



**Ranchers Stewardship Alliance:
Partnering for Vibrant Prairie Communities**



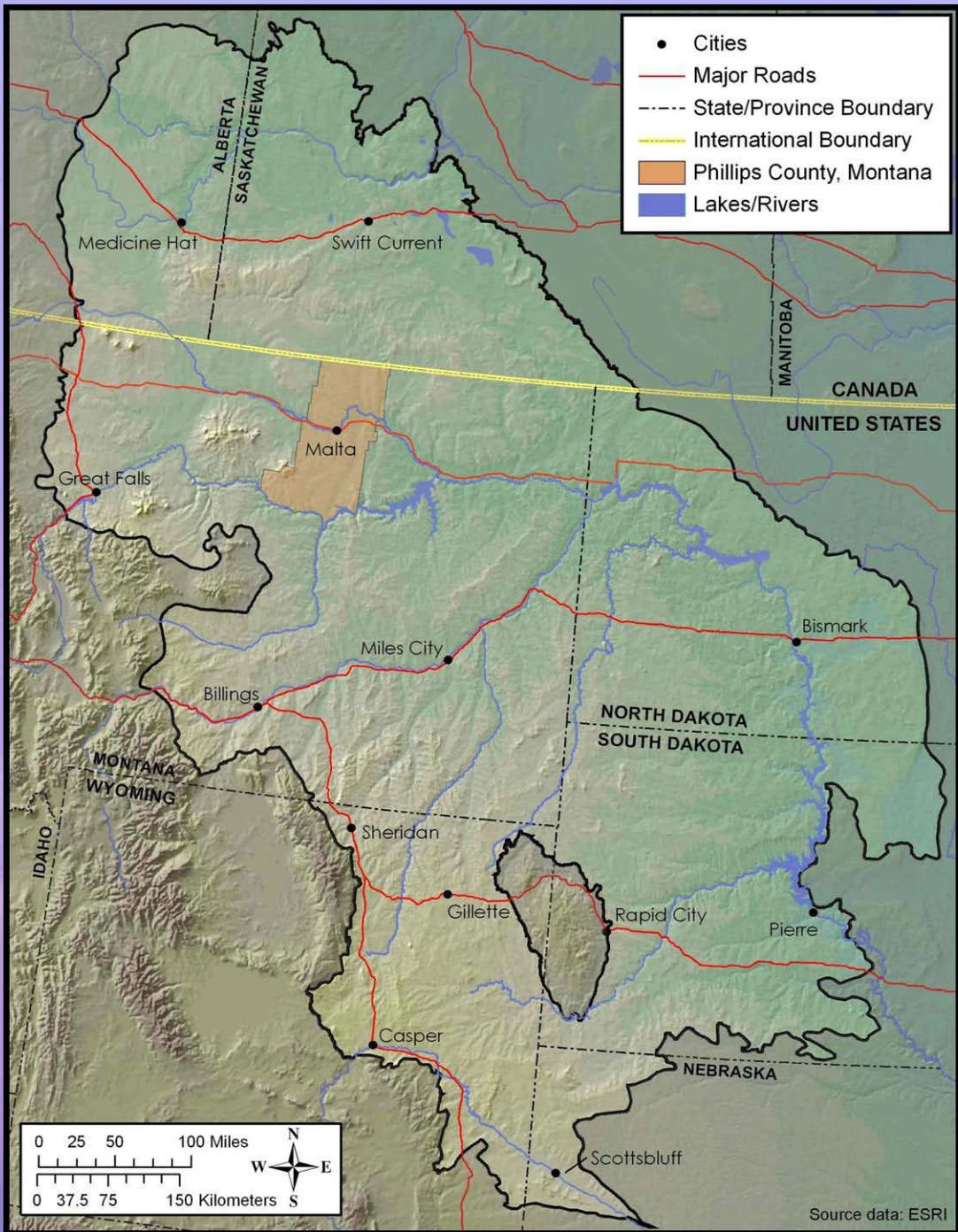
