

Conservation Partners Legacy Grants - Online Applications

Jamie Gangaware

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Project Summary

Project Name and Contact

| | | | |
|--------------------|--|------------------|---|
| Project Name: | Chippewa Prairie Conservation Grazing | Project Manager: | Pete Bauman |
| Organization Name: | The Nature Conservancy | Title: | Director of Community Based Conservation |
| Organization Type: | Non-Profit | Phone: | 605-874-8517 |
| Mailing Address 1: | PO box 816 | Email: | pbauman@tnc.org |
| Mailing Address 2: | | | |
| City: | Clear Lake | | |
| State: | SD | | |
| Zip Code: | 57201 | | |

Project Location Summary

| | | | |
|-------------------------|---|----------------------------|----------------|
| Primary County: | Swift | Secondary Land Ownerships: | Private |
| Nearest City: | Appleton | | |
| Project Site Name: | Chippewa Prairie/Lac qui Parle WMA | | |
| Primary Land Ownership: | State | | |

Project Activity Summary

| | | | |
|------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|----------------|
| Primary Activity: | Enhancement | Primary Habitat Type: | Prairie |
| Additional Activities: | | Additional Habitats: | Wetland |
| Total Project Sites: | 1 | | |
| Total Project Acres: | 2866 | | |

Project Funding Summary

| | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Total Grant Amount Requested: | \$32,000 |
| Total Match Amount Pledged: | \$4,500 |
| Additional Funding: | \$0 |
| Total Project Cost: | \$36,500 |
| Estimated Project Completion Date: | 2011-08-31 |

: Previous expenditures: \$80K (\$40K-DNR-Eco Res 239 Fund - fence supplies; \$30K-LCCMR -TNC-installation contract; \$10K-TNC). The Nature Conservancy's expenses incurred for contractor oversight and over 300 hrs of staff time and resources for initial contract management, planning, etc.

Summary

The Chippewa Prairie is jointly owned and managed by the MN DNR and TNC. Both agencies have been purchasing land in the project area for nearly 30 years, cooperatively maintaining the prairie landscape via traditional methods, primarily prescribed fire. For over a decade, managers from both agencies have been researching, assessing need, and formulating a vision for re-introduction of grazing management. A grazing plan has been developed that implements a cooperative conservation grazing system that focuses on the need to mimic natural processes via the re-introduction of large ungulates. It was determined that a large, open, cooperative patch-burn grazing system was most appropriate to meet the management objectives of the property. Implementation of the plan started in 2009 when six miles of perimeter fence was installed on the

TNC portion of the project site. We are seeking funding to finish the remaining 4.5 miles of DNR fence to bring the project to completion.

Problem Statement

Chippewa Prairie is considered to be one of the most attractive and diverse tracts of native prairie in the Upper Minnesota River region. Historically, the area now defined as Chippewa Prairie was comprised of privately owned land with various management histories that included sheep and cattle grazing, haying, and limited agricultural cropping. Management of this site has become relatively stagnant over the past several decades, and managers have primarily relied on fire as the only large-scale disturbance tool. Prairie managers and prairie enthusiasts are beginning to recognize the very complex nature of historic prairie disturbance and the role of large ungulate grazing in that history. Grazing by wild herbivores and domestic livestock should not be viewed as a 'new' tool; especially at Chippewa where the very recent history of grazing enterprises are evidenced by the fence lines and water systems still evident on the land. It can be argued that the very health of the prairie, although easily threatened by the misuse of the grazing tool, was likely ultimately preserved because of the use of grazing for management and economic return. Our intent with this project is very simple. We strive only to create the infrastructure necessary (fence and water systems) to enable managers to utilize and capture the benefits that well managed, ecological grazing can afford prairie. Grazing is only a tool to achieve the end goal of sound and appropriate management. Grazing, in and of itself, is not the goal. In addition, and perhaps more importantly, surrounding tracts of privately owned native prairie are in dire condition due to overutilization of grazing. We are confident that the implementation of Conservation grazing at Chippewa will have far-reaching impacts in the region as we leverage livestock producer access to Chippewa in exchange for improved management practices on privately owned prairies.

