

Final Abstract

Final Report Approved on October 17, 2025

M.L. 2020 Project Abstract

For the Period Ending June 30, 2025

Project Title: Private Native Prairie Conservation through Native Prairie Bank

Project Manager: Tyler Janke

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Funding Source:

Fiscal Year:

Legal Citation: M.L. 2021, First Special Session, Chp. 6, Art. 5, Sec. 2, Subd. 09b

Appropriation Amount: \$2,000,000

Amount Spent: \$1,632,161

Amount Remaining: \$367,839

Sound bite of Project Outcomes and Results

This project permanently protected 135 acres of high-quality native prairie. Prairie enhancement activities totaling 1168 acres were conducted via 71 projects on Native Prairie Bank easements. Additionally, multiple outreach activities were held to provide education about prairies, and numerous monitoring projects were conducted to improve our knowledge of prairie management.

Overall Project Outcome and Results

In total, 135 acres of high-quality native prairie, containing endangered, threatened and special concerns species, Species in Greatest Conservation Need and many pollinators, were permanently protected through 3 new Native Prairie Bank easements. These protection efforts preserve some of the best remaining native prairie in the state for the benefit of all citizens. Additionally, 7 Baseline Property Reports were completed and funds for the 3 newly acquired Native Prairie Bank easements were enrolled into the Easement Stewardship Account.

A total of 658 acres of herbaceous invasive/woody control projects and 510 acres of prescribed disturbance projects were completed to improve prairie quality on Native Prairie Bank easements across the state. Twenty ecological

monitoring projects were completed on Native Prairie Banks easements. Knowledge gained through these monitoring projects will help landowners, managers and partners improve management of prairies and wetlands across the state.

DNR Prairie Specialists participated in 9 outreach events and engaged with more than 75 priority prairie landowners on the topics of prairie protection, restoration, and enhancement. Prairie Stewardship Plans were completed for 17 privately-owned native prairie sites that provide landowners with customized management recommendations for their land. The Minnesota Prairie Landowner Network Facebook page has seen continued growth and is now at 1246 members. The third edition of the newsletter went out to 6000+ landowners in May of 2023.

Despite a slow start, this project gained significant momentum in fiscal years 2023, 2024 and ended strong. Low NPB payment rates and low staffing during the first two years of the appropriation slowed progress. However, an increase in NPB payment rates via legislative action and increases in staffing through 2024 resulted in renewed interest in the NPB program and additional capacity to implement acquisition and enhancement projects.

Project Results Use and Dissemination

Seventeen prairie stewardship plans have been completed with funding from this appropriation and copies have been provided to landowners. These plans will guide landowner prairie management activities for years to come. Baseline property reports were completed for three newly acquired NPB easements. In May of 2023 the third edition of the MPLN newsletter was distributed to 6000+ prairie landowners across MN. DNR Prairie Specialists participated in 9 outreach events educating hundreds of landowners, youth, citizens and conservation practitioners on the importance of prairie protection and management. All handouts and materials followed ENRTF acknowledgement guidelines.



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

M.L. 2020 Approved Final Report

General Information

Date: November 12, 2025

ID Number: 2020-053

Staff Lead: Tiffany Schaufler

Project Title: Private Native Prairie Conservation through Native Prairie Bank

Project Budget: \$2,000,000

Project Manager Information

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Project Reporting

Final Report Approved: October 17, 2025

Reporting Status: Project Completed

Date of Last Action: October 17, 2025

Project Completion: June 30, 2025

Legal Information

Legal Citation: M.L. 2021, First Special Session, Chp. 6, Art. 5, Sec. 2, Subd. 09b

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 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, including preparing initial baseline property assessments. Up to \$60,000 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. and One year administrative extension of

appropriation until June 30, 2025 approved June 26, 2024 due to binding agreement for acquisition of land per M.L. 2021, First Special Session, Chp. 6, Art. 5, Sec. 2, Subd. 12.

Appropriation End Date: June 30, 2025

Narrative

Project Summary: Native Prairie Bank (NPB) will help landowners conserve native prairie through multiple outreach methods, restoration and enhancement of 700 acres, and protection of 130 acres through conservation easements.

Describe the opportunity or problem your proposal seeks to address. Include any relevant background information.

Native prairie is a fragile, unique natural ecosystem 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. Native prairie provides a multitude of benefits to the citizens of the state, such as water filtration and recharge, pollinator and wildlife habitat, carbon sequestration, soil health, erosion control, outdoor recreation, etc. High quality native prairies provide the best available habitat for native prairie pollinators. Restoration efforts aim to meet the standards set by these original native prairies.

The Minnesota Biological Survey has identified about 249,000 acres of remaining native prairie in Minnesota, approximately 1.3% of what once existed in the state. Of these 249,000 acres, approximately 118,000 acres still have no formal protection. Threats to native prairie continue to be widespread including cropland conversion, mining, development, invasive species, woody encroachment and non-prairie focused land use/management.

What is your proposed solution to the problem or opportunity discussed above? Introduce us to the work you are seeking funding to do. You will be asked to expand on this proposed solution in Activities & Milestones.

This proposal seeks to protect and enhance high quality native prairie to insure these highly complex habitats continue to protect the habitat essential to many of the state's rare, threatened and endangered species, set the standard for native prairie pollinator habitat and provide a multitude of benefits to the citizens and animals of the state.

Established in 1987 through Minnesota Statute 84.96, Native Prairie Bank (NPB) has a proven track record of working with landowners to enhance and protect high quality native prairie while leaving the land in private ownership. In partnership with landowners, Native Prairie Bank currently manages, with exceptionally high standards, 14,181 acres of native prairie and associated habitat on 158 sites throughout the prairie region of the state. The goal is to expand this partnership and effort through this proposal.

What are the specific project outcomes as they relate to the public purpose of protection, conservation, preservation, and enhancement of the state's natural resources?

Through this proposal, prairie outreach and technical assistance will be provided to landowners, practitioners, youth and the general public. Native prairie restoration and enhancement activities will be implemented on about 700 acres of Native Prairie Banks. Permanent protection of about 130 acres will take place through the acquisition of Native Prairie Bank conservation easements with priority given to high quality remnant prairie identified by the Minnesota Biological Survey (MBS).

Project Location

What is the best scale for describing where your work will take place?

Region(s): Central, NW, SW, SE,

What is the best scale to describe the area impacted by your work?

Statewide

When will the work impact occur?

During the Project and In the Future

Activities and Milestones

Activity 1: Prairie Landowner Assistance, Prairie Outreach, and Existing Native Prairie Bank Stewardship

Activity Budget: \$467,513

Activity 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 technical assistance, online resource development, etc. The Prairie Landowner Network established through the ML18 appropriation in cooperation with Conservation Corps of Minnesota (CCM) will continue to use innovative ways 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 management strategies. At least 17 landowners will receive a comprehensive prairie stewardship plan that will provide specific prairie management expertise for their property. Landowner enrollment in Native Prairie Tax Exemption will be increased to conserve and improve management of native prairie which may not be protected through other means. About 5 baseline property reports and 28 monitoring visits will be completed on existing NPBs to evaluate current conditions and insure easement compliance.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
~9 workshops/field days for prairie landowners & practitioners (~700 people)	June 30, 2024
consultations, guidance, mgmt. asst., etc. to ~70 landowners	June 30, 2024
~40 prairie stewards participating in the Prairie Landowner Network	June 30, 2024
~17 prairie stewardship plans provided to prairie landowners (~1400 acres)	June 30, 2024
~5 baseline property reports for NPB easements	June 30, 2024
monitoring and stewardship of ~ 28 NPB easements	June 30, 2024

Activity 2: Native Prairie Habitat Enhancement & Restoration

Activity Budget: \$889,552

Activity Description:

Restoration and enhancement activities will be completed on about 700 acres. Activities include seed collection, site preparation, planting, invasive species prevention and 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. Ecological Monitoring will occur at 35 NPB sites to collect ecological data in order to evaluate whether the objectives of management were met, to analyze ecological changes over time 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.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
~350 acres of woody removal & invasive species treatment	June 30, 2024
~ 462 acres of prescribed burns	June 30, 2024
NPB easement boundary signs & development work on ~3 NPB sites	June 30, 2024
Ecological monitoring on ~20 NPB sites	June 30, 2024

