

Conservation Challenges:

- *Conversion to agricultural uses
- *Changes in agricultural practices
- *Increased draitiling makes stream flow more flashy, reduces groundwater
- *Fluctuating/declining groundwater levels
- *Invasive spp.: Buckthorns, Eurasian honeysuckle, garlic mustard, leafy spurge, EAB
- *Habitat fragmentation
- *Agricultural water pollutants/sedimentation
- *Fire-dependent communities are likely to decline due to difficulty in restoring natural fire regimes
- *Change in hydrology would affect groundwater-dependent wetlands

Conservation Opportunities:

- * Minnesota Prairie Conservation Plan
- *

Existing Conservation Network:

State Parks:

State Forests:

SNAs: Gully Fen

Wildlife Management Areas:

Larix
Lessor

Aquatic Management Areas:

Rare Species:

American Bittern
Bald Eagle
Beaked Spike-rush
Blanket-flower
Blunt Sedge
Chestnut-collared Longspur
Clustered Broomrape
Creek Heelsplitter
English Sundew
Few-flowered Spike-rush
Gray Ragwort
Hair-like Beak-rush
Hair-like Sedge
Ice Deposition (Quaternary)
Lake and Wetland Composite (Quaternary) Marbled Godwit
Marsh Arrow-grass
Nelson's Sparrow
Nuttall's Ground-rose
Oat-grass
Prairie Moonwort
Ram's head Lady Slipper
Small Yellow Water Crowfoot
Sterile Sedge
Twig-rush
Upland Sandpiper
Whorled Nut-rush

Chester Hills Prairie Opportunity Area

Ecological Significance:

The Chester Hills Prairie Opportunity Area actually straddles the ecotone between the Red River Prairie and the peatlands to the east. The ecological evaluations completed in the OA also indicate that the geology is a rolling till plain, which provides locations for a variety of habitats. Some of the special native plant communities that occur within this OA include calcareous fens, and mountain maple-black ash swamps, among other types of fens and seepage communities. The diversity of communities reflects the variety of landscape types and water regimes. This is demonstrated by the range of habitats from the calcophilic species of calcareous fens to the neutral-seeking-to-acidophilic mountain maple.



Counties:

Clearwater
Polk

Rare Native Plant Communities:

Black Ash - Mountain Maple Swamp (Northern)
Calcareous Fen (Northwestern)
Dry Sand - Gravel Prairie (Northern)
Prairie Rich Fen
Rich Fen (Prairie Seepage)
Sedge Meadow, Lake Sedge Subtype
Seepage Meadow/Carr
Tamarack Seepage Swamp
(Aspen Parkland)

Ecological Evaluations:

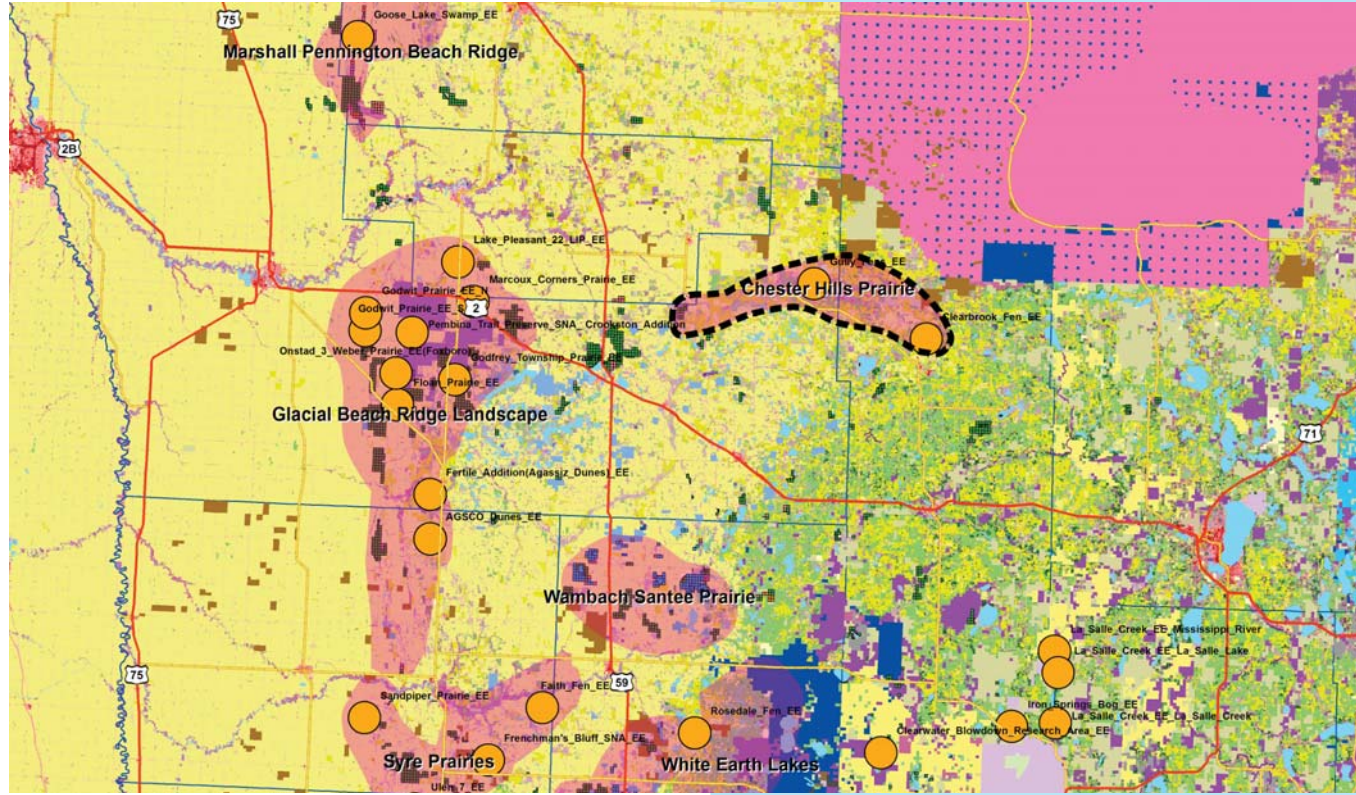
Clearbrook Fen
Gully Fens



Photo from Erika Rowe

Chester Hills Prairie

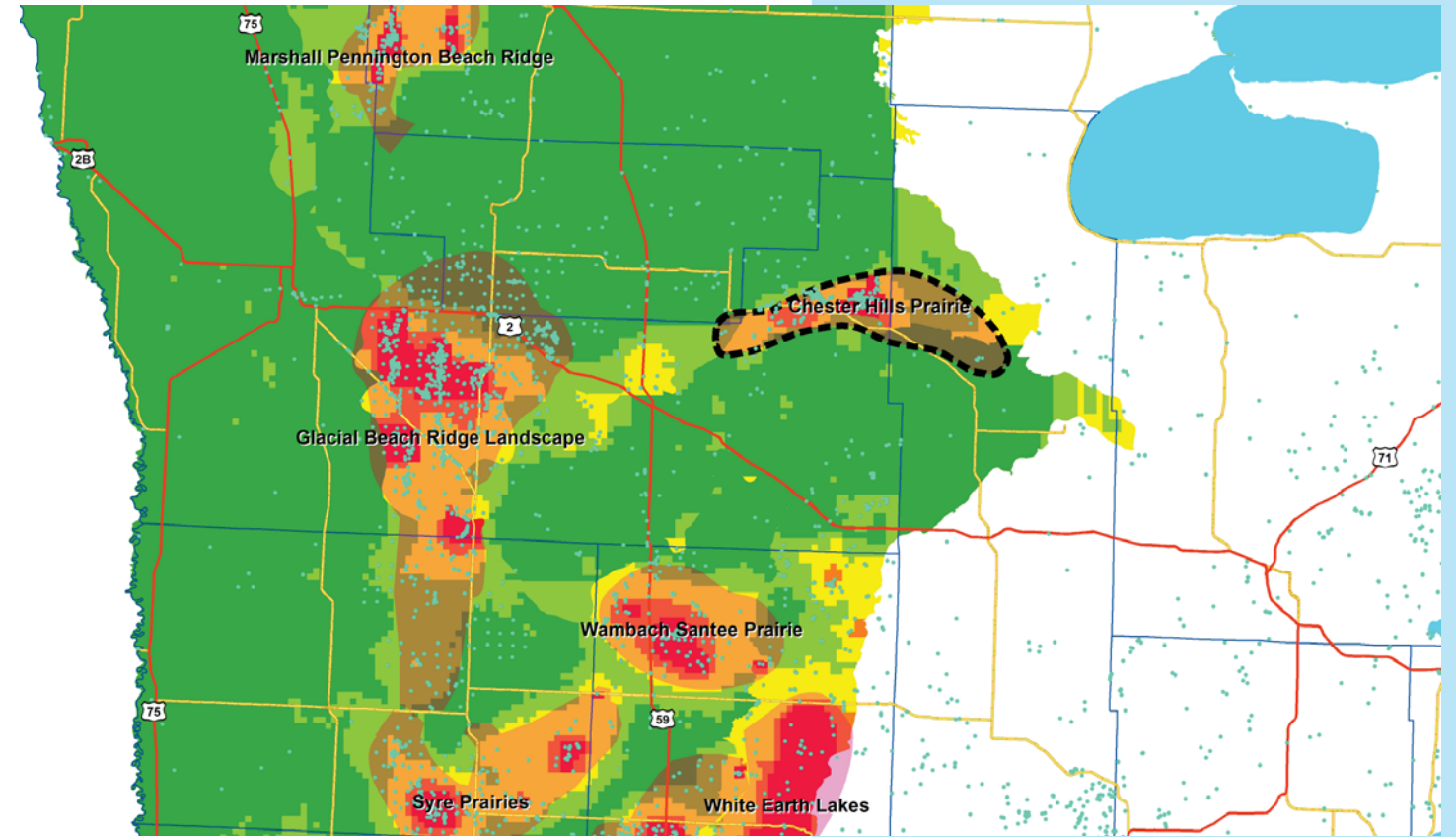
Ecological Evaluations, Land Cover, Public Ownership



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

Chester Hills Prairie

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