

ML18 Project Abstract

For the Period Ending June 30, 2023

PROJECT TITLE: Easement Program for Native Prairie Bank

PROJECT MANAGER: Judy Schulte

AFFILIATION: MN-DNR, SNA Program

MAILING ADDRESS: 500 Lafayette Road

CITY/STATE/ZIP: St. Paul, MN 55155

PHONE: (651) 391-3168

E-MAIL: judy.schulte@state.mn.us

WEBSITE: www.dnr.state.mn.us

FUNDING SOURCE: Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

LEGAL CITATION: M.L. 2018, Chp. 214, Art. 4, Sec. 02, Subd. 09i as extended by M.L. 2021, First Special Session, Chp. 6, Art. 6, Sec. 2, Subd. 18

APPROPRIATION AMOUNT: \$2,000,000

AMOUNT SPENT: \$1,495,402

AMOUNT REMAINING: \$504,598

Sound bite of Project Outcomes and Results

Permanently protected 249 acres of high-quality historically undisturbed native prairie, which house state threatened and special concerns species, Species in Greatest Conservation Need and a wide variety of pollinators. Prairie enhancement (903 acres), outreach, monitoring and research activities were implemented across the state to improve prairie habitat.

Overall Project Outcome and Results

In total, 249 acres of high-quality native prairie, containing threatened and special concerns species, Species in Greatest Conservation Need and many pollinators, were permanently protected through 7 Native Prairie Bank easements. Protection efforts preserve some of the best remaining native prairie in the state for all citizens benefit. Native prairies function at a significantly higher level and provide habitat to more species of insects, birds, reptiles, and mammals than restored prairie. Additionally, 14 Baseline Property Reports and 49 monitoring events were completed and funds for the 7 closed Native Prairie Banks were enrolled into the Easement Stewardship Account.

A total of 25 acres of prairie reconstruction/rehabilitation, 688 acres of invasive/woody control and 190 acres of prescribed disturbance were completed to improve prairie quality throughout the state. Adaptive Management Monitoring was completed on 15 Native Prairie Banks. Knowledge gained through this monitoring will help landowners, managers and partners improve management of prairies and wetlands.

DNR Prairie Specialists participated in 6 outreach events and engaged over 130 priority prairie landowners on prairie protection, restoration, and enhancement. Prairie Stewardship Plans were completed for 10 landowners providing site management recommendations. The Prairie Landowner Network launched in July 2020 through creation of a Facebook page. As of August 17, 2022 (~762 days after launch) there were 827 members on the Facebook page, with posting every 1-2 days. In June 2021, the [first Prairie Landowner Network Zine](#) was mailed to ~6,000 prairie landowners. A [second zine](#) was mailed in May 2022.

Throughout this appropriation many challenges were encountered. A decrease in payment rates caused higher decline, more time needed by landowners to decide on enrollment and the need for increased staffing to accomplish goals. A pandemic froze/limited the ability to do many tasks, but staff got creative and looked for alternative approaches to get work done.

Project Results Use and Dissemination

Ten prairie stewardship plans have been completed with landowners provided a copy. These plans will guide the landowner's enhancement activities for well over a decade. The [2021](#) and [2022](#) edition of the Minnesota Prairie Landowner Network Zine were mailed to over 6,000 prairie landowners (each time) across the state. DNR Prairie Specialists participated in 6 outreach events educating hundreds of youth, citizens and landowners on the importance of prairie protection and management. All outreach materials produced through this appropriation followed ENRTF acknowledgement guidelines.



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF)

M.L. 2018 ENRTF Work Plan-Final Report (Main Document)

Today's Date: August 8, 2023

Final Report

Date of Work Plan Approval: 06/05/2018

Project Completion Date: June 30, 2023

PROJECT TITLE: Easement Program for Native Prairie Bank

Project Manager: Judy Schulte

Organization: MN-DNR, SNA Program

College/Department/Division: Division of Ecological & Water Resources

Mailing Address: 500 Lafayette Road

City/State/Zip Code: St. Paul, MN 55155

Telephone Number: (651) 391-3168

Email Address: judy.schulte@state.mn.us

Web Address: www.dnr.state.mn.us

Location: Statewide

Total Project Budget: \$2,000,000

Amount Spent: \$1,495,402

Balance: \$504,598

Legal Citation: M.L. 2018, Chp. 214, Art. 4, Sec. 02, Subd. 09i as extended by M.L. 2021, First Special Session, Chp. 6, Art. 6, Sec. 2, Subd. 18

Appropriation Language: \$2,000,000 the second year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources to provide technical stewardship assistance to private landowners, restore and enhance about 270 acres of native prairie protected by easements in the native prairie bank, and acquire easements for the native prairie bank in accordance with Minnesota Statutes, section 84.96, on about 275 acres, including preparing initial baseline property assessments. Up to \$120,000 of this appropriation may be deposited in the natural resources conservation easement stewardship account, created in Minnesota Statutes, section 84.69, proportional to the number of easement acres acquired. A list of proposed easement acquisitions and restoration sites for the native prairie bank are required in the work plan. This appropriation is available until June 30, 2021, by which time the project must be completed and final products delivered.

M.L. 2021, First Special Session, Chp. 6, Art. 6, Sec. 2, Subd. 18. ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND; EXTENSIONS. [to June 30, 2022]

I. PROJECT STATEMENT:

Native Prairie Bank (NPB) has a proven track record of working with landowners to enhance and protect native prairie while leaving the land in private ownership. Through this proposal, prairie technical assistance will be provided to landowners and practitioners including a new "Prairie Landowner Network" created to increase cooperation among prairie landowners. Native Prairie Tax Exemption online tools will be created to provide private landowners the ability to apply online in addition to providing online access to county assessors and DNR staff to improve the certification process. Native prairie restoration and enhancement activities will be implemented on about 270 acres of NPBs. Permanent protection of about 275 acres will take place through the acquisition of NPB conservation easements with priority given to high quality prairie identified by the Minnesota Biological Survey (MBS). Native prairie is a fragile, unique natural resource that consists of thousands of different organisms, plants, animals, bacteria and soil fungi. Their complex interactions provide the food, water and shelter required by many of Minnesota's rare, threatened and endangered species. Threats to native prairie are widespread including cropland conversion, mining, development, invasive species, woody encroachment and non-prairie focused land use/management. Based on the most recent statistics compiled for the 5-year update of the MN Prairie Conservation Plan, MBS has now identified about 249,000 acres of remaining native prairie in Minnesota including approximately 115,000 acres that is unprotected from destruction.

II. OVERALL PROJECT STATUS UPDATES:

February 21, 2019 Amendment Request: Request to add 2 prairie reconstruction projects on existing Native Prairie Bank easements to the parcel list. Please see parcel list for more details. Amendment Approved by LCCMR 3/13/2019.

First Update February 21, 2019: A full-time CCM Individual Placement started January 22, 2019 with 50% of their time going towards the Prairie Landowner Network and prairie outreach. #PrairieTuesday on the SNA Facebook page was initiated at the beginning of 2019 to deliver prairie facts and management information to prairie landowners and managers. A Prairie Plan partner meeting will be held in the next few weeks to plan and coordinate network outreach efforts. Invasive Species activities have been completed on 108 acres at 2 NPBs. Ten prairie stewardship plans will be released through the state bid process during the spring of 2019. SNA Prairie Specialists have engaged multiple priority prairie landowners to discuss protection options for their property.

Second Update July 24, 2019: A full-time CCM Individual Placement started January 22, 2019 with 50% of his time going towards the Prairie Landowner Network and prairie outreach. #PrairieTuesday on the SNA Facebook page was initiated at the beginning of 2019 to deliver prairie facts and management information to prairie landowners and managers. Coordination with Prairie Plan partners on the creation of the prairie landowner network has begun with a goal of rolling out the network by mid-2020. Invasive Species activities have been completed on 108 acres at 2 NPBs. Ten prairie stewardship plans have been awarded to contractors to be completed by May 15, 2021. SNA Prairie Specialists have engaged multiple priority prairie landowners to discuss protection options for their property.

Third Update February 12, 2020: A full-time CCM Individual Placement started January 22, 2019 with 50% of his time going towards the Prairie Landowner Network and prairie outreach. #PrairieTuesday on the SNA Facebook page was initiated at the beginning of 2019 to deliver prairie facts and management information to prairie landowners and managers. Coordination with Prairie Plan partners on the creation of the prairie landowner network has taken place across the state with a goal of rolling out the network by mid-2020. Invasive Species activities have been completed on 108 acres at 2 NPBs. Ten prairie stewardship plans have been awarded to contractors to be completed by May 15, 2021. SNA Prairie Specialists have engaged multiple priority prairie landowners to discuss protection options for their property.

Amendment Request September 1, 2020: Request to add two parcels for a total of 5.4 acres to the parcel list. Though these Houston County parcels are small they are a unique remnant prairie plant community that house Prairie Bush Clover, a federally threatened species, along with two state special concerns species, Creeping Juniper and Small White Lady Slipper. **Amendment Approved by LCCMR 9/9/2020.**

Amendment Request September 1, 2020: Request a one-year legislative extension to move the project completion date for all activities to 6/30/2022. State guidance and Executive Orders related to COVID-19 health and safety continue to make execution of this appropriation difficult. Staff are diligently working to implement as much as they can and create alternatives when possible, but limitations on human interactions among staff, landowners and the public continue to slow and limit progress. The inability to host or present at live workshops/field days and to conduct prescribed burns during this time in particular have been primary hurdles, though every activity has been impacted in some way. This request includes the extension of all activity timelines to 6/30/2022 along with adding the additional status updates needed to go along with the request. These changes have not been completed below to avoid confusion with other requests that may happen between now and legislative session. **Amendment pending further LCCMR and legislative action as of 9/9/20.**

Four Update September 1, 2020: A full-time CCM Individual Placement started January 22, 2019 with 50% of their time going towards the Prairie Landowner Network and prairie outreach. #PrairieTuesday on the SNA Facebook page was initiated at the beginning of 2019 to deliver prairie facts and management information to prairie landowners and managers. Coordination with Prairie Plan partners on the creation of the prairie landowner network has taken place throughout the state and a Facebook group (Minnesota Prairie Landowner Network) launched in July of 2020. As of August 20, 2020 (49 days after official launch) there are 253 members with active posting taking place about every 1-3 days. Seven Baseline Reports are nearing draft stage and 10 NPB easements have been monitored with more visits taking place this summer and fall. Invasive Species activities have been completed on 182 acres at 5 NPBs. Ten prairie stewardship plans have been awarded to contractors to be completed by May 15, 2021. Adaptive management and ecological monitoring activities are currently taking place throughout the summer and will be reported once field work has commenced for the season and data compiled. Two parcels for a total of 5.4 acres have been added to the parcel list. Though these Houston County parcels are small they are a unique remnant prairie plant community that house Prairie Bush Clover, a federally threatened species, along with two state special concerns species, Creeping Juniper and Small White Lady Slipper. Additional parcels are currently being negotiated and a request will be made to add them to the parcel list once DNR Fact Sheet stage is reached.