Activity 3: Acquisition and Stewardship of Native Prairie Bank Easements

Activity Budget: \$642,935

Activity Description:

DNR-administered permanent NPB conservation easements will be acquired on about 130 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 3 NPBs acquired. Priority sites are identified by MBS which target rare and endangered plant and animal species, high quality plant communities, key habitats for Species in Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) and parcels within larger habitat complexes to reduce impacts from habitat fragmentation. If needed, restoration will be completed using a combination of funds from Activity 2 above and/or other state appropriations. Only about 10 of the 130 acres acquired are expected to need restoration. Funding will be deposited into a conservation easement stewardship account dedicated to perpetual monitoring and enforcement on NPB easements acquired with this proposal.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Acquisition of about 130 acres NPB conservation easements	June 30, 2024
~3 baseline property reports for NPB easements	June 30, 2024
Dollars deposited into conservation easement stewardship account (~3 easements)	June 30, 2024

Project Partners and Collaborators

Name	Organization	Role	Receiving Funds
Minnesota Prairie Conservation Plan Partners and Local Technical Teams	Teams of staff from SWCD's, NRCS, DNR, USFWS, TNC, Pheasants Forever, etc.	Cultivate relationships with prairie landowners and bring new potential NPB parcels to DNR prairie staff for further evaluation.	No

Dissemination

Describe your plans for dissemination, presentation, documentation, or sharing of data, results, samples, physical collections, and other products and how they will follow ENRTF Acknowledgement Requirements and Guidelines.

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 Prairie Landowner Network. Acknowledgement of the ENRTF will be included in all project communications and outreach as laid out in the "ENRTF Acknowledgement Requirements and Guidelines" document.

Long-Term Implementation and Funding

Describe how the results will be implemented and how any ongoing effort will be funded. If not already addressed as part of the project, how will findings, results, and products developed be implemented after project completion? If additional work is needed, how will this work be funded?

Currently, DNR holds 14,181 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 Native Prairie Bank could utilize ENRTF support of about \$5M per year to sustain and protect native prairie.

Other ENRTF Appropriations Awarded in the Last Six Years

Name	Appropriation	Amount Awarded
Native Prairie Stewardship and Prairie Bank Easement Acquisition	M.L. 2015, Chp. 76, Sec. 2, Subd. 09d	\$3,325,000
Native Prairie Stewardship and Prairie Bank Easement Acquisition	M.L. 2017, Chp. 96, Sec. 2, Subd. 09e	\$2,675,000
Easement Program for Native Prairie Bank	M.L. 2018, Chp. 214, Art. 4, Sec. 2, Subd. 09i	\$2,000,000

Budget Summary

Category / Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Purpose	Gen. Ineligible	% Benefits	# FTE	Classified Staff?	\$ Amount	\$ Amount Spent	\$ Amount Remaining
Personnel										
Acquisition & Management Coordinators and Prairie Biologist		Project acquisition, management and budget implementation, contract execution, partner coordination			25%	0.4	X	\$31,500	-	-
Specialists & Technicians		On the ground project implementation			25%	7.52	X	\$510,400	-	-
Laborers & Seasonal crews		On the ground project implementation			20%	2.8	X	\$108,500	-	-
							Sub Total	\$650,400	\$538,397	\$112,003
Contracts and Services										
State of Minnesota	Acquisition costs	Professional Services for Acquisition: Attorney General's Office and DNR Lands and Minerals costs associated with completing an acquisition				0.34		\$90,000	\$82,852	\$7,148
TBD & Conservation Corp of MN	Professional or Technical Service Contract	Professional/Technical: ecological monitoring & private prairie stewardship plans Conservation Corp of MN: Prairie Landowner Network (1 individual placement), prescribed burning, invasives, woody removal and seed harvest (crew contracts, dependent on availability) Service Contracts: prescribed burning, invasives, woody removal, seed harvest				4.94		\$422,051	\$305,689	\$116,362
							Sub Total	\$512,051	\$388,541	\$123,510

Equipment, Tools, and Supplies										
	Tools and Supplies	Activity 1: Outreach materials and supplies Activity 2: herbicide, posts, signs, safety supplies, equipment repair/parts, seed cleaning/testing, field tools, exclosure fence for monitoring, etc. Activity 3: Deed and baseline reporting printing, field tools	Project implementation					\$27,483	\$23,319	\$4,164
							Sub Total	\$27,483	\$23,319	\$4,164
Capital Expenditures										
							Sub Total	-	-	-
Acquisitions and Stewardship										
	Conservation Easement Acquisition	Acres: 130 Parcels: 3						\$480,000	\$478,443	\$1,557
	Stewardship Funds	State of Minnesota-MN DNR						\$60,000	\$60,000	-
							Sub Total	\$540,000	\$538,443	\$1,557
Travel In Minnesota										
	Miles/ Meals/ Lodging	DNR fleet charges (for operation of trucks, cars, & special fieldwork equipment) & instate travel costs (as per state contracts)	Travel expenses needed to complete direct project work					\$172,442	\$55,136	\$117,306
							Sub Total	\$172,442	\$55,136	\$117,306
Travel Outside Minnesota										
							Sub Total	-	-	-
Printing and Publication										

	Printing	Outreach Materials	Outreach materials for Prairie Landowner Network (e.g. Annual Newsletter, Prairies of MN Landowner Handbook, etc.)					\$15,249	\$15,249	-
							Sub Total	\$15,249	\$15,249	-
Other Expenses										
		DNR's Direct and Necessary Costs	(~\$82,375 total) pay for activities that are directly related to and necessary for accomplishing appropriated programs/projects. Direct and necessary costs cover HR Support (~\$16,521), Safety Support (~\$2,990), Financial Support (~\$13,463), Communication Support (~\$5,551), IT Support (~\$39,297), and Planning Support (~\$4,553) that are necessary to accomplishing funded programs/projects.	X				\$82,375	\$73,076	\$9,299
							Sub Total	\$82,375	\$73,076	\$9,299
							Grand Total	\$2,000,000	\$1,632,161	\$367,839

Classified Staff or Generally Ineligible Expenses

Category/Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Justification Ineligible Expense or Classified Staff Request
Personnel - Acquisition & Management Coordinators and Prairie Biologist		Project acquisition, management and budget implementation, contract execution, partner coordination	Classified : 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.
Personnel - Specialists & Technicians		On the ground project implementation	Classified : 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.
Personnel - Laborers & Seasonal crews		On the ground project implementation	Classified : 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.
Other Expenses		DNR's Direct and Necessary Costs	It is the policy of the MN DNR that constitutionally dedicated projects pay for the costs that are directly related to and necessary for accomplishing project outcomes. This is calculated using the Department's Direct and Necessary Calculator.

Non ENRTF Funds

Category	Specific Source	Use	Status	\$ Amount	\$ Amount Spent	\$ Amount Remaining
State						
			State Sub Total	-	-	-
Non-State						
			Non State Sub Total	-	-	-
			Funds Total	-	-	-

