Minnesota’s Remaining Native Prairie
A Century After the Public Land Survey
Native Prairie Recorded 1847-1908 (Shown in Yellows and Tans)
Remaining Native Prairie Mapped 1987-2011 (Shown in Red)

Legend
Remaining Native Prairie Mapped by the Minnesota County Biological Survey: 1987-2011
Native Prairie (approximately 235,000 acres)
Highlighted Prairie Landscapes

Background: Natural Vegetation of Minnesota Recorded at the Time of the Public Land Survey: 1847-1908
Prairie
Wet Prairies, Marshes and Sloughs
Brush Prairie
Oak Openings and Barrens
Aspen-Oak Land
Big Woods
River-Bottom Forest
Aspen-Birch (Hardwoods)
Mixed Hardwood and Pine
Pine Groves - White Pine
Pine Groves - White and Norway Pine
Jack Pine Barrens and Openings
Pine Flats
Aspen-Birch (Conifer)
Conifer Bogs and Swamps
Open Muskog
Open Water
Lakes

GIS data for many of the native prairies depicted on this map are available in shapefile format as “MCBS Native Plant Communities” and “MCBS Railroad Rights-of-Way Prairies” on the DNR’s data deli at http://deli.dnr.state.mn.us/index.html. Information on MCBS procedures for mapping Minnesota’s prairies and other native plant communities is available at www.mndnr.gov/mcbs. Map is also available online at: http://files.dnr.state.mn.us/eco/mcbs/prairie_map.pdf

May, 2011

1Prairies mapped by the Minnesota County Biological Survey (MCBS) as of May, 2011. Some of the prairies represented on this map may have been destroyed since the time of their documentation by MCBS.


3In the Laurentian Mixed Forest Province, this category mainly comprises marshes and sloughs. If wet prairies were present in the province, they were uncommon and likely restricted to western and southern regions bordering the Tallgrass Aspen Parklands and Eastern Broadleaf Forest provinces.