

Species of Greatest Conservation Need

(SGCN) are a subset of all Kansas wildlife that include species with low or declining populations as well as species that are indicative of the diversity and health of Kansas' wildlife. Below are a few of the SGCN that can be found in this EFA.

Baltimore Oriole
Burrowing Owl
Common Nighthawk
Dickcissel
Eastern Meadowlark
Greater Prairie-Chicken
Northern Bobwhite
Red-headed Woodpecker
Piping Plover
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher
Upland Sandpiper
Monarch
Eastern Tiger Salamander
Gray Fox
Southern Flying Squirrel
Lesser Earless Lizard
Texas Horned Lizard
Smooth Softshell



Northern Bobwhite



Southern Flying Squirrel

Flint Hills



Ecological Focus Areas (EFA) represent landscapes identified within the Kansas' Wildlife Action Plan where conservation actions can be applied for maximum benefit to all Kansas wildlife. Each EFA includes a suite of Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN), priority habitats and a set of conservation actions designed to address the specific resource concerns facing these species and habitats. The design of EFAs was based primarily on priority native habitats and refined using SGCN locations, and was built upon other planning efforts that address conservation priorities in the state.

Kansas Priority Habitats were prioritized based on their dominance and importance to the conservation of SGCN. Priority habitats that occur in the Flint Hills EFA are Tallgrass Prairie, Herbaceous Wetlands, Deciduous Forest, and Deciduous Floodplain habitat.



Tallgrass Prairie



Deciduous Floodplain



Herbaceous Wetlands

USDA conservation programs have the potential to address conservation needs of priority species and habitats identified in the State Wildlife Action Plan. The table below illustrates the connection between conservation issues identified in the Kansas State Wildlife Action Plan with Kansas' NRCS EQIP Priority Resource Concerns. Examples of NRCS Conservation Practices which can be applied to address these conservation issues are also provided. The full lists of conservation issues for the Flint Hills EFA can be found in the SWAP at: <http://ksoutdoors.com/Services/Kansas-SWAP> Additional information on technical and financial assistance available to benefit wildlife can be found at: <http://ksoutdoors.com/Services/Private-Landowner-Assistance>

Conservation Issues and Actions to Address Resource Concerns.

NRCS Resource Concerns	SWAP Conservation Issues	Potential NRCS Conservation Practices*
Inadequate Habitat for Fish and Wildlife - Habitat Degradation OR Degraded Plant Condition - Inadequate Structure and Composition	Improper grazing practices on native grasslands that decrease habitat heterogeneity and change vegetative community composition	Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (645), Access Control (472), Prescribed Grazing (528), Prescribed Burning (338), Herbaceous Weed Control (315)
	Conversion of grasslands to other uses and/or haying of native grasslands causes fragmentation, destroying native flora and decreasing habitat availability	Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (645), Range Planting (550), Access Control (472), Forage Harvest Management (511)
	Improperly applied use of prescribed fire (<i>i.e. prominence of annual burning</i>) is detrimental for some grassland nesting birds, while infrequent burning causes prairie to transition to shrubland or forest	Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (645), Access Control (472), Herbaceous Weed Control (315), Prescribed Burning (338), Prescribed Grazing (528), Brush Management (314)
Degraded Plant Condition— Excessive Plant Pest Pressure	Sericea lespedeza (<i>Lespedeza cuneata</i>) and Old World bluestems (<i>Bothriochloa species</i>) pose a serious threat to the biodiversity through competitive interaction with native species	Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (645), Brush Mgmt. (314), Herbaceous Weed Control (315), Prescribed Burning (338), Prescribed Grazing (528)
	Woody species such as Osage orange and honey locust continue to encroach on native prairie	Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (645), Brush Mgmt. (314), Herbaceous Weed Control (315), Prescribed Burning (338), Prescribed Grazing (528)

*Conservation practices are not all-inclusive, other eligible practices may apply.