Synthesis and evaluation of least tern and piping plover monitoring data for the Prairie Pothole Region

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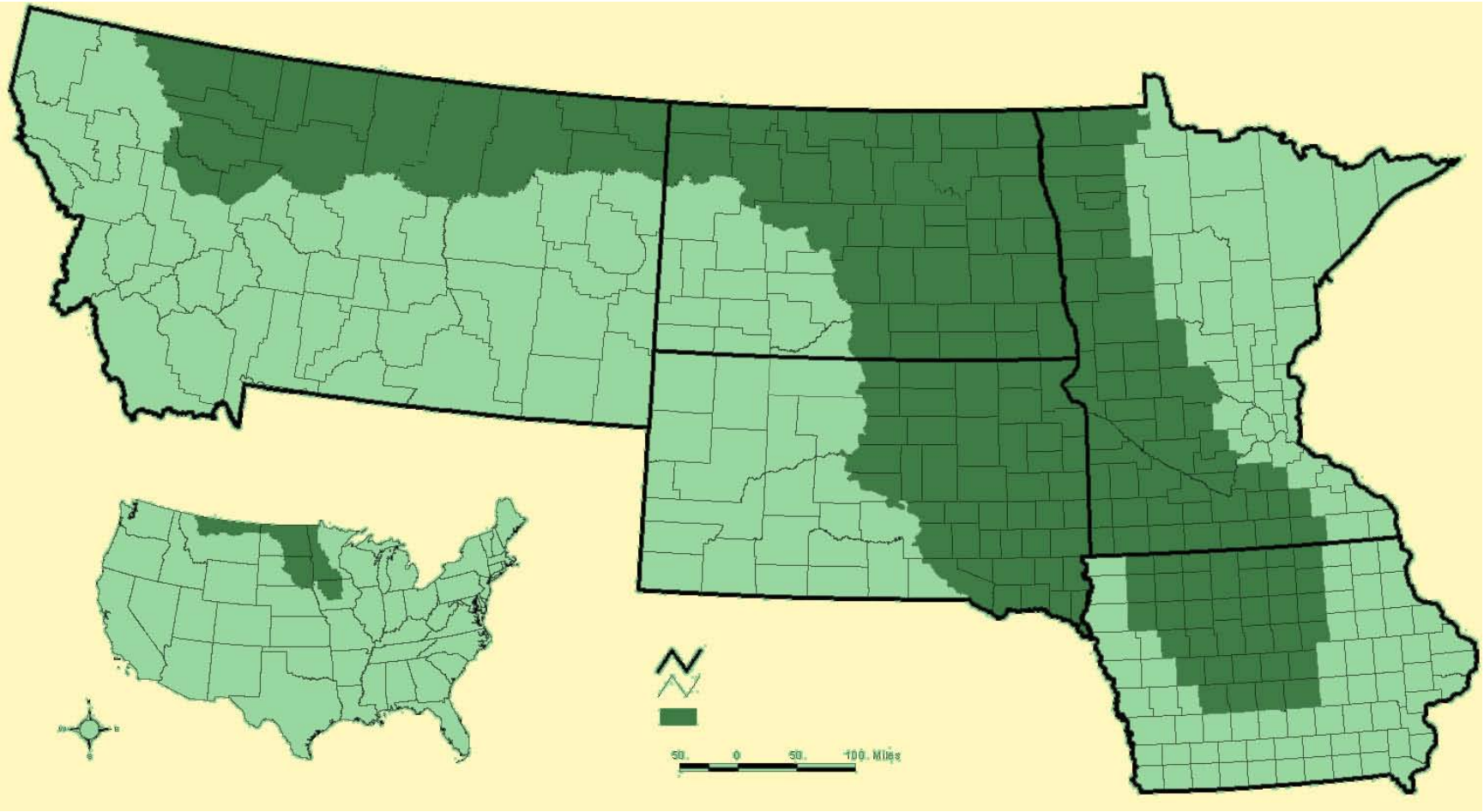
Regional Data Needs

- Conservation, management and recovery plans express regional data needs
- Few data are collected at regional scales
- Integration of multiple smaller-scale datasets might be useful

