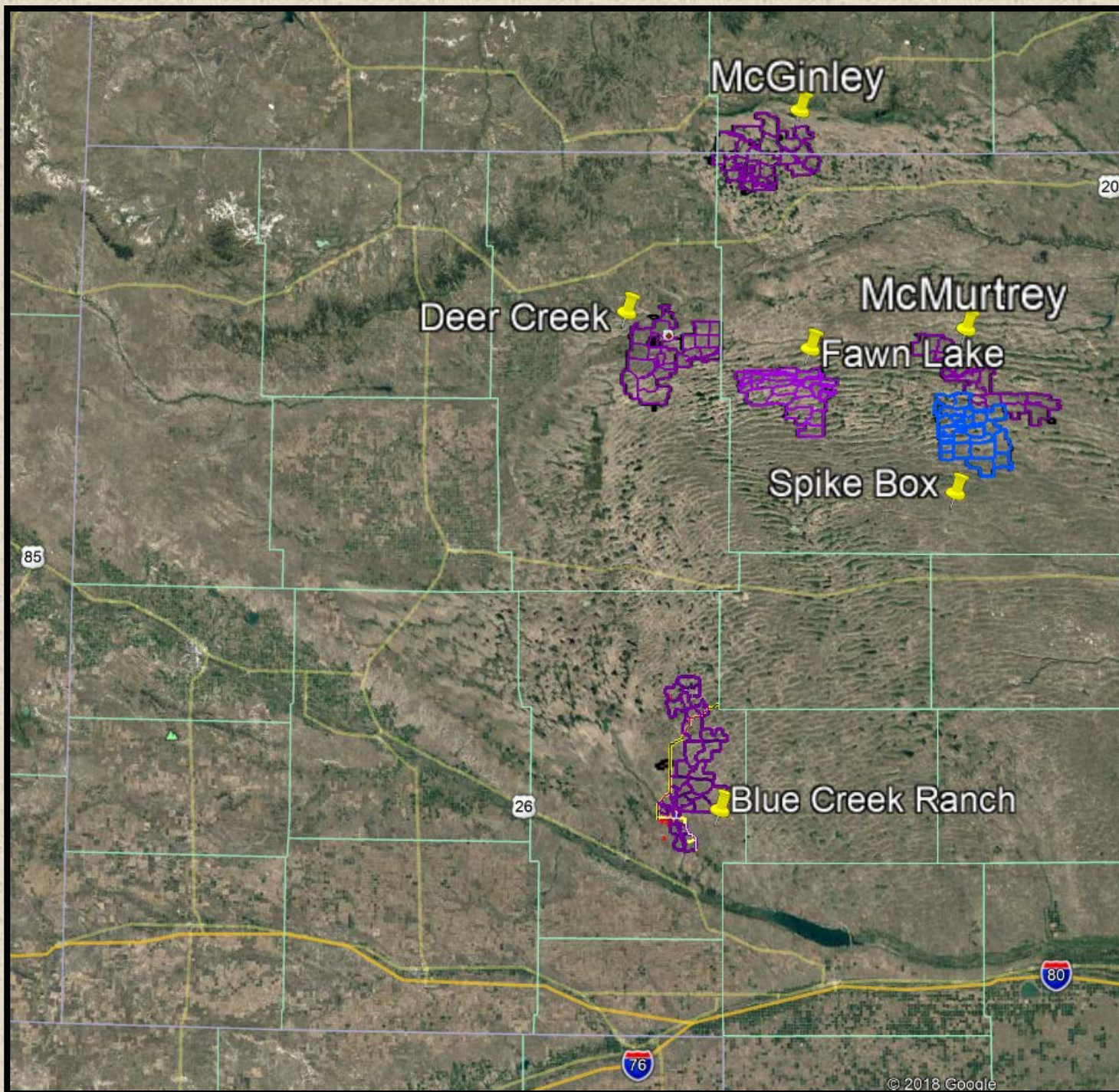


Blue Creek Ranch





McGinley

Deer Creek

McMurtrey

Fawn Lake

Spike Box

Blue Creek Ranch

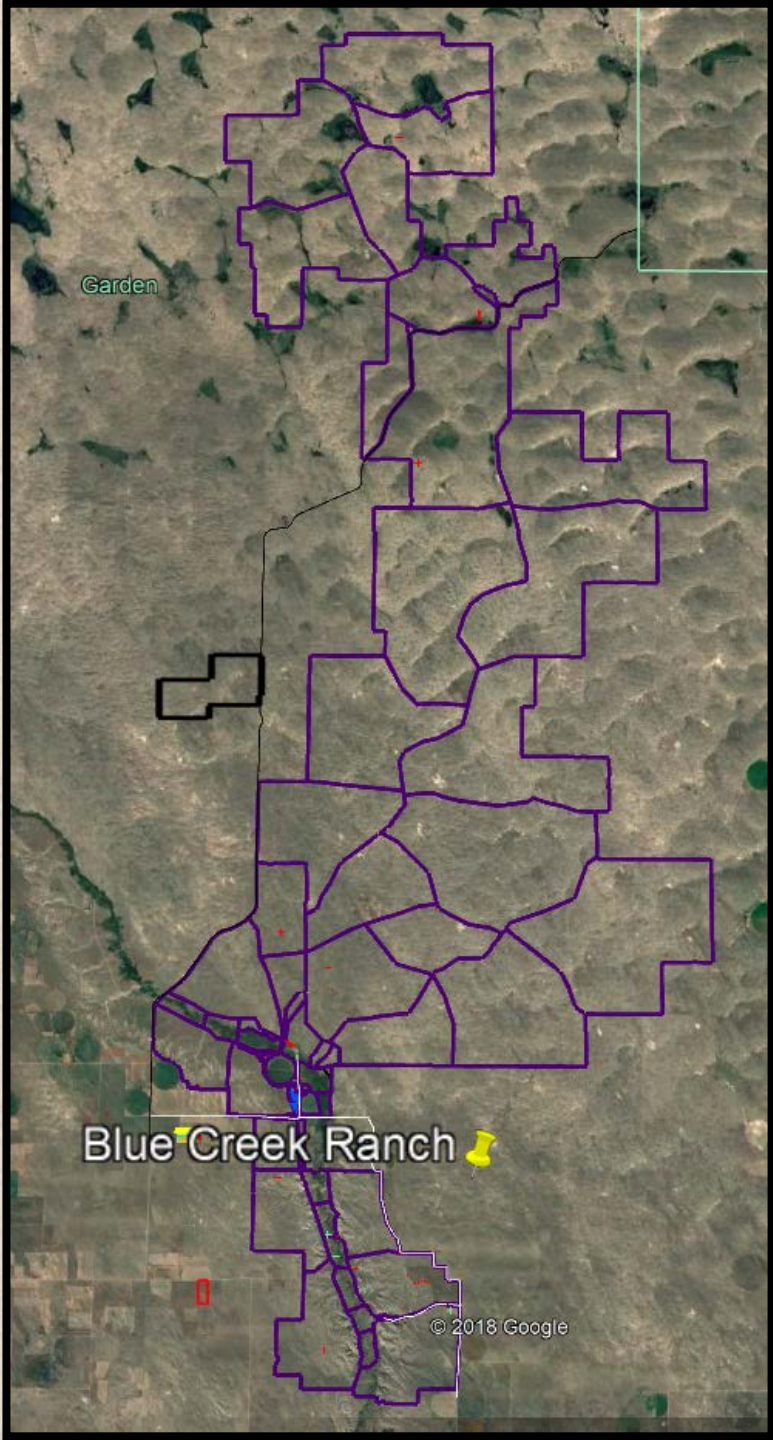
85

26

20

76

80



Garden

Blue Creek Ranch

© 2018 Google

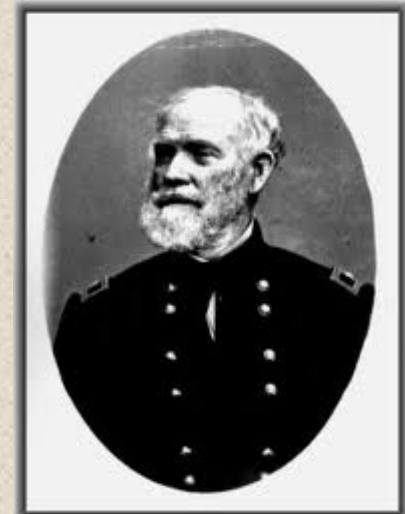
Blue Creek Facts

- Blue Creek Ranch is located on the southwestern edge of the Nebraska Sandhills, and is home to over 3,900 bison.
- The 85,635-acre ranch is mainly comprised of native sandhills rangeland with the unique feature of being divided on the southern half of the ranch by Blue Creek, a tributary of the North Platte River.
- Blue Creek is the dividing line between the true sandhills region of Nebraska to the north and the clay soils and hard grass prairie system to the south.

Blue Creek History

Blue Creek ranch was the site of “The Battle of Blue Water” the first major conflict between the U.S. Military and the Sioux Indians from 1854 to 1856.

The US Military was led by General Harney and attacked a band of Sioux Indians led by Little Thunder.



Ralph Waldo Emerson wrote, “The man who grasps **principles** can successfully select his own **methods**. The man who tries **methods**, ignoring **principles**, is sure to have trouble.”

