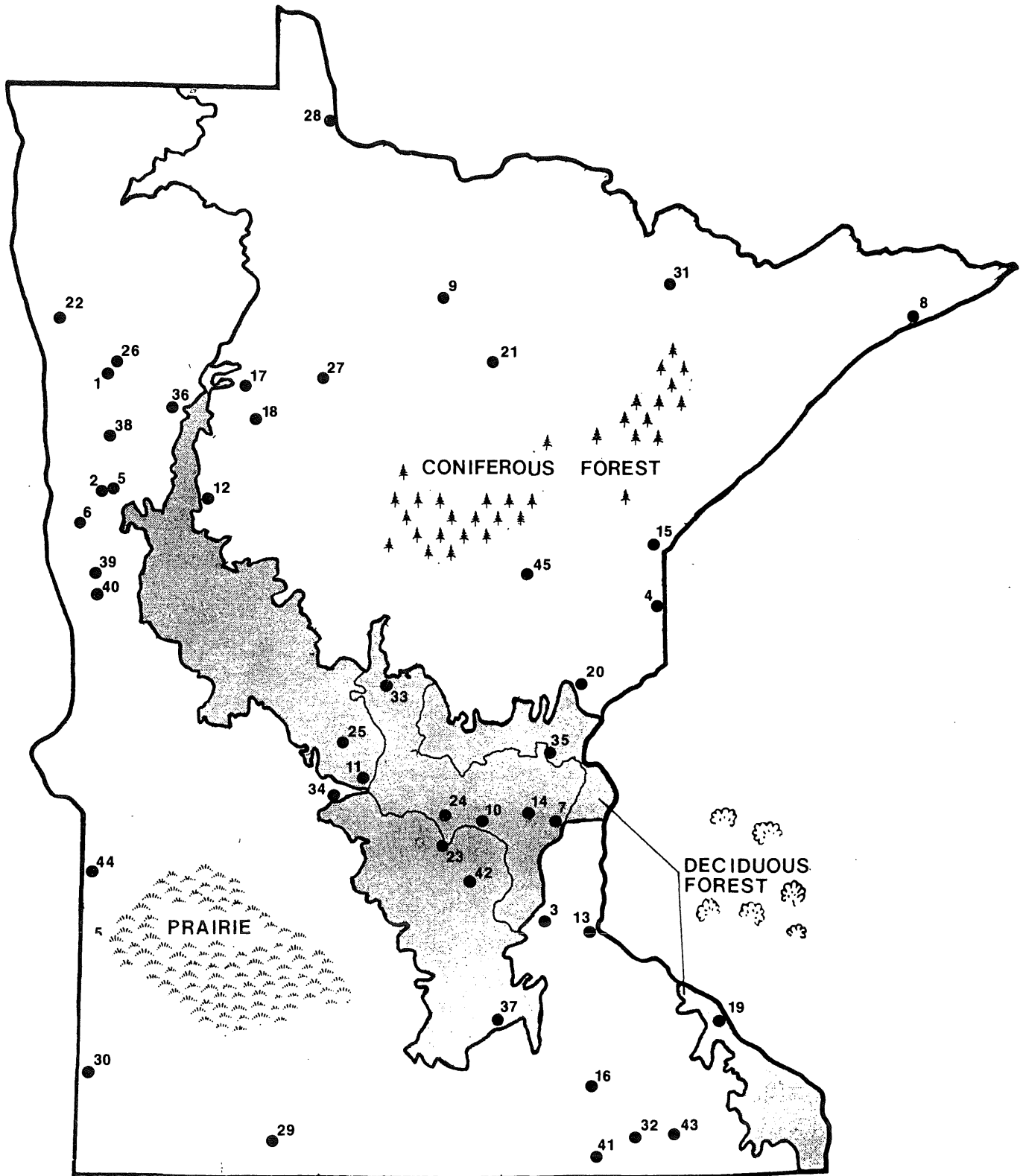


SCIENTIFIC AND NATURAL AREAS

Minnesota's Special Treasures



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FOR SPECIFIC INFORMATION CONTACT THE SCIENTIFIC AND
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***The Scientific and Natural Areas Program...
Protecting and Managing
the Best of Minnesota's
Natural World***

Scientific and Natural Areas provide:

Education - elementary through high school and college groups use these areas as outdoor classrooms.

