



Wetland Restoration Criteria Guidelines

Roger Yerdon

Wetland Restoration Criteria & Guidelines

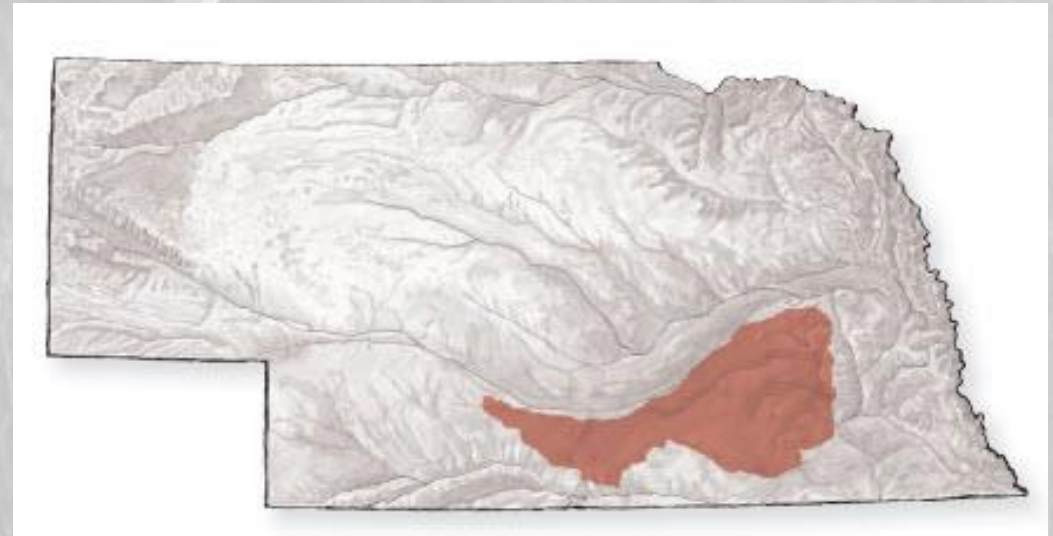
- The purpose of the Wetland Restoration Criteria and Guidelines (WRCG) is to document the technical considerations and parameters used to support decision-making related to the restoration of wetlands and associated habitats through NRCS conservation easement programs in Nebraska.
- WRCG is grouped by various wetland complexes throughout Nebraska.
- Internal Guidance Document

Wetland Restoration

- The rehabilitation of degraded or lost wetland and associated habitats pursuant to published State-specific criteria and guidelines developed in coordination with the State Technical Committee in a manner such that:
 - Vegetative community and hydrology restored
- To be applied to the entire easement area, including associated communities and habitats as part of the wetland habitat restoration.

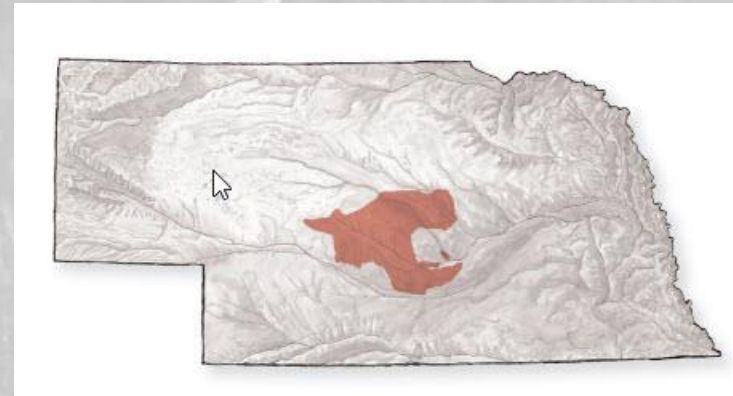
Rainwater Basin & Central Table Playas

- Restoration Considerations
 - Find a shared vision
 - Identify restoration goals
 - Seeding to combat invasives
 - High-diversity, local-ecotype (HDLE) seedings
 - Future climate patterns
 - Ownership boundaries



Rainwater Basin & Central Table Playas

- Hydrology Restoration
 - Breeching or removal of terraces
 - Removing sediment
 - Diverting surface water
 - Plugging or filling drainage ditches
 - Filling pits



