

*Hot Topics Webinar: How to Connect with the Public to  
Protect Wetlands: Findings from ASWM's Wetland  
Communications Case Study*

**Wetlands of Nebraska Case Study**

**By: Ted LaGrange, Wetland Program Manager  
Nebraska Game and Parks Commission  
[ted.lagrange@nebraska.gov](mailto:ted.lagrange@nebraska.gov)**













**Needed a comprehensive Wetlands of Nebraska set of resources**

- **General publication**
- **Kids publication**
- **Video**
- **Website**





## **EPA Wetland Program Development Grant**

**Matching funds from NGPC and Ducks Unlimited**



**Steering Committee:**

**17 people, including 6 teachers and 5  
naturalists/outdoor educators**

## GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The goal for the *Wetlands of Nebraska* project was to educate the public about Nebraska's wetland resources, the benefits they provide for people, and available conservation options.

## TARGET AUDIENCE

*Trail Tales* magazine was targeted at 4th and 5th graders, but the rest of the project was statewide and included hunters, anglers, park users, recreationists and landowners.

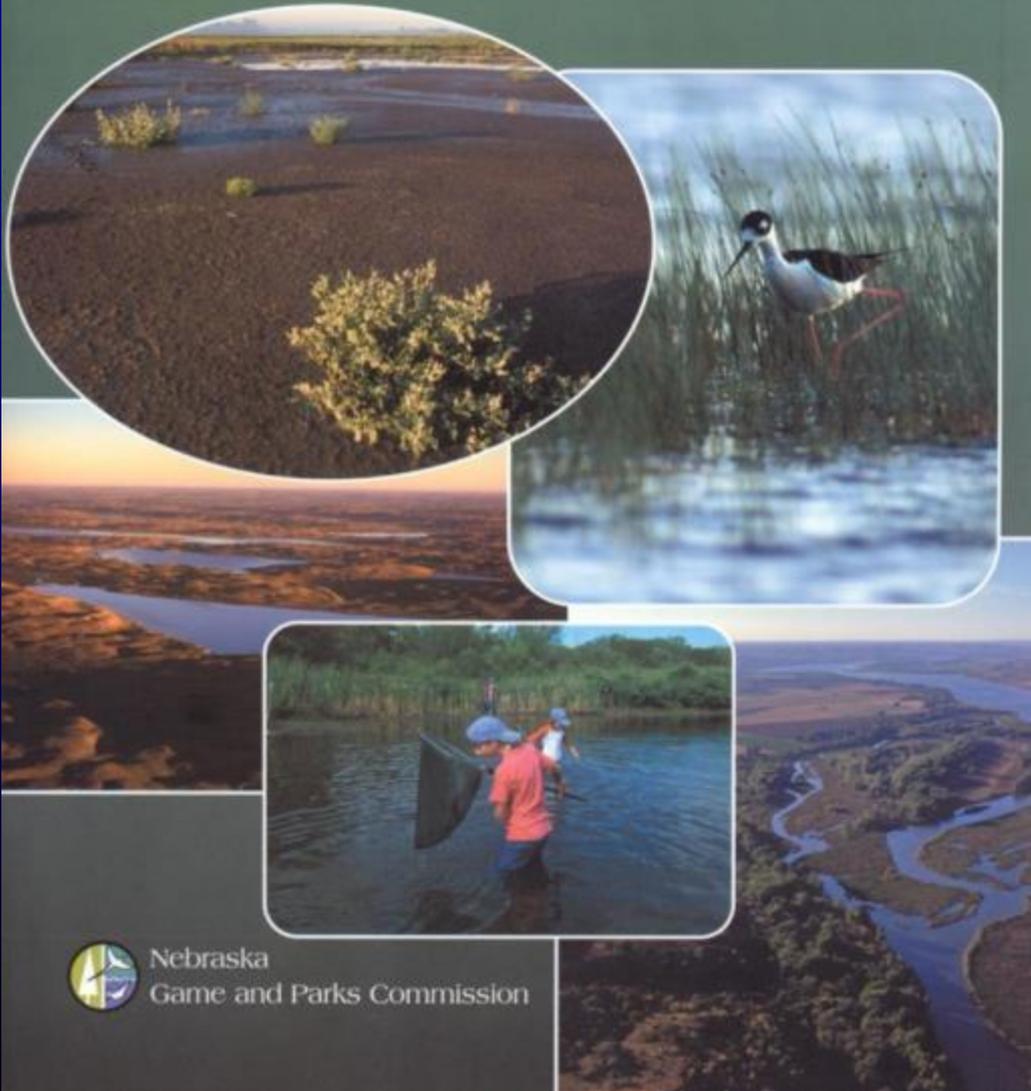
The regional targeting mostly was related to a map that was developed showing the regional wetland complexes for the state and the associated partnerships operating in many of these regions that NGPC works with for planning and project delivery.

