

## MEMORANDUM

**To:** Papio-Missouri River NRD Board  
**Subject:** Nebraska Land Trust Agreement  
**Date:** 9 July, 2020  
**From:** Jim Becic

The Nebraska Land Trust (NLT) is a 501 C (3) nonprofit organization that has been actively involved in land conservation in Nebraska since 2001. Rather than duplicating efforts with a separate P-MRNRD (NRD) conservation easement program that was contemplated nearly 20 years ago, the NRD decided to partner with the NLT in this endeavor.

The NRD, is a charter member of the diverse NLT Board and in 2009, entered into a three-year Cooperative Agreement with the NLT, to provide a financial contribution of \$30,000.00 per year to assist in their operations. This Agreement was extended in 2012 to continue the original Agreement for an additional three years and again in 2015 and 2018.

In their relatively short existence, the NLT has achieved the status of a fully accredited land trust in Nebraska by the National Land Trust Alliance. With only two employees, they've completed 45 easements (three pending) and amassed nearly 30,000 acres under permanent conservation easement protection in 18 counties.

The NLT Board members are attached. David Sands is the Executive Director.

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*Preserving Our Agricultural, Historical And Natural Resources.*

## **Report to the Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District on the Lower Platte Valley Preservation Partnership**

**In 2017, the Nebraska Land Trust (NLT) initiated the Lower Platte Valley Preservation Partnership (LPVPP) with formation of the Lower Platte Valley Advisory Committee (LPVAC), who were asked to create a locally relevant scoring protocol for prospective easement properties, a process we call Community Conservation.**

Over the course of a year, this broad based group of Valley stakeholders (*Attachment 1*) identified conservation values that were important to them and created property assessment criteria tied to those values by assigning point values to each criteria based on importance. The Committee also identified the core competencies needed on the scoring team and developed a checklist so landowners can provide useful information prior to a visit.

Once the Property Scoring Worksheet (*Attachment 2*) was approved unanimously by the NLT Board of Directors in 2018, the NLT hosted a dinner to thank LPVAC members, who also invited family, friends and other interested landowners. **This has proven to be one of the prime benefits of the Community Conservation approach. Aside from creating a transparent project selection process designed to select the very best projects available, LPVAC members have become landscape ambassadors for conservation easements and the NLT, enhancing both the quantity and quality of projects to choose from.**

This was demonstrated by the first round of property scoring in late 2018, as six families in three counties (Cass, Sarpy and Saunders) wanted their properties scored. All but two were brought to us by members of the LPVAC and all were excellent conservation easement prospects, so the value of a local, transparent project ranking process was considerable! A nine-person scoring team from the LPVAC visited all six properties and scores were then averaged and totaled to guide project selection. Through this process, the 201-acre Miller farm adjacent to Schramm State Park was identified as the top priority (*Attachment 3*).

**Miller farm was selected as the top priority for a variety of reasons, including the fact that NLT already has two conservation easements that border the park. If another can be obtained on the Miller farm, the park would be nearly surrounded by protected private land, in Nebraska's smallest and fastest growing county.** In addition, a stream that flows through the park begins on the Miller farm and Nebraska Game and Parks Commission plans to use it as an experiential educational resource. The stream's water quality would be adversely impacted if the

farm was developed. The farm also has significant oak/hickory woodlands that provide important migratory habitat for songbirds. In total, it is a very consequential project!

With the farm's tremendous upside for conservation, there is a complication that requires patience. The entire farm is close to 400 acres and it is jointly owned by Virginia Miller and her brother who wants nothing to do with a conservation easement. Because of this, they have been working through the process of dividing the farm so Virginia can protect the half that abuts Schramm Park. So far, this process has taken over a year, including two appraisals and ongoing negotiations among attorneys. Progress has been made and we hope the division will be completed by year-end so the process of protection can begin.

**In addition to Miller farm, two potentially consequential new prospects have emerged in Cass County.** One is a ~475-acre farm sandwiched between Mahoney State Park and Camp Carol Joy Holling, with a half mile of frontage on Highway 66. The landowner was hoping we could score her property this spring and plans were being made to do so, until Covid-19 cancelled most plans. The other prospect is an ~375-acre farm near Platte River State Park that also has frontage on Highway 66. On both properties, cropland must be crossed by people and vehicles for a proper assessment of conservation values, so scoring will now occur in late fall.

**This timeline works well for a 2021 spring application to the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Agricultural Land Easement (ALE) program, which can fund up to 50% of a farm easement's value.** ALE in various iterations has been a Farm Bill fixture for decades as it always attracts bipartisan support. Conservation easements are after all, an effective, conservative, free-market approach to land conservation that keeps land on tax rolls, in private hands and in the economy through agriculture. NLT has an excellent track record with NRCS, receiving nearly \$6,000,000 to date. In the 2019 Farm Bill, Congress increased ALE funding to \$400 million and made the program much more user friendly for both land trusts and landowners.

For example, the program used to require a minimum 25% cash match from the land trust, even if the landowner was willing to donate the remaining 50% of the easement's appraised value through a "bargain sale." For years, the Nebraska Environmental Trust (NET) provided that cash match, but this no longer seems likely. Fortunately, **the 2019 Farm Bill made a significant change in the NRCS ALE program, which now allows landowners to donate the entire match through a bargain sale. Cash match is no longer required and given NET's recent refusal to fund conservation easements, this change could not have come at a better time!**

**Since an honest report must also include setbacks, it is important to note that the NET's abrupt about-face on conservation easements represents a major one that was not anticipated.** In 2017, with the Lower Platte South Natural Resources District (LPSNRD) and Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District (PMRNRD) as partners, we submitted a \$1,000,000 request to the NET for the Lower Platte Valley Partnership (LPVP), to help fund the purchase of conservation easements in the lower Platte Valley over three years.

The grant ranked 15<sup>th</sup> out of 130 requests but in that particular year, the NET was only in a financial position to fund the Year-one request of \$350,000. They encouraged us to proceed with community outreach component and reapply for the remainder the following year, which the NLT did in good faith, believing that our subsequent request would be treated just as fairly. Unfortunately, this was not to be. Although our second request also ranked far above the funding cutoff, anti-easement advocates on the NET Board managed to have our request tabled at their April meeting. Despite our best efforts, including a nationally respected speaker from Colorado, opponents mustered just enough votes and abstentions to kill our request in August.

In another display of antagonism toward private land conservation last February, the NET Board refused to grant a one-year extension for the \$350,000 grant which had been earmarked for the Miller farm project. Unlike the previous vote on our second LPVPP request, this one wasn't close, reflecting a complete reversal of the NET Board's attitude toward conservation easements and permanent land conservation in general.