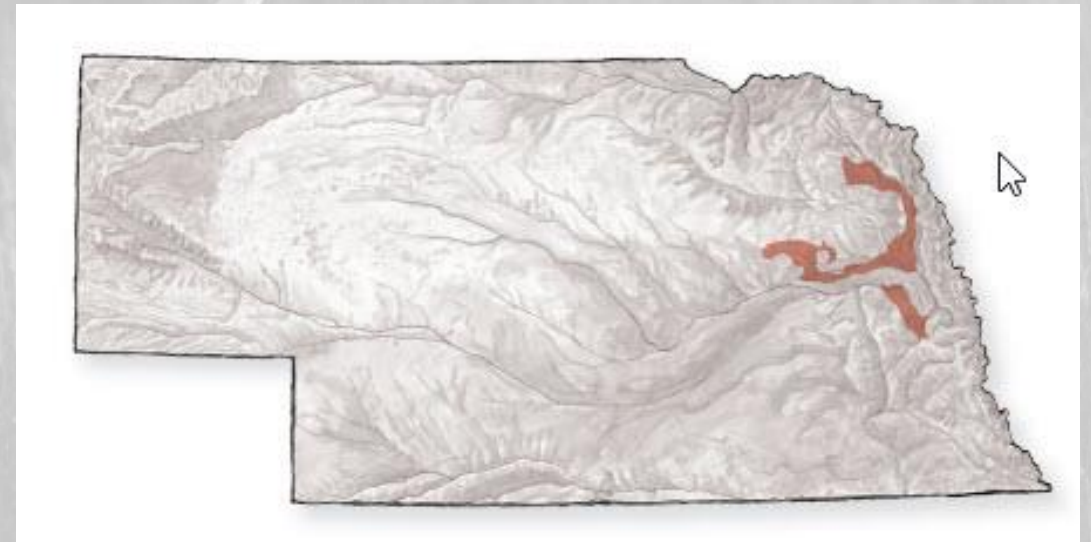
Southwest Playas

- Restoration Considerations
 - Soil analysis for sedimentation
 - Consider WRE-WREP
 - Use of technology
 - Look for terracing in uplands



Todd Valley Playas

- Restoration Considerations
 - Soil analysis for sedimentation
 - Use of technology
 - Look for terracing in uplands



Sandhills

- Restoration Considerations
 - Sediment transport in design
 - Future hay or grazing use
 - Re-meandering and/or grade control structures
 - Vegetation management
 - Beaver dam analogs