## **MESSAGES**

**The primary messages of the *Wetlands of Nebraska* project were:**

- 1) There are a variety and diversity of wetlands in Nebraska**
- 2) Nebraska's wetland resources have been altered**
- 3) Wetlands provide services/benefits**
- 4) People interact with wetlands**
- 5) There are conservation options to help protect and restore wetlands**

# GUIDE TO NEBRASKA'S WETLANDS and their conservation needs



Nebraska  
Game and Parks Commission

**10,000**

NEBRASKAland Magazine's

# Trail Tales



*All About*  
**WETLANDS**

**Nebraska's  
Wetland  
Complexes**

**WETLAND  
WILDLIFE**

**MIGRATION  
GAME**

Spring • 2006

**43,000**



# Wetlands of Nebraska

Explore the wide diversity of wetlands  
and wetland wildlife across Nebraska.



1,600



### Wetlands Of Nebraska



Nebraska Game and Parks Commission

Subscribe 930

1,225 views

+ Add to Share More

6 0

Published on Aug 27, 2013

This video contains scenes from a variety of Nebraska wetlands, including their associated wildlife. The featured segments explore the values wetlands provide and the role they play in the lives of Nebraskans. The educational video is 27 minutes long and is targeted to 4th-6th grade students, but is appropriate for younger and older audiences as well. Nebraska Educational Telecommunications produced the video with

SHOW MORE

http://outdoornebraska.gov/nebraskawetlands/ Nebraska Wetlands - Nebra... X

File Edit View Favorites Tools Help

Page Safety Tools

ABOUT US RESERVATIONS MAPS GUIDES CALENDAR SUPPORT US

**NEBRASKA**  
- GAME & PARKS -

THINGS TO DO PLACES TO GO EDUCATION CONSERVATION BUY A PERMIT

## NEBRASKA WETLANDS

Nebraska contains more acres of wetlands than any surrounding state. These wetlands are very diverse and dynamic and include marshes, lakes, river and stream backwaters, oxbows, wet meadows, fens, forested swamps, and seeps. To help you explore the varying roles that wetlands can play, this site defines wetlands, discusses their importance and dynamics, identifies status and trends, describes conservation programs that benefit wetlands, and takes an in-depth look at Nebraska's regional wetland complexes. Take time to visit Nebraska's wetlands and learn more about the wealth of opportunities they provide.

### Guide to Nebraska's Wetlands

The guide is a full-color 59-page special publication by the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission. It defines and describes Nebraska wetlands and discusses wetland functions, dynamics, classification, inventory and conservation efforts. Fourteen wetland complexes are covered in depth. A listing of wetland plants and animals is provided as well as literature references. Funding was provided by the U.S. Environmental Protection.

[Download guide >](#)  
[Order a free hard copy](#)

### Wetland Program Plan

The Wetland Program Plan for Nebraska aims to continue to protect, restore and manage Nebraska's wetlands. The EPA-approved plan calls for the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission and partner agencies to assess the condition of Nebraska's wetlands, improve understanding of baseline conditions and to prioritize wetland restoration and protection activities. The full plan is available for download.

[Download Wetland Program Plan >](#)

### Other resources

Trail Tales Magazine, which is published by the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission and distributed to Nebraska Game and Parks Commission visitors, is dedicated to providing...

### Related Links

- [HOW TO WATCH WILDLIFE](#)
- [BIRDING BY PARK](#)
- [WILDLIFE VIEWING TIMETABLE](#)
- [WATCHABLE WILDLIFE GRANTS](#)

Search the site

GET THE LATEST ON -  
**HUNTING**  
[MORE INFO >](#)

GET THE LATEST ON -  
**FISHING**  
[MORE INFO >](#)

GET THE LATEST ON -  
**PARKS**  
[MORE INFO >](#)

NEBRASKAland  
[EXPLORE NOW >](#)

## ADVICE/LESSONS LEARNED

There were no major mid-course corrections except for that when we started to produce the VHS tapes, the technology changed so dramatically they had to stop and focus solely on DVDs.

We initially developed a draft of the video where we mentioned specific state and federal programs and associated staff that have since changed— so for the final video produced, we learned that it is better to be more general in order to make the videos more timeless.

Working with the producers at the public TV station was expensive but very helpful because of their specific expertise and guidance. For example, they recommended not to talk too much about partnerships because the general public will glaze over — it's not interesting to them. Instead they took a vignette approach with stories about wetlands across the state and limited it to 5-7 segments where the audience gets to know the person talking and relate to their story and they found this approach was very successful. The public TV network also has aired the video on their channels throughout Nebraska.

Tailor your message to a target audience if possible, and make the message relevant to the local culture, economy, and landscape.

