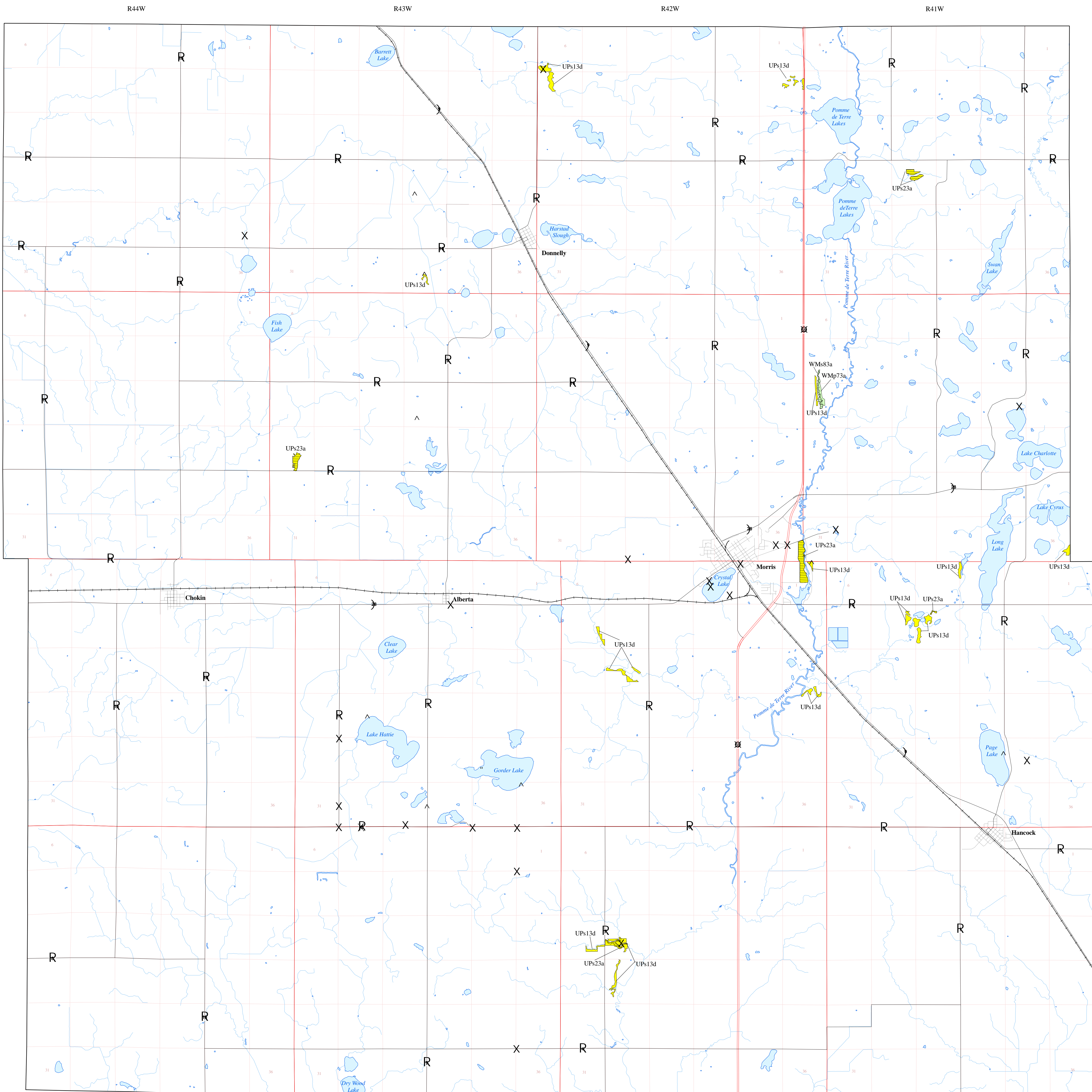


# NATIVE PLANT COMMUNITIES AND RARE SPECIES IN STEVENS COUNTY, MINNESOTA

Minnesota County Biological Survey April 2006



**N**ative plant communities are groups of native plants that interact with each other and with their environment in ways not greatly altered by modern human activity or by introduced organisms. These groups of native species form recognizable units, such as oak forest, prairie, or marsh, that tend to repeat over space and time. The classification and description of native plant communities depicted on this map are based on *Minnesota's Native Plant Community Classification (version 2.0)*. This hierarchical classification uses vegetation composition, hydrology, landforms, soils, and natural disturbance regimes to categorize plant communities first into System Groups, followed by Systems, Classes, Types, and Subtypes. The native plant communities of Stevens County are mapped and described at the Type level.

