



# SNA CANDIDATE SITE EVALUATION GUIDE

For internal planning process, to determine whether to buy a particular ownership

Maximum score: 100 pts.

Criteria for each point award are met by meeting just one threshold, e.g. all of the three criteria for Occurrence of suitable habitat do not need to be met to obtain the 15-point award for that Evaluation Factor.

**Initial Criteria: (all 3 should be answered with “yes” before proceeding)**

**Has the parcel received an Ecological Evaluation recommending site as SNA?**

**Yes** **No** **In process**

Date EE completed \_\_\_\_\_ Is a new EE needed? \_\_\_\_\_

**Is public access available to the site?** (side borders a public road, or legal access to the site accompanies the deed)

**Is the landowner willing to consider selling?**

\*Note: Parcels nominated solely for their geological features are not evaluated with this form

Evaluation factors:	Points awarded for meeting criteria:					
	20-16 points	15-11 points	10-6 points	5-4 points	3-1 points	0 points
<b>Diversity and quality of the native habitat contained in the parcel</b> (based on DNR Natural Heritage Database, MN Biological Survey or MBS or Regional Ecologist update)  (20 pt. maximum)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>More than half of the site acres consist of a natural community with an A, B, AB, or BC element occurrence (EO) ranking.</li> <li>All of the parcel is identified as MBS site of Outstanding Biodiversity Significance.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>About half of the site acres consist of C-ranked community, and the rest is ranked higher than C (EO) ranking.</li> <li>Part of parcel identified as MBS site of Outstanding Biodiversity Significance</li> <li>Parcel or part of parcel identified as MBS site of High Biodiversity Significance.</li> <li>The parcel includes one or more "lakes of biodiversity significance" as identified by MBS</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>About half of the parcel acres are composed of C-ranked native plant communities, the rest is D-ranked or lower.</li> <li>All of parcel identified as Moderate Biodiversity significance or higher</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>About half of the parcel acres are composed of C-ranked native plant communities, the rest is D-ranked or lower.</li> <li>Part of parcel identified as Moderate Biodiversity Significance, the rest of parcel lower than "moderate".</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Less than 50% of the parcel is C-ranked native communities, and rest is ranked lower than C</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The only native community present on parcel has a D ranking</li> <li>All of site is ranked "below threshold" for biodiversity significance</li> </ul>
<b>Occurrence of, or suitable habitat for rare species within the parcel OR Occurrence of NPCs missing from SNA program objective</b>  (20 pt. maximum)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Presence of a federally listed species; and/or presence of one or more state endangered or threatened species occurrences (these state E or T species must have A, B or B/C ranking).</li> <li>Presence of a native plant community that is not already protected by an SNA in the ecological subsection, as identified by the gap analysis.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Presence of <i>habitat</i> for a federally listed species that it would reasonably be expected to use (big enough for its territory, enough food for it, neighboring lands harbor it).</li> <li>An unranked occurrence of a state endangered or threatened species.</li> <li>Site includes a "key habitat" as determined by Tomorrow's Habitat for the Wild and Rare: Minnesota's Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy</li> <li>Helps to meet the SNA objective of 5 NPCs per ecological subsection – as identified in the gap analysis.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Presence of one or more special concern species with any ranking (A through none).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Presence of one or more listed or special concern species (with any ranking) on nearby properties.</li> <li>5 or more Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) for the subsection where the parcel is located, as determined by Tomorrow's Habitat for the Wild and Rare: Minnesota's Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No rare species seen on parcel or within 2 miles</li> <li>The SNAs in the subsection where the parcel is located already protect 3 examples of each species and 5 examples of each NPC found on this parcel.</li> </ul>
<b>Size of parcel</b>  (15 pt. maximum)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NPC is significant in size for this NPC type, and in this ECS subsection.</li> <li>While each NPC is of moderate size for the NPC type, the ownership parcel is large for the area.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Moderately-sized remnant relative to other comparable communities in the ECS subsection.</li> </ul>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Small community remnant relative to other examples in the area.</li> </ul>
<b>Location of the parcel in relation to other biodiversity hot spots and/or conservation land</b>  (15 pt. maximum)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Parcel is in a high priority (red or orange) area of the Marxan prioritization mapping; and/or is projected to be in a Marxan high priority area when MBS data are complete.</li> <li>Located in a MN Prairie Plan Core Area (list which one).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Parcel is in a Prairie Plan Corridor</li> <li>Parcel is near or adjacent other permanently protected conservation lands with intact habitat.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Parcel is in a yellow zone of the Marxan prioritization mapping</li> <li>Isolated parcel: Other habitat or conservation lands within 2 miles</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Isolate parcel within 5 miles of a red, orange, yellow Marxan zone</li> <li>Prairie within the agricultural matrix (not in a Prairie Plan Core or Corridor) but protecting it would protect significant water resources.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Isolated parcel greater than 10 miles from a red, orange or yellow Marxan prioritization mapping zone.</li> </ul>
<b>Potential for long-term habitat management and enhancement of the parcel</b>  (15 pt. maximum)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SNA ownership of this parcel would improve management options for a larger, contiguous area (e.g. improves ability for prescribed fire mgmt, invasive species control, better coordination with conservation partners).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Parcel has no major limitations to management (had good access to all parts that might require management)</li> <li>Parcel does not require significant management efforts (minimal invasive issues, no reconstruction, no building removal needed no expectation of heavy use, no proposed trail, etc..)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Parcel has some major limitations to management. (may have a building, some invasives, junk piles, etc)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Parcel has significant limitations to management (e.g. surrounding residential development limits Rx fire, exotic weed control issues, canopy community decimated and signs that understory is in peril).</li> <li>Up to 50% of parcel requires heavy management or restoration</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Restoration and invasive species removal requires multiple efforts over the majority of the parcel.</li> <li>Expensive and time consuming plant community reconstruction required.</li> </ul>
<b>Additional factors</b> (included in the evaluation as appropriate)  (15 pt. maximum)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Jeopardy of parcel: e.g. parcel is in an area where this type of property is experiencing strong development pressure due to gravel mining, cropland conversion, housing, or other imminent threats <b>AND</b> parcel contains S1 or S2 ranked communities or T and E species</li> <li>Landowner is willing to donate significant acreage of parcel</li> <li>Parcel has geological features of statewide significance</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Jeopardy of parcel: e.g. parcel is in an area where this type of property is experiencing development pressure due to gravel mining, cropland conversion, housing, or other imminent threats</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Parcel provides good cross-section of geological strata or fossil exposure</li> </ul>		

Overall summary of the parcel's priority for enrollment based on the evaluation criteria. Writing a succinct summary statement here is very helpful as this statement can be used repeatedly for the fact sheet as well as for future LCCMR, LSOHC, Bonding etc. reports.