Fifth Update February 22, 2021: A full-time CCM Individual Placement started January 22, 2019 with 50% of their time going towards the Prairie Landowner Network and prairie outreach. #PrairieTuesday on the SNA Facebook page was initiated at the beginning of 2019 to deliver prairie facts and management information to prairie landowners and managers. Coordination with Prairie Plan partners on the creation of the prairie landowner network has taken place throughout the state and a Facebook group (Minnesota Prairie Landowner Network) launched in July of 2020. As of February 22, 2021 (235 days after official launch) there are 452 members with active posting taking place about every 1-3 days. Seven Baseline Reports are at draft stage and 14 NPB easements have been monitored with more visits taking place this summer and fall. Invasive Species activities have been completed on 241 acres at 8 NPBs. Ten prairie stewardship plans are at draft stage and are on-track to be completed by May 15, 2021. Ecological monitoring was continued on 2 NPBs in 2020 to track and monitor the response of brome to different management control measures. This work is a continuation of the work initiated through the ML17 appropriation. Two parcels for a total of 5.4 acres have been added to the parcel list. Though these Houston County parcels are small they are a unique remnant prairie plant community that houses Prairie Bush Clover, a federally threatened species, along with two state special concerns species, Creeping Juniper and Small White Lady Slipper. Five additional parcels (1 in Kittson County, 2 in Grant County and 1 in Stevens County) are nearing DNR Fact Sheet stage and will be added to the parcel list once soon.

Amendment A Request May 20, 2021: Request to move \$1,200 from supplies, \$1,000 from Travel, \$1,800 from the prairie tax exemption web app and \$1,000 from CCM Individual Placement Computer Rental to Printing. These dollars will be used for printing items (newsletter, postcards, etc.) associated to Prairie Landowner Network (Activity 1) communications to landowners across the state. Request to add missing legal citation to the Parcel List. Also request to add 6 additional acquisition parcels to the parcel list. This includes two parcels in Pipestone County (115 acres), two parcels in Grant County (43 acres), one parcel in Swift County (85 acres) and one parcel in Big Stone County (84 acres). Not all of these parcel have binding agreements in place currently but we are doing our best to get as many of them to that stage prior to 6/30/21 as possible.

Request to remove the Prairie Tax Exemption Web application from Activity 1. Further details on the cost estimate for the web-app led to the conclusion that it would not be cost effect at this time to develop a web application. We hope that by waiting a few years, technology will have advanced enough to lower the cost of its creation and make it more feasible. Request to move final \$13,200 (\$15,000-\$1,800 noted above) tied to the web app to acquisition professional services in case it is needed for the closing out of acquisitions over the next year. **Amendment A approved by LCCMR 7/2/21**

Amendment B Request May 20, 2021: Request to extend appropriation end date from 6/30/2021 to 6/20/2022 in order to close on any easement acquisition that has a binding agreement (option) by 6/30/2021. The previously requested legislative extension (9/1/2020) that is pending legislative approval is preferred but this request is being submitted in case that approval does not take place by 6/30/2021. Proof of executed binding agreements are attached to this request.

Amendment B waived by LCCMR due to legislature passage of COVID extension 7/2/21

Amendment Request August 18, 2021: Request to move \$50,000 from personnel to contracts, \$30,000 from travel to contracts, \$5,000 from travel to supplies and \$5,000 from travel to printing. Due to the pandemic and year-long state hiring freeze (along with backlog of hiring needs post freeze) less work was able to be completed by DNR staff so dollars are being shifted to contracts in the hopes this work can be executed this year. Dollars moved to printing and supplies will be used for outreach materials associated to the Minnesota Prairie Landowner Network. **Amendment approved by LCCMR 8/19/21.**

Sixth Update August 18, 2021: Updated outcome table timelines to reflect new end date as requested in September 1, 2020 amendment request and later approved by legislation (LCCMR staff approved updating timelines in work plan via email 7/12/21). As of August 17, 2021 (~400 days after official launch) there are 612 members on the Minnesota Prairie Landowner Network Facebook group, with active posting taking place about every 1-2 days. In June 2021, the first Minnesota Prairie Landowner Network Zine was mailed to over 6,000 prairie landowners across the state. Six Baseline Reports have been completed and 26 NPB easements have been monitored with more visits taking place this summer and fall. Invasive Species activities have been completed on 459 acres at 17 NPBs. Ten prairie stewardship plans have been completed and given to landowners. Ecological monitoring was continued on 2 NPBs in 2020 to track and monitor the response of brome to different management control measures. This work is a continuation of the work initiated through the ML17 appropriation. Additional monitoring efforts are taking place this summer/fall and will be reported in the future. Seven parcels for a total of 248 acres have been added to the parcel list and are actively moving forward. One additional parcel is being negotiated and will be added to the parcel list soon.

Amendment Request February 15, 2022: Request to add 2 additional acquisition parcels to the parcel list. This includes one parcel in Clay County (40 acres) and one parcel in Big Stone County (68 acres). Please see the parcel list for more details.

Amendment approved by LCCMR 2/21/22

Request to extend appropriation 1 year to close on several acquisitions and the associated costs that will option (binding agreement) prior to June 30, 2022. DNR uses internal tracking to ensure only acquisition-related

expenses will be billed to this appropriation during the “acquisition-only” extension. Attached to the email requesting this extension is the Lien 13-1 option which is one of the parcels anticipated to close after June 30, 2022. Please see the parcel list and March 1, 2022 status update for more details on acquisition status.

Amendment approved by LCCMR 2/21/22:

Also request to add a Northern Dry Barrens Oak Savanna Rehabilitation to the parcel list (see parcel list for more details).

Amendment approved by LCCMR 2/21/22

Seventh Update March 1, 2022: SNA Prairie Specialists participated in 5 outreach events and engaged 120 different priority prairie landowners and practitioners providing prairie protection, restoration and enhancement and plant identification education. As of February 14, 2022 (~578 days after official launch) there are 697 members on the Minnesota Prairie Landowner Network Facebook page, with active posting taking place about every 1-2 days. In June 2021, the first Minnesota Prairie Landowner Network Zine was mailed to over 6,000 prairie landowners across the state. Eight Baseline Reports have been completed and 42 NPB easements have been monitored. Herbaceous invasive and woody control activities have been completed on 639 acres at 30 NPBs. Ten prairie stewardship plans have been completed and given to landowners. Site development work has been completed on 6 NPBs. Three acres of dry hill prairie has been restored. Execution of prescribed burns has been extremely limited due to pandemic restrictions and the drought so alternative prescribed disturbances have been conducted. Prescribed grazing has been completed on 104 acres. Several prescribed burns are still planned for the spring of 2022 along with other prescribed disturbances. Ecological monitoring was continued on 15 Native Prairie Banks. This monitoring aims to help manager’s best select and time the disturbance regimes needed to improve the management of prairies given the on-going environmental changes. One acquisition parcel (84.8 acres in Swift County) has closed, and 6 others are progressing forward for an anticipated total of 284 acres protected through this appropriation. The pandemic has slowed acquisition work so one additional year is being requested to close on projects that have optioned (binding agreement) by 6/30/22.

Amendment Request June 16, 2022: Unfortunately, the landowners of West Browns Valley 15-1 opted not to sign the option late last week. Therefore, this request is to add an additional acquisition parcel of 40 acres (Ann 9-1) to the parcel list to replace West Browns Valley. This parcel contains southern dry hill, mesic, and wet prairie and is bisected by Pell Creek in Cottonwood County. This parcel has already optioned. This is not ideal and will leave us approximately 22 acres short of the 275 acres we had hoped to protect with this appropriation.

Amendment approved by LCCMR 6/22/22

Eighth Update August 17, 2022: SNA Prairie Specialists participated in 6 outreach events and engaged 130 different priority prairie landowners and practitioners providing prairie protection, restoration and enhancement and plant identification education. As of August 17, 2022 (~762 days after official launch) there are 827 members on the MPLN Facebook page, with active posting taking place about every 1-2 days. In June 2021, the first Minnesota Prairie Landowner Network Zine was mailed to over 6,000 prairie landowners across the state. This first zine introduced the network and encouraged landowners to join/participate. A second zine was mailed in May of 2022 and featured stories from landowners who are members of the Network. Nine Baseline Reports have been completed and 49 NPB easements have been monitored. A 3.1 acre reconstruction has been completed at Stony Run 3-1 NPB and a 21.8 acre rehabilitation (inter-seeding) took place at Garfield 30-1 NPB. Herbaceous invasive and woody control activities have been completed on 688 acres at 31 NPBs. Ten prairie stewardship plans have been completed and given to landowners. Site development work has been completed on 10 NPBs. Execution of 86 acres of prescribed fire and another 104 acres of prescribed grazing took place for a total of 190 acres of prescribed disturbance. Ecological monitoring took place on 15 Native Prairie Banks to help manager’s best select and time the disturbance regimes needed to improve the management of prairies given the on-going environmental changes. Two acquisition parcels (82.9 acres in Swift

County and 68.5 acres in Pipestone County) have closed and 5 parcels have optioned (~5.4 acres in Houston County, 15.8 acres in Grant County, ~40 acres in Clay County and ~35.5 acres in Cottonwood County). This puts the appropriation on-track to close on approximately 247.8 acres by 6/30/2023. Dollars have been enrolled into the conservation easement stewardship account for the one parcel (Fairfield 21-1 NPB) that closed in Fiscal Year 2022. Parcels that close in fiscal year 2023 will have dollars enrolled in June of 2023 prior to appropriation close out.

Amendment Request February 21, 2023: Request to move \$31,392 from Professional/Technical Contracts to Professional Services for Acquisition. We originally only planned on acquiring 6 easements and ended up acquiring 7 easements creating a need for additional acquisition professional services. Also request to update the Program Manager address and phone number as I took the position of SNA Unit Supervisor this past December and am currently working to refill the Prairie Biologist position which will ultimately take over leadership of these Native Prairie Stewardship appropriations.

