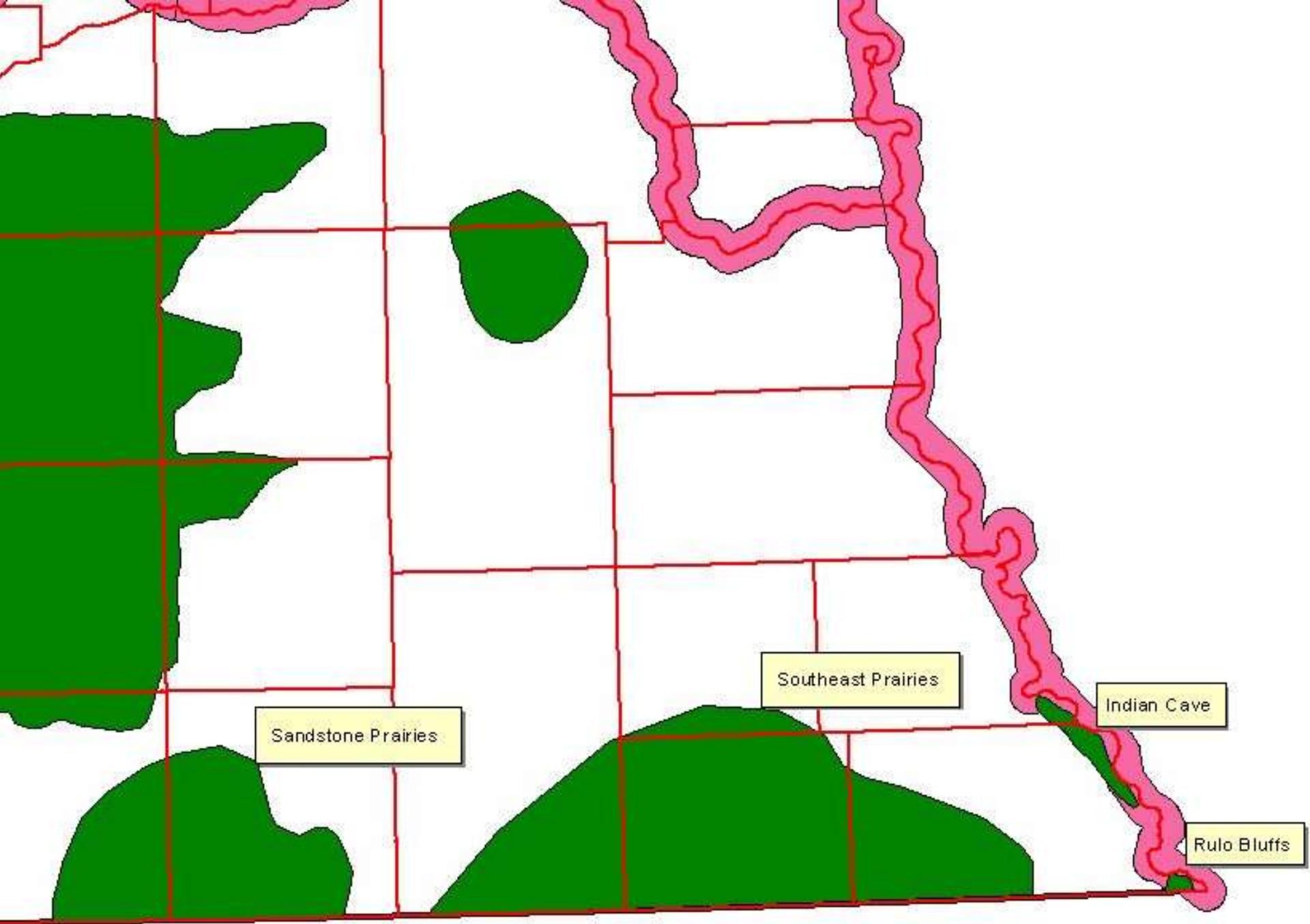