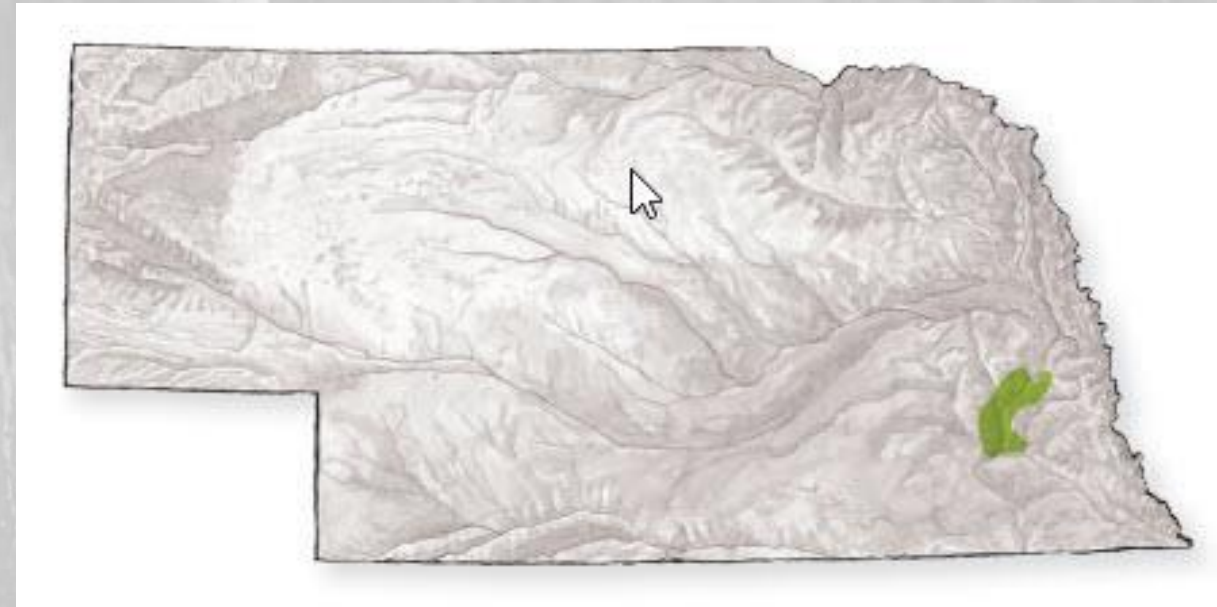
Loup/Platte River Sandhills

- Restoration Considerations
 - Side-cast material into previously dug ditches
 - Manageable in the future?
 - Use flow models
 - Include BE-Team for stewardship activities



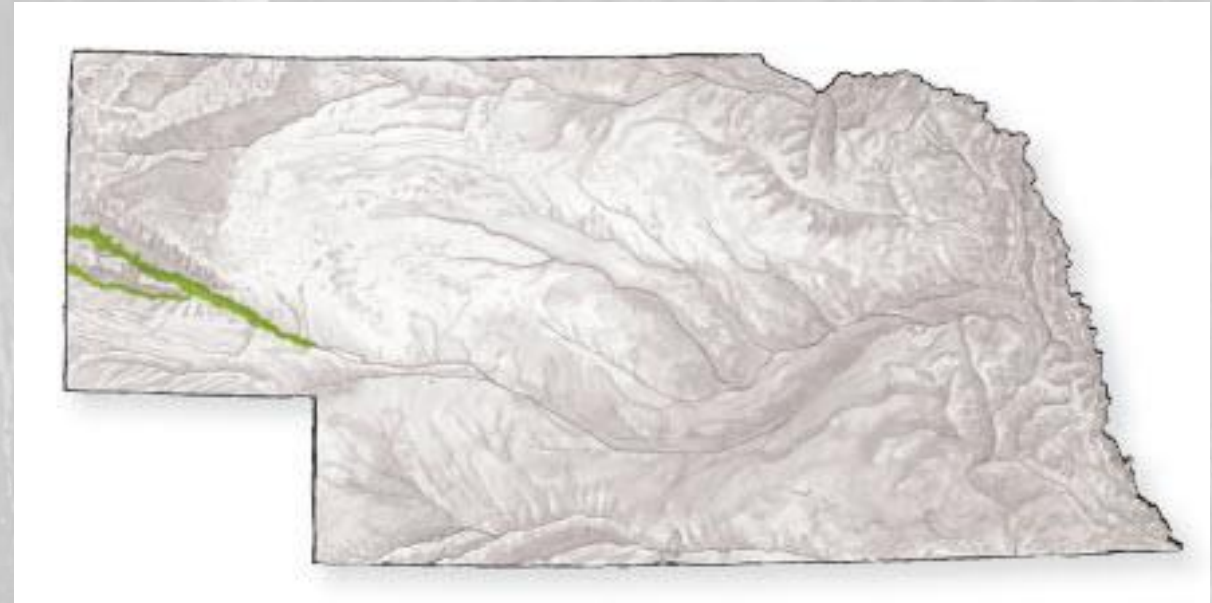
Eastern Saline

- Restoration Considerations
 - Refer to the watershed plan
 - ~30% privately owned
 - ~70% conservation agency owned
 - Grazing is critical



