

# PRAIRIE STEWARDSHIP ASSISTANCE

**INDICATOR:** Number of prairie stewardship plans and management projects

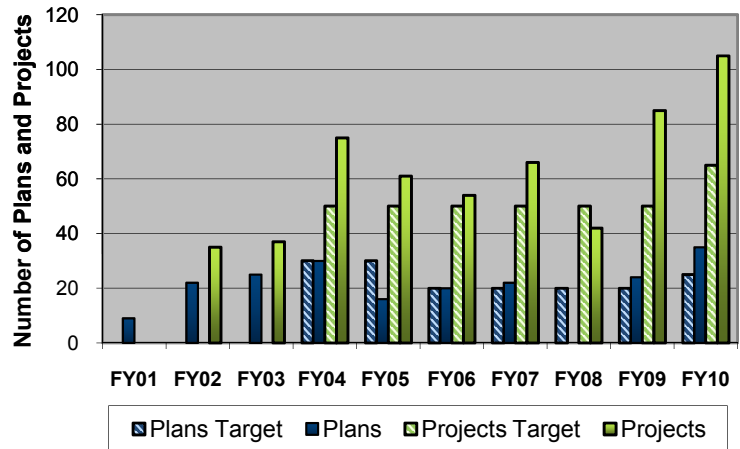
## WHY IS THIS INDICATOR IMPORTANT?

Prairies are Minnesota's most endangered major habitat type. About 200,000 of the state's original 18 million acres of prairie remain; these lands are home to more than 40 percent of Minnesota's state-listed species (see Endangered Species indicator in Fisheries and Wildlife section). Native prairie requires management such as prescribed burning and invasive species control to remain healthy. Approximately 60 percent of prairie land is privately owned, so conservation depends on private landowners.

## WHAT IS DNR DOING?

DNR manages several programs to help private landowners manage native prairie. Landowners can receive help developing a stewardship plan from Scientific and Natural Areas (SNA) program prairie specialists, or from private consultants funded by the SNA program. The SNA program then uses its prairie management staff, private sector contractors, Minnesota Conservation Corps, Sentence to Serve crews, or direct cost-share assistance to help selected landowners carry out their plans. Landowners can also enroll qualifying prairie land in the DNR Native Prairie Bank easement program (98 sites totaling more than 7,869 acres), and/or the Prairie Tax Exemption program (about 500 landowners and 20,000 acres enrolled). DNR has been providing planning assistance to private prairie landowners since FY 2000. The SNA program began providing technical and management assistance in FY 2002 by stationing a private lands prairie specialist in the DNR Windom office. Today the SNA program has three specialists stationed in the prairie regions that are providing assistance to private landowners.

## Number of Prairie Stewardship Plans and Management Projects



Number of prairie stewardship plans and management projects. DNR plans to assist with at least 20 prairie stewardship plans and 50 management projects each year.



**Prairie Landowners.** Three generations of landowners and a DNR prairie specialist survey a protected Jackson County prairie.

**TARGET:** Conduct at least 20 prairie stewardship plans and 50 management projects each year. To reach this target DNR will combine state and federal funding. Expanded funding will be sought to continue and accelerate existing programs to provide 100 plans and projects each year.

## LEARN MORE ABOUT:

- Prairie Restoration at: [www.mndnr.gov/prairierestoration](http://www.mndnr.gov/prairierestoration)
- MN Prairie Bank easement programs at: [www.mndnr.gov/prairierestoration/prairiebank.html](http://www.mndnr.gov/prairierestoration/prairiebank.html)
- The Nature Conservancy - Minnesota: [www.nature.org/wherewework/northamerica/states/minnesota](http://www.nature.org/wherewework/northamerica/states/minnesota)
- USFWS Private Lands Brochure: [www.fws.gov/midwest/partners/documents/MN-PLOBroch05.pdf](http://www.fws.gov/midwest/partners/documents/MN-PLOBroch05.pdf)