**Because many in agriculture cannot afford to donate a significant portion of a conservation easement's value, the NLT is still seeking other sources of funding to match NRCS ALE dollars.** On the very day that NET denied our extension in February, NLT received an invitation from one foundation to apply for a grant to match ALE funds for conservation easements that abut public lands in the lower Platte Valley and Pine Ridge. Since this foundation only accepts grants by invitation, it was a very promising sign and by late February we had submitted a \$1,000,000 request.

Among the many things that Covid-19 changed in March are the priorities of foundations and the immediate needs of non-profit organizations, especially those that provide human services. Because of this, we actually expected our request to be denied at the foundation's April meeting. Instead, they told us they would simply table our request until November. The fact that it is still on the table is a more positive outcome than expected!

**In summary:**

- The NLT successfully led a community outreach initiative resulting in objective scoring criteria for lower Platte Valley land conservation that will be used and refined for years.
- Members of the LPVAC have acted as landscape ambassadors in bringing new potential projects to the land trust.
- Miller farm was selected by the LPVAC and NLT Board in 2018 as the top priority due to its strategic location next to Schramm State Park and another conservation easement, even though the project requires patience while farm ownership is divided.
- Two new, potentially impactful properties in Cass County will be scored this fall and if they merit the LPVAC's support, an application for NRCS funds could be made in 2021.
- A major setback occurred when the NET Board reversed past precedent by opposing grants for the purchase of conservation easements from willing sellers.
- Changes in the 2019 Farm Bill will help to fill this void since cash match is no longer required when a landowner can afford to donate 50% of their easement's value.

- The NLT is seeking other funding sources so that when a landowner cannot afford to donate a significant portion of their easement, conservation opportunities will not be lost forever.

**Our partnership with the PMRNRD and LPSNRD has been integral to this progress, including the participation of Jim Becic on the LPVAC and scoring team. We look forward to even more progress in the future.**

**Attachments:**

- 1. LPVAC Charter and members**
- 2. Lower Platte Valley Scoring Worksheet**
- 3. Miller Farm Photo Page and Map**

## Attachment 1 – Lower Platte Valley Charter and Stakeholders



*Preserving Our Agricultural, Historical And Natural Resources.*

# Charter for the Lower Platte Valley Advisory Committee

*(Approved by the Board on June 7, 2018)*

### **Introduction**

*At the Nebraska Land Trust (NLT), we believe it is important for our work to be relevant in the communities where it occurs. For this reason, we decide to focus on a given landscape, we do not tell people in these regions "This is what we want to protect." Instead the NLT prefers to ask local stakeholders, "What do you want to protect?" As the only nonprofit statewide land conservation organization started by Nebraskans, based in Nebraska, governed by Nebraskans and dedicated to working with private landowners, the perspectives of local residents are of paramount importance to the NLT!*

### **Purpose of the Lower Platte Valley Advisory Committee**

As a state-based land conservation organization, the NLT's work should be relevant to Nebraskans who live in the areas where our projects are located. Because of this, when the NLT proposes to focus on multiple projects in a specific landscape like the Lower Platte Valley, it is essential that we work with local interests to create conservation criteria and pursue projects that recognize local priorities.

Criteria developed and amended by the Lower Platte Valley Advisory Committee (LPVAC) will be used to guide the NLT's selection of projects through a fair, transparent and locally relevant ranking protocol. Members may also volunteer to assess potential properties through site visits using the ranking protocol. After prospective properties have been visited and scored, the LPVAC will be responsible for making recommendations to the NLT Board of Directors regarding the prioritization of projects that should be pursued. In addition, the LPVAC will provide ongoing advice to assure that our work remains relevant to people who live, work and recreate in the Valley.

### **Need**

In eastern Nebraska, there are few areas that match the beauty, history, recreational opportunities and natural resources of the Lower Platte Valley. The Valley is a braided ribbon of river, wetlands, woodlands, bluffs, prairie and prime farmland draped across Nebraska's most populous region. It sustains wildlife in a Biologically Unique Landscape, families in agriculture and people with drinking water and nature-based recreation. The Valley below Fremont is also a region projected to have 2,000,000 people by the year 2050.

Despite several state parks, its future is largely in private hands creating a challenge for conservation. By working with landowners who care about the future of their land, the NLT can protect agricultural, historical, and natural resources in one of Nebraska's most scenic, historic, valued and populous regions.



The Lower Platte Valley Advisory Committee will be responsible for the development and amendment of conservation criteria that will be used to score prospective properties and prioritize the NLT's selection of projects in the future. This is especially important when using limited state and/or federal funding to purchase conservation easements, so that the greatest conservation benefit is obtained for the dollars spent. The Lower Platte Valley Advisory Committee will provide this input through the following responsibilities:

### **Responsibilities**

- Hold at least one meeting per year after the development of scoring criteria, to review projects, discuss property scoring, prioritize projects, and to review and/or amend scoring criteria as needed.
- Prioritize identified resources based on local importance, creating a transparent ranking system to score potential projects.
- Work cooperatively with Committee members to achieve consensus on decisions.
- Identify any "red flags" that should be avoided in land conservation projects.
- Participate via email or telephone in discussions of issues as needed.
- Provide information and data as needed from one's area(s) of expertise.
- Establish policies for the ranking protocol, including the make-up of the Scoring Team.
- Serve as an advisor to the NLT Board on projects and activities in the Lower Platte Valley.
- Members may also participate in site visits and help to score properties if they wish.

