



# Great Plains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit

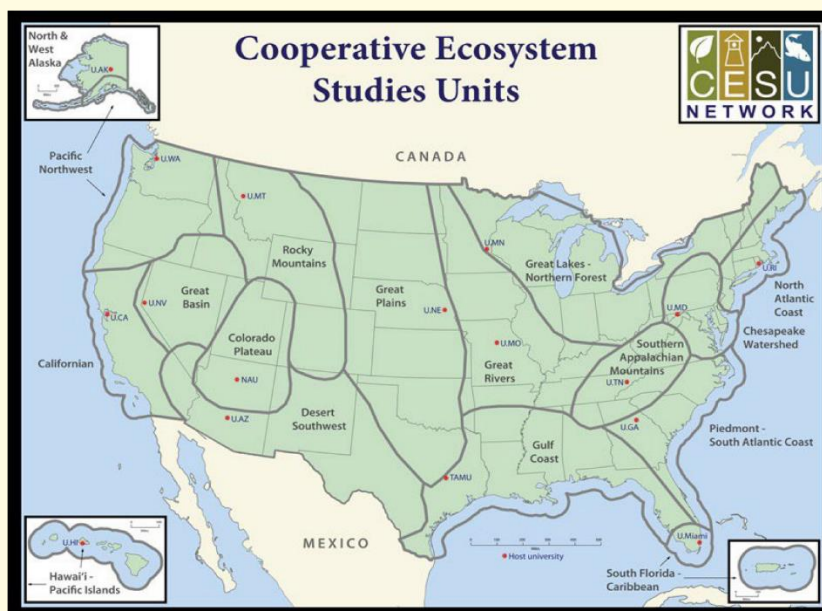
*"Partnering to Sustain and Enhance Our Great Plains Ecosystem"*

**INTRODUCTION:** The Great Plains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit (GP-CESU) is a network of 23 academic institutions, 13 federal agencies and three non-government organizations. The unit encompasses a broad geographical portion of the Great Plains and offers an outstanding group of scientists in grassland and ecosystems studies, natural and cultural resource management, technical assistance, and educational opportunities. The heart of the GP-CESU is the guiding Cooperative Agreement that establishes simple and quick funding mechanisms between federal partners and non-federal partners. The University of Nebraska-Lincoln serves as host to the GP-CESU, which was established in October 2000.

## OBJECTIVES:

- Provide research, technical assistance and education to federal land management, environmental and research agencies, and their potential partners.
- Develop programs of research, technical assistance and education that involve the biological, physical, social, and cultural sciences needed to address a variety of resource issues. Enable interdisciplinary problem solving on multiple scales, while maintaining awareness of the ecosystem at local, regional, and national levels.
- Place special emphasis on the working collaboration among federal agencies and non-federal agencies and their related partner institutions.

**NATIONAL NETWORK:** The Cooperative Ecosystems Studies Unit (CESU) National Network was established to meet the challenges of managing federal lands and waters by using the skills and talents of scientists and scholars. The CESU is a national consortium of tribes, federal agencies, academic institutions, state and local governments, non-governmental organizations and other partners working together to support informed public trust resource stewardship. The GP-CESU is one of 17 CESUs located throughout the nation.



## CESU Network

- Californian
- Chesapeake Watershed
- Colorado Plateau
- Desert Southwest
- Great Basin
- Great Lakes-Northern Forest
- Great Plains
- Great Rivers
- Gulf Coast
- Hawaii-Pacific Islands
- North and West Alaska
- North Atlantic Coast
- Pacific Northwest
- Piedmont-South Atlantic Coast
- Rocky Mountains
- Southern Appalachian
- South Florida and Caribbean

## IMPACT:

### ***Advantages for Federal Partners***

- Adds depth and breadth to the expertise of any federal agency.
- Offers a simple, expedient cooperative agreement which is already approved.
- Is a bridge of communication with other Federal Agencies and Academic/NGO Institutions.
- Opens opportunities for training in professional development or resource specific issues.
- 17.5% overhead rate.

### ***Advantages for Academic/NGO Partners***

- Positions the partner into a long-term collaborative relationship with several federal agencies.
- Opportunities for graduate and undergraduate involvement in a federal agency project.
- Enhanced ability to conduct research at multiple scales and sites.
- Better access to federal resources to conduct projects of mutual interest.

#### ***Academic Partners (23)***

- Black Hills State University
- Colorado State University
- Colorado State University-Pueblo
- 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
- Southwestern Oklahoma 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 Wisconsin-Extension
- University of Wyoming
- Winona State University

#### ***Federal Partners (13)***

- US Army Corps of Engineers
- US 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 Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- National Park Service
- Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Bureau of Reclamation
- Western Area Power Administration

#### ***NGO Partners (3)***

- Smithsonian Institution
- World Wildlife Fund-Northern Great Plains
- Western Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies

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