



The Landscape

News from the Nebraska Land Trust

2011 Annual Report

Nebraska Environmental Trust and NRCS partner in preservation

Bighorns benefit from stewardship of Fisher Ranch



On the Fisher Ranch, a bighorn ewe warily eyes the valley below from atop a butte in the Pine Ridge.

"It is only to be met with in the rocky mountains, and generally frequents... the most inaccessible precipices, where the hunter can seldom follow him. His appearance...is expressive of active strength, and the nimbleness of his motion is surprising. He bounds from one rock to another...and makes his way through places quite impracticable to any other animal in that country without wings." – Duncan McGillivray, 1800

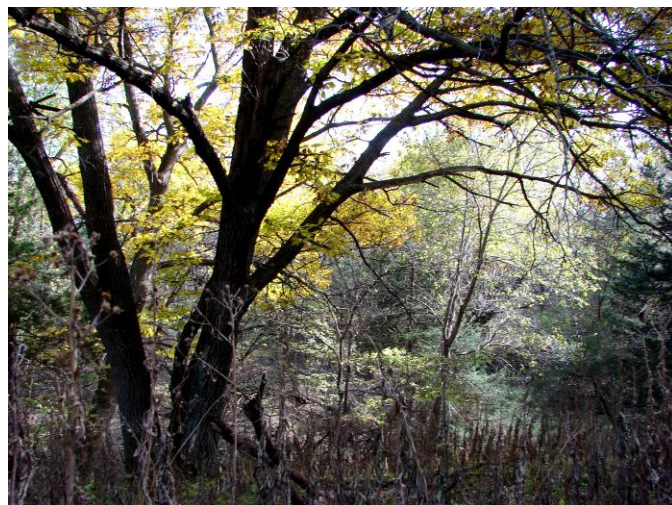
When Duncan McGillivray wrote this poetic description of bighorn sheep while exploring for the North West Company of Montreal, he couldn't know that their range extended far beyond "the rocky mountains." Southwestern deserts, Dakota badlands, and pine clad buttes in western Nebraska also harbored bighorns at the time. However, within 100 years market hunting, habitat loss, and disease had brought them to the edge of extinction.

In fact, some experts will tell you that Nebraska's bighorns were a sub-species known as Audubon's bighorns, which did go extinct. Others believe that they were simply a variation of Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep. Either way, they were gone from Nebraska by the dawn of the 20th century. (See *Fisher Ranch*, page 4)

Fedde Farm is preserved next to Schramm State Park

If you talk to Dean or Wayne Fedde for very long, chances are that the conversation will eventually include family. It is no wonder, as the Fedde family has a long history in Nebraska and have been landowners and farmers in the lower Platte Valley for generations. Like many conservation-minded landowners, the Fedde brothers viewed their land as an extension of their family – a part of their history that molded who they are. Like a member of the family, they never want to see any harm come to their land which is why they completed a conservation easement with the Nebraska Land Trust (NLT) in 2011.

(See *Fedde Farm*, page 5)



Eastern oak/hickory woodlands on the Fedde Farm in Sarpy County; Nebraska's fastest growing county

Inside...

Hosford Farm preserved for education – pg 3

Restoration: The next step in preservation – pg 5

NLT seeks national accreditation – pg 8



Wild Thoughts

From Dave Sands, Executive Director

When the Albion-Petersburg school buses pulled up to the Hosford Farm in Boone County last May, more than two dozen second graders piled out with excitement. It was easy to appreciate nature on such a fine day, with a choir of birds singing in the woodlands along Beaver Creek. But on this day, the students had come to learn about the Native Americans who also had a deep affection for this place.

According to Paul Hosford, "The farm was visited regularly by Native Americans for many years after my family took up residence there...They fished in the creeks and lake, presumably hunting and trapping as well, and harvested wild honey from a hollow tree, the location of which was shown to me as a child."

As the kids eagerly strained to touch the artifacts that Paul had laid out before them, the parents and teachers just smiled as history became something that students could hold in their hands. With a heartfelt desire to preserve the farm's rich heritage for children yet to come, Lori, Paul, and Gregg Hosford completed a conservation easement with the Nebraska Land Trust (NLT) in 2011.