Nature Observation - the public uses natural areas to observe Minnesota's rarest and most precious natural features.

Protection - Minnesota's special natural features are protected for today and for future generations.

Recreation - the public uses these areas for nonconsumptive, dispersed recreation such as hiking and cross-country skiing.

Research - colleges are able to establish long term research projects, secure in knowing the area will not be influenced by unnatural disturbance.

Genetic Storehouse - plants and animals that could someday be used to provide breakthroughs in medicine, agriculture, or industry, are protected in these areas.

A growing program...

Currently there are over 40 Scientific and Natural Areas protecting undisturbed remnants of Minnesota's natural communities and plant and animal species. These areas encompass geologic features, maple basswood forests, virgin prairies, orchid bogs, heron rookeries, sand dunes, and virgin pine stands, as well as many rare plant and animal species.

Your part in helping to protect these areas

Principal activities which are UNLAWFUL in the use of Scientific and Natural Areas are listed below: Further information is available at Department of Natural Resources Offices.

Collecting plants, animals, rocks or fossils.

Camping, picnicking and swimming.

Horses, dogs and other pets.

Snowmobiles and other motorized vehicles.

Hunting, trapping, fishing and boating.

Entry into restricted areas and sanctuaries.

STATE OF MINNESOTA
SCIENTIFIC & NATURAL AREAS

BOOT LAKE, Anoka County

Portions of Sections 17, 18, 19, and 20
Township 33 North, Range 22 West

Boot Lake Natural Area is located in northeastern Anoka county, approximately 18 miles southeast of Cambridge. The tract supports a diverse array of flora in a noteworthy succession of vegetation types. The preserve is significant geologically as part of a chain of ice-block basin lakes lying in a subglacially formed feature called a tunnel valley. One also finds a continuum of plant communities on the tract beginning with the emergent vegetation and floating mats bordering the lake, to wet meadows, shrub thickets and wet forests in low-lying areas, through the oak forests found on the driest upland sites.

HASTINGS, Dakota County

Portions of Sections 23, 34 and 35
Township 115 North, Range 17 West

The Hastings Natural Area is a 69 acre tract located in eastern Dakota county, just within the city limits of Hastings, Minnesota. An undisturbed hardwood forest, dominated by red oak, sugar maple and basswood, and a floodplain forest, dominated by elm, green ash, cottonwood and silver maple, combine to support a wide diversity of flora and fauna. In the upland, talus slopes and steep escarpments of dolomite provide a variety of niches for specialized plant species, including several mosses, lichens, liverworts and ferns.

KETTLE RIVER, Pine County

Portions of Sections 10, 15, 22 and 23
Township 41 North, Range 20 West

Bordered on the west by the Kettle River and the south by Hwy. #48, the Kettle River natural area lies along a major fault line that was formed hundreds of millions of years ago. Traversing northeast through the middle of this 720 acre site, the fault line divides the sandstone bedrock that is exposed on the north half of the tract from the basalt that is exposed on the south half. In addition, the area is dotted with natural springs that support a diversity of flora and fauna, including a small great blue heron rookery.

MISSISSIPPI SCENIC AND RECREATIONAL RIVER ISLANDS,
Sherburne and Wright Counties

Sherburne County
Portions of Sections 2, 3, and 4
Township 32 North, Range 26, 27 West

Wright County
Portions of Sections 7, 18 and 19
Township 121 North, Range 23, 24 West

The Mississippi River Islands natural area is a chain of five islands in southern Sherburne and northern Wright counties, approximately 4 miles southeast of Elk River. The islands are representative of a significant community that is often overlooked. Formed primarily from water-deposited outwash and alluvium the islands rise approximately 30 feet above the river. The river bottom forests, representative of the original vegetation of the area, are a living museum that is continually altered by flooding, erosion and sedimentation processes.

