

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
- *Urbanization/lakeshore development
- *Fire-dependent communities are likely to decline due to difficulty in restoring natural fire regimes

Conservation Opportunities:

- * Minnesota Prairie Plan
- * Large number of WMAs and USFWS wildlife sites

Existing Conservation Network:

- State Parks:** Glacial Lakes
Monson Lake
Sibley
- State Forests:**
- SNAs:** Sedan Brook Prairie
Bruce Hitman Heron Rookery
Langhei Prairie
- Nature Conservancy:** Ordway Prairie,
Regal Meadow
- USFWS:** 42 sites

Wildlife Management Areas:

- Bangor
Bench
Burbank
Camp Kerk
Crow River
Dietrich Lange
Edward R Mohs Farm
Fish Lake
Follies
Gravel Pit 1062
Gravel Pit 1676
Henry X
Heritage
Hoff
Little Joe
Miller Spring Lea Farm
Milton Kjehldahl
- New London
Norman Dahlman Partners
Regal Flats
Ringo-Nest
Florida Lake Games Lake
Nest Lake
New London Hatchery
Rigno Lake
Scandinavian Lake

Aquatic Management Areas:

- Florida Lake
Games Lake
Nest Lake
New London Hatchery
Rigno Lake
Scandinavian Lake

Rare Features:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Jumping Spider (two spp.) | Marbled Godwit |
| American Bittern | Marsh Arrow-grass |
| American Ginseng | Mucket |
| American White Pelican | Pawnee Skipper |
| Arogos Skipper | Plains Hog-nosed Snake |
| Bald Eagle | Powesheik Skipper |
| Bat Concentration | Prairie Mimosa |
| Black Sandshell | Prairie Moonwort |
| Blanket-flower | Prairie Rich Fen |
| Cerulean Warbler | Prairie Vole |
| Colonial Waterbird Nesting Area | Pugnose Shiner |
| Common Gallinule | Red-shouldered Hawk |
| Creek Heelsplitter | Red-Tailed Prairie Leafhopper |
| Creeping Juniper | Regal Fritillary |
| Dakota Skipper | Sandhill Crane |
| Few-flowered spike rush | Sea Naiad |
| Forster's Tern | Small White Lady's Slipper |
| Hair-like Beak-rush | Sterile Sedge |
| Henslow's Sparrow | Trumpeter Swan |
| Hill's Thistle | Upland Sandpiper |
| Least Darter | Western White Prairie-clover |
| Least Moonwort | Whorled Nut-rush |
| Low Milk-vetch | Widgeon-grass |
| | Wilson's Phalarope |

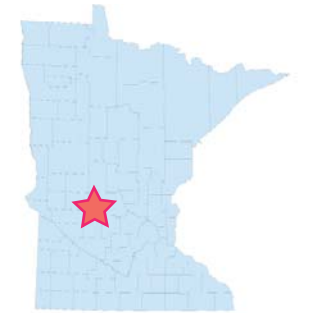
Glacial Lakes and Moraines Opportunity Area

Ecological Significance:

The Glacial Lakes and Moraines Opportunity Area is an extension of the Eastern Broadleaf Forest into west-central Minnesota. The hilly moraine topography provides the setting for lakes, wetlands, and downslope firebreaks that allow forest to exist. While this OA lies along the southwestern front of the forest region, it projects farther to the west to integrate unique prairie habitats and species into the moraine woodlands. This landscape provides a special mosaic of forest, woodland/savanna, wetlands, lakes, and prairie. This area has an extensive conservation network already including the highest number of US Fish and Wildlife Service refuges and DNR Wildlife Management Areas of any Opportunity Area. The landscape mosaic also puts a variety of habitats in close juxtaposition which increases the value of any conservation action.

Counties:

- Kandiyohi
- Pope
- Stearns
- Swift



Rare Native Plant Communities:

- Basswood - Bur Oak - (Green Ash) Forest
- Calcareous Fen (Southeastern)
- Dry Hill Prairie (Southern)
- Dry Sand - Gravel Oak Savanna (Southern)
- Dry Sand - Gravel Prairie (Southern)
- Graminoid Rich Fen (Basin)
- Low Shrub Poor Fen
- Mesic Prairie
- Mesic Prairie (Southern)
- Northern Poor Fen Class
- Pin Oak - Bur Oak Woodland
- Rich Fen (Mineral Soil)
- Rich Fen (Prairie Seepage)
- Sedge Meadow
- Sedge Meadow; Beaked Sedge Subtype
- Sedge Meadow; Bluejoint Subtype
- Sedge Meadow; Tussock Sedge Subtype
- Seepage Meadow/Carr
- Sugar Maple - Basswood - (Bitternut Hickory) Forest Tamarack Swamp (Southern)
- Wet Prairie (Southern)
- Wet Seepage Prairie (Southern)
- Willow - Dogwood Shrub Swamp

Ecological Evaluations:

- Anderson Prairie
- Langsjoen Prairie
- Long Lake Heron Colony
- Mikkelson Prairie
- Moe Woods
- Norway Lake Prairie
- Salix (Blue Mound 9)

