



IMAGE CREDIT TIM STRATER, USED UNDER CC BY-SA 2.0

widespread and occupy landscapes dominated by rangeland, non-irrigated winter wheat, and Conservation Reserve Program fields. They occur most commonly in open, level landscapes dominated by shortgrass prairie vegetation, and avoid areas of tall grasses, rough topography and very dense vegetation.

What @ \) ‡ # Doing?

The ‡) uses track surveys in 10 townships in the fox's Oklahoma range. Data collected is used in annual reports for the continued conservation efforts of the Swift Fox Conservation Team. The ‡) plans to continue monitoring far into the future.

What Can You Do?

Landowners in the panhandle can promote more suitable Swift Fox habitat by enabling the growth of shortgrass prairie grasses like buffalo grass and blue grama. Probably the most important thing you can do is to support the ‡) . Most funds come from the sale of hunting and fishing licenses – so even if you don't hunt or fish, buying one can help fund the conservation of the species you care about!

Have You Ever Seen a Swift Fox?

If you don't live in the Panhandle, you probably haven't! The Swift Fox, scientifically named *Vulpes velox* and often confused with the Kit Fox, is a smaller sized fox whose historical range extends into far western Oklahoma.

A Special Fox

The Swift Fox has been on the ODWC's list of Species of Special Concern since the early 1990's, and the ODWC joined the multi-agency and multi-state Swift Fox Conservation Team in 1994 when the species became a candidate for the endangered species list. Prior to the formation of the team, the Swift Fox was heavily impacted by trapping and the fur trade.

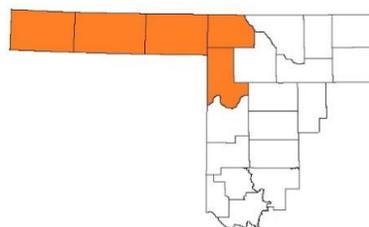
Luckily, the fox was spared from being listed as endangered after investigations in 2001 determined that although the range of the fox has been reduced, overall numbers are stable in about 40% of the current range.

The Swift Fox is classified in Oklahoma as a furbearer species, but has a closed season because of its scarcity. This means it is illegal to trap, or otherwise

knowingly harm this species. The Swift Fox is a monogamous species with an annual breeding season. Breeding usually takes place in the winter months, and the kits remain underground for about one month until weaned from the mother the next fall. The Swift Fox is nocturnal and lives a secretive lifestyle - residing in dens and avoiding interaction with humans and other species.

Where Are They?

The Swift Fox has been surveyed by the ODWC in low numbers in Cimarron, Texas, Beaver, Harper, and Ellis counties. They also occur in Texas, New Mexico, Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska, South Dakota, Wyoming, and Montana. Though they occur at low numbers in their range, they are



A project by S. Everett, K. Horn, and B. Simons \ o y