



Director's Report

This has been a successful and of course interesting year for the Great Plains CESU. In 2022 we started to return to our pre-pandemic work environment and in doing so were able to see more of our colleagues in person around the office. We held our annual Great Plains CESU Partners Meeting in November again virtually and our biennial national CESU meeting was also held remotely this past June. Regardless of the format, our members and partners benefitted from meeting in those spaces and we worked to continue improving our interactions with the communities we serve. This past year we had ~\$3.8 million in new agreements funded and ~\$27.3 million in modifications to agreements funded through the Great Plains CESU. More details on the projects funded from the past year are below.

Engaging Partners

We continue to identify additional partners to add to our growing team. In 2022 we added a new NGO partner, The Smithsonian Institution. At our annual meeting members of the Smithsonian introduced themselves to the partners of the Great Plains CESU and educated us on the expected scope of their projects moving forward. At present we have 13 federal agency partners and 24 non-federal academic and NGO partners. If you are aware of any organizations that are interested in joining our ranks, please feel free to have them contact us via email at gpcesu.unl.edu.

The Great Plains CESU hosted our Annual Partners Meeting on November 15, 2022 as a virtual meeting in order to contact as many of our partners throughout the Great Plains and beyond as we could. As is common, our agenda covered the review of the past year in our program, our recent activities and the discussion of some goals we have set for the future. We included remarks from Dean Archie Clutter of UNL's Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources (IANR) and Tom Fish from the national Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit office. Representatives from many of our federal partners and several individuals from our academic partners spoke on their activities and expected needs for the coming years. We also included research talks from Ian Abernathy of the Wyoming Natural Diversity Database at the University of Wyoming, and Dr. Craig Allen, Director of the Center for Resilience in Agricultural Working Landscapes (CRAWL) at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. As always we would like to thank our federal and academic partners who participated and provided discussion at the meeting.

Annual Student Award

Since 2016 we have recognized a deserving individual for our Great Plains CESU Graduate Student Award. This year's recipient is Denise Cameron, a MS student at Emporia State University. Denise's project is entitled Survey Wintering and Migratory Birds at Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve (TAPR). We are very thankful that her advisor, Dr. William Jensen, nominated her and extend a huge congratulations to Denise on behalf of the Great Plains CESU and our partners.

Please watch for an email in early fall when we will be asking both our academic and federal partners for nominations for our 2023 Great Plains CESU Graduate Student Award!

Staffing and office support

As always, we are forever grateful to those who assist us along the way. In the past year Brittany Grove, our office associate from 2018-2022, stepped out of her role in our program. We are thankful for the work that she had accomplished in the GP CESU and in particular her ability to dramatically improve our website while she worked with us. Thank you Brittany! In summer we hired Kirsten Licht who has stepped in and done an admirable job as our new office associate. Her organizational skills are particularly appreciated in our office. Dr. Tanya Shenk has continued to serve as our National Park Service (NPS) Research Coordinator, a role that she has been in since February 2015. Dr. Paul Hanson has served as Director of the Great Plains CESU since January 2020.

The operation of our office is made possible through funds granted from several different sources. The primary stream of funding is from annual dues from our federal partners, and we are grateful to our dues paying partners and for the efforts of Tom Fish for his efforts in distributing those funds to the regional offices. Our regional National Park Service office frequently supplements these funds, and we are very grateful to Nancy Finley for once again providing us with additional funding for our office. Finally, Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources (IANR) at the University of Nebraska Lincoln (UNL) provides funding for both salary for the office associate position and a stipend for the Director. We are grateful to Dr. Mike Boehm, the IANR Vice Chancellor, Dr. Ron Yoder, Associate Vice Chancellor, and Dean Archie Clutter for their continuing support. In addition, we continue to appreciate Dr. John Carroll, Director of the School of Natural Resources, for his support and office space allocations in Hardin Hall.

New Agreements and Agreement Modifications in 2022

The following projects were documented through the Great Plains CESU’s Cooperative Agreement. It should be noted that several agencies do not consistently report their funded projects to us, therefore these values do not represent all of the projects that were funded through the Great Plains CESU in the past year. With that said, we extend a huge thanks to our partners that have been submitting their grant information to us in a timely manner. We were very happy to see the NRCS supply us with data from relatively recent agreements that had not been submitted previously. Kudos to them for their efforts!

Agreements with \$0.00 funding levels indicate either no-cost modification agreements or unreported values.

New Agreements in 2022

Federal Agency	Agreement Number	Partner Institution	Award Amount
USGS	G22AC00296	Oklahoma State University	\$69,501.00
FWS	F22AC02342	Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation	\$362,000.00
NPS	P22AC02078	Kansas State University	\$75,000.00
NPS	P22AC00286	University of Wyoming	\$12,500.00
NPS	P22AC01356	University of Wyoming	\$18,518.75
NPS	P22AC01363	University of Wyoming	\$173,500.00
USACE, EL	W912HZ-22-2-0031	Kansas State University	\$77,384.00
NRCS	NR223A750025C005	Kansas State University	\$499,793.00
NRCS	NR223A750025C012	Oklahoma State University	\$298,405.00
NRCS	NR223A750008C004	University of Wisconsin	\$1,500,000.00
NRCS	NR223A750023C011	University of Wisconsin	\$299,892.00
NRCS	NR223A750025C018	North Dakota State University	\$60,000.00
NRCS	NR223A750023C001	Texas A&M University	\$332,233.00
			\$3,778,726.75

Modifications to Existing Agreements in 2022

Federal Agency	Agreement Number	Partner Institution	Award Amount
DOD Air Force	W9126G-19-2-0018	University of Oklahoma	\$73,000.00
DOD Air Force	W9126G-19-2-0031	Oklahoma State University	\$412,621.00
DOD Army	W9126G-19-2-0039	Colorado State University (CEMML)	\$1,943,988.00
DOD Army	W9126G-19-2-0039	Colorado State University (CEMML)	\$2,341,905.00
DOD Army	W9126G-19-2-0039	Colorado State University (CEMML)	\$541,747.00
DOD Army	W9126G-19-2-0039	Colorado State University (CEMML)	\$4,113,376.00
DOD Army	W9126G-19-2-0039	Colorado State University (CEMML)	\$14,432,489.00
DOD Joint Base	W9126G-20-2-0036	Colorado State University	\$455,685.00
DOD Army	W9126G-21-2-0013	Colorado State University	\$235,544.00
DOD Army	W9126G-21-2-0060	Colorado State University	\$1,455,695.00
DOD Army	W9126G-21-2-0060	Colorado State University	\$0.00
DOD Navy	N62473-18-2-0010	Texas Tech University	\$36,000.00
NPS	P21AC10808	University Of Nebraska-Lincoln	\$13,708.00
NPS	P21AC11884	University Of Nebraska-Lincoln	\$33,425.00
NPS	P21AC10586	Kansas State University	\$50,406.00
NPS	P17AC00128	North Dakota State University	\$137,129.10
NPS	P20AC00365	University of South Dakota	\$22,730.07
NPS	P20AC00430	University of Wyoming	\$80,000.00
NPS	P20AC00767	University of Wyoming	\$30,000.00
NPS	P20AC00880	University of Wyoming	\$18,000.00
NPS	P20AC00919	University of Wyoming	\$134,000.00
USACE-ERDC-EL	W912HZ-21-2-0038	Texas State University	750,201.00
USACE-ERDC-CERL	W9132T-21-2-0010	University of Oklahoma	\$38,000.00
			\$27,349,649.17

Respectfully submitted,



Paul Hanson
 Professor, School of Natural Resources
 Director, Great Plains CESU
 February 6, 2023