



# Prairie Pothole JOINT VENTURE

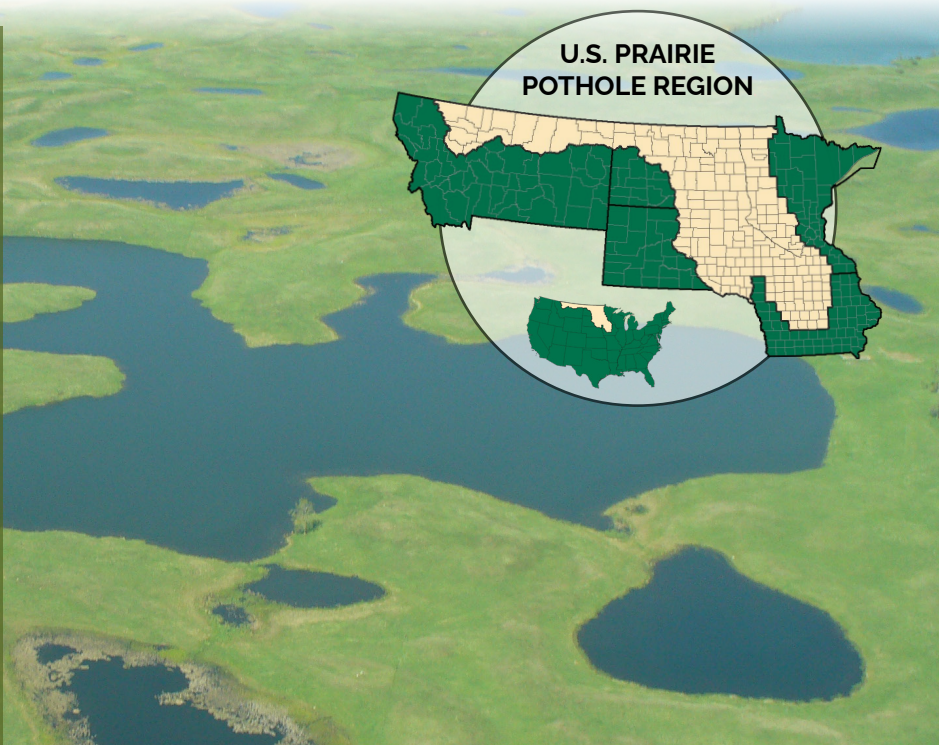
The Prairie Pothole Joint Venture (PPJV) is a voluntary, self-directed partnership involving federal and state agencies, policy makers, non-governmental organizations, private land-owners, resource managers, corporations, and others with a common interest in prairie habitat conservation. PPJV partners realize they can achieve more through collaboration than they can accomplish by acting alone.

The PPJV was established in 1987 as one of the original six priority Joint Ventures under the North American Waterfowl Management Plan. Today, the PPJV stands out as one of the most robust, science-based Joint Ventures in the country. Using rigorous science and spatial planning tools, the PPJV partnership strategically protects, restores, and enhances high priority wetland and grassland habitat to help sustain populations of waterfowl, shorebirds, waterbirds, and prairie landbirds.

## WHY ARE PRAIRIE POTHOLES SO UNIQUE?

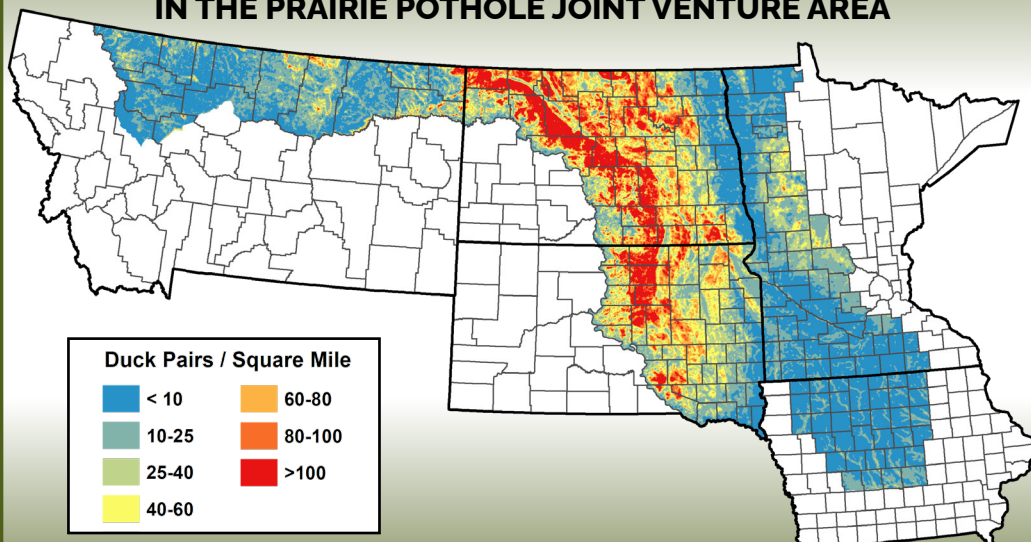
Found nowhere else in the U.S., the millions of small basins in this region constitute one of the richest wetland systems in the world. These “prairie potholes” and the surrounding grasslands are highly productive and important for both wildlife and the ranching community.

The PPJV covers one-third of North America’s Prairie Pothole Region (PPR), including portions of Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota, and Iowa.





## UPLAND ACCESSIBILITY BY BREEDING DUCK PAIRS IN THE PRAIRIE POTHOLE JOINT VENTURE AREA



## SOLID SCIENCE

The PPJV uses cutting-edge technology, innovative science, and critical evaluation to create a solid foundation for program delivery. The PPJV provides partners with tools to target habitat conservation efforts for maximum effectiveness and scientifically evaluate conservation gains.



## COMMITMENT TO PRAIRIE CONSERVATION

The wetlands and grasslands in this region are internationally important but are significantly declining from conversion to row crop agriculture, energy, and other development. This region is now the most threatened breeding waterfowl and grassland bird habitat in the U.S. Fortunately, through continued commitment, innovative thinking, and dedicated partners, meaningful conservation accomplishments remain possible.

## INVOLVED PRIVATE LANDOWNERS

About 90% of the land in the U.S. PPR is privately owned, and landowners play an essential role in habitat conservation in the region. Thankfully, there are private landowners in the PPJV who want to implement voluntary conservation actions. These landowners recognize that conservation programs on their lands can improve the soil, water, and wildlife resources and be value added to their operations.



## BENEFITS OF CONSERVATION

In addition to providing habitat for a broad suite of wetland-dependent wildlife species, prairie pothole wetlands and grasslands provide a variety of ecological goods and services to society. These benefits include food, water purification, carbon sequestration, recreation, soil stabilization, cultural values, and hydrologic storage to reduce flood severity.

