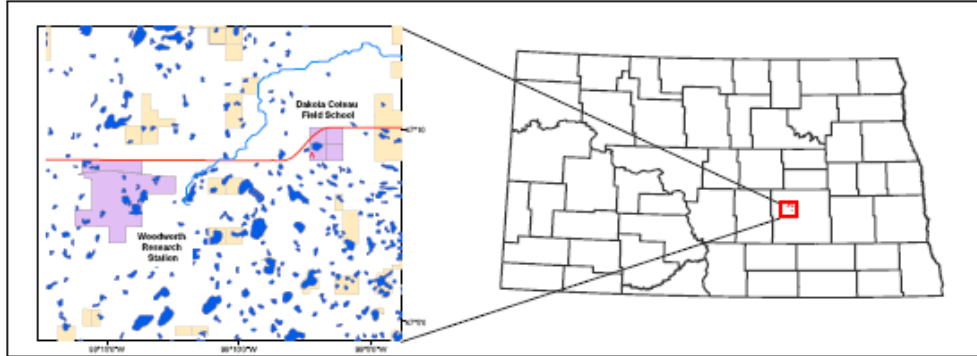


Woodworth Field Station: Northern Plains Domain

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Location within Domain:

Two adjacent properties are proposed for this core site, both located along ND State Highway 36 between Woodworth and Pingree, in the Prairie Pothole Region of central North Dakota:



History: The Woodworth Field Station (WFS) is a long-term research site used since 1965 by the USGS Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center (see <http://www.npwrc.usgs.gov>). The instrument towers will be located at this larger parcel of native prairie. Research and housing facilities will be located at the Dakota Coteau Field School (DCFS) property, located four miles east of the WFS. Facilities at the DCFS will be completed in 2009. The DCFS is affiliated with North Dakota State University in Fargo, ND.

Key Characteristics: Existing vegetation at this site is characteristic of native mixed grass prairies representative of the Northern Plains Domain. Numerous kettle basin wetlands and shallow lakes representative of the prairie pothole region are present on both properties, as well as in the surrounding landscape. The site is located on the Missouri Coteau, with nearby access to glacial drift plains. This research facility is a partnership between US Geological Survey, North Dakota State University, and the US Fish and Wildlife Service, Arrowwood National Wildlife Refuge Complex (<http://www.fws.gov/arrowwood/index.html>).

Existing Infrastructure: The WFS is among the largest tracts of undisturbed (never tilled, currently non-grazed) mixed-grass prairie in the region. Ecological data on both uplands and wetlands have been collected since 1965 by the USFWS and the USGS at the WFS. For over four decades, studies of waterfowl production and associated issues in prairie ecology have used the WFS, as well as other study sites in the surrounding area. The 640-acre site of the DCFS is on State of North Dakota property that likewise has never been tilled. The State Lands Department conducts periodic vegetation surveys, providing a long-term record of plant species present on this property.

Facilities: The Woodworth Field Station is a 2,651-acre Waterfowl Production Area dedicated to research by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Current facilities at the WFS include a dormitory-laboratory, a storage building, and a gas building. The land is owned by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; while the buildings are owned by the U.S. Geological Survey. The WFS is maintained throughout the year, but is currently used only from spring to fall. The Dakota Coteau Field School will have office space for staff and visiting scientists, 8 field laboratories, 3 classrooms, a library, equipment storage, and workshops, plus dining and housing facilities to accommodate 75 people. A central mission of the DCFS is to provide a technologically advanced environment for nature-based research and education in the Northern Plains. As part of this mission, K-12 and higher education programs will occur year-round.