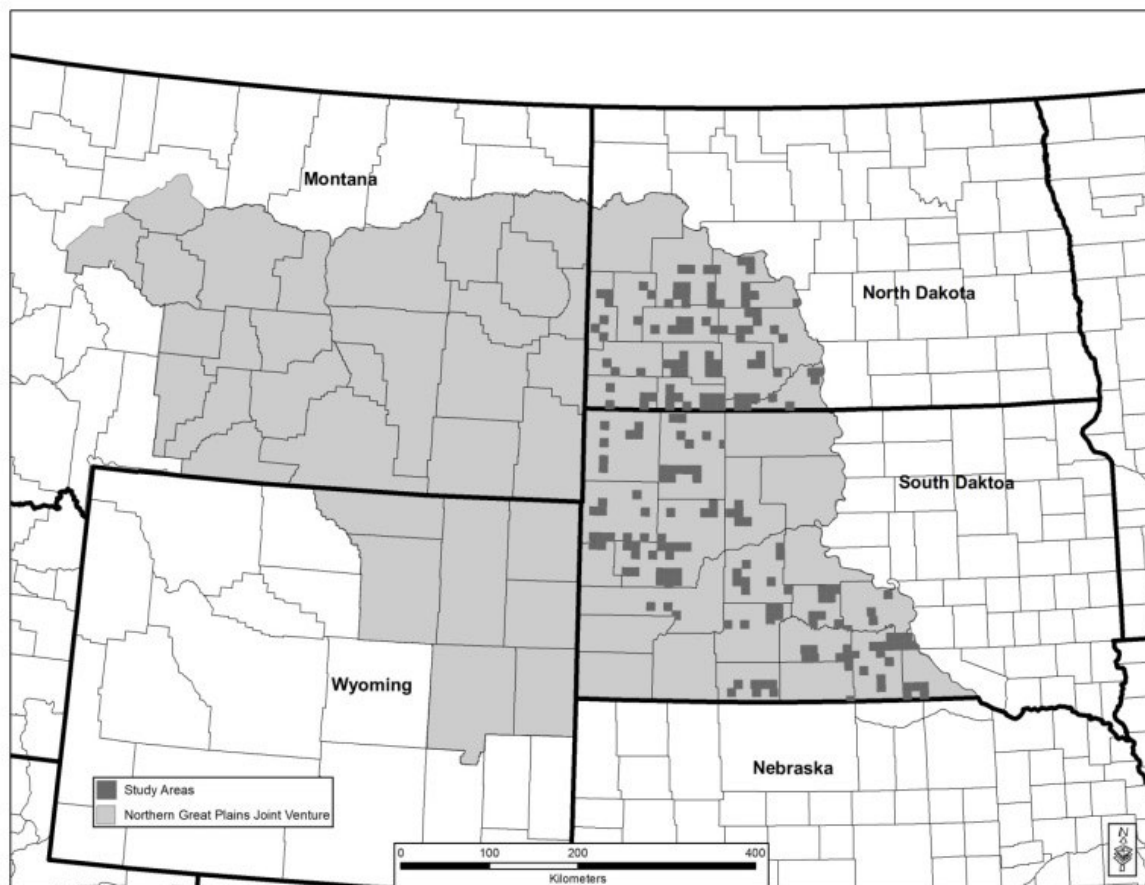


LANDSCAPE AND WETLAND CHARACTERISTICS INFLUENCE MIGRATORY BIRD USE OF CREATED WETLANDS

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Partners for Fish and Wildlife (PFW) program has a long history of working with private landowners to create, enhance, and restore wetlands and riparian areas. To help guide creation of wetlands in western North Dakota and western South Dakota, HAPET analyzed data collected from 3,674 wetland visits over three years (2010- 2012). We determined if occurrence and abundance of waterfowl, waterbirds, and shorebirds differed between created and naturally occurring wetlands.



Landscape and basin characteristics differed between PFW and natural wetlands. Partner wetlands were generally surrounded by more grass, had fewer wetlands and wetland types in the surrounding landscape, averaged twice the size of natural wetlands and had more complex shorelines.

Birds responded strongly to wetland and landscape characteristics. In general, birds of all species were more likely to be present on larger wetlands with a high perimeter-area ratio, low topographic relief, and good soils.