Blue Creek is also the site of a naturally occurring spring called “Gusher Springs.” Gusher Springs is believed to be the second largest spring in Nebraska with a measured flow of 3,750 gal./min.



MISSION STATEMENT

Turner Enterprises Is Dedicated To Managing Turner Lands In An Economically Sustainable And Ecologically Sensitive Manner While Promoting The Conservation Of Native Species.

Holistic Management

1. Profitability
2. Land Stewardship
3. Conservation Efforts
4. Community and Employees

Profitability - Bison



Bison Facts

- Grazed using a rotational and deferred grazing system
- Three grazing herds
 - Main herd - 1,400 breeding females
 - 100 breeding bulls
 - Stockers - 450 stocker heifers, 550 stocker bulls
 - Yearlings - 1,170 weaned calves
- Ratio of cows to bulls is 14:1
- Bison have a 285- day gestation and birth weight of about 50 pounds
- 85% of cows will calve annually





On Ranch Feeding Facility



Feeder Operation

- Bulls finish at around 1125 lbs. and must be slaughtered before 30 months of age
 - Days on feed range from 170 – 250
 - ADG 2 lbs/day
- Heifers finish at around 950 lbs. and must be slaughtered before 36 months of age
 - Days on feed range from 120 – 160
 - ADG 1.5 lbs/day







Land Stewardship Rangeland Management



Grazing

- Rotational and Deferred Grazing
 - Graze pasture no sooner than 13 month from last grazing event during growing season
 - On third or fourth year winter dormant grazing
 - Rest the following growing season
 - Large grazing herds - Grazing efficiency
 - Pasture size
 - Water









Water





Drought Planning



- Stocking Rate
- Deferral
- De-Stocking Plan
- Natural Disaster

Conservation



American burying beetle
Arctic grayling
Aplomado falcon
Bat spp.
Bison spp.
Black-footed ferret
Blanding's turtle
Blowout penstemon
Bolson tortoise
Boreal toad
California condor
Chiricahua leopard frog
Chupadera spring snail
Cutthroat trout spp.
Desert bighorn sheep
Gopher tortoise
Grizzly bear
Hainan gibbon

Indigo snake
Ivory billed woodpecker
Long billed curlew
Mexican spotted owl
Milkweed spp.
Monarch butterfly
New Mexico jumping mouse
Prairie chicken spp.
Prairie dog spp.
Red cockaded woodpecker
Rio Grande sucker
Rio Grande chub
Sandhills native fish spp.
Swift fox
Yellow billed cuckoo
Western pearlshell mussel
Wolf spp.
Wood stork



Rio Grande chub



Rio Grande sucker





McMurtrey Ranch



Outcomes:

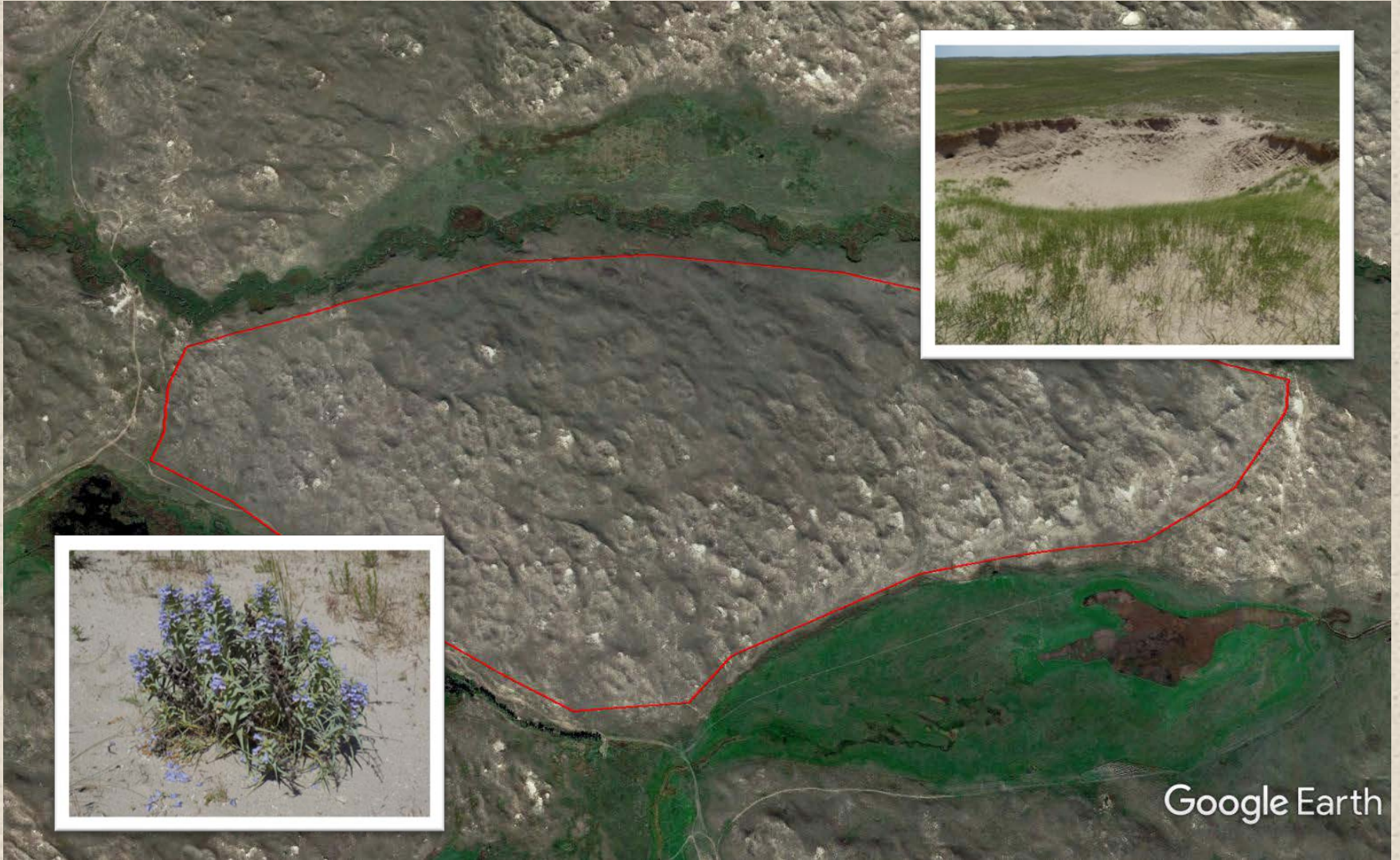
Largest stream/wet meadow “restoration” in Sandhills ~ 3.25 km

New and growing relationship with Sandhills Task Force

Internal momentum for additional wet meadow restoration work on Turner Ranches



Spike Box Ranch



Google Earth





SB18-02P



Google Earth

Z-Bar Ranch



Enrolled 32,525 of 42,500 acres/10 years
Three management actions required:

1. Burn all acres at least once in 10 years



2. Cut ~2,000 acres cedar

CIFICATE OF PARTICIPATION AMONG THE WESTERN
SOCIATION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE AGENCIES,
WESTERN CONSERVATION
PARTICIPA

ificate of Participation
the Western Associati
("WAFWA"), a Wyomin



3. Average 33% range utilization
instead of standard 50% for 10 years

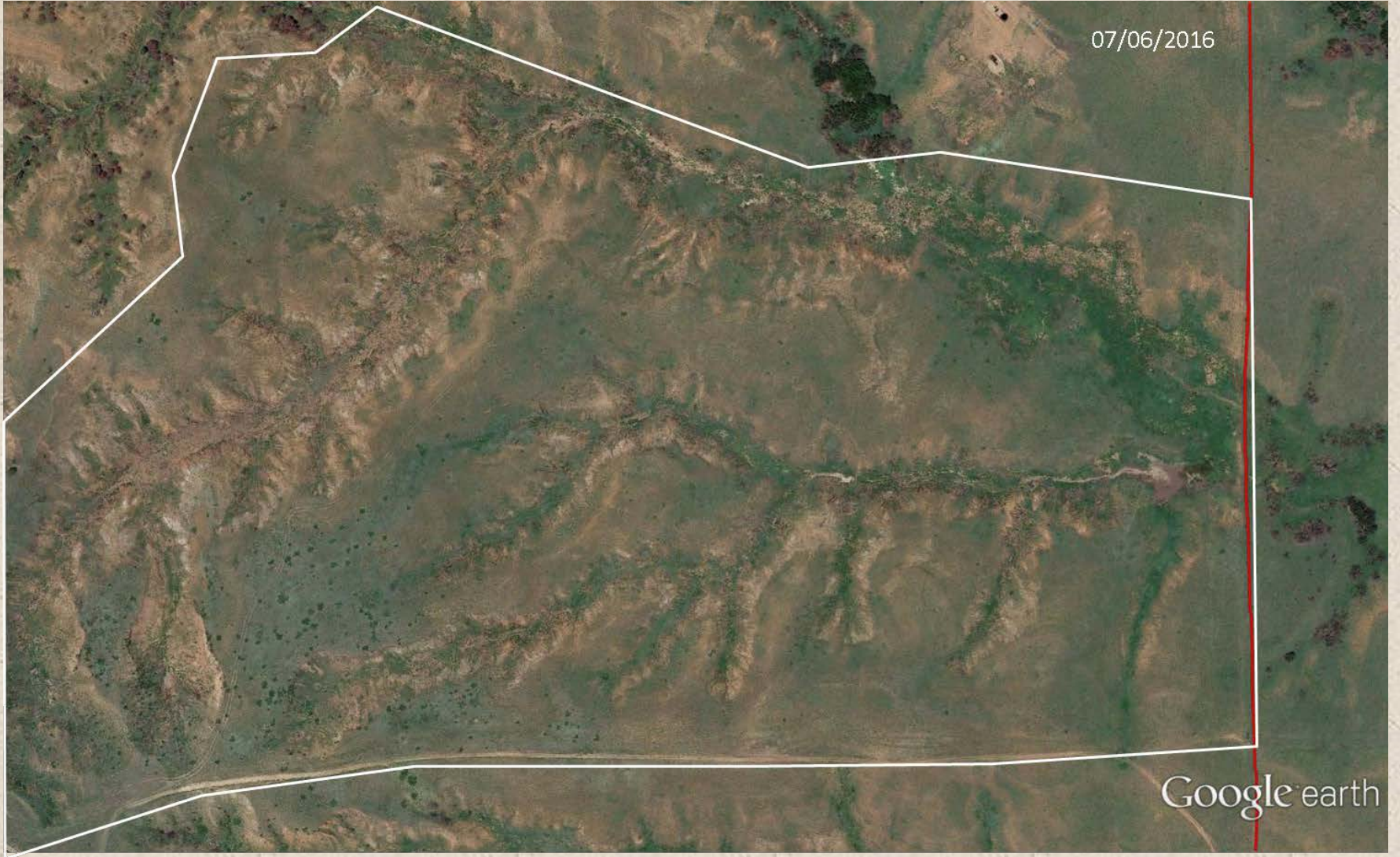


09/22/2011

Google earth

07/06/2016

Google earth



06/25/2012



Google earth

07/06/2012



Google earth

A prairie chicken's view



December 2015



September 2016



Outcomes:

