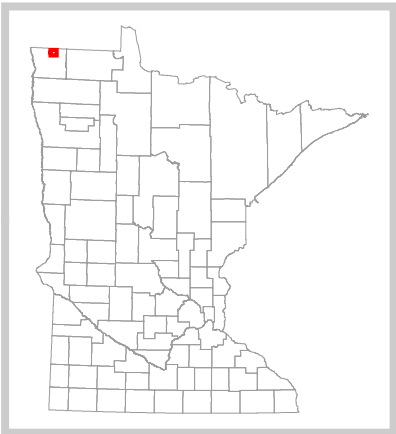
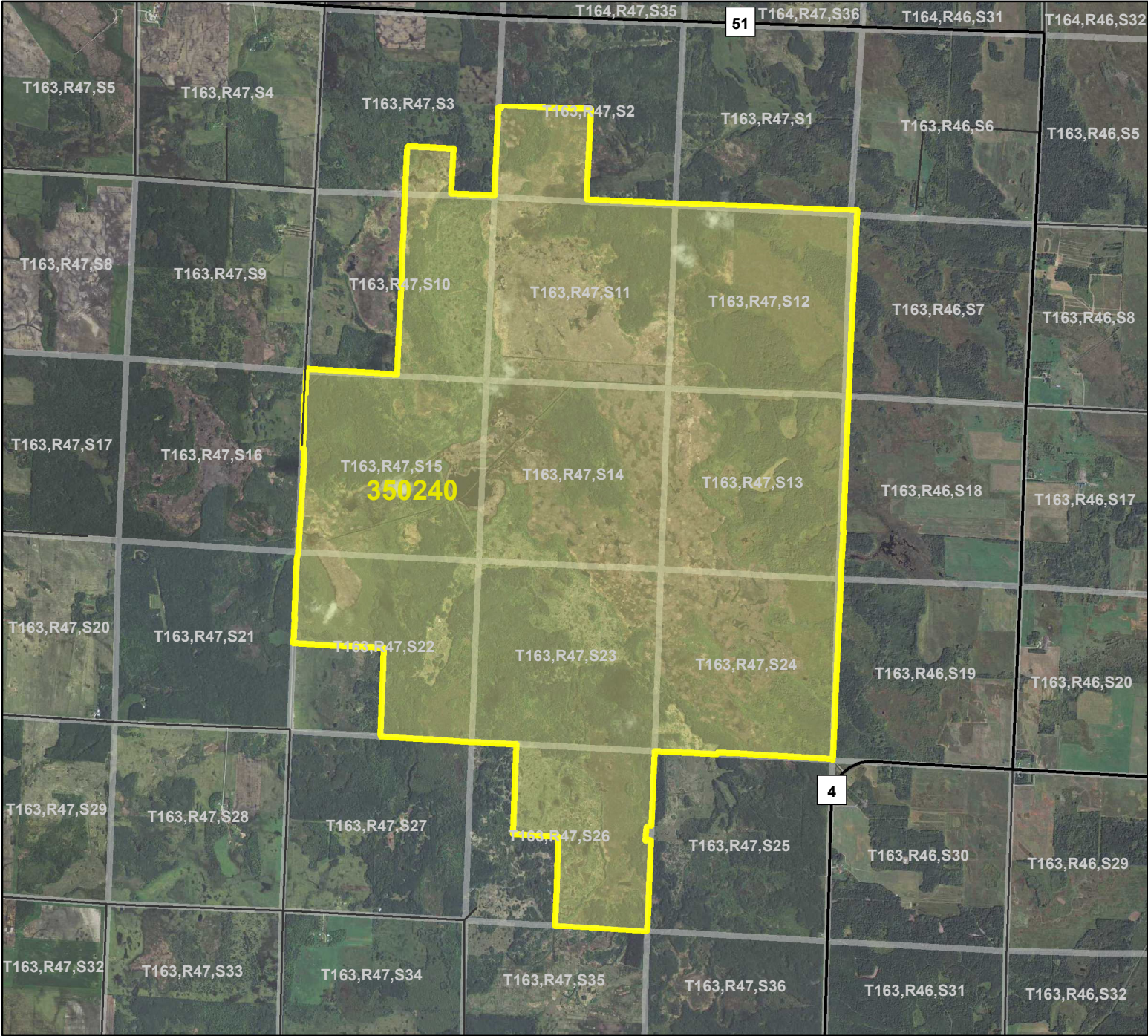