RUSH LAKE ISLAND, Chisago County

Portions of Sections 21 and 28
Township 37 North, Range 22 West

Located in the southwest end of Rush Lake the most unique and conspicuous feature of this small 20 acre island is the large great blue heron rookery that it supports. With a nest count of nearly 500 pairs in 1980 the Rush Lake Island Rookery ranks among the largest heron rookeries in the state of Minnesota. Although the majority of nesting birds are great blue herons, great egrets have also begun to nest in small numbers on the island.

PENNINGTON BOG, Beltrami County

NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 3
Township 146 North, Range 30 West

Located approximately 20 miles east of Bemidji, the Pennington Bog is noted as a virtually undisturbed tract of native vegetation providing critical habitat for a diverse assemblage of plant species. Beneath a dense canopy of white cedar, balsam fir and black spruce, one finds an assortment of beautiful and unusual flowers. At least 15 species of orchids lie protected in these woods, including the showy lady-slipper, rattlesnake plantain and northern coral root. A permit from the Bemidji DNR regional office is required for entry into the area.

PURVIS LAKE-OBER FOUNDATION, St. Louis County

Portions of Sections 28 and 33
Township 62 North, Range 13 West

The Purvis Lake-Ober Foundation natural area is located in northeastern St. Louis county, approximately 10 miles southwest of Ely. The tract is located amidst a pattern of alternating lakes, bogs and rocky ridges, a landscape carved out thousands of years ago by numerous glacial advances. While most of the surrounding land has been logged, the mixed northern forest of the Purvis-Ober Tract has remained largely untouched, thus providing Minnesotans with a unique opportunity to experience the northern woods.

WESTERN PRAIRIES, Wilkin County

Portions of Section 17
Township 136 North, Range 45 West
and
Portions of Section 12
Township 135 North, Range 46 West

The Western Prairies are two 300 acre tracts of tall grass prairie and wetland swale located in the lakebed of Glacial Lake Agassiz. In addition to the population of greater prairie chickens that the tracts support, they harbor a rich abundance of prairie flora, including the rare white lady slipper. The north and south tracts of Western Prairie are located approximately 6 and 8 miles northwest of Rothsay, off Hwy. #52.

WILD INDIGO PRAIRIE, Mower County

The former Chicago-Milwaukee
Railroad Right-of-Way in
Township 103 North, Range 18 West
Township 103 North, Range 17 West and
Township 103 North, Range 16 West

As Minnesota's native prairie continues to diminish because of the pressures of agricultural and industrial development, railroad right-of-ways are becoming increasingly important as refuges for prairie species. When the Chicago-Milwaukee right-of-way was recently abandoned in southeastern Minnesota, legislators foresaw the need to preserve those tracts of prairie that could serve as natural areas. The result was a 12 mile stretch of prairie located just east of the town of Ramsey. As it's name implies, the right-of-way is brightened by the colors of wild indigo late each summer.

WOLSFELD WOODS, Hennepin County

Portions of Sections 26, 27
Township 118 North, Range 23 West

Located on the fringe of a sprawling metropolitan center, approximately 4 miles east of Maple Plain, Wolsfeld Woods is a large mature stand of hardwoods. A wide assortment of trees, including red oak, ironwood, bitternut, maple, elm and basswood cover the gently rolling topography. The tract is the premier example of the "Big Woods" forest that once covered the southeastern corner of Minnesota. Because of agricultural and industrial pressures very few remnants of this original forest still remain. Visitors to the Wolsfeld Woods natural area are requested to stay on the marked trails.

TWIN VALLEY PRAIRIE, Norman County

NW $\frac{1}{4}$ and E $\frac{1}{2}$ of SW $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 23
Township 143N, Range 45W

Twin Valley Prairie, a 240 acre tract, is located in southern Norman county approximately 29 miles northeast of Moorhead, Minnesota. A prominent beach ridge of glacial Lake Agassiz traverses the preserve - characterized as a broad linear swell of wave deposited sands and gravels. The wet to dry-mesic prairie supports a number of state significant elements such as the white lady slipper, dakota skipper, sandhill crane, marbled godwit and prairie vole.

