



# Highlights of Wisconsin's New Greater Prairie-Chicken Management Plan

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Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources  
Upper Midwest Grouse Summit  
August 2, 2023

# 2022-2032 Plan

- Key Players
  - Management Plan Team
  - Advisory Committee
  - Public
- Approved June 2022
- Future management
  - Narrow focus area
  - Public & private land acreage goals

## **WISCONSIN GREATER PRAIRIE-CHICKEN MANAGEMENT PLAN**

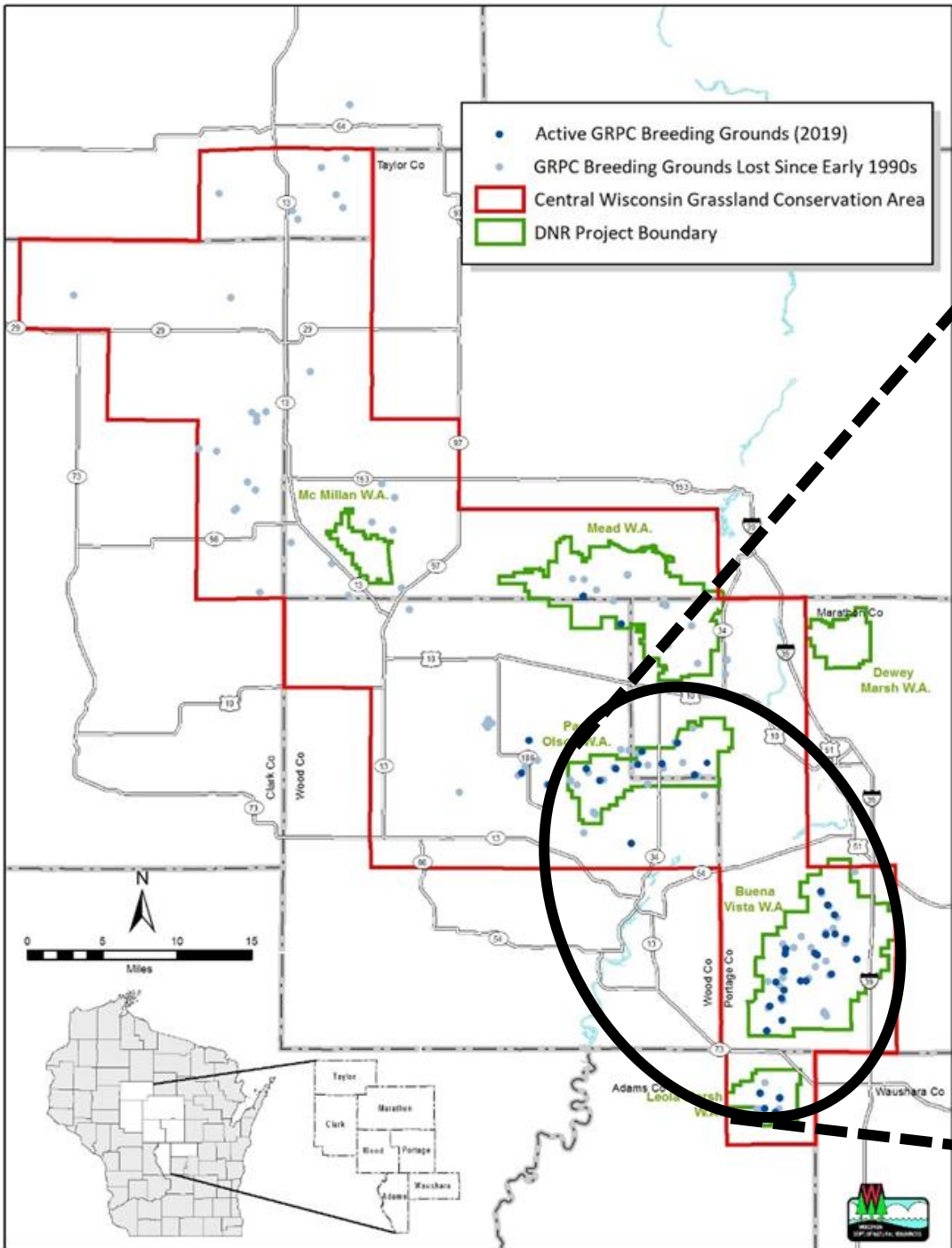
