

## 6.8 Appendix H. Priority Open Landscape Areas: Aspen Parklands SFRMP

One part of the SFRMP process is to identify areas that may be appropriate for openland management and designate Priority Open Landscape Areas. In cases where designating most of or an entire Land Type Association (LTA) is inappropriate, Special Management Areas (SMAs) can be delineated as subunits within LTAs. General management goals within designated portions of a LTA or SMAs differ from that of the rest of the LTA. Listed in the Table 6.8 below are LTAs with recommended Priority Open Landscape Areas designation (see accompanying spreadsheet/shapefile).

**Table 6.8. Recommended Priority Open Landscape Designations for the Aspen Parklands Subsection.**

LTA	% LTA in Openland	% LTA in Brushland	LTA Designation or Special Management Area (SMA)
Beach Ridges (223Na01)	55.2%	44.8%	LTA
New Folden Lake Plain (223Na02)	90.6%	9.4%	LTA
Strandquist Lake Plain (223Na03)	66.5%	33.5%	LTA
Thief River Falls Lake Plain (223Na04)	100%	0%	LTA
Goodridge Lake Plain (223Na05)	76.7%	20.1%	LTA
Mud Lake Plain (223Na06)	100%	0%	LTA
Blooming Valley Lake Plain (223Na07)	100%	0%	LTA
Bronson Lake Plain (223Na08)	28.4%	71.6%	LTA
Landcaster Lake Plain (223Na09)	100%	0%	LTA
Berner Lake Plain (223Na10)	40.5%	42.4%	LTA
Fourtown Peatlands (223Na11)	100%	0%	LTA
Ross Peatlands (223Na12)	81.8%	18.2%	LTA
Roseau Lake Plain (223Na14)	100%	0%	LTA
Gentilly Lake Plain (223Na15)	100%	0%	LTA
Roseau River Lake Plain (223Na16)	89.7%	0%	LTA
Brooks Lake Plain (223Na17)	100%	0%	LTA
Dohrman Ridge (223Na18)	0%	94.2%	LTA
Thief Lake Peatlands (223Na19)	34.4%	14.2%	SMA
Duxby Lake Plain (223Na25)	100%	0%	LTA

### 6.8A - Management Agreement

Most of the land area designated in these LTAs and SMAs for openlands management is on private land. On state lands in this subsection, the intent is these designations will guide vegetation management and planning.

These Priority Open Landscape Areas were classified as either Openland (a habitat consisting of an open complex of vegetation with <1/3 total cover by shrubs and/or trees) or

Brushland (a habitat consisting of a semi-open complex of vegetation with >1/3 total cover by shrubs and/or 1/3-2/3 total cover by trees). These definitions can be found on pages 14-15 of Wildlife's 2002 Assessment of Open Landscapes. The intent is the openlands management recommendations listed under private land and public land headings below will be followed more closely in Openland portions of Priority Open Landscape Areas.

It is important to note that wooded or forested cover types can be appropriate in both Brushlands and Openlands, especially in riparian areas or riverine systems depending on the NPC.

As per the Forest Management Coordination Framework, project desires on Wildlife and Forestry lands will be run past the other Divisions for discussion/approval—also, communication re: project desires and work on other lands will occur as directed by policy.

### **Private Land:**

- 1) When landowners within an openland SMA or LTA request DNR advice in managing their land, or in some cases contacted by DNR, we are asking that they be advised of the potential, where appropriate, to enhance the openland habitat on their property. Staff involved in the DNR's Private Lands Program and Forest Stewardship Program can provide assistance. As an example, the Private Land Specialists can work on openlands management plans and/or seek public funds for openlands management projects.
- 2) Due to negative effects on openlands species, we ask that tree planting within an openland SMA or LTA generally be discouraged. DNR Private Land Specialists are working with local Soil and Water Conservation Districts to provide guidance to their programs. It is recognized that the ultimate decision resides with the landowners: the main goal here is to insure they understand what potential their land has for open landscape species and the negative impacts of tree planting on those species.

### **Public Land:**

- 1) Use of shorter rotation ages for species normally managed under even-aged harvest systems (e.g. aspen, balm of Gilead, birch) will be generally encouraged.
- 2) ERF designation should be avoided in designated Openland SMA's and LTA's, although ERF may be appropriate in riparian areas and other special circumstances.
- 3) Snags and leave trees will generally be discouraged to the extent possible in cover types that are usually managed with even-aged harvest systems (e.g. aspen, balm of Gilead, birch). MN Forest Resources Council *MFRC Site-Level Guidelines* allow for flexibility in snag/leave tree application where open landscape concerns are documented. Individual site implementation will be discussed during annual stand review meetings. Where a decision is made that snags and or leave trees may occur within an openlands LTA/SMA, we are likely to suggest that they be left in clumps, and preference be given to placement on the edge of sales.
- 4) Attempts may be made to increase the average size of harvest areas within designated LTAs and SMAs in an attempt to increase the size of young patches—

primarily within stands in cover types usually managed with even-aged harvest systems.

- 5) Foresters may be encouraged to drop slightly below normal rotation ages on some stands to increase patch size and create younger patches. Some aspen stands in Brushland areas will be managed above merchantable and below normal rotation age.
- 6) Conifer planting within Priority Open Landscape Areas on public lands will generally be discouraged to prevent harm to openlands species.
- 7) Conversion of forested cover types to non-forested ones will occur in Priority Open Landscape Areas, but will occur primarily on lands classified as Openlands.
- 8) Direction from the “Interdisciplinary Forest Management Coordination Framework” will apply with respect to coordination on potential open lands management projects on public lands. Forestry and Ecological and Water Resources will be coordinated with prior to implementation of proposed open lands projects within the SMA, with project review and approval requirements from the policy applied where needed (e.g. where wildlife may desire an openlands project on forestry administered land).

To view a map of priority open landscape areas please see: Priority open landscape area and special management area designations map in *Appendix M: Maps*.