

Conservation Challenges:

- *Conversion to agricultural uses
- *Changes in agricultural practices
- *Increased draitiling makes stream flow more flashy, reduces groundwater
- *Waterways are more incised, with more alluvium, and higher turbidity
- *Invasive spp.: spotted knapweed, leafy spurge, EAB
- *Habitat fragmentation
- *Valley bottoms prone to high-volume floods of increased frequency
- *Fire-dependent communities are likely to decline due to difficulty in restoring natural fire regimes

Conservation Opportunities:

- * Minnesota Prairie Plan
- *

Existing Conservation Network:

- State Forests: Camden
 SNAs: Mound Spring Prairie
 Aquatic Management Areas:
 Wildlife Management Areas:
 Branner Lake Penthole
 Bosque Playtyrchnchos
 Clare Johnson Poposki
 Colinoso Prairie Dell
 Deutz Sioux Nation
 Furgamme Sioux Prairie
 Hoffman Creek
 Mounds Springs

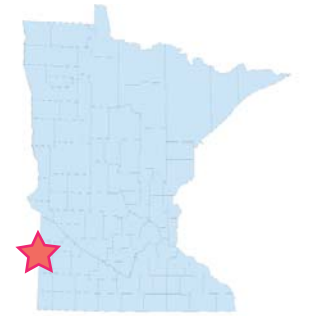
Rare Species:

- Short-eared Owl
- Slender Milk-vetch
- A species of lichen
- Small White Lady's-slipper
- Acadian Flycatcher
- Snow Trillium
- American Bittern
- Trumpeter Swan
- American Ginseng
- Upland Sandpiper
- Bald Eagle
- Western White Prairie-clover
- Bell's Vireo
- Wilson's Phalarope
- Creek Heelsplitter
- Yellow Prairie Violet
- Dakota Skipper
- Yellow-fruited Sedge
- Hair-like Beak-rush
- Henslow's Sparrow
- Iowa Skipper
- Loggerhead Shrike
- 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

Coteau Escarpment/Buffalo Ridge Opportunity Area

Ecological Significance:

The Coteau Escarpment slopes noticeably from one of Minnesota's highest regions toward the Minnesota River Valley. Elevations approach 2,000 feet at the top of Buffalo Ridge and provide enough vertical relief for a series of northeasterly-draining ravines and valleys to incise into the escarpment. These valleys have provided microclimates that act as refugia for eastern forest species, some of them quite rare in the forested regions of eastern Minnesota. This drainage system provides an important corridor for the species movement and habitat. The escarpment has also been incorporated into the Minnesota Prairie Plan, and is proposed as one of the longer Opportunity Areas within the state.



Counties:

- Lac qui Parle
- Lincoln
- Lyon

Rare Native Plant Communities:

- Basswood - Bur Oak - (Green Ash) Forest
- Calcareous Fen (Southwestern)
- Dry Hill Prairie (Southern)
- Mesic Prairie (Southern)
- Wet Prairie (Southern)

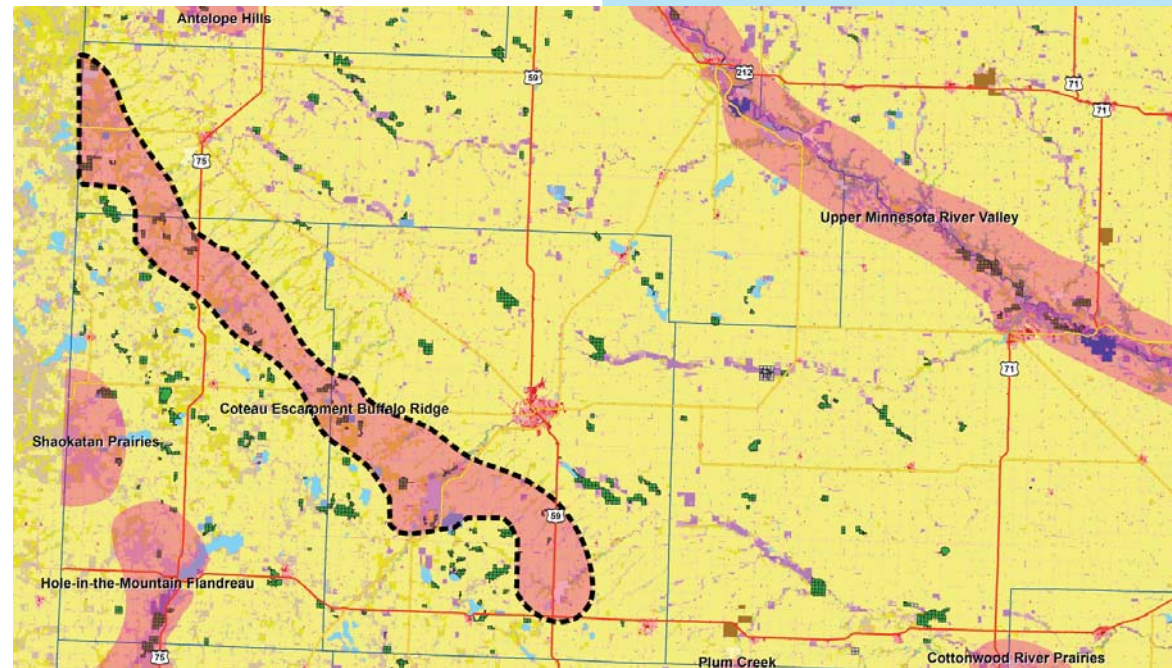
Ecological Evaluations:

