Big Stone Lake Prairies

Conservation Challenges:

*Conversion to agricultural uses
*Changes in agricultural practices
*Deforestation/logging
*Increased draintiling 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/sedimentation
*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: Big Stone Lake
State Forests:
SNAs: Bonanza Prairie
Clinton Prairie
Wildlife Management Areas:
Big Stone
David H. Steen
Hornstein
Lindquist
Prairie
Reisdorph
Thielke Lake
Victory

Aquatic Management Areas:
Big Stone Lake
Minnesota River Headwaters

Rare Species:

Chestnut-collared Longspur
Cutleaf Ironplant
Dakota Skipper
Greater Prairie-chicken
Iowa Skipper
Lark Bunting
Low Milk-vetch
Marsh Arrow-grass
Missouri Milk-vetch
Mousetail
Mussel Sampling Site
Ottoe Skipper
Pawnee Skipper
Powesheik Skipper
Prairie Mimosa
Prairie Moonwort
Red Three-awn
Red-Tailed Prairie Leafhopper
Regal Fritillary
Sea Naiad
Skipjack Herring
Slender Milk-vetch
Small White Lady's-slipper
Soft Goldenrod
Upland Sandpiper
Western White Prairie-clover
Wilson's Phalarope

Big Stone Lake Prairies
Opportunity Area

Ecological Significance:

The uppermost Minnesota River Valley has different characteristics than its lower reaches. The valley was formed by the outflow from the glacial River Warren and Lake Agassiz. Big Stone Lake is the natural impoundment of the Minnesota River just downstream from where it rises in extreme eastern South Dakota. Other similar lakes are seen in the valley. These lakes include Lac qui Parle, Marsh Lake, and Big Stone Lake. Lake Traverse's headwaters rise less than one-third mile from Minnesota's headwaters. The valley is increasingly subject to human-induced impacts from intensive agriculture, draintiling, and urbanization. In spite of these factors, some of the highest concentrations of rare species reports for birds, reptiles, amphibians, mussels, and plants are within the valley. *Therefore, it is critical to preserve unique habitats to improve the resilience of the valley ecosystem as it faces increasing disturbance from more intensive land use practices.*

Counties:

Big Stone

Rare Native Plant Communities:

Dry Hill Oak Savanna (Southern)
Dry Hill Prairie (Southern)
Dry Sand - Gravel
Mesic Prairie (Southern)
Wet Prairie (Southern)

Ecological Evaluations:

Big Stone State Park Hill Prairies
Clinton Prairie
Meadowbrook Unit Prairies
Odessa 4
Otrey 29 Prairie
Shellberg Prairie Bank LIP
West Brown's Valley

