

NORTH DAKOTA STATE ACRES FOR WILDLIFE ENHANCEMENT SAFE - DECLINING GRASSLAND BIRDS PROJECT

Project Overview

SAFE is a voluntary program available as part of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Farm Service Agency's (FSA) Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) to address species of special concern. SAFE allows states to design CRP practices that maintain the program's hallmark soil and water conservation benefits, while targeting specific wildlife species.

The Declining Grassland Bird SAFE project was developed around the North Dakota Game and Fish Department's Wildlife Action Plan, which identifies direct threats and conservation actions for grasslands. The goal of the project is to increase the availability of prairie habitat for breeding grassland birds with declining population trends in North Dakota. Several grassland bird species have experienced significant declines due to habitat loss and fragmentation. Many of these species rely on large, continuous tracts of intact native prairie grasslands. The project provides a voluntary option for producers to establish and maintain shortgrass native prairie landscapes that support grassland birds, including

Western meadowlark, Baird's sparrow, grasshopper sparrow, Sprague's pipit and chestnut-collared longspur.

Practices and Payments

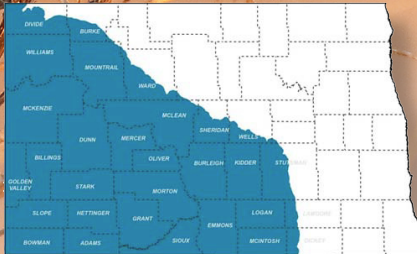
The following CRP practices are available under the Declining Grassland Birds SAFE project:

- CP2, Permanent Native Grasses.
- CP4D, Permanent Wildlife Habitat.
- CP25, Rare and Declining Habitat.

Producers may receive the following:

- Cost-share of up to 50 percent of cost to install the approved conservation practice;
- Cost-share for certain management activities;
- A one-time signing incentive payment (SIP) payment of \$75 per acre;
- An annual soil rental payment.

Managed grazing is allowed and will help ensure a healthy and diverse prairie habitat.



**SAFE Grasslands Birds
Project Area**

**For more information or questions,
please contact:**



ND Game and Fish Department
100 N. Bismarck Expressway
Bismarck, ND 58501
701-328-6371



**DUCKS
UNLIMITED**
Ducks Unlimited Inc.
2525 River Road
Bismarck, ND
701-355-3500



ND Natural Resource Trust
1605 E. Capitol Ave. Ste. 101
Bismarck, ND 58501-2102
701-223-8501



Farm Service Agency
1025 28th St. S
Fargo, ND 58103
701-239-5224

Conservation Partners – Additional Funding Opportunities

North Dakota Game and Fish Department:

- Cost-sharing – NDGFD will provide up to 50 percent cost-share on grass/forb seed if landowner allows public access to CRP.
- Private Land Open To Sportsmen (PLOTS) payment – NDGFD will provide a one-time, upfront incentive payment of \$6-\$10/acre/CRP contract year (depending upon location within the state) if landowner allows public access to CRP.

Ducks Unlimited:

- Ducks Unlimited can provide technical assistance to landowners interested in learning about available federal, state, and local conservation programs through the state.

- Potential cost-share assistance through other Ducks Unlimited programs on grass planting, wetland restoration, and grazing infrastructure depending on location and grant availability.

ND Natural Resources Trust:

- NDNRT will provide boundary fencing and livestock water development on or adjacent to SAFE acres. The NDNRT will provide 60 percent cost-share. This cost-share will be provided to encourage landowners to utilize livestock grazing for management during the contract.
- Cost-share is made available through an Outdoor Heritage Fund grant.