

# Antelope Hills

**Conservation Challenges:**

- \*Conversion to agricultural uses
- \*Changes in agricultural practices
- \*Deforestation/logging
- \*Increased draitiling makes stream flow more flashy, reduces groundwater
- \*Fluctuating/declining river levels
- \*Invasive spp.: Buckthorns, Eurasian honeysuckle, garlic . mustard, leafy spurge, EAB
- \*Habitat fragmentation
- \*Urbanization/lakeshore development
- \*Eutrophic lakes
- \*Agricultural water pollutants
- \*Bedrock mining
- \*Kaolin mining
- \*Gravel mining
- \*Fire-dependent communities are likely to decline due to difficulty in restoring natural fire regimes

**Conservation Opportunities:**

- \* Minnesota Prairie Conservation Plan

**Existing Conservation Network:**

- State Parks:
- SNAs:
- Wildlife Management Areas:
  - Bailout
  - Dacotah
  - Florida Creek
  - Fulica
  - Gollnick
  - Salt Lake
- Waterfowl Production Areas:
  - Taylor

**Rare Species:**

- |                              |                              |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| A Species of Lichen          | Short-eared Owl              |
| Acadian Flycatcher           | Slender Milk-vetch           |
| American Bittern             | Small White Lady's-slipper   |
| American Ginseng             | Snow Trillium                |
| Bald Eagle                   | Three Stamened Waterwort     |
| Bell's Vireo                 | Trumpeter Swan               |
| Creek Heelsplitter           | Upland Sandpiper             |
| Dakota Skipper               | Western White Prairie-clover |
| Hair-like Beak-rush          | Wilson's Phalarope           |
| Henslow's Sparrow            | Yellow-fruited Sedge         |
| Iowa Skipper                 | Yellow Prairie Violet        |
| Loggerhead Shrike            |                              |
| Louisiana Broomrape          |                              |
| Low Milk-vetch               |                              |
| Marbled Godwit               |                              |
| Marsh Arrow-grass            |                              |
| Missouri Milk-vetch          |                              |
| Northern Grasshopper Mouse   |                              |
| Pawnee Skipper               |                              |
| Phlox Moth                   |                              |
| Powesheik Skipper            |                              |
| Prairie Vole                 |                              |
| Red Three-Awn                |                              |
| Regal Fritillary             |                              |
| Richardson's Ground Squirrel |                              |

## Antelope Hills Opportunity Area

**Ecological Significance:**

The Antelope Hills Opportunity Area includes one of the rarest habitats in Minnesota--the saline mud flat lake. Salt Lake within the Salt Lake Wildlife Management Area is this type of salt waterbody, which provides unique habitat that attracts a variety of birds that are more typically found farther west in the Dakotas in the Prairie Pothole region. The lake maintains its salinity as salts are leached out of soils within its watershed, and drain to the lake that has no surface outlet. Water loss is mostly conveyed by evaporation which leaves dissolved salts and minerals behind in the lakebed. Due to its location in one of the hottest and driest locations in Minnesota, there is greater opportunity for water loss and salt deposition in most years. However, lakes lacking surface outlets tend to have water depths that vary greatly, that will also affect the level of alkalinity. The lake is particularly important for shorebirds that prefer alkaline substrates. Other wetlands in the OA may have alkaline chemistries, but may have more ephemeral water regimes.



**Counties:**

Yellow Medicine

**Rare Native Plant Communities:**

- Basswood-Bur Oak-(Green Ash) Forest
- Calcareous Fen (Southwestern)
- Dry Hill Prairie (Southern)
- Dry Sand - Gravel Prairie (Southern)
- Mesic Prairie (Southern)
- Mud Flat (Inland Lake), Saline subtype
- Wet Prairie (Southern)