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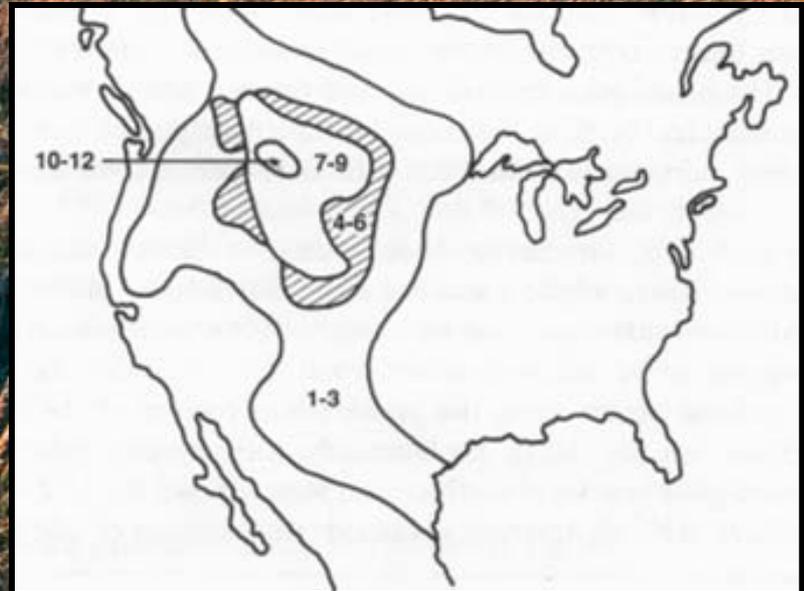