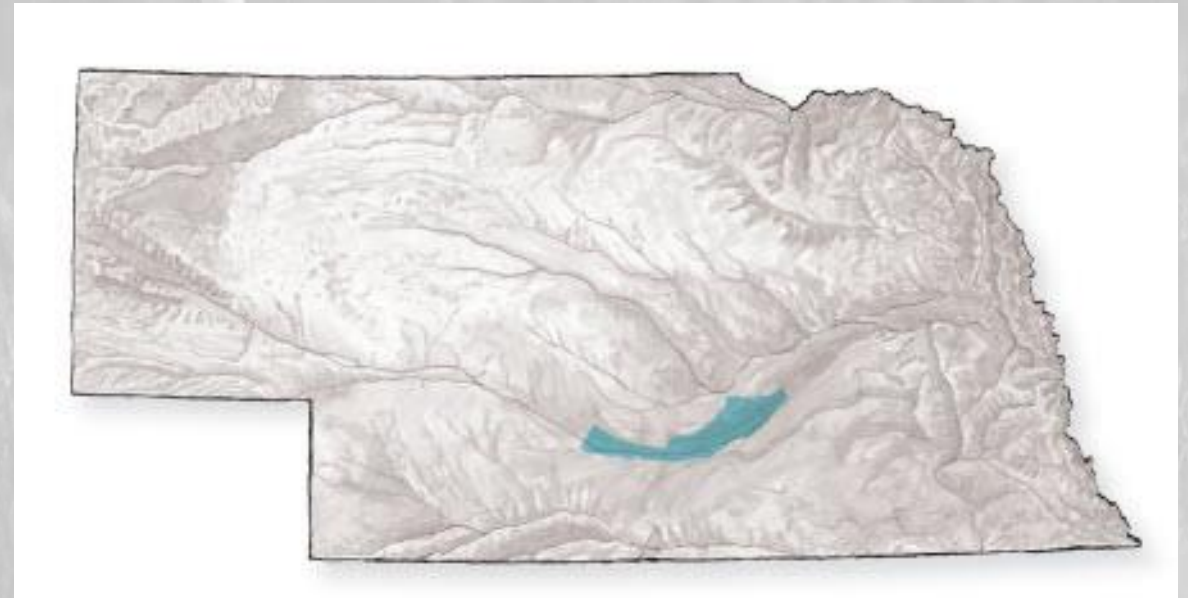
Western Alkaline

- Restoration Considerations
 - Needs developed



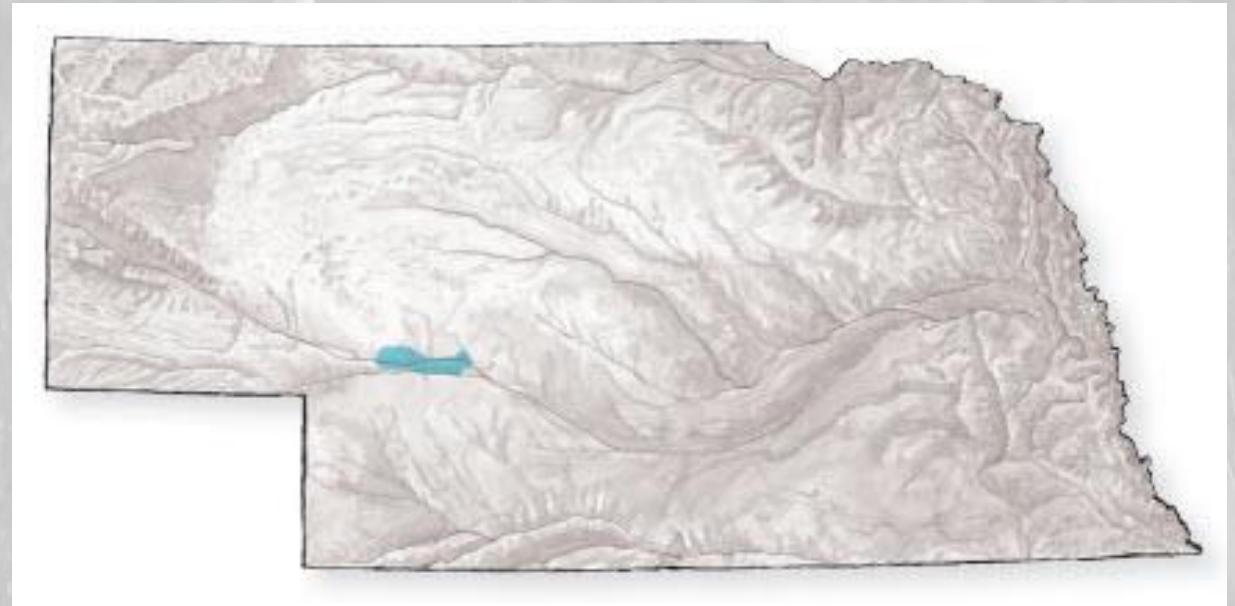
Central Platte

- Restoration Considerations
 - Is it “worth it”?
 - Manageable in the future?
 - Use the “walk away” method?
 - Prone to flooding



Platte Confluence

- Restoration Considerations
 - Same as Central Platte?
 - Any unique considerations?