**2022-2032**

**Greater Prairie-Chicken Management Plan Team And Advisory Committee**

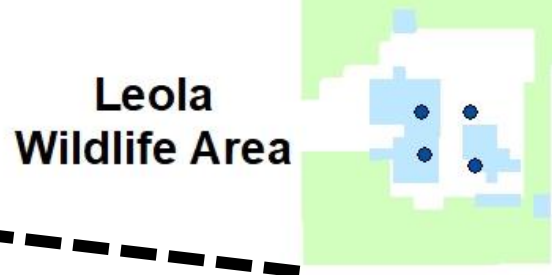
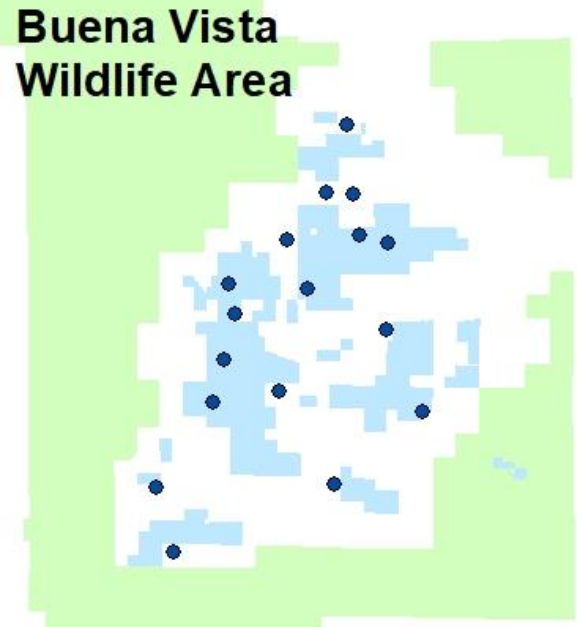
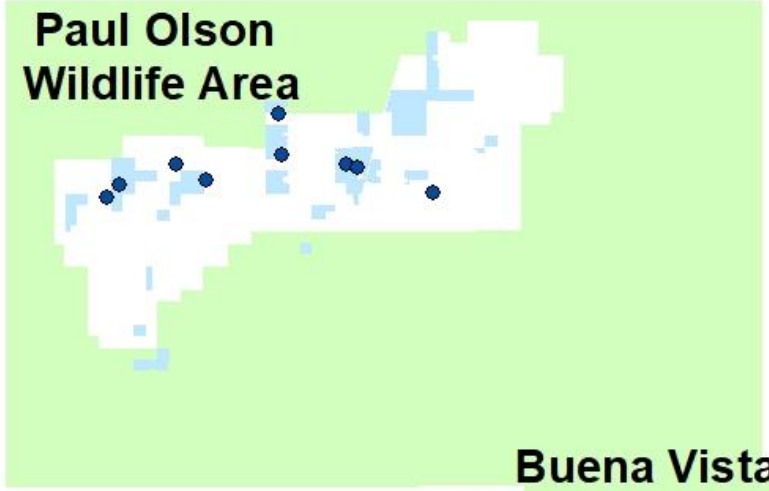
**Wisconsin Department Of Natural Resources**



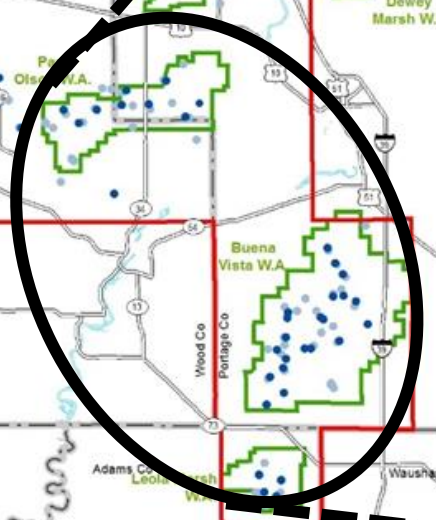
Photo Credit: Joe Riederer



- Active GRPC Breeding Grounds (2019)
- GRPC Breeding Grounds Lost Since Early 1990s
- ▭ Central Wisconsin Grassland Conservation Area
- ▭ DNR Project Boundary