Amendment approved by LCCMR 2/28/2023

Nineth Update March 1, 2023: SNA Prairie Specialists participated in 6 outreach events and engaged 130 different priority prairie landowners and practitioners providing prairie protection, restoration and enhancement and plant identification education. As of August 17, 2022 (~762 days after official launch) there are 827 members on the MPLN Facebook page, with active posting taking place about every 1-2 days. In June 2021, the first Minnesota Prairie Landowner Network Zine was mailed to over 6,000 prairie landowners across the state. This first zine introduced the network and encouraged landowners to join/participate. A second zine was mailed in May of 2022 and featured stories from landowners who are members of the Network. Eleven Baseline Reports have been completed and 49 NPB easements have been monitored. A 3.1 acre reconstruction has been completed at Stony Run 3-1 NPB and a 21.8 acre rehabilitation (inter-seeding) took place at Garfield 30-1 NPB. Herbaceous invasive and woody control activities have been completed on 688 acres at 31 NPBs. Ten prairie stewardship plans have been completed and given to landowners. Site development work has been completed on 10 NPBs. Execution of 86 acres of prescribed fire and another 104 acres of prescribed grazing took place for a total of 190 acres of prescribed disturbance. Ecological monitoring took place on 15 Native Prairie Banks to help manager's best select and time the disturbance regimes needed to improve the management of prairies given the on-going environmental changes. Four acquisition parcels (82.9 acres in Swift County, 68.5 acres in Pipestone County and 5.1 acres (2 parcels) in Houston County) have closed, 1 option has an executed election to purchase (15.8 acres in Grant County) and 2 parcels have optioned (~40 acres in Clay County and 36.7 acres in Cottonwood County). This puts the appropriation on-track to close on approximately 249 acres by 6/30/2023. Dollars have been enrolled into the conservation easement stewardship account for the one parcel (Fairfield 21-1 NPB) that closed in Fiscal Year 2022. Parcels that close in fiscal year 2023 will have dollars enrolled in June of 2023 prior to appropriation close out.

Amendment Request July 10, 2023: Request to move \$15,000 from Easement Acquisition to Professional Services for Acquisition. Moving money between account lines to pay the final invoices from FY23.

Amendment Approved by LCCMR 7/10/2023.

Final Update August 15, 2023: In total, 249 acres of high-quality native prairie, containing threatened and special concerns species, Species in Greatest Conservation Need and many pollinators, were permanently protected through 7 Native Prairie Bank easements. Protection efforts preserve some of the best remaining native prairie in the state for all citizens benefit. Native prairies function at a significantly higher level and provide habitat to more species of insects, birds, reptiles, and mammals than restored prairie. Additionally, 14 Baseline Property Reports and 49 monitoring events were completed and funds for the 7 closed Native Prairie Banks were enrolled into the Easement Stewardship Account.

A total of 25 acres of prairie reconstruction/rehabilitation, 688 acres of invasive/woody control and 190 acres of prescribed disturbance were completed to improve prairie quality throughout the state. Adaptive Management Monitoring was completed on 15 Native Prairie Banks. Knowledge gained through this monitoring will help landowners, managers and partners improve management of prairies and wetlands.

DNR Prairie Specialists participated in 6 outreach events and engaged over 130 priority prairie landowners on prairie protection, restoration, and enhancement. Prairie Stewardship Plans were completed for 10 landowners providing site management recommendations. The Prairie Landowner Network launched in July 2020 through creation of a Facebook page. As of August 17, 2022 (~762 days after launch) there were 827 members on the Facebook page, with posting every 1-2 days. In June 2021, the [first Prairie Landowner Network Zine](#) was mailed to ~6,000 prairie landowners. A [second zine](#) was mailed in May 2022.

Throughout this appropriation many challenges were encountered. A decrease in payment rates caused higher decline, more time needed by landowners to decide on enrollment and the need for increased staffing to accomplish goals. A pandemic froze/limited the ability to do many tasks, but staff got creative and looked for alternative approaches to get work done.

III. PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES:

ACTIVITY 1: Prairie Landowner Assistance, Outreach and Existing NPB Stewardship

Description: Private landowners and other practitioners will increase their stewardship of native prairie as a result of this project’s workshops, field days, one-on-one consultations, and other strategies. A Prairie Landowner Network will be established in cooperation with Conservation Corps of Minnesota (CCM) as a new innovative way to connect prairie landowners through social media, email, newsletters, training opportunities, etc. This network is aimed at improving prairie quality on private lands by keeping landowners up-to-date on the best science-based management strategies. At least 10 landowners will receive a comprehensive prairie stewardship plan that will provide specific prairie condition, protection and management expertise for their property. The second stage of the Native Prairie Tax Exemption web application will be completed to allow private landowners to apply online in addition to providing online access to county assessors and DNR staff to improve the certification process. About 5 baseline property reports and 34 monitoring visits will be completed on existing NPBs to evaluate current conditions and insure easement compliance.

ENRTF BUDGET: \$406,772

Outcome	Completion Date
1. ~4 workshops/field days for prairie landowners & practitioners (~250 people)	6/30/2022
2. consultations, guidance, mgmt. asst., etc. to ~40 landowners	6/30/2022
3. ~17 enrollees in Prairie Landowner Network	6/30/2022
4. ~10 prairie stewardship plans provided to prairie landowners (~750 acres)	6/30/2022
5. ~5 baseline property reports for NPB easements	6/30/2022
6. monitoring and stewardship of ~ 34 NPB easements	6/30/2022

First Update February 21, 2019: Cumulative accomplishments to date: 1-1 Workshops/Field Days: None to date. 1-2 Consultations: Landowner consultations taking place currently are being paid for using the ML17 appropriation, once outcomes are met/exceeded for that appropriation, staff will start spending this appropriation and focus on the outcomes for this appropriation. 1-3 Prairie Landowner Network: A full-time CCM Individual Placement started January 22, 2019 with 50% of their time going towards the Prairie Landowner Network and prairie outreach. #PrairieTuesday on the SNA Facebook page was initiated at the beginning of 2019 to deliver prairie facts and management information to prairie landowners and managers. A Prairie Plan partner

meeting will be held in the next few weeks to plan and coordinate network outreach efforts. 1-4 Prairie Stewardship Plans: 10 prairie stewardship planning sites have been identified and a Prairie Stewardship Planning “Request for Proposals” is expected to be released through the state bid process during the spring of 2019. 1-5: Prairie Tax Exemption Web-App: Further details on the cost estimate for the web-app have led to the conclusion that it would not be cost effective at this time to develop a web application for Prairie Tax Exemption. We hope that by waiting a few years, technology will have advanced enough to lower the cost of its creation and make it more feasible. An amendment will be asked in the future to move funds tied to this outcome to further advance one or more of the other outcomes within this work plan. 1-6 Baseline Property Reports: None to date. 1-7 Easement Monitoring and Stewardship: 1 NPB easement has been monitored.

Second Update July 24, 2019: Cumulative accomplishments to date: 1-1 Workshops/Field Days: None to date. 1-2 Consultations: Landowner consultations taking place currently are being paid for using the ML17 appropriation, once outcomes are met/exceeded for that appropriation, staff will start spending this appropriation and focus on the outcomes for this appropriation. 1-3 Prairie Landowner Network: A full-time CCM Individual Placement started January 22, 2019 with 50% of their time going towards the Prairie Landowner Network and prairie outreach. #PrairieTuesday on the SNA Facebook page was initiated at the beginning of 2019 to deliver prairie facts and management information to prairie landowners and managers. Coordination with Prairie Plan partners on the creation of the prairie landowner network has begun with a goal of rolling out the network by mid-2020. 1-4 Prairie Stewardship Plans: Ten prairie stewardship plans have been awarded to contractors to be completed by May 15, 2021. 1-5: Prairie Tax Exemption Web-App: Further details on the cost estimate for the web-app have led to the conclusion that it would not be cost effective at this time to develop a web application for Prairie Tax Exemption. We hope that by waiting a few years, technology will have advanced enough to lower the cost of its creation and make it more feasible. An amendment will be asked in the future to move funds tied to this outcome to further advance one or more of the other outcomes within this work plan. 1-6 Baseline Property Reports: None to date. 1-7 Easement Monitoring and Stewardship: 10 NPB easements have been monitored.

Third Update March 1, 2020: Cumulative accomplishments to date: 1-1 Workshops/Field Days: None to date. 1-2 Consultations: Landowner consultations taking place currently are being paid for using the ML17 appropriation, once outcomes are met/exceeded for that appropriation, staff will start spending this appropriation and focus on the outcomes for this appropriation. 1-3 Prairie Landowner Network: A full-time CCM Individual Placement started January 22, 2019 with 50% of their time going towards the Prairie Landowner Network and prairie outreach. #PrairieTuesday on the SNA Facebook page was initiated at the beginning of 2019 to deliver prairie facts and management information to prairie landowners and managers. Coordination with Prairie Plan partners on the creation of the prairie landowner network has taken place throughout the state with a goal of rolling out the network by mid-2020. 1-4 Prairie Stewardship Plans: Ten prairie stewardship plans have been awarded to contractors to be completed by May 15, 2021. 1-5: Prairie Tax Exemption Web-App: Further details on the cost estimate for the web-app have led to the conclusion that it would not be cost effective at this time to develop a web application for Prairie Tax Exemption. We hope that by waiting a few years, technology will have advanced enough to lower the cost of its creation and make it more feasible. An amendment will be asked in the future to move funds tied to this outcome to further advance one or more of the other outcomes within this work plan. 1-6 Baseline Property Reports: None to date. 1-7 Easement Monitoring and Stewardship: 10 NPB easements have been monitored.

Four Update September 1, 2020: Cumulative accomplishments to date: 1-1 Workshops/Field Days: None to date. 1-2 Consultations: Landowner consultations that took place prior to June 30, 2020 were paid for using the ML17 appropriation, on July 1, 2020 landowner consultations started to take place utilizing this appropriation. These outcomes will be summarized after the busy field season and will be reported as part of the next status update. 1-3 Prairie Landowner Network: A full-time CCM Individual Placement started January 22, 2019 with 50% of their time going towards the Prairie Landowner Network and prairie outreach. #PrairieTuesday on the SNA Facebook page was initiated at the beginning of 2019 to deliver prairie facts and management information

to prairie landowners and managers. Coordination with Prairie Plan partners on the creation of the prairie landowner network has taken place throughout the state and a Facebook group (Minnesota Prairie Landowner Network) launched in July of 2020. As of August 20, 2020 (49 days after official launch) there are 253 members with active posting taking place about every 1-3 days. 1-4 Prairie Stewardship Plans: Ten prairie stewardship plans have been awarded to contractors to be completed by May 15, 2021. 1-5: Prairie Tax Exemption Web-App: Further details on the cost estimate for the web-app have led to the conclusion that it would not be cost effective at this time to develop a web application for Prairie Tax Exemption. We hope that by waiting a few years, technology will have advanced enough to lower the cost of its creation and make it more feasible. An amendment will be asked in the future to move funds tied to this outcome to further advance one or more of the other outcomes within this work plan. 1-6 Baseline Property Reports: 7 Baseline Reports are nearing draft stage. 1-7 Easement Monitoring and Stewardship: 10 NPB easements have been monitored with more visits taking place this summer that will be entered and reported in future status updates.

