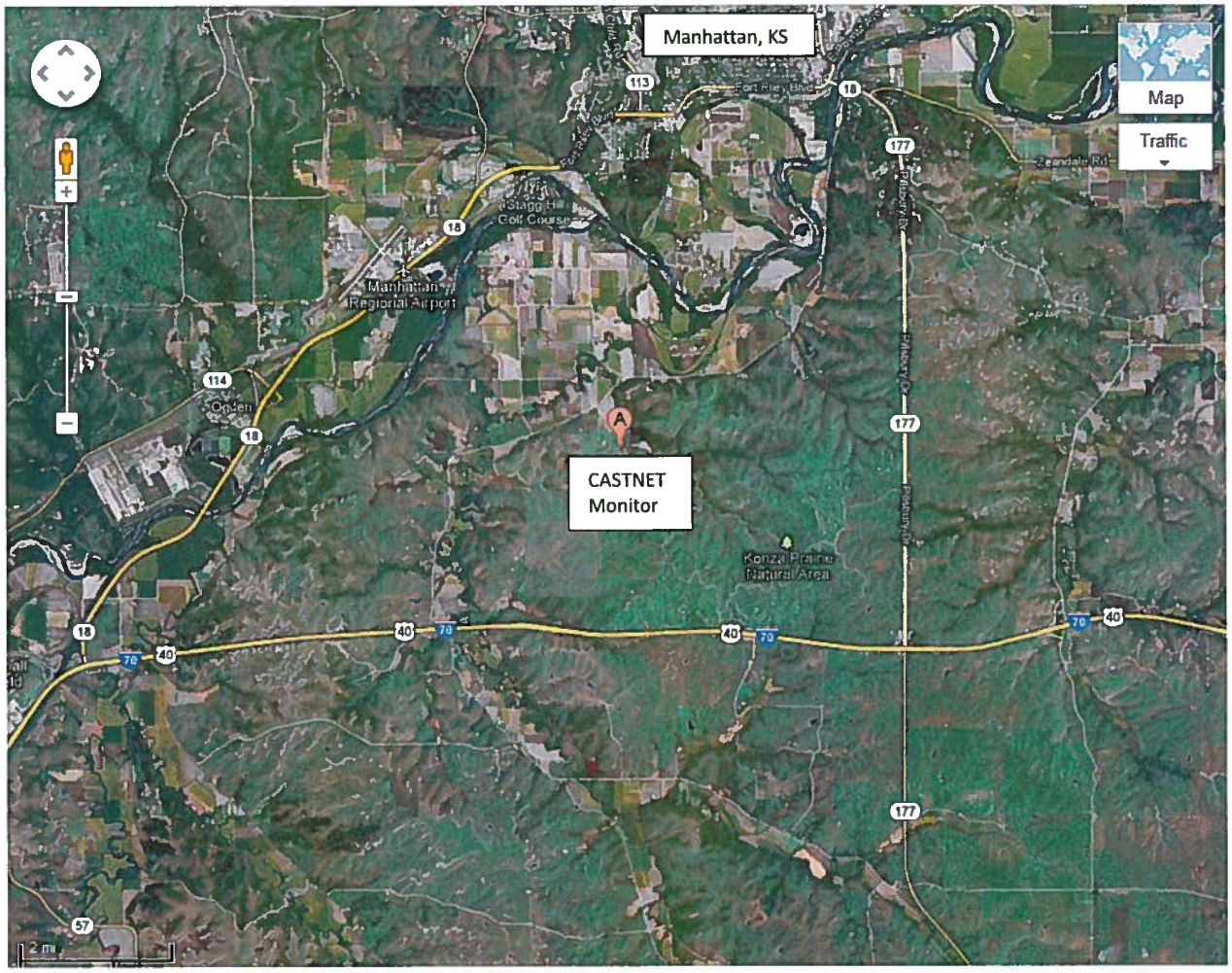
**Clean Air Status and Trends Network (CASTNET)**
**Concerns for Konza Prairie Regulatory Ozone Monitoring**
**Briefing Document**
March 21, 2013

**Konza CASTNET Location**




Konza Prairie Biological Station Research Program:
The Konza Prairie is divided into 50 watershed units, each subjected to a specific combination of prescribed burning regime (burned at 1, 2, 3, 4, 10, or 20 year intervals, during the Spring, Summer and Fall months). The long-term prescribed burning treatments were initiated in 1972 and the bison grazing treatments were initiated in 1987. The various combinations of bison, cattle, and ungrazed units allow large-scale replicated studies of the role of native grazers, comparison of effects of native and domestic ungulates, and effects of varying fire and grazing management regimes on tallgrass prairie ecosystems.

