama Black Belt Prairie Restoration SAFE

The goal of the Alabama Black Belt Prairie Restoration SAFE project is to improve native grassland habitats for rare, threatened, endangered and declining species that are dependent on native prairie communities found within the Black Belt Prairie region of Alabama.

Arkansas

Arkansas Wetlands SAFE

The goal of the Arkansas Wetlands SAFE project is to benefit featured species including bald eagle, American black bear, American black duck and the Mississippi kite. In addition, many species on Arkansas' list of greatest conservation concern in the State Wildlife Action Plan, including habitat needs related to the ivory-billed woodpecker, will benefit from this habitat restoration.

Arkansas Trees SAFE

The goal of the Arkansas Trees SAFE project is to restore trees, primarily hardwoods, to create habitat that will benefit the following species: American woodcock, swallow-tailed kite, bald eagle and American black bear.

Arkansas Grass SAFE

The goal of the Arkansas Grass SAFE project is to restore early successional habitat that will benefit bobwhite quail. In addition, another 53 species

on Arkansas' list of greatest conservation concern in the State Wildlife Action Plan will potentially benefit from this SAFE.

Colorado

Colorado Lesser Prairie Chicken SAFE

The goal of the Colorado Lesser Prairie Chicken SAFE project is to restore and enhance short and midgrass sand sagebrush prairie to maintain and enhance lesser prairie chicken populations in Colorado.

Colorado Plains Sharp-Tailed Grouse SAFE

The goal of the Colorado Plains Sharp-Tailed Grouse SAFE project is to improve nesting and brood-rearing cover for plains sharp-tailed grouse populations in northern Colorado through the re-enrollment and enhancement of existing grassland habitat in CRP that serve as critical habitat for the bird's population in the state.

Colorado Shortgrass Prairie SAFE

The goal of the Colorado Shortgrass Prairie SAFE project is to preserve the integrity and expand the extent of shortgrass prairie managed for wildlife species in eastern Colorado.

Colorado Western Slope Grouse SAFE

The goal of the Colorado Western Slope Grouse SAFE project is to restore and enhance habitat for the Columbian sharp-tailed grouse, greater sage grouse and Gunnison sage-grouse.

Colorado Upland Bird SAFE

The goal of the Colorado Upland Bird SAFE project is to establish and maintain habitat that will support upland bird species, including grasshopper sparrow, ring-necked pheasant, bobwhite quail and greater prairie chicken in Sedgwick, Phillips, Logan, Morgan, Washington, Yuma and Kit Carson counties.

Georgia

Georgia Restoring Native Pine Savanna SAFE

The goal of the Georgia Restoring Native Pine Savanna SAFE project is to establish and maintain pine savanna habitat for northern bobwhite and other species that depend on native groundcover (grass/forb/shrub) and are in decline.

Idaho**Idaho Columbian Sharp-Tailed Grouse SAFE**

The goal of the Idaho Columbian Sharp-Tailed Grouse SAFE project is to increase quality grassland, shrub steppe, mountain brush and riparian habitat for the Columbian sharp-tailed grouse.

Western Idaho Upland Game Bird SAFE

The goal of the Western Idaho Upland Game Bird SAFE project is to improve habitat for ring-necked pheasant, gray cartridge, California quail, Columbian sharp-tailed grouse and sage grouse by establishing shrubs, grasses, forbs and legumes on cropland throughout the SAFE project area to provide nesting, brood-rearing and wintering cover.

Illinois**Illinois Mercer County Pheasant SAFE**

The goal of the Illinois Mercer County Pheasant SAFE project is to increase pheasant habitat within the county by enrolling land in CRP. The project emphasizes the establishment of permanent native grasses and forbs that also will benefit other species of upland wildlife.

Illinois Prairie Habitat SAFE

The goal of the Illinois Prairie Habitat SAFE project is to restore grassland and wetland habitats in upland landscapes occupied by tallgrass prairie and herbaceous wetlands. The project benefits the Massasauga rattlesnake and other wetland prairie species such as Kirtland's water snake and the northern crawfish frog.

Illinois Spoon River SAFE

The goal of the Illinois Spoon River SAFE project is to enhance habitat primarily for pheasants. Other upland game and song bird species also will benefit from the increased acreage of habitat, thus providing increased economic and recreational opportunities.