Acquisition and Restoration

Parcel List

Name	County	Site Significance	Activity	Acres	Miles	Estimated Cost	Type of Landowner	Easement or Title Holder	Status of Work
Agassiz Dunes	Norman, Polk,	Dry barrens oak savanna-rare prairie plant community in northern MN	Conservation Easement	80	-	\$144,000	Private	DNR-SNA	Has Not Begun
Akron 9-1 NPB	Wilkin	High quality wet prairie embedded within The Nature Conservancy's Anna Gronseth Prairie Preserve.	Conservation Easement	40	-	\$75,000	Private	DNR-SNA	No Longer Being Considered
Big Stone Lake Prairie (north & south)	Big Stone	Dry Hill, mesic and wet prairies along Big Stone Lake next to DNR state park and SNA parcels	Conservation Easement	40	-	\$72,000	Private	DNR-SNA	Has Not Begun
Big Stone Moraines	Big Stone	Prairie meadow, wet prairie, rare species; part of a large, contiguous prairie macrosite, expands habitat for many rare species	Conservation Easement	80	-	\$144,000	Private	DNR-SNA	Has Not Begun
Blanket Flower Prairies	Clay, Becker, Otter Tail,	Dry Sand-gravel prairie in Alexandria Moraine and Hardwood Hills subsection	Conservation Easement	100	-	\$150,000	Private	DNR-SNA	Has Not Begun
Blue Mounds/Touch-The-Sky Prairies	Rock	Mesic to wet prairie with rock outcrops; provides habitat for many rare rock outcrop plants	Conservation Easement	40	-	\$160,000	Private	DNR-SNA	Has Not Begun
Blue Stem Prairie	Clay	Mesic, wet meadow/carr, & wet prairie parcels intermixed with DNR SNA and Audobon preserves	Conservation Easement	80	-	\$144,000	Private	DNR-SNA	Has Not Begun
Chanarambie Creek Prairies	Murray, Pipestone,	Dry gravel, mesic & wet prairies in biggest grassland complex with the highest quality prairie parcels in SW MN	Conservation Easement	80	-	\$224,000	Private	DNR-SNA	Has Not Begun
Des Moines River Valley	Cottonwood, Jackson,	Des Moines River Valley native prairie including oak savanna, dry hill prairie; expands habitat for many, butterflies, birds and rare plants - including Prairie Bush Clover.	Conservation Easement	80	-	\$240,000	Private	DNR-SNA	Has Not Begun
Excel 8-1 NPB		Site is 30 acres and includes high quality Parkland Brush Prairie-Wetland Complex located in the New Solum core area of the Minnesota Prairie Conservation Plan.	Conservation Easement	30	-	\$50,000	Private	DNR-SNA	Purchased

Felton Prairies	Clay	Prairie meadow, wet prairie, rare species; part of a large, contiguous prairie macrosite, expands habitat for many rare species as well as Prairie Chickens	Conservation Easement	100	-	\$180,000	Private	DNR-SNA	Has Not Begun
Frontenac Hay Creek Bluffs	Goodhue	Southern dry bedrock bluff (goat) prairies in a complex of bluff prairies and cold streams	Conservation Easement	40	-	\$104,000	Private	DNR-SNA	Has Not Begun
Glacial Lakes & Moraine Prairie	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	150	-	\$375,000	Private	DNR-SNA	Has Not Begun
Glacial Ridge Prairies	Polk	Prairie meadow, wet prairie, rare species; part of a large, contiguous prairie macrosite, expands habitat for many rare species as well as Prairie Chickens	Conservation Easement	160	-	\$256,000	Private	DNR-SNA	Has Not Begun
Hole-in-the-Mountain Prairies	Lincoln, Pipestone,	Dry hill prairie, prairie meadow, wet prairie, rare species; part of a large, contiguous prairie macrosite, expands habitat around existing TNC and DNR lands	Conservation Easement	150	-	\$390,000	Private	DNR-SNA	Has Not Begun
Kellogg-Weaver Dunes Prairies	Winona, Wabasha,	Rolling sand dune topography, mature dunes with dry, mesic, or wet prairie as well as oak savanna	Conservation Easement	40	-	\$100,000	Private	DNR-SNA	Has Not Begun
Lake Bronson and Aspen Parkland Prairies	Kittson, Marshall, Roseau,	Aspen parkland complex-many prairie dominated aspen complexes are succeeding to woodland in absence of fire	Conservation Easement	200	-	\$200,000	Private	DNR-SNA	Has Not Begun
Lake Christina Hills Prairies	Douglas, Grant, Otter Tail,	Dry Hill to wet prairies; part of the rolling topography of the Alexandria moraine	Conservation Easement	80	-	\$144,000	Private	DNR-SNA	Has Not Begun
Lake Traverse Prairies	Traverse	Dry prairie and prairie- woodland complex	Conservation Easement	150	-	\$300,000	Private	DNR-SNA	Has Not Begun
New Prairie 9-1 NPB	Pope	This site includes a high quality southern dry hill prairie located adjacent to the Lake Christina -Glacial Lakes Minnesota Prairie Conservation Plan corridor.	Conservation Easement	49	-	\$135,000	Private	DNR-SNA	Purchased
Prairie Coteau/Rock River Prairies	Pipestone	Dry hill prairie, prairie meadow, wet prairie, rare species; part of a large,	Conservation Easement	150	-	\$2,500	Private	DNR-SNA	Has Not Begun

		contiguous prairie macrosite, expands habitat around the Prairie Coteau SNA							
Root River Valley Prairies	Houston, Fillmore, Winona,	Southern Dry Bedrock Bluff (goat) prairies in a complex of bluff prairies and cold streams; habitat for timber rattlesnakes	Conservation Easement	40	-	\$96,000	Private	DNR-SNA	Has Not Begun
Rothsay Prairies	Wilkin	Prairie meadow, wet prairie, rare species; part of a large, contiguous prairie macrosite, expands habitat for many rare species as well as Prairie Chickens	Conservation Easement	160	-	\$256,000	Private	DNR-SNA	Has Not Begun
Shakotan Prairies	Lincoln	Dry hill prairie, prairie meadow, wet prairie, rare species; part of a large, contiguous prairie macrosite	Conservation Easement	150	-	\$390,000	Private	DNR-SNA	Has Not Begun
Sherburne Sands Prairies	Sherburne	A mosaic of prairie, wetlands and oak savanna set in an important transition zone	Conservation Easement	80	-	\$128,000	Private	DNR-SNA	Has Not Begun
Upper MN River Prairies	Chippewa, Redwood, Renville, Yellow Medicine, Swift,	MN River Valley native prairie including oak savanna, wet prairie, rock outcrops; expands habitat for many rare plants, butterflies and birds	Conservation Easement	200	-	\$580,000	Private	DNR-SNA	Has Not Begun
Wambach Santee Prairie	Mahnomen	Prairie meadow complexes, prairie rich fens and other rare northern plant communities	Conservation Easement	150	-	\$150,000	Private	DNR-SNA	Has Not Begun
Wiscoy 7-1 NPB	Winona	Site is a mix of dry hill prairie, wet prairie and calcareous fen with rare species present	Conservation Easement	55	-	\$160,000	Private	DNR-SNA	Purchased
Yellow Medicine Coteau Prairie	Yellow Medicine	Dry hill prairie, prairie meadow, wet prairie, rare species; part of a large, contiguous prairie macrosite, expands habitat for Western White Prairie Clover and Upland Sandpiper	Conservation Easement	160	-	\$400,000	Private	DNR-SNA	Has Not Begun
Totals				2,914	0	\$5,749,500			

Conservation Easement Acquisition

1. Describe the selection process for identifying and including proposed parcels on the parcel list, including an explanation of the criteria and decision-making process used to rank and prioritize parcels.

Eligibility for Native Prairie Bank (NPB) is established in both M.S. 84.96 and MN Rule 6136.09. To qualify, land must be covered by native prairie vegetation and have never been plowed. Eligible lands are prioritized based on factors including: size, quality and diversity of the native prairie habitat; occurrence of, or suitable habitat for rare species; location relative to other native prairie and/or public land; and potential for long-term habitat management and enhancement. MBS data is the foundation for many of these evaluation factors. Native Prairie Bank uses the “Native Prairie Bank Evaluation Form” to evaluate and score individual projects. This form has been included as an attachment to this proposal for reference.

2. List all adopted state, regional, or local natural resource plans in which the lands included in the parcel list are identified for the acquisition purposes you propose. Include the URL to the plan if one is available.

Minnesota Prairie Conservation Plan (<https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/prairieplan/index.html>)

Minnesota's Wildlife Action Plan 2015-2025 (<https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/mnwap/index.html>)

Minnesota DNR Strategic Conservation Agenda (<https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/conservationagenda/index.html>)

Statewide Conservation and Preservation Plan (https://www.lccmr.leg.mn/documents/scpp/statewide_plan.htm)

3. For any conservation easement acquired, a restoration and management plan must be prepared. Summarize the components and expected outcomes of restoration and management plans for parcels acquired by your organization, how these plans are kept on file by your organization, and overall strategies for long-term plan implementation, including how long-term maintenance and management needs of the parcel will be financed into the future.

