

## **North American Grasslands Conservation Act**

America's ranchers, farmers, Tribes and rural communities have been hit hard by a combination of increasingly-severe drought and wildfires. As Congress moves to protect and bolster these communities and other long-time stewards of the lands, it must consider creative solutions from every angle to simultaneously conserve the most threatened ecosystems and address the climate crisis.

Grassland ecosystems are among the most vulnerable in the world. Over the last decade millions of acres of grasslands have been lost to wildfire, commercial development, fragmentation, invasive species, and other degradation. The agriculture community and Tribes are deeply connected to the landscape, often on the front lines protecting these lands from devastating wildfires and subsequent encroachment from fire-prone invasive species. In addition to agriculture, hunting and recreation are important cultural and economic benefits of intact and healthy grasslands. The North American Grasslands Conservation Act (NAGCA) takes bold action to empower these and other land stewards to conserve and restore grasslands in North America and support the rural economies and wildlife species that depend on them – all while helping to address the climate crisis.

### **The North American Grasslands Conservation Act of 2022:**

- Establishes a North American Grassland Conservation Strategy for the protection, restoration, and management of grassland ecosystems across North America.
- Establishes a flexible Grassland Conservation Grant Program for voluntary, incentive-based conservation of grasslands, including projects to restore degraded grasslands, increase carbon sequestration, improve grassland and rangeland health, mitigate the threats of wildfire and drought, improve biodiversity and support habitat connectivity, and restore watersheds.
- Creates National and Regional Grassland Conservation Councils to recommend and approve grassland conservation projects to be funded under the grant program.
- Establishes research initiatives on native seed crop systems and regenerative grazing practices.