

Homestead Range Renewal Initiative: Critical Success Factors & Key Performance Indicators

Team Member	Critical Success Factor	Key Performance Indicator
Homestead Ranch	The prairie is in better health than when the project began	Reduction in invasive trees and erosion; increased number, diversity and vigor of native plant and wildlife species
	The range management plan is economical	Livestock production rates are as good or better than before implementation of the program; winter season supplement costs are the same or lower
	The range management plan is practical	Other ranchers are willing to try the methods
The Nature Conservancy	Restore heterogeneity to the landscape to provide habitat for a much broader range of native grassland species	Measure: (1) vegetative structural diversity (2) response by grassland birds
	Push back woody encroachment	Vegetative response, which could be documented with time-sequence photography, such as aerial photos
	Restore the vigor of warm season grasses and beneficial forbs	Vegetative response, which could be qualitatively measured through the use of fixed-point photography
U.S. Fish & Wildlife	Year-round vertical herbaceous nesting cover for greater prairie-chicken, Henslow's sparrow, Bell's vireo, grasshopper sparrow, upland sandpiper, scissor-tailed flycatcher, loggerhead shrike and numerous additional trust species	Measure unburned, ungrazed acres; bird survey showing increased use by targeted avian species
	Reduction in woody weed species	Measure reduction through aerial photos
	Have fun	Smiles on faces
Natural Resources Conservation Service	Improve range condition and trend toward historic climax plant community	Photography fixed points Range assessments
	Maintain productivity (producer and livestock)	Production records past and present
	Increase wildlife habitat	Bird surveys
Ranch Consultant	Restore diversity of native plant species and wildlife	Change from initial study showing increase in native vegetative diversity and grassland bird species.
	Push back woody encroachment using nontraditional burning	Measure reduction with aerial photography.
	Management plan that achieves a balance between responsible stewardship of the land and profitable beef production	Documentation of project indicating economic feasibility in nontraditional range management and beef production. Other ranchers are willing to try method.