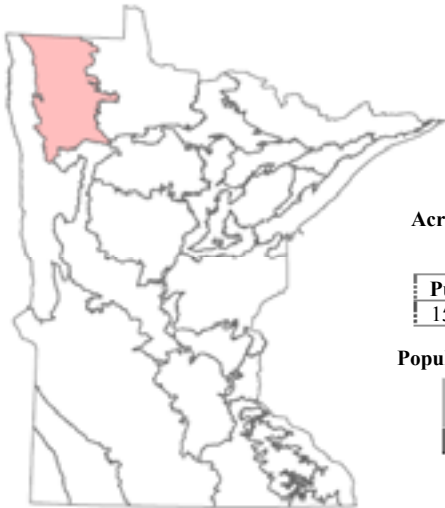


Tallgrass Aspen Parklands Province



Quick facts

Acres: 2,906,127 (5.4% of state)

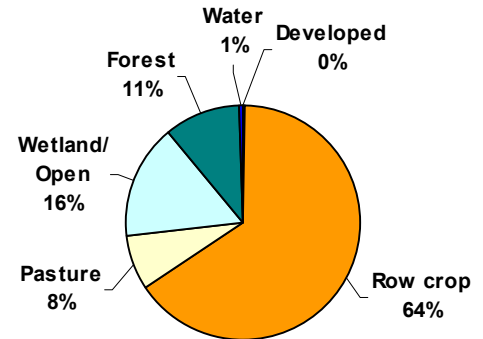
Ownership

Public	Private	Tribal
15.6%	84.1%	0.3%

Population density (people/sq. mi.)

Current	Change (2000-2010)
8.7	0.0

Current Land Use/Land Cover



Overview

The Tallgrass Aspen Parklands Province in northwestern Minnesota is characterized by the low-lying, flat topography that was once part of Glacial Lake Agassiz. It is the southern end of a much larger province that stretches north and west into Canada and



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Tallgrass Aspen Parklands – Kittson County

serves as the transition zone between the prairie and forest areas, much like the neighboring province to the south, the Eastern Broadleaf Forest. The interaction of fire with lands that were dry enough to burn or too wet to burn created a complex mosaic of

prairie, wetlands, brushland, woodland, and forest. Extensive peatlands occur in this province where the regional water table is at the land surface.

The vast expanses of natural landscape of this province provide a spectacular setting for viewing sharp-tailed grouse, American elk, moose, greater prairie chickens, marbled godwits, bobolinks, and upland sandpipers. Large state and federal refuges provide homes for wetland wildlife like the sandhill crane, horned grebe, Franklin’s gull, American white pelican, yellow rail, Forster’s tern, trumpeter swan, and American bittern.

Today, well over 60 percent of this province is in agriculture, mostly in the southern half. In the northern half, large areas have recently been cleared for farming. However, some remnants of large contiguous patches of native plant communities, including wetlands, remain.

Province Subsections

[Aspen Parklands](#)

Summaries of Species in Greatest Conservation Need

A list of the species in the province, including identification of those unique to the province, is found in [Appendix F](#). Table 5.20 presents the number of species in greatest conservation need in the province’s one subsection and the number unique to that subsection.

Table 5.20. SGCN in the Tallgrass Aspen Parklands Province by Subsection

Subsection	Number of SGCN	Number of SGCN unique to subsection
Aspen Parklands	85	2

SGCN Problem Assessment

The SGCN problem assessment provides information on the factors influencing the vulnerability or decline of SGCN that are known or predicted to occur in the province. The following table lists the percentage of SGCN in the province influenced by nine possible factors or problems. The results of the species problem assessment indicate that habitat loss and degradation in the province are the predominant challenges facing SGCN populations.

Table 5.21. SGCN Problem Analysis for the Tallgrass Aspen Parklands Province

Problem	Percentage of SGCN for which this is a known problem
Habitat Loss in MN	90
Habitat Degradation in MN	95
Habitat Loss/Degradation Outside of MN	43
Invasive Species and Competition	24
Pollution	32
Social Tolerance/Persecution/Exploitation	25
Disease	6
Food Source Limitations	5
Other	12

NOTE: The inverse of the percentages for each problem does not necessarily represent the percentage of SGCN for which the factor is not a problem, but instead may indicate that there is not sufficient information available to determine the level of influence the factor has on SGCN in the subsection.

Summaries of Key Habitats

Table 5.22 ranks the habitats by the frequency with which they are identified in the subsections as key habitats. Table 5.23 ranks the subsections by their number of key habitats.

Table 5.22. Frequency of Key Habitats in the Tallgrass Aspen Parklands Province by Subsection

Key Habitat Ranked by Frequency	Number of Subsections	Percentage of Subsections
Grassland	1	100
Prairie	1	100
Shrub/Woodland-Upland	1	100
Wetland-Nonforest	1	100
Lake-Shallow	1	100
River-Headwater to Large	1	100

Table 5.23. Number of Key Habitats in the Tallgrass Aspen Parklands Province by Subsection

Province	Subsection	Number of Key Habitats
Tallgrass Aspen Parklands	Aspen Parklands	6

Assessment of SGCN and Key Habitats

Table 5.24 provides the number of species that use at least one key habitat at the subsection, province, and statewide scales.

Table 5.24. SGCN That Use Key Habitats in the Tallgrass Aspen Parklands by Subsection

Subsection	Total Number of SGCN	Number of SGCN Using at Least 1 Key Habitat	Percentage of SGCN Using at Least 1 Key Habitat
Aspen Parklands	85	74	87.1
Province total	85	74	87.1
State total	292	269	92.1



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