Illinois Sangamon SAFE

The goal of the Illinois Sangamon SAFE project is to benefit northern bobwhite quail and many other grassland species, including four state-listed species: the northern harrier, Franklin's ground squirrel, Kirtland's water snake and the lined snake.

Indiana**Indiana American Woodcock SAFE**

The goal of the Indiana American Woodcock SAFE project is to restore grassland and shrubland complexes as nesting, brood-rearing and migratory habitat for American Woodcock, whose populations are at risk and have suffered significant population declines.

Indiana Bat SAFE

The goal of the Indiana Bat SAFE project is to restore forest habitat and forested riparian habitat for the Indiana bat which occurs throughout the state and is a federally listed endangered species.

Indiana Northern Bobwhite SAFE

The goal of the Indiana Northern Bobwhite SAFE project is to restore grassland and shrubland habitats for the northern bobwhite quail. This species has declined significantly throughout the state, as well as the Midwest, and is of significant social and economic value to the people of Indiana.

Indiana Henslow's Sparrow SAFE

The goal of the Indiana Henslow's Sparrow SAFE project is to restore grassland habitat for the Henslow's sparrow which is at risk and has suffered significant declines throughout the state and Midwest. More specifically, the project will restore grassland habitat and maintain the cover in a diversity of successional stages and vegetation structure that meets the nesting and brood-rearing requirements of the Henslow's sparrow as well as other grassland songbirds.

Indiana Ring-Necked Pheasant SAFE

The goal for the Indiana Ring-Necked Pheasant SAFE project is to restore grassland and permanent wildlife habitat for the ring-necked pheasant and maintain the cover in a diversity of successional stages and vegetation structure that meets the ring-necked pheasants nesting, brood-rearing and winter cover requirements.

Indiana Sedge Wren/Grasshopper Sparrow SAFE

The goal of the Indiana Sedge Wren/Grasshopper Sparrow SAFE project is to restore wetland and grassland complexes as migratory habitat for shorebirds and nesting habitat for the sedge wren

and grasshopper sparrow. Their populations are at risk and have suffered significant population declines. Indiana is a significant migratory corridor for these species.

Iowa

Iowa Early Successional/Neotropical Birds SAFE

The goal of the Iowa Early Successional/Neotropical Birds SAFE project is to develop habitat required by numerous bird species that are showing nationwide decline.

Iowa Early Successional Quail Habitat SAFE

The goal of the Iowa Early Successional Quail Habitat SAFE project is to restore shortgrass species that support quail and other grassland birds, including bobolink, dickcissel, eastern meadowlark, field sparrow and loggerhead strike in the southern tier of counties.

Iowa Gaining Ground SAFE

The goal of the Iowa Gaining Ground SAFE project is to increase populations of ring-necked pheasant, dickcissel, bobolink and eastern meadowlark. The project seeks to enhance native plant communities in buffers around and near existing remnants of native prairie.

Iowa Grand River SAFE

The goal of the Iowa Grand River SAFE project is to restore native habitat for five bird species of greatest conservation need in the Kellerton Bird Conservation Area in southeast Ringgold County. This will be accomplished by creating higher quality native grassland habitats.

Iowa Pheasant Recovery SAFE

The goal for the Iowa Pheasant Recovery SAFE project is to restore top quality pheasant winter and nesting habitat in Iowa's primary and secondary pheasant counties by establishing blocks of 20 to 160 acres of habitat or expanding existing habitats up to 160 acres.

Kansas

Kansas Upland Game Birds SAFE

The goal of the Kansas Upland Game Birds SAFE project is to improve populations of bobwhite quail

and other grassland-associated wildlife by creating nesting/brood-rearing habitat on portions of crop fields. This SAFE effort will establish and maintain diverse native grass and forbs cover. Quail, pheasant and other grassland birds are species that will benefit from SAFE enrollments.

Kansas Lesser Prairie Chicken Habitat SAFE

The goal of the Kansas Lesser Prairie Chicken Habitat SAFE project is to restore mixed grass prairies to maintain and enhance lesser prairie chicken populations.

Kansas Migratory Bird, Butterfly and Pollinator SAFE

The goal of the Kansas Migratory Bird, Butterfly and Pollinator SAFE project is to restore hydrology to playa wetlands and improve habitat for migratory birds, waterfowl and pollinator species, including monarch butterflies, in western playa lakes counties.

