Montana FWP's Working Grasslands Initiative

In Partnership with Montana's Conservation Community

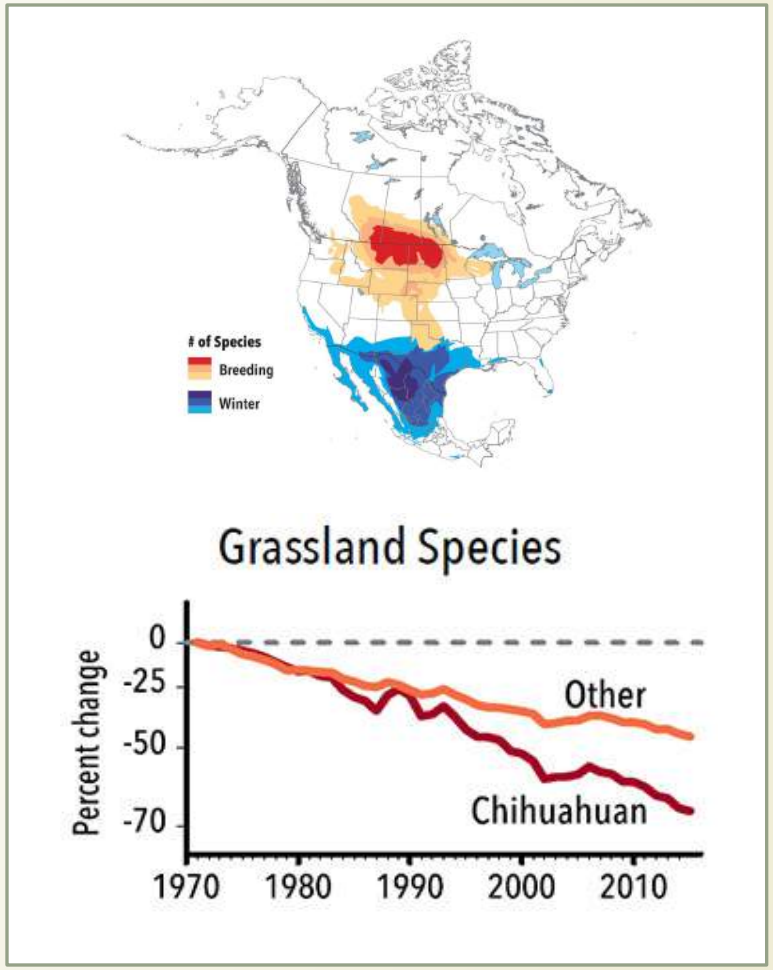
Working Grasslands and Wildlife

- Support Sustainable Ranching
  - Keep ranchers and local communities economically viable
  - Maintain and enhance rangelands
- Support stewardship of wildlife habitat
  - Avoid additional habitat loss
  - Maintain high quality habitats
  - Preclude the need for additional federal protections

Grassland Indicator Species

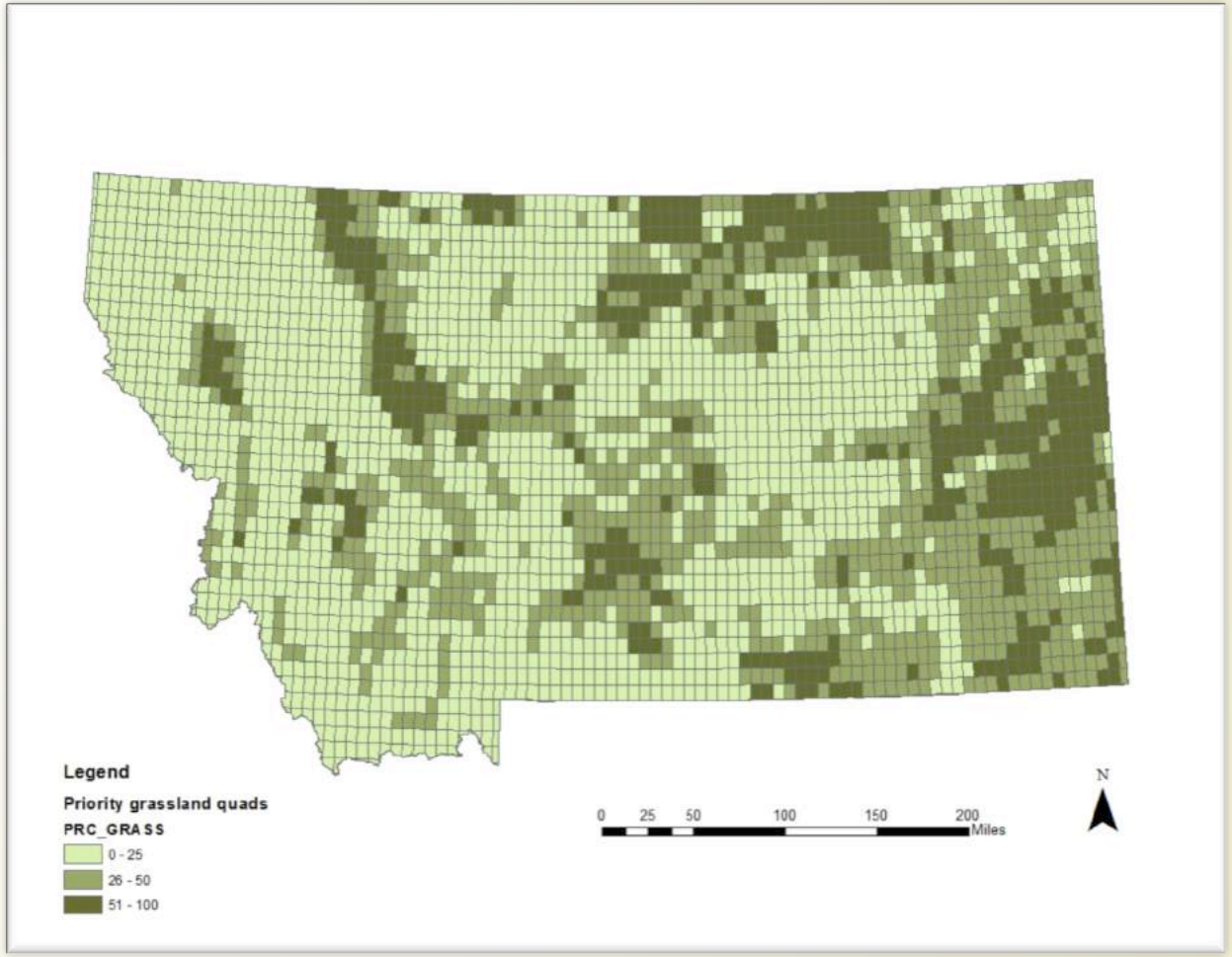
- Grassland songbirds
- Waterfowl
- Sharp-tailed grouse
- Pronghorn
- Swift fox