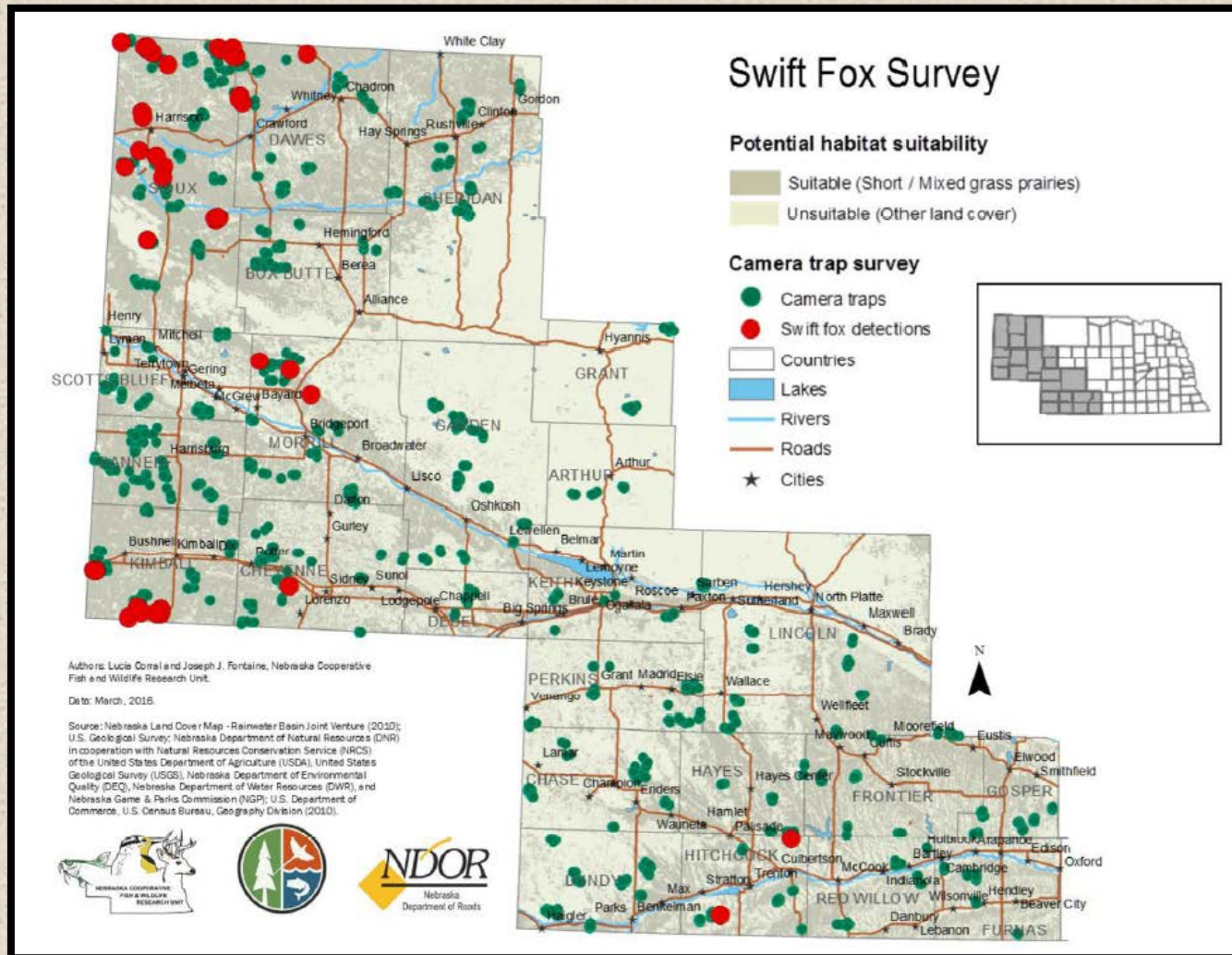
10,000's of acres of mixed grass prairie "restoration" focused on grassland bird communities

\$4.5 million payment over 10 years

Demonstration of "ecosystem services" with potential to help support non-viable ranches.



