Final Abstract

Final Report Approved on October 28, 2026

M.L. 2021 Project Abstract

For the Period Ending June 30, 2026

Project Title: Native Prairie Stewardship & Prairie Bank Easement Acquisition

Project Manager: Tyler Janke

Affiliation: MN DNR - Ecological and Water Resources Division

Mailing Address: 1241 East Bridge Street

City/State/Zip: Redwood Falls, MN 56283

Phone: (218) 343-0389

E-mail: tyler.janke@state.mn.us

Website: https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/ewr/index.html

Funding Source:

Fiscal Year:

Legal Citation: M.L. 2021, First Special Session, Chp. 6, Art. 6, Sec. 2, Subd. 09h , as extended by laws 2024, Chp. Sec. 2, Subd. 18

Appropriation Amount: $1,341,000

Amount Spent: $1,320,384

Amount Remaining: $20,616

Sound bite of Project Outcomes and Results

This project permanently protected 105 acres of high-quality remnant native prairie. Prairie enhancement activities totaling 1087 acres were conducted across 84 Native Prairie Bank easements. Additionally, six prairie stewardship plans were developed, 27 monitoring projects were conducted and six outreach events were held to educate the public about native prairies.

Summary of Project and Outcomes

In total, 105 acres of high-quality native prairie, containing rare species, Species in Greatest Conservation Need and many pollinators were permanently protected through two 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. Native prairies function at a significantly higher level and provide habitat to more species of wildlife than restored prairies. Additionally, two Baseline Property Reports were completed and funds for the two newly acquired Native Prairie Bank easements were enrolled into the Easement Stewardship Account.

A total of 736 acres of herbaceous invasive/woody control projects and 351 acres of prescribed disturbance projects were completed to improve prairie quality on Native Prairie Bank easements across the state. Twenty-seven 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 across the state.

DNR Prairie Specialists participated in 6 outreach events including plant ID workshops, public presentations and interactive displays and engaged with 68 priority prairie landowners on the topics of prairie protection, restoration, and enhancement. Prairie Stewardship Plans were completed for 6 privately-owned native prairie sites that provide landowners with customized management recommendations for their land. As of February 13th, 2025, there were 1246 members on the Minnesota Prairie Landowner Network Facebook page, with posting every few days.

Despite a slow start, this project gained significant momentum in fiscal years 2024 and 2025 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

Six prairie stewardship plans have been completed with funding from this appropriation and copies have been provided to landowners and DNR managers. These plans will guide landowner prairie management activities for years to come. Baseline property reports were completed for two newly acquired NPB easements. Additionally, numerous posts were made to the Minnesota Prairie Landowner Network Facebook page increasing awareness of Minnesota's prairie resources. All handouts and materials followed ENRTF acknowledgement guidelines.

Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

M.L. 2021 Approved Final Report

General Information

Date: November 2, 2026

ID Number: 2021-105

Staff Lead: Tiffany Schaufler

Project Title: Native Prairie Stewardship & Prairie Bank Easement Acquisition

Project Budget: $1,341,000

Project Manager Information

Name: Tyler Janke

Organization: MN DNR - Ecological and Water Resources Division

Office Telephone: (218) 343-0389

Email: tyler.janke@state.mn.us

Web Address: https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/ewr/index.html

Project Reporting

Final Report Approved: October 28, 2026

Reporting Status: Project Completed & Additional Update Approved

Date of Last Action: October 28, 2026

Project Completion: June 30, 2026

Legal Information

Legal Citation: M.L. 2021, First Special Session, Chp. 6, Art. 6, Sec. 2, Subd. 09h , as extended by laws 2024, Chp. Sec. 2, Subd. 18

Appropriation Language: $1,341,000 the first 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.Carryforward; extension (a) The availability of the

appropriations for the following projects is extended to June 30, 2025: (18) Laws 2021, First Special Session chapter 6, article 6, section 2, subdivision 9, paragraph (h), Native Prairie Stewardship and Prairie Bank Easement Acquisition. Acquisition Binding Agreement; one year extension Subd. 11 the availability of the appropriation for Good Hope 28-1acquisition is extended to June 30, 2026 per M.L. 2021, First Special Session, Chp. 6, Art. 6, Sec. 2, Subd. 11

Appropriation End Date: June 30, 2026

Narrative

Project Summary: Native Prairie Bank (NPB) will help landowners conserve native prairie though multiple outreach methods, restoration and enhancement of 450 acres, and protection of 95 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, 14,060 acres of native prairie and associated habitat on 157 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 450 acres of Native Prairie Banks. Permanent protection of about 95 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: $351,948

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 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 6 landowners will receive a comprehensive prairie stewardship plan that will provide specific prairie management expertise for their property. About 25 monitoring visits will be completed on existing NPBs to evaluate current conditions and insure easement compliance.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
monitoring and stewardship of ~25 NPB easements	June 30, 2024
~6 prairie stewardship plans provided to prairie landowners (~450 acres)	June 30, 2024
~50 prairie stewards participating in the Prairie Landowner Network	June 30, 2024
consultations, guidance, mgmt. asst., etc. to ~50 landowners	June 30, 2024
~6 workshops/field days for prairie landowners & practitioners (~450 people)	June 30, 2024

