

# Lac qui Parle Prairie

### Conservation Challenges:

- \*Conversion to agricultural uses
- \*Changes in agricultural practices
- \*Deforestation/logging
- \*Increased draitiling 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
- \*Bedrock mining
- \*Kaolin mining
- \*Gravel mining
- \*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: Lac qui Parle
- State Forests:
- SNAs:
- Wildlife Management Areas:
  - Lac qui Parle
  - Mllan
- Aquatic Management Areas:
  - Minnesota River Headwaters

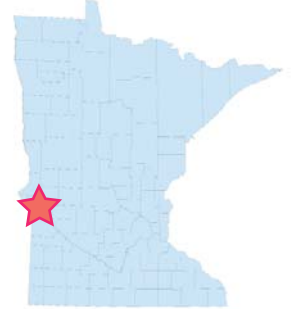
### Rare Species:

A Species of Lichen	Hair-like Beak-rush	Sedimentary Bedrock Outcrop (Southeast)
Alkali Grass	Hairy Water Clover	Sedimentary Unit or Sequence (Quaternary)
American Bittern	Hall's Sedge	Short-eared Owl
American White Pelican	Henslow's Sparrow	Slender Milk-vetch
Bald Eagle	Iowa Skipper	Small White Lady's-slipper
Ball Cactus	Larger Water-starwort	Soft Goldenrod
Black Sandshell	Lark Bunting	Spike
Blackfoot Quillwort	Little Barley	Three Stamened Waterwort
Buffalo Grass	Loggerhead Shrike	Tumblegrass
Bunch Speargrass	Louisiana Broomrape	Upland Sandpiper
Burrowing Owl	Low Milk-vetch	Water-hyssop
Carolina Foxtail	Marbled Godwit	Wilson's Phalarope
Chestnut-collared Longspur	Marsh Arrow-grass	Wolf's Spike-rush
Colonial Waterbird Nesting Site	Missouri Milk-vetch	
Creek Heelsplitter	Mouse-ear Chickweed	
Cutleaf Ironplant	Mousetail	
Dakota Skipper	Mud Plantain	
Elktoe	Mudwort	
Fawnsfoot	Mussel Sampling Site	
Few-flowered Spike-rush	Northern Grasshopper Mouse	
Fluted-shell	Pawnee Skipper	
Forget-me-not	Plains Hog-nosed Snake	
Forster's Tern	Powesheik Skipper	
Ghost Tiger Beetle	Prairie Moonwort	
Greater Prairie-chicken	Proglacial River Erosion (Quaternary)	
	Red-shouldered Hawk	
	Regal Fritillary	
	Round Pigtoe	
	Salamander Mussel	

## Lac qui Parle Prairie 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. The stream occupies a very minor portion of the valley floor. However several large impoundments, both natural and constructed, comprise much of the valley. These lakes include Lac qui Parle, Marsh Lake, and Big Stone Lake. The valley is increasingly subject to human-induced impacts from intensive agriculture, draitiles, 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. This OA has more than 80% of the mesic prairie remaining in southern Minnesota. *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.* An extensive network of public lands has been initiated in other parts of the valley, and preservation of native landscapes will contribute to the corridor within the valley greatly.



### Counties:

- Big Stone
- Chippewa
- Lac qui Parle
- Yellow Medicine

### Rare Native Plant Communities:

- Calcareous Fen (Southwestern)
- Crystalline Bedrock Outcrop (Prairie); Minnesota River Subtype
- Dry Hill Prairie (Southern)
- Dry Sand - Gravel Prairie (Southern)
- Mesic Prairie (Southern)
- Native Plant Community, Undetermined Class
- Wet Prairie (Southern)
- Wet Saline Prairie (Southern)
- Wet Seepage Prairie (Southern)

### Ecological Evaluations:

- Big Stone NWR
- Lac qui Parle Prairie Akron 13
- Lac qui Parle Prairie Akron 31
- Odessa 23 Prairie
- Ortonville 25
- Ten Mile Creek Prairie

