

# Assessment of Agricultural Subsurface Drainage Tile on Wetland Hydrology and Ecosystem Services in the Prairie Pothole Region

Ray Finocchiaro

USGS – Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center

## Cooperating agencies:

#### **U.S. Geological Survey (USGS):**

- Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center (NPWRC)
- North & South Dakota Water Science Centers

#### **U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS):**

- Chase Lake Prairie Project (ND)
- Partners for Fish and Wildlife (SD)
- Habitat and Population Evaluation Team (HAPET; ND)
- Plains and Prairie Potholes LCC

#### ND Department of Health

**Project Coordinator**: Ray Finocchiaro, Ecologist, NPWRC, Jamestown, ND.



# Assessment of Agricultural Subsurface Tile Drainage on Wetland Hydrology & Ecosystem Services in the PPR.

#### Goals:

- Provide a spatial overview of tile distribution & regional assessment of potential effects on wetland hydrology.
- Assess in situ hydrological field data on tiled wetlands that use the minimal impact protective practices (i.e., set-backs)

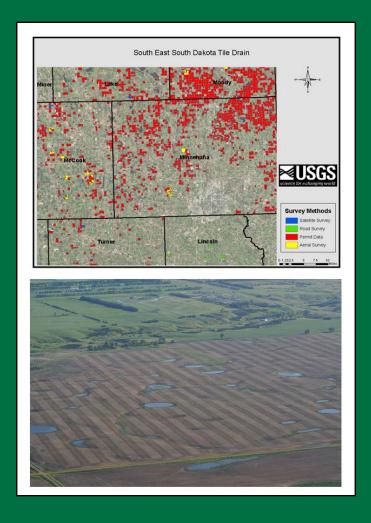




# Research Approach

### **2-prong approach:**

- 1) Spatial (GIS) component
  - Characterization
  - Projections
  - Model effects
- 2) Field component
  - Catchment water balance
  - Tile discharge
  - Tile effects on wetland hydrology





## Field study

## **Objectives -**

- Assess NRCS setbacks
- Monitor water balance
- Tile discharge
- Potential effects of tile on catchment hydrology
- 1. Direct measurements
- 2. Site comparisons
- 3. Model





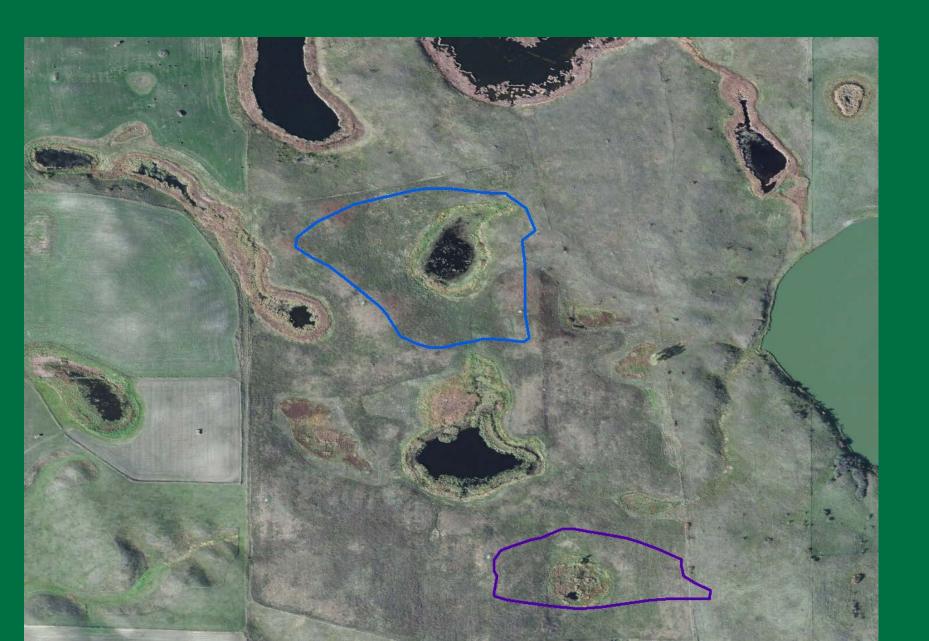
# Field design

- 4 catchments
  - Size, soils, etc.
- 2 tiled, 2 "control"
- Monitor:
  - Direct inputs (weather)
  - Water levels
  - Tile discharge
  - Soil Moisture & Temp
- Model:
  - Indirect inputs (runoff)
  - Hydrology