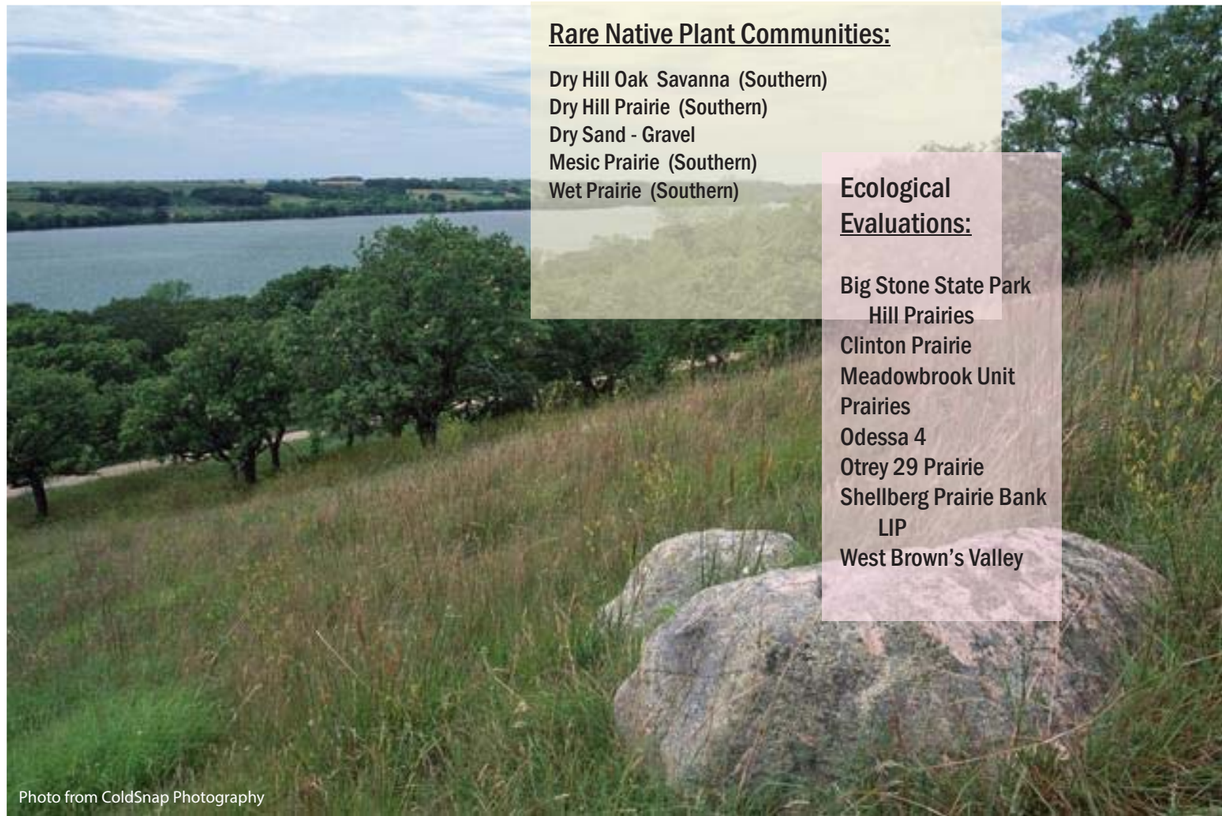
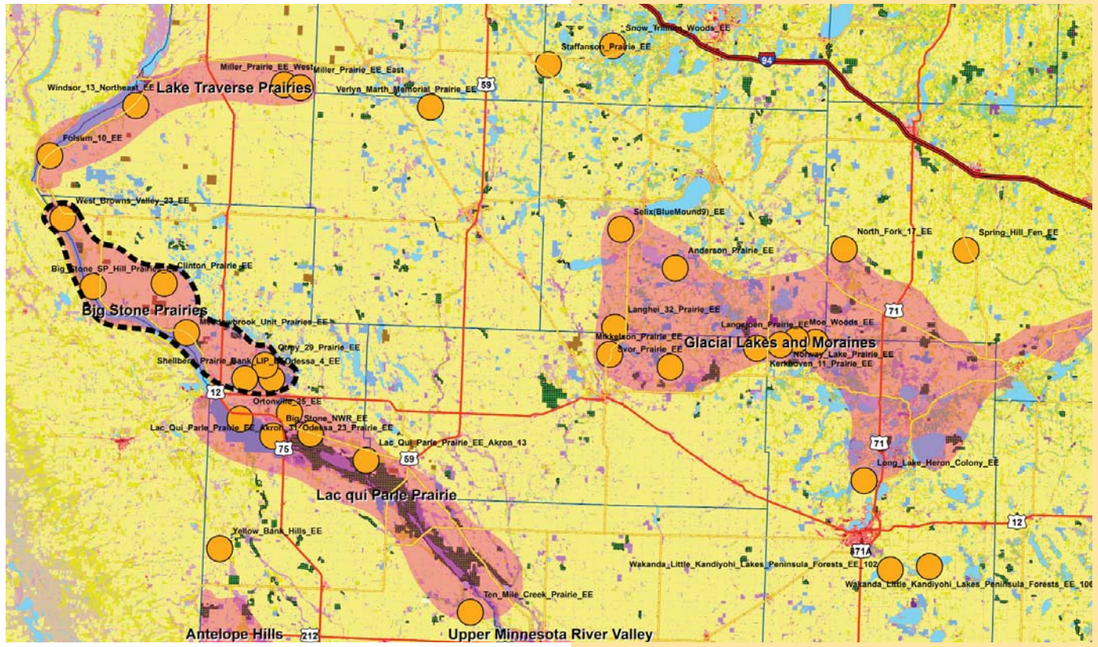


Photo from ColdSnap Photography

Big Stone Lake Prairies

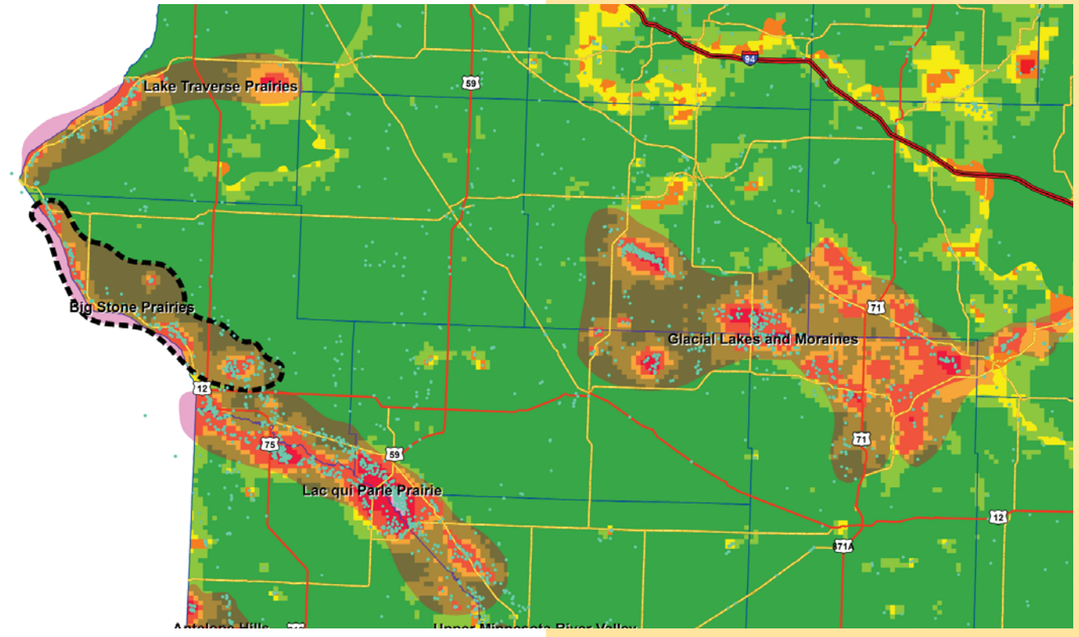
Ecological Evaluations, Land Cover, Public Ownership



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

Big Stone Lake Prairies

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