Project Objectives

The complete vision for the Chippewa Prairie conservation grazing project can be found in a 'living' document entitled: the Chippewa Prairie Complex Conservation Grazing Implementation and Management Plan, co-authored by TNC and DNR management staff. Overall, the expected results of this project are not short-term, although short-term changes will likely occur. Rather, through over a decade of study, observation, and reflection by management staff, the desired end results for this project are that the project itself is not on a timeline. The desire is to create an opportunity for grazing to once again be utilized and implemented as necessary for the betterment of the system as a whole. Our best and initial goal then is to have this project viewed as a perpetual opportunity to think creatively about the tools available to not only enhance the native flora and fauna, but to also combat, as practical, the progression of non-native species that are integrating into the grassland landscape. Overall, grazing and/or a grazing-fire rotation will more closely mimic historical natural processes that shaped the prairie landscape. At the scale of this project, our intent is to maximize vegetation compositional and structural heterogeneity in order to maximize the available habitat types needed for the majority of Chippewa's endemic flora and fauna to flourish, while minimizing the ability of non-native species to compete. The results of our work are easily measurable through traditional floral and faunal monitoring methodologies as well as developing methodologies geared specifically toward conservation grazing and patch-burn grazing treatments. It is our intent to integrate grazing into the disturbance regime of the prairie in such a way that its impacts are measurable in order to implement an adaptive management approach to future site management. Our plan calls for approximately 20% - 30% of the prairie to be under grazing management annually, with a goal of no more than approximately 50% of the area to be under a disturbance regime at any given time. Our goal is to manage toward more compositional and structural diversity, with areas of tall, 'old-growth' prairie and a heavy thatch layer in the vicinity of areas with moderate height/thatch and other areas with fresh burns or grazing providing succulent green growth, minimal thatch, and high insect populations.

Methods

This project is a decade in the planning by DNR and TNC management staff. During this time, a great deal of experience was gained through careful study and observation of ecological grazing systems in other regions. Collectively, TNC and the DNR harbor the tools, training, and skills necessary to manage the grazing system and to effectively monitor the results in a fashion that will ultimately prove exportable to others. The MN DNR's Division of Ecological Resources has been accumulating 'baseline' data on the vegetation and bird communities at the site since 2009, and

with the support of local TNC and DNR staff have agreed to lead a 20-year study on the effects of the grazing system on native species. Field work for this next phase has already begun and long-term monitoring plots have been identified and sampled. Conservancy staff, via internal 'Learning Networks' have been involved with the leading innovations in ecological grazing and patch-burn grazing science for over five years. We have come to anticipate that through carefully executed systems, we can utilize both grazing and fire-grazing combinations to effectively reduce infestations of invasive exotic species. This project will promote prairie conservation as it will create the opportunity for local owners of native prairie tracts that are currently utilized as pasture to participate in a large-scale conservation project. We envision utilizing a system of grass-banking, whereas private producers agree to rest their native prairie tracts in order to gain access to the conservation grazing program at Chippewa. By utilizing such a system, Chippewa managers will be able to design annual management plans that incorporate necessary conservation grazing while assisting private landowners with plans that incorporate necessary rest from grazing - thereby effectively expanding the prairie mosaic onto private lands. It is our intention that these properties will also be monitored to measure impacts of the conservation grazing system. Specific to infrastructure, 4.5 miles of fence will need to be installed on WMA lands before ecological grazing can begin. In addition, electric and portable water systems will be developed. Most fence supplies are already purchased. A private contractor will install the fence with TNC administering contract management.

Project Timeline

| Time Frame | Goal |
|----------------------|---|
| February 2011 | purchase all supplies, solicit bids for contracts |
| March 2011 | complete all contract paperwork |
| May 2011 | begin installation of TNC- match portion of fence |
| June 2011 | begin installatin of DNR portion of fence |
| July 2011 | complete electric and cattle guard install contract work |
| August 2011 | wrap up any misc. work remaining |

Identify short and long term maintenance and management work required to sustain this project and source(s) of funding

| Work needed | Who is responsible | Funding source |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| spring and fall maintenance | TNC, DNR, producers | annual budgets |

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Answer each of the following questions in 1000 characters or less; descriptions/definitions are available in the [Criteria and Scoring Table](#).

1. Describe the local support for this project.

Locally, livestock producers are excited and anxious about the opportunity to be invited to work with MN DNR and TNC on this project. Although the participant criteria have not yet been formally adopted, we anticipate that producers who will participate in the project will represent a segment of the livestock community that is truly interested in grassland health and long-term protection. This is also an important recreational site, and our plan addresses the need for continued public access.

2. Describe the degree of collaboration for this project.

We have engaged ecologists from both TNC and DNR Ecological Resources and we are in the process of establishing long-term research and monitoring objectives. We have support from the MN Prairie Chicken Society and the interest of area academic institutions and management agencies who may want to replicate this type of project. Finally, installation of perimeter fence has required obtaining the cooperation of adjacent landowners and local government such as the Appleton Township Board.

