

# PROVIDING ECOLOGICAL OFFSETS FOR WIND ENERGY DEVELOPMENT IN NORTHCENTRAL KANSAS

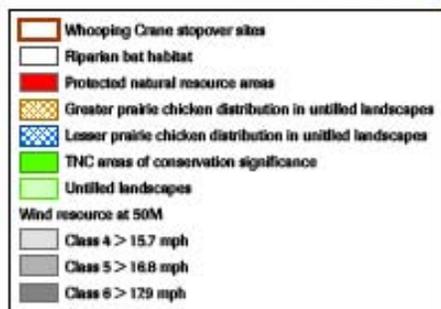
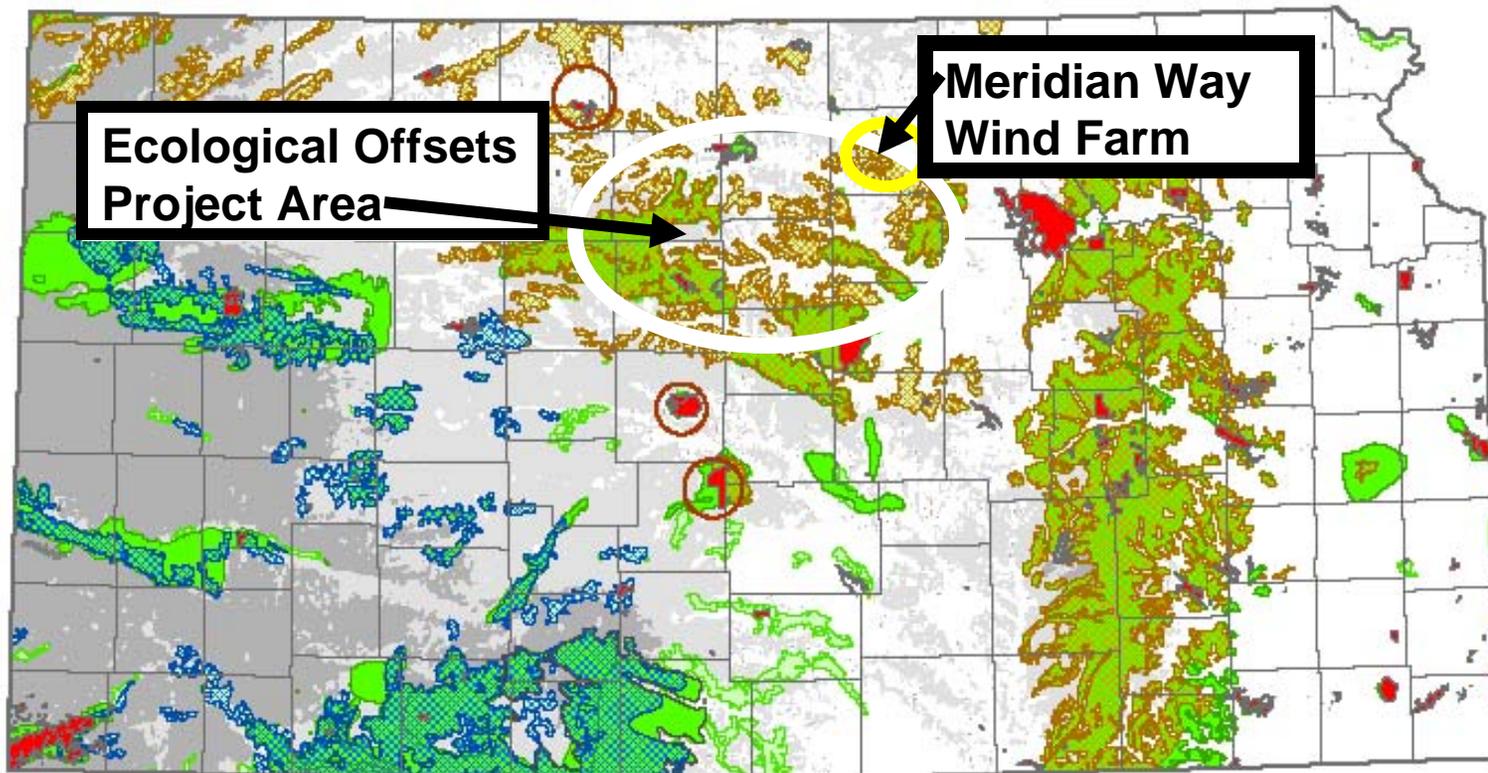


a partnership  
between  
**HORIZON WIND,**

**RANCLAND  
TRUST OF  
KANSAS**

**& THE NATURE  
CONSERVANCY**

Kansas Natural Resources:  
Wind, Wildlife, Untilled Landscapes, and Protected Areas



Greater and Lesser Prairie Chicken distributions:  
Kansas Applied Remote Sensing program  
November 2004

Untilled landscapes:  
Celle, Wayne. 2003. Untilled Landscapes of the Great Plains.  
The Nature Conservancy, Midwest Science Center

Protected natural resource areas:  
State parks, wildlife management areas,  
National parks, grasslands forests, wildlife refuges,  
Nature Conservancy preserves, and conservation easements.  
The Nature Conservancy, Oklahoma Chapter GIS  
February 2008

Whooping Crane stopover sites:  
Modified from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Whooping Crane sightings 1948-1999.  
The Nature Conservancy, Oklahoma Chapter GIS,  
February 2005

Riparian belt habitat:  
Amy Choate, Fort Hays State University  
personal communication to Brian Obermeyer, TNC  
February 2, 2005

Wind resource at 50 meters:  
Digitized from  
"Kansas Wind Resource Map"  
Cordile Architecture & Energy  
<http://www.cordile-ae.com/kawindmap/>  
January 2005

# Goals & Strategies

- at least 20,000 acres of grassland bird habitat restoration, including
- 13,100 acres under permanent conservation easements
- long-term habitat improvements-
  - Prescribed burning
  - Tree and shrub removal
  - Grazing modifications
  - Unwanted fence removal
  - Noxious weed control



# The Partnership

- RTK is the lead cooperator with the wind developer
- Horizon is main easement funder
- Provides funding for RTK to hire staff
- RTK will hold the conservation easements
- TNC plays a key role
- Other partners for non-mitigation habitat improvements – US Fish & Wildlife Service, KS Dept. of Wildlife & Parks, Pheasants Forever, USDA-NRCS
- All landowner participation is voluntary

# The Agreement

- 10-yr. implementation for easements
- 20-yr. monitoring and reporting by RTK
- TNC easement acquisition loan
- TNC and other partners to make in-kind contributions
- Horizon provides easement acquisition funds

# Outcomes and Benefits

- Sets a high standard for ecological responsibility in wind energy development
- Industry formally recognizes ecological offsets as a component of wind energy development
- Establishes TNC's and RTK's first project in the Smoky Hills region
- Strengthens the conservation partnerships between all parties
- Significant improvements in grassland bird habitat