



United States Department of Agriculture

# Great Plains Grassland Summit



Forest Service

Brian Ferebee, Regional Forester

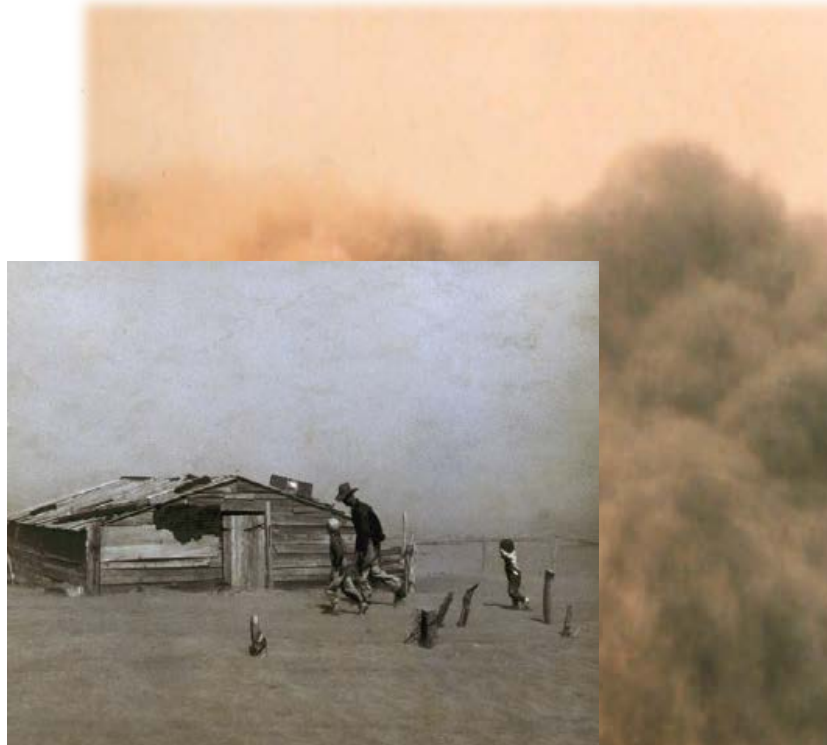
Rocky Mountain Region



Photo courtesy NRCS

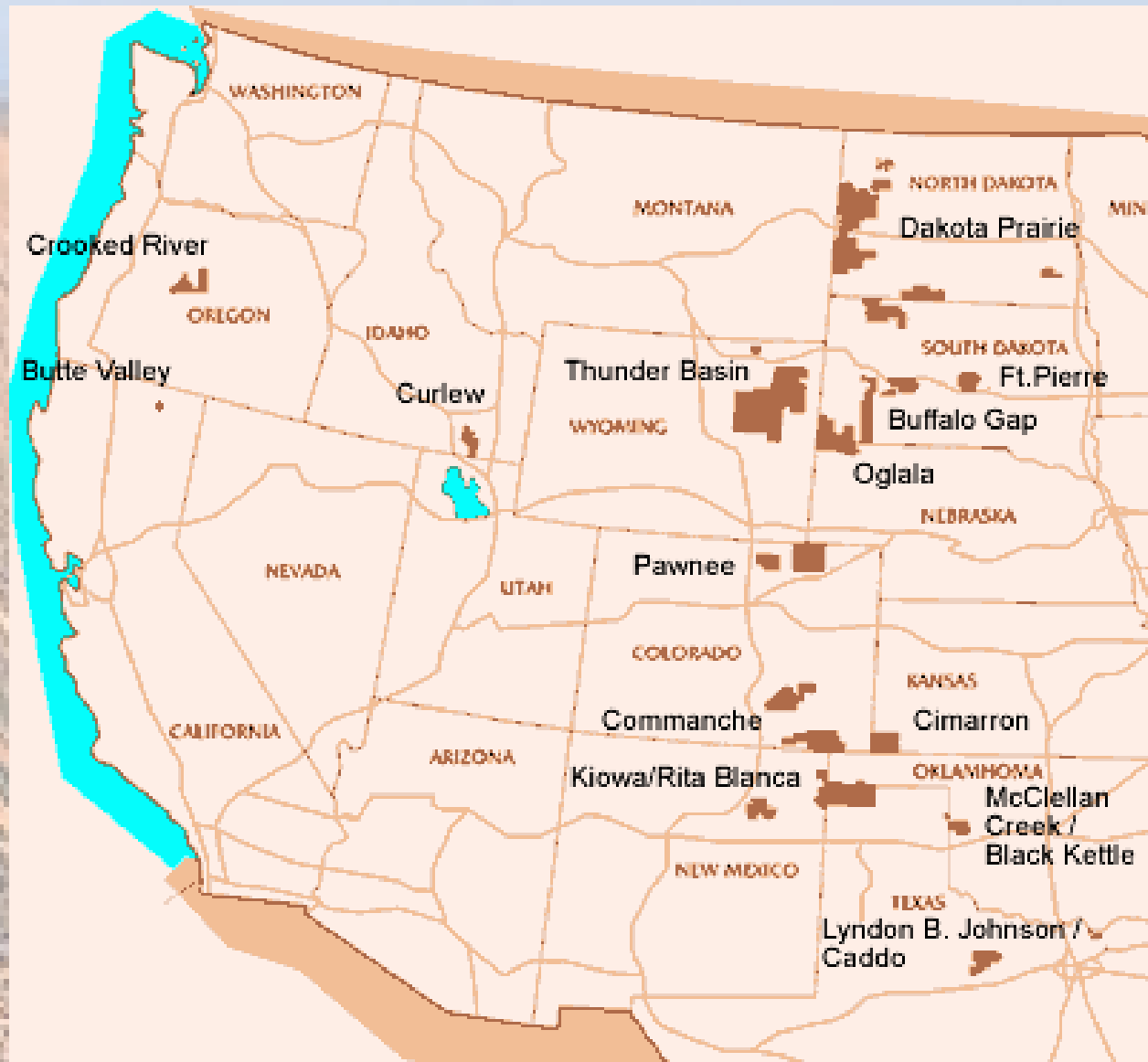


# Grassland History – The 1930s Dust Bowl



Bounty to Disaster – The Land Cries for Help

# Your National Grasslands



# National Grassland Facts



# Ecological and Cultural Resources

National Grassland Ecosystems provide services that:

- Mitigate drought and floods
- Maintain biodiversity
- Contribute to climate stability
- Protect soil from erosion
- Protect watersheds
- Pollinate vegetation
- Provide aesthetic beauty
- Provide wildlife habitat
- Provide wetlands, playas



National Grassland Heritage Program:

- Protects significant cultural resources
- Provides opportunities to:
  - Make connection with the past
  - Sense diversity of human experience
  - Understand relationship between people and the land

## Morton County, Kansas

*The Corner Stone of Kansas*



- Over 125 rural communities are within or adjacent to the Grassland Units.
- More than half of these communities would likely cease to exist without the presence of these Grassland Units due to the wide variety of income-producing ecosystem services derived therefrom.

# Socio-economic Contributions

Livestock Grazing  
Energy Development  
Tourism





# Diversity of Recreational Activities





National  
Grassland  
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