About 300 miles away, the NLT has been working with Gary and Nancy Fisher to place 546 acres of their ranch into a conservation easement. Sandwiched between the 3,659-acre Ponderosa Wildlife Management Area and the Nebraska National Forest, the ranch provides a critical wildlife migration bridge for animals that move between the large areas of public land, like bighorn sheep and elk.

Under different ownership, this land might have been developed into 3-acre ranchettes or worse, creating a permanent barricade to wildlife migration. Instead, the Fisher family wanted a future that preserved the land for wildlife and cattle ranching. Through an agreement with the NLT, this goal was achieved last year.

On the other end of the state, the Schramm Bluffs of Sarpy County offer a green quilt of rolling farmland, deep ravines, oak woodlands, grasslands, and spring-fed streams. It is also a quilt that could easily be unraveled by development in Nebraska's fastest growing county. Fortunately, the area has one additional resource – many landowners who care about its future.

Building upon a 330-acre protected core in the heart of the bluffs at Schramm State Park, the NLT has worked with landowners to permanently preserve 484 additional acres. This includes the 158-acre Fedde Farm adjacent to the park's boundary and 178 acres on the nearby Patterson Farm, which were added in 2011.

These projects illustrate the diversity of Nebraska, from farms to ranches, and river bluffs to buttes. However, amid this diversity there are ties that bind these lands together, like agriculture which is the primary reason these properties still have resources to preserve. Another common feature are landowners who want to preserve these resources and there is one more tie – the NLT works across these diverse landscapes to preserve the "Nature" of Nebraska for us all.

Board of Directors

Fontenelle Nature Association

John Ellsworth, Gary Garabrandt, (Treasurer), and Nancy Roberts (General Counsel)

Lower Platte River Corridor Alliance*

Meghan Sittler

Lower Platte North

Natural Resources District

John Hannah, Bob Heimann, and John Miyoshi

Lower Platte South

Natural Resources District

Glenn Johnson (Vice Chair) and Dan Schulz

National Park Service*

Dan Foster

Nebraska Cattlemen

Warren Arganbright (Chair), Rod Christen, Kristen Hassebrook

Nebraska Farm Bureau Federation

Nathan Bartels

Nebraska Game and Parks Commission

Jim Douglas and Tim McCoy

Nebraska Sportsmen's Foundation

Scott Smathers

Nebraska State Historical Society

Trisha Nelson and Michael Smith

Nebraska Wildlife Federation

Duane Hovorka and Dave Koukol (Secretary)

Niobrara Council

Lance Kuck

Papio-Missouri River

Natural Resources District

Jim Becic

Platte River Basin Environments*

Hod Kosman

Sandhills Cattle Association

Carl Simmons and Roy Stewart

United States Fish and Wildlife Service*

Kenny Dinan and Robert Harms

Wachiska Audubon Society

Tim Knott, Joe Francis, and Don Pepperl

***Advisory, non-voting members**

Each voting organization may appoint up to three representatives, but only receives one vote.

Staff

Dave Sands, Executive Director

Jana Sittler Hafer, Director of Outreach and Administration

For information, please call the Nebraska Land Trust at (402) 438-5263; email admin@nelandtrust.org; or mail to 9200 Andermatt Dr., Suite 7, Lincoln, NE 68526.

Cultural sites, prairie, woods, and creeks are preserved for learning on the Hosford Farm

Laredo Ridge Wind Project helps to make preservation possible



Albion-Petersburg second graders follow Paul Hosford around the perimeter of Native American ceremonial site, as parents, teachers, and neighbors look on.

It was a quintessential spring day in Boone County, when the Albion-Petersburg second grade were welcomed by Paul and Lori Hosford, who host an annual field trip to their farm near Albion. These visits have become an Albion tradition for the past eight years, appreciated by kids, teachers, and parents alike.

With its woodlands, pasture and a meandering stretch of Beaver Creek, one might naturally assume that students had come to learn about nature. While they no doubt appreciated the outdoor classroom, this visit would focus on the Native Americans who once lived there and left pieces of their culture behind.

For more than 125 years, the Hosford's ancestors have carefully preserved cultural sites that are scattered across the 546-acre farm. In places, visitors can still see where an earth lodge once stood. Over many years, artifacts have been found which Paul uses to teach about the people who hunted and farmed along the Beaver Creek, before his family did the same. The kids listen intently as he tells family stories about the Omaha Indians who continued to visit the farm, even after his ancestors had settled there.