**“Core Area”**



# Primary Goal

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Increase acres of grassland habitat managed annually on 3 core state properties



Photo: Sharon Potter





# Increase Woody Removal & Control

- 1600 acres/year
- 10-Year Goal:  
<20% of properties with trees/shrubs >6 ft tall





# Maintain or Enhance Prescribed Fire

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# Expand Conservation Grazing on Public Land







# Grazing Successes on Public Land

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# Add Capacity (Staff)

- Help achieve increased public land habitat management goals
- Assist partners in delivering private lands initiatives





# Adopt-A-Wildlife-Area Program







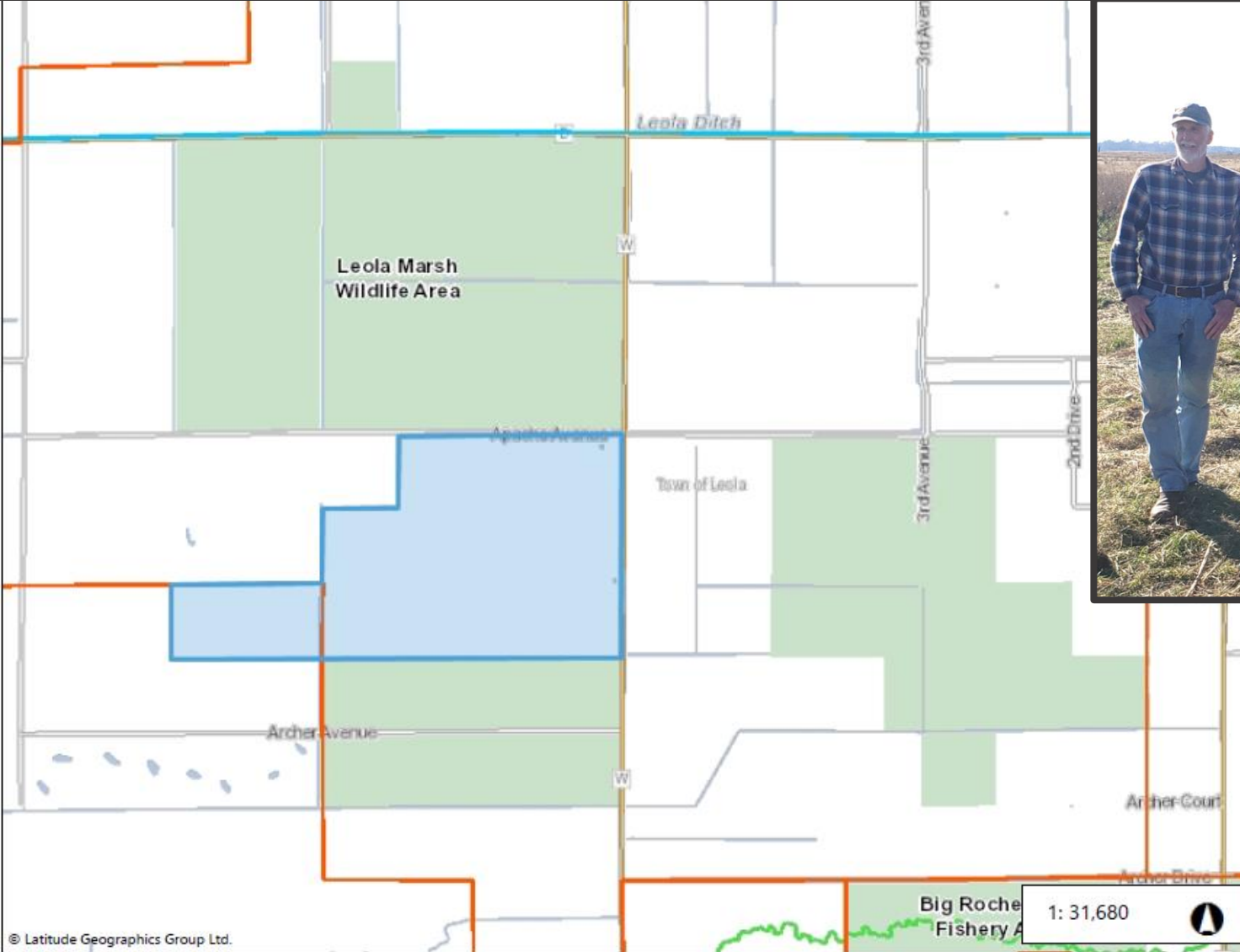
## Secondary Goal

### Increase permanent grassland protections

- Acquisitions/easements (4,000 acres)
- Private lands programs (4,000 acres)