Fifth Update February 22, 2021: Cumulative accomplishments to date: 1-1 Workshops/Field Days: None to date. 1-2 Consultations: SNA Prairie Specialists have engaged 20 different priority prairie landowners and practitioners to discuss protection and management options for their property. 1-3 Prairie Landowner Network: A full-time CCM Individual Placement started January 22, 2019 with 50% of their time going towards the Prairie Landowner Network and prairie outreach. #PrairieTuesday on the SNA Facebook page was initiated at the beginning of 2019 to deliver prairie facts and management information to prairie landowners and managers. Coordination with Prairie Plan partners on the creation of the prairie landowner network has taken place throughout the state and a Facebook group (Minnesota Prairie Landowner Network) launched in July of 2020. As of February 22, 2021 (235 days after official launch) there are 452 members with active posting taking place about every 1-3 days. 1-4 Prairie Stewardship Plans: Ten prairie stewardship plans have been awarded to contractors to be completed by May 15, 2021. These have all reached draft stage and are on-track to be finished by the contract deadline. 1-5: Prairie Tax Exemption Web-App: Further details on the cost estimate for the web-app have led to the conclusion that it would not be cost effective at this time to develop a web application for Prairie Tax Exemption. We hope that by waiting a few years, technology will have advanced enough to lower the cost of its creation and make it more feasible. An amendment will be asked in the future to move funds tied to this outcome to further advance one or more of the other outcomes within this work plan. 1-6 Baseline Property Reports: 7 Baseline Reports are at draft stage. 1-7 Easement Monitoring and Stewardship: 14 NPB easements have been monitored with more visits taking place this summer that will be entered and reported in future status updates.

Sixth Update August 18, 2021: Cumulative accomplishments to date: 1-1 Workshops/Field Days: None to date. 1-2 Consultations: SNA Prairie Specialists have engaged over 80 different priority prairie landowners and practitioners to discuss protection and management options for their property. 1-3 Prairie Landowner Network: As of August 17, 2021 (~400 days after official launch) there are 612 members on the MPLN Facebook page, with active posting taking place about every 1-2 days. In June 2021, the first Minnesota Prairie Landowner Network Zine was mailed to over 6,000 prairie landowners across the state. This first zine introduced the network and encouraged landowners to join/participate. A second zine is planned for June 2022. The goal is to start sharing prairie management stories and information through these periodic mailings in addition to the online social media platform sharing. 1-4 Prairie Stewardship Plans: Ten prairie stewardship plans have been completed and given to the landowners. 1-5 Baseline Property Reports: 6 Baseline Reports are completed. 1-6 Easement Monitoring and Stewardship: 26 NPB easements have been monitored with more visits taking place this summer that will be entered and reported in future status updates.

Seventh Update March 1, 2022: Cumulative accomplishments to date: 1-1 Workshops/Field Days: SNA Prairie Specialists participated in 5 outreach events, providing prairie protection, restoration and enhancement and plant identification education. 1-2 Consultations: SNA Prairie Specialists have engaged over 120 different priority prairie landowners and practitioners to discuss protection and management options for their property. 1-3 Prairie Landowner Network: As of February 14, 2022 (~578 days after official launch) there are 697 members on the MPLN Facebook page, with active posting taking place about every 1-2 days. In June 2021, the first

Minnesota Prairie Landowner Network Zine was mailed to over 6,000 prairie landowners across the state. This first zine introduced the network and encouraged landowners to join/participate. A second zine is planned for June 2022. The goal is to start sharing prairie management stories and information through these periodic mailings in addition to the online social media platform sharing. 1-4 Prairie Stewardship Plans: Ten prairie stewardship plans have been completed and given to the landowners. 1-5 Baseline Property Reports: 7 Baseline Reports are completed. 1-6 Easement Monitoring and Stewardship: 42 NPB easements have been monitored.

Final Update August 17, 2022: Cumulative accomplishments to date: 1-1 Workshops/Field Days: SNA Prairie Specialists participated in 6 outreach events, providing prairie protection, restoration and enhancement and plant identification education. 1-2 Consultations: SNA Prairie Specialists have engaged over 130 different priority prairie landowners and practitioners to discuss protection and management options for their property. 1-3 Prairie Landowner Network: As of August 17, 2022 (~762 days after official launch) there are 827 members on the MPLN Facebook page, with active posting taking place about every 1-2 days. In June 2021, the first Minnesota Prairie Landowner Network Zine was mailed to over 6,000 prairie landowners across the state. This first zine introduced the network and encouraged landowners to join/participate. A second zine was mailed in May of 2022 and featured stories from landowners who are members of the Network. 1-4 Prairie Stewardship Plans: Ten prairie stewardship plans have been completed and given to the landowners. 1-5 Baseline Property Reports: 7 Baseline Reports are completed. 1-6 Easement Monitoring and Stewardship: 49 NPB easements have been monitored.

ACTIVITY 2: 270 Acres of Native Prairie Habitat Enhancement & Restoration

Description: Restoration and enhancement activities will be completed on about 270 acres. Activities include seed collection, site preparation, planting, invasive species control, woody species removal, boundary signing, site cleanup, prescribed burns (or alternative prescribed disturbance, such as haying, mowing or grazing, where appropriate) and monitoring. All restorations will use seeds/plants of local ecotypes, collected from onsite or within 30 miles. Adaptive Management Monitoring will occur at 8 NPB sites to evaluate whether the objectives of management were met and to contribute to future management decisions. Restoration and enhancement activities will be carried out via landowner agreements, DNR staff, CCM, volunteers, and/or contractors.

ENRTF BUDGET: \$522,526

Outcome	Completion Date
1. ~20 acres of prairie reconstruction (restoration)	6/30/2022
2. ~130 acres of woody removal & invasive species treatment	6/30/2022
3. ~ 120 acres of prescribed burns	6/30/2022
4. NPB easement boundary signs & development work on ~6 NPB sites	6/30/2023
5. adaptive management monitoring on ~8 NPB sites	6/30/2022

First Update February 21, 2019: Cumulative accomplishments to date: 2-1. Prairie Reconstruction: Staff have identified areas for restoration and an amendment has been requested to add these (see February 20, 2019 amendment request). 2-2. Woody Removal & Invasive Species: Woody invasive species activities were completed on 108 acres at 2 NPBs. 2-3. Prescribed Burning: Firebreaks will be installed this fall for burns planned the spring of 2020. 2-4. Development: No boundary signs have been installed to-date. 2-5. Adaptive Management Monitoring: Adaptive management and ecological monitoring activities are currently being planned for the 2019 field season.

Second Update July 24, 2019: Cumulative accomplishments to date: 2-1. Prairie Reconstruction: Staff have identified areas for restoration and an amendment was approved March 13, 2019 to add 2 of these parcels to the parcel list. 2-2. Woody Removal & Invasive Species: Woody invasive species activities were completed on 108 acres at 2 NPBs. 2-3. Prescribed Burning: Firebreaks will be installed this fall for burns planned the spring of 2020. 2-4. Development: No boundary signs have been installed to-date. 2-5. Adaptive Management

Monitoring: Adaptive management and ecological monitoring activities are currently being accomplished through the ML17 appropriation. Once outcomes are met/exceeded for that appropriation, staff will shift focus to the outcomes for this appropriation.

Third Update February 12, 2020: Cumulative accomplishments to date: 2-1. Prairie Reconstruction: Staff have identified areas for restoration and an amendment was approved March 13, 2019 to add 2 of these parcels to the parcel list. Seed harvest from nearby remnant prairie parcels began during the summer/fall 2019. 2-2. Woody Removal & Invasive Species: Woody invasive species activities were completed on 108 acres at 2 NPBs. 2-3. Prescribed Burning: 1.4 miles of firebreak were installed this fall with plans to burn this coming spring. 2-4. Development: No boundary signs have been installed to-date. 2-5. Adaptive Management Monitoring: Adaptive management and ecological monitoring activities are currently being accomplished through the ML17 appropriation. Summer of 2020, these activities will shift focus to the outcomes for this appropriation.

Four Update September 1, 2020: Cumulative accomplishments to date: 2-1. Prairie Reconstruction: Staff have identified areas for restoration and an amendment was approved March 13, 2019 to add 2 of these parcels to the parcel list. Seed harvest from nearby remnant prairie parcels began during the summer/fall 2019. 2-2. Woody Removal & Invasive Species: Woody invasive species activities were completed on 129 acres at 3 NPBs. Invasive Species control was completed on 53 acres at 2 NPBs. 2-3. Prescribed Burning: 1.8 miles of firebreak have been installed in the hopes that we can complete some prescribed burns once restrictions lift. 2-4. Development: No boundary signs have been installed to-date. 2-5. Adaptive Management Monitoring: Adaptive management and ecological monitoring activities are currently taking place throughout the summer and will be reported once field work has commenced for the season and data compiled.

Fifth Update February 22, 2021: Cumulative accomplishments to date: 2-1. Prairie Reconstruction: Staff have identified areas for restoration and an amendment was approved March 13, 2019 to add 2 of these parcels to the parcel list. Seed harvest from nearby remnant prairie parcels began during the summer/fall 2019. 2-2. Woody Removal & Invasive Species: Woody invasive species activities were completed on 185 acres at 4 NPBs. Invasive Species control was completed on 56 acres at 4 NPBs. 2-3. Prescribed Burning: 2.8 miles of firebreak have been installed in the hopes that we can complete some prescribed burns once restrictions lift. 2-4. Development: No boundary signs have been installed to-date. 2-5. Ecological monitoring was continued on 2 NPBs in 2020 to track and monitor the response of brome to different management control measures. This work is a continuation of the work initiated through the ML17 appropriation.

Sixth Update August 18, 2021: Cumulative accomplishments to date: 2-1. Prairie Reconstruction: 3.1 acres completed at Stony Run 3-1. 2-2. Woody Removal & Invasive Species: Woody invasive species activities were completed on 306 acres at 6 NPBs. Invasive Species control was completed on 153 acres at 14 NPBs. 2-3. Prescribed Burning: Execution of prescribed burns has been extremely limited due to pandemic restrictions and the drought so alternative prescribed disturbances have been conducted. Prescribed grazing has been completed on 104 acres. Several prescribed burns are still planned for the spring of 2022 along with other prescribed disturbances. 2-4. Development: Site development work has been completed on 5 NPBs. 2-5. Ecological monitoring was continued on 2 NPBs in 2020 to track and monitor the response of brome to different management control measures. This work is a continuation of the work initiated through the ML17 appropriation. Additional monitoring efforts are taking place this summer/fall and will be reported in the future.