3. Describe any urgency associated with this project.

From a socio-economic perspective, there have been large expenditures of public funds to date and a partially finished project will only serve to create negative public perception. From an ecological perspective, managers are keenly aware of our inability to address seasonal invasive species issues at a meaningful scale. Reintroducing this key ecological process will allow us to export and extrapolate adaptive grassland management to surrounding public and private lands – an urgent need.

4. Discuss if there are multiple benefits resulting from your project, identifying those species, habitats, etc.

Ecological grazing will benefit vegetation through increased impact on invasive species (Kentucky bluegrass, smooth brome, sweet clover) as well as providing the ecological disturbances that prairies evolved under. Hoof action and soil disturbance will improve wetland fringe communities, and the overall mosaic created will benefit life history needs of grassland birds and the insects they forage on. Neighboring privately owned native pastures will benefit from a rest from grazing.

5. Discuss the habitat benefits resulting from your project.

Patch-burn grazing mimics the historical fire and grazing regime believed common on the Great Plains. Research into this method by various academic institutions shows that when timed correctly, this management method can limit invasive species while improving native vegetation diversity, health, and vigor. We can expect to see system 'patchiness' providing a mosaic of old growth and young prairie – an ideal combination for a variety of grassland bird, mammal, and insect species.

6. Describe how your project is consistent with sound conservation science.

The science supporting the use of conservation grazing as a legitimate grassland management tool is fairly new to Minnesota resources managers. However, the practice and results of grazing management has a long history in other areas of the Great Plains. When coupled with the commitment of DNR and TNC science staff to engage in ongoing research and monitoring, we believe that the implementation of grazing as an ecologically base management tool will be widely accepted in the near future.

7. Indicate if your project is adjacent to protected lands, describing those lands (ownership, public access, etc.)

The Chippewa Prairie complex as described here is owned by MN DNR (1,724 acres)

and TNC (1,142 acres) and is subset of the much larger Lac qui Parle Wildlife Management Area. The transition from TNC to DNR land is 'seamless' with only boundary signs marking property boundaries – no internal fence. The Chippewa Prairie complex is the largest contiguous prairie in the entire Upper Minnesota River Prairie landscape.

8. Discuss if there is full funding secured for this project and the sources of funding.

This grant award would complete the basic necessary infrastructure and water dispersal systems for the project. The Nature Conservancy and MN DNR have already contributed staff time and monetary resources toward the project. Procurement of this CPL grant will enable the project to become operational.

9. Discuss if CPL Grant funds will supplement or supplant existing funding. Discuss how these CPL funds will impact your organization's current budget.

CPL funds will supplement previous and current expenditures of approximately \$80K (\$40K-DNR-fence supplies, \$30K-LCCMR grant to TNC-installation contracts, \$10K-personnel, contracts, supplies). The Conservancy nor the DNR have the budget to complete this project, but the Conservancy does have the budget to complete that portion of the shared overall project fence remaining to be built on TNC boundary that will provide match for this grant. Annual operating budgets will cover management.

10. Describe public access at project site for hunting and fishing, identifying all open seasons.

The DNR owned portion of the Chippewa Prairie cooperative grazing area is open to all public hunting, trapping, fishing, and recreation per hunting and fishing regulations. That portion of the Chippewa Prairie project area owned by TNC is open to the public for non-consumptive recreation such as bird watching, hiking, photography, etc. The fence and gate system is designed to allow for ample and adequate human access throughout the project area.

11. Describe the sustainability of your project.

This project is perpetually sustainable. Investment into high quality perimeter fence and infrastructure will guarantee an adequate foundation for future managers to easily utilize and maintain. Ecologically based conservation grazing is a management tool that will be perpetually available as necessary to achieve adequate and sustainable system health. The fence and water systems investments are necessary to allow for the use of grazing as an ecological tool.

12. Discuss use of native vegetation (if applicable).

The sole motivation for this project is to maintain, enhance, and protect the diversity of the prairie ecosystem, including the vegetation. The majority of the project area is native, virgin sod with a great deal of diversity. A healthy vegetation community is the foundation for all fauna - present and desired. The reintroduction of grazing as an ecological tool will further enhance manager's ability to manage toward better native vegetation compositional and structural heterogeneity.

13. Discuss your budget and why it is cost effective.

The overall budget for this project is very efficient, with expenses comparable to other area projects. Our target 'product' is a high quality, low maintenance fence. Our experience has proven that we achieve the best possible product when we utilize professional contractors who build the fence to our specifications. Additionally, by procuring our own supplies and managing our own contracts, we ensure minimum project overhead expenses while also ensuring maximum project oversight.

14. Describe your organization's ability to successfully complete this work, including experience in the area of interest and ability to successfully implement the proposed project. Include descriptions of your most recent grant experience and if the expected outcomes were achieved.