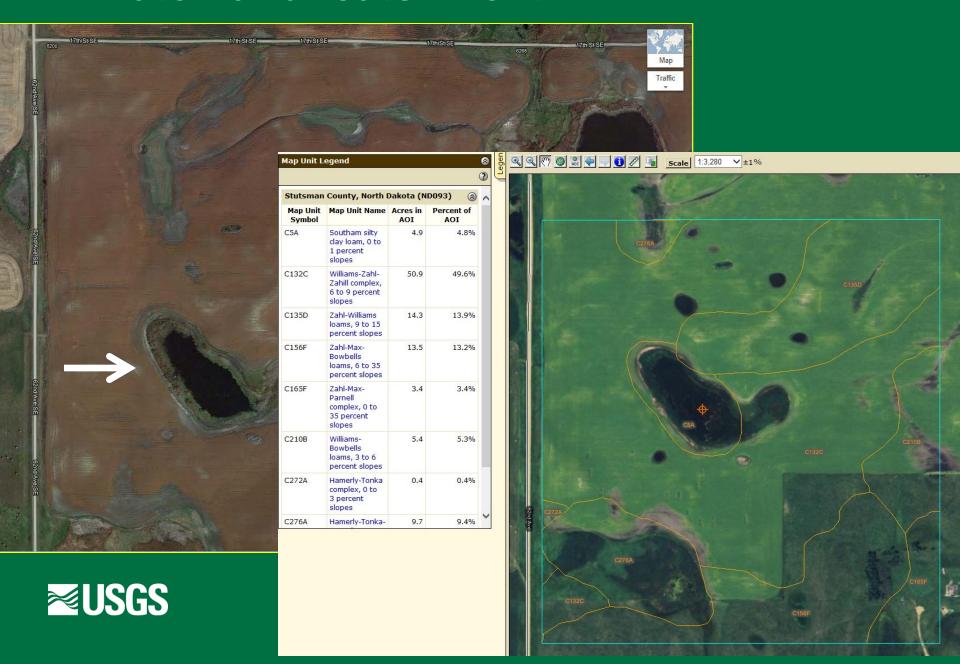
## **Beck WPA: catchment boundaries**



# Roosevelt WPA: catchment boundaries



## **Private Land: catchment**



# **Preparation of Study Sites**

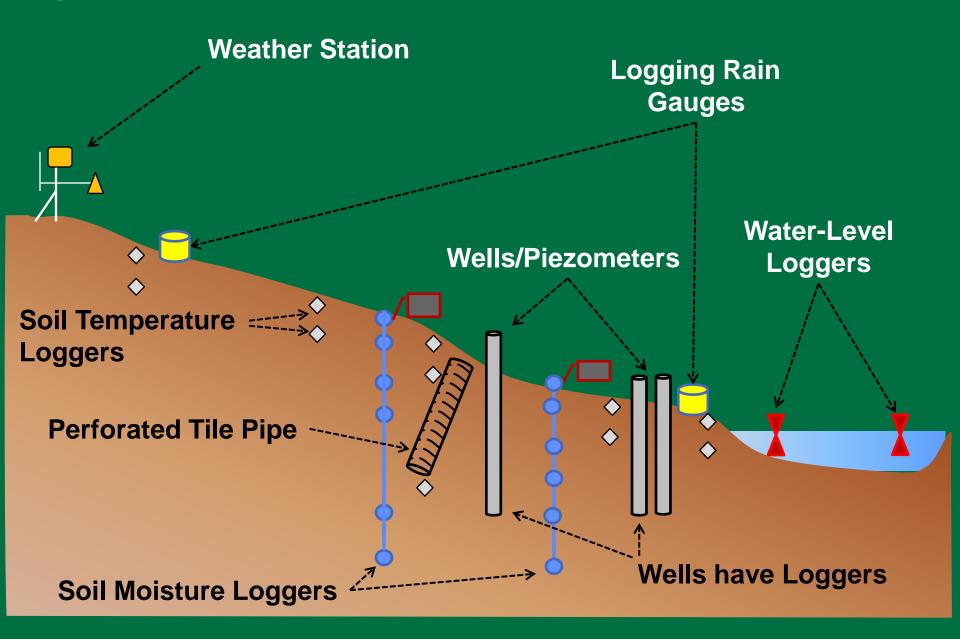








## **Catchment Instrumentation**



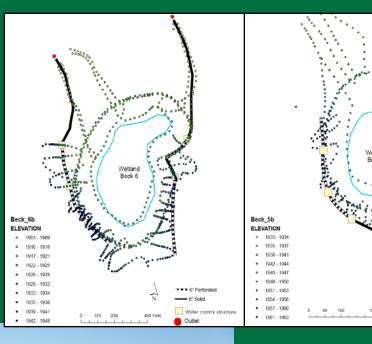