Kentucky

Kentucky Early Successional and Bottomland Hardwood Restoration SAFE

The goal of the Kentucky Early Successional and Bottomland Hardwood Restoration SAFE project is to benefit the northern bobwhite quail, which is a species that has suffered significant population decline throughout the state and is of significant social and economic value to the people of Kentucky.

Louisiana

Louisiana Gulf Coast Prairies SAFE

The goal of the Louisiana Gulf Coast Prairies SAFE project is to restore grassland and shallow water habitats in the Gulf Coast Prairies region of Louisiana.

Louisiana Bayou Bartholomew SAFE

The goal of the Louisiana Bayou Bartholomew SAFE project is to identify, protect and restore critical examples of quality mussel and bald eagle habitat known to occur in the Bayou Bartholomew Watershed. The project will restore targeted areas to bottomland hardwood, native grasses and riparian buffers.

Maine**Maine New England Cottontail SAFE**

The goal of the Maine New England Cottontail SAFE project is to restore New England cottontail rabbit habitat in York and Cumberland counties in Maine.

Maine Upland Sandpiper SAFE

The goal of the Maine Upland Sandpiper SAFE project is to develop and maintain nesting and brood-rearing habitat for at-risk grassland birds and restore or enhance grassland vegetation for upland sandpipers, bobolinks and meadowlarks.

Michigan**Michigan Diverse Grassland SAFE**

The goal of the Michigan Diverse Grassland SAFE project is to restore diverse native grassland to benefit a variety of rare or declining species and species of significant importance. The project area is the lower peninsula of Michigan.

Michigan Native Pollinators SAFE

The goal of the Michigan Native Pollinators SAFE project is to restore native grasslands that provide diverse sources of nectar and pollen along with bare soil patches for ground nesting pollinators. Bees, butterflies and moths are among the pollinators that will benefit.

Minnesota**Minnesota Back Forty SAFE**

The goal of the Minnesota Back Forty SAFE project is to restore and enhance habitat for ring-necked pheasant populations. The project seeks to build upon existing habitats to enhance waterfowl, greater prairie chicken and grassland bird populations.

Mississippi**Mississippi Black Bear SAFE**

The goal of the Mississippi Black Bear SAFE project is to increase habitat for the federally threatened Louisiana black bear and the state-endangered American black bear. The project seeks to restore native bottomland hardwood forests in portions of the Mississippi Alluvial

Valley, which has been identified as an important zone for black bear recovery.

Mississippi Black Belt SAFE

The goal of the Mississippi Black Belt SAFE project is to increase native grassland habitats for rare, threatened, endangered and declining species in the Black Belt Prairie region of Mississippi.

Mississippi Bobwhite Quail SAFE

The goal of the Mississippi Bobwhite Quail SAFE project is to increase native grassland habitats in Mississippi for northern bobwhite quail populations within three years by restoring quality native grassland habitat.

Missouri**Missouri Bobwhite Quail SAFE**

The goal of the Missouri Bobwhite Quail SAFE project is to provide nesting and brood-rearing habitat necessary for bobwhite quail.

Missouri Delta Stewardship SAFE

The goal for the Missouri Delta Stewardship SAFE project is to address high priority wildlife needs in the state through habitat protection and restoration on eligible cropland acreage in parts of Stoddard, Scott, Mississippi, New Madrid, Dunklin and Pemiscot counties in southeast Missouri, which fall within the following three watersheds:

- New Madrid Floodway and St. John's Bayou;
- Lower St. Francis River; and
- Little River Drainage District.

Missouri Sand Grassland SAFE

The goal of the Missouri Sand Grassland SAFE project is to restore sand prairie, sand woodland and sand savannas in specific land-type associations in southeast Missouri with unique sandy soils, benefiting state endangered and state species of conservation concern, including the Illinois chorus frog, eastern spadefoot toad and northern bobwhite.

Missouri Nesting Habitat SAFE

The goal of the Missouri Nesting Habitat SAFE project is to significantly increase available

nesting habitat within six Missouri Conservation Opportunity Areas to benefit the state endangered greater prairie chicken and other grassland-dependent birds.

Montana

Montana Pheasant Winter Cover SAFE

The goal of the Montana Pheasant Winter Cover SAFE project is to provide blocks of grass or shrub cover for ring-necked pheasant and other upland birds near existing permanent winter cover.