(See Hosford Farm, page 4)

Perspectives

A guest column by Paul Hosford

Reprinted from the December 7, 2011 *Albion News*

Regular readers of this column may recall that our farms have a considerable Native American history. So special was this land, that members of the Omaha tribe visited it regularly for many years after white settlement.

As the current landowners, Lori and I, along with my brother Gregg, feel we have a responsibility to preserve the sites – if we don't, who will? So when the opportunity arose last spring to work with the Nebraska Land Trust, we leapt at it.

We have been giving tours of our land to school groups for eight years now and have noticed that for some kids this is their first introduction to the outdoors. So, we have been wanting to restore native grasses in our pasture. That way, our young people would not only have the Olson Nature Preserve (ONP), but a second "extended classroom" for learning about the nature and history of the area. (We made a donation to the Albion Education Foundation to help pay expenses involved with bringing kids to our farm.)

As part of the conservation and preservation process, we're also working with the Prairie Plains Resource Institute in Aurora, the same group that manages the ONP, on a plan to re-establish native plants starting next year. This will be part of their new Ribbons of Prairie project, an effort to restore native prairie in small parcels across the state.

Central to everything is seeing that the cultural sites, re-established prairie and existing woodland habitat on our property are protected so they can be used for learning, bird watching and even hunting and fishing – even if someday our family no longer owns the land. And, since the Native American sites and habitat are spread across all four of our farms, we've included all of our land in the easement.

This doesn't reduce our property taxes, and it doesn't take any land out of production agriculture. But, it does set a course to the future by specifying what can and can't be done. If we ever decide to grow wine grapes, develop walking trails, or even farm fish, that's all allowed. But this will be done in a way that preserves the valuable historical and natural features.

Because we're setting restrictions on future generations, some may complain we're "ruling from the grave." But we have a responsibility to the future, and this is the best way we know how to fulfill it.

Hosford Farm (continued from page 3)

Mindful of the legacy that had been passed down to them, Paul, his wife Lori, and his brother Gregg had been considering permanent preservation for many years. However, there are costs to putting a easement in place, including a donation to the permanent Stewardship Fund which endows a land trust's ability to sustain preservation.

This financial barrier began to fall in 2010, when the Laredo Ridge Wind Project offered the Nebraska Land Trust (NLT) funding to help pay for a conservation easement to offset habitat loss from their wind farm near Petersburg. The funds would cover the endowment, transaction costs, and a portion of the easement's value, so in the spring of 2011, the NLT ran a request for proposals in the *Albion News* and convened a small group of local people to help choose.

The choice was easy once the Hosford family showed interest. The farm, its resources, and its educational value were known by all and the family offered to donate most of the easement's value. To preserve resources, the agreement prevents the conversion of woodlands to cropland, which has been increasing across the state, and it preserves cultural sites that could easily be farmed over, along with 10 acres of prairie.

Allowances in the agreement are as notable as the restrictions, as they allow for future possibilities like aquaculture, a winery, bed and breakfast, interpretive signs, and walking trails. In addition, funds from the Laredo Ridge Wind Project have been set aside for restoration of a brome pasture to tallgrass prairie, to further enhance the educational experience.

Paul sums it all up by explaining, "It is... our place now, claimed with our forbearer's sweat and grief, sacrifice and determination. But do we understand that by settling this land it is now our 'place' -- our responsibility to protect it, to hold it as dear as every people before us? Do we understand that the color of one's skin doesn't matter? In displacing the Native Americans we have taken on an ancient obligation to forever care for this land."



Fisher Ranch (continued from page 1)

Within another century, the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission (NGPC) started to reverse this loss, by restoring bighorns at Fort Robinson State Park in 1981. Another herd was established near Barrel Butte southeast of the park and more recently, a herd was released near Harrison. Bighorns have been restored to the Wildcat Hills near Scottsbluff as well.

Whereas the Fort Robinson herd stays fairly close to home, the Barrel Butte herd has wanderlust and migrates from the 3,659-acre Ponderosa Wildlife Management Area (WMA) on the west, to Chadron State Park about 20 miles to the east. Sitting across this migration route, sandwiched between the Ponderosa WMA and the Nebraska National Forest, are 546 unspoiled acres with pines, buttes, meadows, West Ash Creek, and a pond, all on the Fisher Ranch.

