

## IMPORTANT NOTE ABOUT THE ROADMAP ASSESSMENT MAP

This is the next iteration of the map with improvements including additional layers of both forested areas, water, and development, as well as expanded acreage calculations, and clarified methodologies (see the accompanying “Further Explanation” document for reference).

We are constantly listening to feedback and strengthening the map. This is the third release of the Assessment Map 1.0 and we will continue to integrate input, make modifications, and refine the map as new information becomes available and the data going into the map improves.

Last, this is a biome-scale map, so there will be some shortfalls in accuracy at the hyper-local level. Future tools and resources will ideally be published that can better address regional and local planning. We also publish other organizations spatial tools on the website for further reference.

## ABOUT THE ROADMAP EFFORT

A diverse community of partners from Canada, the U.S., and Mexico have collaborated and informed the Central Grasslands Roadmap including:

- Sovereign Indigenous Nations and Private Landowners from across the three countries
- State/Provincial and Federal Wildlife Agencies
- Industry partners
- Academia, Foundations and Conservation Organizations

We are collaborating across the biome to change the trajectory of our grasslands from degraded and fragmented to thriving, productive lands for people and wildlife. Nearly two-thirds of this 700+ million- acre landscape has been:

- Invaded by trees or shrubs
- Converted to row-crop agriculture
- Seen reduced connectivity and faced the loss of vital ecological functions

## USING THE ASSESSMENT MAP

To address these challenges, the narrative [Central Grasslands Roadmap](#) provides a flexible strategic framework. Core to implementing the strategic framework is the publication of this first assessment map (below) **to guide where voluntary conservation investments are needed**.

Local partners and community members are invited to use the map to prioritize short and long-term conservation programs. By combining local priorities, resource concerns

and community will, the goal of these conservation initiatives across the Central Grasslands is to:

- Ensure food security, traditional values and land sovereignty for Indigenous/First Nations
- Promote grass-based economies to help rural communities and ranchers thrive

## **APPLYING SPECIFIC CONSERVATION DELIVERY IN THREE AREAS**

### **1. Keep the green areas of existing grasslands “green-side up” (intact), by:**

- **Removing young cedars and invasive shrubs**
- **Preventing seed trees from establishing**
- **Addressing invasive grasses and forbs**
- **Supporting sustainable range management practices**

### **2. Work in yellow areas to :**

- **Address woody species encroachment**
- **Remove other annual invasive species**
- **Voluntarily retain vulnerable grasslands**
- **Maintain connectivity with large blocks of existing grassland**