## Wetland Program Plan for Nebraska

By: Ted LaGrange, Wetland Program Manager  
Nebraska Game and Parks Commission  
P.O. Box 30370  
Lincoln, NE 68503  
(402) 471-5436  
[ted.lagrang@nebraska.gov](mailto:ted.lagrang@nebraska.gov)

*May 29, 2015 revision*

*The March 10, 2015 version of the Plan was approved by EPA on April 1, 2015, and the May 29<sup>th</sup> revision was approved by EPA on June 3, 2015.*

### Table of Contents

OVERALL GOAL AND TIME FRAME	2
INTRODUCTION	2
Wetland Definition	3
Statewide Wetland Resources	3
Wetland Classification	4
Wetland Functions and Services	4
Threats and Stresses to Wetlands	5
Wetland Dynamics	6
A. PARTNERSHIP APPROACH	7
Partnership Action Items	7
B. MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT	8
Monitoring and Assessment Action Items	9
C. REGULATION	10
Regulation Action Items	10
D. VOLUNTARY PROTECTION AND RESTORATION	11
Voluntary Protection and Restoration Action Items	12
E. WETLAND MANAGEMENT	14
Wetland Management Action Items	14
F. WATER QUALITY STANDARDS FOR WETLANDS	15
Water Quality Standards Action Items	16
G. OUTREACH AND EDUCATION	16
Outreach and Education Action Items	16
H. INFORMATION NEEDS	17
Information Needs Action Items	17
REFERENCES	18
General	18
Rainwater Basin and Other Playa Complexes	24
Sandhills	31

Loup/Platte River Sandhills	35
Eastern Saline	35
Western Alkaline	38
Platte River	38
Missouri River	42
Elkhorn River	45
Niobrara River	45
Appendix A- HGM Subclasses	46
Appendix B- NWM Priorities	50
Appendix C- Restoration Practices	53
Appendix D- Wetland Management Information	59
Appendix E- Table of Information Needs	67

### OVERALL GOAL AND TIME FRAME

The State of Nebraska plans to continue to implement its wetland program over the next three calendar years (2015-2017) with a goal of continuing to protect, restore, and manage wetlands. The State will use information from the Nebraska Wetland Condition Intensification Study to assess the condition of its wetlands (done in 2011-2013) to improve our understanding of baseline wetland conditions, and to prioritize wetland restoration and protection activities. Nebraska will continue to work in partnership with landowners, agencies, and organizations to restore and protect 9,000 acres of wetlands. The priorities for the restoration and protection will be determined by the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission and the local partners. We will also continue the stewardship and management of wetlands in state ownership. To have effective and efficient wetland restoration, protection, and management, we also emphasize that there is an important and ongoing need for improved information and outreach. The State will achieve our goal through implementing the activities identified in this plan. Note that this will be dependent upon obtaining needed funding and the required legislative and/or administrative approvals.

An earlier draft of this plan was sent out for review to 89 individuals, representing 21 different organizations and agencies, including the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality, and the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources.

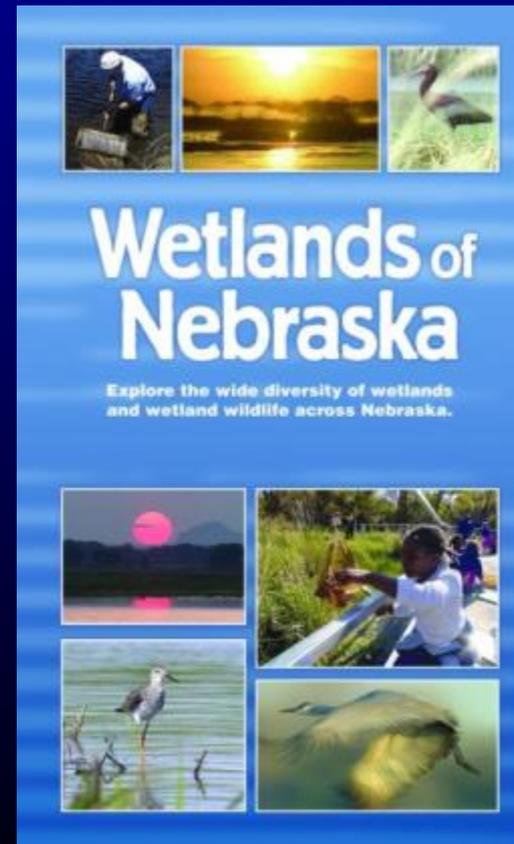
### INTRODUCTION

Nebraska's wetland resources are as diverse and dynamic as those of any state in the nation. They include marshes, lakes, reservoirs and ponds, river and stream backwaters, oxbows, wet meadows, playas, basins, fens, forested wetlands, and seep areas. These wetlands vary greatly in nature and appearance due to physical features such as geographic location, water source and permanence, and chemical properties. Some wetlands hold water for only a few weeks or less during the spring while others never go completely dry. Many wetlands receive their water from groundwater aquifers while others are totally dependent on precipitation and runoff. Finally, the water

## Outreach and Education Action Items

**Action: Continue to provide outreach materials to the public about wetlands.**

**Action: Continue to provide support to NGPC and partner agency's outdoor educators to teach students ranging from grade school through college about Nebraska's wetland resources.**





Questions?

[NebraskaWetlands.com](http://NebraskaWetlands.com)

