

# PUBLIC LAND NEWS

By Jan Baumeister

RMFMS SD Rep./ Public Land Advisory Committee

Please check the Northern Plains Conservation Network website [www.npcn.net](http://www.npcn.net), a huge organization of twenty huge organizations including a couple of the biggest Wilderness organizations with their “dream” is to restore the North America’s grasslands and working for these areas to become “show pieces of grassland wildlife”, with their goal to restore the buffalo back onto the grasslands from Canada to Nebraska and Wyoming. It is all explained by clicking on the websites below the picture. At the left side of their page, “Who We Are” will show the map of the thousands of acres they want included from Canada to Nebraska of grasslands and private lands they are working at put totally into their control! I’m sorry that I can’t copy the big maps in the articles for those without computers. It’s worth your time to use a library computer and check out this land grab take-over!

As for designation of control of the grasslands, the map listed above shows all of the land in the Northwest Glacial Plains of Canada and Northern and Eastern Montana, all lands west of the Missouri River in North Dakota, the northeastern part of Wyoming and the whole western half of South Dakota and all of Nebraska Sand hills country for Wilderness in the Northern Plains Conservation Network who will control the land and the rivers! Click on “VISIONS” on the same line under the picture at the top of the page of this article. Their vision is a nightmare.

The Slim Buttes: Acres: Federal BLM: 53,000; US Forest Service land: 71,000 acres, State: 334,000 acres, Private land: 1,881,000 Total: 2,5127,000 acres.

Badlands-Conata Basin: “Anchored by Badlands National Park, Buffalo Gap Nat’l Grasslands, and Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, including the Black Hills Forest, it covers about 2.8 MILLION acres of land.

Acres: Federal: 3,000, Tribal: 898,000, USFS: 368,000, National Parks: 148,000, State: 28,000, Private: 1,386,000 ; Private reserve: 600, Other Federal: 112.

Total: 2,831,000.

The article tells about wildlife with free-ranging bison in Badlands, and “further west: the “Black Hills” area is a favorite tourist destination, including Wind Cave and Custer National Parks.

Thunder Basin and Oglala Grasslands: The Conservation Alliance of the Great Plains proposed this region: Thunder Basin stretches from the pine-covered slopes of southwest Black Hills across vast grasslands to Douglas, WY. The grasslands extending east across into Nebraska, includes the Sand Hills area.

Acres: Federal: 139,000, Tribal: 142,000, Thunder Basin (WY):570,00, Oglala National Grasslands (NE):95,000 State: 177,000, Private land: 2,829, 000, Department of Defense: 1,000, Other federal: 1,000. Total: 3,954,000

Montana (northern) Glaciated Plains: Acres: Federal BLM, 1,280,000, Tribal 287,000, Part of CM Russell Wildlife Refuge, State, 194,000, Private 1,271,000, local government: 800 and private preserves: 31,000 Total: 3,573,00

Hole In the Wall, WY: total: BLM 2,699,00 acres, including 1,540.000 acres of private owned lands.

In the Northern Plains states, government owned grasslands and control of river is focused for take-over by these twenty organizations. The ranchers in the "Terry Badlands Wilderness" that joined agreement to have their private land included in this Wilderness plan, thinking they could be freely use this grassland-badlands to graze their cattle forever. The problem is: stipulations/laws can be changed mighty fast--all it takes is one Senator to sponsor a bill in Congress to slowly eliminate cattle grazing in a set time until all the beef is off the land and get replaced by buffalo, a goal of this organization. We have seen SD Senator Johnson's Senate bill trying to put the Cheyenne River grasslands into Wilderness, backed by many of these organizations! Cattlemen need to be alerted as there was a bill that a congressman sponsored about 12 years ago. It had a decree to get all cattle removed off all mountain ranges declared "Wilderness" in three years in the West. It didn't pass. They will wait a few years then repeat such actions once large areas of government land become "Wilderness."

### **PASS AT WORD TO THE PUBLIC!**

Editors: please copy this for your bulletins. If they can get millions of acres of public and private land of Northern Plains into their plans, then YOUR STATE AND SURROUNDING STATES WILL BE NEXT! They won't be happy with just the mountains and special scenic areas of your state that's already put into Wilderness, THEY WILL WANT ALL THE PUBLIC LANDS FROM CANADA TO MEXICO put into their control! No longer will we have multiple use land to enjoy. On one "focus page, it stated they were under the non-profit status!

All Club Members: We need every citizen to spread the word to friends, and to your reliable congressmen with objection ahead of time If you enjoy your freedoms of rock hunting or visiting on the BLM and Government Grasslands and help private land owners, take some time to write. You can send copy of this article and send with your letter with your protesting the NPCN's focus plans, or go on line, copy from the website- [www.npcn.net](http://www.npcn.net) - and send it in with your letter of objection.

The northern plains states have two senators and one or two House of Representatives in Washington, DC. It is easier to get laws passed in other states,

where they have more congressmen representing them. There's plenty that love that PAC money to sponsor Wilderness bills for each of these "focus areas" as most of the congressmen that don't know anything about our grassland. We the people, the ranchers, farmers, the public who use the grasslands for recreation, hunting and hobbies, outdoors men, etc. are going to have a hard fight to stop the wilderness advocates with mighty coffers!! We have got to try as this needs to be exposed to the public!