### **3. Make strategic investments in the purple areas to:**

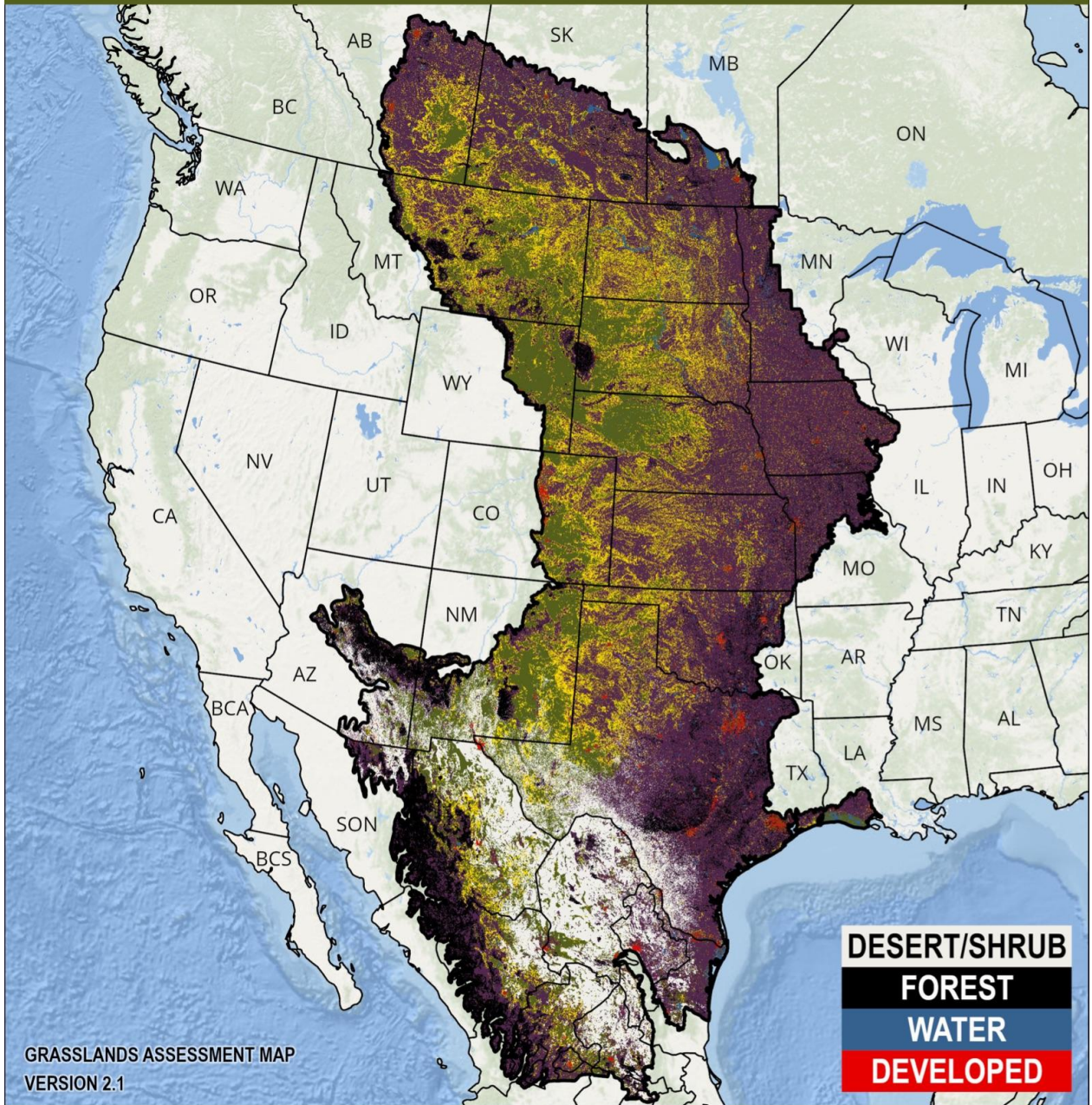
- **Remove woody species**
- **Convert cropland on marginal soils back to grassland**
- **Improve productivity and ecosystem health, and**
- **Connect to larger blocks of existing grassland**

### **A few key things to note about the rollout of this assessment map:**

- The Roadmap Community endorsed the concept of this map at the May 2022 Summit
- This explanatory text and the map with downloadable data layers is available at: [www.grasslandsroadmap.org/](http://www.grasslandsroadmap.org/)
- This is a large landscape, and significant resources are needed to ensure sustainable grasslands for the future by working in partnership with people living on the land ... this assessment map provides the foundation to do that collaborative work
- A larger story map is under development to highlight community actions, and local and regional solutions happening across the biome

# THE CENTRAL GRASSLANDS ASSESSMENT MAP

## SUPPORTING AND GROWING OUR CORE OF GRASSLANDS



### CONSERVATION CATEGORIZATION

**CORE  
GRASSLANDS**

185,718,255 acres

**VULNERABLE  
GRASSLANDS**

134,461,849 acres

**CONVERTED/ALTERED  
GRASSLANDS**

435,478,559 acres

\*Maps are based on currently available data. Areas at risk of cultivation or converted to plowed land since 2009 are from Plowprint.com. Areas