### **Lower Platte Valley Advisory Committee Membership**

- **Agricultural Landowners** – Dean Fedde, Sarpy County; Kim Scholting, Cass County; Tim Shanahan, Saunders County
- **County Government** – Bruce Fountain, Sarpy County; Jim Peterson, Cass County; Larry Mach, Saunders County; Doug Cook, Douglas County
- **Valley Communities** – Janece Mollhoff, Ashland City Council
- **Recreation** – Daniel Huebner, Platte River Rentals
- **Tourism** – Richard Hilske, 426 Winery; Alex Duryea, Nebraska Tourism Commission
- **Business** – Dave Brakenhoff, Western Sand and Gravel (NEBCO)
- **Camps** – Brad Schweer, Cloisters on the Platte; Mark Dietz, Camp Maha
- **Conservation Organization** – Mary Brown, Tern and Plover Conservation Partnership
- **University of Nebraska Extension** – Meghan Sittler
- **Lower Platte South, Lower Platte North and Papio-Missouri River NRDs** – Dan Schulz (LPSNRD); Chris Poole (LPNNRD); Jim Becic (PMNRD)
- **Nebraska Game and Parks Commission** – Jim Swenson, Parks Division Administrator
- **History Nebraska** – John Rissetto
- **Nebraska Forest Service** – Steve Karloff



## Attachment 2 – Sample Property Scoring Worksheet



*Preserving Our Agricultural, Historical And Natural Resources.*

# Property Scoring Worksheet for Purchased Conservation Easements in the Lower Platte Valley

Property: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewer: \_\_\_\_\_

### Agricultural Resources

Criteria	Maximum Points <u>Available</u>	Total Points <u>Given</u>
1) Property has an aesthetic character and/or location that would make it attractive for subdivision/development.	<u>100</u>	_____
2) Property has Prime Soils or Soils of Statewide Importance designated by the NRCS (percentage of such soils shall equal the score)	<u>100</u>	_____
3) Property is a historic farm with at least 100 years of documented history	<u>100</u>	_____
4) Property includes grassed waterways of buffer strips that would be preserved by a conservation easement	<u>100</u>	_____
5) Property includes terraces on steep slopes that will be preserved, maintained or replaced through a conservation easement	<u>100</u>	_____
6) Property is a generational family farm, operated by members of same family for at least three generations	<u>100</u>	_____

	<b><u>Maximum Points Available</u></b>	<b><u>Total Points Given</u></b>
7) A land management plan* is being implemented or the landowner can provide a history of past land management that can aid in the creation and implementation of a land management plan, which may include but not be limited to: Farming, grazing, control of invasive species, forestry, wildlife habitat, water resources and other issues as indicated.	<u>75</u>	<u>          </u>
* Land management plans are adaptive, written documents that may change according to conditions. Increased points will be given for more comprehensive plans.		
8) Land currently supports an existing agricultural operation that produces crops and/or livestock	<u>75</u>	<u>          </u>
9) Property has planted wind breaks	<u>75</u>	<u>          </u>
10) Property has farmable land	<u>75</u>	<u>          </u>
11) Property size:		
161 acres and up	<u>75</u>	<u>          </u>
0 to 160 acres	<u>50</u>	<u>          </u>
12) Property includes farm/ranch infrastructure	<u>50</u>	<u>          </u>
13) A conservation easement would help a beginning farmer or rancher by reducing financial pressure	<u>50</u>	<u>          </u>
14) Property has irrigated farmland	<u>50</u>	<u>          </u>
<b>TOTAL POINTS FOR AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES</b>	<b><u>1,175</u></b>	<b><u>          </u></b>

## **Natural Resources**

	<b><u>Maximum Points Available</u></b>	<b><u>Total Points Given</u></b>
<b>Aquatic Resources</b>		
1) Property has Platte River frontage	<u>100</u>	<u>          </u>
2) Property has wetlands, bogs, and/or fens	<u>100</u>	<u>          </u>
3) Springs are found on the property	<u>75</u>	<u>          </u>
4) Property has one or more perennial streams	<u>75</u>	<u>          </u>
5) Property includes ponds and lakes	<u>75</u>	<u>          </u>
6) Property has oxbows or sloughs	<u>75</u>	<u>          </u>
7) Property has one or more intermittent streams	<u>50</u>	<u>          </u>
8) All or part of the property is in or immediately adjacent to a Wellhead Protection Area	<u>50</u>	<u>          </u>
9) A Conservation Easement on the property will help to provide Flood protection by keeping buildings out of a flood plain	<u>50</u>	<u>          </u>
<b>Terrestrial Resources</b>		
1) Property includes native grassland (virgin prairie or restored)	<u>100</u>	<u>          </u>
2) Land is adjacent to or within two miles of an existing perpetual conservation easement(s)	<u>100</u>	<u>          </u>
3) Property has upland hardwood forest	<u>75</u>	<u>          </u>
4) Property has riparian woodlands	<u>75</u>	<u>          </u>
5) Quantity of wildlife habitat	<u>75</u>	<u>          </u>
6) Quality of wildlife habitat	<u>75</u>	<u>          </u>
7) Property has habitat for Tier 1 and 2 At-risk species listed for the Lower Platte River Biologically Unique Landscape (BUL)	<u>75</u>	<u>          </u>
8) Land is in the "viewshed" from a public park	<u>50</u>	<u>          </u>
9) Land has open sand habitat for nesting terns and plovers	<u>50</u>	<u>          </u>
10) Property has shrub habitat	<u>50</u>	<u>          </u>
<b>TOTAL POINTS FOR NATURAL RESOURCES</b>	<b><u>1,375</u></b>	<b><u>          </u></b>

	<b><u>Maximum Points Available</u></b>	<b><u>Total Points Given</u></b>
<b><u>Historical and Cultural Resources</u></b>		
1) Property contains building(s), structure(s) or site(s) currently on the National Register of Historic Places	<u>100</u>	<u>          </u>
2) Property contains building(s), structure(s) or site(s) eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places	<u>100</u>	<u>          </u>
3) Prehistoric or historic artifacts have been recovered on the property (i.e. landowner has a box of artifacts)	<u>75</u>	<u>          </u>
4) Property contains building(s) or structure(s) that are at least 100-years-old	<u>50</u>	<u>          </u>
5) Property has the potential to contain archeological resources	<u>50</u>	<u>          </u>
<b>TOTAL POINTS FOR HISTORICAL/CULTURAL RESOURCES</b>	<b><u>375</u></b>	<b><u>          </u></b>

### **Recreational and Tourism Resources**

1) Land is adjacent to other conserved land, including but not limited to state parks, Wildlife Management Areas, camps, other public land, local or state designated trails, Scenic Byways, public attractions, Interstate 80 and BNSF right-of-way	<u>100</u>	<u>          </u>
2) Landowner allows some form of public access (Open Lands Program, fee-based hunting, occasional tours or events)	<u>75</u>	<u>          </u>
3) Land has watchable wildlife that can be viewed by the public	<u>75</u>	<u>          </u>
4) Landowner has a stated interest in ecotourism/agritourism	<u>75</u>	<u>          </u>
5) Property offers on-site lodging (i.e. B & B) to the public	<u>50</u>	<u>          </u>
<b>TOTAL POINTS FOR RECREATIONAL/TOURISM RESOURCES</b>	<b><u>375</u></b>	<b><u>          </u></b>

