Great Plains CESU

Host: University of Nebraska-Lincoln, School of Natural Resources
Director: Larkin Powell
NPS Research Coordinator: Tanya Shenk
Office Coordinator: Kat Bickert
Partners

Federal
US Army Corps of Engineers
Department of Defense
Farm Service Agency
US Fish and Wildlife Service
US Forest Service
US Geological Survey
Bureau of Indian Affairs
Bureau of Land Management
National Atmospheric and Oceanic Administration
National Park Service
Natural Resource Conservation Service
Bureau of Reclamation

Academic
Black Hills State University
Colorado State University
Emporia State University
Kansas State University
Langston University
New Mexico Highlands University
North Dakota State University
Oklahoma State University
South Dakota School of Mines and Technology
South Dakota State University
Texas A&M University
Texas Tech University
University of Minnesota
University of Nebraska-Lincoln
University of Nebraska Medical Center
University of North Dakota
University of Oklahoma
University of South Dakota
University of Wyoming
Winona State University

NGO
World Wildlife Fund-Northern Great Plains
Challenge: Great Plains CESU will most likely never see the number of projects or $$$ as other CESU’s based on federal land area.

Opportunity: Private land issues dominate region; USDA emphasis, MWAC with cultural emphasis in smaller NPS sites.

2015 Successes

- University of Nebraska-Lincoln provided ~$30,000 host support for an office coordinator position, faculty teaching release, and other office assistance.
- Website was updated and the site migrated from a third party platform to that of the host university.
- Newly hired office coordinator developed a Project Database with a searchable library of all current and previous projects.
Great Plains-Cooperative Ecosystems Studies Unit

The Mission of the Great Plains-CESU is to support partnerships to assess the ecological and cultural status of public lands within the Great Plains Region and examine its future within the context of private lands.

This determination is focused 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.
**Project Library**

Enter text from project task number, title or abstract

OR

Select a Status

Select an Agency

Select a Partner Institution

Projects Found (172)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Task Agreement</th>
<th>68-7482-14-506</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Project Title</td>
<td>Conservation Effects Assessment Project - Wetlands Component (CEAP-Wetlands) regional assessment in the High Plains (THP) of Texas, New Mexico, OK, KS, CO, NE</td>
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<tr>
<td>Partner Institution</td>
<td>Oklahoma State University</td>
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Newsletter

CESU NETWORK NEWS
The Great Plains CESU is working with colleagues in the Great Rivers, Great Lakes-Northern Forests, and Gulf Coast CESU's to form an Inter-CESU consortium that would support collaborative, large-scale research, training, and outreach in the Mississippi River watershed.

The Great Plains CESU Director (Powell) and NPS Research Coordinator (Shenk) attended a scoping meeting in East Alton, IL, on March 29-30, 2016 to discuss the potential of such an effort. We met with representatives from the other CESU’s, the national CESU network, and representatives of research and education interests along the Mississippi River and throughout the watershed. One logistical advantage that our office sees to this super-structure within the CESU network is the potential to host a single annual meeting for all 4 CESU’s, allowing federal agency representatives to attend one meeting. We will keep you updated through this newsletter as this consortium develops further.

GREAT PLAINS-CESU NEWS
The Great Plains-CESU is excited to announce our first ever collaboration with the Water for Food Institute located on the University of Nebraska-Lincoln’s Innovation Campus. We presented a poster and abstract to be viewed for the 2016 Water for Food Conference which took place on April 29th & 30th. The goal of the poster competition was to recognize current research that addresses the many dimensions of water research.

GREAT PLAINS-CESU website has moved!
Please bookmark our new home at:
http://gpcesus.unl.edu/

ANNOUNCEMENTS
The 2016 CESU National Meeting brings together the CESU Network Council, CESU Directors and partners from across the nation. This year’s sessions include discussions about partnerships that cross international and agency boundaries, presentations about successful CESU projects conducted at multiple geographic scales, and meetings focused on programmatic needs and future strategic directions of the CESU Network.

Please visit the CESU National Website for a complete outline of the meeting as well as a link to register on-line and further instruction on lodging. A printer friendly agenda is available on the Great Plains-CESU website.

This meeting is open to all partners! We encourage our members to consider sending representatives to attend the meeting to network with federal and non-federal partners.

The 77th Midwest Fish & Wildlife Conference will be held February 5-8, 2017 at the Cornhusker Hotel in Lincoln, Nebraska.

The annual conference attracts over 800 biologists and students from state, federal and tribal natural resource agencies across the 13 Midwestern states. Highlights include over 400 technical presentations, poster displays, plenary sessions, networking opportunities, and social events.

Submissions of symposia proposals are now being accepted. Deadline to submit: May 31, 2016

Lincoln, Nebraska
February 5-8, 2017

Lincoln, Nebraska
The Asian Swamp Eel (*Monopterus albus*) has been introduced into five broad areas of the United States (Hawaii, New Jersey, Florida, and Georgia), primarily through the live food market or aquarium trade. The first introduced population in the continental US was discovered in Roswell, Georgia ca 1994 at spring-fed impoundments at the Chattahoochee Nature Center bordering Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area, a unit of the National Park Service.

Asian swamp eels are well suited to become invasive in their nonnative range because they can breathe air, move over land, and resist desiccation. Furthermore, this species is a protogynous hermaphrodite, with all individuals starting life as female and transitioning to male as they grow. Males construct a burrow to entice females for spawning and when successful, males guard the developing brood inside their mouth to ensure reproductive success. It has been speculated that the nearby Chattahoochee River is a barrier to their dispersal because it’s an artificially cold-water trout fishery. This population has persisted for more than 20 years with recent captures of young-of-year fish in marshes adjacent to the river, but it is unclear if these fish represent successful spawning in the marsh or emigration from connected ponds at the CNC where water temperatures are thought to be more suitable.

Objectives:
1. To determine the invasion extent of Asian swamp eels in marshes adjacent to the Chattahoochee River.
2. To determine if eels captured in the marsh were the result of emigration from the ponds or reproduction in-situ.
Future Efforts

- Complete a Strategic Plan, with an emphasis on conservation within a private land context
- Inclusion of Tribal Colleges as CESU partners
- Develop partnerships with regional university-based initiatives
- Initiate a Great Plains-CESU Student Award Program
- Develop a Principal Investigator e-mail distribution list to improve CESU communication and outreach