Seventh Update March 1, 2022: Cumulative accomplishments to date: 2-1. Prairie Reconstruction: 3.1 acres completed at Stony Run 3-1. 2-2. Woody Removal & Invasive Species: Woody invasive species activities were completed on 434 acres at 13 NPBs. Herbaceous Invasive Species control was completed on 205 acres at 20 NPBs. 2-3. Prescribed Burning: Execution of prescribed burns has been extremely limited due to pandemic restrictions and the drought so alternative prescribed disturbances have been conducted. Prescribed grazing has been completed on 104 acres. Several prescribed burns are still planned for the spring of 2022 along with other prescribed disturbances. 2-4. Development: Site development work has been completed on 6 NPBs. 2-5.

Ecological monitoring was continued on 2 NPBs in 2020 and 2021 to track and monitor the response of brome to different management control measures. This work is a continuation of the work initiated through the ML17 appropriation. Adaptive management monitoring was also completed on 12 NPBs for the on-going SPICE (Sustaining Prairies in a Changing Environment) monitoring that began with earlier ENRTF appropriations. This monitoring aims to help manager's best select and time the disturbance regimes needed to improve the management of prairies given the on-going environmental changes.

Eighth Update August 17, 2022: Cumulative accomplishments to date: 2-1. Prairie Reconstruction: 3.1 acres of reconstruction completed at Stony Run 3-1 NPB and 21.8 acres of rehabilitation (inter-seeding) at Garfield 30-1 NPB. Garfield 30-1 may need additional inter-seedings in the future. Staff will continue to monitor the site and see how the plant community develops. 2-2. Woody Removal & Invasive Species: Woody invasive species activities were completed on 482 acres at 14 NPBs. Herbaceous Invasive Species control was completed on 206 acres at 20 NPBs. 2-3. Prescribed Burning: 86 acres have been prescribed burned and another 104 acres prescribed grazed for a total of 190 acres of prescribed disturbance. Execution of prescribed burns was extremely limited during this appropriation due to pandemic restrictions and the drought. 2-4. Development: Site development work has been completed on 10 NPBs. 2-5. Ecological monitoring was continued on 2 NPBs in 2020 and 2021 to track and monitor the response of brome to different management control measures. This work is a continuation of the work initiated through the ML17 appropriation. Adaptive management monitoring was also completed on 12 NPBs for the on-going SPICE (Sustaining Prairies in a Changing Environment) monitoring that began with earlier ENRTF appropriations. This monitoring aims to help manager's best select and time the disturbance regimes needed to improve the management of prairies given the on-going environmental changes. Bee and Butterfly surveys took place at 1 NPB, finding a good cross section of species and an abundance of state special concerns species, Regal Fritillary. This information will be used to help implement the best management practices onsite for these species.

Nineth Update March 1, 2023: Cumulative accomplishments to date: 2-1. Prairie Reconstruction: 3.1 acres of reconstruction completed at Stony Run 3-1 NPB and 21.8 acres of rehabilitation (inter-seeding) at Garfield 30-1 NPB. Garfield 30-1 may need additional inter-seedings in the future. Staff will continue to monitor the site and see how the plant community develops. 2-2. Woody Removal & Invasive Species: Woody invasive species activities were completed on 482 acres at 14 NPBs. Herbaceous Invasive Species control was completed on 206 acres at 20 NPBs. 2-3. Prescribed Burning: 86 acres have been prescribed burned and another 104 acres prescribed grazed for a total of 190 acres of prescribed disturbance. Execution of prescribed burns was extremely limited during this appropriation due to pandemic restrictions and the drought. 2-4. Development: Site development work has been completed on 11 NPBs. 2-5. Ecological monitoring was continued on 2 NPBs in 2020 and 2021 to track and monitor the response of brome to different management control measures. This work is a continuation of the work initiated through the ML17 appropriation. Adaptive management monitoring was also completed on 12 NPBs for the on-going SPICE (Sustaining Prairies in a Changing Environment) monitoring that began with earlier ENRTF appropriations. This monitoring aims to help manager's best select and time the disturbance regimes needed to improve the management of prairies given the on-going environmental changes. Bee and Butterfly surveys took place at 1 NPB, finding a good cross section of species and an abundance of state special concerns species, Regal Fritillary. This information will be used to help implement the best management practices onsite for these species.

Final Update August 15, 2023: Cumulative accomplishments to date: 2-1. Prairie Reconstruction: 3.1 acres of reconstruction completed at Stony Run 3-1 NPB and 21.8 acres of rehabilitation (inter-seeding) at Garfield 30-1 NPB. Garfield 30-1 may need additional inter-seedings in the future. Staff will continue to monitor the site and see how the plant community develops. 2-2. Woody Removal & Invasive Species: Woody invasive species activities were completed on 482 acres at 14 NPBs. Herbaceous Invasive Species control was completed on 206 acres at 20 NPBs. 2-3. Prescribed Burning: 86 acres have been prescribed burned and another 104 acres prescribed grazed for a total of 190 acres of prescribed disturbance. Execution of prescribed burns was extremely limited during this appropriation due to pandemic restrictions and the drought. 2-4. Development:

Site development work has been completed on 13 NPBs. 2-5. Ecological monitoring was continued on 2 NPBs in 2020 and 2021 to track and monitor the response of brome to different management control measures. This work is a continuation of the work initiated through the ML17 appropriation. Adaptive management monitoring was also completed on 12 NPBs for the on-going SPICE (Sustaining Prairies in a Changing Environment) monitoring that began with earlier ENRTF appropriations. This monitoring aims to help manager’s best select and time the disturbance regimes needed to improve the management of prairies given the on-going environmental changes. Bee and Butterfly surveys took place at 1 NPB, finding a good cross section of species and an abundance of state special concerns species, Regal Fritillary. This information will be used to help implement the best management practices onsite for these species.

ACTIVITY 3: Acquisition and Stewardship of 275 acres of Native Prairie Bank Easements

Description: DNR-administered permanent NPB conservation easements will be acquired on about 275 acres of high quality native prairie, which will include no more than 30% non-prairie as necessary to improve prairie management. Payment rates are determined by authorizing law, M.S. 84.96, as applied according to policies of the Department of Natural Resources and the Board of Water and Soils Resources. Conservation easement baseline reports will be completed on all approximately 6 NPBs acquired. Priority sites are identified by MBS which target rare and endangered plant and animal species, high quality plant communities, and key habitats for Species in Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN). If needed, restoration will be completed using a combination of funds from Activity 2 above and/or other state appropriations. Only about 15 of the 275 acres acquired are expected to need restoration.

Budgeted into this work plan is funding to be deposited into the DNR’s Conservation Easement Stewardship Account dedicated to the perpetual monitoring and enforcement of conservation easements. The dedicated stewardship funds will provide the support needed for long-term, ongoing monitoring and minor enforcement activities of Native Prairie Bank easements acquired under this proposal. The DNR Conservation Easement Stewardship Calculator will be used to estimate the annual expenses for each acquired easement and the investment needed to generate annual income sufficient to cover stewardship expenses in perpetuity.

ENRTF BUDGET: \$1,070,702

Outcome	Completion Date
1. acquisition of about 275 acres NPB conservation easements	6/30/2023
2. ~6 baseline property reports for NPB easements	6/30/2023
3. dollars deposited into conservation easement stewardship account (~6 easements)	6/30/2023

First Update February 21, 2019: SNA Prairie Specialists have engaged multiple priority prairie landowners to discuss protection options for their property. As staff start to finish up projects tied to the ML17 NPB ENRTF appropriation, they will begin to select and advance parcels for this appropriation.

Second Update July 24, 2019: SNA Prairie Specialists have engaged multiple priority prairie landowners to discuss protection options for their property. As staff start to finish up projects tied to the ML17 NPB ENRTF appropriation, they will begin to select and advance parcels for this appropriation.

Third Update February 12, 2020: SNA Prairie Specialists have engaged multiple priority prairie landowners to discuss protection options for their property. As staff start to finish up projects tied to the ML17 NPB ENRTF appropriation, they will begin to select and advance parcels for this appropriation.

Four Update September 1, 2020: SNA Prairie Specialists have engaged multiple priority prairie landowners to discuss protection options for their property. Two parcels for a total of 5.4 acres have been added to the parcel list. Though these Houston County parcels are small they are a unique remnant prairie plant community that house Prairie Bush Clover, a federally threatened species, along with two state special concerns species,

Creeping Juniper and Small White Lady Slipper. Additional parcels are currently being negotiated and a request will be made to add them to the parcel list once DNR Fact Sheet stage is reached.

Fifth Update February 22, 2021: SNA Prairie Specialists have engaged multiple priority prairie landowners to discuss protection options for their property. Two parcels for a total of 5.4 acres have been added to the parcel list. Though these Houston County parcels are small they are a unique remnant prairie plant community that houses Prairie Bush Clover, a federally threatened species, along with two state special concerns species, Creeping Juniper and Small White Lady Slipper. Five additional parcels (1 in Kittson County, 2 in Grant County and 1 in Stevens County) are nearing DNR Fact Sheet stage and will be added to the parcel list once soon.

Sixth Update August 18, 2021: 3-1. SNA Prairie Specialists have engaged multiple priority prairie landowners to discuss protection options for their property. Currently 7 parcels for a total of 248 acres have been added to the parcel list and are actively moving forward. One additional parcel is being negotiated and will be added to the parcel list soon. 3-2. Baselines have been started on several of the acquisition parcels with more to be started soon. 3-3. Dollars will be enrolled into the conservation easement stewardship account once parcels have officially closed and been recorded.

Seventh Update March 1, 2022: 3-1. SNA Prairie Specialists have engaged multiple priority prairie landowners to discuss protection options for their property. To-Date: One parcel (82.9 acres in Swift County) has closed, 4 parcels have optioned (5.4 acres in Houston County, 68 acres in Pipestone County and 18 acres in Grant County), and this update includes a request to add 2 additional parcels to the parcel list (40 acres in Clay County and 68 acres in Big Stone County). This puts the appropriation on-track to close on 284 acres though one additional year is being requested to close on projects that have optioned (binding agreement) by 6/30/22. 3-2. One baseline has been completed and 4 others started on acquisition parcels. Two additional baselines will be started soon if additional parcels are approved to be added to the parcel list. 3-3. Dollars will be enrolled into the conservation easement stewardship account for all parcels that closed in Fiscal Year 2021 in June of 2021. Parcels that close in fiscal year 2022 (if extension request is approved) will have dollars enrolled in June of 2022 unless we are able to close out the appropriation sooner, in which case the dollars would be enrolled prior to close out.

