

Conservation Actions for *Rubus stipulatus*

Conservation actions recommended for *Rubus stipulatus* were developed in Spring 2026 and are based on the IUCN Conservation Actions Classification Scheme (IUCN, 2012a). The actions highlighted were those deemed the most critical to reaching the thresholds set in the recovery criteria. Priority conservation actions needed in Minnesota were determined based on a species status assessment, information from the *Rubus stipulatus* Rare Species Guide profile (MN DNR, 2026), and local expert opinion.

Tables

Table 1. IUCN Conservation Action Classification 1 – Land or Water Protection, defined as “Actions to identify, establish or expand parks and other legally protected areas.” Critical sub-actions are 1.1 – Site or Area Protection and 1.2 – Resource and Habitat Protection.

Sub-Action	Discussion
Site or Area Protection	Land acquisition or easements should prioritize permanent protection of persistent populations with intact buffer habitat. Priority should be given to the high-quality populations and populations in unique ecological conditions. Given the rapid development in the Anoka Sand Plain where most <i>R. stipulatus</i> populations occur, land protection for populations with an intact buffer is one of the most important conservation actions that can be taken to support this species recovery.
Resource and Habitat Protection	Land acquisition or easements should include areas surrounding known populations to create a protective buffer where negative impacts from hydrologic changes can be controlled and monitored.

Table 2. IUCN Conservation Action Classification 2 – Land or Water Management, defined as “Actions directed at conserving or restoring sites, habitats and the wider environment.” Critical sub-actions are 2.1 – Site or Area Management, 2.2 – Invasive or Problematic Species Control, and 2.3 – Habitat and Natural Process Restoration.

Sub-Action	Discussion
Site or Area Management	Develop and implement site level management plans that maintain or improve the quality of persistent populations. Dormant season prescribed burning with a minimum four-year rotation should be the favored mechanism for habitat management.

Sub-Action	Discussion
Invasive or Problematic Species Control	Reduce native and exotic shrub encroachment, ideally through prescribed burning or mechanical removal. Reduce <i>Phalaris arundinacea</i> encroachment, ideally through manual removal. Heavy machinery should be avoided to prevent soil damage. Chemical control should also be avoided, if possible, to prevent impacts to non-target species.
Habitat and natural process restoration	Restore unoccupied suitable habitat surrounding existing populations. Restore surrounding landscape matrix to create protective buffers with an emphasis on restoring natural hydrologic regimes.

Table 3. IUCN Conservation Action Classification 3 – Species Management, defined as “Actions directed as managing or restoring species, focused on the species of concern itself.” Critical sub-actions are 3.3.1 – Species Re-Introductions into area where a species formally occurred, and 3.4.2 – Genome Resource Banking (e.g.’s seed or vegetative materials preservation).

Sub-Action	Discussion
Species Re-Introductions	Augment known populations when it is necessary to ensure population viability. Re-introduce populations into protected, well managed areas. Habitat suitability and population size should be main factors in determining augmentation or re-introduction sites. Monitoring is necessary to evaluate these efforts and determine their success. Methods and goals should be adapted accordingly as new information is available. These efforts may also be used to re-connect populations within a fragmented landscape.
Genetic Preservation	Genetic preservation, for example through conservation seed-banking, should be conducted for at least one persistent population per Ecological Subsection. Additional emphasis should be given to populations in unique ecological conditions, deemed not viable, or those that will be subject to take. Salvage individual plants, including seed or vegetative material, that will be subject to take for preservation, re-introduction or augmentation into protected, well managed areas.

Table 4. IUCN Conservation Action Classification 5 – Law and Policy, defined as “Actions to develop, change, influence and help implement formal legislation, regulations and voluntary standards.” Critical sub-actions are 5.2 - Policies and Regulations, 5.3 – Private Sector Standards and Codes, and 5.4 - Compliance and Enforcement.

Sub-Action	Discussion
Policies and regulations	Develop regulations to ensure projects are reviewed for the presence of the species in suitable habitat and potential impacts to the species. Develop regulations that ensure take, including harm, of all <i>Rubus stipulatus</i> is prohibited without a permit. Develop conservation guidelines for consistent protection of the species.

Sub-Action	Discussion
Private Sector Standards and Codes	Implement measures to ensure accurate species identification and high-quality survey results when done as part of natural heritage reviews.
Compliance and enforcement	Ensure development projects are reviewed for potential impacts to the species and protective measures and avoidance are implemented.

Table 5. IUCN Conservation Action Classification 7 – External Capacity Building. The critical sub-action is 7.3 – Alliance and Partnership Building, defined as “Forming and facilitating partnerships, alliances and networks of organizations.”

Sub-Action	Discussion
Alliance and Partnership Building	Increased collaboration among responsible governmental units, conservation partners and private landowners to implement the recommendations in this plan for the protection and management of <i>R. stipulatus</i> populations and surrounding habitat.

References

- IUCN. *Conservation Actions Classification Scheme* (Version 2.0). International Union for the Conservation of Nature 2012a. <https://www.iucnredlist.org/resources/conservation-actions-classification-scheme>
- MN DNR. *Rubus stipulatus*. 2026. Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Rare Species Guide. <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/rsg/profile.html?action=elementDetail&selectedElement=PDROS1K7A0>