MALMBERG PRAIRIE, Polk County

W $\frac{1}{2}$, NW $\frac{1}{2}$ of Section 16
Township 149N, Range 48W

MalMBERG Prairie, located in the Red River Valley, is one of the last remaining tracts of original vegetation in the heavy soils of this intensively farmed area. The preserve lies within the former southern basin of glacial Lake Agassiz and displays two contrasting prairie types - low wet meadows of cordgrass to drier prairies dominated by big bluestem. The 80 acre tract of level, undisturbed tallgrass prairie is located in western Polk County about 11 miles southwest of Crookston, Minnesota.

COLD SPRING HERON COLONY, Stearns County

Portions of Section 13
Township 123 N, Range 30W

Cold Spring Heron Colony is a sixty-two acre tract located in Stearns County on the Sauk River. The preserve supports one of the largest great blue heron nesting colonies in the state and has been studied and monitored by St. Cloud State University researchers for many years. The area consists of a lowland woods, a levee and an open floodplain meadow along the Sauk River. A small prairie hill across the river is included in the tract to provide an observation point.

BLAZING STAR PRAIRIE, Clay County

NE¼ Section 5
Township 141N, Range 45W

Blazing Star Prairie is a 160 acre tract located in northeastern Clay county approximately 23 miles northeast of Moorhead, Minnesota. The preserve lies on the Nocrross Beach, once a shore of the glacial Lake Agassiz. As the name suggests, blazing stars are numerous and the prairie becomes a magenta blaze in July. Significant elements such as the white lady slipper and the dakota skipper inhabit this preserve.

AGASSIZ DUNES, Polk and Norman County

Section 31, 32
Township 147N, Range 44W
Section 5, 6
Township 146N, Range 44W

Agassiz Dunes is a 417 acre tract on the Norman-Polk county line in northeastern Minnesota about 52 miles northeast of Moorhead, Minnesota. Agassiz Dunes, an area of large undulating sand dunes, is part of the only dune field in Minnesota associated with Glacial Lake Agassiz. Most of the dunes within this tract have been stabilized by vegetation although some active blowouts still exist. Oak savanna, aspen woods, and prairie communities also occur on the preserve. Situated on the prairie forest border, there is a merging of eastern and western animal species - the small pocket mouse, prairie toad, western kingbird, upland plover and lark sparrow on the tract. In addition it is the only known site for silk grass in the state.

RIPLEY ESKER, Morrison County

Portions of Sections 18 and 19
Township 42N, Range 31W

Ripley Esker is a classic example of a glacial feature called an esker. The esker, a meandering ridge of gravel and sand deposited by moving water under wasting glacial ice, runs for approximately 3/4 of a mile within this protected tract of land. The steep-sided gravel ridge provides habitat for dramatically different vegetation types within very close proximity. The south slope is mostly open dominated by a remnant oak savanna and dry prairie, in contrast the north slope supports a diverse deciduous woods. The 220 acre preserve is located in Morrison county about 10 miles north of Little Falls in Central Minnesota.

RACINE PRAIRIE, Mower County

Portions of Sections 11, 22, 23
Township 104N, Range 14W

Today a very limited number of remnant prairies exist in the intensively agriculturalized areas of southern Minnesota. In many instances, the linear railroad right-of-ways represent the last continuous transects of prairie vegetation. Racine prairie is a 6 acre parcel of the Chicago-Northwestern railroad right-of-way located between the towns of Stewartville and Racine. The area supports plants of statewide significance such as the white false indigo, wild quinine, rattlesnake master, and compass plants. All four species are native to mesic prairie - a habitat now almost totally destroyed for use as prime agricultural land.

PEMBINA TRAIL, Polk County

Section 25, 36
Township 149N, Range 45W
Section 30, 31
Township 149N, Range 44W
Section 1, 2
Township 184N, Range 45W

Pembina Trail is an excellent example of tallgrass prairie demonstrating the great diversity of native forbs and grasses typical of this habitat. Located in west central Polk County, the 1660 acre tract provides critical nesting and brooding habitat for the threatened greater prairie chicken. Numerous springs and seeps on the slope provide sites for the locally rare lady's slipper orchid and wooded areas support populations of woodcock, ruffed grouse and sharp-tailed grouse. Of geological significance the site is within a beach ridge and interbeach area of the glacial Lake Agassiz. The site is named for the eastern boundary of the prairie.