Eighth Update August 17, 2022: 3-1. SNA Prairie Specialists have engaged multiple priority prairie landowners to discuss protection options for their property. To-Date: Two parcels (82.9 acres in Swift County and 68.5 acres in Pipestone County) have closed and 5 parcels have optioned (~5.4 acres in Houston County, 15.8 acres in Grant County, ~40 acres in Clay County and ~35.5 acres in Cottonwood County). This puts the appropriation on-track to close on approximately 247.8 acres by 6/30/2023. 3-2. Two baselines have been completed and 5 others started on acquisition parcels. 3-3. Dollars have been enrolled into the conservation easement stewardship account for the one parcel (Fairfield 21-1 NPB) that closed in Fiscal Year 2022. Parcels that close in fiscal year 2023 will have dollars enrolled in June of 2023 prior to close out.

Ninth Update March 1, 2023: 3-1. SNA Prairie Specialists have engaged multiple priority prairie landowners to discuss protection options for their property. To-Date: Four acquisition parcels (82.9 acres in Swift County, 68.5 acres in Pipestone County and 5.1 acres (2 parcels) in Houston County) have closed, 1 option has an executed election to purchase (15.8 acres in Grant County) and 2 parcels have optioned (~40 acres in Clay County and 36.7 acres in Cottonwood County). This puts the appropriation on-track to close on approximately 249 acres by 6/30/2023. 3-2. Six baselines have been completed and 1 other started on acquisition parcels. 3-3. Dollars have been enrolled into the conservation easement stewardship account for the one parcel (Fairfield 21-1 NPB) that closed in Fiscal Year 2022. Parcels that close in fiscal year 2023 will have dollars enrolled in June of 2023 prior to appropriation close out.

Final Update August 15, 2023: 3-1. SNA Prairie Specialists engaged multiple priority prairie landowners to discuss protection options for their property. Seven acquisition parcels (82.9 acres in Swift County, 68.5 acres in

Pipestone County and 5.1 acres (2 parcels) in Houston County, 15.8 acres in Grant County, 40 acres in Clay County and 36.7 acres in Cottonwood County) have closed for a total of 249 acres. This is 26 acres short of the original goal of 275 acres. Both the pandemic and low payment rates contributed to the difficulty in meeting this deliverable, however given all the obstacles during this appropriation, staff worked diligently to get as close as they could to meeting outcomes. 3-2. Seven baselines have been completed. 3-3. Dollars have been enrolled into the conservation easement stewardship account for all seven parcels acquired through this appropriation.

IV. DISSEMINATION:

Description: Copies of Stewardship Plans are provided to local DNR managers and used by the landowner with other agencies and programs. Workshops and field days will be listed on the SNA Website, and advertised locally via mailings and flyer postings. U.S. mailings, social media, email, and newsletters will be created and distributed to prairie landowners as part of the creation of the Prairie Landowner Network.

First Update February 21, 2019: Ten prairie stewardship planning sites have been identified and a Prairie Stewardship Planning “Request for Proposals” is expected to be released through the state bid process during the spring of 2019. DNR managers and landowners will be involved in the plan creation process and will be provided a copy of the plans once finished.

Second Update July 24, 2019: Ten prairie stewardship plans have been awarded to contractors to be completed by May 15, 2021. DNR managers and landowners will be involved in the plan creation process and will be provided a copy of the plans once finished.

Third Update February 12, 2020: Ten prairie stewardship plans have been awarded to contractors to be completed by May 15, 2021. DNR managers and landowners will be involved in the plan creation process and will be provided a copy of the plans once finished.

Four Update September 1, 2020: Ten prairie stewardship plans have been awarded to contractors to be completed by May 15, 2021. DNR managers and landowners will be involved in the plan creation process and will be provided a copy of the plans once finished.

Fifth Update February 22, 2021: Ten prairie stewardship plans are at draft stage and are on-track to be completed by May 15, 2021. DNR managers and landowners have been involved in the plan creation process and will be provided a copy of the plans once finished.

Sixth Update August 18, 2021: Ten prairie stewardship plans have been completed with landowners provided a copy. The first Minnesota Prairie Landowner Network Zine was mailed to over 6,000 prairie landowners across the state. All prairie stewardship plans and zines followed ENRTF acknowledgement guidelines.

Seventh Update March 1, 2022: Ten prairie stewardship plans have been completed with landowners provided a copy. The first Minnesota Prairie Landowner Network Zine was mailed to over 6,000 prairie landowners across the state. All prairie stewardship plans and zines followed ENRTF acknowledgement guidelines.

Final Update August 17, 2022: Ten prairie stewardship plans have been completed with landowners provided a copy. The [2021](#) and [2022](#) edition of the Minnesota Prairie Landowner Network Zine were mailed to over 6,000 prairie landowners (each time) across the state. All prairie stewardship plans and zines followed ENRTF acknowledgement guidelines.

V. PROJECT BUDGET SUMMARY:

A. Preliminary ENRTF Budget Overview: See attached budget spreadsheet

*Direct and Necessary expenses include Department Support Services (Human Resources, IT Support, Safety, Financial Support, Communications Support, Planning Support, and Procurement Support). Department Support Services are described in the agency Service Level Agreement, and billed internally to divisions based on rates that have been developed for each area of service. These services are directly related to and necessary for the appropriation. Department leadership services (Commissioner’s Office and Regional Directors) are not assessed. Those elements of individual projects that put little or no demand on support services such as large single-source contracts, land acquisitions (landowner payments & transaction costs), and funds that are passed-thru to other entities are not assessed Direct and Necessary costs for those activities. For this work plan, CCM contracts (~\$114,500), MNIT service level agreement (~\$15,000), Long-Term Easement Stewardship (~120,000), Easement Acquisition (~\$687,500) and Professional Services for Acquisition (~\$110,000) have not been assessed Direct and Necessary costs. In addition to itemized costs captured in our proposal budget, direct and necessary costs cover HR Support (~\$11,995), Safety Support (~\$2,756), Financial Support (~\$11,659), Communication Support (~\$5,082), IT Support (~\$24,839), and Planning Support (~\$4,287) that are necessary to accomplishing funded programs/projects.

Explanation of Capital Expenditures Greater Than \$5,000: N/A

Explanation of Use of Classified Staff:

Consistent with approved work plans for previous ENRTF appropriations for the SNA program, this funding will be used to pay project-associated costs for classified and unclassified staff paid almost exclusively with special project funds. These positions would not exist, but for special project funding received through the ENRTF and other funds. Each year these positions are assigned work based on the particular combination of soft funding available to address priority SNA Program activities.

Total Number of Full-time Equivalent (FTE) Directly Funded with this ENRTF Appropriation:

Enter Total Estimated Personnel Hours: 8,589	Divide by 2,080 = TOTAL FTE: 4.13 FTE
--	---------------------------------------

Total Number of Full-time Equivalent (FTE) Estimated to Be Funded through Contracts with this ENRTF

Appropriation: How many employees a future contractor will use, the hours they will work, or what salary they may pay their employees is not known. What is known is that \$250,407 in contracts was executed. If approximately 75% of those dollars went towards employees at the same average cost of DNR staff working on this project, below would be a rough estimate of FTEs.

Enter Total Estimated Personnel Hours: 6,257	Divide by 2,080 = TOTAL FTE: 3.0 FTE
--	--------------------------------------

B. Other Funds:

SOURCE OF AND USE OF OTHER FUNDS	Amount Proposed	Amount Spent	Status and Timeframe
Other Non-State \$ To Be Applied To Project During Project Period:			
N/A	\$ 0	\$ 0	
Other State \$ To Be Applied To Project During Project Period:			
DNR General Budget: CCM Individual Placement office space rent, desk, chair	\$ 3,000	\$ 0	Secured
Some NPB acquisitions are funded with a combination of state appropriations (e.g. OHF	\$0**	\$0**	On-going

and Critical Habitat Match). If any other funds are used for landowner payments for acquisitions funded in part with this appropriation, accomplishments will be prorated by the actual expenditures per funding source.			
Past and Current ENRTF Appropriation:			
ENRTF ML15, Ch76, Sec2, Subd9d: Native Prairie Stewardship and Prairie Bank Acquisition	\$ 3,325,000	\$ 933,498 Spent \$343,607 Encumbered	July 2015-June 2018
ENRTF ML17, Ch96, Sec2, Subd9e: Native Prairie Stewardship and Prairie Bank Easement Acquisition	\$2,675,000	\$17,284 Spent \$107,988 Encumbered	July 2017-June 2020
Other Funding History:			
OHF ML13, Ch137, Art1, Sec2, Subd4g: Accelerated Prairie – SNA prairie restoration & enhancement (estimated NPB portion only)	\$ 31,500	\$ 25,761 Spent	July 2013-June 2018
OHF ML14, Ch256, Art1, Sec2, Subd4h: Accelerated Prairie – SNA prairie restoration & enhancement (estimated NPB portion only)	\$202,000	\$165,048 Spent \$17,409 Encumbered	July 2014-June 2019
OHF ML14, Ch256, Art1, Sec2, Subd2e: NPB & RIM Acquisition (estimated NPB Portion only)	\$3,000,000	\$2,888,827 Spent \$542 Encumbered	July 2014-June 2023 (Acquisition complete, finishing up restoration projects tied to new acquisitions)
OHF ML15, First Sp. Session, Ch. 2, Art. 1, Sec. 2, Subd2e: Accelerated Native Prairie Bank Protection	\$3,740,000	\$1,350,888 Spent \$121,912 Encumbered	July 2014-June 2018+
OHF ML15, First Sp. Session, Ch. 2, Art. 1, Sec. 2, Subd2k: Accelerated Prairie Restoration & Enhancement (estimated NPB portion only)	\$170,000	\$73,895 Spent \$17,890 Encumbered	July 2015-June 2020
OHF ML16, Ch. 172, Art. 1, Sec. 2, Subd2f: Accelerated Native Prairie Bank Protection	\$2,451,000	\$9,597 Spent \$3,321 Encumbered	July 2016-June 2019+
OHF ML16, Ch. 172, Art. 1, Sec. 2, Subd2j: Accelerated Prairie Restoration & Enhancement (estimated NPB portion only)	\$215,000	\$29,674 Spent \$6,879 Encumbered	July 2016-June 2021
OHF ML17, Ch. 91, Art. 1, Sec. 2, Subd2f: Accelerated Native Prairie Bank Protection	\$2,481,000	\$7 Spent \$2,319 Encumbered	July 2017-June 2020+
OHF ML17, Ch. 91, Art. 1, Sec. 2, Subd2i: Accelerated Prairie Restoration & Enhancement (estimated NPB portion only)	\$126,760	\$1,258 spent \$1,150 Encumbered	July 2017-June 2022

** Outdoor Heritage Fund appropriations for acquisition and prairie restoration and enhancement occur concurrently with this ENRTF appropriation. These OHF funds are used for similar but separate projects as the ENRTF funding.