# HCVF Site 350240

## Skull Lake Main, Kittson County



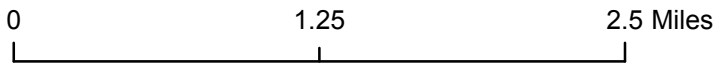
**Legend**

County Highways

Municipal, Township or Other Roads

HCVF Site

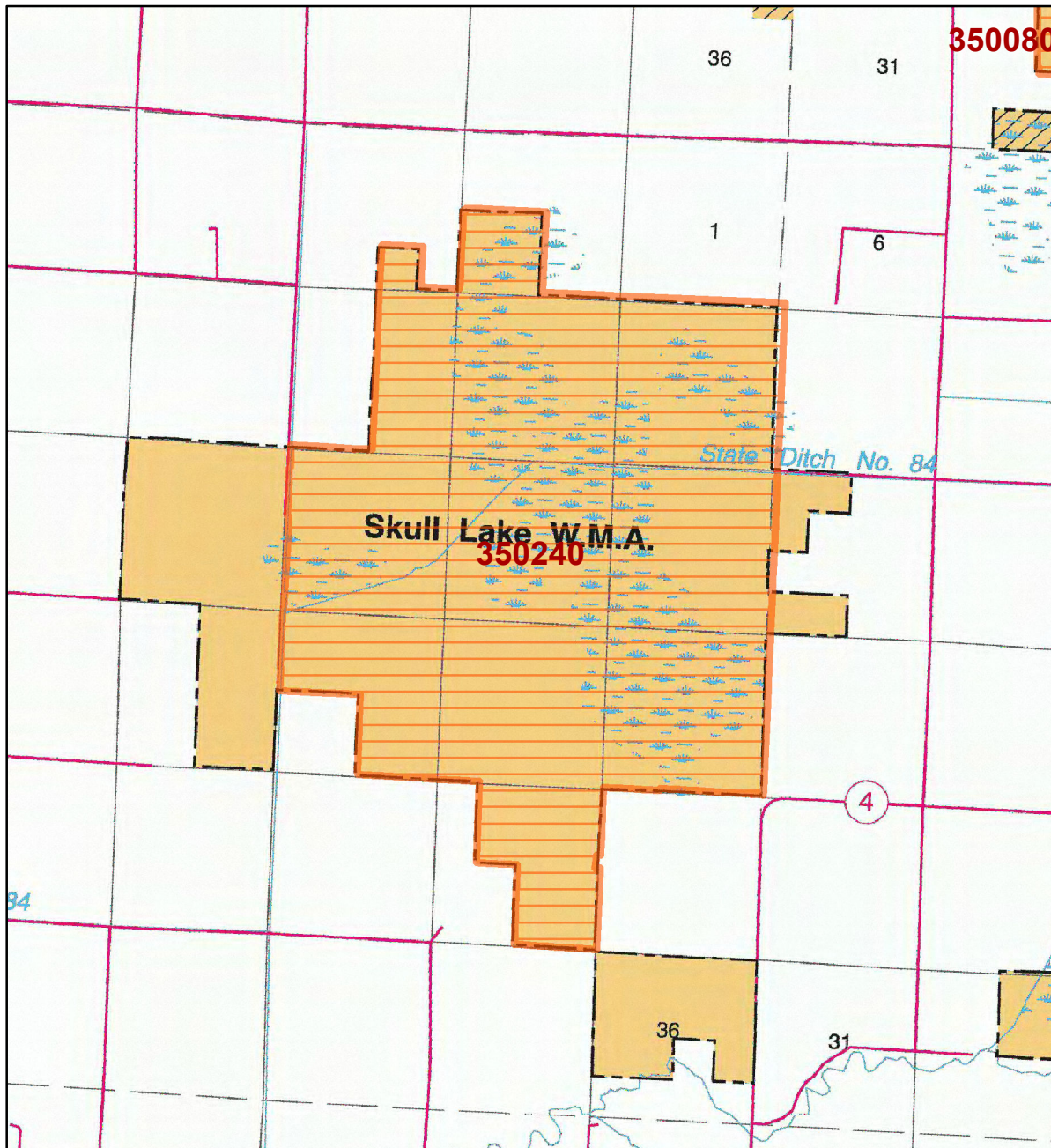
PLS Sections



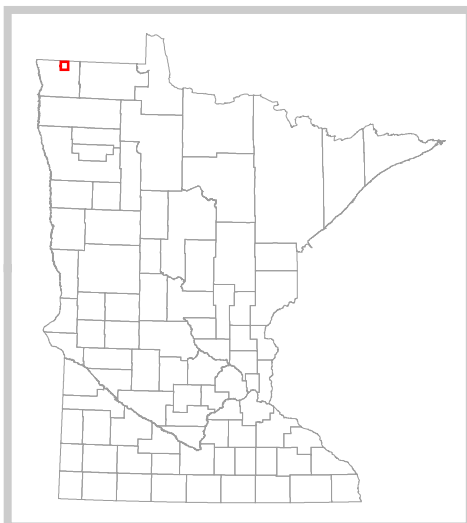


# HCVF Site 350240

## Skull Lake Main, Kittson County



- LEGEND**
- HCVF Site**
- MAP EXPLANATION**
- LAND OWNERSHIP**
- County Land
  - Recreation Area under 40 acres
  - State Forest Land
  - State Park and Recreation Land
  - State Wildlife Management Area Land
  - W.M.A.'s under 40 acres
  - State Scientific & Natural Area Land
  - S.N.A.'s under 40 acres
  - National Waterfowl Production Area
  - N.W.P.A.'s under 40 acres
  - National Forest, Park, Wildlife Refuge & Recreation Land
  - Bureau of Indian Affairs Land
- BOUNDARIES**
- County Unit Boundary
  - State Unit Boundary
  - National Unit Boundary
- TRAILS AND FOREST ROADS**
- State Trail
  - State Forest Road
- DESIGNATED WATERWAYS**
- State Trout Stream
  - State Canoe and Boating Route
  - State Wild, Scenic & Recreational River (also designated Canoe & Boating Route)
  - National Wild, Scenic & Recreational River (also designated Canoe & Boating Route)
- FACILITIES**
- D.N.R. Office
  - Travel Information Center
  - Rest Area (with facilities)
  - Rest Area (limited facilities)
  - Campground
  - Watercraft Camping
  - Equestrian Camping
  - Water Access
  - Carry-in Access
  - Dam (on designated canoe route)
  - Fishing Pier
  - Overlook
  - Parking
  - Historic Site
  - Geologic Feature
  - Fish Hatchery
  - Forestry Nursery
  - National Great River Road
  - State Great River Road
- NOTE: Some of the features defined in this map explanation may not occur on the map.



The PRIM series was developed using funds provided through the Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCMR).

Base information was compiled from 1:100,000 series U.S. Geologic Survey planimetric maps.

Facility and ownership information was compiled from the following sources: Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Minnesota Department of Transportation, State Planning Agency, Minnesota Historical Society and the respective counties.



0 1.75 3.5 Miles

*Land ownership categories on this map are in some cases outdated. HCVF sites are on DNR-managed land only; DNR HCVF sites have not been identified on other ownerships.*