Activity 2: 450 Acres of Native Prairie Habitat Enhancement & Restoration

Activity Budget: $512,646

Activity Description:
Restoration and enhancement activities will be completed on about 450 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 25 NPB sites to collect ecological data used 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, Conservation Corps of Minnesota and Iowa (CCMI), volunteers, and/or contractors.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Ecological monitoring on ~25 NPB sites	June 30, 2025
~ 350 acres of prescribed burns	June 30, 2025
~95 acres of woody removal & invasive species treatment	June 30, 2025
~5 acres of prairie reconstruction (restoration)	June 30, 2025
NPB easement boundary signs & development work on ~3 NPB sites	June 30, 2026

Activity 3: Acquisition and Stewardship of 95 acres of Native Prairie Bank Easements

Activity Budget: $476,406

Activity Description:

DNR-administered permanent NPB conservation easements will be acquired on about 95 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. Conservation easement baseline reports will be completed on approximately 3 NPBs. Priority sites are identified by the Minnesota Biological Survey (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 5 of the 95 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
dollars deposited into conservation easement stewardship account (~3 easements)	June 30, 2026
~3 baseline property reports for NPB easements	June 30, 2026
acquisition of ~95 acres of Native Prairie Bank conservation easements	June 30, 2026

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. U.S. mailings, social media, email, and newsletters will be created and distributed to prairie landowners as part of the Prairie Landowner Network.

The Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF) will be acknowledged through use of the trust fund logo or attribution language on project print and electronic media, publications, signage, and other communications per the ENRTF Acknowledgement Guidelines.

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 14,060 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										
Laborers & Seasonal crews		On the ground project implementation			20%	2.22	X	$84,500	-	-
Specialists & Technicians		On the ground project implementation			25%	5.42	X	$205,647	-	-
Acquisition & Management Coordinators and Prairie Biologist		Project acquisition, management and budget implementation, contract execution, partner coordination			25%	0.22	X	$18,000	-	-
							Sub Total	**$308,147**	**$305,893**	**$2,254**
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				0.3		$45,900	$44,695	$1,205
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 (1/2 individual placement), prescribed burning, invasives, woody removal and seed harvest (crew contracts, dependent on availability) Service Contracts: prescribed burning, invasives, woody removal, seed harvest				2		$119,706	$119,706	-
							Sub Total	**$165,606**	**$164,401**	**$1,205**

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 implemention					$7,259	$7,258	$1
							Sub Total	**$7,259**	**$7,258**	**$1**
Capital Equipment										
							Sub Total	**-**	**-**	**-**
Acquisitions and Stewardship										
	Conservation Easement Acquisition	Acres: 105 Parcels: 2						$688,386	$686,983	$1,403
	Stewardship Funds	State of Minnesota-MN DNR						$43,939	$43,926	$13
							Sub Total	**$732,325**	**$730,909**	**$1,416**
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					$63,380	$62,380	$1,000
							Sub Total	**$63,380**	**$62,380**	**$1,000**
Travel Outside Minnesota										
							Sub Total	**-**	**-**	**-**
Printing and Publication										

							Sub Total	**-**	**-**	**-**
Other Expenses										
		DNR's Direct and Necessary Costs	(~$64,283 total) pay for activities that are directly related to and necessary for accomplishing appropriated programs/projects. Direct and necessary costs cover HR Support (~$13,322), Safety Support (~$2,474), Financial Support (~$9,268), Communication Support (~$6,620), IT Support (~$26,855), and Planning Support (~$5,744) that are necessary to accomplishing funded programs/projects.					$64,283	$49,543	$14,740
							Sub Total	**$64,283**	**$49,543**	**$14,740**
							Grand Total	**$1,341,000**	**$1,320,384**	**$20,616**

Classified Staff or Generally Ineligible Expenses

Category/Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Justification Ineligible Expense or Classified Staff Request
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.
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 - 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.

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
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, butterflys, birds and rare plants - including Prairie Bush Clover.	Conservation Easement	80	-	$240,000	Private	DNR-SNA	Has Not Begun
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	40	-	$100,000	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	100	-	$160,000	Private	DNR-SNA	Has Not Begun
Good Hope 28-1 NPB	Norman	This site is an exceptionally rare remnant prairie on the floor of the red river valley in the lake Agassiz plain. The site contains areas of mesic prairie in fair to good condition and is rated as moderate biodiversity significance by MBS.	Conservation Easement	34	-	$78,000	Private	DNR SNA	Purchased
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	40	-	$104,000	Private	DNR-SNA	Has Not Begun
Holly 16-1	Murray	This site contains high quality native prairie and mesic hardwood forest. The site is also located in the Plum Creek Core Area of the MN Prairie Conservation Plan.	Conservation Easement	72	-	$573,000	Private	DNR SNA	Purchased
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	20	-	$50,000	Private	DNR-SNA	Has Not Begun
Lake Bronson and Aspen Parkland Prairies	Kittson, Marshall, Roseau,	Aspen parkland complex-many prairie dominated aspen complexes are suceeding to woodland in absence of fire	Conservation Easement	100	-	$100,000	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	100	-	$200,000	Private	DNR-SNA	Has Not Begun
Prairie Coteau/Rock River Prairies	Pipestone	Dry hill prairie, prairie meadow, wet prairie, rare species; part of a large,	Conservation Easement	80	-	$208,000	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	20	-	$48,000	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	40	-	$104,000	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, butterflys and birds	Conservation Easement	40	-	$120,000	Private	DNR-SNA	Has Not Begun
Wambach Santee Prairie	Mahnomen	Prairie meadow complexes, prairie rich fens and other rare nothern plant communities	Conservation Easement	40	-	$40,000	Private	DNR-SNA	Has Not Begun
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	40	-	$100,000	Private	DNR-SNA	Has Not Begun
Totals				**1,806**	**0**	**$4,075,000**			

