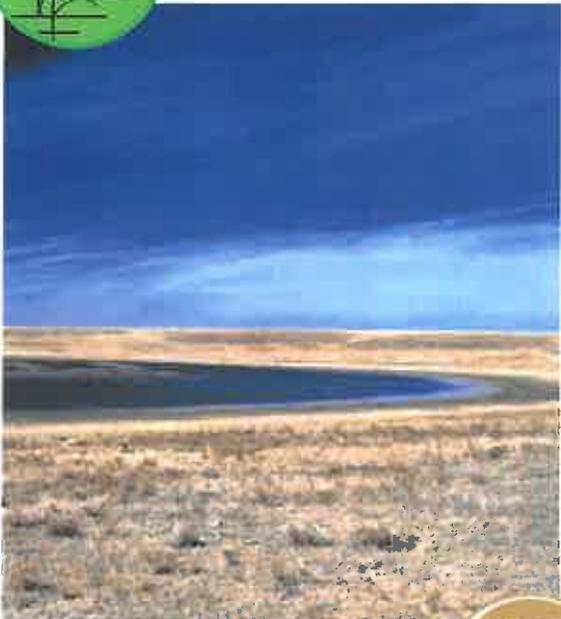




## Playa Lakes



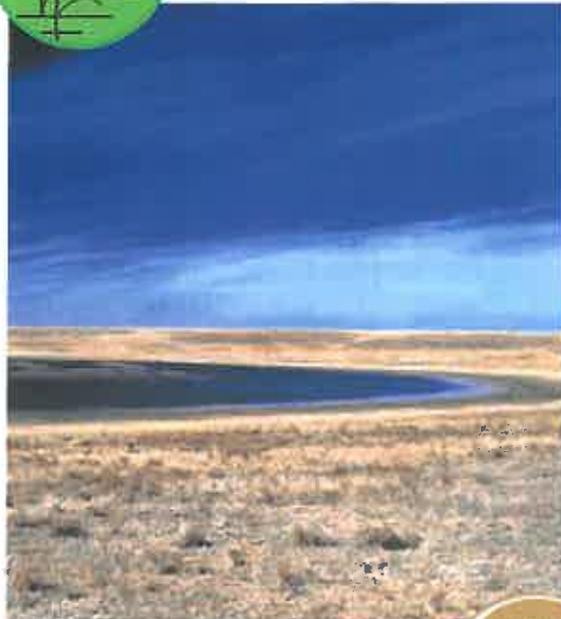
*Photo Source: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service*



01-0024-11



## Playa Lakes



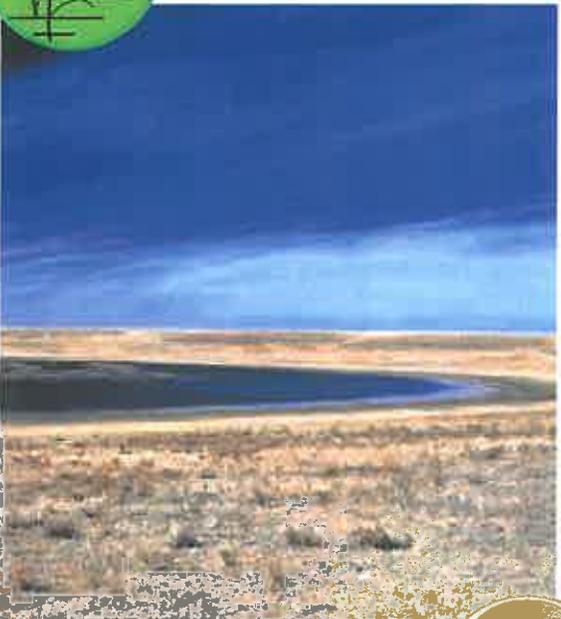
*Photo Source: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service*



01-0024-11



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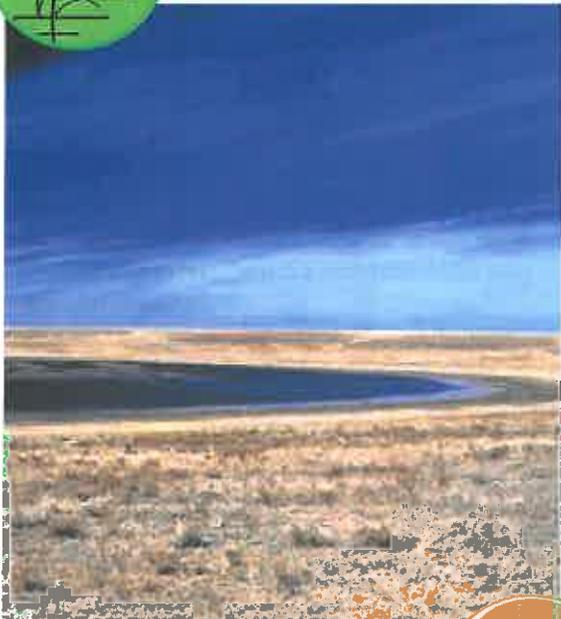
*Photo Source: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service*



01-0024-11



## Playa Lakes



*Photo Source: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service*



01-0024-11

## Playa Lakes

Playa lakes are round hollows in the ground in the Southern High Plains of the United States, including Colorado. They are filled only at certain times of the year. Most playas fill with water only after spring rainstorms when water collects in the round depressions of the otherwise flat landscape.

Playas are important because they store water in a part of the country that receives as little as twenty inches of rain a year and where there are no permanent rivers or streams. Consequently, playas support an astounding array of wildlife.

Playas provide essential resting, breeding, and nesting areas for migrating waterfowl and shorebirds. The natural wet and dry cycles of playas support a diverse community of plants and invertebrate animals that, in turn, provide the necessary cover and food to support a variety of birds and other wildlife.



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