

Upper Great Plains Wind Energy

Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Easement Program

The Prairie Pothole Region provides vital migratory waterfowl breeding habitat in North America. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), through the Small Wetland Acquisition Program, purchases and administers 2 types of Waterfowl Production Area easements, WPA wetland easements and WPA grassland easements, within The Prairie Pothole Region.

Perpetual WPA wetland easements are used to purchase limited property rights in wetlands located on private property for the benefit of migratory waterfowl and other species. The provisions of the wetland easement restrict the landowner from draining, burning, filling or leveling the wetlands encumbered.

Perpetual WPA grassland easements are used to purchase limited property rights in grasslands on private property for the benefit of migratory waterfowl and other species. The grassland easement provisions require the landowner to maintain permanent vegetative cover on the land and not alter grasslands, wildlife habitat or other natural features, unless prior approval in writing is granted by the Service.