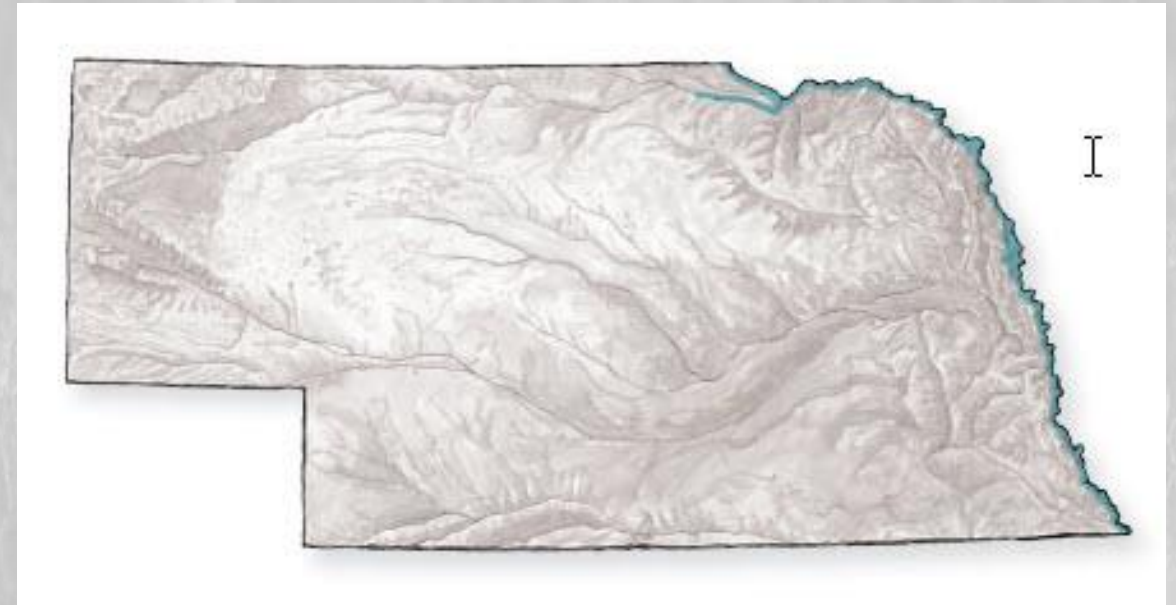
Lower Platte

- Restoration Considerations
 - Is it “worth it”?
 - Manageable in the future?
 - Use the “walk away” method?
 - Prone to flooding
 - HECRAS to determine historical function