HELEN ALLISON SAVANNA, Anoka County

N $\frac{1}{2}$ of NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 2
Township 33 North, Range 23 West

Helen Allison Savanna is situated in northeastern Anoka County adjacent to the University of Minnesota's Cedar Creek Natural History Area. The 86 acre tract was named for Helen Allison Irvine "Minnesota's grass lady". The preserve, part of the Anoka Sand Plain, is a good example of sand dune succession exhibiting modern blowouts and dunes in various stages of stabilization by pioneer species. The vegetation type is primarily oak savanna and dry prairie with scattered depressions containing sedge marshes. The site contains several elements of state significance - sea beach tripled awned grass, rhombic evening primrose and longbearded hawkweed.

BLUESTEM PRAIRIE, Clay County

E½ of Section 22, W½ of Section 23
and portions of SE¼ of Section 10
south of the Buffalo River
Township 139N, Range 46W

Bluestem Prairie is a remnant of what has been described as "a vast sea of natural grasslands" that at one time covered the entire Red River Valley. The 1285 acre tract of tall grass prairie is located in central Clay county, 15 miles east of Moorhead, Minnesota. The preserve lies within the bed of glacial lake Agassiz and contains two significant shorelines, the Norcross and Campbell Standlines. This prairie has been designated as part of the Minnesota Prairie Chicken Preserve system designed to protect the threatened greater prairie chicken in northwest Minnesota.

ROSCOE PRAIRIE, Stearns County

Portions of Section 35
Township 123N, Range 32W

The site is unique in that it supports a very diverse range of prairie vegetation types - wet, mesic and dry - in an area with very little variation in topography. The rare prairie butterfly, the dakota skipper, has been observed on the preserve along with 4 or 5 other uncommon butterflies. In addition, pasque flower is abundant as is puccoon, psoralea, lead plant, wild onion, spiked lobelia and a fine stand of purple coneflower in the drier southeast area of the tract.

PARTCH WOODS, Stearns County

SW¼ of NW¼ and SW¼ of NE¼, Section 19
Township 125N, Range 29W

Partch Woods is an eighty acre tract in Stearns County located in central Minnesota. It is a fine example of a climax maple-basswood forest and one of the few surviving maple-basswood stands near the western border of the hardwood forest formation at this latitude. The forest harbors a great variety of spring ephemerals typical of a maple-basswood forest, a spring and a small spring brook that flows into a wet meadow.

KELLOGG-WEAVER DUNES, Wabasha County

NE¼ of Section 6
Township 109N, Range 9W

Kellogg-Weaver Dunes, an area of 182 acres, is part of an unusual area of natural rolling sand dune topography on the Mississippi River Terrace well above flood level. The blowouts and dunes in various stages of development and stabilization by vegetation display a remarkable series of successional stages ranging from bare sand to mature dry, mesic and moist prairies. The sand dunes, in association with nearby wetlands, are an important habitat for the blanding's turtle - the population at this site is the largest known in Minnesota. In addition, it is the only place in Minnesota where the yellow-fruited sedge is known to occur and is one of three locations in Minnesota where the ottoe skipper butterfly has been observed.

CLEAR LAKE, Sherburne County

Portions of Sections 14, 22, and 23
Township 34, Range 30 West

The Clear Lake/Mississippi Scenic and Recreational River SNA is located across the Mississippi River from Clearwater adjacent to County Road 57. The Clear Lake unit supports a combination of oak forest, floodplain, and areas dominated by sumac thickets or old field. The unit has the distinction of being the first land parcel acquired under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Program.

HEMLOCK RAVINE, Carlton County

Portions of Section 3
Township 48 North, Range 16 West

Hemlock Ravine is located adjacent to the Forestry fire tower and the Burlington Northern Railroad just off of County Highway 39 in Jay Cooke State Park, southeast of Cloquet. The site is a northern hardwood stand with a small stream dissecting it in a steep ravine. Here in the shade of other trees and protected by the ravine is found eastern hemlock, a coniferous tree at the extreme western edge of its range in Minnesota. Hemlock Ravine protects over 25% of the states known hemlock trees, a species considered endangered in Minnesota.