# Partnering to Achieve Goals



520-acre acquisition in 2022

© Latitude Geographics Group Ltd.

1.00 0 0.50 1.00 Miles

Projection: NAD\_1983\_HARN\_Wisconsin\_TM Map created: 4/29/2021

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## Private Lands Approach

- Amend programs to break down enrollment barriers
- Create new initiatives
- 4,000-acre enrollment goal
- Requires additional funds outside DNR operational budget





# Private Lands Initiatives

1. State easement/crop conversion program, subsidize CRP
2. DNR private lands coordinator/program assistance
3. Landowner incentive program - convert marginal cropland to grass
4. Grassbank program
5. Tree/brush removal - roads/fences



Photos: WDNR







# Partnering for Successful Private Lands Initiatives

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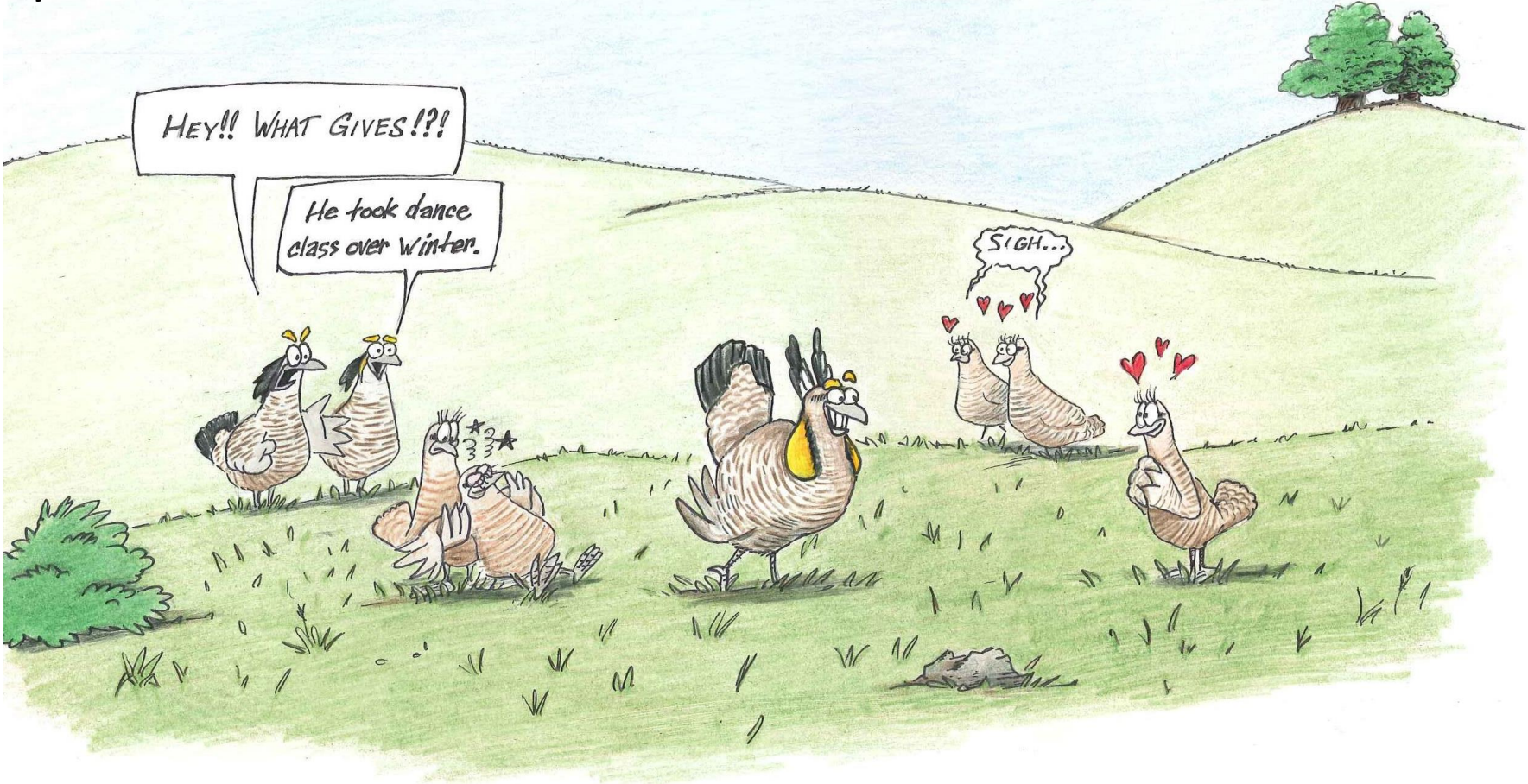


