## Cedar Spread It's not too late. Intense clearing and prescribed burns have impact. At Tipping Point 350.000 acres 300,000 acres 250,000 Nebraska is losing its prairie to the rapid acres Estimated acres of eastern red cedar forest expansion of cedar trees 200,000 Cedar forest has 150,000 The Nebraska Conservation spread 600% **NEBRASKA** acres **CONSERVATION** Roundtable considers this one in the last of the top threats facing wildlife 100.000 ROUNDTABLE acres 30 years' and wildlife habitat. 50,000 0 acres

## How cedar spread is costing Nebraska:

1975

1965

\$15 million

1955

every year will be needed just to maintain current grassland levels by clearing 25,000 acres in the state.

1985



2005

1995





2015

Neighboring states have lost thousands of rangeland acres to cedar encroachment. Oklahoma is losing **100 square miles annually** to cedar expansion.



Livestock production decreases by 75% when grasslands are overrun by cedar trees.



Since 2006, Nebraska schools have spent \$2.4 million fighting cedar invasion.



Wildfire risk increases in areas of dense cedar cover, threatening homeowners.



Grassland bird populations decline rapidly when cedar cover reaches 10%.



Stream flow is reduced by 1/3 in areas of cedar encroachment compared to grasslands.

## How we can solve this:



**Expand** cedar removal, including mechanical means, cost-share, economic incentives, prescribed fire, and technical assistance programs.



**Educate** landowners and the general public about the risks of cedar spread, cedar management, and the programs available to help them remove cedar trees on their land.



**Establish** priority areas of immediate threat where the cedar spread is most severe but still reversible.



**Explore** development of opportunities to promote economic incentives and drivers for cedar removal, processing and management.