Each parcel acquired as a new NPB will have a Prairie Stewardship Plan. Prairie Stewardship Plans include, 1) a resource inventory and assessment of all the lands native plant communities or restored to plant communities that would have been native to the site, 2) landowner and DNR's goals, and 3) prairie management alternatives/recommendations. The goals for the NPB's management are based upon soils, topography, geology, and other factors necessary to sustain the plant community. Each plan includes an implementation timetable that summarizes ongoing management needs and a statement on funding. Long-term management costs (e.g. invasive species treatments, prescribed fire, and ecological monitoring/evaluation) will be covered by a combination of funding sources, including, but not limited to, the landowner, ENRTF, Outdoor Heritage Fund (OHF), federal grants, and other funds as appropriated. Each Prairie Stewardship Plan is kept in a DNR internal shared electronic filing system accessible to all SNA staff along with a copy given to the landowner.

4. For each parcel to be conveyed to a State of Minnesota entity (e.g., DNR) after purchase, provide a statement confirming that county board approval will be obtained.

DNR policy is to notify the county assessor prior to easement closing, however county board approval is not requested.

5. If applicable (see M.S. 116P.17), provide a statement confirming that written approval from the DNR Commissioner will be obtained 10 business days prior to any final acquisition transaction.

As part of the DNR acquisition process, all NPB acquisitions are required to have approval of the Ecological and Water Resources Division Director and land conveyances are accepted by the Director or Deputy Director of the Division of Lands and Minerals who have delegated authority to approve this for the Commissioner.

6. Provide a statement addressing how conservation easements will address specific water quality protection activities, such as keeping water on the landscape, reducing nutrient and contaminant loading, protecting groundwater, and not permitting artificial hydrological modifications.

Native Prairie Bank's goal is to protect existing high quality, high functioning native prairie that currently is providing multiple water quality benefits. In addition, the easement terms and the Prairie Stewardship Plan they are required to follow assures that the prairie health is sustained, thus they inherently do an excellent job of keeping the water on the landscape, reducing nutrient and contaminant loading, and protecting groundwater. In addition, use of pesticides on

the easement is prohibited without approval of the DNR. The easement terms also prohibit artificial hydrological modifications by prohibiting excavation, cultivations, drainage, filling, and irrigation.

7. Describe the long-term monitoring and enforcement program for conservation easements acquired on parcels by your organization, including explanations of the process used for calculating conservation easement monitoring and enforcement costs, the process used for annual inspection and reporting on monitoring and enforcement activities, and the process used to ensure perpetual funding and implementation of monitoring and enforcement activities.

The policy of the DNR is to protect both the conservation values of the property protected by these easements and the investment of the state in those interests. Elements of this stewardship include the creation of baseline property reports, enforcement protocols, regular compliance monitoring, record keeping and reporting, and maintaining effective working relationships with the owners of these easement properties. Native Prairie Bank implements this policy by following DNR Operational Order #128 "Conservation Easement Stewardship" in addition to the "Ecological and Water Resources Division Conservation Easement Stewardship Plan and Guidelines". This operational order and supporting division guidance calls for annual landowner contacts as well as on-the-ground site evaluations once every three years if no violations are found. If a violation is found, monitoring would occur annually until the violation is corrected.

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. For each specific Native Prairie Bank easement, initial investment dollars are determined by using a DNR approved Conservation Easement Stewardship Calculator, which estimates the annual expenses and the investment needed to generate annual income sufficient to cover these expenses in perpetuity.

Funds for this activity will be deposited into the established conservation easement stewardship account and Minnesota Management & Budget protocols will be adhered to. After the closing of each Native Prairie Bank easement acquired with this appropriation, the calculated easement stewardship funds will be deposited into this account. Once funds are deposited and interest begins to accrue, this accrued interest will be applied towards actual expenses tied to annual landowner contact, regular compliance monitoring, record keeping and minor enforcement protocols.

Restoration

1. Provide a statement confirming that all restoration activities completed with these funds will occur on land permanently protected by a conservation easement or public ownership.

All restoration activities done with this appropriation are on DNR-owned perpetual Native Prairie Bank conservation easements administered by the SNA Program.

2. Summarize the components and expected outcomes of restoration and management plans for the parcels to be restored by your organization, how these plans are kept on file by your organization, and overall strategies for long-term plan implementation.

Each restoration project will be based upon a Native Prairie Stewardship Plan (ecological restoration and management plan) and/or project plan with goals for reconstructing plant communities that are native to the site that are based upon soils, topography, geology, and other factors necessary to sustain the plant community. Each plan includes an implementation timetable which summarizes ongoing management needs. Each restoration and management plan and project plan is kept by the landowner and in a DNR internal shared electronic filing system accessible to all SNA staff.

3. Describe how restoration efforts will utilize and follow the Board of Soil and Water Resources "Native Vegetation Establishment and Enhancement Guidelines" in order to ensure ecological integrity and pollinator enhancement.

The SNA Program follows or exceeds the recommendations found in the BWSR "Native Vegetation Establishment and Enhancement Guidelines". NPB restorations typically follow the current BWSR Guidelines, including Project Guidance, Plant Community Restoration, and Temporary Cover. The SNA Program follows the general direction of the BWSR

Guidelines for “Recommended Steps for Obtaining Plant Materials”, and has additional and more restrictive requirements for restoration material sources. Specifically, all restorations on Native Prairie Banks use seeds/plants of local ecotypes, collected from onsite or within 30 miles. Restoration and management of DNR lands are governed by DNR Operational Order #124 on “Plant Material Standards for Native Plant Community Restoration” and DNR Operational Order #130 on “Pollinator Habitat” (which include BMPs).

4. Describe how the long-term maintenance and management needs of the parcel being restored with these funds will be met and financed into the future.

Long-term management costs (e.g. invasive species treatments, prescribed fire, and monitoring/evaluation) will be covered by a combination funding sources, including, but not limited to, the landowner, ENRTF, Outdoor Heritage Fund (OHF), federal grants, and other funds as appropriated.

5. Describe how consideration will be given to contracting with Conservation Corps of Minnesota for any restoration activities.

DNR has a standing general contract with CCMI under which the SNA Program often does project or activity specific agreements. For restoration projects, CCMI has been and will continue to be used when appropriate for hand seed harvest, invasive species control and prescribed burning on NPBs.

6. Provide a statement indicating that evaluations will be completed on parcels where activities were implemented both 1) initially after activity completion and 2) three years later as a follow-up. Evaluations should analyze improvements to the parcel and whether goals have been met, identify any problems with the implementation, and identify any findings that can be used to improve implementation of future restoration efforts at the site or elsewhere.

Restoration projects will be evaluated and a report submitted to the LCCMR to ascertain how well the native plants have been established and non-natives controlled. The evaluation reports include a summary of management plan outcomes, activities completed through the project, map of the project area, a statement of ongoing management needs and funding, and a summary of the evaluation.

Attachments

Required Attachments

Map

File: [108b4d32-da9.pdf](#)

Alternate Text for Map

Protect 130 acres of high-quality native prairie within Prairie Plan and Southeast priority areas. Photo-1: Diverse prairie protected through Native Prairie Bank. Photo-2: Unprotected prairie degraded by intensive use/rock removal....

Supplemental Attachments

Capital Project Questionnaire, Budget Supplements, Support Letter, Photos, Media, Other

Title	File
Native Prairie Bank Acquisition Evaluation Form	50366ec0-09d.pdf
Background Check Certification	4e8199f4-1ef.pdf
Excel 8-1 NPB Map	342a27cd-8a7.pdf
New Prairie 9-1 NPB Map	ad497098-0b6.pdf
Wiscoy 3-1 NPB Map	846e48c5-26d.pdf
Minnesota Prairie Landowner Network newsletter summer 2023	908cda91-573.pdf
2024 Native Prairie Bank statute changes	82119ccc-76d.docx
ML21 Final Project Map	4f37abcc-d1e.pdf
New Prairie 9-1 NPB transaction costs	ee02dc07-4cb.xlsx
Wiscoy 3-1 NPB transaction costs	e99db9e9-2de.xlsx
Excel 8-1 NPB transaction costs	defe329f-3db.xlsx

Difference between Proposal and Work Plan

Describe changes from Proposal to Work Plan Stage

Below is a summary of changes made:

- 1.) Updated project summary to remove reference to resubmission. I assume the ML21 resubmission of the ML20 proposal was used to create this electronic workplan and since we are reverting back to original ML20 submission I figured it was best to remove that reference.
- 2.) Requested different reporting dates (1 month earlier) to stay consistent with previous appropriations received.
- 3.) Updated acres currently protected through Native Prairie Bank since several parcels have been added to the program since the original submission of this proposal.
- 4.) Added dissemination efforts.

