

Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

Summer Meeting, 2011
Centerville, IA



Noreen E. Walsh, Deputy Regional Director
US Fish and Wildlife Service
Mountain-Prairie Region



Key Issues for MAFWA - Opportunities for us all

- Farm Bill Reauthorization: valuable tools for landscape conservation
- 2011 Flooding
- Black-footed Ferret Recovery on Working Landscapes



Farm Bill Reauthorization: challenges and opportunities

- ISSUE: Tile drainage accelerating, moving west
 - Reauthorize “Swampbuster” provisions of the bill to protect wetlands in the Prairie Pothole Region.
 - Require landowners who receive crop insurance to comply with Swampbuster.

Farm Bill Reauthorization: challenges and opportunities

- ISSUE: Keeping CRP Competitive with High Commodity Prices
 - Provide latitude for producers to manage CRP as “working grasslands” where annual grazing – with a commensurate payment reduction – is permitted.

Farm Bill Reauthorization: challenges and opportunities

- ISSUE: Sodbusting of Native Prairie
 - Reauthorize and strengthen “Sodbuster” provisions of the bill to protect native grasslands
 - Ensure that native sod broken and farmed is not eligible for crop insurance for the first five years of planting.

Wetlands and Floodplains

- Flooding: huge human and economic cost
- Preventing or Mitigating Flood Impacts:
 - An opportunity to re-engage in dialogue to once again examine the role floodplains and wetlands can play in mitigating flood affects.



Recovering Black-footed Ferrets on the Great Plains

- **NEEDED:** Incentives for landowners to manage prairie dogs on private land to support black-footed ferret recovery and associated prairie species.
- Working with NRCS to design incentive program using Farm Bill tools



Recovering Black-footed Ferrets on the Great Plains

- *The Service encourages MAFWA member agencies to participate in discussions and planning efforts for this program, leverage partnerships with private landowners, including tribes, and other agencies, and contribute technical assistance to support implementation of this program.*