The Minnesota County Biological Survey located areas of native plant communities in Stevens County in 2000 using aerial photo interpretation followed by field surveys of selected sites. The description and approximate acreage of each native plant community are based on the results of the Survey. White areas on the map represent land where modern human activities such as farming, overgrazing, wetland drainage, recent logging, and residential and commercial development have destroyed or greatly altered the natural vegetation. Higher quality native plant communities covered approximately 493 acres (0.1% of the County) at the time of the Survey.

## UPLAND PRAIRIE SYSTEM

### UPs13 Southern Dry Prairie

**UPs13d Dry Hill Prairie (Southern)**  
Dry to dry-mesic prairies on well drained to excessively drained loam or sandy loam or clay loam soils formed in glacial till on slopes and hilltops. Grasses form a continuous cover with the most common species being Indian grass (*Sorghastrum nutans*), big bluestem (*Andropogon gerardii*), little bluestem (*Stizolobium scoparium* var. *scoparium*), porcupine grass (*Stipa spartea*), side-oats grama (*Bouteloua curtipendula*), and switchgrass (*Panicum virgatum*). Forbs are scattered throughout with some of the most common species being purple prairie clover (*Dalea purpurea* var. *purpurea*), silky aster (*Aster sericeus*), northern bedstraw (*Galium boreale*), bird's foot coreopsis (*Coreopsis palmata*), prairie phlox (*Phlox pilosa* var. *fulgida*), stiff goldenrod (*Solidago rigida*), heath aster (*Aster ericoides*), stiff sunflower (*Helianthus pauciflorus*), rough blazing star (*Liatris aspera*), and long-headed thimbleweed (*Achillea cylindrica*). Leadplant (*Ammophila canescens*) is the most common shrub in this community. Approximate area: 305 acres

### UPs23 Southern Mesic Prairie

**UPs23a Mesic Prairie (Southern)**  
Dry-mesic to wet-mesic prairies on soils that are poorly to well drained loam or silty clay loam, or gravelly sand loam formed from glacial till or outwash on gently rolling hills. Dominated by a diverse set of grasses and forbs. The most abundant graminoids are prairie dropseed (*Sporobolus heterolepis*), big bluestem, porcupine grass, side-oats grama, little blue stem, Indian grass, and switch grass. Forbs are abundant with northern bedstraw, purple prairie clover, prairie wild onion (*Allium stellatum*), Missouri goldenrod (*Solidago missouriensis*), silverleaf scurfew (*Pediemelum argyphyllosum*), and rough blazing star all common. Leadplant can be scattered throughout. Approximate area: 152 acres

## WET MEADOW/CARR SYSTEM

### WMs83 Southern Seepage Meadow/Carr

**WMs83a Seepage Meadow/Carr Type**  
Open, circumneutral wetlands present on poorly drained mucky silt clay loam. The water table is above the surface in early spring but normally below by mid to late summer. Shrub cover is typically greater than 25%. Common species include red-oxer dogwood (*Cornus sericea*), wild black currant (*Ribes americanum*), Bebb's willow (*Salix bebbiana*), and slender willow (*Salix petiolaris*). A dense, continuous cover of broad-leaved graminoids dominates the herbaceous layer. Common species include tussock sedge (*Carex stricta*) and lake sedge (*Carex lasiocarpa*). Forbs are typically not abundant. Those that are common include marsh fern, marsh bellflower (*Campanula aparinoides*), marsh marigold, tufted loosestrife (*Lysimachia thyrsiflora*), Labrador bedstraw (*Galium labradoricum*), spotted Joe pye weed (*Eupatorium maculatum*), common honewort (*Equisetum perfoliatum* var. *perfoliatum*), great water dock (*Rumex orbiculatus*), bog aster (*Aster borealis*), swamp milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata* var. *incarnata*), giant goldenrod (*Solidago gigantea*), cattails (*Typha* spp.), and marsh cinquefoil (*Potentilla palustris*). Moss cover is normally low with non-Sphagnum species being most common. Approximate area: 18 acres

### WMp73 Prairie Wet Meadow/Carr

**WMp73a Prairie Meadow/Carr Type**  
Similar to the Seepage Meadow/Carr Type but with shrub cover less than 25%. Similar graminoid and forb species are present and these two communities are closely associated. Approximate area: 19 acres

RARE SPECIES OF SPECIAL INTEREST	OTHER MAPPED FEATURES
' Colonial Waterbird Nesting	— Primary Roads
^ Rare Plants	— Secondary Roads
X Rare Animals	— Railroads
	— Lakes and Open Water
	— Rivers, Streams, and Ditches