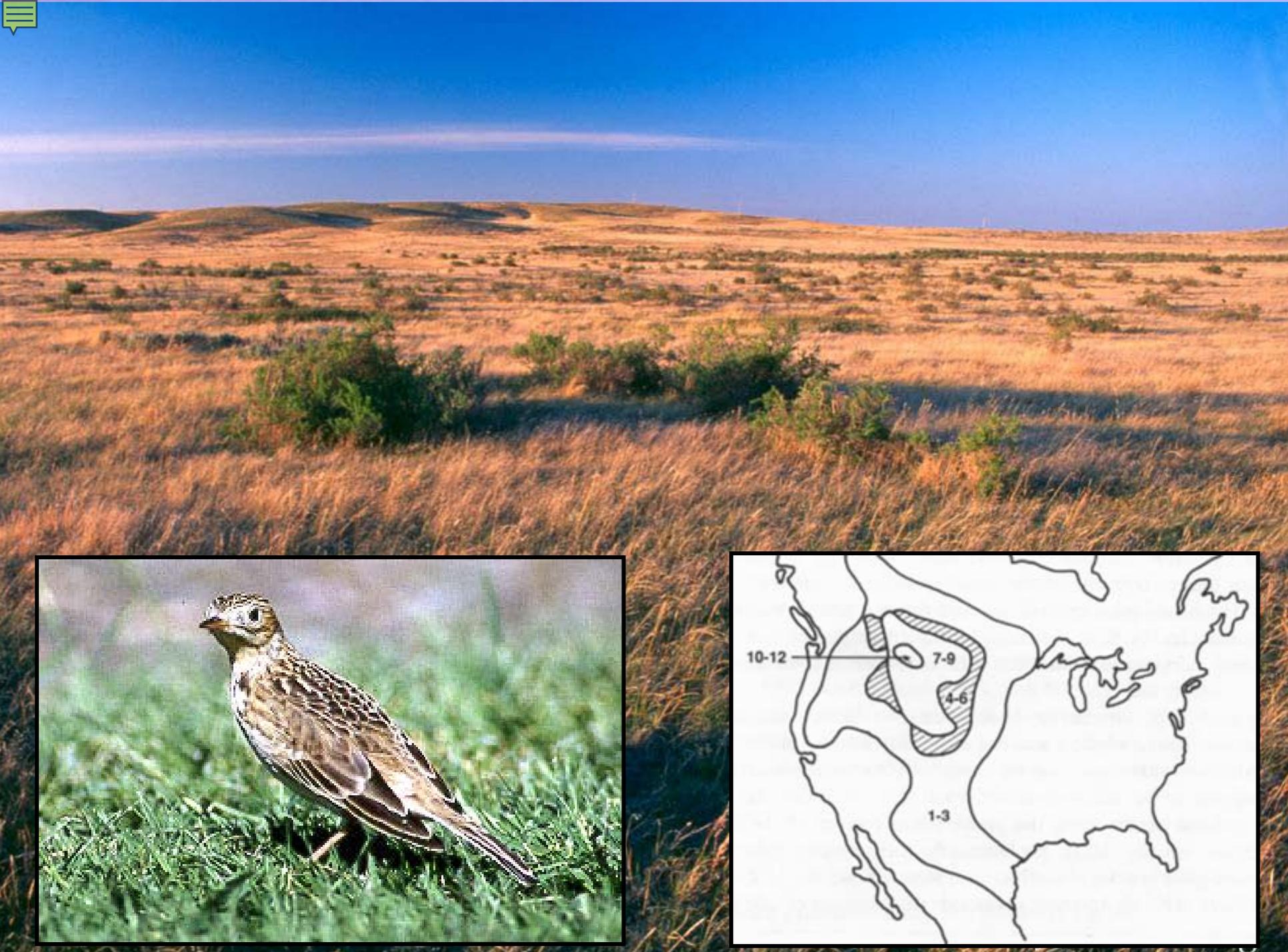
**At "Bridging the Gap: Collaborative Conservation
from the Ground Up" September, 2009**