	<b><u>Maximum Points Available</u></b>	<b><u>Total Points Given</u></b>
<b><u>Bonus Points for Special Characteristics</u></b>		
<b>Special Characteristics may include, but are not limited to:</b>		
• Waterfalls at least 3 feet in height over a rock ledge		
• Unique trees or vegetation		
• Unique geological formations such as caves or rock outcrops		
• Identified wildlife corridors		
• Historic cemeteries, quarries or trail ruts	<u>250</u>	<u>          </u>
 <b>AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES</b>	<u>1,175</u>	<u>          </u>
<b>NATURAL RESOURCES</b>	<u>1,375</u>	<u>          </u>
<b>HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES</b>	<u>375</u>	<u>          </u>
<b>RECREATIONAL AND TOURISM RESOURCES</b>	<u>375</u>	<u>          </u>
<b>BONUS POINTS FOR SPECIAL CHARACTERISTICS</b>	<u>250</u>	<u>          </u>
 <b><u>TOTAL SCORE FOR PROPERTY</u></b>	<u>3,550</u>	<u>          </u>





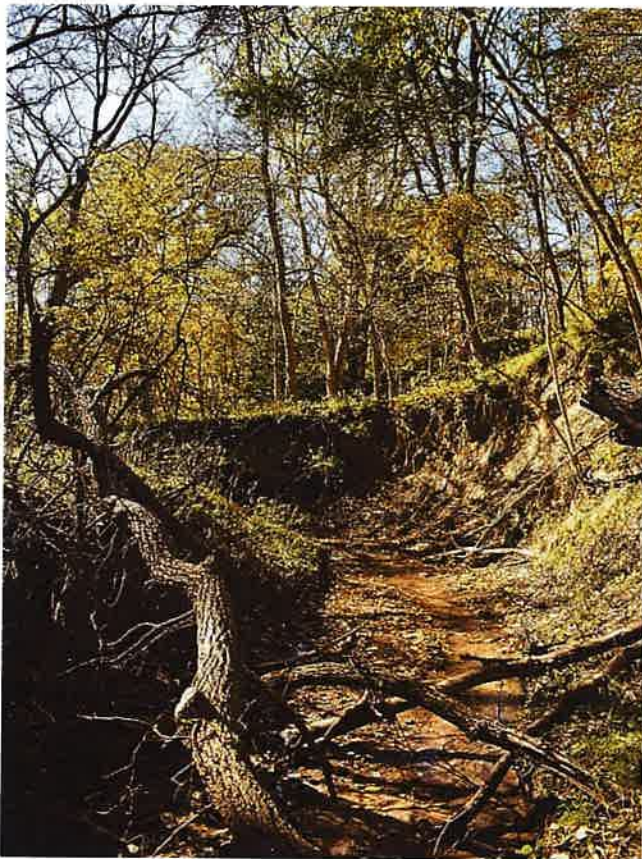
## Attachment 3 – Miller Farm



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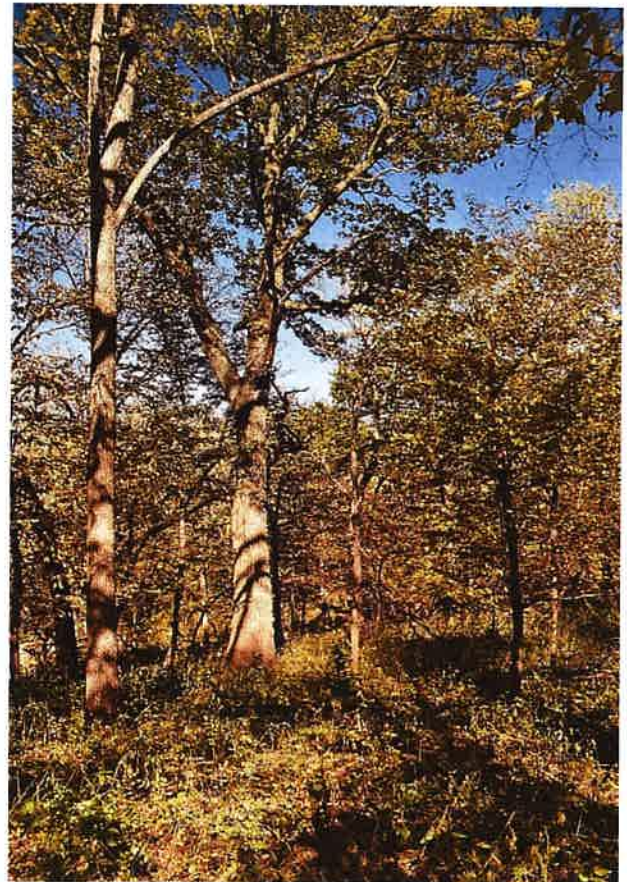
### Miller Farm