Montana Prairie Pothole SAFE

The goal of the Montana Prairie Pothole SAFE project is to expand habitat for ducks, ring-necked pheasant, Hungarian (gray) partridge, native sharp-tailed grouse and neo-tropical birds by supplementing existing habitat by seeding herbaceous vegetation in areas of high wetland densities or areas adjacent to semi-permanent wetlands.

Montana Sagebrush SAFE

The goal of the Montana Sagebrush SAFE project is to restore cropland to sagebrush habitat suitable for a variety of wildlife, including sage grouse and other sagebrush obligate birds such as sage sparrow and sage thrasher.

Nebraska

Nebraska Tallgrass SAFE

The goal of the Nebraska Tallgrass SAFE project is to expand habitat in the Nebraska tallgrass prairie region for greater prairie chickens.

Nebraska Upland Birds SAFE

The goal of the Nebraska Upland Birds SAFE project is to enhance habitat for upland wildlife such as upland game birds, including northern bobwhite quail and ring-necked pheasant.

Nebraska Migratory Bird, Butterfly and Pollinator SAFE

The goal of the Nebraska Migratory Bird, Butterfly and Pollinator SAFE project is to restore hydrology to playa wetlands and improve habitat for migratory birds, waterfowl and

pollinator species, including monarch butterflies, in southern playa lakes counties.

Nevada

Nevada Sage Grouse Habitat Improvement SAFE

The goal of the Nevada Sage Grouse Habitat Improvement SAFE project is to maintain, restore and improve sagebrush habitat for sage-grouse populations and other sagebrush obligate species. Acres enrolled in the SAFE project will be designed to provide habitat needs, such as nesting, brood-rearing, winter roosting and escape cover for sage grouse. Acres enrolled in the SAFE project will also reduce invasion of invasive weeds, improve water quality and reduce soil erosion.

New Jersey

New Jersey Grassland SAFE

The goal of the New Jersey Grassland SAFE project is to benefit rare and declining grassland-dependent birds across New Jersey, such as bobolink, vesper sparrow, eastern meadowlark, northern bobwhite quail, grasshopper and savannah sparrows and upland sandpiper.

New Jersey Raritan-Piedmont SAFE

The goal of the New Jersey Raritan-Piedmont SAFE project is to benefit grassland birds by protecting and restoring habitat.

New Jersey Agricultural Heritage SAFE

The goal of the New Jersey Agricultural Heritage SAFE project is to benefit grassland nesting birds by restoring native warm- and cool-season grasslands embedded within large agricultural landscapes.

New Mexico

New Mexico Lesser Prairie Chicken SAFE

The goal of the New Mexico Lesser Prairie Chicken SAFE project is to benefit the lesser prairie chicken by restoring native grasslands in certain counties in eastern New Mexico for breeding and brood-rearing.

*New York***New York Grassland SAFE**

The goal of the New York Grassland SAFE project is to benefit grassland birds such as the grasshopper sparrow, Vesper's sparrow, Henslow's sparrow, eastern meadowlark, horned lark, northern harrier, savannah sparrow, sedge wren, upland sandpiper, bobolink, short-eared owl and barn owl.

*North Carolina***North Carolina Grassland SAFE**

The goal of the North Carolina Grassland SAFE project is to enhance early successional habitat to benefit several grassland bird species identified as high-priority. These species include northern bobwhite, loggerhead shrike, grasshopper sparrow, eastern kingbird, eastern meadowlark, common yellowthroat and field sparrow.

*North Dakota***North Dakota Coteau-Drift SAFE**

The goal of the North Dakota Coteau-Drift SAFE project is to maintain and increase habitat for priority species of waterfowl, water birds, shorebirds and terrestrial birds in the Missouri Plateau and Drift Prairie region.

North Dakota Sagebrush SAFE

The goal of the North Dakota Sagebrush SAFE project is to increase sage grouse populations by restoring cropland to sagebrush habitat. This ecosystem is suitable for sage grouse and other sagebrush birds such as sage sparrow, sage thrasher, sharp-tailed grouse, grey partridge and mule deer.

North Dakota Tallgrass SAFE

The goal of the North Dakota Tallgrass SAFE project is to restore cropland to native tallgrass prairie habitat to maintain and increase greater prairie chicken and sharp-tailed grouse populations in the project area.