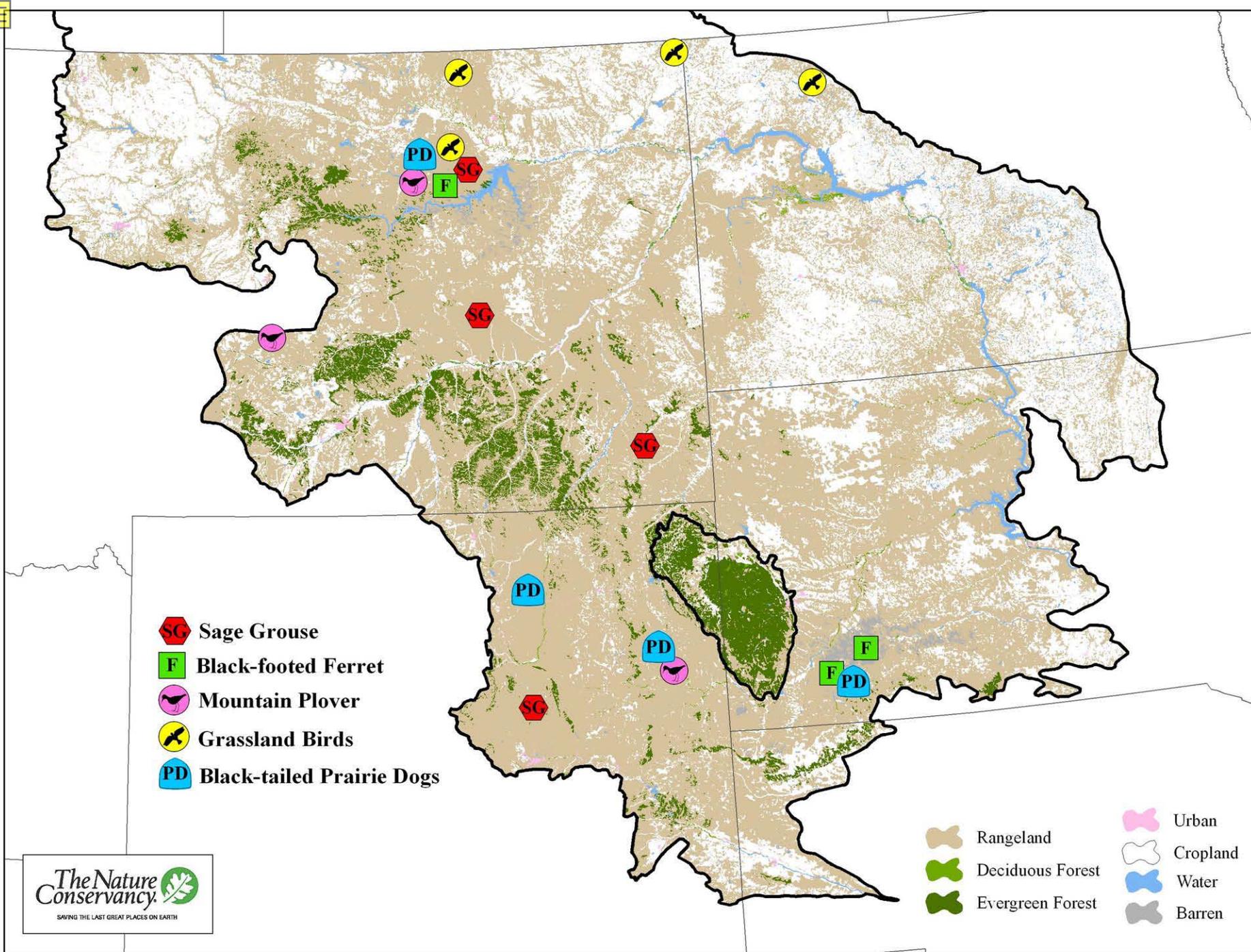






-  Sage Grouse
-  Black-footed Ferret
-  Mountain Plover
-  Grassland Birds
-  Black-tailed Prairie Dogs

-  Rangeland
-  Deciduous Forest
-  Evergreen Forest
-  Urban
-  Cropland
-  Water
-  Barren