VI. PROJECT PARTNERS:

A. Partners receiving ENRTF funding

Name	Title	Affiliation	Role
------	-------	-------------	------

N/A			
-----	--	--	--

B. Partners NOT receiving ENRTF funding

Name	Title	Affiliation	Role
Various local staff from SWCDs, NRCS, DNR, USFWS, TNC, Pheasants Forever, etc.	Local Technical Teams (LTTs)	MN Prairie Conservation Plan	Landowner Outreach & Management Support

VII. LONG-TERM- IMPLEMENTATION AND FUNDING:

Currently, DNR holds 11,600 acres of NPB easements, which accounts for 40% of the MBS mapped native prairie protected through conservation easements statewide. If NPB aimed to protect 40% of the Minnesota Prairie Conservation Plan native prairie easement protection goals, NPB would need to acquire an additional 44,000 acres. At the same time, without active natural resource management prairie values will be lost. Thus NPB could utilize ENRTF support of about \$5M per year to sustain and protect native prairie.

VIII. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:

- **The project is for 5 years, will begin on 07/01/2018, and end on 06/30/2023.**
- **Periodic project status update reports will be submitted March 1 and September 1 of each year.**
- **A final report and associated products will be submitted between June 30 and August 15, 2023.**

IX. SEE ADDITIONAL WORK PLAN COMPONENTS:

- A. Abstract**
- B. Budget Spreadsheet**
- C. Visual Component or Map**
- D. Parcel List Spreadsheet**
- E. Acquisition, Easements, and Restoration Requirements**

Attachment A:
Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund
M.L. 2018 Budget Spreadsheet



Project Title: Easement Program for Native Prairie Bank
Legal Citation: M.L. 2018, Chp. 214, Art. 4, Sec. 02, Subd. 09i as
Project Manager: Judy Schulte
Organization: Mn DNR-SNA

College/Department/Division: Division of Ecological & Water Resources
M.L. 2018 ENRTF Appropriation: \$2,000,000

Project Length and Completion Date: 5 years, 06/30/2023

Date of Report: August 8, 2023 (updated 10/26/23 post FY23 close)

ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND BUDGET	Revised Budget 7/10/23	Amount Spent	Balance
BUDGET ITEM			
Personnel (Wages and Benefits) - Overall	\$468,400	\$323,292	\$145,108
This funding will be used to pay project-associated costs for classified and unclassified staff paid almost exclusively with special project funds. These positions would not exist, but for special project funding received through the ENRTF and other funds.			
Acquisition and Management Coordinators & Prairie Biologist (0.10 FTE for 2-yrs) (Total amount \$23,693)			
Specialist and Technician (1.6 FTE spread across 18 people for 2-yrs) (Total amount \$252,856)			
Laborer and seasonal crews (0.40 FTE spread across 13 people for 2-yrs) (Total amount \$46,743)			
Professional/Technical/Service Contracts	\$367,958	\$250,407	\$117,551
Professional/Technical			
Activity 1-Outcome 3 (\$53,579) Landowner Network CCM Individual Placement			
Activity 1-Outcome 4 (\$59,880) Prairie Stewardship Plans (10 plans) Contractors to be selected following state procurement & bidding processes			
Activity 2-Outcome 5 (\$0) Adaptive Management Monitoring (15 NPBs).			
Service Contracts			
Activity 2-Outcome 1 (\$400) Prairie reconstruction/restoration (24.9 ac.) Priority given to CCM; contractors to be selected following state procurement & bidding processes			
Activity 2-Outcome 2 (\$136,548 Woody removal & exotic species treatment (688 ac.) Priority given to CCM; contractors to be selected following state procurement & bidding processes			
Activity 2-Outcome 3: (\$0) Prescribed Disturbance (190 ac) Priority given to CCM; contractors to be selected following state procurement & bidding processes			
Equipment/Tools/Supplies	\$31,250	\$21,609	\$9,641

Activity 1: Outreach materials, baseline property report printing (\$7,830) Activity 2: herbicide, posts, signs, safety supplies, equipment repair/parts, seed cleaning/testing, field tools, fence (\$13,424) Activity 3: Deed & baseline property report printing, field tools (\$355)			
Easement Acquisition			
Estimate securing about 7 easements for 249 acres that will be held by the MN DNR - SNA Program	\$672,500	\$520,940	\$151,560
Easement Stewardship			
Long-Term Easement Stewardship Funding	\$120,000	\$120,000	\$0
Professional Services for Acquisition			
Attorney General's Office and DNR Lands and Minerals costs associated with completing an acquisition; anticipate about 7 transactions; cost/transaction vary between projects.	\$169,592	\$159,776	\$9,816
Printing			
Activity 1: Outreach materials for Prairie Landowner Network	\$10,000	\$9,555	\$445
Travel expenses in Minnesota			
Fleet charges for trucks, cars, & equipment, e.g. mowers, seeders; mileage, lodging & meals as per state contracts	\$99,681	\$38,068	\$61,613
Other			
CCM Individual Placement monthly computer rental	\$0	\$0	\$0
Direct & Necessary Costs: DNR's direct and necessary costs pay for activities that are directly related to and necessary for accomplishing appropriated programs/projects. This includes HR Support (~\$11,995), Safety Support (~\$2,756), Financial Support (~\$11,659), Communication Support (~\$5,082), IT Support (~\$24,839), and Planning Support (~\$4,287).	\$60,619	\$51,755	\$8,864
COLUMN TOTAL	\$2,000,000	\$1,495,402	\$504,598

Attachment C:
Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund
M.L. 2018 Acquisition/Restoration Parcel List Spreadsheet
Project Title: Private Native Prairie Conservation through Native Prairie Bank
Legal Citation: M.L. 2018, Chp. 214, Art. 4, Sec. 02, Subd. 09 as extended by M.L. 2021, First Special Session, Chp. 6, Art. 6, Sec. 2, Subd. 18
Project Manager: Judy Schulte
Organization: MN DNR-DNA
College/Department/Division: Division of Ecological & Water Resources
M.L. 2018 ENRTF Appropriation: \$2,000,000
Project Length and Completion Date: 5 years, 06/30/2023
Today's Date: August 8, 2023