The Nature Conservancy has a great deal of experience and success in all types of grant management. A notable example was the completion of the \$30K LCCMR grant that funded the initial phase of this project. Likewise, the Conservancy is a national leader in ecological conservation grazing utilizing large domesticated ungulates such as cattle and bison. The Conservancy has the institutional history necessary to ensure immediate and ongoing success of this project.

15. Discuss how your project supports landscape level plans. Use additional sources for information if needed or available.

This project supports the concept of utilizing all tools necessary for conservation of the Chippewa Prairie area. The conservation grazing tool will support goals and objectives of both the Conservancy's and the DNR's management plans for this area. The following landscape plans support the concept of conservation grazing: TNC NTPE plan, MN State Conservation Plan, LSOHC prairie plan, Long Range Duck Recovery Plan, Pheasant Plan, NFWF business plan, etc.

16. Discuss how your project supports species plans. Use additional sources for information if needed or available.

Overall, conservation grazing is not an individual species-specific tool, but rather is geared toward improving system heterogeneity in such a way that it manifests the survival and function of several suites of species, broadening the floral and faunal spectrum of a site. Individually, species can benefit from the ebb and flow of a conservation grazing system, taking advantage of the perpetual offering of either newly grazed prairie or old growth prairie that the system provides.

17. Discuss how your project conforms to the Statewide Conservation and Preservation Plan.

The Statewide Conservation and Preservation Plan identified habitat loss, degradation, and fragmentation as primary drivers of change. The plan recommended an integrated approach to address these issues. Our conservation grazing plan takes this approach and integrates all prairie management tools to strengthen the prairie ecosystem. Our unique approach on grass banking and building partnerships addresses the issues of habitat loss, degradation and fragmentation beyond the project location.

18. Discuss how your project conforms to the State Wildlife Action Plan (if applicable).

The Chippewa Prairie is home to a number of Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN). The priority conservation actions listed to maintain, enhance, and protect native prairie habitats (page 218) are key components of our grazing plan. Integration of conservation grazing into the mix of tools currently utilized for management of the Chippewa Prairie will only stand to strengthen the resilience of the prairie ecosystem and therefore benefit SGCN.

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*you may group your project sites together as long as land ownership, activity and habitat information is the same for the land manager

Land Manager

Name:

David Trauba

Phone:

320-734-4451

Organization:

MNDNR

Email:

david.trauba@state.mn.us

Title:

Wildlife Area Manager

Site Information

Land Ownership:

State

Acres:

1724

Site Name(s):

**DNR portion of
Chippewa Prairie, Lac
Qui Parle WMA**

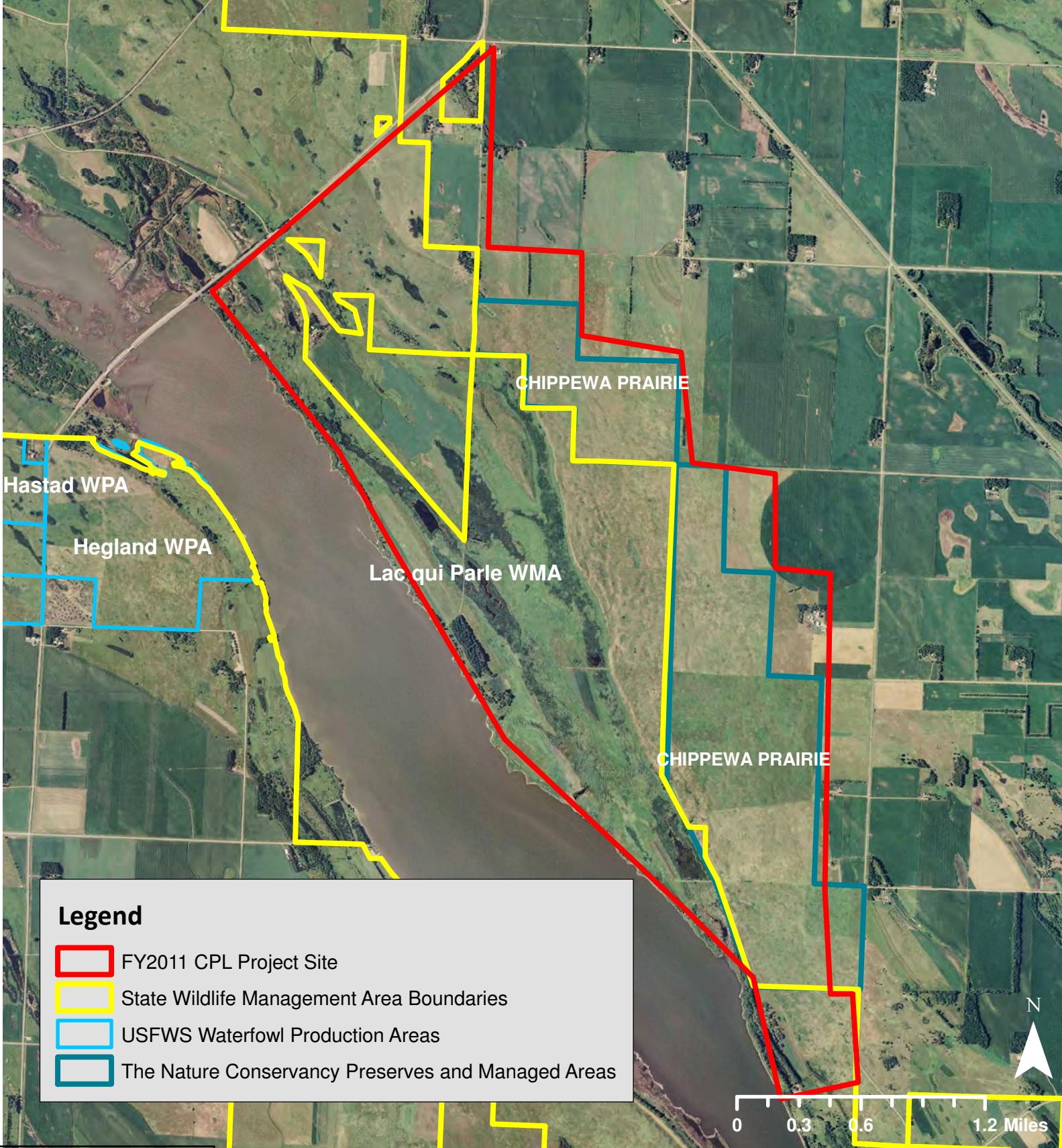
Click here to [View Site Map](#)