**~ 200 acres adjacent to Schramm State Park and the Fedde Farm Easement in Sarpy County**

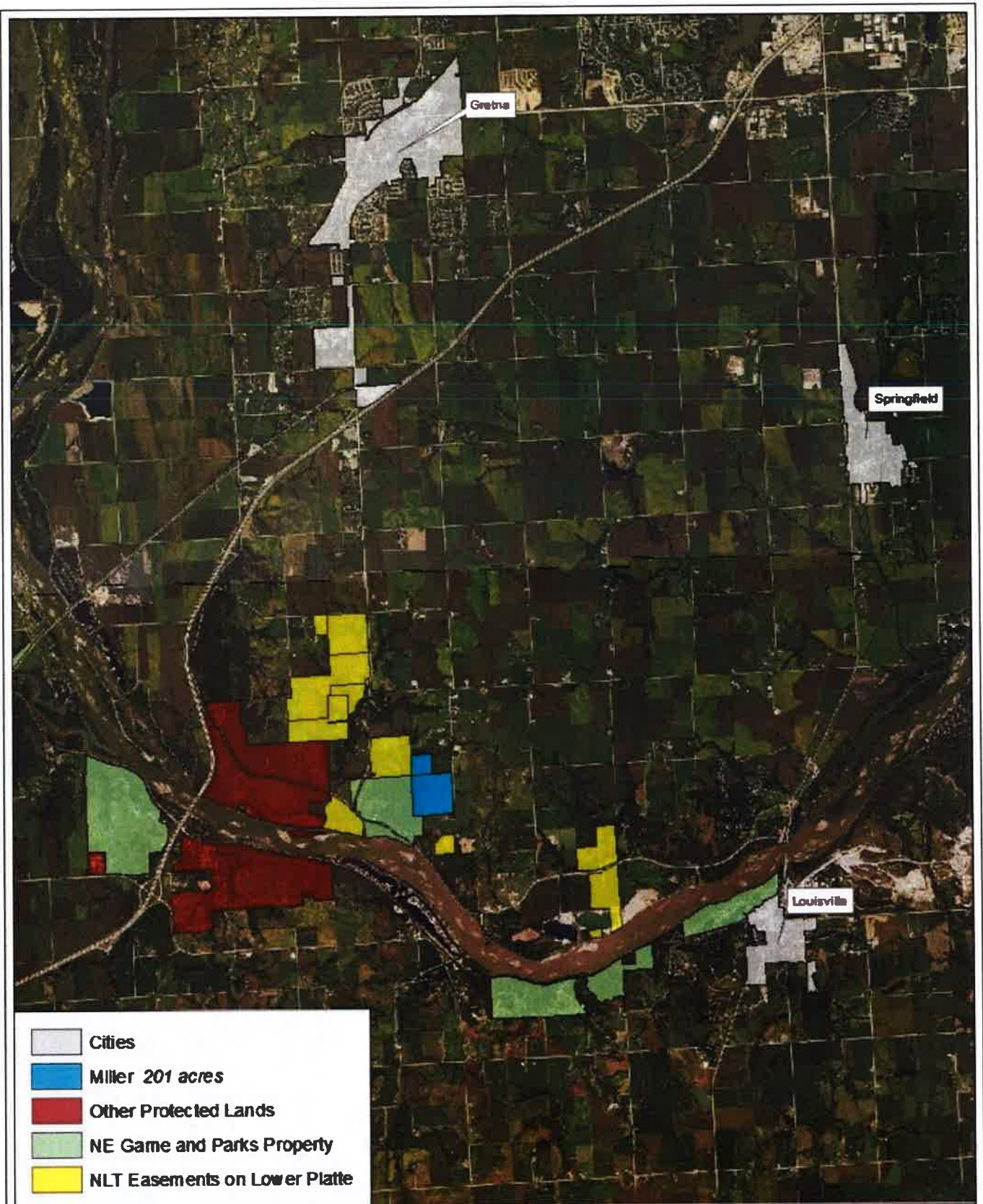


- Springs at the head of a perennial stream that flows into Schramm Park
- Mature oak/hickory woodlands
- Key habitat for migrating songbirds and bats

- Working farm with prime soils and terraces on steep slopes
- Farmhouse built in 1884
- Archeological sites eligible for listing on the National Register
- Development Threat -- **HIGH**







Map by LPS/SPG/CDD/CPG  
 Author: Chris Potts  
 Coordinates System: NAD83 State Plane Nebraska 1st Foot  
 Map Intended for General Use and for navigation  
 Information obtained according to map disclaimer

## Beatrice Miller Easement in Relation to Protected Properties and Towns

# Attachment 4 – Nebraska Land Trust Board Members

[About Us](#)[Our Process](#)[Projects](#)[FAQs](#)[Staff](#)[News](#)

## Staff

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**Jacob Alishouse**  
Stewardship Director  
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## Board