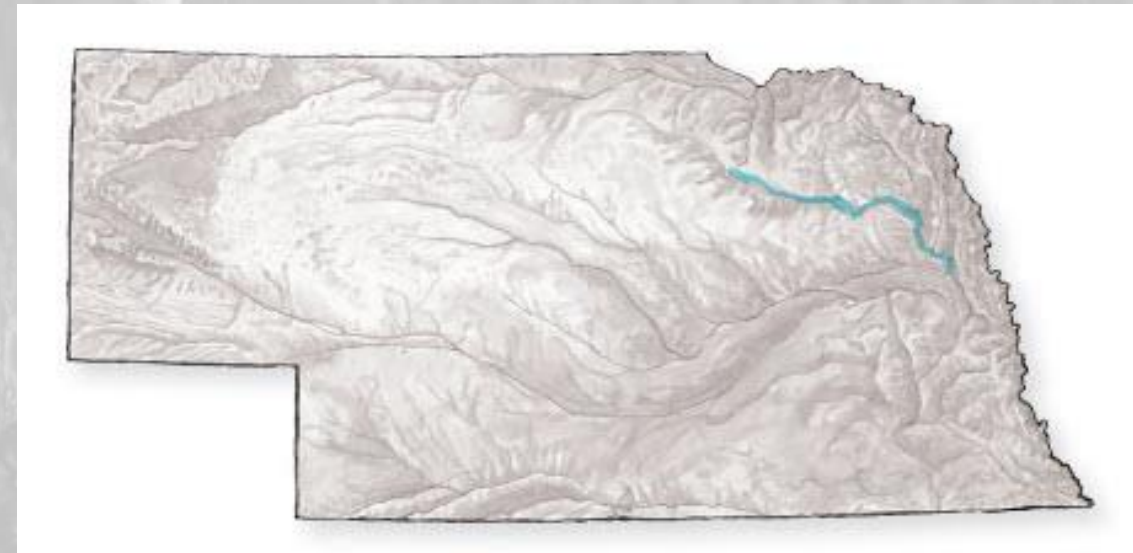
Missouri River

- Restoration Considerations
 - Is it “worth it”?
 - Manageable in the future?
 - Use the “walk away” method?
 - Prone to flooding
 - Early excavations not aggressive enough
 - HEC-RAS to determine historical function



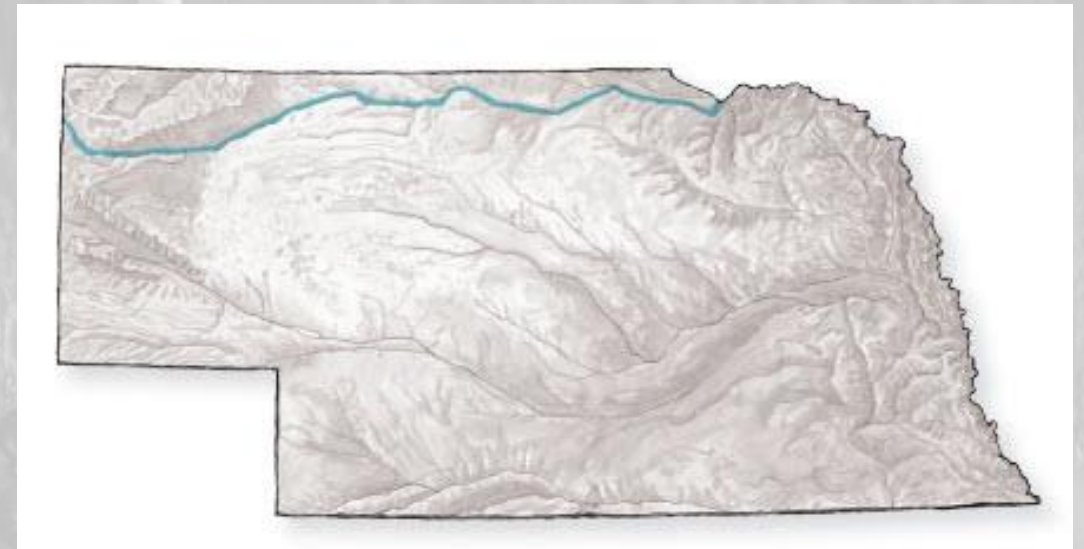
Elkhorn River

- Restoration Considerations
 - Is it “worth it”?
 - Manageable in the future?
 - Use the “walk away” method?
 - Prone to flooding
 - Early excavations not aggressive enough
 - HEC-RAS to determine historical function



Niobrara River

- Restoration Considerations
 - Is it “worth it”?
 - Manageable in the future?
 - Use the “walk away” method?
 - Prone to flooding
 - Early excavations not aggressive enough
 - HEC-RAS to determine historical function
 - Grazing, haying, and Rx fire



Waivers

- 1:1 Adjacent Land Waivers
 - 5:1 STC can approve
 - > 5:1 NHQ for approval
 - Must include why the approval is required
- 24-Month Waivers
 - No knowledge or intent solely for enrollment in the ACEP program
 - STC can approve if obtained by direct family transfer, or between LLC/Individuals
 - Otherwise NHQ approval

Compatible Use Authorizations

- CUAs are agreements between NRCS and the landowner
- 10-year maximum length, but determined by practice and area easement specialist
- May be rescinded by NRCS at any time
- Subject to NEPA and NHPA
- Require a CPA-52 current within 5-years unless new version is available

Compatible Use Authorizations

- Access and Staging Use
- Adjacent Land Use
- Beehives
- Brush Management
- Culvert
- Dike Repair
- Disking
- Fencing
- Grazing
- Haying/Mowing
- Pumping
- Undesirable Species
- Prescribed Fire/Breaks
- Seeding

Compatible Use Authorizations

- Trails
- Tree Management
- Viewing Stands/Signage
- Livestock watering facility
- Wildlife food plots

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.