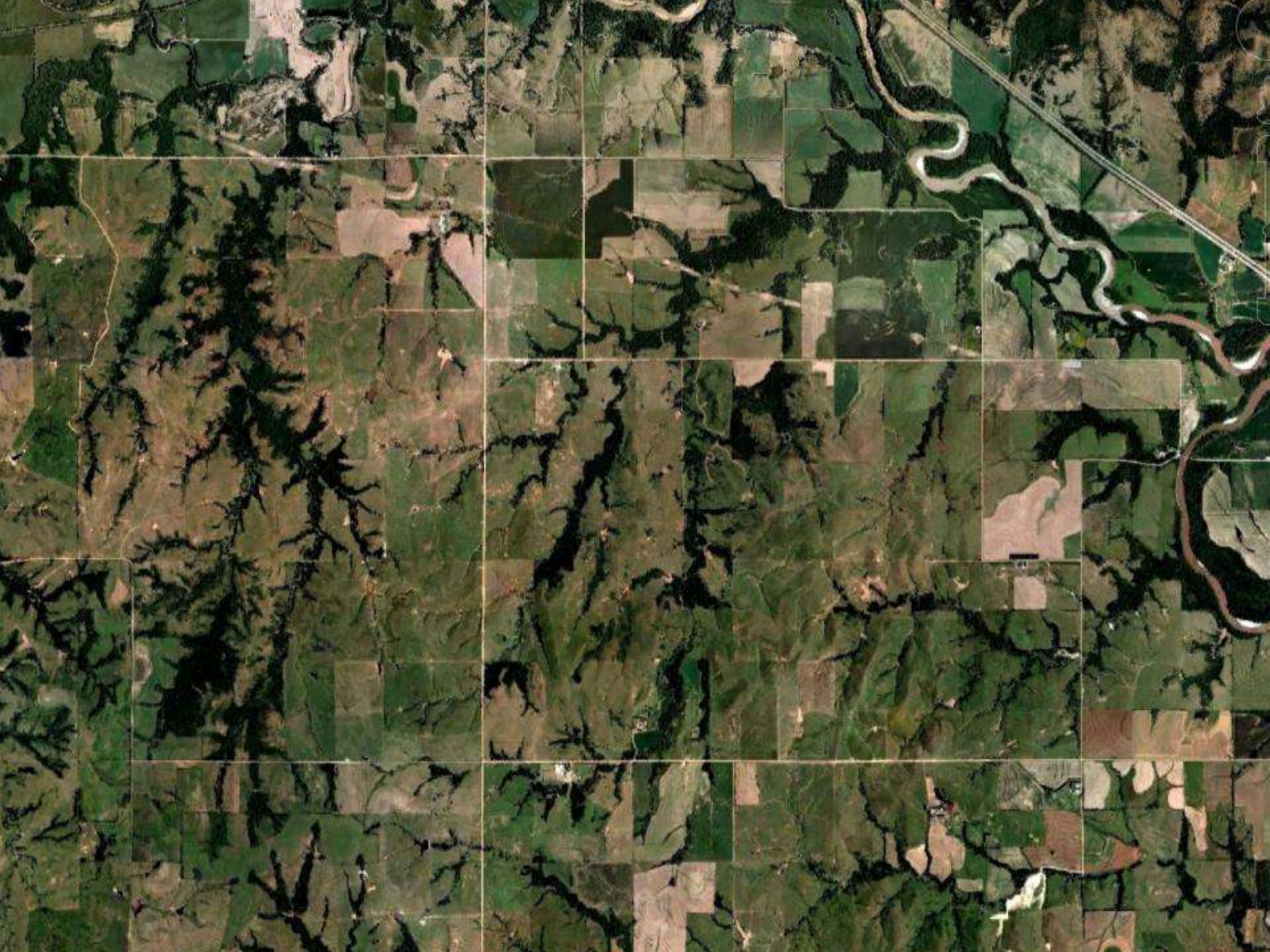


