

## Conservation Challenges:

- \*Conversion to agricultural uses
- \*Changes in agricultural practices
- \*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
- \*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: Kilen Woods

State Forests:

SNAs: Des Moines River  
Holthe Prairie  
Prairie Bush Clover

Wildlife Management Areas:  
Caraway  
Highwater  
Lillegard  
Little Swan

Aquatic Management Areas:

## Rare Species:

- |                            |                            |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| American Bittern           | Prairie Bush Clover        |
| American Ginseng           | Rattlesnake-master         |
| Black Sandshell            | Regal Fritillary           |
| Buffalo Grass              | Round Pigtoe               |
| Fescue Sedge               | Small White Lady's-slipper |
| Hair-like Beak-rush        | Snow Trillium              |
| Henslow's Sparrow          | Spike                      |
| Iowa Skipper               | Sullivant's Milkweed       |
| Kitten-tails               | Trumpeter Swan             |
| Loggerhead Shrike          | Tumblegrass                |
| Long-lobed Arrowhead       | Upland Sandpiper           |
| Marsh Arrow-grass          | Western Harvest Mouse      |
| Missouri Milk-vetch        | Whorled Nut-rush           |
| Monkeyface                 |                            |
| Mousetail                  |                            |
| Mucket                     |                            |
| Northern Grasshopper Mouse |                            |

Photo from minnesotaseasons.com



# Des Moines River Valley Opportunity Area

## Ecological Significance:

The Des Moines River Valley provides a unique landscape in southwestern Minnesota with its incised valley with wooded side slopes. The valley, when considered with the streams draining the Coteau escarpment, is one of the few wooded valleys that occur southwest of the Minnesota River. The Des Moines Valley contains the largest number of Southwestern Rich Mesic Hardwood Forest examples in Minnesota--all but two examples mapped by the Minnesota Biological Survey occur in the valley. The valley is also unique in that it contains rare prairie and forest species, such as snow trillium and ginseng which are rare in their native habitats of eastern Minnesota,--closer to the center of their range--and exceedingly rare in the Prairie Province. This OA has importance due to its rare plant communities, rare species, and unusual landforms.



## Counties:

Cottonwood  
Jackson

## Rare Native Plant Communities:

- Calcareous Fen (Southwestern)
- Dry Hill Prairie (Southern)
- Mesic Prairie (Southern)
- Southwestern Rich Mesic Hardwood Forest
- Southern Seepage Meadow/Carr
- Wet Prairie (Southern)
- Wet Seepage Prairie (Southern)

## Ecological Evaluations:

- Charles Allen Prairie Pasture
- Storden 21/28
- Delton 19 LIP
- Carson 5 LIP
- Ewert
- Waling Prairie LIP
- Fredin Prairie
- Great Bend 21-22
- Christiana Prairie
- Bretzman Parire
- Belmont NW
- Holthe Memeorial Prairie and Addition
- Kilen Complex (Dahlin Tract)