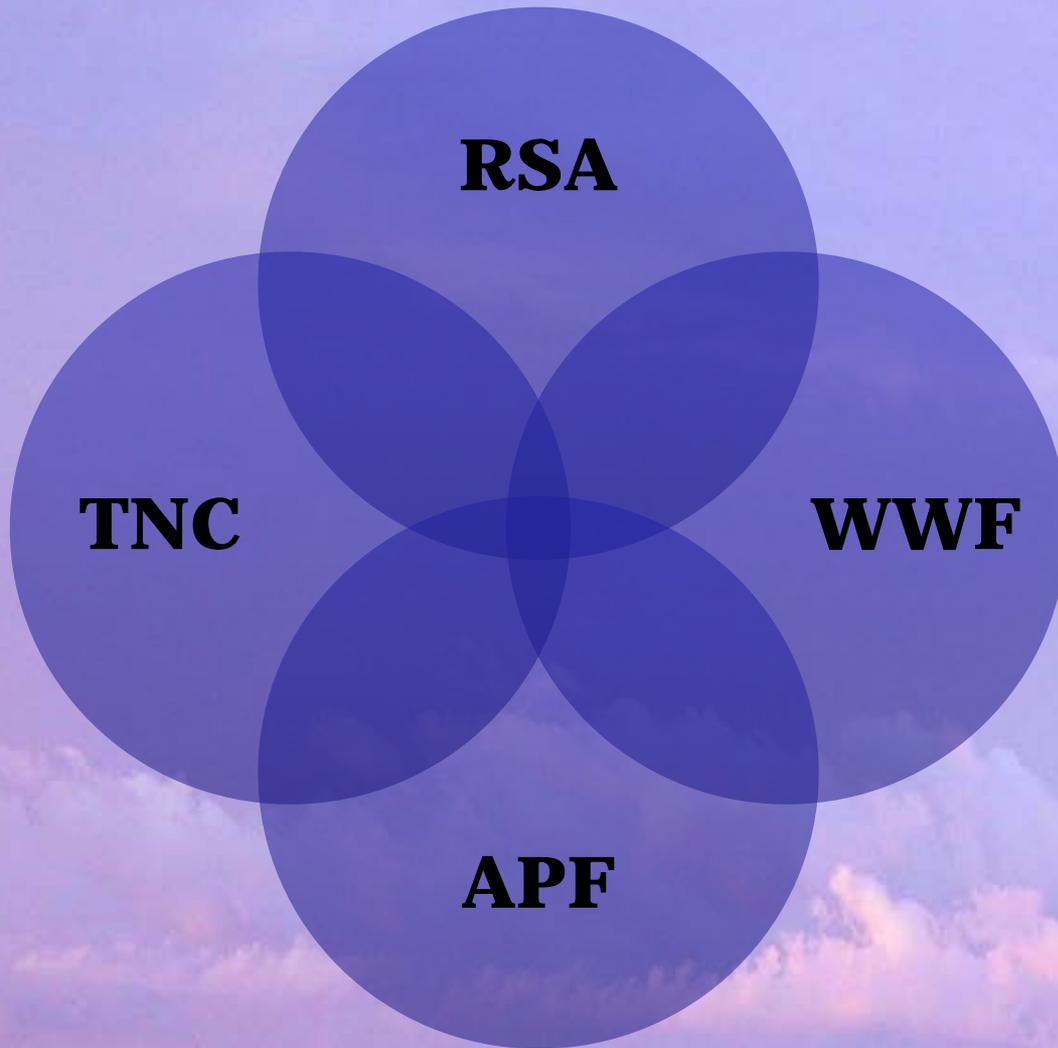


Montana Glaciated Plains

-  Sage Grouse
-  Black-footed Ferret
-  Mountain Plover
-  Grassland Birds
-  Black-tailed Prairie Dogs

-  Rangeland
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Geographic Area