Prairie Pothole Region



Monitoring Data

- Principal performance metric for management decisions
- Used to evaluate species status and recovery progress
- Several piping plover monitoring programs exist in the Prairie Pothole Region

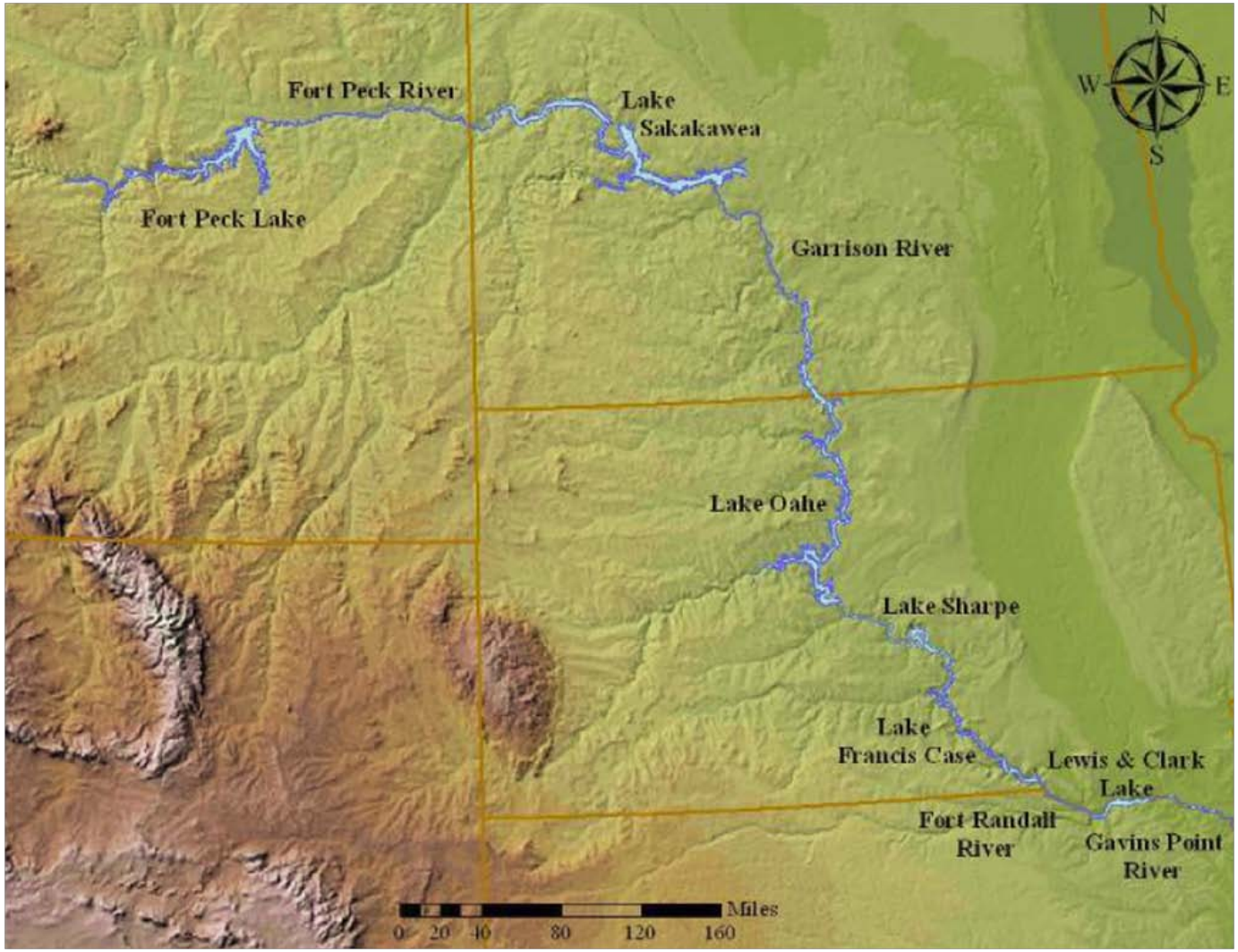
Goals

- Evaluate strengths and weaknesses of integrated monitoring data for directing and evaluating conservation programs.
- Identify gaps in knowledge of tern and plover abundance and productivity at the scale of the Prairie Pothole Region.