PINE AND CURRY ISLAND, Lake of the Woods County

Portions of Section 16
Township 162 North, Range 32 West

Pine and Curry Island is an island in Lake of the Woods, off the confluence of the Rainy River. This island and Morris Point adjacent to its southwest end form a continuous sand spit approximately four miles in length. The sandy beach habitat provided by this unit is the most important habitat for piping plover, a shorebird, in all of the midwest states. Piping plover, a proposed federally endangered species, as well as common terns, a species declining throughout its U.S. range have a valuable refuge on Pine and Curry Island and Morris Point.

ITASCA WILDERNESS SANCTUARY, Clearwater County

Portions of Sections 3, 4, 8, 9, 10, 11, 15 and 17
Township 143 North, Range 36 West

The Itasca Wilderness Sanctuary is located in Itasca State Park, on Wilderness Drive, and encompasses a large virgin red and white pine stand. The pine stand is predominately 100-300 years in age. The Sanctuary also contains habitat for bog adder's mouth (an orchid) and matricary grape-fern two of Minnesota's rarer plant species. Bald eagles and goshawks, bird species of concern in Minnesota, also nest in the unit.

The Itasca Wilderness Sanctuary has the distinction of being the first site in Minnesota set aside for research and interpretation of its significant attributes. In this regard, it precedes the SNA program by 30 years, having been established by agreement between the Minnesota Academy of Science and the Conservation Department in 1938.

IRON SPRINGS BOG, Clearwater County

Portions of Section 28
Township 144 North, Range 36 West

Iron Springs Bog is located approximately one mile west of the north entrance to Itasca State Park, off of Minnesota Highway 200.

Iron Springs Bog is a significant coniferous wetland of a raised bog character. The bog occurs on the side of a gravel moraine rather than in a depression. In addition, to this rare plant community, two of Minnesota's rarest plant species are found here in the company of numerous orchids and mosses. The site gets its name, Iron Spring Bog, from the discharge of iron-oxide found in the spring seeps on the unit.

MARY SCHMIDT CRAWFORD WOODS, Wright County

Portions of Section 25
Township 120 North, Range 25 West

Mary Schmidt Crawford Woods is located approximately five miles east of Buffalo along County Highway 34 on the southwest side of Schmidt Lake. At the time of settlement the vegetation of Wright County was almost entirely maple-basswood forest commonly known as the "big woods." Today, unlogged or ungrazed examples of this plant community type are almost non-existent. Mary Schmidt Crawford Woods is considered to be the finest remaining maple-basswood stand in Wright County and one of the best in the region. It is exceptional in being a very large and diverse natural area in a part of the state where such habitat is rare. Some spring ephemerals commonly found here are trillium, false rue anemone and hepatica.

BLACK DOG PRESERVE, Dakota County

Portions of Sections 27 and 34
Township 27 North, Range 24 West

Black Dog Preserve is located 1/4 mile east of Interstate 35W on Cliff Road. Parking is available in the Ride and Park lot beside the City recreation field. The preserve contains excellent examples of mesic prairie and calcareous fen plant communities; communities which were once common in this area. The calcareous fen and mesic blacksoil prairie, also referred to as "tallgrass prairie" are now among the rarest natural communities in Minnesota. A calcareous fen is an endangered grass-sedge dominated plant community with vegetation adapted to its unusual calcium rich groundwater. The mesic prairie is the finest known in the metropolitan area. Eight rare plant species can be found on this preserve. Part of the preserve has been made into a sanctuary because of its vulnerability to high visitor use. Access to this restricted area will be allowed by permit only.

GREENWATER LAKE, Becker County

Section 33 and portions of Sections 28 and 34
Township 141 North, Range 38 West

Greenwater Lake is located along Hwy 35 approximately five miles west of Ponsford and 21 miles northeast of Detroit Lakes. This pristine, spring-fed lake has a diatom flora of which nearly half is dominated by a single species. This species has only been recorded as a very rare component of the flora in other lakes. The presence and dominance of this species may be indicative of a lake that is chemically stratified (meromictic). This and the fact that it has low nutrient levels makes Greenwater Lake of great research interest in analyzing the cause and effects of lake eutrophication. The undeveloped shoreline and surrounding hills are a mixed forest dominated by aspen and birch. These woodlands provide habitat for many plant and animal species including bald eagle, osprey, and showy lady slipper.