North Dakota Habitat for Pheasants SAFE

The goal of the North Dakota Habitat for Pheasants SAFE project is to enhance habitat for economically significant species such as ring-

necked pheasants, sharp-tailed grouse, Hungarian partridge, waterfowl, big game and other non-game species.

North Dakota Habitat for Honeybees SAFE

The goal of the North Dakota Habitat for Honeybees SAFE project is to establish conservation cover that includes a diversity of grasses and flowering forbs that will increase high-quality forage for honeybees. This project is available statewide but covers must be established on enrolled acres within two miles of a commercial apiary.

North Dakota Declining Grassland Birds SAFE

The goal of the North Dakota Declining Grassland Birds SAFE project is to establish and maintain shortgrass prairie landscapes that support grassland birds, including western meadowlark, Bairds sparrow, grasshopper sparrow, Sprague's pipit and chestnut-collared longspur in counties south and west of the Missouri River.

*Ohio***Ohio Big Island/Killdeer SAFE**

The goal of the Ohio Big Island/Killdeer SAFE project is to restore native grasslands, prairies and wetlands to benefit pollinators and grassland-dependent migratory bird species.

Ohio Grand River/Mosquito SAFE

The goal of the Ohio Grand River/Mosquito SAFE project is to restore native grasslands, prairies and wetlands to benefit pollinators and grassland-dependent migratory bird species.

Ohio Killbuck SAFE

The goal of the Ohio Killbuck SAFE project is to restore native grasslands, prairies and wetlands to benefit pollinators and grassland-dependent migratory bird species.

Ohio Kitty Todd SAFE

The goal of the Ohio Kitty Todd SAFE project is to restore native grasslands, prairies and wetlands to benefit pollinators, including Karner blue butterfly and grassland-dependent migratory bird species.

Ohio LaSuAn Grasslands SAFE

The goal of the Ohio LaSuAn Grasslands SAFE project is to restore native grasslands, prairies and wetlands to benefit pollinators, waterfowl and grassland-dependent migratory bird species.

Ohio Paint Creek SAFE

The goal of the Ohio Paint Creek SAFE project is to restore native grasslands, prairies and wetlands to benefit pollinators and grassland-dependent bird species.

Ohio Western Lake Erie Marshes SAFE

The goal of the Ohio Western Lake Erie Marshes SAFE project is to restore native grasslands, prairies and wetlands to benefit pollinators, waterfowl and grassland-dependent bird species.

Ohio Grassland Bird SAFE

The goal of the Ohio Grassland Bird SAFE project is to restore native grasslands, prairies and wetlands to benefit pollinators and grassland-dependent bird species.

Ohio Grasslands for Pheasants SAFE

The goal for the Ohio Grasslands for Pheasants SAFE project is to either create high-quality pheasant habitat or rehabilitate habitat suitable primarily for pheasants, and secondarily, other grassland birds including game species that are threatened, endangered or in decline.

Ohio Quail SAFE

The goal of the Ohio Quail SAFE project is to restore grassland and open shrub habitat that supports bobwhite quail across the state.

Ohio Pollinator and Monarch Butterfly SAFE

The goal of the Ohio Pollinator and Monarch Butterfly SAFE project is to establish a diverse mix of grasses and flowering forbs, including milkweed, which will provide nectar sources for pollinators and monarch butterflies across the state.

Oklahoma**Oklahoma Mixed Grass Prairie SAFE**

The goal of the Oklahoma Mixed Grass Prairie SAFE project is to restore mixed grass prairie

type associations in northwestern Oklahoma to benefit northern bobwhite, Cassin's sparrow and other grassland birds.

Oregon**Oregon Heppner Mule Deer SAFE**

The goal of the Oregon Heppner Mule Deer SAFE project is to restore high-quality mule deer forage in the northern foothills of the Heppner Big Game Management Unit. Additionally, the habitat created in many of these CRP stands can provide benefits for multiple species including Rocky Mountain elk, pheasants, Hungarian partridge, chukar and many grassland obligate bird species.

Pennsylvania**Pennsylvania Seasonal Pools/Early Successional/Grass SAFE**

The goal of the Pennsylvania Seasonal Pools/Early Successional/Grass SAFE project is to improve habitat for and populations of sensitive wildlife identified in the Pennsylvania State Wildlife Action Plan.

