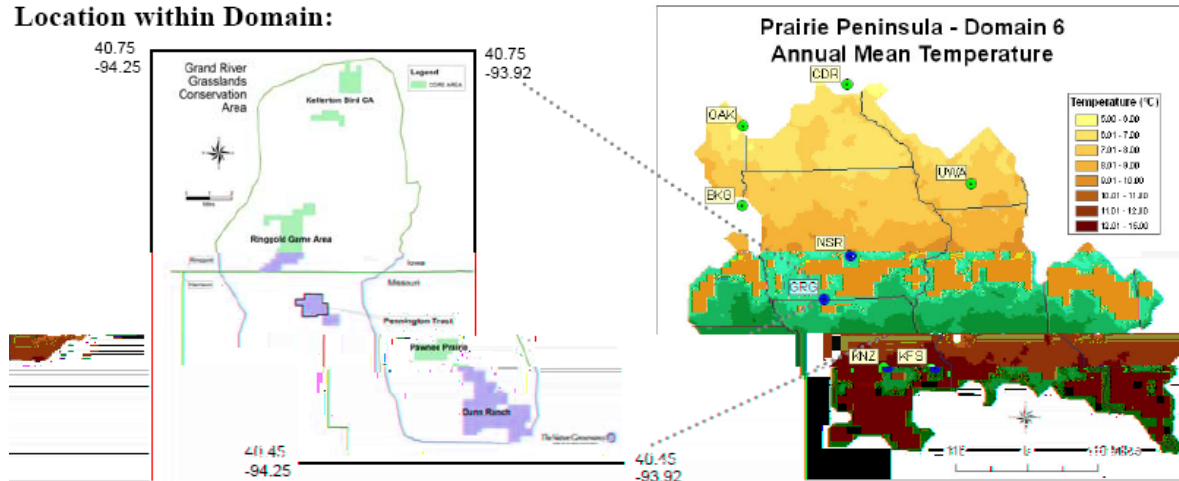


## Grand River Grasslands (GRG): Prairie Peninsula Domain (Gradient Site)

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Web Page: [www.nature.org/wherewework/northamerica/states/missouri/preserves/art447.html](http://www.nature.org/wherewework/northamerica/states/missouri/preserves/art447.html);  
[www.nrem.iastate.edu](http://www.nrem.iastate.edu); <http://www.nature.org/success/art16268.html>

### Location within Domain:



**History:** Grand River Grasslands, a 70,000 acre conservation priority in northwestern Missouri and southwestern Iowa with multiple natural communities and conservation core area targets in public and private ownership. Key ownerships include Dunn Ranch, a nearly 4,000-acre Conservancy Preserve (Missouri) that is the focus of an intensive remnant prairie initiative and Iowa Department of Natural Resources' Ringgold and Kellerton Wildlife Management Areas.

**Key Characteristics:** Existing vegetation (grasslands: remnant tallgrass prairie, exotic-species forages and pastureland, and complex mixtures of herbaceous including lands enrolled in state and federal set-aside (e.g. CRP); forest: oak-hickory upland, mixed hardwood bottomland; native communities invaded by eastern redcedar; row-crop agricultural land), soil/landform, ecosystem performance, land-use history, and climatic features characteristic of Domain #6; existing resources can help address climate, land use, and invasive species ecological research themes; representative of grassland and savannah landscapes in the Prairie Peninsula fragmented by cropping; partnership among university, federal, state, and non-profit institutions – Iowa State University, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Private Lands Program (Partners for Wildlife), Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Missouri Department of Conservation, The Nature Conservancy (Iowa and Missouri), USDA/Natural Resource Conservation Service.

**Existing Infrastructure:** Dedicated to research with grazing and fire as primary ecosystem drivers; baseline data soil quality, baseline data plant and animal populations; long-term data sets on animal populations; remotely-sensed data from 1938.

**Facilities:** On-site housing, maintenance, repair, and storage, and logistical support; 4 FTE on site support (1 TNC, 3 IDNR); and 1 FTE USF&WS private-lands biologist (Prescribed Fire Burn Boss Type 1 (RXB1) with prescribed fire equipment and crew; research scientists from Iowa State University; year-around road access.