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 interested 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: f34bf2e8-3bd.pdf

Alternate Text for Map

Native Prairie Bank aims to protect the last of Minnesota's high quality remnant native prairie. This maps depicts the remaining unprotected native prairie throughout the state, highlighting that of the 249,000 acres of remnant prairie remaining in Minnesota, 118,663 acres continues to have no formal protection. Of the remaining 8,962 unprotected parcels, only 163 parcels are greater than 100 acres. Conservation easement acquisition through this proposal will target MN Prairie Conservation P...

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 Form	06ce6cf9-4ee.pdf
Good Hope 28-1 NPB Map	1f63e799-621.pdf
Holly 16-1 NPB Map	f451280b-dd0.pdf
Good Hope 28-1 Option	b47a721e-d9b.pdf
Holly 16-1 NPB signed option to purchase	495c614f-469.pdf
Holly 16-1 NPB signed option to purchase	56a5312a-afc.pdf
Final Project Map	aac8bdbb-176.pdf

Difference between Proposal and Work Plan

Describe changes from Proposal to Work Plan Stage

Since the recommended $1,341,000 is 64% of the original $2,100,000 proposal request, the work plan aims to deliver all activity milestones (outputs) at 64% of the proposal request. Two exceptions are the Prairie Landowner Network and the interactive web Prairie Landowner Handbook, which are difficult to scale to down, so this work plan proposes to retain 68% of the Activity 1 budget to better support the network and handbook rather than a full reduction to 64%. In order to account for the network and handbook, the work plan proposes to reduce the Activity 3 budget to 62% of the original request. Though more challenging, the work plan still aims to deliver 64% of the protected acres milestone with this reduction in budget. The recommended dollar reduction will lead to smaller scale projects, which in return, leads to more projects completed in-house for efficiency purposes. To account for this, the work plan proposes to reduce contracting to 54% rather than 64%.

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	Justification For Amendment Request (word limit 75)	Date Submitted	Approved	Date of LCCMR Action
1	Amendment Request	• Budget • Budget - Professional / Technical Contracts • Budget - Travel and Conferences • Acquisition and Restoration - Parcel List	This request is to add one site to the parcel list. The site is known as Good Hope 28-1 and is located in Norman county and consists of 34 acres of remnant prairie.	February 29, 2024	Yes	June 20, 2024
2	Project Manager	Previous Manager: Judy Schulte (judy.schulte@state.mn.us) New Manager: Tyler Janke (tyler.janke@state.mn.us)	Tyler is the SNA unit's new Prairie Biologist, taking over the Native Prairie Bank appropriation management with my continued support.	March 26, 2024	Yes	March 27, 2024
3	Completion Date	Previous Completion Date: 06/30/2024 New Completion Date: 06/30/2025; Governor Approved on 04/15/2024	During the pandemic the state issued a hiring freeze which caused the SNA program to be down 30% of its staff for over 3 years. Add to this, the fact that the ML20 ENRTF appropriation was not received until ML21 along with the ML21 appropriation creating a doubled-up scenario. Both of these situations created a backlog of work and funding. We are still working to bring our staffing up to full capacity (and then some!) but need	June 21, 2023	Yes	May 21, 2024
4	Amendment Request	• Budget • Project Collaborators - Project Manager Info • Other • Dissemination • Budget - Other • Activities and Milestones • Budget - Personnel • Budget - Professional / Technical Contracts • Budget - Capital, Equipment, Tools, and Supplies • Budget - Acquisition	Legislative changes to Native Prairie Bank payment rates in 2024 have significantly increased landowner payments since this proposal was developed. We request to move $295,000 from various budget lines to easement acquisition to cover increased easement acquisition costs. Additionally, we request exchanging 5 acres of prairie restoration and prairie handbook deliverables with 200 additional acres of woody/herbaceous invasive species control. Lastly, an	March 27, 2025	Yes	May 19, 2025