As a former Dawes County Commissioner in a place with lots of public land, Gary Fisher wanted his land to remain in ranching and was not inclined to sell it to a government agency. At the same time, he and his wife Nancy are dedicated conservationists who understand that their land provides a critical migration bridge for wildlife, especially the bighorns.

Over the years, they have improved their land for wildlife and cattle by developing aquatic habitat, battling invasive species, slowing erosion, thinning forest to reduce fire hazard, and improving their grasslands. In thinking about the future, they worried that it could all be undone by development and create a barricade to migrating bighorns. They concluded that a conservation easement could preserve their legacy of stewardship, including ranching.

With a Board of Directors that includes several agricultural organizations, the family felt that the Nebraska Land Trust would be a good partner in the pursuit of preservation. The Nebraska Environmental Trust and the Natural Resources Conservation Service through their Farm and Ranch Protection Program provided key funding that made preservation possible.

Additional partners in funding included the Iowa Chapter of the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep and the Nebraska Game and Parks Foundation. As a result, this critical wildlife migration bridge was preserved in 2011 so that it can remain open to traffic, from cattle on the meadows, to bighorns on buttes that are "quite impracticable to any other animal in that country without wings."

Fedde Farm (continued from page 1)

Like many projects, the journey toward permanent preservation started years earlier, in 2008 when the NLT received a \$1.1 million grant from the Nebraska Environmental Trust (NET) to pursue land preservation in the Schramm Bluffs. To a large degree, the application for this grant was spurred by area landowners, including the Fedde brothers, who were concerned about subdivisions advancing westward from Omaha into this pristine landscape.

Sarpy County government validated this concern and the importance of preservation, when they created the Schramm Conservation District in their Comprehensive Plan, an 11,000-acre area where zoning and conservation easements were identified as the primary tools for conservation. The county took this unusual action because they recognized the unique and sensitive resources in the area that could be harmed by development, including steep watersheds prone to erosion; threatened and endangered species; locally rare oak/hickory woodlands; scenic views from public places; an Audubon Important Bird Area at Schramm State Park; and numerous cultural and archeological sites.

In a small county that is projected to add 150,000 residents by the year 2040, these resources would be very much at risk without permanent preservation. Another resource at risk in an urbanizing county is the very thing that has protected the bluffs all these years – agriculture. This is why the NLT was able to leverage the NET grant by applying to the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Farm and Ranch Protection Program (FRPP), which will fund up to 50% for the purchase of a conservation agreement that permanently keeps land in agriculture. To date, the NLT has received \$958,010 in FRPP funding to match the NET grant in the Schramm Bluffs.

Landowners have also played a role in securing these funds by providing a match of their own, by agreeing to donate a portion of the easement's appraised value. Wayne and Dean Fedde were among these landowners, which is fortunate for anyone who appreciates Schramm State Park. Their 158-acre organic farm is adjacent to the park's northern boundary and the popular nature trail in the park passes within a few yards of the Fedde land. Thanks to the brother's resolve to protect their farm like a member of the family, hikers in the park will never have to see a subdivision on the other side of the fence.

Layers of history are being preserved on the Patterson Farm



An old limestone barn foundation serves as a reminder of those who came before on the Patterson Farm.

When one looks at history on the 700-acre Patterson Farm in the Schramm Bluffs, it is like peeling an onion – there is one layer after another. On the surface there is natural history for all to see, as the farm fronts Highway 31 for a mile as it winds down into the Platte Valley, offering pastoral views of rolling farmland, spring-fed creeks, and oak woodlands.

In fact, it was the widening of Highway 31 that revealed another layer of history – Native American lodge sites around 1,000 years old. The find was so significant that the Nebraska State Historical Society published a brochure on lower Platte Valley native cultures that featured the "Patterson Site." Elsewhere on the farm, a projectile point was found that has been dated at 7,000 years old, more or less.

The Euro-Americans who settled in the lower Platte Valley left their imprints as well. In one place, a swale is actually a wagon rut from a pioneer trail that once descended into the valley on the farm. Structures from an early farmstead are also preserved on the land, including a limestone foundation from a barn.