Puerto Rico**Puerto Rico Sub-Tropical Forest SAFE**

The goal of the Puerto Rico Sub-Tropical Forest SAFE project is to improve, connect or restore healthier quality habitat and to promote healthier ecosystems. The project will benefit high priority species including Puerto Rican boa, Puerto Rican sharp-shinned hawk, Puerto Rican pigeon, Puerto Rican rock frog and candidate specie Elfin-woods warbler.

South Carolina**South Carolina Restoring Native Grasses SAFE**

The goal of the South Carolina Restoring Native Grasses SAFE project is to increase early successional habitat in Allendale, Bamberg and Barnwell counties to benefit birds in decline.

South Dakota**South Dakota Sagebrush SAFE**

The goal of the South Dakota Sagebrush SAFE project is to benefit the sage grouse population by restoring cropland to sagebrush habitat suitable for sage grouse and other sagebrush obligate birds such as sage sparrows and sage thrashers.

South Dakota Pheasants SAFE

The goal of the South Dakota Pheasants SAFE project is to provide block grass acreages for ring-necked pheasants and other upland birds in the form of nesting, brood-rearing, winter-roosting and escape cover. This will help increase the overall population of ring-necked pheasants and other economically significant species such as sharp-tailed grouse, prairie chicken and upland nesting ducks.

South Dakota Western SD Grassland Wildlife Habitat SAFE

The goal of the South Dakota Western SD Grassland Wildlife Habitat SAFE project is to restore habitat critical to declining grassland birds native to western South Dakota. Some of the targeted species include the short-eared owl, grasshopper sparrow, dickcissel, bobolink, sharp-tailed grouse, long-billed curlew and upland nesting waterfowl.

Tennessee**Tennessee Wetlands SAFE**

The goal of the Tennessee Wetlands SAFE project is to restore high-quality wetlands habitat that will provide high-quality breeding, feeding and winter habitats necessary to waterfowl, shorebirds, amphibians, reptiles, crustaceans and other wetlands wildlife.

Tennessee Trees SAFE

The goal of the Tennessee Trees SAFE project is to establish high-quality bottomland hardwoods on wetlands that are important not only for waterfowl but also for many forest-dependent songbirds, amphibians and reptiles. Key wildlife species that will benefit from bottomland hardwoods include the cerulean warbler, Mississippi kite, Rafinesque's big-eared bats and southeastern bats.

Tennessee Grass SAFE

The goal of the Tennessee Grass SAFE project is to restore critical habitats that will provide high-quality nesting, brood-rearing and protective woody cover and winter habitats necessary for bobwhite quail and other declining wildlife species that depend on native "early successional" type habitats and travel corridors between habitat blocks.

Texas**Texas Gulf Coast Prairies SAFE**

The goal of the Texas Gulf Coast Prairies SAFE project is to restore grassland and shallow water habitats in the Gulf Coast Prairie region of Texas for a variety of bird species.

Texas Lower Rio Grande Thornscrub SAFE

The goal of the Texas Lower Rio Grande Thornscrub SAFE project is to restore Tamaulipan thornscrub habitat for the endangered ocelot and other wildlife species.

Texas Mixed Grass SAFE

The goal of the Texas Mixed Grass SAFE project is to reconnect geographically and reproductively isolated populations of lesser prairie chickens by creating native mixed grass prairie and travel corridors.

Virginia**Virginia Culpeper Basin SAFE**

The goal of the Virginia Culpeper Basin SAFE project is to restore native trees, shrubs and warm season grasses for grass and shrubland-dependent bird habitats along the Rappahannock and Rapidan Rivers, as well as upland habitat adjacent to their tributaries.

Virginia Longleaf Pine SAFE

The goal of the Virginia Longleaf Pine SAFE project is to re-establish longleaf pine stands in more than two dozen Virginia counties that benefit a variety of wildlife. The project seeks to increase habitat for red-cockaded woodpecker, Bachman's sparrow and redheaded woodpecker.

Virginia Rare & Declining Habitats SAFE

The goal of the Virginia Rare & Declining Habitats SAFE project is to restore migratory bird habitat. This project will use native hardwood trees, shrubs and grasses to restore and maintain habitats along the Eastern Shore of Virginia.

Virginia Riparian Buffer SAFE

The goal of the Virginia Riparian Buffer SAFE project is to expand riparian forest buffers for interior forest and riparian birds, as well as other wildlife. The project will establish forest buffers using native hardwood tree plantings and control invasive species through various land management techniques.

