

Planning for the expansion of biomass production in the Midwest: Remaining wildlife neutral



JoAnn Hanowski

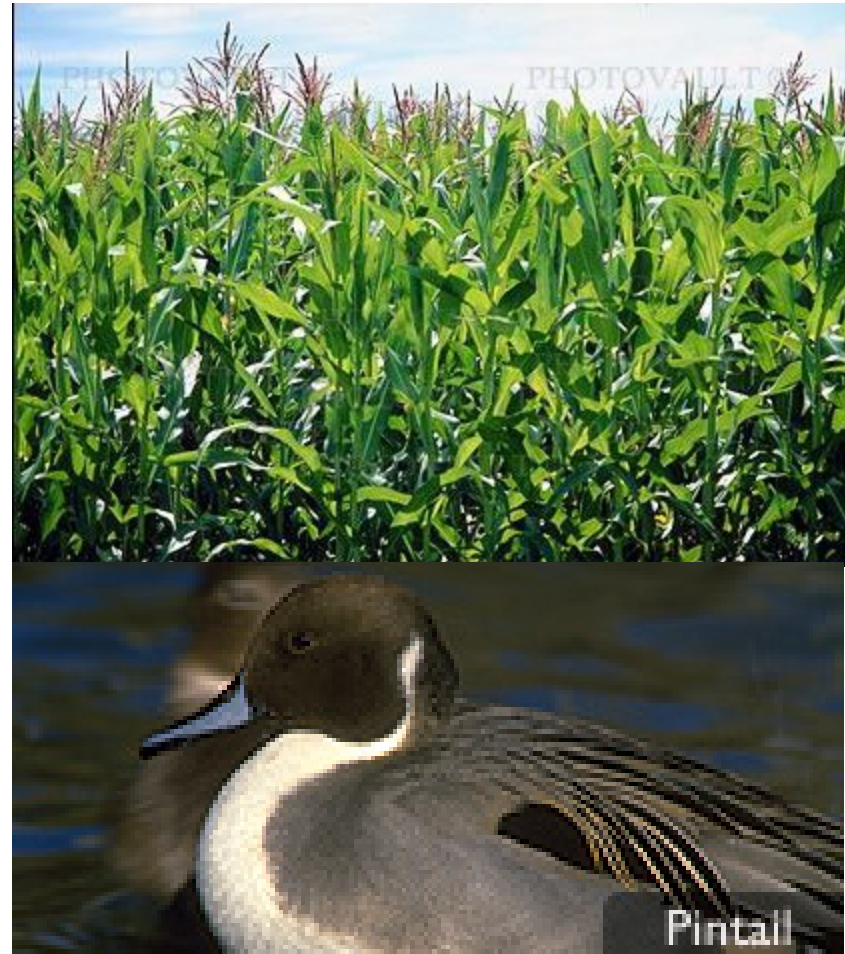
Natural Resources Research Institute
University of Minnesota-Duluth

Remaining Wildlife Neutral

- ❑ No net loss in Conservation Reserve Program acreage
- ❑ Establish landscape appropriate biomass crop
- ❑ Understand habitat change implications from upland brush and timber harvest residue removal
- ❑ Create positive habitat change for wildlife in under-utilized ecosystem types, lowland brush

No net loss in CRP acreage

- ❑ CRP protects almost 40 million acres of highly erodible farmland
- ❑ CRP has restored over 1.8 million acres of wetland
- ❑ CRP produces 2.1 million ducks/year
- ❑ CRP provides critical habitat for 100's of wildlife species



Establish landscape appropriate biomass crop

- ❑ Avoid planting hybrid poplar in open landscapes
- ❑ Switchgrass managed properly could have positive impacts on wildlife
- ❑ Switchgrass mix would provide better wildlife habitat than monoculture



Understand habitat change implications from upland brush and timber harvest residue removal

- ❑ Fire suppression has resulted in buildup of brush in forest ecosystems-create guidelines for habitat restoration
- ❑ A percentage of residue from timber harvest could be removed from site-create guidelines



Create positive habitat change for wildlife in under-utilized ecosystem types, lowland brush

- ❑ Brush management for open country species includes shearing and burning brush on site
- ❑ Opportunity to harvest biomass from these sites and have positive impact on wildlife



Remaining Wildlife Neutral

- ❑ No net loss in Conservation Reserve Program acreage
- ❑ Establish landscape appropriate biomass crop
- ❑ Understand habitat change implications from upland brush and timber harvest residue removal
- ❑ Create positive habitat change for wildlife in under-utilized ecosystem types, lowland brush