

## Federal Partners

Bureau of Land Management (BLM)  
Bureau of Reclamation (BOR)  
National Park Service (NPS)  
U.S. Forest Service (USDA-FS)  
U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)

## University Partners

University of Nebraska (Host)  
Black Hills State University  
Colorado State University  
Langston University  
Little Priest Tribal College  
North Dakota State University  
South Dakota State University  
Texas A&M University  
University of Minnesota  
University of North Dakota  
University of Oklahoma  
University of South Dakota  
University of Wyoming

### GP-CESU

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**Cooperative  
Ecosystem  
Studies Units**

**Research, Education & Technical Assistance**



# Great Plains CESU

**A University/  
Federal Agency Partnership**  
**Est. October 2000**



## Great Plains CESU

*The mission of the Great Plains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit is to determine the ecological state of public lands of the Great Plains and examine its future within the context of private lands. Our focus is on improving the scientific basis for managing ecosystems in the region, through more active and interactive technical assistance, research, and education among the partner institutions and agencies.*

## Objectives of the National CESU Network

- ◆ Provide resource managers with high-quality scientific research, technical assistance, and education.
- ◆ Deliver research and technical assistance that is timely, relevant to resource managers, and needed to develop and implement sound adaptive management approaches.
- ◆ Ensure the independence and objectivity of research.
- ◆ Create and maintain effective partnerships among federal agencies and universities to share resources and expertise.
- ◆ Take full advantage of university resources while benefiting faculty and students.
- ◆ Encourage professional development of federal scientists.
- ◆ Manage federal science resources efficiently.

## Themes

The following eight issues were identified by the partners of the GP-CESU to be areas of strategic concern in regards to the Great Plains and therefore of great interest to the vision of the GP-CESU:

- ◆ Biological invasions and their impact on existing ecosystem integrity.
- ◆ Habitat fragmentation for species-threatened and endangered species.
- ◆ Health of aquatic ecosystems, including agrochemicals and nutrients.
- ◆ Preservation and/or restoration of native aquatic and terrestrial communities.
- ◆ Social and cultural values of natural areas under changing population and land use.
- ◆ Timely transfer and access of information for resource management and policy.
- ◆ Implications of global environmental change on managed and unmanaged ecosystems.
- ◆ Implications of land use change on ecosystem integrity.



## Project Examples

### University of Nebraska-Host

Karst Aquifer Effect on Stream Discharge Variation in the Jacks Fork River Basin in the Ozark Highlands (USGS)

### Black Hills State University

Herpetological Inventories at Eight Great Plains National Parks (NPS)

### Colorado State University

Investigating the Connection of Turquoise Lake and Mine Tunnel Flow in the Sagarloaf Mining District Using Dissolved Gas Tracers (BOR)

### Langston University

Develop Colorado on the Move Guidebook (BLM)

### North Dakota State University

Restoration of Native Rangeland Using an IPM Approach (NPS)

### South Dakota State University

Badlands National Park Swift Fox Reintroduction (NPS/USGS)

### Texas A&M University

Regional Perspectives and Opportunities for Exotic Feral Hog Management in the Greater Big Bend Region, TX (NPS)

### University of Minnesota

Apostle Islands National Lakeshore: Meaning and Values Exploration (NPS)

### University of North Dakota

Archeological Investigations of the Elbee Site, Knife River Indian Villages NHS (NPS)

### University of Oklahoma

Lodge Pole River Project (NPS)

### University of South Dakota

Missouri River Survey of Aquatic Biotic Diversity and Relative Abundance within the Shramm Addition at Ponca State Park, NE (NPS)

### University of Wyoming

Black-Tailed Prairie Dog Demographics and Metapopulation Monitoring (BLM)



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