Activity:



Enhancement

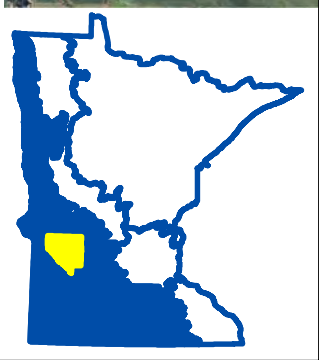
Habitat:

Prairie



Legend

-  FY2011 CPL Project Site
-  State Wildlife Management Area Boundaries
-  USFWS Waterfowl Production Areas
-  The Nature Conservancy Preserves and Managed Areas



CPL FY11-021
Chippewa Prairie Conservation Grazing
The Nature Conservancy
Chippewa County,
LSOHC Prairie Planning Section



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Organization's Fiscal Contact Information

| | | | |
|--------|-----------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|
| Name: | Amy Short | Street Address 1: | 1101 West River Parkway |
| Title: | Grants Administrator | Street Address 2: | |
| Email: | ashort@tnc.org | City: | Minneapolis |
| Phone: | 612-331-0774 | State: | MN |
| | | Zip Code: | 55415 |

Budget Subtotals

| Budget Item | Grant | Match | Total | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|---------------|----------------|
| Personnel | | | | | |
| Contracts | \$16,000 | \$4,500 | \$20,500 | | |
| Fee Acquisition with PILT | | | | | |
| Fee Acquisition without PILT | | | | | |
| Easement Acquisition | | | | | |
| Easement Stewardship | | | | In-kind Total | Cash Total |
| Travel (in-state) | | | | \$0 | \$4,500 |
| Professional Services | | | | | |
| DNR Land Acquisition Cost | | | | | |
| Equipment/Tools/Supplies | \$16,000 | | \$16,000 | | |
| Additional Budget Items | | | | | |
| Total: | \$32,000 | \$4,500 | \$36,500 | | |

Details

Contracts

| Contractor Name | Contracted Work | Amount | Grant/Match | In-kind/Cash |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| fence contractor to be named | fence installation - WMA | \$12,000 | Grant | |
| Equipment contractor | cattle gaurd - WMA | \$2,000 | Grant | |
| electric contractor(s) | electric systems installation | \$2,000 | Grant | |
| Fence contractor to be named | Fence installation - TNC | \$4,500 | Match | Cash |
| Totals | Grant: \$16,000 Match: \$4,500 | Total: \$20,500 | | |