Additional Acknowledgements and Conditions:

The following are acknowledgements and conditions beyond those already included in the above workplan:

Do you understand and acknowledge the ENRTF repayment requirements if the use of capital equipment changes?

N/A

Do you understand that travel expenses are only approved if they follow the "Commissioner's Plan" promulgated by the Commissioner of Management of Budget or, for University of Minnesota projects, the University of Minnesota plan?

Yes, I understand the Commissioner's Plan applies.

Does your project have potential for royalties, copyrights, patents, sale of products and assets, or revenue generation?

No

Do you understand and acknowledge IP and revenue-return and sharing requirements in 116P.10?

N/A

Do you wish to request reinvestment of any revenues into your project instead of returning revenue to the ENRTF?

N/A

Does your project include original, hypothesis-driven research?

No

Does the organization have a fiscal agent for this project?

No

Work Plan Amendments

Amendment ID	Request Type	Changes made on the following pages	Explanation & justification for Amendment Request (word limit 75)	Date Submitted	Approved	Date of LCCMR Action
1	Amendment Request	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Budget - Professional / Technical Contracts Budget - Capital, Equipment, Tools, and Supplies Budget - Printing and Publication 	Request to move \$15,000 from Professional/Technical Contracts to Printing and \$3,000 from Professional/Technical Contracts to Supplies. This will allow us to print the annual Prairie Landowner Network Newsletter and more copies of the Prairies of MN Landowner Handbook (developed through ML17) to distribute to private landowners across the state to encourage improved prairie management and protection.	March 23, 2023	Yes	March 23, 2023
2	Amendment Request	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Budget Activities and Milestones Budget - Professional / Technical Contracts Budget - Capital, Equipment, Tools, and Supplies Budget - Travel and Conferences Budget - Printing and Publication Budget - Other Acquisition and Restoration - Parcel List 	This amendment request includes to add two new acquisition parcels to parcel list including Wiscoy 7-1 NPB in Winona County and Akron 9-1 NPB in Wilkin County. Since restoration activities are being completed with alternative funding and no additional ecological monitoring is needed through this appropriation, we request to reduce the restoration and ecological monitoring outcomes and plan to deliver more invasive/woody control acres as a replacement.	August 23, 2023	Yes	October 6, 2023
3	Amendment Request	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Budget - Professional / Technical Contracts Budget - Capital, Equipment, Tools, and Supplies Budget - Travel and Conferences Budget - Printing and Publication Acquisition and Restoration - Parcel List 	This request is to move \$249.00 from contracts to printing to cover minor a additional expense. Additionally, we request to add two new parcels to the acquisition parcel list. The two new parcels are located in Marshall and Pope counties.	February 29, 2024	Yes	June 20, 2024
4	Project Manager	Previous Manager: Judy Schulte (judy.schulte@state.mn.us)	Tyler is the SNA unit's new Prairie Biologist, taking over the Native Prairie	March 26, 2024	Yes	March 27, 2024

		New Manager: Tyler Janke (tyler.janke@state.mn.us)	Bank appropriation management with my continued support.			
5	Completion Date	Previous Completion Date: 06/30/2024 New Completion Date: 06/30/2025	Binding agreements are in place for easement acquisition projects tied to this appropriation, but more time is needed to complete the transactions and close on these easements. Sites with binding agreements in place include Wiscoy 3-1 (Winona county), New Prairie 9-1 (Pope county), and Excel 8-1 (Marshall county).	June 26, 2024	Yes	June 28, 2024
6	Amendment Request	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Budget • Project Collaborators - Project Manager Info • Other • Budget - Personnel • Budget - Professional / Technical Contracts • Budget - Acquisition • Budget - Travel and Conferences • Attachments • Acquisition and Restoration - Parcel List 	This request is to move \$10,000 from Personnel to Professional Services for Acquisition and to move \$40,000 from Professional Technical Service Contracts to Conservation Easement Acquisition. These changes are needed to cover increased easement acquisition costs associated with higher-than-expected professional service charges and increased easement payment rates resulting from changes to the native prairie bank payment formula enacted by the MN legislature in 2024.	August 8, 2025	Yes	September 30, 2025

Status Update Reporting

Final Status Update August 14, 2025

Date Submitted: August 8, 2025

Date Approved: September 30, 2025

Overall Update

SNA Prairie Specialists participated in 9 outreach events and engaged 75 different priority prairie landowners and practitioners providing prairie protection, restoration and enhancement and plant identification education. As of June 30th, 2025, there are 1285 members on the MPLN Facebook page, with active posting taking place about every 1-2 days. Seventeen contracted prairie stewardship plans have been completed. Thirty-four NPB easements have been monitored for compliance. Woody Removal has been completed on 352 acres at 17 NPBs and herbaceous invasive species control was completed on 468 acres at 43 NPBs for a total of 820 acres. A total of 510 acres have had prescribed disturbance activities applied (500 acres prescribed burned at 16 NPBs; 10 acres prescribed hayed at 2 NPB's). Ecological monitoring activities took place on 20 NPBs during the summers of 2022 and 2023. SNA Prairie Specialists have engaged multiple priority prairie landowners to discuss protection options for their property. Three Native Prairie Bank easements have closed totaling 134.9 acres.

Activity 1

This activity was previously marked complete.

(This activity marked as complete as of this status update)

Activity 2

This activity was previously marked complete.

(This activity marked as complete as of this status update)

Activity 3

Cumulative accomplishments to-date: 3a. SNA Prairie Specialists have engaged multiple priority prairie landowners to discuss protection options for their property. Four acquisitions have been added to the parcel list through amendment requests. Three easement acquisitions totaling 134.9 acres have closed. These sites include Excel 8-1 in Marshall County (31.3 ac), New Prairie 9-1 in Pope County (48.8 ac) and Wiscoy 3-1 in Winona County (54.8 ac). 3b. Baseline Property Reports: Baseline property reports have been completed for all three easement properties. 3c. Conservation Easement Stewardship Account: Enrollment of easement stewardship dollars for these three properties has been completed.

(This activity marked as complete as of this status update)

Dissemination

Seventeen prairie stewardship plans have been completed with funding from this appropriation. DNR managers and landowners were involved in the plan creation process and copies of the completed plans will be provided to the landowners. In May of 2023 the third edition of the MPLN newsletter was distributed to 6000+ prairie landowners across MN. All handouts at outreach events followed ENRTF acknowledgement guidelines. Baseline property reports have been completed for 3 sites.

Status Update Reporting

Status Update March 1, 2025

Date Submitted: April 18, 2025

Date Approved: June 2, 2025

Overall Update

SNA Prairie Specialists participated in 9 outreach events and engaged 75 different priority prairie landowners and practitioners providing prairie protection, restoration and enhancement and plant identification education. As of February 13, 2025, there are 1246 members on the MPLN Facebook page, with active posting taking place about every 1-2 days. Seventeen contracted prairie stewardship plans have been completed. Thirty-four NPB easements have been monitored for compliance. Woody Removal has been completed on 352 acres at 17 NPBs and herbaceous invasive species control was completed on 468 acres at 43 NPBs for a total of 820 acres. A total of 510 acres have had prescribed disturbance activities applied (500 acres prescribed burned at 16 NPBs; 10 acres prescribed hayed at 2 NPB's). Ecological monitoring activities took place on 20 NPBs during the summers of 2022 and 2023. SNA Prairie Specialists have engaged multiple priority prairie landowners to discuss protection options for their property. Three landowners have signed options to purchase Native Prairie Bank easements with the DNR totaling 136.3 acres. One easement closed in December 2024 while the remaining two are anticipated to close before June 30th, 2025.

