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## UNL given grant to finance study of wetland areas

UNL has been awarded a \$12,400 congressional grant to study the wetland areas in the Sandhills, Central Platte Valley and Rainwater Basin in Nebraska.

The study is being conducted by the Great Plains Office of Policy Studies, a division of the Center for Great Plains Studies at UNL. Current trends in the use and condition of these wetland areas will be investigated, according to study coordinator Larry D. Swanson.

Swanson, administrator of the Great Plains Office, said the study also will evaluate the effectiveness of current policies to protect Nebraska's wetlands because "much of the state's wetland acreage has been gradually lost or degraded over the years with the situation becoming increasingly critical."

These wetland areas are nationally significant as critical staging and stop over points for North American migratory waterfowl, Swanson said. Nebraska's wetlands provide the right habitat and food necessary during the waterfowl's migration.

The findings of the Nebraska study and 10 other case studies being conducted throughout the United States will combine into a national analysis by the Office of Technology Assessment. That office will then provide an analysis for the Congress in order to aid congressmen in making future legislation concerning U.S. wetlands.

## New poet laureate name due Sept. 11

Nebraskans should know by Sept. 11 if they have a new poet laureate, according to state Sen. Dave Landis of Lincoln.

The search for a poet laureate to replace the late John G. Neihardt, who died in 1973, began when a resolution sponsored by Landis was passed in the 1982 state legislature.

The search has been supervised by the Nebraska Humanities Commission, which picked the selection committee, said commission chairman Nelson Potter.

The committee is completely independent of the humanities commission, Potter said.


There is a possibility that the committee will suggest that no one be selected as poet laureate. Potter said the committee spent a considerable amount of time discussing whether to have a new poet laureate at all. For this reason, the process, including naming of candidates, must be kept confidential, he said.

Neihardt, Nebraska's first and only poet laureate, died Nov. 3, 1973 in Columbia, Mo. He was famous for such Nebraska and Great Plains-related works as "Black Elk Speaks" and "Cycle of the West."

Potter said the criteria for poet laureate are very loose. The person doesn't have to be a native Nebraskan or even live in the state.

The candidate must simply have written something about the state or the region, he said.

If the candidate had to be a Nebraska native, Willa Cather would have been ineligible, Potter said, because she was born in Virginia.



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