		• Budget - Travel and Conferences • Attachments • Acquisition and Restoration - Parcel List	additional site (Holly 16-1) was added to the project list.			
5	Completion Date	Previous Completion Date: 06/30/2025 New Completion Date: 06/30/2026	Request 1-year acquisition extension to close on Good Hope 28-1 which optioned (binding contract) on 06/7/2025. Optioned added to the Work Plan in attachments section.	June 19, 2025	Yes	June 19, 2025
6	Amendment Request	• Budget • Activities and Milestones • Budget - Professional / Technical Contracts • Budget - Capital, Equipment, Tools, and Supplies • Budget - Acquisition • Budget - Travel and Conferences • Budget - Other • Attachments • Acquisition and Restoration - Parcel List	This amendment request is for a 1 year extension to close on the Holly 16-1 NPB site which received a signed option to purchase on 6/24/2025. A copy of the signed option to purchase has been added to the work plan in the attachments section.	July 8, 2025	Yes	September 26, 2025
7	Amendment Request	• Budget • Budget - Personnel • Budget - Professional / Technical Contracts • Budget - Capital, Equipment, Tools, and Supplies • Budget - Acquisition • Budget - Travel and Conferences • Acquisition and Restoration - Parcel List	The amendment request is to increase the total number of easement acres acquired with this appropriation to approximately 105 by adding approximately 10 acres to Holly 16-1 NPB easement. This request requires moving $93,386 from various budget categories to the conservation easement acquisition budget category to cover additional easement acquisition costs.	February 24, 2026	Yes	February 24, 2026
8	Amendment Request	• Budget • Budget - Personnel • Budget - Professional / Technical Contracts • Budget - Acquisition • Acquisition and Restoration - Parcel List	We would like to move $5900 from the Personnel category to the professional services for acquisition category to account for additional professional services costs associated with the closing of the Holly 16-1 NPB easement.	May 28, 2026	Yes	June 4, 2026

Additional Status Update Reporting

Additional Status Update October 28, 2026

Date Submitted: October 28, 2026

Date Approved: October 28, 2026

Overall Update
Six prairie stewardship plans have been completed using this appropriation. Twenty-five easements have been monitored for compliance. Woody removal and herbaceous invasive species control has taken place on 736 acres at 57 sites. Prescribed disturbance has been conducted on 351 acres across 14 sites. Staff have provided 68 landowners with technical assistance. Ecological monitoring has been conducted at 27 sites. SNA Prairie Specialists have engaged multiple priority prairie landowners to discuss protection options for their property. Two Native Prairie Bank easements totaling 105 acres have closed including the Good Hope 28-1 NPB in Norman County that closed on June 9th 2025 and the Holly 16-1 NPB in Murray County that closed on May 8th 2026.

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
This activity was previously marked complete.
(This activity marked as complete as of this status update)

Dissemination
Six prairie stewardship plans have been completed by contractors. DNR managers and landowners were involved in the plan creation process and have been given copies of the finished plans. Two baseline property reports were prepared for the Good Hope 28-1 and Holly 16-1 NPBs. Copies of the baseline property reports have been given to the landowners.

Status Update Reporting

Final Status Update August 14, 2026

Date Submitted: July 16, 2026

Date Approved: September 4, 2026

Overall Update
Six prairie stewardship plans have been completed using this appropriation. Twenty-five easements have been monitored for compliance. Woody removal and herbaceous invasive species control has taken place on 736 acres at 57 sites. Prescribed disturbance has been conducted on 351 acres across 14 sites. Staff have provided 68 landowners with technical assistance. Ecological monitoring has been conducted at 27 sites. SNA Prairie Specialists have engaged multiple priority prairie landowners to discuss protection options for their property. Two Native Prairie Bank easements totaling 105 acres have closed including the Good Hope 28-1 NPB in Norman County that closed on June 9th 2025 and the Holly 16-1 NPB in Murray County that closed on May 8th 2026.

Activity 1
Final accomplishments: 1a. Monitoring and Stewardship: Twenty-five easements have been monitored for compliance. 1b. Prairie Stewardship Plans: Six Prairie Stewardship Plans have been completed for Arveson 5-1, Caledonia 28-1, Caledonia 33-1, Caribou 2-1, Elk Lake 19-1 and Lake Grove 31-1 NPB's. 1c. Prairie Landowner Network: The Minnesota Prairie Landowner Network Facebook page has 1246 members as of 2/13/2025 with new posts occurring every 1-2 days. Landowner Technical Assistance: Technical assistance has been provided to 68 landowners. 1d. Workshops and Field Days: Six workshops/field days have been completed and included various plant ID workshops, public presentations and interactive displays for school age children.
(This activity marked as complete as of this status update)

Activity 2
Final accomplishments: 2a. Ecological Monitoring: Ecological monitoring projects have been completed on 27 NPB sites across the prairie region of the state. 2b. NPB Site Development: Site development activities have been completed on two sites (Good Hope 28-1 and Holly 16-1). 2c. Prescribed Disturbance: A total of 351 acres of prescribed disturbance activities were completed. These include 307 acres of prescribed burns across 12 sites and 44 acres of prescribed mowing across 2 sites. 2d. Woody Removal & Invasive Species: A total of 736 acres of woody removal and invasive species control activities have been completed. This includes 475 acres of woody removal at 15 sites and 261 acres of herbaceous invasive species control at 42 sites. 2e. Prairie Reconstruction: No prairie reconstruction was completed with this appropriation.
(This activity marked as complete as of this status update)

Activity 3
Final accomplishments: 3a. SNA Prairie Specialists have engaged multiple priority prairie landowners to discuss protection options for their property. Two easement acquisitions totaling 105 acres have been completed with this appropriation. These include Good Hope 28-1 in Norman County (33 acres) and Holly 16-1 (72 acres) in Murray County. The Good Hope 28-1 NPB closed on June 9th 2025 and the Holly 16-1 NPB closed on May 8th 2026 . 3b. Baseline Property Reports: Baseline property reports have been completed for all easements funded with this appropriation (Good Hope 28-1 and Holly 16-1). 3c. Conservation Easement Stewardship Account: Funds have been enrolled into the conservation easement stewardship account for both the Good Hope 28-1 and Holly 16-1 NPBs.
(This activity marked as complete as of this status update)

Dissemination
Six prairie stewardship plans have been completed by contractors. DNR managers and landowners were involved in the

plan creation process and have been provided copies of the plans. Two baseline property reports have been completed for the Good Hope 28-1 and Holly 16-1 NPBs. Copies of the baseline property reports have been provided to the landowners.