# Tile plans & installation





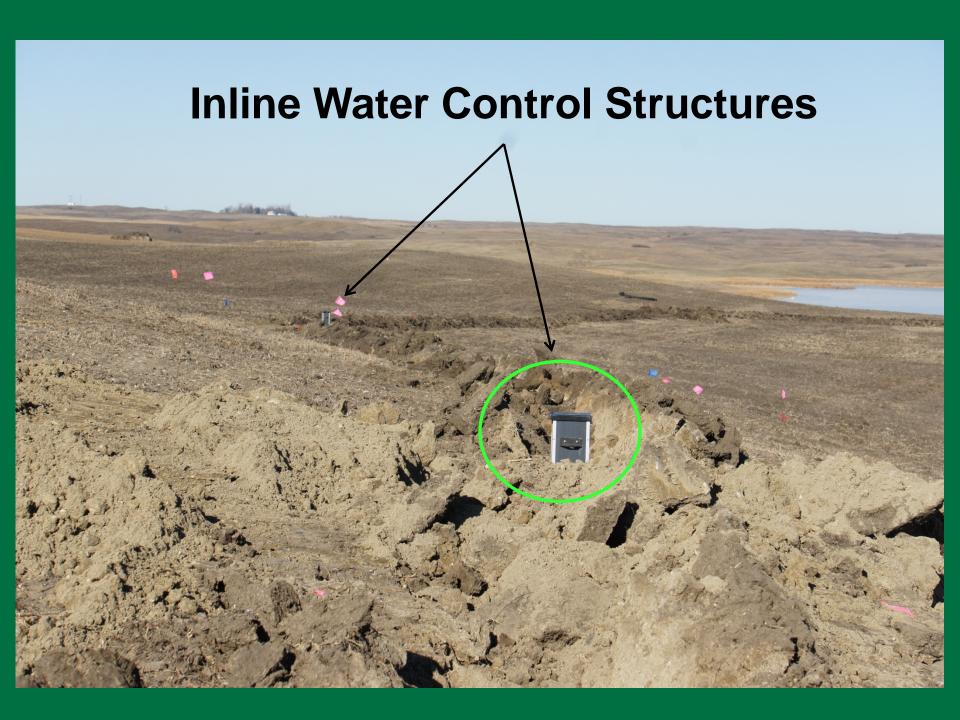












# **Installed Tile Pipe**





# Tile grade verification





# Tile grade verification



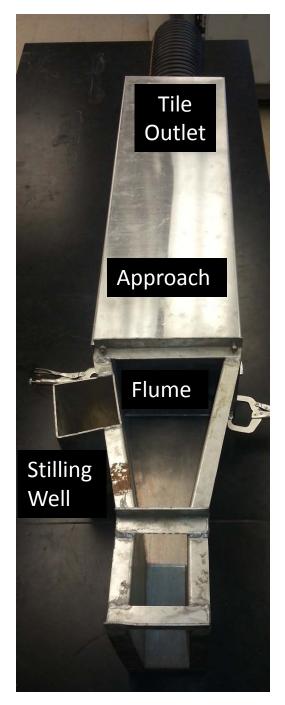




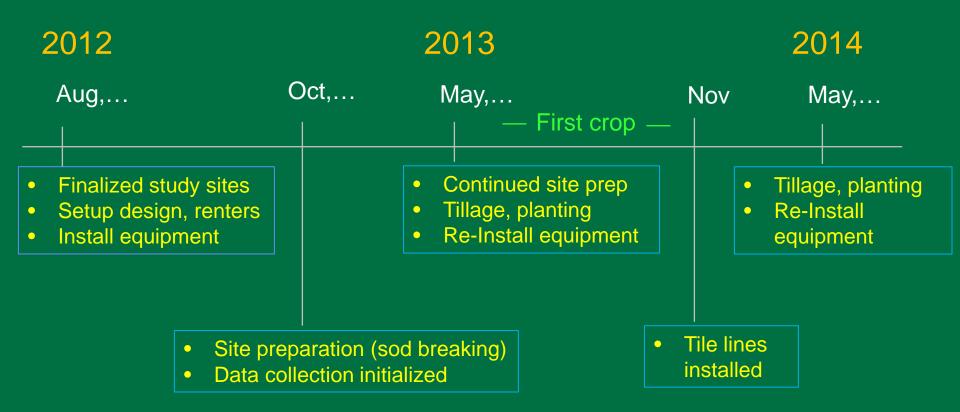








## Field Study: Event Time Line





# Spatial (GIS) component

#### **Regional characterization:**

- Tile information
  - Location/distribution
  - Tile size, depth,
- Site characteristics
  - Soils (SSURGO)
  - Wetlands (NWI)
  - Crop (NASS)

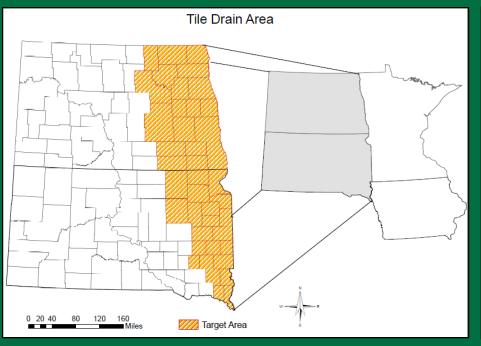
### **Projections/modeling:**

- Assessment of site characteristics
- "Determining" factors?
- Regional projection
- Model effects to ecosystem services
  - Waterfowl habitat
  - Water storage
  - C-sequestration

