

JV8 CENTRAL GRASSLANDS INITIATIVE



EIGHT MIGRATORY BIRD JOINT VENTURES UNIFIED FOR CONSERVATION OF THE CENTRAL GRASSLANDS

NORTH AMERICAN GREAT PLAINS GRASSLAND ASSESSMENT

- While only 21% of Great Plains grasslands remain undisturbed, this is comparatively high, making them continentally valuable and important to conserve.
- Of the remaining undisturbed lands 93% are unprotected and at risk of conversion.
- Native grassland loss rates have recently exceeded 2% annually in the northern regions; estimates are currently being calculated for the southern regions.

Grassland Birds

720
MILLION
GRASSLAND BIRDS
LOST SINCE 1970

-53%
POPULATION LOSS
IN GRASSLAND
BIRDS SINCE 1970

3 IN 4

EASTERN MEADOWLARKS
LOST SINCE 1970



North American native grasslands are disappearing.

When we lose our grasslands, we lose not only birds but also pollinators, working lands, opportunities for hunting and outdoor recreation, carbon sequestration, and water security. These losses adversely impact rural communities and economies across the continent.

Migratory Bird Joint Ventures have learned how to turn things around for wetland birds and are now applying that strategy to grassland birds.

Through the JV8 Central Grasslands Initiative, eight Joint Ventures — representing over 63 federal, state, provincial, non-profit, and industry conservation partners — are collaborating to stem grassland losses and the negative impacts to migratory birds. The Joint Ventures are working together across the breeding, migration, and wintering habitats used by migratory birds during their annual cycle in the U.S., Canada, and Mexico.

To date, the Joint Ventures have completed a North American Great Plains Grassland Assessment to understand the extent of undisturbed native grasslands across the tri-national geography. The next step is to hire a Conservation Director to drive the creation and implementation of the JV8 strategy and coordinate conservation efforts to address causes of declining grassland bird populations across the eight Joint Ventures.

We did it for wetlands and ducks; now we're doing it for grasslands and grassland birds.

The JV8 Central Grasslands Initiative is built on the power of partnerships and their success in conserving wetland birds; and now, through this initiative, the Joint Ventures are bringing people and resources together to scale up successful models of grasslands conservation to meet targeted grassland goals while leveraging federal dollars for maximum effectiveness.

MIGRATORY BIRD JOINT VENTURES

Migratory Bird Joint Ventures work with many partners to build and sustain a healthy world for birds, other wildlife, and people.

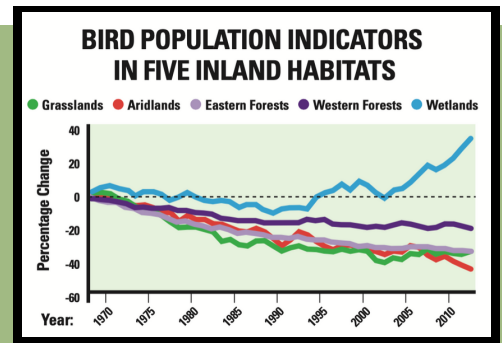
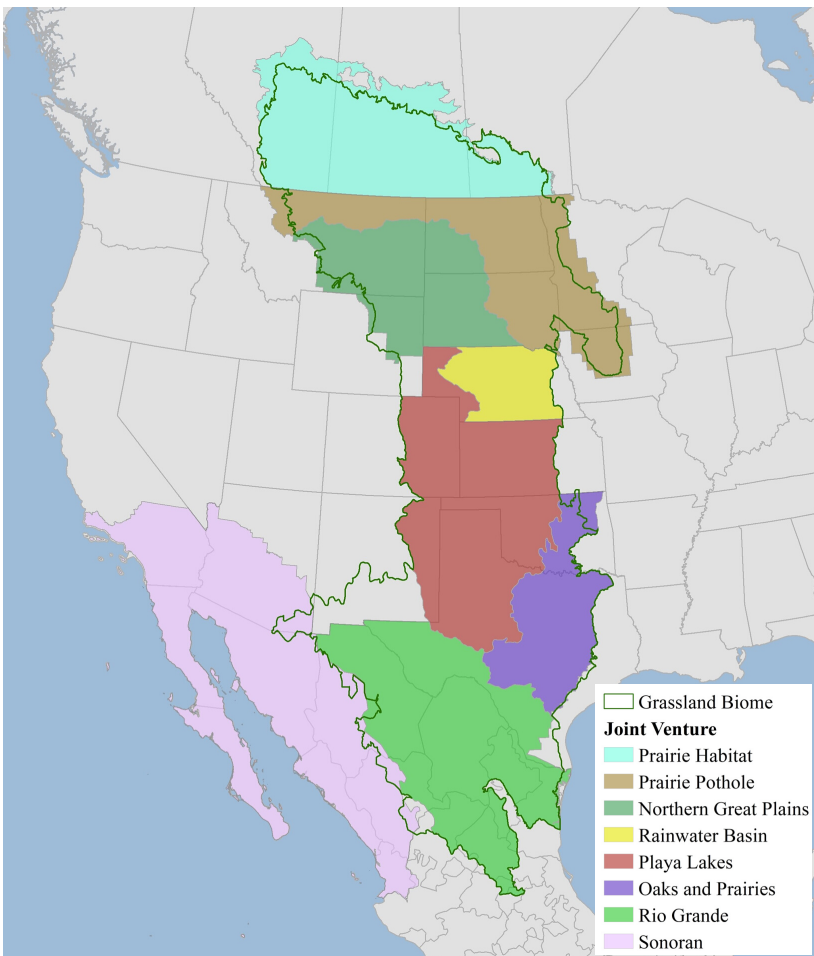
Joint Ventures are voluntary, cooperative, regional partnerships of federal, state, and provincial agencies working with industry, private landowners, non-profit organizations, tribes, academia, and other partners. Established by the North American Waterfowl Management Plan in 1986, twenty-four Joint Ventures in the U.S., Canada, and Mexico now address the needs of all North American birds.

Their strategic business model has one of the highest returns on investment in conservation.

In fact, the dramatic reversal of downward population trends for waterfowl over the last 30 years is due in large part to the efforts and investment of Joint Ventures and their partners (see bird population graph in the sidebar).

Joint Ventures support conservation that works for wildlife AND for the people who live on these lands.

Collaborative conservation on private lands and active management of public lands leads to healthy habitat for wildlife, and also improved forage production for ranching, sustainable agriculture through pollinators, and economic vitality for rural communities.



WHILE THE POPULATIONS OF BIRDS THAT DEPEND ON WETLAND HABITATS HAVE REBOUNDED DUE TO CONSERVATION EFFORTS, OTHER BIRDS ARE DECLINING AT RAPID RATES, ESPECIALLY THOSE THAT DEPEND ON GRASSLANDS.

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