- Swift Fox – Joseph Fontaine et. Al, UNL
 - The overall project goal was is to document the occurrence of swift fox in Western Nebraska and identify the anthropogenic and ecological factors that limit their distribution.





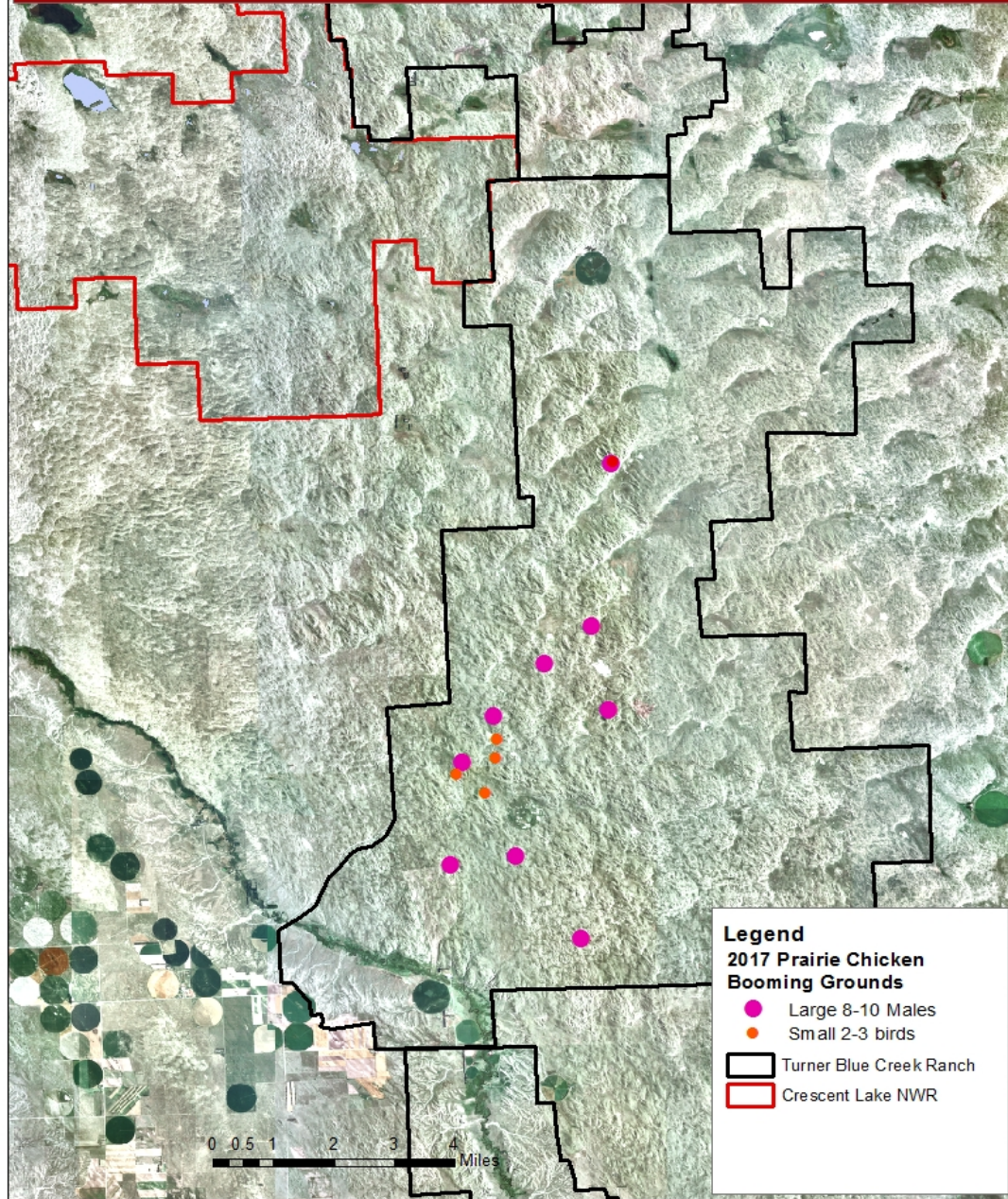
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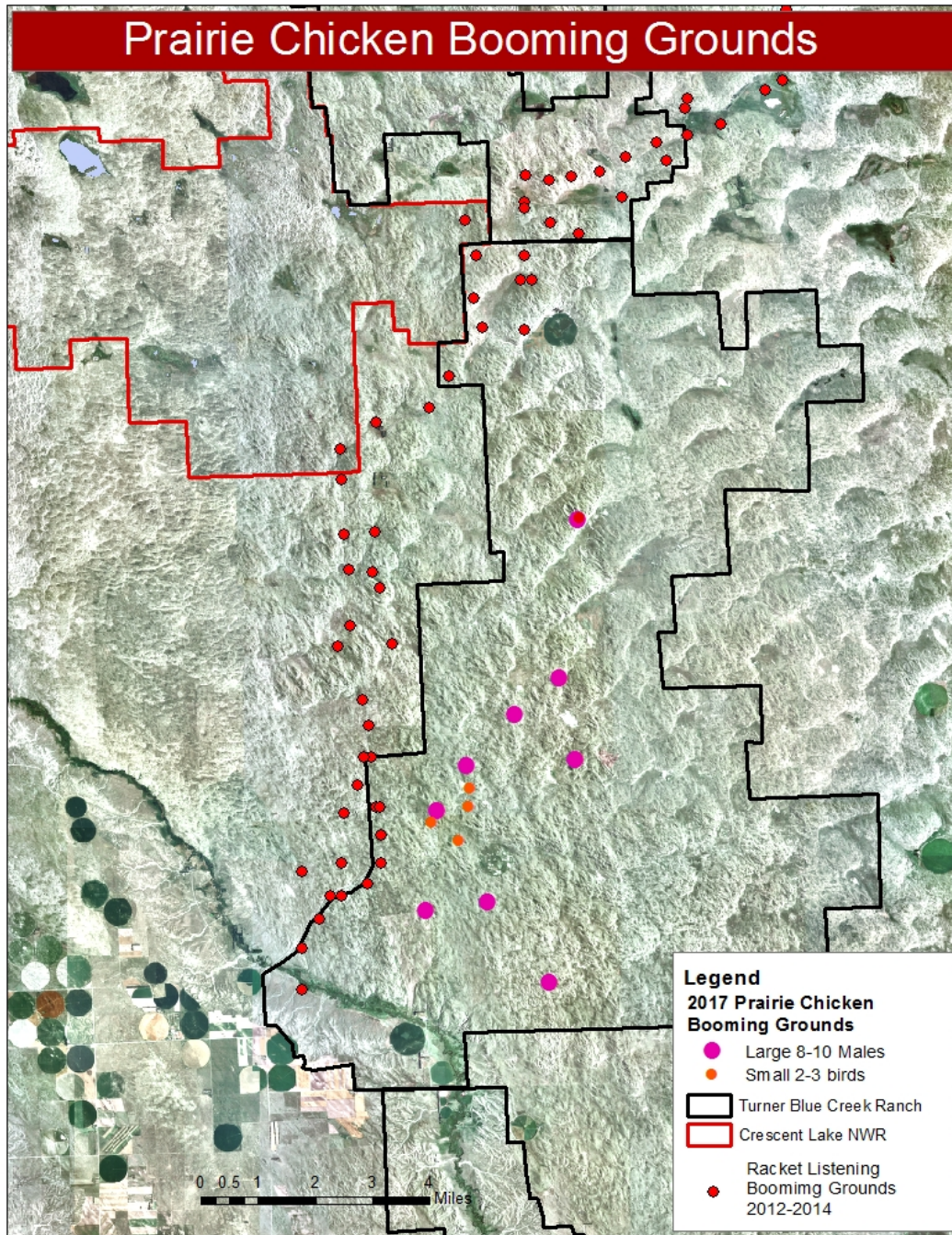
- Prairie Chicken Monitoring – Marlin French, John Halstead
 - Marlin French from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service assisted with prairie chicken lek locating on Blue Creek.



Prairie Chicken Booming Grounds



Prairie Chicken Booming Grounds



- Golden Eagle Recovery – Fontenelle Forest



Employees



Community



Questions