Equipment/Tools/Supplies

| Item | Purpose | Amount | Grant/Match | In-kind/Cash |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------|--------------|--------------|
| misc fence supplies | to finish WMA fence | \$5,000 | Grant | |
| cattle gaurd | cattle guard for WMA land | \$2,000 | Grant | |
| portable solar fence chargers | WMA food plot protection | \$2,000 | Grant | |
| misc solar fence hardware | WMA food plot protection | \$500 | Grant | |
| tank skid | portable tank skid | \$500 | Grant | |
| portable solar | water source protection | \$4,500 | Grant | |

pump system

water tank

electrical supplies

water source protection

main electric fence hookup

\$1,000 Grant

\$500 Grant

Totals

Grant: \$16,000 Match: \$0

Total: \$16,000

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Project Review and Approval

A Project Review and Approval Form must be completed by each Land Manager named within the Site Info tab and Land Managers only need to complete one form for all sites they manage. Submitting this form fulfills the following requirements:

- Provides the results of the Natural Heritage Database Review,
- Allows for technical review of the project by the Land Manager, and
- Verifies that the public agency approves the work to be done (or acquisition) on land they manage.

You, as the applicant, are responsible for meeting with the Land Manager and receiving a completed Project Review and Approval Form. This form must contain an original signature from the Land Manager and you must upload it below as a PDF.

Each project will require at least one Project Review and Approval form. You may attach up to 4 forms on this page, but if you need more room you may attach up to three more on the "Additional Info" tab. If your project is working under 3 Land Managers, you must receive and submit a form from each manager.

No late Project Review and Approval Forms will be accepted. Applications lacking any necessary approval forms will be deemed incomplete and not considered for funding.

Answer the following questions, then attach the form(s)

Yes **Natural Heritage elements were found within my project site(s):**

Name the site(s) and their associated Land Managers:

[Redacted]

Name the elements found:

[Redacted]

Discuss any interaction or impact to these elements and the recommended mitigation / avoidance measures you will take within your project to protect these elements:

All grassland management tools are potentially helpful and harmful, depending on utilization methodologies such as timing, frequency, and duration. The agencies and managers involved with this project have a long history of a conservative approach. Because of the concern for elements and non-elements alike, fire and grazing will be utilized solo or in combination so as to avoid total disturbance of more than 50% of the project area.

Project Review and Approval Forms

Uploaded Form 1

CPL Project Review and Approval Form

REVIEWER INFORMATION:

| | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| Land manager/ easement holder name: | David Trauba |
| Agency: | Minnesota Department of Natural Resources |
| Title: | Lac qui Parle Area Supervisor |
| Phone: | 320-734-4451 ext. 227 |
| Email: | david.trauba@state.mn.us |

PROJECT INFORMATION:

| | |
|-----------------|--------------------------|
| Project Name: | Chippewa Prairie Grazing |
| Contact Person: | Pete Bauman |
| Organization: | The Nature Conservancy |
| Email: | pbauman@tnc.org |

Please check the appropriate boxes:

- I have read the application and discussed this proposed project with the above listed Organization Contact Person.
 For work on easements, the private landowner has been contacted and has given support and approval for this project.

I have performed a Natural Heritage Database review and found:

- this project to have no features within one mile.
 this project to have features within one mile, but project is not likely to adversely affect those features. I have listed the features below and recommended the following minimization strategy:



this project is likely to adversely affect Natural Heritage features. I feel that this project is important and should be forwarded to DNR Ecological Resources staff for further review.

I do not have access to the Natural Features database and will forward this completed form to DNR by Friday, August 27th 2010 to CPL Staff at LSCPLGrants.DNR@state.mn.us to complete the Natural Heritage Review.

I have discussed what role my office will be expected to have in this project and find that the project, as described will require:

- minimal or no involvement from my office for completion.

CPL Project Review and Approval Form

- a commitment of involvement by staff that is reasonable and can be accomplished with current staffing levels and workload.
- an amount of staff involvement that cannot be committed during the project time period with current staffing levels. Unless additional staffing can be committed from other offices, Divisions or appropriate partners, I feel this project cannot be completed within the project timeline to our desired standards.
- I have discussed permits and applications that the applicant may be responsible for using the Working on DNR Lands and Working on Public Lands, or Working on Private Lands documents.

CPL Project Review and Approval Form

For Acquisitions Only:

- This project is for an acquisition to be transferred to a public agency by applicant:
- I have discussed any required Initial Development (facilities, habitat, etc.) work that is required before the transfer with the applicant.
 - I have discussed all applicable costs of those developments and what party is responsible for those costs.