McCown's Longspur by Bob Martinka

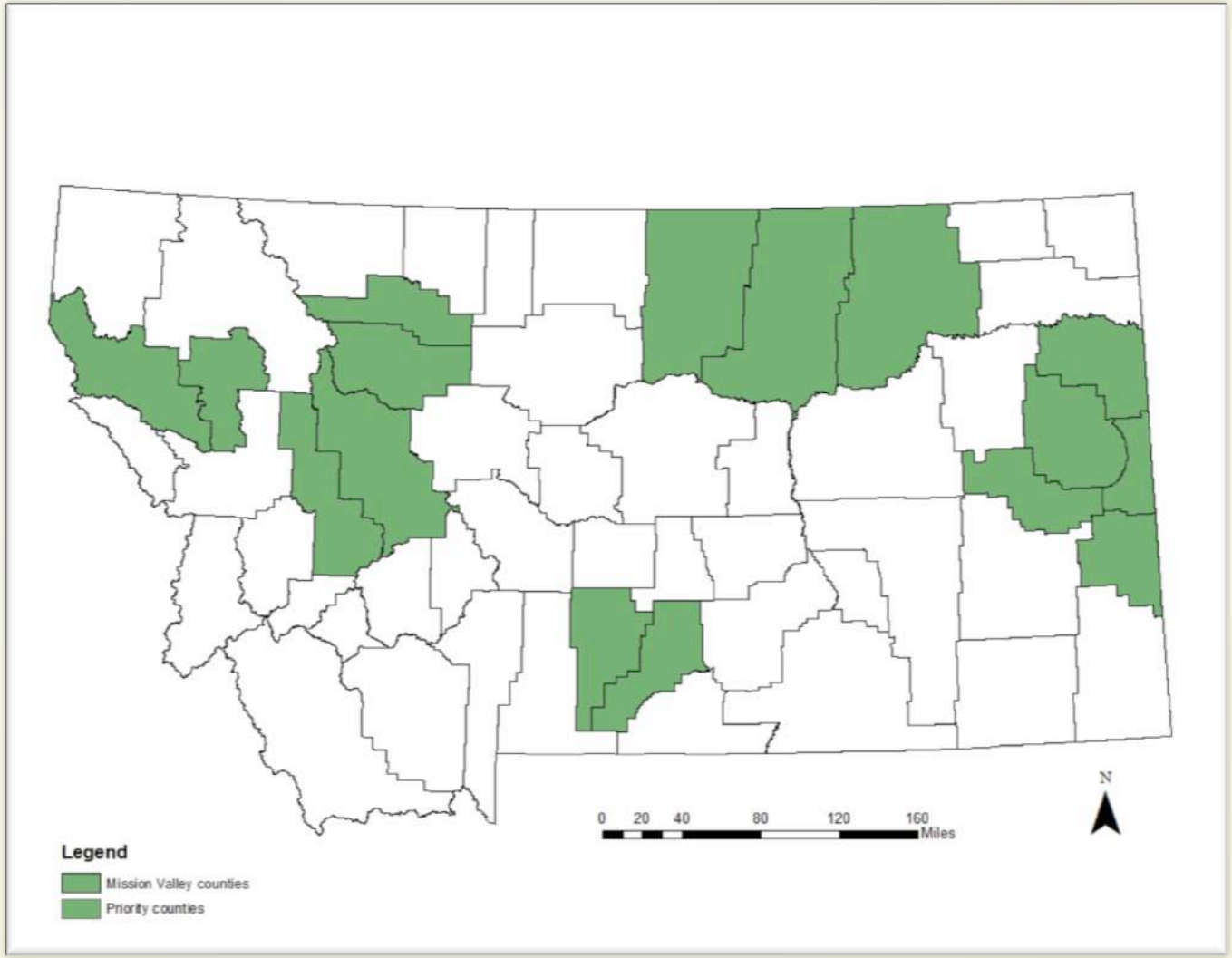


Landscape Planning

- Targeted approach
- Landscape focus
- M. Sather's PhD work



Priority Areas for Conservation Focus



Protection of existing native rangelands

- 30-year Conservation Leases
  - No conversion
  - Public access
  - $30/acre, one-time payment
- Permanent Conservation Easements
  - Maintain native wildlife habitat
  - Grazing management plan, adaptive
  - Public access
  - Appraised Fair Market Value

30-year Lease Example

Cost-share opportunities - marginal cropland

- Provide up to 75% cost-share
- Fencing, stock tanks and pipelines, wells and pumps
- Seed mix and seeding activities
- Term agreement
- Public Access

Cost-share example

Summary