- Big Woods of Cottonwood River-Coon Creek 24
- Florida Prairie, Florida 29, 33
- Plotnik Prair4e Island Lake 17
- Roger Green Pasture
- Shrunk Prairies 6,29,31
- Thooft Pasture



Coteau Escarpment/Buffalo Ridge

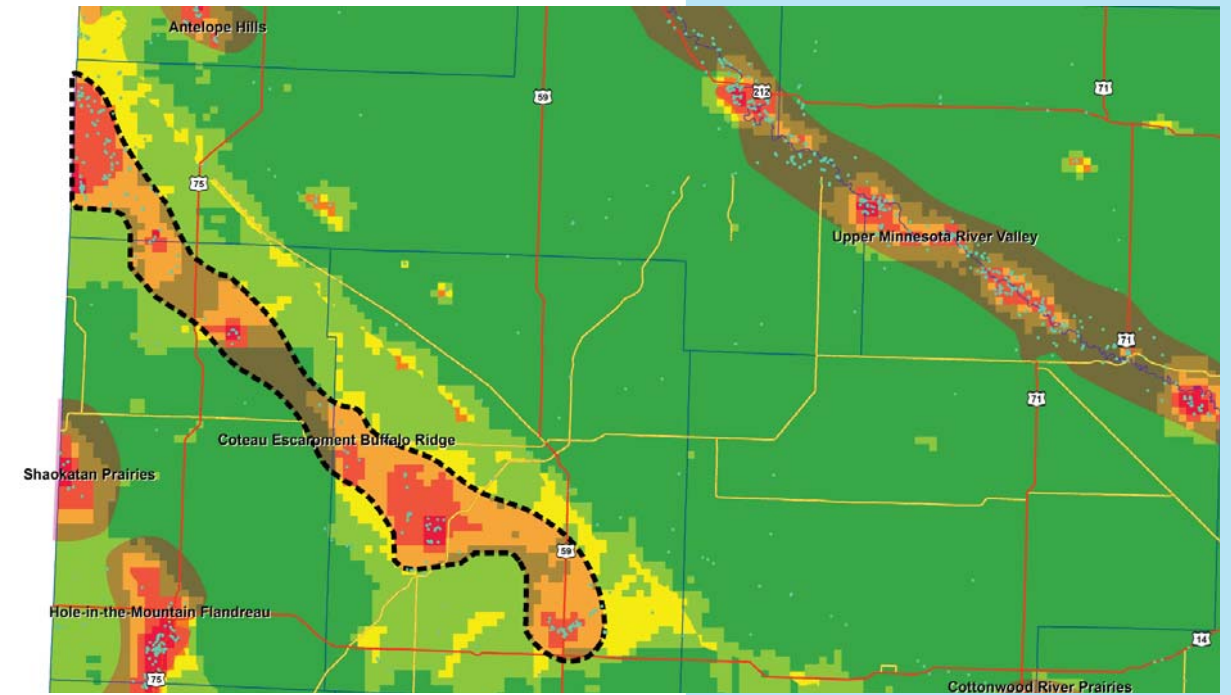
Ecological Evaluations, Land Cover, Public Ownership



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

Coteau Escarpment/Buffalo Ridge

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