Status Update Reporting

Status Update March 1, 2026

Date Submitted: February 24, 2026

Date Approved: February 24, 2026

Overall Update
Six prairie stewardship plans have been completed using this appropriation. Twenty-five easements have been monitored for compliance. Woody removal and herbaceous invasive species control has taken place on 736 acres at 57 sites. Prescribed disturbance has been conducted on 351 acres across 14 sites. Staff have provided 68 landowners with technical assistance. Ecological monitoring has been conducted at 27 sites. SNA Prairie Specialists have engaged multiple priority prairie landowners to discuss protection options for their property. Two Native Prairie Bank easements totaling 95 acres are moving forward with this appropriation including the Good Hope 28-1 NPB which closed on June 9th 2025 and the Holly 16-1 NPB which was optioned on June 24th 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. Ecological Monitoring: Ecological monitoring projects have been completed on 27 NPB sites. 2b. NPB Site Development: Site development activities have been completed on two sites (Good Hope 28-1 and Holly 16-1). 2c. Prescribed Disturbance: Prescribed burns have been completed on 307 acres across 12 sites and prescribed mowing was conducted on 44 acres across 2 sites. 2d. Woody Removal & Invasive Species: Woody Removal has been completed on 475 acres at 15 sites and herbaceous invasive species control was completed on 261 acres at 42 sites. 2e. Prairie Reconstruction: No prairie reconstruction has been completed with this appropriation to date.

Activity 3
Cumulative accomplishments to-date: 3a. SNA Prairie Specialists have engaged multiple priority prairie landowners to discuss protection options for their property. Two easement acquisitions totaling 95 acres are moving forward. These include Good Hope 28-1 in Norman County (33 acres) and Holly 16-1 (62 acres) in Murray County. The Good Hope 28-1 NPB closed on June 9th 2025. Landowners approved the Holly 16-1 project and an option to purchase was signed on June 24th, 2025. The Holly 16-1 NPB should close before June 30th 2026. 3b. Baseline Property Reports: One baseline property report has been completed (Good Hope 28-1). 3c. Conservation Easement Stewardship Account: Funds have been enrolled into the conservation easement stewardship account for the Good Hope 28-1 NPB. Funds for the Holly 16-1 NPB will be enrolled into the conservation easement stewardship account once the parcel has officially closed and has been recorded.

Dissemination
Six prairie stewardship plans have been completed by contractors. DNR managers and landowners were involved in the plan creation process and have been provided copies of the plans. One baseline property report has been completed for the Good Hope 28-1 site and a copy has been provided to the landowner.

Status Update Reporting

Status Update September 1, 2025

Date Submitted: August 27, 2025

Date Approved: September 26, 2025

Overall Update
Six prairie stewardship plans have been completed using this appropriation. Twenty-five easements have been monitored for compliance. Woody removal and herbaceous invasive species control has taken place on 736 acres at 57 sites. Prescribed disturbance has been conducted on 351 acres across 14 sites. Staff have provided 68 landowners with technical assistance. Ecological monitoring has been conducted at 27 sites. SNA Prairie Specialists have engaged multiple priority prairie landowners to discuss protection options for their property. Two Native Prairie Bank easements totaling 95 acres are moving forward with this appropriation including the Good Hope 28-1 NPB which closed on June 9th 2025 and the Holly 16-1 NPB which was optioned on June 24th 2025.

Activity 1
This activity was previously marked complete.
(This activity marked as complete as of this status update)

Activity 2
: 2a. Ecological Monitoring: Ecological monitoring projects have been completed on 27 NPB sites. 2b. NPB Site Development: Site development activities have been completed on one site (Good Hope 28-1). 2c. Prescribed Disturbance: Prescribed burns have been completed on 307 acres across 12 sites and prescribed mowing was conducted on 44 acres across 2 sites. 2d. Woody Removal & Invasive Species: Woody Removal has been completed on 475 acres at 15 sites and herbaceous invasive species control was completed on 261 acres at 42 sites. 2e. Prairie Reconstruction: No prairie reconstruction has been completed with this appropriation to date.

Activity 3
SNA Prairie Specialists have engaged multiple priority prairie landowners to discuss protection options for their property. Two easement acquisitions totaling 95 acres are moving forward. These include Good Hope 28-1 in Norman County (33 acres) and Holly 16-1 (62 acres) in Murray County. The Good Hope 28-1 NPB closed on June 9th 2025. Landowners approved the Holly 16-1 project and an option to purchase was signed on June 24th, 2025. The Holly 16-1 NPB should close before June 30th 2026. 3b. Baseline Property Reports: One baseline property report has been completed (Good Hope 28-1). 3c. Conservation Easement Stewardship Account: Funds have been enrolled into the conservation easement stewardship account for the Good Hope 28-1 NPB. Funds for the Holly 16-1 NPB will be enrolled into the conservation easement stewardship account once the parcel has officially closed and has been recorded.