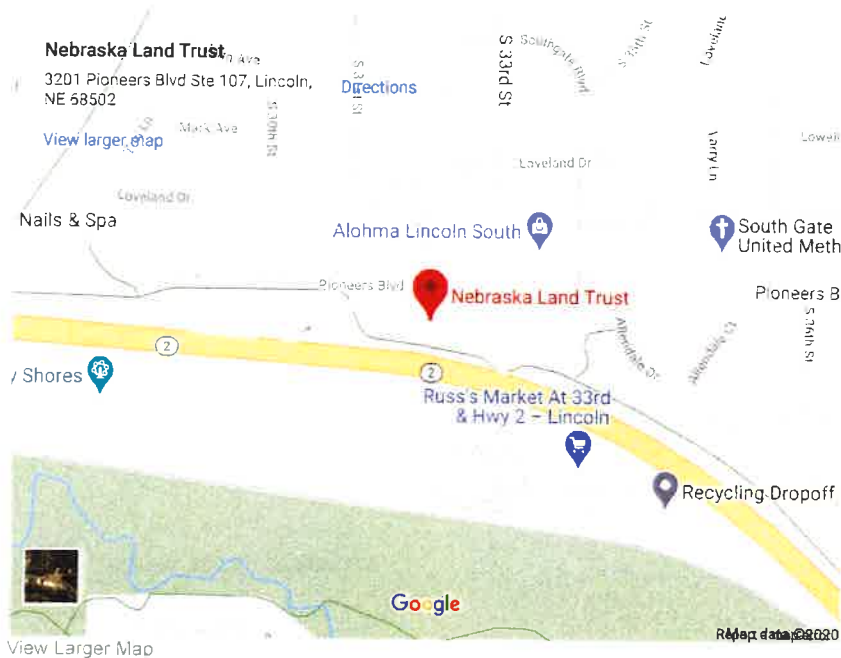
**Glenn Johnson**  
Chair

**Michael Linder**  
Vice Chair

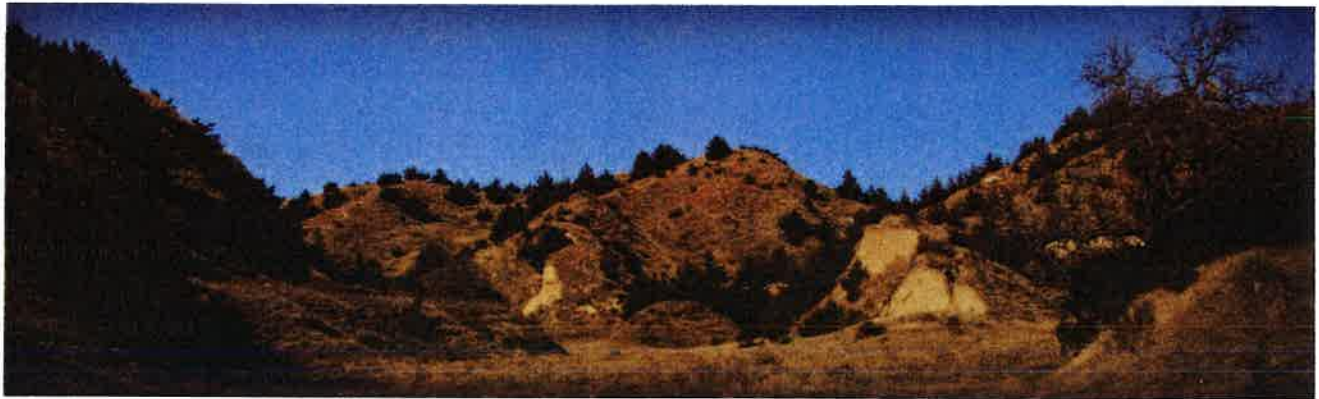
**Joe Francis**  
Treasurer

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

## Our Office







## Board of Directors

### Fontenelle Nature Association

Dennis Merkel  
Merica Whitehall

### History Nebraska

Trisha Nelson  
John Risetto

### Lower Platte North NRD

John Hannah  
Bob Heimann  
Nancy Meyer

### Lower Platte South NRD

Dan Schulz  
Paul Zillig

### National Park Service\*

Steve Thede

### Nebraska Audubon Society

Joe Francis (Secretary)  
Glenn Pollock  
Ross Scott

### Nebraska Big Game Society

Justin Hertzell  
Jon Thomas

### Nebraska Cattlemen

Warren Arganbright  
Jessica Herrmann  
Todd McWha

### Nebraska Game and Parks Commission

Jim Douglas  
Tim McCoy

### Nebraska Sportsmen's Foundation

Scott Smathers

### Nebraska Wildlife Federation

J J Johnson  
Dave Koukol (Secretary)

### Niobrara Council

Brad Arrowsmith

### Papio-Missouri River NRD

Jim Becic

### Platte River Basin Environments\*

Hod Kosman

### Sandhills Cattle Association

Carl Simmons

### U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service\*

Kenny Dinan  
Robert Harms  
Eliza Hines

### At-large Members

Glenn Johnson (Chair)  
Michael Linder (Vice Chair)  
Sara Radil  
Neal Ratzlaff  
Michael Siedschlag  
Katie Zulkoski

### Executive Director\*

Dave Sands

**\*Advisory, non-voting members**

March 2019

# Attachment 5 – NLT Easement Summary Spreadsheet

<u>Original Owner(s)</u>	<u>Current Owner</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Date Acquired</u>	<u>How Acquired</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Township/Range</u>	<u>Zip Code</u>	<u>Primary Conservation Values Protected</u>	<u>Monitored</u>	<u>Time on Property</u>
Dave Janke	Barry James	227.71	12/6/2002	Transferred	Douglas	T-14N/R-10E	68069	About 3/5 mile of natural Elkhorn River shoreline, hydrologically connected oxbow wetland, pond, grasslands, riparian woodlands, scenic views from Q St.	12/27/2019	1.25
Clarence Werner	Same	577	12/20/2002	Donation	Douglas	T-16N/R-9E	68064	Over 1 mile of Platte River shoreline along dike, cropland, 18 delineated wetlands, pond, slough, grasslands, and woodlands.	12/20/2019	0.75
Ginger Woods Reserve, L.P.	Luke Janke	213.66	6/24/2003	Donation	Douglas	T-16N/R-9E and T-15N/R-9E	68064	About 2 miles of natural Platte River shoreline, wetlands, ponds, scenic views, wet meadows, grasslands, riparian woodlands.	12/20/2019	0.5
William Hanley (S&B Part.)	Pete Hanley	37	12/10/2004	Donation	Saunders	T-15N/R-9E	68070	About 1/3 mile of natural Platte River shoreline, seasonal pond, wetland, grassland, historical site, scenic views, adjoins wetland mitigation bank.	11/22/2019	0.5
Wanda Clark/Monica Dunse	John and Erin Woods	644	12/28/2007	Donation	Lincoln	T-11N/R-28E	69151	Critical habitat for elk and endangered American burying beetle, virgin mid-grass prairie, scenic views, ranching, adjoins Wapiti WMA.	7/16/2019	1.75
Pat and Nancy Shanahan	Same	257.6	4/11/2008	Bargain Sale using FRPP and NET funds	Saunders	T-17N/R-7E	68015	One-half mile of natural Platte River shoreline, oak/hickory forest at western extreme of range, Pahaku cultural site, scenic views, prime farmland, adjoins Gilbert CE land and Scout Camp.	7/2/2019	1.5
John and William Walz	Jarel Vinduska	90.38	10/21/2008	Bargain Sale using NET and mitigation funds	Sarpy	T-12N/R-10E	68028	One-half mile of natural Platte River shoreline, one-half mile of a Platte River tributary, riparian woodlands, farming, scenic views, adjoins Schramm State Park.	8/28/2019	1.75
John Dunse	Steve and Shelia Markley	343	11/17/2008	Bargain Sale using NGPC funds	Lincoln	T-11N/R-28W	69151	Critical habitat for elk and endangered American burying beetle, virgin mid-grass prairie, scenic views, ranching, adjoins Clark/Dunse CE land.	7/16/2019	0.25
George Krueger	Jo Jean Preuit - Trustee	438.9	6/23/2009	Donation	Seward	T-12N/R-28W	68439	Riparian woodlands along Lincoln Creek and conservation farming practices such as terraces and grass waterways.	11/25/2019	1.75
Theodore (Ted) and Ramona (Mona) Thiemann	Same	160	7/17/2009	Donation	Boone	T-22N/R-7W	68652	Native grassland habitat on the eastern fringe of the Sandhills and ranching.	11/13/2019	1
Nine Penny Ranch -- Kris Fischer and the L. Wayne Davidson and Chestyne K. Davidson Revocable Living Trust	Kris Fischer	949.05	5/20/2010	Full Purchase using NET and FRPP funds	Lincoln	T-12N/R-28W	69151	Critical habitat for elk and endangered American burying beetle, virgin mid-grass prairie, scenic views, ranching.	7/16/2019	0.25
Ron and Carol Patterson	Same	56.62	6/15/2010	Bargain Sale using NET and FRPP funds	Sarpy	T-13N/R-10E and T-12N/R-10E	68028	Oak/hickory woodlands, flowing stream, significant archeological sites, farmland in an urbanizing county, and scenic views from Hwy 31.	8/20/2019	1.75
Sunny Brook Ranch, FLP (Roy and Steve Breuklander)	Steve B.	1,124.57	8/11/2010	Full Purchase using NET and FRPP funds	Keya Paha	T-33N/R24W	68778	Ranching; 4 of the 6 ecosystems found in the Niobrara Valley (ponderosa pine forest, eastern deciduous forest, mid-grass prairie, & tallgrass prairie); 1.3 miles of river front on the Niobrara NSR; contiguous to TNC Niobrara Valley Preserve; scenic views from the river and River Road; recreational uses; 9 archeological/historical sites;	6/14/2019	1.5
OPM Partnership	Same	830.8	8/23/2010	Transferred from Fontenelle Forest	Saunders	T-16N/R-9E	68025	Extensive wetlands, 1.5 miles of river frontage, riparian woodlands, grasslands.	12/27/2019	1.25