Acquisition or Restoration #	Parcel Name	Geographic Coordinates (preferably from the center of the parcel) Format: [Deg.] [Min.] [Sec.] [Hemis.] Latitude Longitude	Estimated Cost	Estimated Annual PML Liability	County	Site Significance (please include what ecosystem acquisition, conservation value and public benefits)	Activity Description (e.g. fee title acquisition, conservation easement acquisition, site preparation, restoration)	# of Acres	# of Shoreline Miles	Type of Landowner (private individual or trust, non-profit organization, for-profit entity)	Proposed Fee Title or Easement Holder (if applicable)	Status of work (e.g. engaged in landowner negotiations, no longer in consideration, restoration activities underway)
1	Chanamboc Creek Prairies	43° 55' 12.9" 96° 1' 8.0"	\$2800/ac	N/A	Murray, Pipestone	Dry gravel, mesic & wet prairies in biggest grassland complex with the highest quality prairie parcels in SW MN	Conservation easement acquisition	80		Private	DNR-SNA	proposed
2	Lac Qui Parle Prairies	43° 12' 10.4" 96° 10' 32.1"	\$2300/ac	N/A	Big Stone, Lac Qui Parle	Next to existing DNR and TNC protected native prairies, part of a large macro site with many native prairie tracts; expands habitat for many rare butterfly and bird species, as well as Prairie Chickens	Conservation easement acquisition	200		Private	DNR-SNA	proposed
3	Antelope Hills Prairie	44° 56' 0.5" 96° 20' 29.8"	\$2300/ac	N/A	Lac Qui Parle	Mixture of dry hill, sand-gravel, mesic and wet prairies. Expands habitat for many rare plant and bird species	Conservation easement acquisition	160		Private	DNR-SNA	proposed
4	Glacial Lakes & Moraine Prairie	45° 25' 20.0" 95° 14' 34.5"	\$2800/ac	N/A	Pope, Kandiyohi, Swift, Stearns	Dry sand-gravel prairies of the Alexandria Moraine; provides habitat for the Threatened Dakota Skipper as well as the Poweshiek Skipper and Regal fritillary	Conservation easement acquisition	150		Private	DNR-SNA	proposed
5	Prairie Coteau/Rock River Prairies	44° 4' 59.4" 96° 10' 33.8"	\$2600/ac	N/A	Pipestone	Dry hill prairie, prairie meadow, wet prairie, rare species; part of a large, contiguous prairie macro-site, expands habitat around the Prairie Coteau SNA	Conservation easement acquisition	150		Private	DNR-SNA	proposed
6	Hole-in-the-Mountain Prairies	44° 11' 36.9" 96° 19' 1.8"	\$2600/ac	N/A	Pipestone, Lincoln	Dry hill prairie, prairie meadow, wet prairie, rare species; part of a large, contiguous prairie macro-site, expands habitat around existing TNC and DNR lands	Conservation easement acquisition	150		Private	DNR-SNA	proposed
7	Shakotan Prairies	44° 23' 1.9" 96° 25' 25.4"	\$2600/ac	N/A	Lincoln	Dry hill prairie, prairie meadow, wet prairie, rare species; part of a large, contiguous prairie macro-site	Conservation easement acquisition	150		Private	DNR-SNA	proposed
8	Upper MN River Prairies	44° 40' 21.2" 95° 19' 2.0"	\$2900/ac	N/A	Lincoln, Yellow Medicine, Renville, Redwood	MN River Valley native prairie including oak savanna, wet prairie, rock outcrops; expands habitat for many rare plants, butterfly and birds	Conservation easement acquisition	200		Private	DNR-SNA	proposed
9	Yellow Medicine Coteau Prairie	44° 43' 42.7" 96° 25' 47.0"	\$2500/ac	N/A	Yellow Medicine	Dry hill prairie, prairie meadow, wet prairie, rare species; part of a large, contiguous prairie macro-site, expands habitat for Western White Prairie Flower and Upland Sandpiper	Conservation easement acquisition	160		Private	DNR-SNA	proposed
10	Des Moines River Valley	43° 50' 31.2" 95° 7' 7.6"	\$3000/ac	N/A	Cottonwood	Des Moines River Valley native prairie including oak savanna, dry hill prairie; expands habitat for many, butterfly, birds and rare plants, including Prairie Bush Clover	Conservation easement acquisition	100		Private	DNR-SNA	proposed
11	Blue Mounds/Touch-The-Hay Prairies	43° 43' 16.2" 96° 12' 43.3"	\$4000/ac	N/A	Rock	Mesic to wet prairie with rock outcrops; provides habitat for many rare rock outcrop plants	Conservation easement acquisition	80		Private	DNR-SNA	proposed
12	Big Stone Moraines	45° 19' 7.5" 96° 20' 3.4"	\$1800/ac	N/A	Big Stone	Prairie meadow, wet prairie, rare species; part of a large, contiguous prairie macro-site, expands habitat for many rare species as well as Prairie Chickens	Conservation easement acquisition	200		Private	DNR-SNA	proposed
13	Big Stone Lake Prairie	45° 25' 33.7" 96° 40' 43.0"	\$1800/ac	N/A	Big Stone	Dry Hill, mesic and wet prairies along Big Stone Lake next to DNR state park and SNA parcels	Conservation easement acquisition	80		Private	DNR-SNA	proposed
14	Rothsay Prairies	46° 29' 27.0" 96° 21' 23.4"	\$1600/ac	N/A	Wilkin	Prairie meadow, wet prairie, rare species; part of a large, contiguous prairie macro-site, expands habitat for many rare species as well as Prairie Chickens	Conservation easement acquisition	160		Private	DNR-SNA	proposed
15	Glacial Ridge Prairies	47° 41' 46.9" 96° 18' 43.9"	\$1600/ac	N/A	Polk	Prairie meadow, wet prairie, rare species; part of a large, contiguous prairie macro-site, expands habitat for many rare species as well as Prairie Chickens	Conservation easement acquisition	160		Private	DNR-SNA	proposed
16	Felton Prairies	47° 3' 48.0" 96° 24' 53.7"	\$1800/ac	N/A	Clay	Prairie meadow, wet prairie, rare species; part of a large, contiguous prairie macro-site, expands habitat for many rare species as well as Prairie Chickens	Conservation easement acquisition	100		Private	DNR-SNA	proposed
17	Lake Christina Hills Prairies	46° 6' 33.3" 95° 41' 33.8"	\$1800/ac	N/A	Ottertail, Douglas, Grant	Dry Hill to wet prairies; part of the rolling topography of the Alexandria moraine	Conservation easement acquisition	80		Private	DNR-SNA	proposed
18	Sherburne Sands Prairies	45° 23' 40.7" 93° 39' 49.8"	\$1600/ac	N/A	Sherburne	A mosaic of prairie, wetlands and oak swanna set in an important transition zone	Conservation easement acquisition	80		Private	DNR-SNA	proposed
19	Frontenac Hay Creek Bluffs	44° 30' 20.5" 92° 25' 6.1"	\$2600/ac	N/A	Goodhue	Southern dry bedrock bluff (goat) prairies in a complex of bluff prairies and cold streams	Conservation easement acquisition	40		Private	DNR-SNA	proposed
20	Kellogg Weaver Dunes	44° 10' 10.6" 93° 56' 2.8"	\$2300/ac	N/A	Wabasha, Winona	Flowing sand dune topography; native dunes with dry, mesic, or wet prairie as well as oak savanna	Conservation easement acquisition	40		Private	DNR-SNA	proposed
21	Root River Valley Prairies	43° 46' 14.6" 91° 39' 51.8"	\$2400/ac	N/A	Houston, Fillmore, Winona	Southern Dry Bedrock bluff (goat) prairies in a complex of bluff prairies and cold streams; habitat for timber rattlesnakes	Conservation easement acquisition	40		Private	DNR-SNA	proposed
22	Lake Bronson and Aspen Parkland Prairies	48° 50' 39.1" 96° 30' 53.5"	\$1000/ac	N/A	Itasca, Roseau, Marshall	Aspen parkland complex-many prairie dominated aspen complexes are succeeding to woodland in absence of fire	Conservation easement acquisition	200		Private	DNR-SNA	proposed
23	Agassiz Dunes	47° 29' 8.3" 96° 20' 14.3"	\$1,800/ac	N/A	Polk, Norman	Dry barren oak swanna-rare prairie plant community in northern MN	Conservation easement acquisition	150		Private	DNR-SNA	proposed
24	Wambach Santee Prairie	47° 24' 55.7" 95° 56' 36.3"	\$1,000/ac	N/A	Mahonomen	Prairie meadow complexes, prairie rich fens and other rare northern plant communities	Conservation easement acquisition	150		Private	DNR-SNA	proposed
25	Blanket Flower Prairies	46° 42' 5.4" 96° 11' 37.1"	\$1500/ac	N/A	Clay, Becker, Otter Tail	Dry Sand-gravel prairie in Alexandria Moraine and Hardwood Hills subsection	Conservation easement acquisition	200		Private	DNR-SNA	proposed
26	Blue Stem Prairie	46° 49' 50.0" 96° 26' 56.0"	\$1800/ac	N/A	Clay	Mesic, wet meadow/carr, & wet prairie parcels intermixed with DNR SNA and Audobon preserves	Conservation easement acquisition	80		Private	DNR-SNA	proposed
27	Lake Traverse Prairies	45° 42' 2.0" 96° 40' 48.2"	\$2000/ac	N/A	Traverse	Dry prairie and prairie-woodland complex	Conservation easement acquisition	150		Private	DNR-SNA	proposed
28	Stony Run 3-1 NPB	44° 52' 0.9" 95° 39' 6.0"	\$1500/ac	N/A	Yellow Medicine	Dry prairie; formerly cropped inclusion in NPB easement area	Reconstruction	3.5		Private	DNR-SNA	3.1 acres completed
29	Ratersburg 27-1 NPB	43° 31' 18.8" 94° 54' 11.4"	\$2500/ac	N/A	Jackson	Dry prairie and mesic prairie; formerly cropped inclusion in NPB easement area	Reconstruction	12.5		Private	DNR-SNA	proposed
30	Caledonia 28-1	43° 36' 7.1" 91° 33' 41.9"	\$2500/ac	N/A	Houston	Dry Bedrock Bluff Prairie with Prairie Bush Clover (federal threatened), Creeping Juniper (state special concern) and Small White Lady Slipper (state special concern species) noted onsite. Connected to Caledonia 33-1.	Conservation easement acquisition	3.6		Private	DNR-SNA	Acquisition Complete-Final Acres 3.7 (LCCMR DW 23-055-001)
31	Caledonia 33-1	43° 36' 5.2" 91° 33' 46.3"	\$2500/ac	N/A	Houston	Dry Bedrock Bluff Prairie with Prairie Bush Clover (federal threatened), Creeping Juniper (state special concern) and Small White Lady Slipper (state special concern species) noted onsite. Connected to Caledonia 28-1.	Conservation easement acquisition	1.8		Private	DNR-SNA	Acquisition Complete-Final Acres 1.4 (LCCMR DW 23-055-002)
32	Troy 15-1	44° 4' 31" 96° 21' 33"	\$2500/acre	N/A	Pipestone	Southern prairie wet meadow located within the MN Prairie Conservation Plan Hole in the Mountain Core Area.	Conservation easement acquisition	47		Private	DNR-SNA	Being acquired with alternative funding
33	Troy 29-1	44° 2' 25" 96° 24' 31"	\$2500/acre	N/A	Pipestone	Southern prairie wet meadow and bulrush marsh located within the MN Prairie Conservation Plan Hole in the Mountain Core Area.	Conservation easement acquisition	68		Private	DNR-SNA	Acquisition Complete-Final Acres 68.5 (LCCMR DW 23-117-001)
34	Uien 13-1	45° 54' 08" 95° 53' 19"	\$3200/acre	N/A	Grant	Southern Dry Prairie located within the Pomme de Terre River Valley adjacent to the ER Lake 18-1 parcel noted above.	Conservation easement acquisition	18		Private	DNR-SNA	Acquisition Complete-Final Acres 15.8 acres (LCCMR DW 23-051-001)
35	Land 17-1	45° 48' 56" 95° 51' 13"	\$3,000/acre	N/A	Grant	Southern Dry Prairie within the Pomme de Terre River Valley located within the same natural prairie corridor as those noted above.	Conservation easement acquisition	25		Private	DNR-SNA	No longer moving forward.
36	Fairfield 21-1	45° 21' 32" 95° 56' 49"	\$2,700/acre	N/A	Swift	Southern dry and wet prairie complex with the Pomme de Terre River flowing through it. Parcel located within the Minnesota Prairie Conservation Plan Reddick Macro-Habitat Complex.	Conservation easement acquisition	84.8		Private	DNR-SNA	Acquisition Complete-Final Acres 81.9 (LCCMR DW 23-151-001)
37	Prior 31-1	45° 24' 59" 96° 36' 06"	\$2,100/acre	N/A	Big Stone	Southern dry hill prairie located within the Minnesota Prairie Conservation Plan Big Stone Lake Core Area.	Conservation easement acquisition	84		Private	DNR-SNA	Being acquired with alternative funding
38	Tansem 1-1	46° 42' 18" 96° 11' 15"	\$1,600/acre	N/A	Clay	Southern dry hill prairie located within the Minnesota Prairie Conservation Plan Blanket Flower Prairie Core Area.	Conservation easement acquisition	40		Private	DNR-SNA	Acquisition Complete-Final Acres 40 (currently submitted via email, no LCCMR ID yet)
39	West Brown Valley 15-1	45° 33' 45" 96° 45' 30"	\$2,100/acre	N/A	Big Stone	Southern dry hill prairie located within the Minnesota Prairie Conservation Plan Big Stone Moraine Prairie Core Area.	Conservation easement acquisition	68		Private	DNR-SNA	landowner opted not to sign option
40	Ann 9-1	44° 10' 29" 95° 25' 5"	\$4,500/acre	N/A	Cottonwood	Southern dry hill, mesic, and wet prairie bisected by Fall Creek. The parcels is part of a habitat corridor that runs along the stream that stretches for many miles.	Conservation easement acquisition	40		Private	DNR-SNA	Acquisition Complete-Final Acres 36.7 (LCCMR DW 23-033-001)
41	Garfield 30-1 NPB	47° 31' 4" 96° 19' 9"	\$500/acre	N/A	Polk	Northern Dry Barrens Oak Savanna Rehabilitation improves degraded inclusion in NPB easement area.	Rehabilitation	21.8		Private	DNR-SNA	1 interseeding complete. Future interseedings may be needed.

NOTES: NPB acquisition will be targeted at high quality native prairie parcels in the areas listed above. These are named Prairie Core Areas identified in the MN Prairie Conservation Plan, plus priority areas in SE MN. Restoration will occur on newly acquired and existing NPB sites. When identified, specific restoration parcels will be added to the work plan parcel list.

ML18 Easement Program for Native Prairie Bank Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

- ★ NPB Acquisitions
- ▲ NPB Restoration Activities
- NPB Enhancement Activities
- MN Prairie Conservation Plan Priority Areas