Activity 1

This activity was previously marked complete.

(This activity marked as complete as of this status update)

Activity 2

Cumulative accomplishments to-date: 2a. Woody Removal & Invasive Species: Woody Removal has been completed on 332 acres at 15 NPBs and herbaceous invasive species control was completed on 326 acres at 38 NPBs. 2b. Prescribed Disturbance: 500 acres have been prescribed burned at 16 NPBs and 10 acres have been prescribed mowed at 2 NPB's. 2c. Site Development: Site development activities have been completed for all three properties. 2d. Ecological monitoring: Ecological monitoring activities were conducted on 20 NPBs during the summer of 2022 and 2023.

(This activity marked as complete as of this status update)

Activity 3

Cumulative accomplishments to-date: 3a. SNA Prairie Specialists have engaged multiple priority prairie landowners to discuss protection options for their property. Four acquisitions have been added to the parcel list through amendment requests. Three acquisitions totaling 136.3 acres are moving forward and all landowners have signed options to purchase. These sites include Excel 8-1 in Marshall County (32.6 ac), New Prairie 9-1 in Pope County (49.4 ac) and Wiscoy 3-1 in Winona County (54.3 ac). The New Prairie 9-1 NPB closed on December 2nd, 2024. Elections to purchase have been issued for the Wiscoy 3-1 and Excel 8-1 sites. These projects are being processed by DNR Lands and Minerals project managers and are expected to close before June 30th 2025. 3b. Baseline Property Reports: Baseline property reports have been completed for New Prairie 9-1 and Excel 8-1. The baseline property report for Wiscoy 3-1 is in development. 3c. Conservation Easement Stewardship Account: Dollars will be enrolled into the conservation easement stewardship account once parcels have officially closed and been recorded.

Dissemination

Seventeen prairie stewardship plans have been completed with funding from this appropriation. DNR managers and landowners were involved in the plan creation process and copies of the completed plans will be provided to the landowners. In May of 2023 the third edition of the MPLN newsletter was distributed to 6000+ prairie landowners

across MN. All handouts at outreach events followed ENRTF acknowledgement guidelines. Baseline property reports have been completed for 2 sites and the third will be completed shortly.

Status Update Reporting

Status Update September 1, 2024

Date Submitted: August 22, 2024

Date Approved: October 23, 2024

Overall Update

SNA Prairie Specialists participated in 9 outreach events and engaged 75 different priority prairie landowners and practitioners providing prairie protection, restoration and enhancement and plant identification education. As of August 20th 2024, there are 1200 members on the MPLN Facebook page, with active posting taking place about every 1-2 days. Seventeen contracted prairie stewardship plans have been completed. Thirty-four NPB easements have been monitored for compliance. Woody Removal has been completed on 332 acres at 15 NPBs and herbaceous invasive species control was completed on 326 acres at 38 NPBs for a total of 658 acres. A total of 510 acres have had prescribed disturbance activities applied (500 acres prescribed burned at 16 NPBs; 10 acres prescribed hayed at 2 NPB's). Ecological monitoring activities took place on 20 NPBs during the summers of 2022 and 2023. SNA Prairie Specialists have engaged multiple priority prairie landowners to discuss protection options for their property. Three landowners have signed options to purchase Native Prairie Bank easements with the DNR totaling 136.3 acres.

Activity 1

Cumulative accomplishments to-date: 1a. Workshops & Field Days: SNA Prairie Specialists have participated in 9 outreach events providing plant identification and management education. 1b. Consultations: SNA Prairie Specialists have engaged over 75 different priority prairie landowners and practitioners to discuss protection and management options for their property. 1c. Prairie Landowner Network: This is a continuation of work that started with ML17. As of August 20th 2024 there are 1200 members on the MPLN Facebook page, with active posting taking place about every 1-2 days. The third edition of the newsletter went out to 6000+ landowners in May of 2023. A request for articles for the fourth edition of the newsletter was posted in January 2024 and work is taking place updating the newsletter format and content for the next edition. 1d. Prairie Stewardship Plans: Seventeen prairie stewardship plans have been completed. 1e. Baseline Property Reports: Five baseline property reports have been completed, including Altona 31-1, Bilden, Johnson, Moulton 5-1 and Norway Lake 5-1 NPB's. 1f. Easement Monitoring and Stewardship: 34 NPB easements have been monitored.

(This activity marked as complete as of this status update)

Activity 2

Cumulative accomplishments to-date: 2a. Woody Removal & Invasive Species: Woody Removal has been completed on 332 acres at 15 NPBs and herbaceous invasive species control was completed on 326 acres at 38 NPBs. 2b. Prescribed Disturbance: 500 acres have been prescribed burned at 16 NPBs and 10 acres have been prescribed mowed at 2 NPB's. 2c. Site Development: Site development activities have been initiated at two of the three sites with signed options. 2d. Ecological monitoring: Ecological monitoring activities were conducted on 20 NPBs during the summer of 2022 and 2023.

Activity 3

Cumulative accomplishments to-date: 3a. SNA Prairie Specialists have engaged multiple priority prairie landowners to discuss protection options for their property. Four acquisitions have been added to the parcel list through amendment requests. Three acquisitions totaling 136.3 acres are moving forward and all landowners have signed options to purchase. These sites include Excel 8-1 in Marshall County (32.6 ac), New Prairie 9-1 in Pope County (49.4 ac) and Wiscoy 3-1 in Winona County (54.3 ac). Payment rates were not updated from 2019 rates until the spring of 2023, which caused staff to have difficulty getting landowners interested in easements. However, the legislature significantly increased Native Prairie Bank easement payments during the 2024 legislative session. We are hopeful the increased

rates will lead to renewed interest in the Native Prairie Bank easements moving forward. 3b. Baseline Property Reports: Three baseline reports have been initiated for the three new NPB sites that have signed options to purchase. 3c. Conservation Easement Stewardship Account: Dollars will be enrolled into the conservation easement stewardship account once parcels have officially closed and been recorded.

Dissemination

Seventeen prairie stewardship plans have been completed with funding from this appropriation. DNR managers and landowners were involved in the plan creation process and copies of the completed plans will be provided to the landowners. In May of 2023 the third edition of the MPLN newsletter was distributed to 6000+ prairie landowners across MN. All handouts at outreach events followed ENRTF acknowledgement guidelines.

Additional Status Update Reporting

Additional Status Update August 14, 2024

Date Submitted: June 26, 2024

Date Approved: June 28, 2024

Overall Update

SNA Prairie Specialists participated in 9 outreach events and engaged 75 different priority prairie landowners and practitioners providing prairie protection, restoration and enhancement and plant identification education. As of June 23rd 2024, there are 1195 members on the MPLN Facebook page, with active posting taking place about every 1-2 days. Seventeen contracted prairie stewardship plans have been completed. Thirty-four NPB easements have been monitored for compliance. Woody Removal has been completed on 332 acres at 15 NPBs and herbaceous invasive species control was completed on 326 acres at 38 NPBs for a total of 658 acres. A total of 468 acres have had prescribed disturbance activities applied (458 acres prescribed burned at 14 NPBs; 10 acres prescribed hayed at 2 NPB's). Ecological monitoring activities took place on 20 NPBs during the summers of 2022 and 2023. SNA Prairie Specialists have engaged multiple priority prairie landowners to discuss protection options for their property. Three landowners have signed options to purchase Native Prairie Bank easements with the DNR totaling 136.3 acres. Additional accomplishments completed before June 30th 2024 will be added to the September 1st 2024 status update to allow staff time to report all progress towards the ML 20 appropriation.

Activity 1

Cumulative accomplishments to-date: 1a. Workshops & Field Days: SNA Prairie Specialists have participated in 9 outreach events providing plant identification and management education. 1b. Consultations: SNA Prairie Specialists have engaged over 75 different priority prairie landowners and practitioners to discuss protection and management options for their property. 1c. Prairie Landowner Network: This is a continuation of work that started with ML17. As of June 23rd 2024 there are 1195 members on the MPLN Facebook page, with active posting taking place about every 1-2 days. The third edition of the newsletter went out to 6000+ landowners in May of 2023. A request for articles for the fourth edition of the newsletter was posted in January 2024 and work is taking place updating the newsletter format and content for the next edition. 1d. Prairie Stewardship Plans: Seventeen prairie stewardship plans have been completed. 1e. Baseline Property Reports: Five baseline property reports have been completed, including Altona 31-1, Bilden, Johnson, Moulton 5-1 and Norway Lake 5-1 NPB's. 1f. Easement Monitoring and Stewardship: 34 NPB easements have been monitored.