Through good times and bad, Ron and Carol Patterson have fought to preserve their farm and parts of it have been in Carol's family for generations. This led them to the decision to preserve it for all time. Due to its large size, preservation must be pursued in increments. In 2011, thanks to funding from the NET and NRCS/FRPP, a second conservation was completed, preserving another 178 acres, which places about a third of the farm under protection.

Beyond Preservation: Applying Careful Management on the Nine Penny Ranch

*By Emily Munter, Wildlife Biologist, Partners
for Fish and Wildlife Program, U.S. Fish and
Wildlife Service*

I occasionally find it interesting to spend a moment examining the uses of different words in the English language, such as a comparison between the words “conservation” and “preservation.” You often see these two words used as synonyms. Both terms, in the natural resources realm, essentially imply the long-term protection of a resource. Beyond this, the difference between these two words when applied to a landscape, are strikingly different.

Preservation is the act of keeping a natural resource safe from harm or decay. Easements are one tool that does this by placing a set of restrictions on the land in order to protect specific resources from future uses that may be considered harmful. Conservation takes preservation one step further, melding the protection of those resources with their careful management to perpetuate them into the future. The key here is the phrase “careful management.” I have noticed in my journeys as a wildlife biologist that many natural areas, including some public lands or lands under conservation easement, are treated more like preservation areas than conservation areas. The “careful management” element is missing.

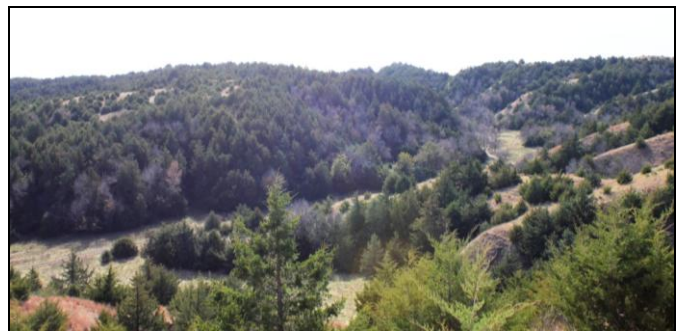
Mother Nature does not allow landscapes to stand still. Through her constant forces of change, be it weather, insects, fire, or even simple plant growth, she is always striving to shift and shape the land. Humans are forces of change also and we regularly work with or against Mother Nature in her efforts. Occasionally our combined forces of change are beneficial to the resources we aim to protect, other times they are not. In the latter situation, the lack of careful management can be, in fact, the one thing that undoes the resources which we were attempting to protect.

I recently had the pleasure of working with a pair of landowners who own a ranch in the Loess Canyons; Kris Fischer and his grandfather Wayne

Davidson. Like many landowners, Kris and Wayne are uniquely attuned to the land and the forces of change that come with it. Kris and his grandparents, who own 949 acres of canyons and timber in southeast Lincoln County, strived to place a conservation easement on their property, called the Nine Penny Ranch. The goal of the easement was not only to protect the ranch from future development, but also to preserve the unique mixed-grass prairie, the wildlife that reside there, and to maintain ranching which is so critical to the family.

With assistance from the Nebraska Environmental Trust (NET), the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Farm and Ranch Protection Program (FRPP), Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Nebraska Game and Parks Commission (NGPC), Loess Canyons Alliance, and the Nebraska Land Trust, the family placed a conservation easement on their land in 2010 after four years of effort. Equally commendable, Kris took the next step after the land was protected and moved into the second phase of conservation, careful management. He realized that you simply could not continue “business as usual” and keep the quality and quantity of prairie and wildlife.

On most properties in the Loess Canyons of southwest Nebraska, Mother Nature and human influences have combined to create a dramatic overabundance of Eastern red cedar trees. The primary causes are fire suppression and seed source supplementation through the planting of trees. While there was historically an element of this evergreen tree on the steep slopes and of the Loess Canyons, it has spread to the more open grassland areas, resulting in a loss of pasture for livestock and habitat for wildlife. This was certainly the case on the Nine Penny Ranch. *(See Nine Penny Ranch, page 7)*



Lack of active management on the Nine Penny Ranch led to an overabundance of Eastern red cedar trees. Left untreated, the remaining pockets of grasses will succumb to tree encroachment reducing the property's value for both livestock and wildlife.