Dean and Wayne Fedde	Same	157.8	3/30/2011	Bargain Sale using FRPP and NET funds	Sarpy	T-12N/R-10E	68028	Oak/hickory woodlands, flowing stream, archeological site, farmland in an urbanizing county, adjacent to Schramm State Park, currently an organic farm, and scenic views from Hwy 31.	8/27/2019	1.75
Ron and Carol Patterson	Same	178.99	4/7/2011	Bargain Sale using FRPP and NET funds	Sarpy	T-13N/R-10E	68028	Oak/hickory woodlands, flowing stream, significant archeological sites, farmland in an urbanizing county, and scenic views from Hwy 31.	See Patterson   Patterson I	See
Paul, Lori, and Gregory Hosford	Same	546	12/27/2011	Bargain Sale using wind mitigation funds	Boone	T-20N/R-5W and T-19N/R-5W	68620	Farming, Native American lodge sites, Native American mounds, potential burial sites, riparian woodlands along the Beaver and O'Neill Valley Creeks, meandering unchanneled portions of these creeks, unplowed and restored tallgrass prairie, and educational use by local schools.	11/13/2019	1.75
Gary and Nancy Fisher	Same	546.51	12/29/2011	Full Purchase using NET, FRPP, and Full	Dawes	T-31N/R-51W	69339	Ranching, key wildlife habitat between two large parcels of public land, key bighorn sheep habitat, a large stocked pond and a portion of West Ash Creek (a trout stream), scenic views from public lands and W. Ash Creek Rd. Adjacent to Ft. Robinson State Park and the Petersen WMA; critical lambing habitat for bighorn sheep; historical significance as the site of the Cheyenne Breakout of 1879; has a locally rare wetland, scenic views from public lands and Hwy 20; continued ranching; potential for Oak/hickory woodlands, significant archeological sites including trail ruins, farmland in an urbanizing county, demonstration plot for cedar removal, and scenic views from 204th St.	6/25/2019	1.75
Chief Dull Knife College	Same	1,121.36	3/27/2012	Purchase using NET, FRPP, and other funds	Sioux	T-31N/R-53W	69346	WMA; critical lambing habitat for bighorn sheep; historical significance as the site of the Cheyenne Breakout of 1879; has a locally rare wetland, scenic views from public lands and Hwy 20; continued ranching; potential for Oak/hickory woodlands, significant archeological sites including trail ruins, farmland in an urbanizing county, demonstration plot for cedar removal, and scenic views from 204th St.	6/25/2019	1
Stan Swanson and Connie Anderson-Swanson	Same	36.44	7/26/2012	Bargain Sale using NET funds	Sarpy	T-12N/R-10E	68028	Oak/hickory woodlands; unhardened Platte River shoreline, farmland in an urbanizing county; scenic views from Hwy 31, the MOPAC Trail (which crosses the land), and Platte River State Park; habitat for endangered pallid sturgeon, least terns, and threatened piping plovers; some archeological sites; rare oak woodland on the river with Chinquapin oaks, the first documented in Sarpy	8/27/2019	1.25
Francis and Margaret Kennedy	Same	262	7/3/2013	Bargain Sale using FRPP, NRPD, and USFWS	Sarpy	T-12N/R-11E	68028	Oak/hickory woodlands; flowing stream; pond; significant archeological sites; farmland in an urbanizing county with soils of statewide importance; some native prairie; and scenic views.	8/28/2019	1.25
Ron and Carol Patterson	Same	174.84	7/5/2013	Bargain Sale using FRPP and NET funds	Sarpy	T-12N/R-10E	68028	Habitat for the endangered American burying beetle; ranching, adjoins John Dunse Easement.	See Patterson   Patterson I	See
Brent and Mary Boerkircher	Same	1,038.31	12/9/2013	Donation	Lincoln	T-11N/R-28W	69151	Habitat for wild elk; native prairie; historical marker, cattle ranching, adjoins John Dunse Easement.	7/16/2019	2
John and Julia Schutz	Same	80	12/26/2013	Donation	Merrick	T-14N/R-8W		Grassland with some native components; grassland habitat in a farming area; native woodlands; hay	11/25/2019	1
Claudeen Penry	Same	160	12/27/2013	Donation	Holt	T-30N/R-15W	68713	Native grassland habitat in a farming area; some virgin prairie; fruit trees and honey production; hay production and grazing; potential outdoor classroom for education.	11/14/2019	0.5
Ken and Diane Hansen	Same	67	6/19/2014	Donation	City of Blair	T-18 & 19 N/R-11E	68008	High quality native oak-hickory woodland on Missouri River bluffs and productive terraced farmland in an urbanizing area.	7/2/2019	1
Robert and Cheryl Robert	Same	80	12/29/2014	Purchase using wind funds	Jefferson	T-1N/R-3E	68516	Virgin tallgrass prairie in Sandstone Prairies BUL with intermittent stream and associated native woodlands.	12/29/2019	0.75
Terrance and Karen Waite	Same	685	12/30/2014	Donation	Lincoln	T-16N/R-33W	69101	Native Sandhills prairie and portions of Birdwood Creek	7/18/2019	2.75
Todd and Laura McWha	Same	720	2/10/2015	Donation	Lincoln	T-16N/R-33&34W	69101	Native Sandhills prairie and portions of Birdwood Creek	See Waite	See Waite