Grazing Strategies to Strategically Manipulate Fuels



Sandstone Prairies Biologically Unique Landscape

- Small region – approximately 300,000 acres
- Relatively intact matrix of tallgrass prairie and oak woodlands
- Shallow rocky soils
- Cattlemen mostly live in the local area and run cow/calf pairs May – October
- Traditionally moderate stocking rates, but no prescribed fire



- No local culture of prescribed fire, but wildfires are a fairly regular occurrence
- Moderate stocking rates result in a relatively uniform fuel bed
- Wildfire season peaks in March
- Landscape is still brown in March and extreme fire weather conditions are common

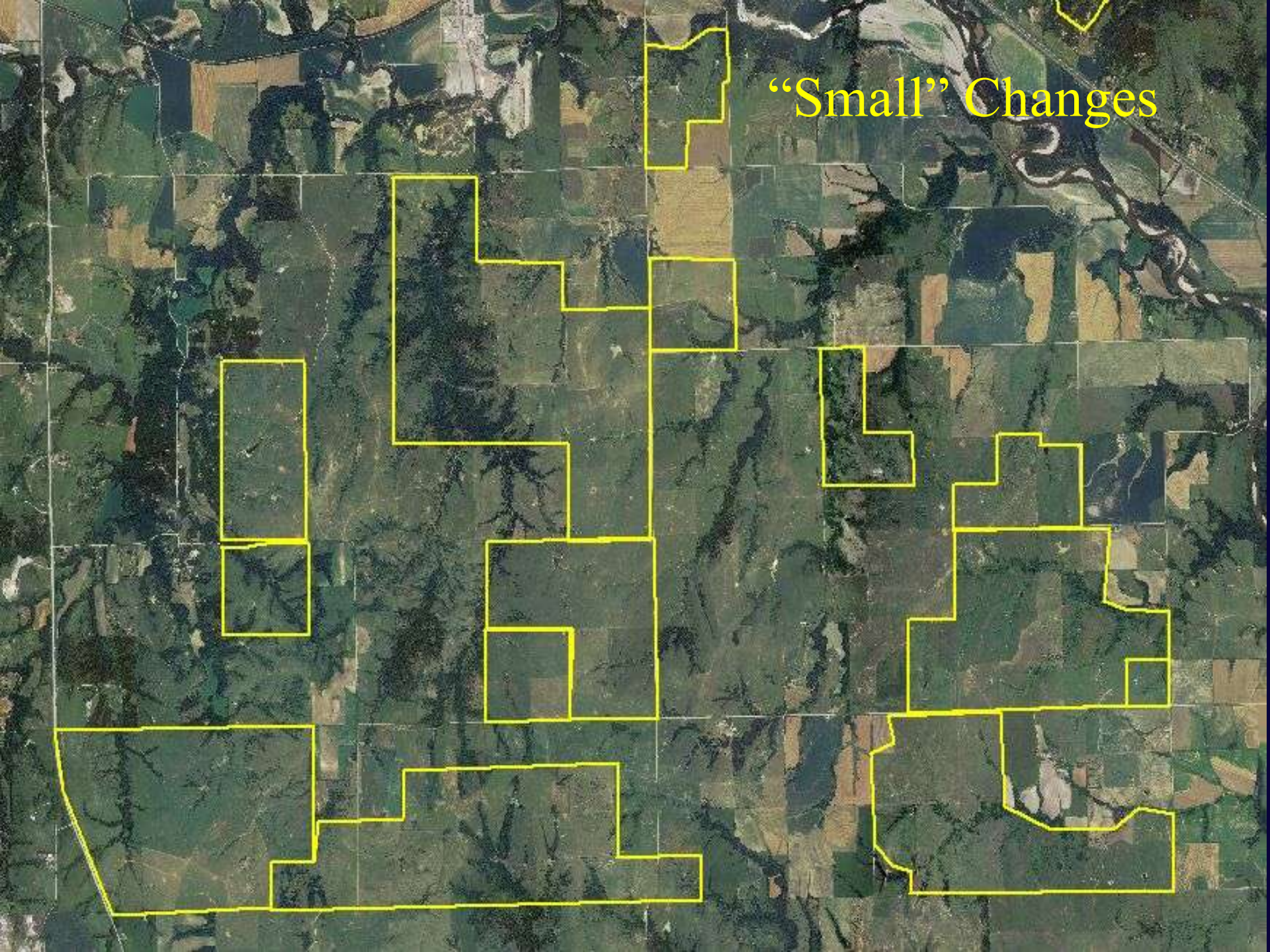


Southeast Flagship Initiative



- Worked since 2003 to enhance tallgrass prairie on private land in SE Nebraska
- Completed over 300 projects on nearly 80,000 acres
- Majority of projects involve tree clearing.
- 10,000 acres burned annually