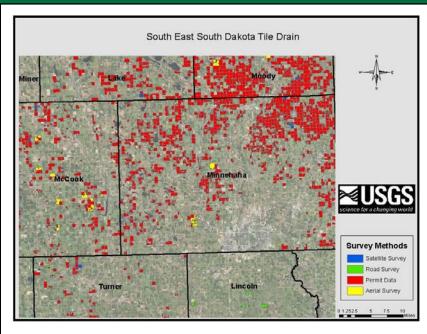


## Tile distribution

#### **Area of interest**

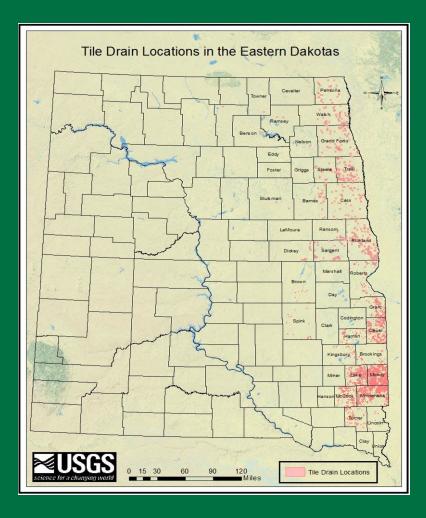


## **Survey Methods**





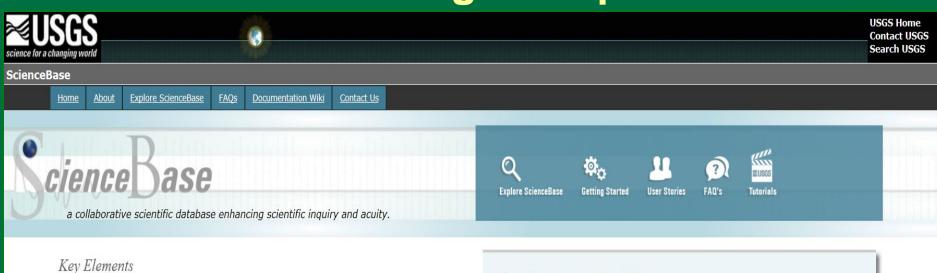
## Number of tile locations



- North Dakota
  - >700 (Aug 2012)
  - >900 (Nov, 2013)
- South Dakota
  - >4,300 (April, 2012)
  - >4,900 (Dec, 2013)
- Majority from permits
  - >80 ac affected area
- High proportion of tile undocumented
- Underestimated?



## ScienceBase Catalog – tile permit data



- Data cataloging and collaborative data management platform
- Central search and discovery application
- Web services facilitating other applications
- Research community catalogs

#### ScienceBase Documentation Wiki

ScienceBase is an Open Source project that provides current documentation about its structure, information model, services, directory, and repository. The wiki provides guidance for using services to interact with the Science API, including JSON examples. Links to examples showing use of ScienceBase services are also provided.

Visit the ScienceBase Documentation Wiki

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# ScienceBase Catalog – Project Page Agricultural Subsurface Drainage Tile & Wetlands Project



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#### ScienceBase Catalog

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Folders Communities - Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center - Agricultural Subsurface Drainage Tile & Wetlands Project

#### Purpose

This project contains related research product materials for the assessment of agricultural subsurface drainage tile systems on wetland hydrology in the Prairie Pothole Region. For additional information about this research contact Ray Finocchiaro at Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center. Jamestown. ND.

#### Provenance

Data source: Input directly

#### Catalog Item:

Created by: mschwartz@usgs.gov on Wed Feb 12 16:17:42 UTC 2014

Last Updated by: rfinocchiaro@usgs.gov on Wed Feb 26 19:34:48 UTC 2014

#### Tags

Categories: Project

View JSON ATOM ISO XML

This project contains related research product materials for the assessment of agricultural subsurface drainage tile systems on wetland hydrology in the Prairie Pothle Region. Materials included: downloadable files of drainage tile locations based on tile drainage permits collected from state, county, and local agencies in North and South Dakota. These files can be used to develop a spatial depliction of tile systems at the quarter-quarter level of a section of the TRS system. See associated metadata for information about the data included in the files.

#### Communities

Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center

#### Related Items

Parent Item: Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center
Child Items: (2):

- Agricultural Subsurface Drainage Tile Locations by
- Permits in North Dakota

  Agricultural Subsurface Drainage Tile Locations by
- Permits in South Dakota
  Other Associated Items:

Interactive Mapper - Open in Google Earth (KML) - Advanced Services



▼ Resources

Files stored in ScienceBase: (Download Attached Files)

## ScienceBase Catalog – Project Page Agricultural Subsurface Drainage Tile & Wetlands Project

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#### Related Items

Parent Item: Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center

#### Child Items: (2):

- Agricultural Subsurface Drainage Tile Locations by Permits in North Dakota
- Agricultural Subsurface Drainage Tile Locations by Permits in South Dakota

**Provenance** 

https://www.sciencebase.gov/catalog/item/52fb9ea6e4b00c6b 800b98ff

## Summary

## **Spatial component**

- GIS layers / spatial data
  - NWI,SSURGO,NASS
- >5,800 tile data points
- Tile Location Database
  - Public Access
- Report Development
  - Effects on wetland hydrology/hydroperiod
  - Regional characterization

## Field component

- Install tile flumes & loggers, and other monitoring devices
- Continue data collection
  - tile effluent sampling for
  - Nutrients metal, (ND DOH)
  - pesticides (USFWS)
- Process "before tile" data



# **Questions?**