Armbrust Acres, Inc.	Same	282.93	9/24/2015	Bargain Sale using FRPP and NET funds	Sarpy	T-12N/R-10E	68028	Oak/hickory woodlands; flowing stream; pond; significant archeological sites; terraced farmland in an urbanizing county with soils of statewide importance; and scenic views.	See Patterson   Patterson	See
Dr. Delia "Dee" Burchfield	Gary Burchfield	983.56	10/27/2015	Purchase using ALE/GSS and NET Full	Banner	T-20N/R-53 & 54W of the 6th P.M.	69334	Ranching, haying, & grazing; native grasslands; wildlife habitat within Wildcat Hills BUL; important habitat for bighorn sheep; scenic views from public places, including the Williams Gap WMA.	6/24/2019	1.75
Gary and Laura Marshall	Same	261.5	11/18/2015	Purchase using Crofton and Prairie Breeze wind mitigation Full	Boyd	T-32N/R-9W of 6th P.M.	68760	Grassland with some native components; grassland habitat in a farming area; native woodlands; grazing and hay production; lower Niobrara River frontage; wildlife habitat within the Lower Niobrara BUL; wetlands; the original Ponca Agency site which is on the National Register of Historic Places.	11/14/2019	0.75
Todd and Laura McWha	Same	303.5	12/22/2015	Purchase using Broken Bow II wind mitigation funds	Lincoln	T-11N/R-27W of 6th P.M.	69123	Ranching and grazing, native grasslands within the Loess Canyons BUL; habitat for the endangered American burying beetle, elk, and other grassland wildlife, scenic views	7/18/2019	2.25
James and Christine Voeller Revocable trusts	Same	1304	12/31/2015	Bargain Sale using NET and partner grant funds	Sioux	T-32N/R-55&56W of the 6th P.M.	69346	Ranching and grazing, native wildlife habitat and plant communities within the Pine Ridge BUL, critical habitat for bighorn sheep and elk, Cold Water Class A trout stream in Sowbely Creek, scenic views from two public roads and Coffee Park.	6/25/2019	2.25
Mary Lou Chapek	Same	595.83	12/21/2016	Donation	Washington	T-17N/R-12E	68023	Oak-Hickory woodlands in the Missouri Valley Bluffs; much of the Turkey Creek Watershed, including the creek itself; wetlands and marshes; productive farmland; restored tallgrass prairie; educational use; and scenic views from Hwy 75.	11/19/2019	1.5
Loy and Jean Baumann	Same	240	12/18/2017	Donation	Keith	T-15N/R-39W	69146	Ranching, native Sandhills prairie, habitat for grassland wildlife and scenic views from Hwy 92 and Lake McConaughy	6/24/2019	1.5
Curtis and Edna Anderson	Same	547.56	1/25/2018	Full Purchase using NRCS/GSS, NET and Full	Sioux	T-32N/R-53W	69339	Ranching, native grasslands and wildlife, habitat in the Pine Ridge BUL, elk habitat, riparian habitat on Cottonwood Creek and scenic views from Cottonwood and Rimrock Roads	6/26/2019	2
Riley, Melissa, Jacob and Megan Licking	Same	2,560	1/25/2018	Purchase using Grand Prairie Wind	Thomas	T-21N/R-53W	69166	Ranching, native Sandhills prairie, habitat within the Upper Loup Rivers and Tributaries BUL and wildlife habitat including the endangered American burying beetle	7/17/2019	2.5
Sisters of Mercy		22	3/28/2018	Donation	Douglas	T-15N/R-9E	68069	Natural habitat within the Lower Platte River BUL; ~ 700 feet of natural river shoreline; mature woodlands and songbird habitat; scenic views; potential educational opportunities;	11/22/2019	1
MJD Ranch, LLC	Same	2443.76	6/11/2018	Full Purchase using NRCS/ALE and NET funding	Dawes and Sheridan	T-33N/R-46 & 47W		Productive grassland and grazing for livestock; prime farmland; if irrigated; ponderosa pine forest; Year-round habitat for a large herd of elk; paleontological resources; natural habitat within the Pine Ridge BUL; springs, streams and riparian habitat; part of historic Sheridan Gates landscape; scenic views.	6/25/2019	4.25

Riley, Melissa, Jacob and Megan Licking	Same	2,020.26	7/30/2018	Full Purchase using Grand Prairie Wind MOU funds	Thomas	T-21N/R-24W	69166	Ranching, native Sandhills prairie, habitat within the Upper Loup Rivers and Tributaries BUL and wildlife habitat including the endangered American burying beetle; Endangered Blowout penstemon; Dismal River frontage.	See Licking	See Licking
Marilyn Jean Norman	Same	3,621	8/27/2018	Full Purchase using NET funds.	Sioux	T-33N/R-53W	69339	Grasslands for grazing; terraced, irrigated cropland associated with ranch operation; Natural habitat within the Ogala Grassland BUL in close proximity to the Pine Ridge BUL; Land adjacent to Toadstool Geologic Park and the Ogala National Grassland; open water habitat for waterfowl; scenic views from Toadstool and other public vantage points; archeological sites; fee-based public access as a guest ranch;	6/26/2019	3
Taylor and Tamara Wohlers	Same	633	12/23/2018	Full Purchase using NRCS, NET, RMEF & NBGS funds	Dawes	T-30/R-50W	69339	Grasslands for grazing; cropland associated with ranch operation; Natural habitat within the Pine Ridge BUL; Barn and other buildings on the National Register of Historic Places; a "pine island" at the top of a burned watershed; watershed protection at the very top of West Ash Creek;	6/25/2019	1.25
Patterson Farm / Amendment	Same	6.41	12/28/2018	Full Donation	Sarpy	T-12N/R-10E	68028	Oak woodlands; spring-fed stream; archeological resources.	See Patterson	See Patterson
Ritter Prairie	Melissa and Richard Nelson	77.09	4/24/2019	Required by Purchase Agreement	Antelope	T-24N/R-5W	68781	Unplowed tallgrass prairie, ravines with hardwoods and numerous hand planted pines.	New	
Dalbey Prairie	University of Nebraska Foundation	503.1	3/24/2020	Full Donation	Gage	T-3N/R-8E	68458	Never-plowed tallgrass prairie.	New	
Brandon and Kami Meyer	Same	1,147	6/3/2020	Full Purchase -- Cottonwood Wind, NRCS & NET	Webster	T-1N/R-10W	68970	Never-plowed midgrass prairie across Hwy 281 from the Willa Cather Memorial Prairie south of Red Cloud; scenic views from Cather Prairie; cattle production; spring-fed stream with riparian woodlands; a strong population of prairie chickens and other grassland birds.	New	
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>29357.04</b>								<b>56.5</b>
<b>Pending</b>										
Jack and Marie Kreman (Kreman Cattle Co.)	Same	2,892.14		Bargain Sale	Sioux			Cattle production; 4 miles of public access trout stream along White River; 20 documented At-risk species within 3-mi radius; critical habitat for bighorn sheep; scenic buttes; adjacent to Petersen WMA; historic sites.		
Graham/Crowe Ranch	Les and Jan Graham	8,433		Bargain Sale	Holt			Expansive never-plowed midgrass prairie in Holt County, where grasslands have largely been lost to cropland; 4 miles of Niobrara River frontage; strong population of prairie chickens and other At-risk grassland wildlife; significant carbon sequestration; adjoins Redbird WMA.		
Thornton Property	Rosemary Thornton	120		Full Donation	Keya Paha			Native grassland and riparian stream/woodland adjoining the existing Sunnybrook Ranch Easement near the Niobrara National Scenic River		