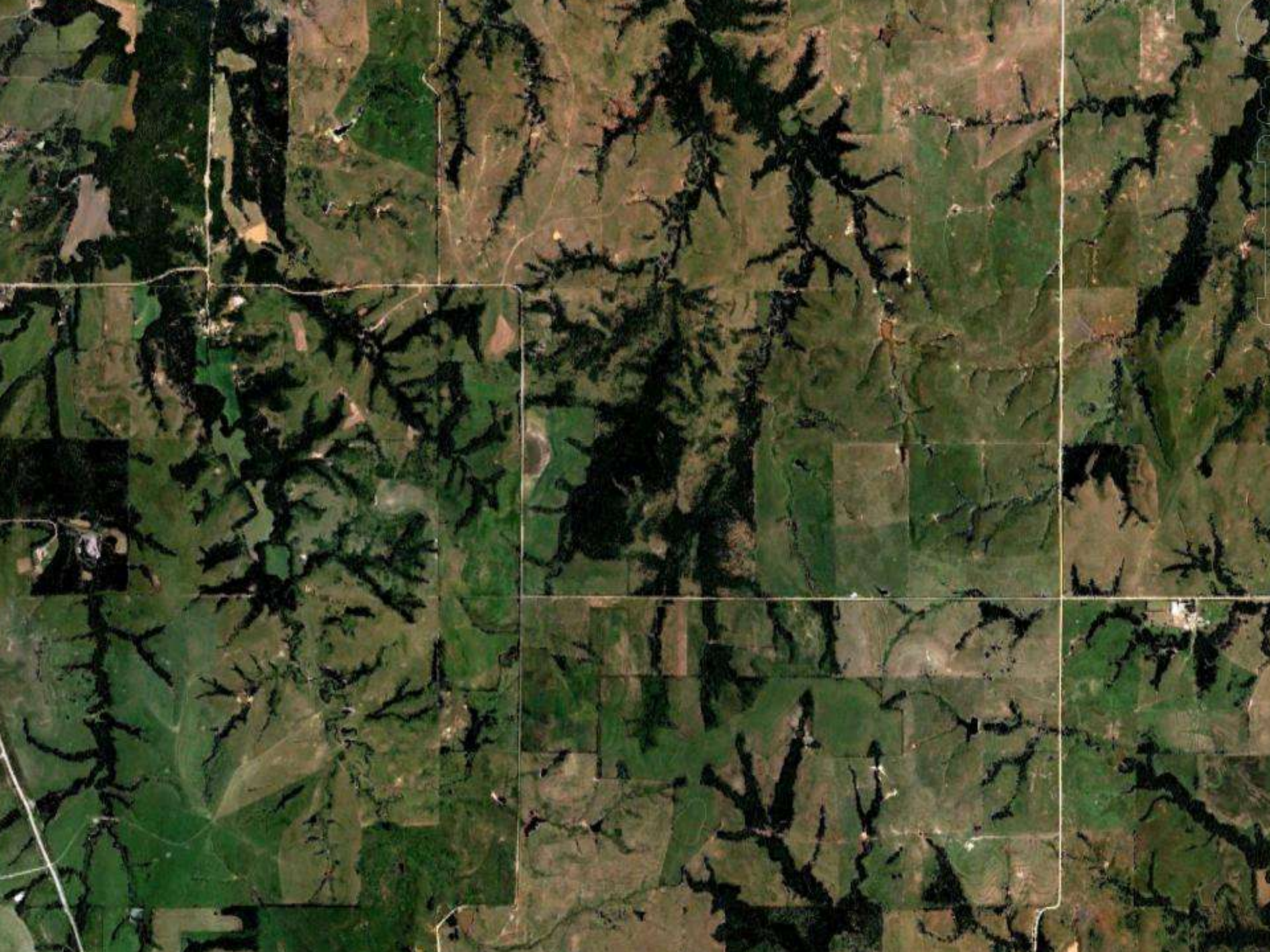
“Small” Changes

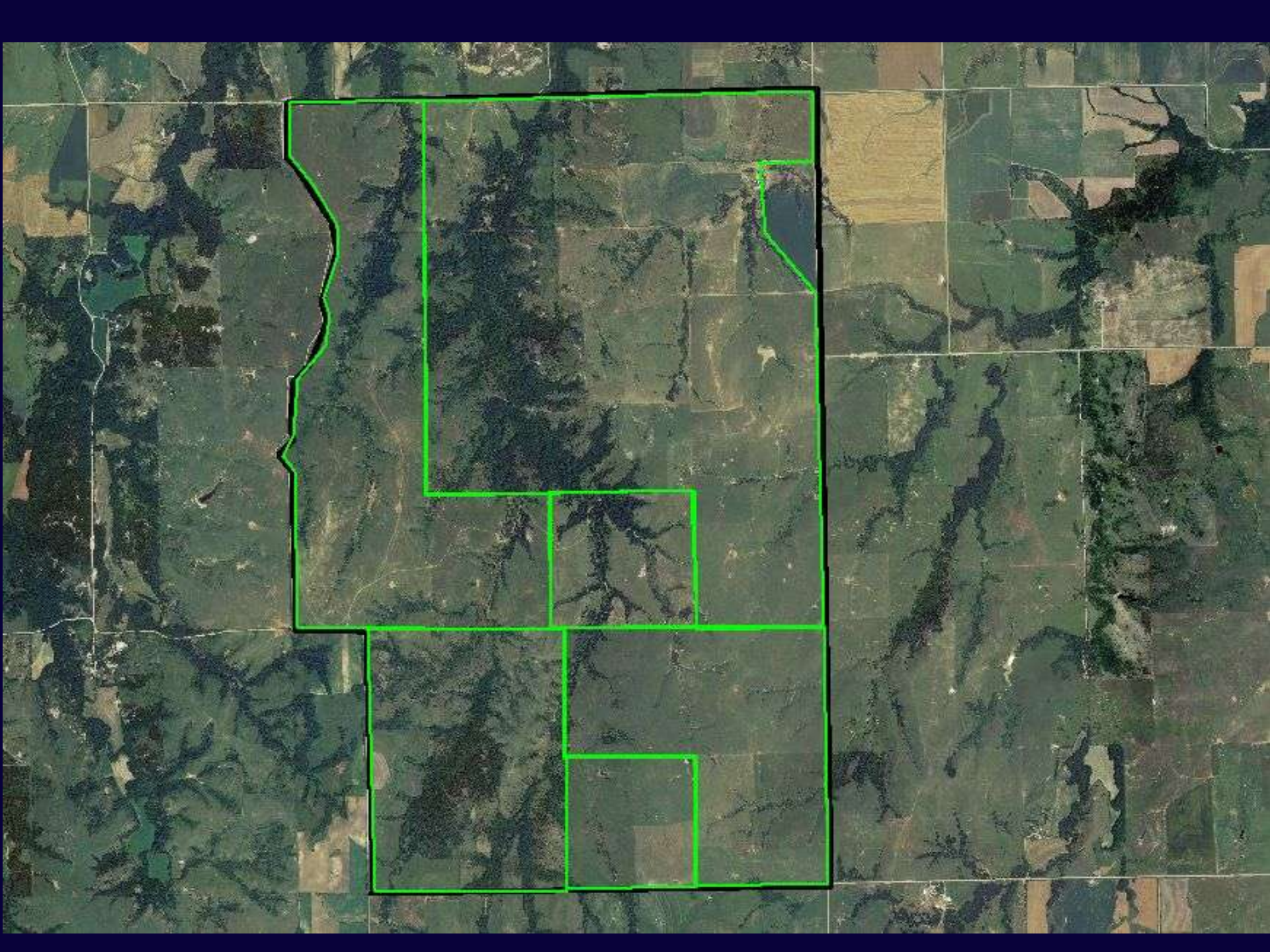


- Landowners traditionally told to NOT graze pastures after fires until at least mid summer
- Through our program, we encourage landowners to graze pastures ASAP after fire and to graze hard
- Overall stocking stays the same