PRAIRIE BUSH CLOVER SCIENTIFIC AND NATURAL AREA, Jackson County

Portions of Section 17
Township 103 North, Range 35 West

Prairie Bush Clover SNA is located entirely within Kilen Woods State Park, approximately 11 miles south of Windom. This 25 acre tract of prairie and woodland harbors one of the world's largest populations of Prairie Bush Clover, a Minnesota endangered species. Prairie is found on the ridgetops and steep side slopes along the valley of the Des Moines River. One of these prairie hillsides contains a small calcareous fen. A calcareous fen is an endangered climax vegetation type dependent on groundwater which is rich in calcium and magnesium bicarbonates. Due to this unusual hydrology they often contain relict plant species.

CALDWELL BROOK CEDAR SWAMP, Koochiching County

Portions of Section 33
Township 1 North, Range 25 West

Located in southern Koochiching county, Caldwell Brook Cedar Swamp is approximately 60 miles north of Grand Rapids. There is no direct access to this site by car. From Caldwell Road follow a winter trail south through Sections 21 and 28. At the end of this trail it is necessary to hike 1/2 mile southeast to the area. Caldwell Brook Cedar Swamp is a typical example of an undisturbed northern white cedar forest in excellent condition. This coniferous wetland forest cover type is rapidly decreasing due to logging. Unfortunately, regeneration of the white cedar forest type after cutting has not been successful. As such, Caldwell Brook Cedar Swamp will serve as an important bench mark for research purposes.

DODGE COUNTY PRAIRIE, Dodge County

Portions of Section 27
Township 105 North, Range 17 West

Dodge County Prairie is located almost two miles south of Hayfield. From Highway 56 follow County Road M east approximately 1/2 mile to the old railroad grades. The triangular shaped prairie is north of the road between two railroad spurs. Dodge County Prairie is an excellent example of mesic tall grass prairie which, in Minnesota, is confined to the southeastern part of the state. Today only a few pieces of mesic prairie exist in the region, being restricted primarily to railroad right-of-ways and other areas unsuitable for cultivation. Species diversity is very high in this 37 acre tract and includes five plants which are rare in the state; among them are Sullivant's milkweed, Indian plantain, wild quinine and valerian.

LADIES-TRESSES SWAMP, Itasca County

Portions of Section 4
Township 60 North, Range 25 West

Ladies-tresses Swamp is accessible by taking a winter logging trail off of Homestead Road (approximately 1/2 mile south of Scenic State Park) into Section 3. From here follow the trail northwest into Section 4. The first conifer swamp forest along the trail is Ladies-tresses Swamp. This site is an excellent example of a lowland conifer forest plant community serving as habitat for state endangered species. The forest canopy is dominated by northern white cedar along with black ash and black spruce. A wide variety of herbaceous plants are found in Ladies-tresses Swamp including several species of orchid such as hooded ladies-tresses, rattlesnake plantain and showy lady slipper.

PRAIRIE COTEAU, Pipestone County

Portions of SE 1/4 Sections 32
Township 108N, Range 44W

The unique topography of this area is a striking example of southwestern Minnesota's Coteau des Prairie landscape region. The rolling hills are covered by glacial till hill prairie, while wet prairie exists in the lower elevations. These habitat types support state significant species such as the small white lady's slipper, Dakota skipper, and ottoe skipper. The prairie preserve is located approximately 11 miles northeast of Pipestone on Highway 23.

BICENTENNIAL PRAIRIE, Clay County

SW 1/4, Section 5
Township 141N., Range 45W.