**Ecological Evaluations:**

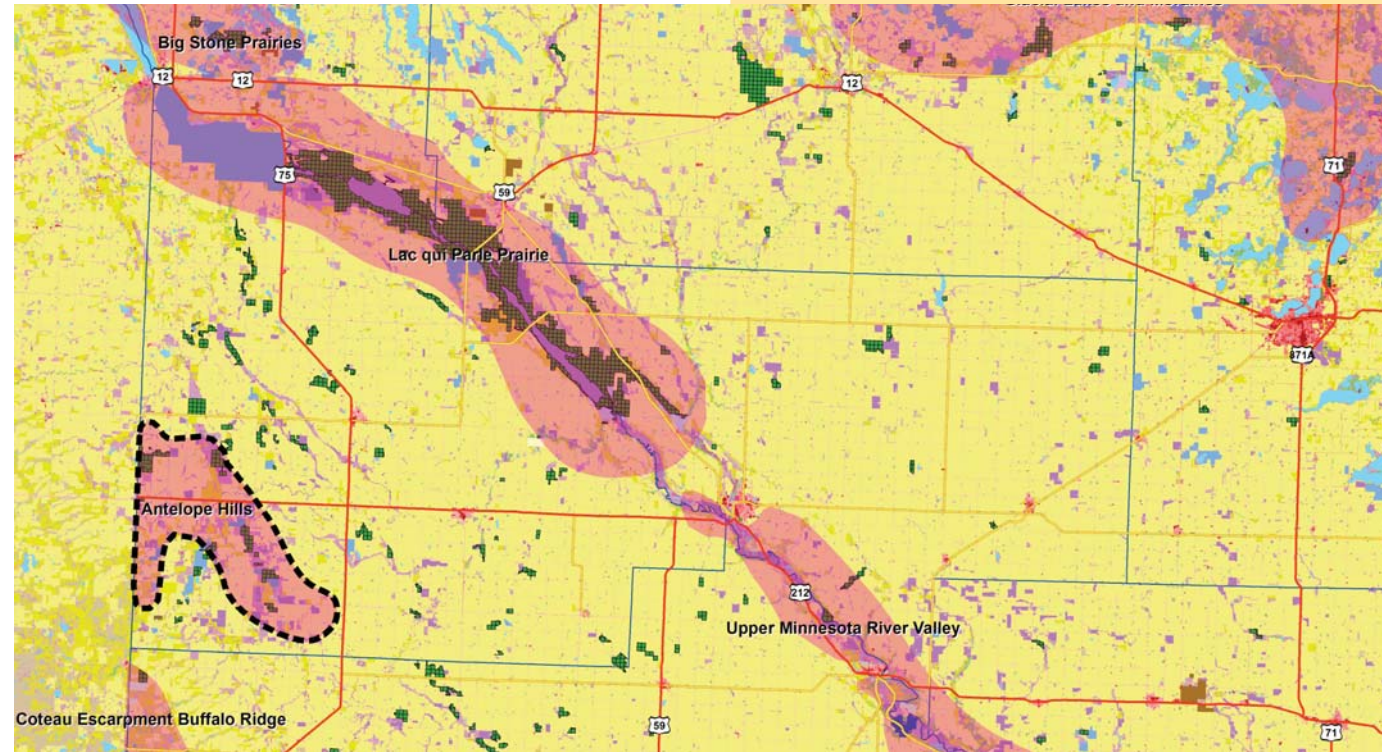
Antelope Hills  
Freeland 20



BS Meyer

# Antelope Hills

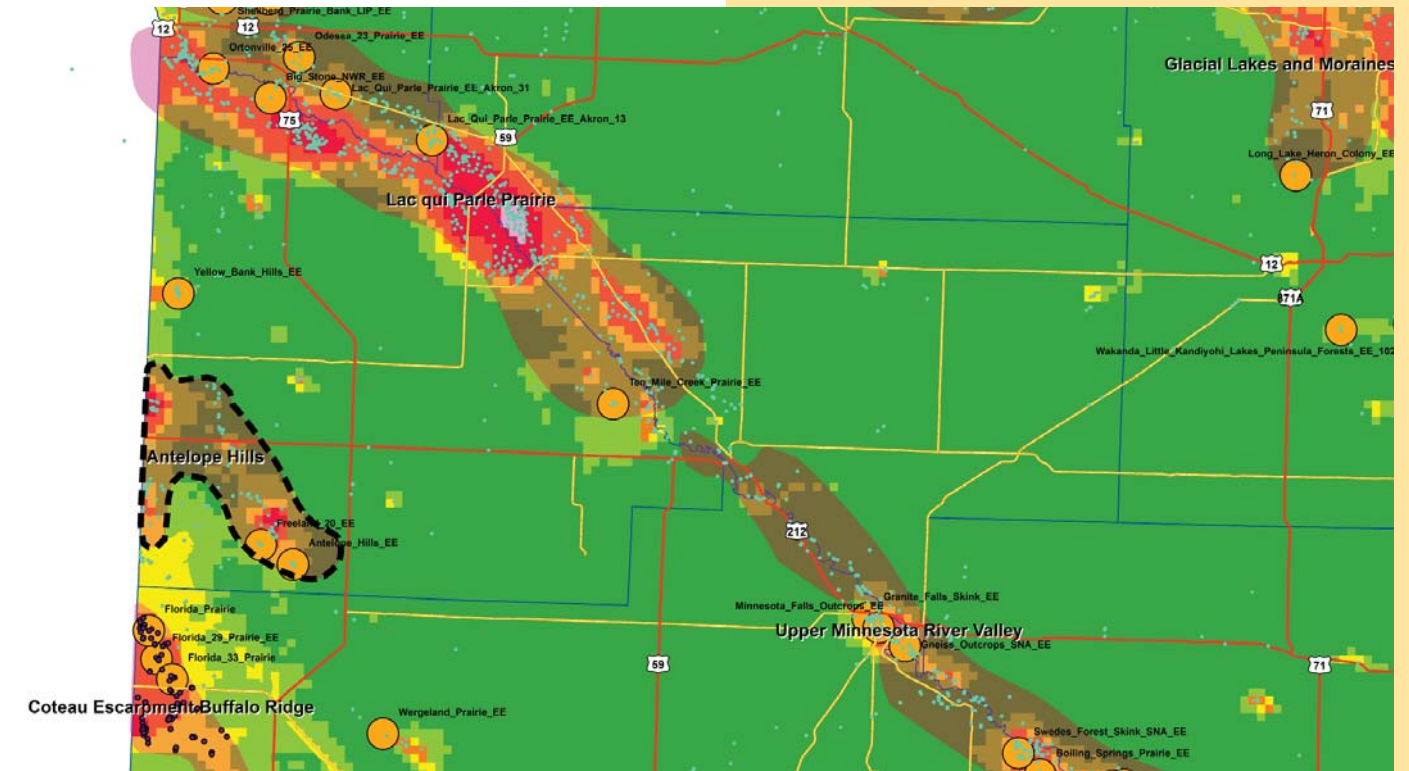
Ecological Evaluations, Land Cover, Public Ownership



Please see Legend at the front of the Opportunity Area Descriptions for a key to this map

# Antelope Hills

Marxan Prioritization, Element Occurrences



## Legend

Profiled COA

Conservation Opportunity Area

Rare Feature

County Boundary

Large Lake

## Marxan Conservation Prioritization

Lowest Priority

Low Priority

Medium Priority

High Priority

Highest Priority

Interstate Highway

U.S. Trunk Highway

MN Trunk Highway