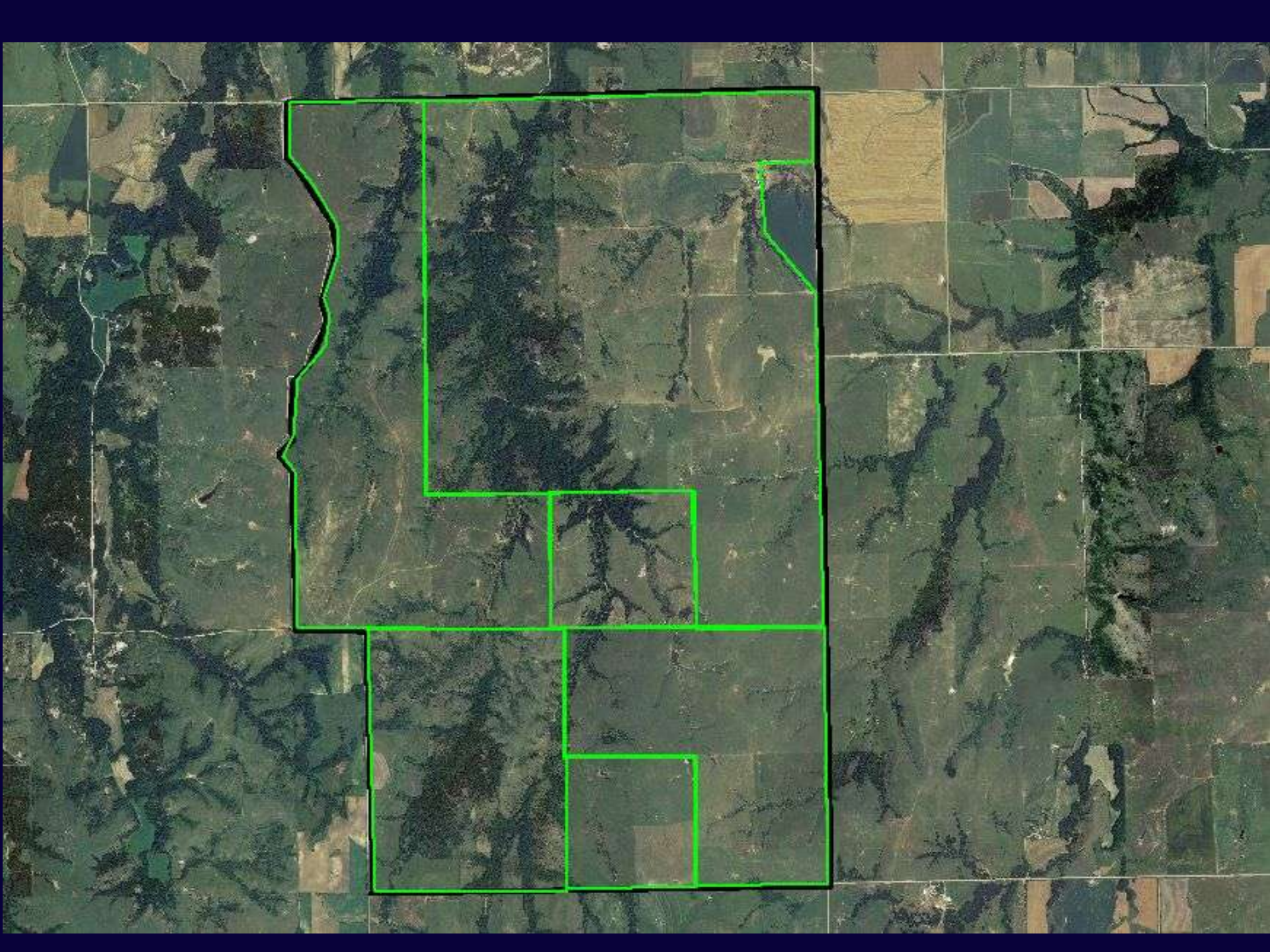












Grazing/Prescribed Fire Strategies To Reduce Wildfire Danger

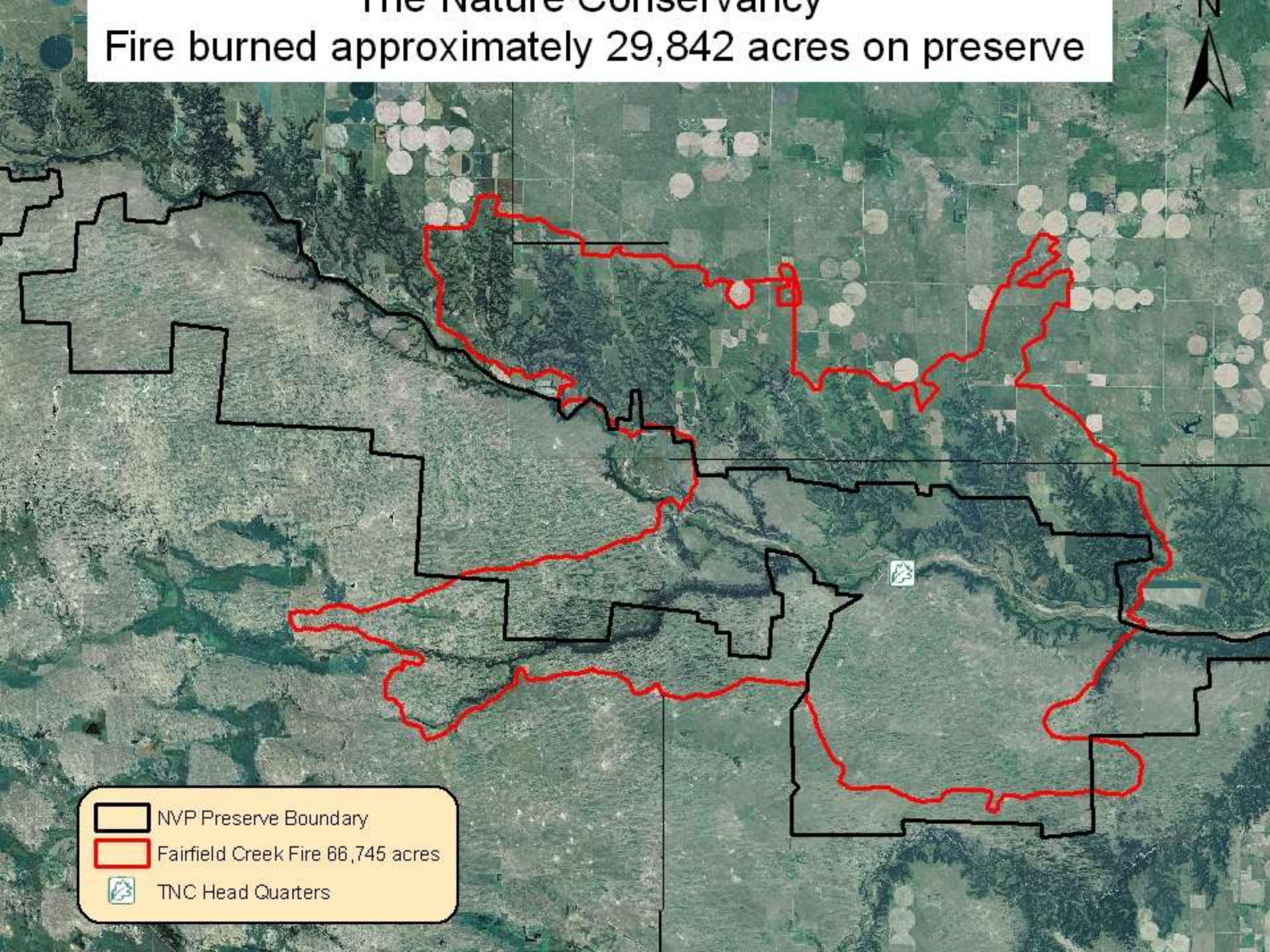
- “Uneven” grazing pressure across landscape creates discontinuous fuel bed
 - made palatable by adoption of prescribed burning
- Prescribed fire (with “mosaic” burning and/or fall burning) removes potential wildfire fuels
- Landowner willingness based on practical advantages
 - fall/mosaic burns are safer
 - can gain an extra month of usable pasture
 - fall burns provide more effective cedar kill

Questions?





Fire burned approximately 29,842 acres on preserve





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