Nine Penny Ranch (continued from page 6)

To begin the process, Kris contacted his local NRCS office for expertise in mechanical removal of cedars, application of prescribed fire, and livestock grazing systems. He then applied to the Environmental Quality Incentives Program offered by NRCS and was awarded financial assistance for the installation of cross-fencing and water tanks to facilitate rotational grazing and for the mechanical removal of cedar trees.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) and the NGPC were brought in as partners in the summer of 2011 to provide technical and financial resources through the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program and the Nebraska Natural Legacy Project, respectively. Both programs have an interest in restoring native habitats across Nebraska, which are home to at-risk and other wildlife species, by finding win-win solutions for landowners and wildlife. The Nine Penny Ranch is a prime example of how livestock production, land health, and wildlife all can benefit from careful management. A few of the species benefitting from this project include Greater Prairie-Chickens, Northern Bobwhite Quail, Golden Eagles, Rocky Mountain Elk, and American Burying Beetles.

Mechanical tree removal took place in the winter of 2011, with just over 130 acres of hilltops, gentle side slopes, and canyon bottoms cleared of all cedars by a local contractor. Small trees were mulched while the largest were cut at ground-level and stacked for future disposal. Prescribed burning is being discussed to address areas that could not be mechanically cleared and to manage re-growth where clearing has taken place.

Since the forces of change will continue to drive the landscape towards cedar tree infestation, a long-term prescribed fire plan is needed to maintain healthy, open grasslands while allowing the trees to remain on the steepest, most inaccessible slopes. While periodic burning may sound laborious, history has shown that it is more labor and cost-effective than having to repeat mechanical tree removal.

History and experience have also shown that rotational grazing will play a critical role in careful management. It is one of the more popular grazing systems in use today and when implemented with stocking densities, grazing durations, and pasture rotations based on what the land can support, it can have dramatic benefits for the plant community and the producers economic bottom line.



Many cedars on the ranch were mulched, as shown above, to reclaim over 130 acres of grasslands. Prescribed burns are planned to maintain prairie.



This hilltop, once abundant with Eastern red cedar, is now available for use by livestock and grassland wildlife after mechanical tree removal.

If you are one of the fortunate few who hold a piece of this beautiful Earth in your care, I encourage you to ponder the differences between preservation and conservation. If you already incorporate the elements of careful management on your land (as many, many landowners do) I commend you for your efforts! If you are ready to begin applying those elements to your land, or if you would like to alter your strategies to meet new objectives, there are numerous resources available to assist.

A great place to start is by speaking with the professionals at the NRCS. These folks can provide technical and potential financial assistance in your management endeavors. They can also provide information on further assistance that may be available through the Service, the NGPC, or other conservation entities. Your efforts in moving beyond preservation and into conservation of the land and its resources will be richly rewarded.

Nebraska Land Trust Public Notice of Application for Accreditation

The land trust accreditation program recognizes land conservation organizations that meet national quality standards for protecting important natural places and working lands forever. Nebraska Land Trust (NLT) is pleased to announce it is applying for accreditation. A public comment period is now open.

The Land Trust Accreditation Commission, an independent program of the Land Trust Alliance, conducts an extensive review of each applicant's policies and programs. "Through the efforts of the board directors and staff of The Nebraska Land Trust, and the trust and confidence of many Nebraskans, we have created a valuable tool to protect agricultural, natural and historic resources in our state. The Nebraska Land Trust now has an opportunity to go to the next level, in terms of trust, confidence, and accountability, by becoming an accredited land trust," said NLT Board chair Warren Arganbright.

The Commission invites public input and accepts signed, written comments on pending applications. Comments must relate to how Nebraska Land Trust complies with national quality standards. These standards address the ethical and technical operation of a land trust. For the full list of standards see www.landtrustaccreditation.org/getting-accredited/indicator-practices.

To learn more about the accreditation program and to submit a comment, visit: www.landtrustaccreditation.org.

Comments may also be faxed or mailed to the Land Trust Accreditation Commission, Attn: Public Comments: (fax) 518-587-3183; (mail) 112 Spring Street, Suite 204, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866. Comments on Nebraska Land Trust's application will be most useful by May 27, 2012.

Anti-easement legislation fails to advance

Much to the surprise and dismay of the conservation community in Nebraska, several bills were introduced in the 2011 Nebraska Legislature that had the potential to cripple land preservation statewide. One of these, LB 229 introduced by Senator Deb Fischer of Valentine, would have diverted \$77 million over 11 years from the Nebraska Environmental Trust (NET) to fund better water management in the state. The second bill, LB 529 introduced by Senator Tom Carlson of Holdrege, would have put severe constraints on the use of conservation easements by nonprofit conservation organizations.