Activity 2

Cumulative accomplishments to-date: 2a. Woody Removal & Invasive Species: Woody Removal has been completed on 332 acres at 15 NPBs and herbaceous invasive species control was completed on 326 acres at 38 NPBs. 2b. Prescribed Disturbance: 458 acres have been prescribed burned at 14 NPBs and 10 acres have been prescribed mowed at 2 NPB's. 2c. Site Development: Site development activities have occurred at 2 NPB sites and 3 additional site development activities will be completed for NPB's that have signed options. 2d. Ecological monitoring: Ecological monitoring activities were conducted on 20 NPBs during the summer of 2022 and 2023.

Activity 3

Cumulative accomplishments to-date: 3a. SNA Prairie Specialists have engaged multiple priority prairie landowners to discuss protection options for their property. Four acquisitions have been added to the parcel list through amendment requests. Three acquisitions totaling 136.3 acres are moving forward and all landowners have signed options to purchase. These sites include Excel 8-1 in Marshall county (32.6 ac), New Prairie 9-1 in Pope county (49.4 ac) and Wiscoy 3-1 in Winona county (54.3 ac) . Payment rates were not updated from 2019 rates until the spring of 2023, which caused staff to have difficulty getting landowners interested in easements. However, the legislature significantly

increased Native Prairie Bank easement payments during the 2024 legislative session. We are hopeful the increased rates will lead to renewed interest in the Native Prairie Bank easements moving forward. 3b. Baseline Property Reports: Three baseline reports have been initiated for the three new NPB sites that have signed options to purchase. 3c. Conservation Easement Stewardship Account: Dollars will be enrolled into the conservation easement stewardship account once parcels have officially closed and been recorded.

Dissemination

Seventeen prairie stewardship plans have been completed with funding from this appropriation. DNR managers and landowners were involved in the plan creation process and copies of the completed plans will be provided to the landowners. In May of 2023 the third edition of the MPLN newsletter was distributed to 6000+ prairie landowners across MN. All handouts at outreach events followed ENRTF acknowledgement guidelines.

Status Update Reporting

Status Update March 1, 2024

Date Submitted: February 29, 2024

Date Approved: June 20, 2024

Overall Update

SNA Prairie Specialists participated in 6 outreach events and engaged 75 different priority prairie landowners and practitioners providing prairie protection, restoration and enhancement and plant identification education. As of February 8 2024 there are 1061 members on the MPLN Facebook page, with active posting taking place about every 1-2 days. Seventeen prairie stewardship plans have been awarded to contractors to be completed by March 31, 2024. Eighteen NPB easements have been monitored for compliance. Woody Removal has been completed on 98 acres at 15 NPBs and herbaceous invasive species control was completed on 463 acres at 43 NPBs. A total of 422 acres have had prescribed disturbance activities applied (412 acres prescribed burned at 11 NPBs; 10 acres prescribed hayed at 2 NPB). Ecological monitoring activities took place on 20 NPBs during the summers of 2022 and 2023. SNA Prairie Specialists have engaged multiple priority prairie landowners to discuss protection options for their property. Three acquisitions are moving forward and are requested to be added to the parcel list through an amendment request. BWSR released new payment rates in the spring of 2023, new applications are anticipated.

Activity 1

Cumulative accomplishments to-date: 1a. Workshops & Field Days: SNA Prairie Specialists have participated in 6 outreach events providing plant identification and management education. 1b. Consultations: SNA Prairie Specialists have engaged over 75 different priority prairie landowners and practitioners to discuss protection and management options for their property. 1c. Prairie Landowner Network: This is a continuation of work that started with ML17. As of February 8th 2024 there are 1061 members on the MPLN Facebook page, with active posting taking place about every 1-2 days. The third edition of the newsletter went out to 6000+ landowners in May of 2023. A request for articles for the fourth edition of the newsletter was posted in January 2024. 1d. Prairie Stewardship Plans: Seventeen prairie stewardship plans have been contracted out and are in progress. 1e. Baseline Property Reports: None to-date. 1f. Easement Monitoring and Stewardship: 18 NPB easements have been monitored.

Activity 2

Cumulative accomplishments to-date: 2a. Woody Removal & Invasive Species: Woody Removal has been completed on 98 acres at 15 NPBs and herbaceous invasive species control was completed on 463 acres at 43 NPBs. 2b. Prescribed Disturbance: 412 acres have been prescribed burned at 11 NPBs and 10 acres have been prescribed mowed at 2 NPB's. 2c. Site Development: Site development activities have occurred at 2 NPB sites. 2d. Ecological monitoring: Ecological monitoring activities were conducted on 20 NPBs during the summer of 2022 and 2023.

Activity 3

Cumulative accomplishments to-date: 3a. SNA Prairie Specialists have engaged multiple priority prairie landowners to discuss protection options for their property. Four acquisitions have been added to the parcel list through amendment requests. Three of these acquisitions are currently moving forward. Payment rates were not updated from 2019 rates until the spring of 2023. This caused staff to have difficulty getting landowners interested in easements. BWSR did release new payment rates this spring, we are hopeful that will help encourage more interest in Native Prairie Bank enrollment. Due to low payment rates, it has been a struggle to try and meet protection goals during this appropriations timeframe. 3b. Baseline Property Reports: None to-date 3c. Conservation Easement Stewardship Account: Dollars will be enrolled into the conservation easement stewardship account once parcels have officially closed and been recorded.

Dissemination

Seventeen prairie stewardship plans have been awarded to contractors to be completed by March 31, 2024. DNR managers and landowners will be involved in the plan creation process and will be provided a copy of the plans once finished. In May of 2023 the third edition of the MPLN newsletter was distributed to 6000+ prairie landowners across MN. All handouts at outreach events followed ENRTF acknowledgement guidelines.

Status Update Reporting

Status Update September 1, 2023

Date Submitted: August 23, 2023

Date Approved: October 6, 2023

Overall Update

SNA Prairie Specialists participated in 4 outreach events and engaged 75 different priority prairie landowners and practitioners providing prairie protection, restoration and enhancement and plant identification education. As of July 31st, 2023 (~1,110 days after official launch) there are 982 members on the MPLN Facebook page, with active posting taking place about every 1-2 days. Seventeen prairie stewardship plans have been awarded to contractors to be completed by March 31, 2024. Seventeen NPB easements have been monitored. Woody Removal has been completed on 50 acres at 8 NPBs and herbaceous invasive species control was completed on 279 acres at 28 NPBs. A total of 185 acres have had prescribed disturbance activities applied (412 acres prescribed burned at 11 NPBs; 10 acres prescribed hayed at 2 NPB). Ecological monitoring activities took place on 13 NPBs during the summer of 2022 with more activities planned for the summer of 2023. SNA Prairie Specialists have engaged multiple priority prairie landowners to discuss protection options for their property. Two acquisitions are moving forward and are requested to be added to the parcel list through an amendment request. BWSR released new payment rates in the spring of 2023, new applications are anticipated.

Activity 1

Cumulative accomplishments to-date: 1a. Workshops & Field Days: SNA Prairie Specialists have participated in 4 outreach events providing plant identification and management education. 1b. Consultations: SNA Prairie Specialists have engaged over 75 different priority prairie landowners and practitioners to discuss protection and management options for their property. 1c. Prairie Landowner Network: This is a continuation of work that started with ML17. As of July 31st, 2023 (~1,110 days after official launch) there are 982 members on the MPLN Facebook page, with active posting taking place about every 1-2 days. The third edition of the newsletter went out to 6000+ landowners in May of 2023. 1d. Prairie Stewardship Plans: Seventeen prairie stewardship plans have been contracted out and are in progress. 1e. Baseline Property Reports: None to-date. 1-6 Easement Monitoring and Stewardship: 17 NPB easements have been monitored.