Dissemination
Six prairie stewardship plans have been completed by contractors. DNR managers and landowners were involved in the plan creation process and have been provided copies of the plans. Three prairie promotional / interpretive panels were created and installed in Rothsay, MN at the Prairie Chicken Park. One baseline property report has been completed for the Good Hope 28-1 site and a copy has been provided to the landowner.

Additional Status Update Reporting

Additional Status Update August 14, 2025

Date Submitted: July 8, 2025

Date Approved: September 26, 2025

Overall Update
Six prairie stewardship plans have been completed using this appropriation. Twenty-five easements have been monitored for compliance. Woody removal and herbaceous invasive species control has taken place on 736 acres at 51 sites. Prescribed disturbance has been conducted on 338 acres across 14 sites. Staff have provided 68 landowners with technical assistance. Ecological monitoring has been conducted at 27 sites. SNA Prairie Specialists have engaged multiple priority prairie landowners to discuss protection options for their property. Two Native Prairie Bank easements totaling 95 acres are moving forward with this appropriation including the Good Hope 28-1 NPB which closed on June 13th 2025 and the Holly 16-1 NPB for which an option to purchase was signed by the landowner on June 24th 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. Ecological Monitoring: Ecological monitoring projects have been completed on 27 NPB sites. 2b. NPB Site Development: Site development activities have been completed on one site (Good Hope 28-1). 2c. Prescribed Disturbance: Prescribed disturbance has been completed on 338 acres across 14 sites. 2d. Woody Removal & Invasive Species: Woody Removal has been completed on 475 acres at 15 sites and herbaceous invasive species control was completed on 261 acres at 42 sites. 2e. Prairie Reconstruction: Prairie reconstruction will not be needed as no recently acquired NPB easements included previously disturbed areas that require prairie restoration.

Activity 3
Cumulative accomplishments to-date: 3a. SNA Prairie Specialists have engaged multiple priority prairie landowners to discuss protection options for their property. Two easement acquisitions totaling 95 acres are moving forward. These include Good Hope 28-1 in Norman County (33 acres) and Holly 16-1 (62 acres) in Murray County. The Good Hope 28-1 NPB easement closed on June 13th 2025 and an election to purchase was signed by the landowners for the Holly 16-1 NPB on 6/24/2025. An additional year is needed to complete the Holly 16-1 transaction. 3b. Baseline Property Reports: Only two baseline property reports will be needed with this appropriation as the sites being acquired are larger and all acre goals will be met with two easements. To date, one baseline property report has been completed (Good Hope 28-1). 3c. Conservation Easement Stewardship Account: Dollars will be enrolled into the conservation easement stewardship account once parcels have officially closed and have been recorded.

Dissemination
Six prairie stewardship plans have been completed by contractors. DNR managers and landowners were involved in the plan creation process and have been provided copies of the plans. One baseline property report has been completed for the Good Hope 28-1 site and a copy has been given to the landowner.

Status Update Reporting

Status Update March 1, 2025

Date Submitted: March 27, 2025

Date Approved: May 19, 2025

Overall Update
Six prairie stewardship plans have been completed using this appropriation. Twenty-five easements have been monitored for compliance. Woody removal and herbaceous invasive species control has taken place on 656 acres at 44 sites. Prescribed burns have been conducted on 89 acres across 6 sites. Staff have provided 68 landowners with technical assistance. Ecological monitoring has been conducted at 27 sites. SNA Prairie Specialists have engaged multiple priority prairie landowners to discuss protection options for their property. Two Native Prairie Bank easements totaling 95 acres are moving forward with this appropriation.

Activity 1
Cumulative accomplishments to date: 1a. Monitoring and Stewardship: Twenty-five easements have been monitored for compliance. 1b. Prairie Stewardship Plans: Six Prairie Stewardship Plans have been completed for Arveson 5-1, Caledonia 28-1, Caledonia 33-1, Caribou 2-1, Elk Lake 19-1 and Lake Grove 31-1 NPB's. 1c. Prairie Landowner Network: The Minnesota Prairie Landowner Network Facebook page has 1246 members as of 2/13/2025 with new posts occurring every 1-2 days. Landowner Technical Assistance: Technical assistance has been provided to 68 landowners. 1d. Workshops and Field Days: Six workshops/field days have been completed.
(This activity marked as complete as of this status update)

Activity 2
Cumulative accomplishments to date: 2a. Ecological Monitoring: Ecological monitoring projects have been completed on 27 NPB sites. 2b. NPB Site Development: Site development activities have been completed on one site (Good Hope 28-1). 2c. Prescribed Disturbance: Prescribed burns have been completed on 89 acres across 6 sites. Many additional prescribed burns are planned for spring of 2025 and we anticipate meeting or exceeding outcomes on-time. 2d. Woody Removal & Invasive Species: Woody Removal has been completed on 463 acres at 9 sites and herbaceous invasive species control was completed on 193 acres at 35 sites. Currently, woody removal and invasive control outcomes are 561 acres greater than what is listed in the project workplan. 2e. Prairie Reconstruction: Prairie reconstruction will not be needed as no recently acquired NPB easements included previously disturbed areas that require prairie restoration.