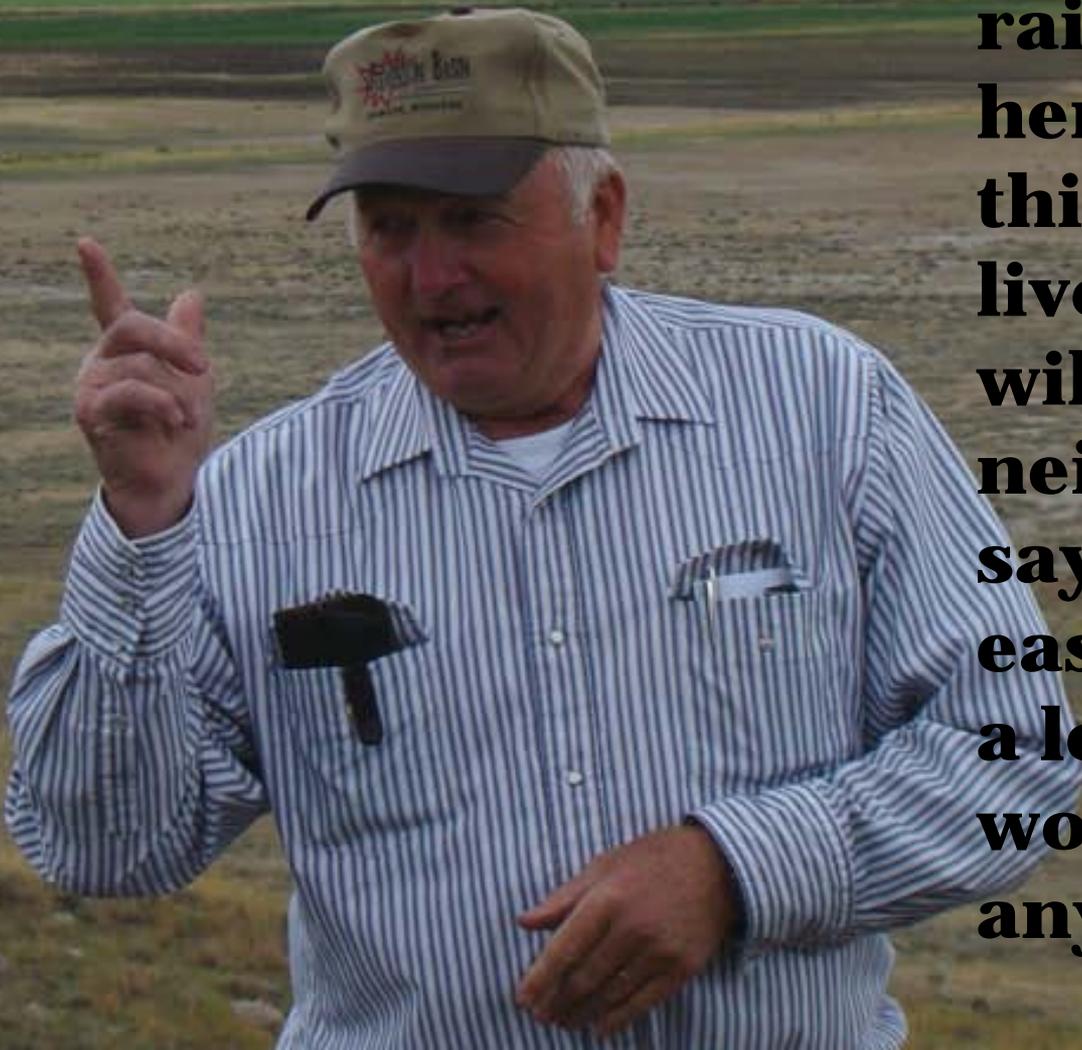
Goals

Strategies

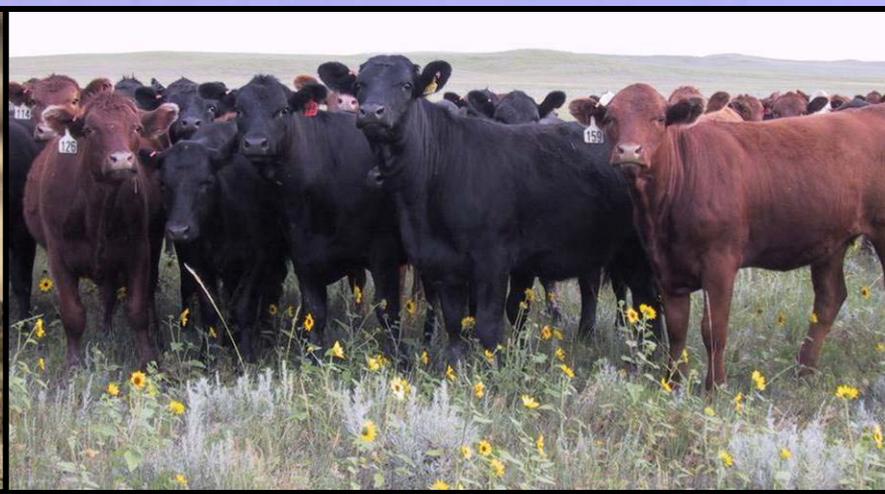
Natural Alliances







“I thank God for the chance I’ve had to care for this land, to raise my family here, to be part of this community, to live surrounded by wildlife and good neighbors. I’m not saying it’s been easy. Sure it’s been a lot of work, but I wouldn’t trade it for anything. Not ever.”



Ranchers Stewardship Alliance

Our mission is to promote the ecological, social and economic conditions that will sustain the biodiversity and integrity of America's northern mixed-grass prairie for present and future generations.