Activity 2

Cumulative accomplishments to-date: 2a. Prairie Reconstruction: Restoration projects are moving forward on other appropriations. An amendment request was submitted as part of this update to move restoration acres to additional woody/invasive control acres. 2b. Woody Removal & Invasive Species: Woody Removal has been completed on 50 acres at 8 NPBs and herbaceous invasive species control was completed on 279 acres at 28 NPBs. 2c. Prescribed Disturbance: 412 acres have been prescribed burned at 11 NPBs and 10 acres have been prescribed hayed at 2 NPB's. 2d. Site Development: none to-date. 2e. Ecological monitoring: Ecological monitoring activities took place on 13 NPBs during the summer of 2022, another 7 are planned for summer of 2023. Additional monitoring will not be needed with this appropriation. This update includes a request to shift extra monitoring to additional woody and herbaceous invasive control.

Activity 3

Cumulative accomplishments to-date: 3a. SNA Prairie Specialists have engaged multiple priority prairie landowners to discuss protection options for their property. Two acquisitions are moving forward and have been added to the parcel list through an amendment request. Payment rates were not updated from 2019 rates until the spring of 2023. This caused staff to have difficulty getting landowners interested in easements. BWSR did release new payment rates this spring, we are hopeful that will help encourage more interest in Native Prairie Bank enrollment. Due to low payment

rates, it has been a struggle to try and meet protection goals during this appropriations timeframe. 3b. Baseline Property Reports: None to-date 3c. Conservation Easement Stewardship Account: Dollars will be enrolled into the conservation easement stewardship account once parcels have officially closed and been recorded.

Dissemination

Seventeen prairie stewardship plans have been awarded to contractors to be completed by March 31, 2024. DNR managers and landowners will be involved in the plan creation process and will be provided a copy of the plans once finished. In May of 2023 the third edition of the MPLN newsletter was distributed to 6000+ prairie landowners across MN. All handouts at outreach events followed ENRTF acknowledgement guidelines.

Status Update Reporting

Status Update March 1, 2023

Date Submitted: February 21, 2023

Date Approved: March 6, 2023

Overall Update

SNA Prairie Specialists participated in 2 outreach events and engaged 50 different priority prairie landowners and practitioners providing prairie protection, restoration and enhancement and plant identification education. As of February 21, 2023 (~950 days after official launch) there are 908 members on the MPLN Facebook page, with active posting taking place about every 1-2 days. Seventeen prairie stewardship plans have been contracted out with work on the plans beginning August 1, 2022. Seventeen NPB easements have been monitored. Woody Removal has been completed on 41 acres at 7 NPBs and herbaceous invasive species control was completed on 218 acres at 25 NPBs. A total of 185 acres have had prescribed disturbance activities applied (178 acres prescribed burned at 3 NPBs; 7 acres prescribed hayed at 1 NPB). Ecological monitoring activities took place on 13 NPBs during the summer of 2022 with more activities planned for the summer of 2023. SNA Prairie Specialists have engaged multiple priority prairie landowners to discuss protection options for their property. One acquisition is moving forward and will be added to the parcel list soon. Payment rates have not been updated since 2019 making reaching protection outcomes difficult, however BWSR is releasing new rates soon.

Activity 1

Cumulative accomplishments to-date: 1a. Workshops & Field Days: SNA Prairie Specialists have participated in 2 outreach events providing plant identification education. 1b. Consultations: SNA Prairie Specialists have engaged over 50 different priority prairie landowners and practitioners to discuss protection and management options for their property. 1c. Prairie Landowner Network: This is a continuation of work that started with ML17. As of February 21, 2023 (~950 days after official launch) there are 908 members on the MPLN Facebook page, with active posting taking place about every 1-2 days. A newsletter (3rd edition) is planned for the spring of 2023. 1d. Prairie Stewardship Plans: Seventeen prairie stewardship plans have been contracted out with work on the plans beginning August 1, 2022. 1e. Baseline Property Reports: None to-date. 1-6 Easement Monitoring and Stewardship: 17 NPB easements have been monitored.

Activity 2

Cumulative accomplishments to-date: 2a. Prairie Reconstruction: Staff are identifying areas for restoration and an amendment will be requested in the future to add these parcels to the parcel list. 2b. Woody Removal & Invasive Species: Woody Removal has been completed on 41 acres at 7 NPBs and herbaceous invasive species control was completed on 218 acres at 25 NPBs. 2c. Prescribed Disturbance: 178 acres have been prescribed burned at 3 NPBs and 7 acres have been prescribed hayed at 1 NPB. 2d. Site Development: none to-date. 2e. Ecological monitoring: Ecological monitoring activities took place on 13 NPBs during the summer of 2022 with more activities planned for the summer of 2023.

Activity 3

Cumulative accomplishments to-date: 3a. SNA Prairie Specialists have engaged multiple priority prairie landowners to discuss protection options for their property. One acquisition is moving forward and will be added to the parcel list once we get all the needed internal approvals. Payment rates have not been updated since 2019 and staff are having trouble on the landscape getting landowners interested in easements. BWSR did confirm that new rates should be coming out soon, we are hopeful that will help encourage more interest in Native Prairie Bank enrollment. Due to low payment rates, it has been a struggle to try and meet protection goals during this appropriations timeframe. 3b. Baseline Property Reports: None to-date 3c. Conservation Easement Stewardship Account: Dollars will be enrolled into the conservation easement stewardship account once parcels have officially closed and been recorded.

Dissemination

Seventeen prairie stewardship plans have been awarded to contractors to be completed by March 31, 2024. DNR managers and landowners will be involved in the plan creation process and will be provided a copy of the plans once finished. All handouts at outreach events followed ENRTF acknowledgement guidelines.

Status Update Reporting

Status Update September 1, 2022

Date Submitted: August 17, 2022

Date Approved: September 1, 2022

Overall Update

SNA Prairie Specialists participated in 2 outreach events and engaged 30 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. Seventeen prairie stewardship plans have been contracted out with work on the plans beginning August 1, 2022. Six NPB easements have been monitored. Herbaceous invasive control activities have been completed on 80 acres at 11 NPBs. A total of 178 acres at 3 NPBs has been prescribed burned. 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. 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 ML18 NPB ENRTF appropriation, they will begin to select and advance parcels for this appropriation.

Activity 1

Cumulative accomplishments to-date: 1a. Workshops & Field Days: SNA Prairie Specialists have participated in 2 outreach events providing plant identification education. 1b. Consultations: SNA Prairie Specialists have engaged over 30 different priority prairie landowners and practitioners to discuss protection and management options for their property. 1c. Prairie Landowner Network: This is a continuation of work that started with ML17. 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. A newsletter (3rd edition) is planned for the spring of 2023. 1d. Prairie Stewardship Plans: Seventeen prairie stewardship plans have been contracted out with work on the plans beginning August 1, 2022. 1e. Baseline Property Reports: None to-date. 1-6 Easement Monitoring and Stewardship: 6 NPB easements have been monitored.

Activity 2

Cumulative accomplishments to-date: 2a. Prairie Reconstruction: Staff are identifying areas for restoration and an amendment will be requested in the future to add these parcels to the parcel list. 2b. Woody Removal & Invasive Species: Herbaceous Invasive Species control was completed on 80 acres at 11 NPBs. 2c. Prescribed Burning: 178 acres have been prescribed burned at 3 NPBs. 2d. Site Development: none to-date. 2e. Ecological monitoring: 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.

Activity 3

Cumulative accomplishments to-date: 3a. 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 ML18 NPB ENRTF appropriation, they will begin to select and advance parcels for this appropriation. 3b. Baseline Property Reports: None to-date 3c. Conservation Easement Stewardship Account: Dollars will be enrolled into the conservation easement stewardship account once parcels have officially closed and been recorded.

Dissemination

Seventeen prairie stewardship plans have been awarded to contractors to be completed by March 31, 2024. DNR managers and landowners will be involved in the plan creation process and will be provided a copy of the plans once finished. All handouts at outreach events followed ENRTF acknowledgement guidelines.