Bicentennial Prairie is a 160 acre unit owned by Clay County. It is located adjacent to the Blazing Star SNA, approximately 23 miles northeast of Moorhead. The SNA lies within a large beach ridge complex of Glacial Lake Agassiz known as the Felton prairie. Several rare plants and animals exist on this native prairie landscape. The endangered Assinibolia skipper and threatened Dakota skipper butterflies have been observed at the site along with rare bird species such as greater prairie chickens, upland sandpipers, and Chestnut-collared longspurs.

BUTTERWORT CLIFFS, Cook County

Portions of Sections 32 & 33 which lie south of
Highway 61
Township 61N., Range 1W.

The 50 acre Butterwort Cliffs SNA consists of a narrow strip of wet, rock shore natural community immediately adjacent to Lake Superior, and aspen-birch forest extending from the rock shore to the northern border of the SNA. The cold wet rocks near the lake provide habitat for a unique assemblage of rare arctic-alpine plants, including butterwort and northern eyebright.

BLACK LAKE BOG, Pine County

E 1/2, Sections 24 & 25; Portions of NE 1/4
Section 36; Portions of SE 1/4, Section 13;
Township 45N., Range 16W. Portions SW 1/4,
Section 18; Portions W 1/2 Sections 19 and 30;
Township 45N., Range 15W.

Black Lake Bog is an interstate natural area located in Pine County, Minnesota and Douglas County, Wisconsin. The Minnesota portion contains 1414 acres of black ash swamp, fen, forested bog and open bog. Carnivorous plants such as Pitcher plant and Round-leaved Sundew are present in the bog. The SNA is located in a remote area of the Nemadji State Forest, therefore it is necessary to hike or canoe into the preserve.

TOWNSEND WOODS, Rice County

Portions of N 1/2 S 1/2, Section 18
Township 109N., Range 22W.

This 33 acre natural area contains a small, but significant example of the "Big Woods" forest type. Most remaining Big Woods sites have been degraded by grazing or logging, however, Townsend Woods displays the characteristic of undisturbed virgin maple-oak-basswood forest. The understory is rich and abundant in spring ephemerals and spring flowering herbs such as toothwort, hepatica, bloodroot, and trillium. Townsend Woods is located about 1 1/2 miles north of Sakatah Lake State Park.

YELLOW RAIL SWAMP, Aitkin County

Portions of Section 5
Township 47N., Range 23W.

Yellow Rail Swamp is located on the east side of Highway 65 approximately two miles southeast of McGregor. This 400 acre site contains the highly specific habitat requirements necessary for the yellow rail and sharp-tailed sparrow. These special concern bird species as well as other uncommon birds inhabit this sight and have been viewed by birders in these extensive marshes over many years.

YELLOW BANK HILLS, Lac qui Parle County

E 1/2 NE 1/4, Section 4
Township 118N., Range 46W.

Yellow Bank Hills, an area of 80 acres, is located near the South Dakota border. This gravel prairie contains the rare plant species, Missouri milkvetch, Nuttall's violet, Haplopappus spinulosus, and Solidago mollis (a species of goldenrod) which are all at the eastern edge of their range. The site is located approximately one mile east of Nassau on Highway 24.

SANTEE PRAIRIE, Mahnomen County

Portions W 1/2, Section 6
NW 1/4 and S 1/2 NE 1/4, Section 7
Township 145N., Range 41W.

Santee Prairie is located 5 miles northeast of Mahnomen and adjacent to the Wambach WMA. It consists of 440 acres of native prairie interspersed with small wetlands and scattered clumps of aspen. The prairie has a high diversity of native plants including the small white lady's-slipper. Rare birds such as the greater prairie chicken and Wilson's phalarope also inhabit Santee Prairie.

WYKOFF BALSAM FIR, Fillmore County

S 1/2 SW 1/4 SW 1/4, Section 17
Portions of N 1/2 NW 1/4, Section 20
Township 103N., Range 12W.

This 62 acre SNA is located two miles east of Wykoff. A unique set of natural communities are present due to the sites topography and unusual micro-climate. The algific talus slopes found at the site are steep, moist, northfacing slopes with cold air drainage. These slopes, which are found only in unglaciated areas, support populations of balsam fir, rare plants, and invertebrate animal species. No entry is allowed into established sanctuaries in the SNA except by written permit from the DNR.