Complete the following cost tables (required work to bring to agency standards).

| Habitat Development | # Acres | Cost/ Acre | Total | Funding Source | Applicant is responsible for: |
|---------------------|---------|------------|-------|----------------|-------------------------------|
| Prairie Grassland | | | | | Choose |
| Forest/ Woody Cover | | | | | Choose |
| Wetland | | | | | Choose |
| Totals | | | | | |

| Facility Development | Cost | Funding Source | Applicant is responsible for: |
|---------------------------------------|------|----------------|-------------------------------|
| Boundary Survey | | | Choose |
| Posting/ Fencing | | | Choose |
| Wood Routed Sign | | | Choose |
| Access Roads and Trails | | | Choose |
| User Facilities, Access, Parking Lots | | | Choose |
| Well Sealing/ Site Clean-up | | | Choose |
| Total | | | |

Upon final review of this project:

- I find this project to be consistent with sound conservation science. This work will benefit area fish, game and wildlife by restoring, enhancing or protecting forests, wetlands, prairies and habitat and is consistent with the management or stewardship plan for this land. (APPROVAL)
- I find that this project does not follow the management or stewardship plan for this land and does not fit within the long range goals for this land at this time on the local level. (DECLINE)
- I find that this project should be sent up to a higher level within the agency for further review and decision. I have forwarded the Project Planning Form and this Review and Approval Form for further review to:

| | | | |
|-------|--------------|--------|-----------------------|
| Name: | David Trauba | Phone: | 320-734-4451 ext. 227 |
|-------|--------------|--------|-----------------------|

By checking this box and signing my name below I certify that I have met with the above applicant and discussed the proposed project and have provided feedback to the applicant. I understand I must provide this document as a PDF with my original signature on it to the applicant to submit a complete application.

Name: *David Trauba*

Date: 9/3/2010

Comments: MN-DNR and TNC have cooperatively managed the Chippewa Prairie landscape for 30 years; it has been a great partnership. I have worked closely with TNC staff my entire career and in the past 10 years specifically discussing and researching the need to conservation grazing at Chippewa. This is a great project and I respectfully request your funding support.

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List any additional details about your project here. Include your organization's history or charter to receive private contributions for local conservation or habitat projects. This is not required.

We believe this project is extremely important to initiate in the very near future. Conservation grazing is a term that is subjective, but gaining widespread use. It is crucial to Minnesota's grassland landscapes that a model project be underway soon, so as to provide a necessary living laboratory for learning and monitoring.

Supplemental Documents

If you / your project does not need to upload any of these documents, you may leave these upload boxes empty.

Upload additional information here, limited to Partner Commitment Letters, Letters of Support, Easement information, etc. You may email easement information only if it exceeds size limit while trying to submit the application; all other supporting documentation must be uploaded. Reference CPL Application # and name when emailing (provided upon application submission) or your email will be returned. Send emails to

LSCPLGrants.DNR@state.mn.us

Uploaded Document 1

Financial Information Required for Non-Profit applicants requesting over \$25,000

990 Form or EZ990

Form 990 / EZ990

Audited Financials, unaudited financials as a second choice

Financials

Does your organization have a Conflict of Interest Policy?

Yes - Upload Conflict of Interest Policy here:

Conflict of Interest Policy

List key staff or members here that will be participating with this project:

Pete Bauman, Joe Blastick (Field Managers); Amy Short (Grants Specialist); Catherine Seurer, Kaitin Kelly (Contract Management); Tom Landwehr (Asst State Dir for Conservation Programs)

List your organization's Board of Directors with affiliations:

The Conservancy has multi-member Boards of Directors at the national and state levels. To view information about the BODs please visit www.nature.org. See document attached to supplemental documents.

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Project Summary Project Info Site Info Budget Info Review & Approval Additional Info Application Submission

Final Application Submission

This completes your CPL Grant Application. Please take the time to revisit the previous sections and make sure you have entered everything completely and correctly. Once you hit the submit button below, you will not be able to return to this application to make changes.

I certify that I have read the Conservation Partners Legacy Grants Program Request for Proposal, Program Manual and other program documents, and have discussed this project with the appropriate public land manager, or private landowner and easement holder.

I certify I am authorized to apply for and manage these grant and match funds, and the project work by the organization or agency listed below. I certify this organization to have the financial capability to compete this project and that it will comply with all applicable laws and regulations.

I certify that all of the information contained in the application is correct as of the time of the submission. If anything should change, I will contact CPL Grant Staff immediately to make corrections.

I certify that if funded I will give consideration to and make timely written contact to Minnesota Conservation Corps or its successor for consideration of possible use of their services to contract for restoration and enhancement services. I will provide CPL staff a copy of that written contact within 10 days after the execution of my grant, should I be awarded.

I certify that I am aware at least one Project Review and Approval form is required for every application and I must submit all completed forms by uploading them into this application. I have attached one form as necessary for each different Land Manager within my project.

I am aware that by typing my name in the box below, I am applying my signature to this online document.