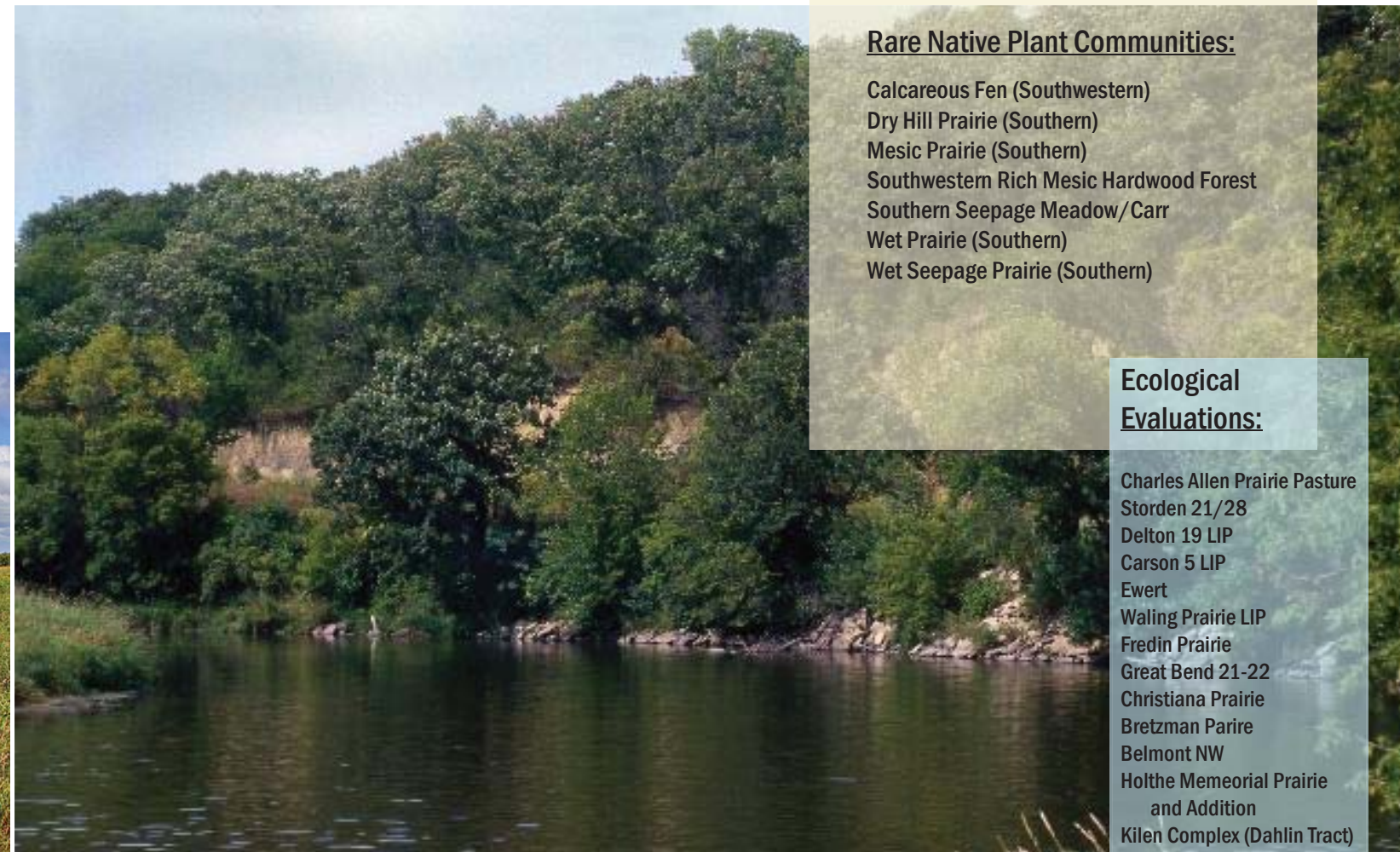
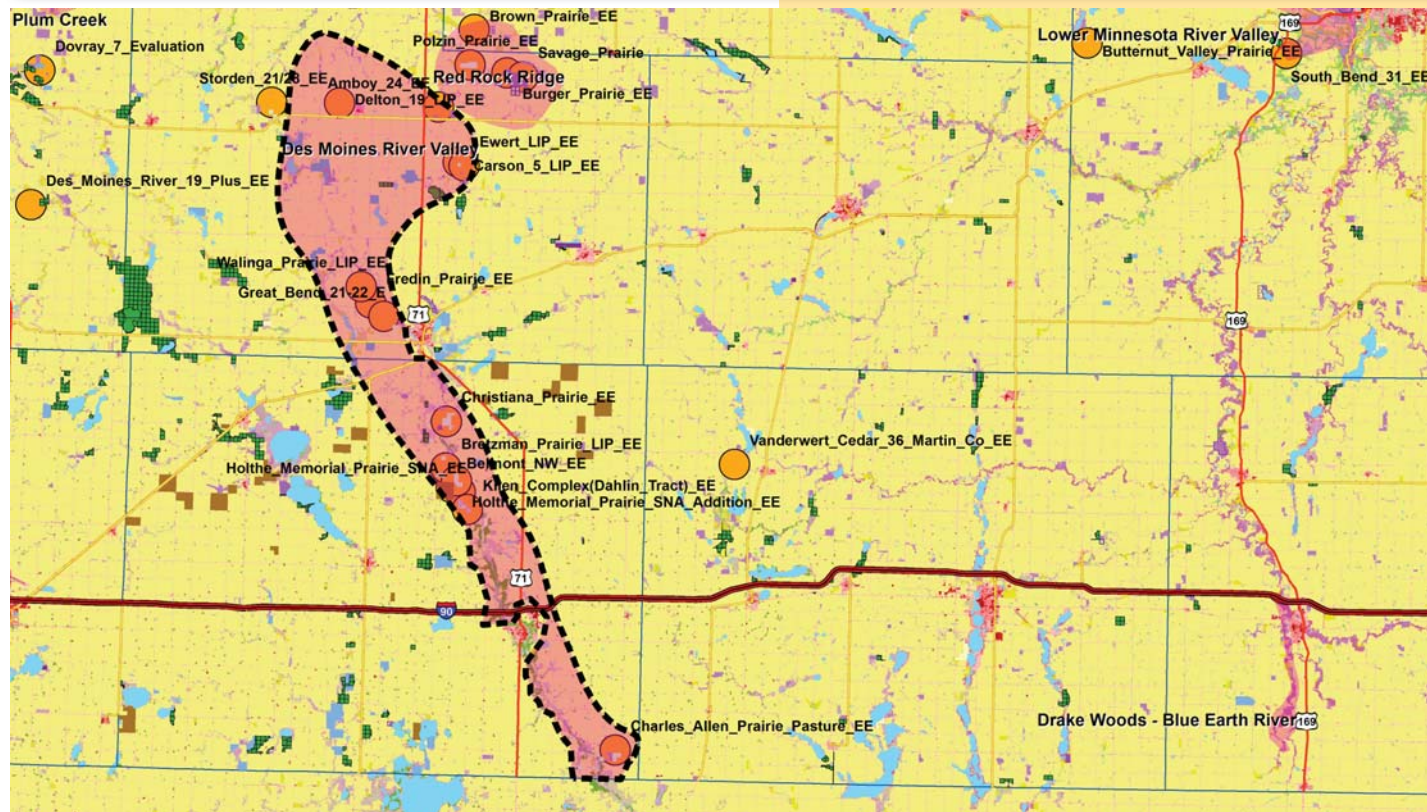


Photo from MN DNR

# Des Moines River Valley

Ecological Evaluations, Land Cover, Public Ownership



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

# Des Moines River Valley

Marxan Prioritization, Element Occurrences