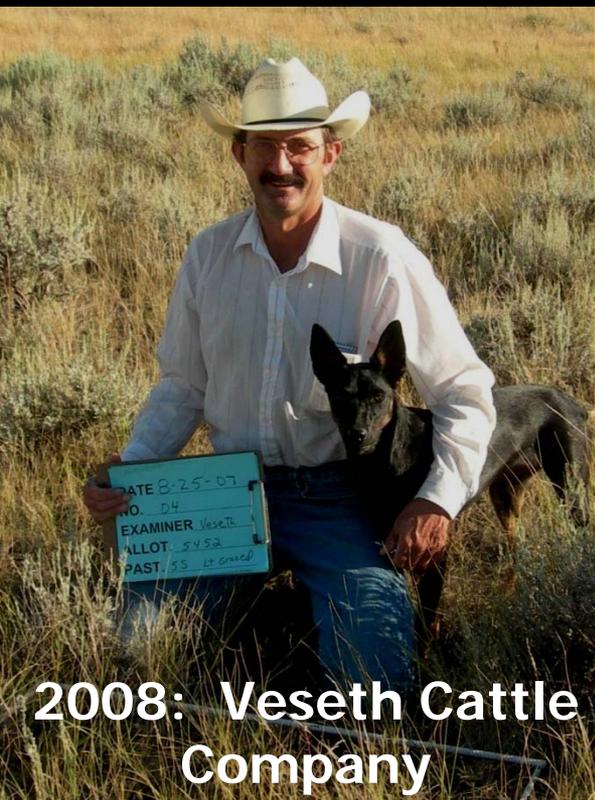


We support cost-effective, sustainable conservation that features private and public cooperation in a working landscape stewarded by profitable family ranches and thriving rural communities.

We employ collaboration, education, innovation and sound science to conserve and enhance the natural resources and pastoral heritage of the northern Great Plains.



**2006: Mule Tracks
Cattle Company**



**2008: Veseth Cattle
Company**

National Cattlemen's Beef Association Environmental Stewardship Awards



2004: Barthelmess Ranch Corporation



Phillips County:

99% weed-free,
and working to
stay that way!





The Nature Conservancy's Matador Ranch Grassbank:



A Tool for Collaborative Conservation of Ranchlands



Matador Grassbank 2003-2009 Conservation Accomplishments

- No sodbusting on 10-16 ranches each year
- Weed prevention on ~300,000 acres annually
- University-certified range management on over 120,000 acres of private lands annually
- ~5,000 acres of prairie dog towns and ~40,000 acres of sage grouse habitat areas protected annually
- *And most importantly, understanding and goodwill!*





BEHAVE, Utah

Blackfoot Challenge, Montana

Carrus Landsystems, Utah

Center for Whole Communities, Vermont

Country Natural Beef, Oregon

Madison Valley Ranchlands Group, Montana

Malpai Borderlands Group, Arizona

Quivira Coalition, New Mexico

Sandhills Task Force, Nebraska



Goals of the RSA

- Engage in **collaborative conservation** and community building.
- Encourage ranching and other traditional livelihoods which will **sustain our native grasslands and rural communities** for generations to come.
- Collect, implement and disseminate **accurate information** on the ecology and sustainable management of the northern grasslands.
- Promote understanding and **respect for ranching** and the critical role it plays in conservation.





2009 NRCS Cooperative Conservation
Partnership Initiative Project:

Environmental Defense Fund
Ranchers Stewardship Alliance
The Nature Conservancy
World Wildlife Fund





Irons in the Fire

Cost-effective Conservation

Grassbanking, Cooperative Conservation, Consensus

Prairie Stewardship

Internships, Beginning Rancher Program, Education and Outreach, Active Stewardship and Adaptive Management

Land Protection

Conservation Easements, Management Agreements, Successional Planning





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