Signature:

Pete Bauman

Organization / Agency:

TNC

Title:

**Dir. Community
Conservation**

Date:

0010-09-13

| Proj ID | Organization Name | Project Name | Habitat | Technical Review Committee Scoring Comments | Amount Request | Score | Regional Comments | Meets Region Plan? | Rank | Region | Division Director's Comments |
|---------|------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------|--|----------------|-------|-------------------|--------------------|------|--------|--|
| 21 | The Nature Conservancy | Chippewa Prairie Conservation Grazing | Prairie | MN has few locations to do grazing at this scale. Monitoring will be done. This location good spot in MN to try this patch-burn grazing at large scale. Does have specific grazing plan referenced. Conflict or double dip with LCCMR \$? Will it close WMA for hunting? (doesn't look like it) A little out of the box but is likely best way to manage this land. Comes to \$1.50/foot. Any grazing fees should go back into fence/facility maintenance, at least for life of fence. Many DNR grazing plans are barter arrangements. | \$32,000 | 144 | | | | | Like this. Forest projects starting to see benefits in managed grazing also. |

Final Ranking Comments, Tech Review Committee

Admin costs for all RIM--is it actual or percent? Seems high compared to others. Partially fund admin costs? (Staff had confirmed these costs with applicants and this is their request.)

1st cut: anything below 99 is gone

2nd cut: Anything below 115 gone. That's 60% score--tough to fund things getting less than 50% of the total points.

3rd cut: Anything below 120 is gone. Not totally sold on the Renville - Frank and MPCs prairie shrubland apps.

4th cut: Moved Friends of Miss River up to being funded

5th cut: If dipping lower than recommended projects, look at MPCs--is small club; and Hennepin Co--environment education focus. Pretty even applications when considering outcomes, MPCs scores higher due to criteria.

Expansion of local native seed shouldn't be funded at all.

Bottom three no funding for sure.

TNC_21_Chippewa
Prairie
Conservation
Grazing

| | 1)Amount of Habitat | 2)Local Support | 3)Degree of Collaboration | 4)Urgency | 5)Multiple Benefits | 6)Habitat Benefits | 7)Sound Conservation Science | 8)Adjacent to Protected Lands | 9)Full Funding of Project | 10)Supplants Existing Funding | 11)Public Access for Hunting and Fishing | 12)Sustainability | 13)Use of Native Plant Materials | 14)Budget and Cost Effectiveness | 15)Capacity to Successfully Complete Work |
|--------------------|---------------------|-----------------|---------------------------|-------------|---------------------|--------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------|--|-------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|---|
| | 8.00 | 5.00 | 5.00 | 2.00 | 5.00 | 5.00 | 6.00 | 7.00 | 8.00 | 5.00 | 5.00 | 5.00 | 5.00 | 5.00 | 8.00 |
| | 10.00 | 6.00 | 9.00 | 10.00 | 8.00 | 10.00 | 9.00 | 10.00 | 9.00 | 9.00 | 10.00 | 9.00 | 8.00 | 8.00 | 9.00 |
| | 9.00 | 7.00 | 8.00 | 3.00 | 9.00 | 8.00 | 8.00 | 9.00 | 7.00 | 9.00 | 10.00 | 9.00 | 5.00 | 9.00 | 9.00 |
| | 8.00 | 7.00 | 6.00 | 6.00 | 5.00 | 6.00 | 8.00 | 8.00 | 7.00 | 7.00 | 7.00 | 6.00 | 8.00 | 8.00 | 7.00 |
| | 8.00 | 6.00 | 8.00 | 5.00 | 8.00 | 8.00 | 8.00 | 10.00 | 9.00 | 8.00 | 5.00 | 9.00 | 8.00 | 8.00 | 9.00 |
| AVERAGES | 8.60 | 6.20 | 7.20 | 5.20 | 7.00 | 7.40 | 7.80 | 8.80 | 8.00 | 7.60 | 7.40 | 7.60 | 6.80 | 7.60 | 8.40 |
| TOTAL SCORE | 144.20 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

| 16)Supports Existing Landscape Level Plans | 17)Supports Species Plans | 18)Conforms to Statewide Conservation and Preservation Plan | 19)Conforms to State Wildlife Action Plan |
|---|--------------------------------------|--|--|
| 7.00 | 7.00 | 6.00 | 6.00 |
| 10.00 | 9.00 | 9.00 | 9.00 |
| 9.00 | 9.00 | 9.00 | 9.00 |
| 7.00 | 8.00 | 8.00 | 8.00 |
| 9.00 | 8.00 | 7.00 | 9.00 |
| 8.40 | 8.20 | 7.80 | 8.20 |