# HCVF Informational Report

Report Run: September 3, 2013

## General Information

**HCVF #: 350240**

**HCVF Name:** Skull Lake Main

**Acres of HCVF site:** 5897.14

**County:** Kittson

**Data edited by:** Erik Thorson, Becky Marty

**Role:** NW Reg HCVF Team Wildlife and EWR Representatives

**Date edited on:** 2013-08-22

**Corresponding Land Administrator(s):** Wildlife

**Management Unit Name(s) (if applicable):** Skull Lake WMA

## HCVF Summary

Unique large sand dunes area. Outstanding example of sand prairie and savanna. Large site includes a fairly complex mosaic of wetlands and sandy uplands. The most distinctive feature is a skein of low, rolling sand blankets that is draped across the site. Most of this supports a shrubby variant of dry prairie barrens subtype, dotted with small wetland depressions. A few concentrations of small bur oak trees create savanna patches. The little depressional wetlands typically have a wet meadow center ringed by shrub willows and often aspen. In a few areas tree and shrub encroachment into the prairie is a serious problem. Overall, the condition of the prairie is good, with numerous vehicle trails the only serious disturbance, although there is one long, narrow band (with the only high dune forms present in the area) that appears to have had a history of heavy grazing (sheep?) and is now dominated by exotic cool-season grasses. Where conditions are not so dry, brushland/woodland occupies the upland. This was probably originally mesic brush prairie, but reduction of fire frequency has allowed aspen to greatly increase. Probably, past grazing also contributed to the change. This brushland/woodland ranges from a tall shrub community dominated by hazel, saskatoon, and small aspen, to dense woodland of mature aspen. Some of this has fairly good potential for restoration to brush prairie with an aggressive fire-management program. There is a very extensive wetland northeast of the band of dunes (probably a deflation basin where the sand in the dunes came from), and a number of smaller ones. Open graminoid communities, fen, meadow, and marsh dominate, with shrubby areas common, and there are also some good-size shrub swamps. A state ditch crosses the big wetland, and there is a water control structure on this that has flooded part of the wetland, converting it to a Typha marsh. There is also a mile-long low dike across the wetland paralleling the ditch, but the impact of this on the hydrology of this wetland isn't apparent. Many small dugouts are concentrated in a couple of areas. (Only site in section with UPn12a.)

### **HCVs known to be present that factored into HCVF designation.**

*FSC expects DNR to maintain HCVs within designated HCVFs. Because HCVF boundaries are not the same as the larger, multi-ownership MBS Sites, this list will differ from the values identified during the MBS Survey.*

TALLGRASS ASPEN PARKLANDS PROVINCE HCVs: 1b (S1 or S2 species): 1 butterfly, 2 plants; 1e (Rare species concentration): 15 birds; 1g (Examples of outstanding key Habitats): Shrub/woodland - Upland, Prairie, wetland-non-forest; 2a - TAP (large natural vegetation complex): yes, 5,897 acres; 3a (G1 or G2 plant community): UPn12a (815 acres), WMp73a; 3b (S1 or S2 plant community): UPn12a (815 acres), UPn12b, UPn24b (32 acres), MRp93 (58 acres); 3c (special S3 plant community): WMp73a, WPn53b; 3g (Potential roadless area).

## Management Considerations

### Overall management objectives for the entire HCVF:

Region HCVF Recommendations - Use less intensive methods to manage native prairie and reduce tree and shrub encroachment, such as mowing or prescribed burning in smaller units on a rotational basis, for rare species. - Protect sand dunes, remove non-native vegetation, and prohibit vehicle traffic. - Maintain/enhance the landscape complex of Brushland habitats and their associated native plant communities. Verify the FDw24 subtype. Verify MRp93 and its size. - Discriminate against aspen in designated stands. - Fire can be a viable method to promote the above objectives. - Avoid any operations that may compromise the natural hydrology of this system. Eliminate the ditch and restore lost hydrologic function. - Avoid establishment of new roads, use existing roads, trails and landings as much as possible, and treat new access routes as temporary. - Maintain the roadless area.

### Management direction from the following sources was considered in developing the above recommendations:

2011 Aspen Parklands SFRMP

### Are the HCVs within this HCVF likely to benefit from coordination with adjacent landowner(s)?

\_Yes\_

*This HCVF was flagged by the Regional HCVF Team as warranting cross-ownership coordination efforts. The specific HCVs likely to benefit from such coordination with adjacent landowners are identified below.*

HCV 1b, 1e, 1g, 2a, 3a, 3b, 3c, 3g. The rare species, NPCs and key habitats extend onto adjacent private and The Nature Conservancy lands. The hydrology is effected by some of the private landowners.

## General Comments

*No information entered.*

*Reference to rare plants and animals, Minnesota Biological Survey Sites of Biological Significance and mapped native plant communities are records maintained in the Minnesota DNR's Natural Heritage Information System (NHIS). A date of information is associated with each record. The NHIS is continually updated as new information becomes available. The lack of data listed for any geographic area should not be construed to mean that no significant features are present.*

*... Report End ...*