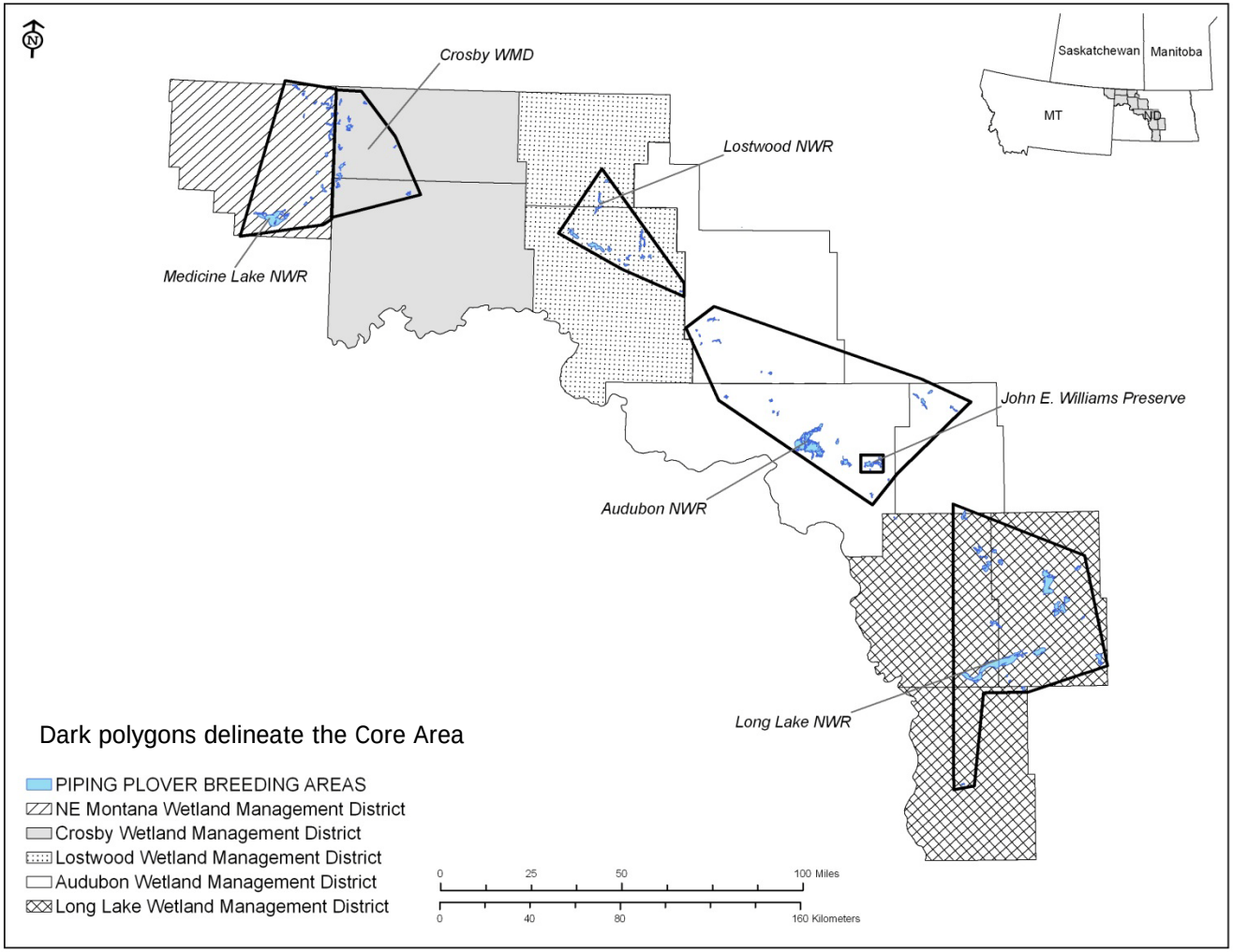
Approach

- Acquisition
- Inquiry
- Analysis
- Writing
- Planning

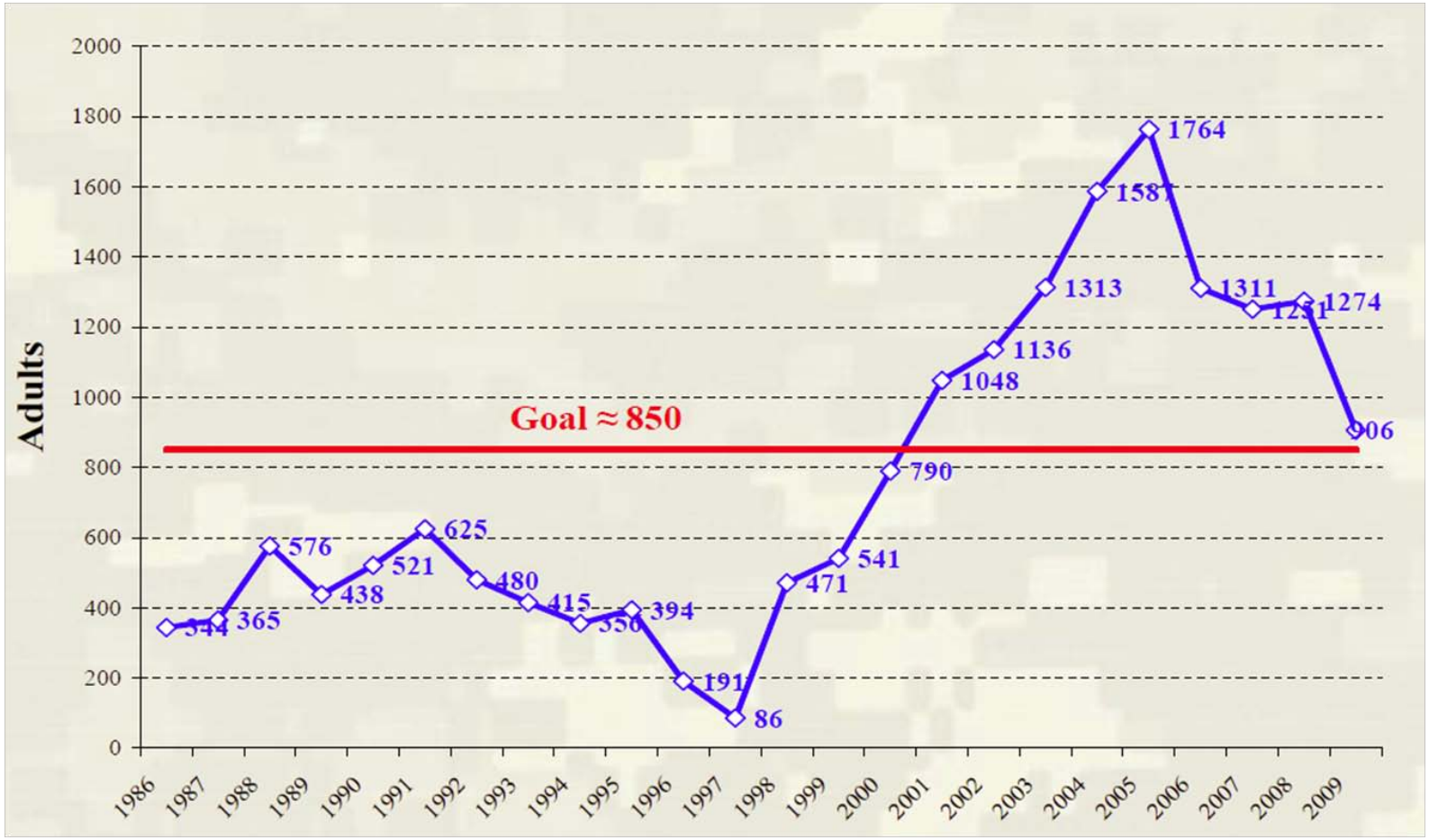
Missouri River System



Alkali Lakes Core Area

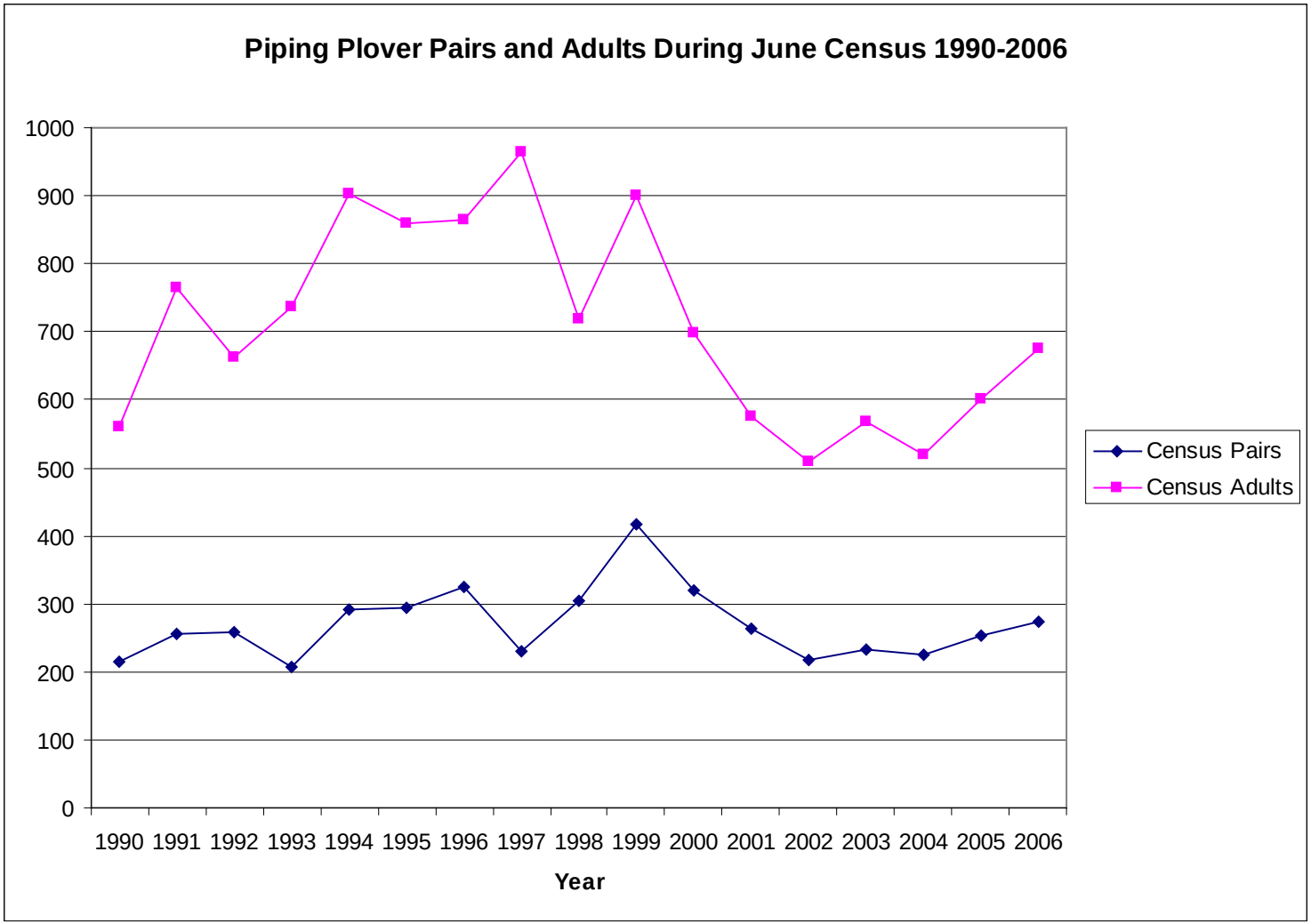


Piping Plover Adults – Missouri River



Source: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Monitoring Data

Piping Plover Pairs and Adults – Alkali Lakes



Source: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Monitoring Data

Timeliness

- Flood 2011
- Change in monitoring program
- Recovery plan update

Potential Data Uses

- Management decisions at the scale of the Prairie Pothole Region
- Implement or evaluate recovery actions
- Promote discussion of regional-scale monitoring
- Define future monitoring objectives for the Prairie Pothole Region