Activity 3
Cumulative accomplishments to-date: 3a. SNA Prairie Specialists have engaged multiple priority prairie landowners to discuss protection options for their property. Two easement acquisitions totaling 95 acres are moving forward. These include Good Hope 28-1 in Norman County (33 acres) and Holly 16-1 (62 acres) in Murray County. An election to purchase has been issued for the Good Hope 28-1 easement and it should close before June 30th 2025. Landowners recently approved the Holly 16-1 project and an option to purchase is planned to be issued before June 30th, 2025. 3b. Baseline Property Reports: Only two baseline property reports will be needed with this appropriation as the sites being acquired are larger and all acre goals will be met with two easements. To date, one baseline property report has been completed (Good Hope 28-1). 3c. Conservation Easement Stewardship Account: Dollars will be enrolled into the conservation easement stewardship account once parcels have officially closed and have been recorded.

Dissemination
Six prairie stewardship plans have been completed by contractors. DNR managers and landowners were involved in the plan creation process and have been provided copies of the plans. One baseline property report has been completed for the Good Hope 28-1 site and a copy will be sent to the landowner.

Status Update Reporting

Status Update September 1, 2024

Date Submitted: August 22, 2024

Date Approved: October 23, 2024

Overall Update
Six prairie stewardship plans have been completed using this appropriation. Woody removal and herbaceous invasive species control has taken place on 174 acres at 19 sites. Prescribed burns have been conducted on 89 acres across 6 sites. Staff have provided 68 landowners with technical assistance. Ecological monitoring has been conducted at 23 sites. SNA Prairie Specialists have engaged multiple priority prairie landowners to discuss protection options for their property. One native prairie bank easement is currently moving forward with this appropriation and is under contract. Payment rates were not updated until 2023 and staff were having trouble on the landscape getting landowners interested in easements. However, the MN legislature updated the native prairie statute in 2024 which will further increase payment rates after August 1st 2024. We are hopeful that these payment rate increases will lead to renewed interest in the program.

Activity 1
Cumulative accomplishments to date: 1a. Monitoring and Stewardship: Multiple easements are undergoing monitoring for compliance. The number of sites monitored will be reported at the next status update. 1b. Prairie Stewardship Plans: 6 Prairie Stewardship Plans have been completed for Arveson 5-1, Caledonia 28-1, Caledonia 33-1, Caribou 2-1, Elk Lake 19-1 and Lake Grove 31-1 NPB's. 1c. Prairie Landowner Network: The Minnesota Prairie Landowner Network Facebook page has 1200 members as of 8/20/2024 with new posts occurring every 1-2 days. Landowner Technical Assistance: Technical assistance has been provided to 68 landowners. 1d. Workshops and Field Days: 2 workshops have been completed.

Activity 2
Cumulative accomplishments to date: 2a. Ecological Monitoring: Ecological monitoring projects have been completed on 23 NPB sites. 2b. NPB Site Development: Site development activities have been initiated on one site and will be completed in September 2024. 2c. Prescribed Disturbance: Prescribed burns have been completed on 89 acres across 6 sites. 2d. Woody Removal & Invasive Species: Woody Removal has been completed on 130 acres at 3 sites and herbaceous invasive species control was completed on 44 acres at 16 sites. 2e. Prairie Reconstruction: No prairie reconstruction has been completed with this appropriation to date.

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 (Good Hope 28-1) has been optioned and was added to the parcel list. 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 released 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
Six prairie stewardship plans have been completed by contractors. DNR managers and landowners were involved in the plan creation process and have been provided copies of the plans.

Status Update Reporting

Status Update March 1, 2024

Date Submitted: February 29, 2024

Date Approved: June 20, 2024

Overall Update
Six prairie stewardship plans have been contracted out with work on the plans beginning August 1, 2022. Woody removal and herbaceous invasive species control has taken place on 46 acres at 5 sites. Staff have provided 68 landowners with technical assistance. SNA Prairie Specialists have engaged multiple priority prairie landowners to discuss protection options for their property. One native prairie bank easement is currently moving forward with this appropriation. Payment rates had not been updated since 2019 and staff were having trouble on the landscape getting landowners interested in easements, however BWSR released new payment rates in the spring of 2023 and we are hopeful these updates will result in renewed interest in the program. Additionally, due to the hiring freeze the state went through during the pandemic and the fact that we are still working through getting staffed back up post-freeze, we are behind schedule implementing this appropriation and have requested a one-year extension to allow for more time.

Activity 1
Cumulative accomplishments to date: Work on many of these activity milestones is currently taking place with the ML20 Private Native Prairie Conservation through Native Prairie Bank appropriation. Staff will begin to work on additional outcomes for this appropriation on July 1, 2024. 1b. Landowner Technical Assistance: Technical assistance was provided to 68 landowners. 1d. Prairie Stewardship Plans: 6 prairie stewardship plans have been contracted out and work began August 1, 2022.

