

## Video Transcript for Pawnee National Grassland Introduction:

Lori Bell, District Ranger for the Pawnee National Grassland speaking.

*[music playing during slide show of photos from the Pawnee National Grassland]*

*[Lori speaking]*

“Well, as far as the history of the grassland, most of this land was in private land ownership at one time (during the) Homestead Act. People were coming out and homesteading it. They were plowing the ground, and they were growing crops. Then when the drought years came in, all the ground had been churned up. Between the winds and drought, the top soil was all blowing away, and the land just couldn't produce. The Soil Conservation Service came in, and the government bought a lot of that land from those ranchers and started trying to restore the land back to rangeland. And so over a period of many years, they were finally able to restore the land. The land was turned over to the Forest Service to manage, and 1960 is the birthday of the Pawnee National Grassland becoming a grassland and managed by the Forest Service. One of our goals (the Forest Service) is to maintain the land, maintain that sod layer. We manage for multiple use so that includes oil and gas activities, cattle grazing, recreation...we try to accommodate all these different uses.

“The Pawnee National Grassland is 193,000 acres of public land, and its divided up into two different units: the west side has more consolidated land ownership patterns, and the east side is more highly fragmented. So if you come out to the Pawnee, you will want to come to the Forest Service Visitors Center and pick up a map just to make sure you are on public land and not trespassing on private land.

“I always consider that Ault is the crossroads to the Pawnee, and so the best way is to get to Ault. Ault is located at the crossroads of Highway 85 and (State Highway) 14. You turn east on Highway 14 and drive a couple of miles, and then you will see a sign 'Welcome to the Pawnee National Grassland', and it's pretty much on the north side of Highway 14 and the east side of Highway 85.”

*[music and photo slide show continues to end]*

**The Pawnee National Grassland Visitors Center is located at 660 O Street in Greeley.**