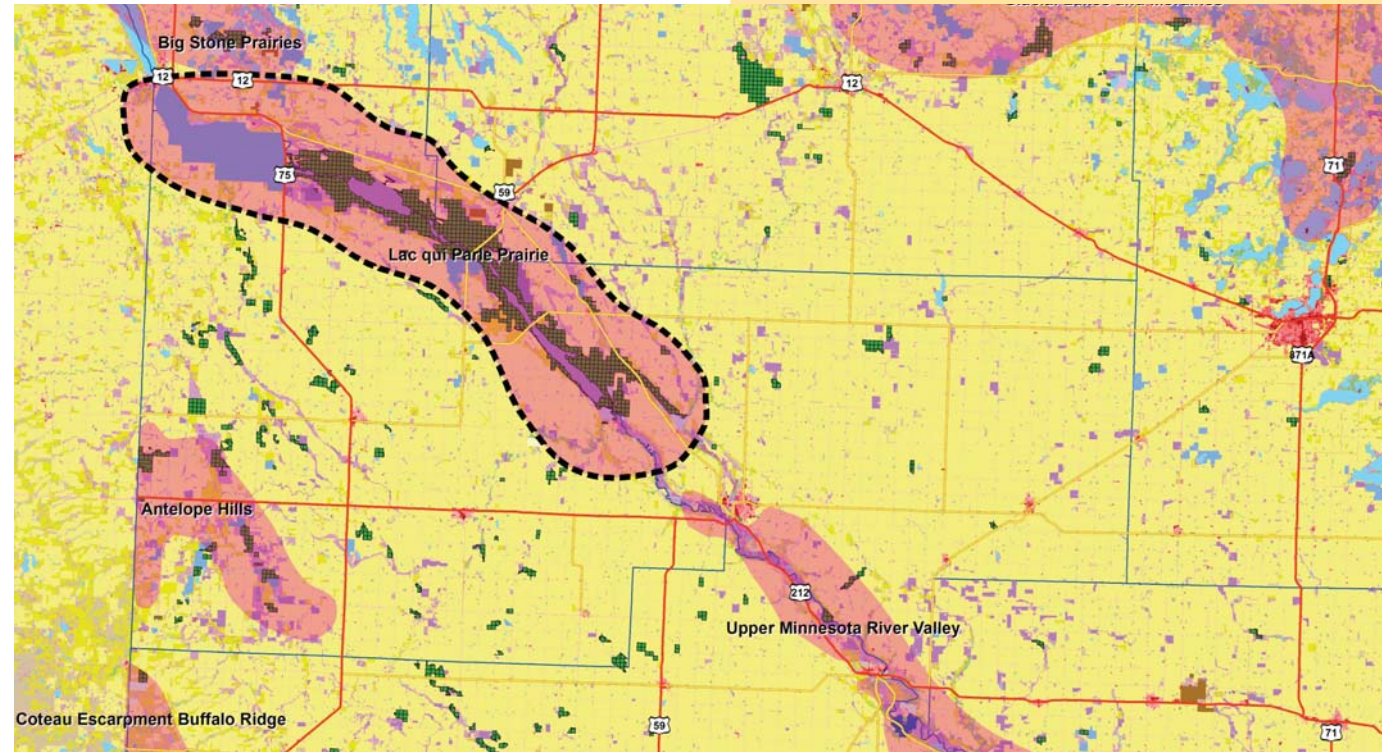


Photo fromathrillingnarrative.com



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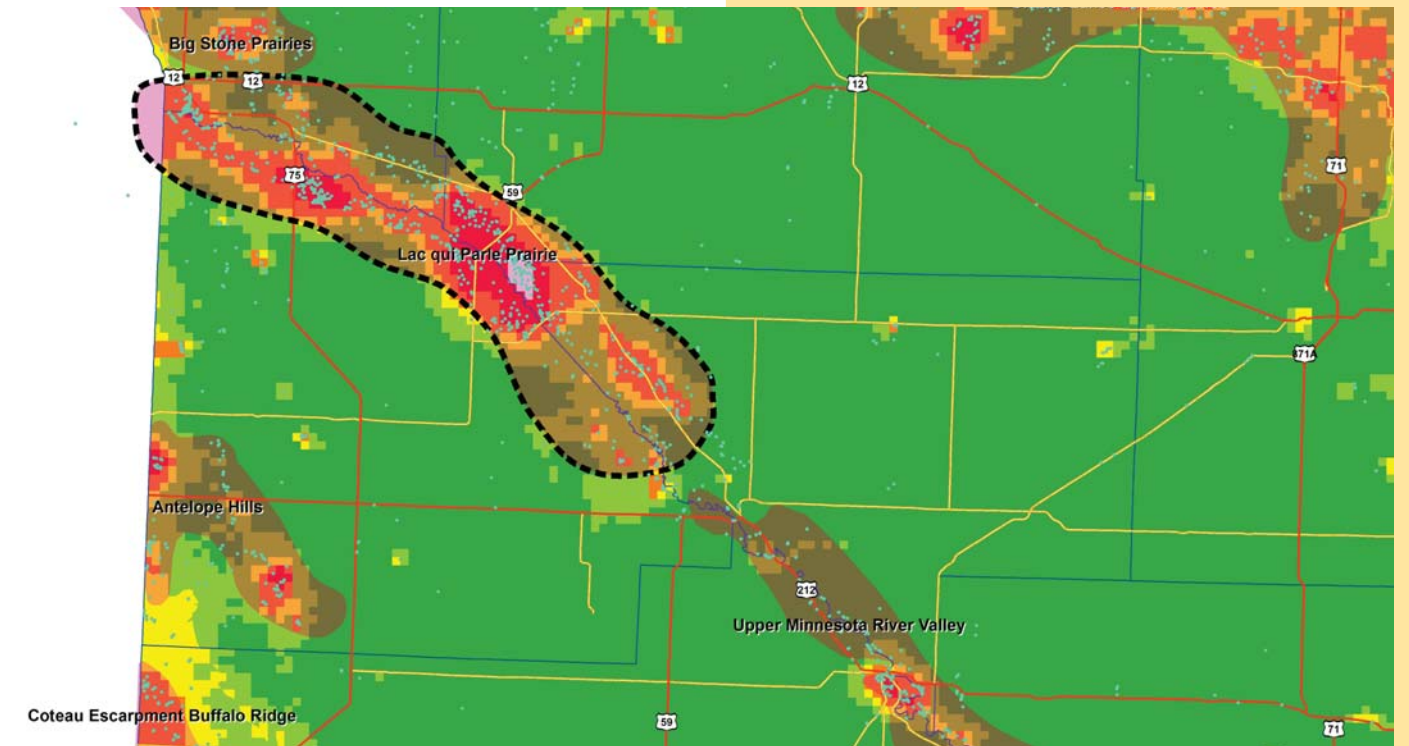
Ecological Evaluations, Land Cover, Public Ownership



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

# Lac qui Parle 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