The 8,600-acre Konza Prairie Preserve, located in the Flint Hills region of northeastern Kansas, is owned by The Nature Conservancy and Kansas State University and operated as a field research station by Kansas State University Division of Biology.

**Background**

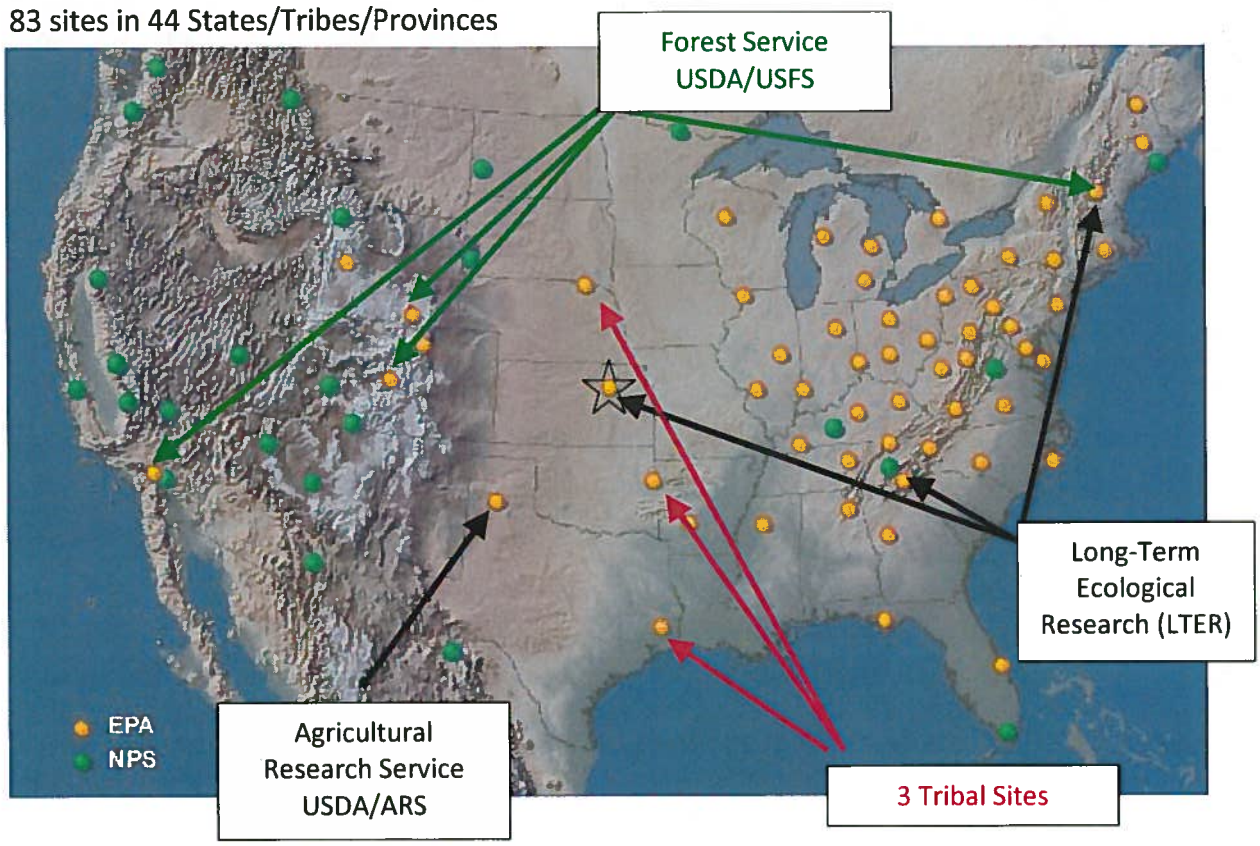
2011 EPA upgraded all ozone monitoring equipment at CASTNET sites to comply with the requirements in 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 58 compliant. Ozone measurements from CASTNET sites are now used to determine if an area meets, or exceeds, the NAAQS.

CASTNET monitors are owned by EPA. Ozone data and data management is operated by acontractor, AMEC Environment & Infrastructure. State Agencies are entitled to use of the data, and have the responsibility, according to the Exceptional Events Rule, to demonstrate if an exceptional event occurred and should be flagged.

Primary Purpose of the Network is to:

- Monitor the status and trends in regional air quality and atmospheric deposition
- Provide information about complex atmospheric chemistry in rural areas
- Provide information on the contribution of atmospheric pollution to ecosystem conditions
- Provide measurements for validating and improving atmospheric models

83 sites in 44 States/Tribes/Provinces




**State Concern for Compliance Use of Konza Prairie CASTNET Monitor**

According to 40 CFR Part 58, Appendix E, Section 3.a.