Activity 2
Cumulative accomplishments to date: 2d. Woody Removal & Invasive Species: Woody Removal has been completed on 44 acres at 2 sites and herbaceous invasive species control was completed on 2 acres at 3 sites. 2e. Ecological monitoring: Ecological monitoring took place on five sites so far, with additional projects planned for 2024. Due to the hiring freeze the state went through during the pandemic and the fact that we are still working through getting staffed back up post freeze, we are behind schedule implementing this appropriation and have requested a one-year extension to allow for more time. Work on many of these activity milestones is currently taking place with the ML20 Private Native Prairie Conservation through Native Prairie Bank appropriation. Once those activity milestones are completed, staff will begin to work on additional outcomes for this appropriation.

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 were not updated from 2019 rates until the spring of 2023. This caused staff to have difficulty getting landowners interested in easements. BWSR released 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
Six 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.

Status Update Reporting

Status Update September 1, 2023

Date Submitted: August 29, 2023

Date Approved: November 3, 2023

Overall Update
Six prairie stewardship plans have been contracted out with work on the plans beginning August 1, 2022. Woody removal and herbaceous invasive species control has taken place on 45 acres at 3 sites. SNA Prairie Specialists have engaged multiple priority prairie landowners to discuss protection options for their property. Payment rates had not been updated since 2019 and staff were having trouble on the landscape getting landowners interested in easements, however BWSR released new payment rates in the spring of 2023 and we are hopeful these updates will result in renewed interest in the program. Additionally, due to the hiring freeze the state went through during the pandemic and the fact that we are still working through getting staffed back up post-freeze, we are behind schedule implementing this appropriation and have requested a one-year extension to allow for more time.

Activity 1
Cumulative accomplishments to date: Work on many of these activity milestones is currently taking place with the ML20 Private Native Prairie Conservation through Native Prairie Bank appropriation. Once those activity milestones are completed, staff will begin to work on additional outcomes for this appropriation. 1d. Prairie Stewardship Plans: 6 prairie stewardship plans have been contracted out and work began August 1, 2022.

Activity 2
Cumulative accomplishments to date: 2d. Woody Removal & Invasive Species: Woody Removal has been completed on 44 acres at 2 sites and herbaceous invasive species control was completed on 1 acre at 1 site. 2e. Ecological monitoring: Ecological monitoring took place on one site during the summer of 2023. Due to the hiring freeze the state went through during the pandemic and the fact that we are still working through getting staffed back up post freeze, we are behind schedule implementing this appropriation and have requested a one-year extension to allow for more time. Work on many of these activity milestones is currently taking place with the ML20 Private Native Prairie Conservation through Native Prairie Bank appropriation. Once those activity milestones are completed, staff will begin to work on additional outcomes for this appropriation.

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 were not updated from 2019 rates until the spring of 2023. This caused staff to have difficulty getting landowners interested in easements. BWSR released 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
Six 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.

Status Update Reporting

Status Update March 1, 2023

Date Submitted: February 21, 2023

Date Approved: March 6, 2023

Overall Update
Six prairie stewardship plans have been contracted out with work on the plans beginning August 1, 2022. Woody removal and herbaceous invasive species control has taken place on 30 acres at 2 NPBs. SNA Prairie Specialists have engaged multiple priority prairie landowners to discuss protection options for their property. 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. Additionally, due to the hiring freeze the state went through during the pandemic and the fact that we are still working through getting staffed back up post-freeze, we are behind schedule implementing this appropriation and would like to request a one-year extension to allow for more time.

Activity 1
Cumulative accomplishments to date: Work on many of these activity milestones is currently taking place with the ML20 Private Native Prairie Conservation through Native Prairie Bank appropriation. Once those activity milestones are completed, staff will begin to work on additional outcomes for this appropriation. 1d. Prairie Stewardship Plans: 6 prairie stewardship plans have been contracted out and work began August 1, 2022.

Activity 2
Cumulative accomplishments to date: 2d. Woody Removal & Invasive Species: Woody Removal has been completed on 29 acres at 1 NPB and herbaceous invasive species control was completed on 1 acre at 1 NPB. 2e. Ecological monitoring: Ecological monitoring activities are planned for summer of 2023. Due to the hiring freeze the state went through during the pandemic and the fact that we are still working through getting staffed back up post freeze, we are behind schedule implementing this appropriation and would like to request a one-year extension to allow for more time. Work on many of these activity milestones is currently taking place with the ML20 Private Native Prairie Conservation through Native Prairie Bank appropriation. Once those activity milestones are completed, staff will begin to work on additional outcomes for this appropriation.

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
Six 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.

Status Update Reporting

Status Update September 1, 2022

Date Submitted: August 17, 2022

Date Approved: August 29, 2022

Overall Update
Six prairie stewardship plans have been contracted out with work on the plans beginning August 1, 2022. 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: Work on many of these activity milestones is currently taking place with the ML20 Private Native Prairie Conservation through Native Prairie Bank appropriation. Once those activity milestones are completed, staff will begin to work on additional outcomes for this appropriation. 1d. Prairie Stewardship Plans: 6 prairie stewardship plans have been contracted out and work began August 1, 2022.

Activity 2
Cumulative accomplishments to date: Work on many of these activity milestones is currently taking place with the ML20 Private Native Prairie Conservation through Native Prairie Bank appropriation. Once those activity milestones are completed, staff will begin to work on additional outcomes for this appropriation.

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
Six 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.