LB 229 was seen by many as an attempt to address the right problem with the wrong solution. Nebraska does have serious issues with regards to funding water management as repeated attempts to identify a dedicated funding source have failed. However, the NET is a primary funding partner in land preservation for many organizations and had this proposal passed, it would have severely reduced the funds available for such projects which tend to have high price tags. Through a compromise reached by many interests, \$19 million in NET funds will be spent on water management over six years, with matching funds earmarked by the Legislature. In addition, a task force is assessing options for dedicated water funding and will make a report to the Legislature in 2012.

LB 529 presented an even more serious threat in that it would have prohibited nonprofit organizations from holding permanent conservation easements, effectively curtailing their use if it had passed. The NLT is not an advocacy organization, especially with such diverse viewpoints represented on our board. However, we were compelled to educate state senators and others about conservation easements, which convey many public benefits. Many others opposed the Legislation as well, from developers to landowners who rightly testified that the bill would be an infringement on their property rights. Ultimately, the bill never advanced from the Natural Resources Committee, but the episode illustrates the continuous need for outreach and education.

Thank you!

We express our sincere appreciation to the following individuals, businesses, and organizations who contributed \$100 or more to our success in 2011:

Individuals

Warren and Sue Arganbright
Douglas and Mary Campbell
John and Jane Ellsworth
Dr. Larry and Peg Fletcher
Mitzi Fox
Judy and Jeff Greenwald
Linda Hillegas and Jim McKee
Jim and Lori Hruska
Mary and the late Paul Jessen
Shirley and Clint Johannes
Bruce and Barb Johnson
Helen Kenefick
Hod Kosman
Ron and Carol Krutsinger
Daniel and Dorothy McKinney
Marilyn McNabb
John Miyoshi
Bill and Jan Norris
Doug and Kristin Pauley
Neal Ratzlaff
Nancy Roberts
Dave and Tracy Sands
Julie Schroeder
Lawrence and Diane Shackman
Lyle and Alice Sittler
Michael Smith
Michael and Gail Yanney
Kirby and Mary Zicafoose

Foundations

Abel Foundation
Adah and Leon Millard Foundation
Carmen and John Gottschalk Foundation
Claire M. Hubbard Foundation
Cooper Foundation
J.A. Woollam Foundation
Nebraska Game and Parks Foundation

Organizations and Businesses

Audubon Society of Omaha
Foundation for North American Wild Sheep, Iowa Chapter
Land Trust Alliance
Lower Platte South Natural Resources District
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Nebraska Environmental Trust
Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District

Easement Donors

Dean and Wayne Fedde
Paul, Lori, and Gregg Hosford
Ron and Carol Patterson

Interns

Craig Adams
Karl Dietrich



NLT Stewardship Council provides critical support

Like most nonprofit organizations, the Nebraska Land Trust (NLT) depends on the generosity of others to fulfill our mission and we greatly appreciate donations of all sizes. To recognize those who support us through exceptional commitments of time, resources, or both, the NLT has formed the Stewardship Council.

New members are always welcome! If you would like to learn more, please call the NLT office at 402/438-5263 and we will be happy to schedule a personal meeting.

Nebraska Land Trust Stewardship Council

Warren Arganbright (NLT Chair), Valentine
John Ellsworth, Omaha
John Gottschalk, Omaha
Jim and Lori Hruska, Lincoln
Anne Hubbard, M.D., Omaha
Mitzi Fox, Albion
Hod Kosman, Scottsbluff
Ross McCown, Lincoln
Dr. Daniel L. and Dorothy McKinney, Omaha
Sue Quambusch, Lincoln
Julie Schroeder, Waterloo
Gail Yanney, Omaha
Kirby and Mary Zicafoose, Omaha

The NLT needs your support!

As you make your philanthropic plans for 2012, please consider supporting the Nebraska Land Trust and its vital work in preserving significant agricultural, historical, and natural resources on private land in Nebraska. **All of your donation will stay in Nebraska and in 2011, 97% of funds received went directly to programs!** An envelope for your tax-deductible donation has been included for your convenience.