*Washington***Washington Coastal Roosevelt Elk SAFE**

The goal of the Washington Coastal Roosevelt Elk SAFE project is to increase habitat for the declining Olympic elk herd.

Washington Columbia Basin SAFE

The goal of the Washington Columbia Basin SAFE project is to benefit ring-necked pheasant and California quail. In addition, the project will benefit at-risk species such as the burrowing owl and Washington ground squirrel, which are known to inhabit irrigated circle corners and other unfarmed areas.

Washington Ferruginous Hawk SAFE

The goal of the Washington Ferruginous Hawk SAFE project is to enhance foraging habitat around ferruginous hawk nests in Benton, Franklin and Adams Counties of eastern Washington by establishing shrubs, grasses and forbs on former cropland within the selected hawk nest buffers.

Washington Palouse Prairie SAFE

The goal of the Washington Palouse Prairie SAFE project is to improve and increase Palouse Prairie habitat for a variety of wildlife species by re-establishing diverse stands of grasses, forbs and shrubs. Converting cropland to fields and corridors of permanent native plant communities will benefit wildlife species, including at-risk wildlife, such as grassland and shrubland-nesting birds, and native pollinators.

Washington Shrub-Steppe SAFE

The goal of the Washington Shrub-Steppe SAFE project is to benefit shrub-steppe bird species that have declined because of ongoing habitat loss and fragmentation throughout the West. These are the at-risk species with federal or state listing status that use the land in the project area: sharp-tailed grouse, sage grouse, sage sparrow, sage thrasher and loggerhead shrike. The grasshopper sparrow, savannah sparrow and Brewer's sparrow will also benefit from the SAFE project.

Washington Sage and Sharp-Tailed Grouse SAFE

The goal of the Washington Sage and Sharp-Tailed Grouse SAFE project is to benefit native prairie grouse and other shrub-steppe wildlife species that have declined because of ongoing habitat loss and fragmentation throughout the West.

*Wisconsin***Wisconsin Glacial SAFE**

The goal of the Wisconsin Glacial SAFE project is to establish a mosaic of grasslands and wetlands in a predominately agricultural landscape. This will result in more favorable habitat conditions for self-sustaining populations of waterfowl, pheasants and grassland songbirds.

Wisconsin Shortgrass SAFE

The goal of the Wisconsin Shortgrass SAFE project is to increase Karner Blue butterfly habitat by restoring shortgrass prairie. Karner Blue butterfly habitat requires a certain degree of disturbance to maintain a stable system, particularly for the larva's sole food source, wild blue lupine. The project will enhance the understanding of wild blue lupine establishment, linking Karner Blue butterfly use and occupation with short-grass prairie restoration and enhancement in the project area.

Wisconsin Southwest Grassland SAFE

The goal of the Wisconsin Southwest Grassland SAFE project is to restore and maintain grassland and prairie habitat for 14 bird species of greatest conservation need in Wisconsin.

Wisconsin Central Grassland SAFE

The goal of the Wisconsin Central Grassland SAFE project is to restore native mid-shortgrass and wetland habitats for four species of neotropical migrant songbirds: Henslow's sparrow, grasshopper sparrow, sedge wren and bobolink.

Wisconsin Western Prairie SAFE

The goal of the Wisconsin Western Prairie SAFE project is to benefit grassland-dependent species of greatest conservation need by maintaining current grassland, while establishing new acres of native and introduced grasses, and native perennial legumes.

Wisconsin Pollinator and Monarch Butterfly SAFE

The goal of the Wisconsin Pollinator and Monarch Butterfly SAFE project is to establish a diverse mix of grasses and flowering forbs, including milkweed, which will provide nectar sources for pollinators and monarch butterflies across the state.

Wyoming**Wyoming Northeast Wyoming Habitat Restoration Area SAFE**

The goal of the Wyoming Northeast Wyoming Habitat Restoration Area SAFE project is to create, enhance or restore critical habitat by the conversion of cropland to permanent introduced or native perennial plant communities. This habitat restoration will help restore cropland to early-seral/early-successional stage habitats and grassland, such as sagebrush habitats suitable for sage grouse, sharp-tailed grouse, grey partridge, ducks, geese, mule deer, pronghorn antelope, wild turkeys and small mammals.

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- 1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights 1400 Independence Avenue, SW Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;*
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