**Golden Sands**  
Resource Conservation  
& Development Council, Inc.  
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# Continue Monitoring (Lek Surveys)



*life on the booming grounds*

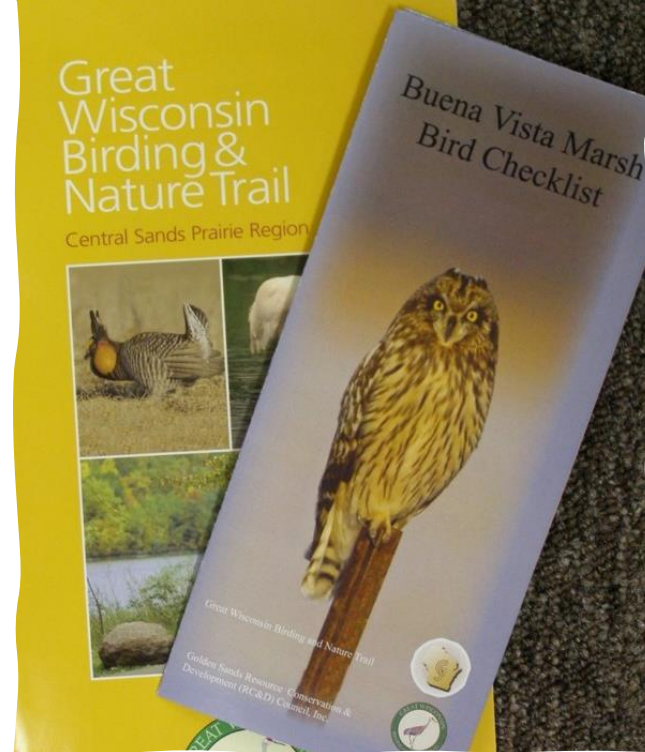




# Research Priorities

1. Habitat management strategies
2. Lek survey protocol
3. Solar energy farm impacts
4. Climate change impacts
5. Density dependence of population
6. Monitor current genetic condition





## Expand Outreach/Education Thru Partnerships

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- \$5K/year earmarked
- Presentations/media
- Prairie chicken festival
- Informal Speakers Bureau
- Adopt-A-Wildlife Area programs
- Pasture walks






# On the Docket

- Partner with The Nature Conservancy on targeted landowner mailing
- Support grazing workshop led by Golden Sands RC&D
  - August 12, 2023
  - Keynote: Dr. Temple Grandin



Conservation Programs  
for Landowners in  
**Portage County**



## 2023 Golden Sands Grazing Event

**Date/Time:** August 12th 2023 8:00am - 4:30pm  
**Location:** UWSP Campus- DUC Theatre

**Keynote Speaker**

**Dr. Temple Grandin**  
"Grazing Cattle, Sheep, and Goats Are Important Parts of a Sustainable Agricultural Future."



**TICKET PURCHASE REQUIRED TO ATTEND!**  
TICKET SALES END JULY 31ST!



Scan the code above to go to the workshop webpage to learn more or visit [goldensandsrcd.org](http://goldensandsrcd.org)

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DEPARTMENT OF  
NATURAL RESOURCES



grassLAND 2.0





Thank you.

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