

# Tree Planting in the Prairie: Recommendations



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To: Minnesota State  
Technical Committee

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# DNR Mission

- Work with citizens to conserve/manage state's natural resources
- Provide outdoor recreation opportunities
- Provide for commercial uses of natural resources to create sustainable quality of life



# Trees and prairies: what's the big deal?

- Predation & Avoidance



- Habitat fragmentation and loss

# Some species need open horizons!



# Multi-Decade Conflict

- Different preferences

  - Resource management objectives

  - Landscape aesthetics

- Institutional factors

  - CRP practice requirements

  - Tree sale revenues

- Lack of information

Assume that pheasants most need winter cover

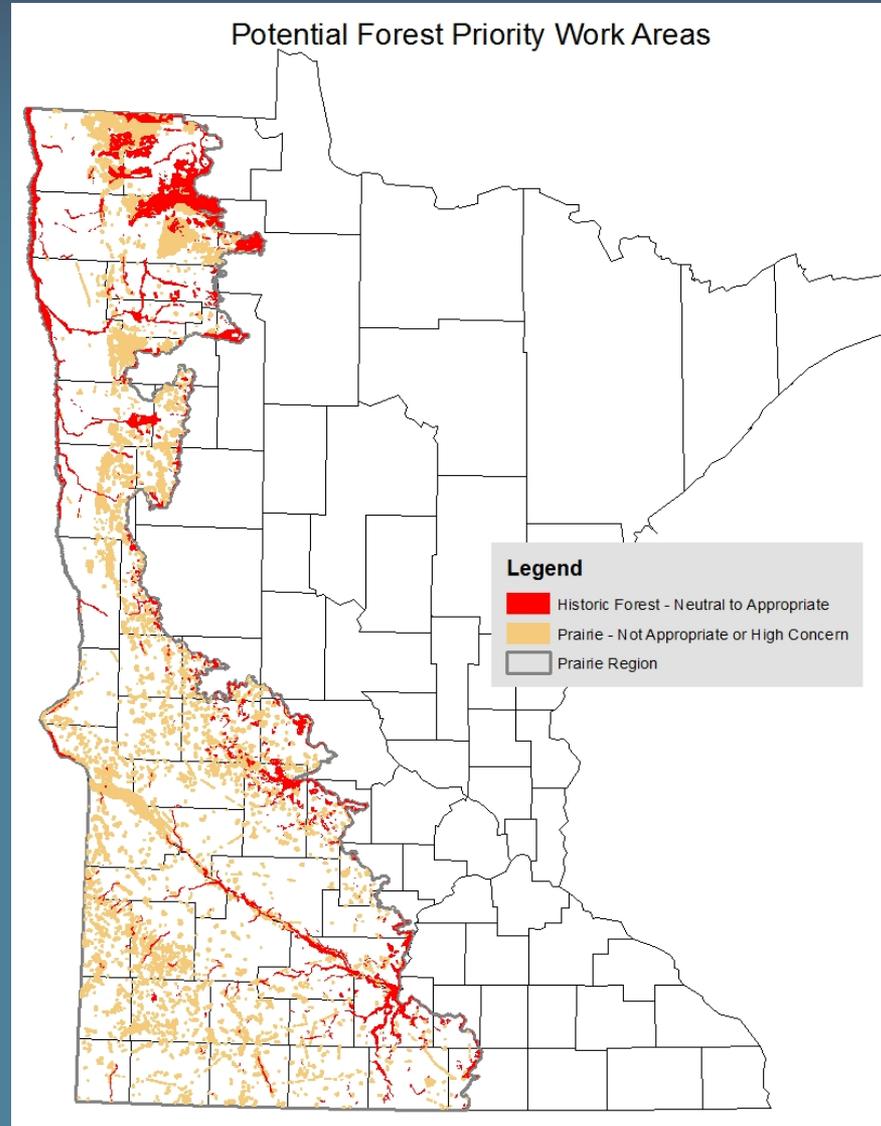


# What is the approach?

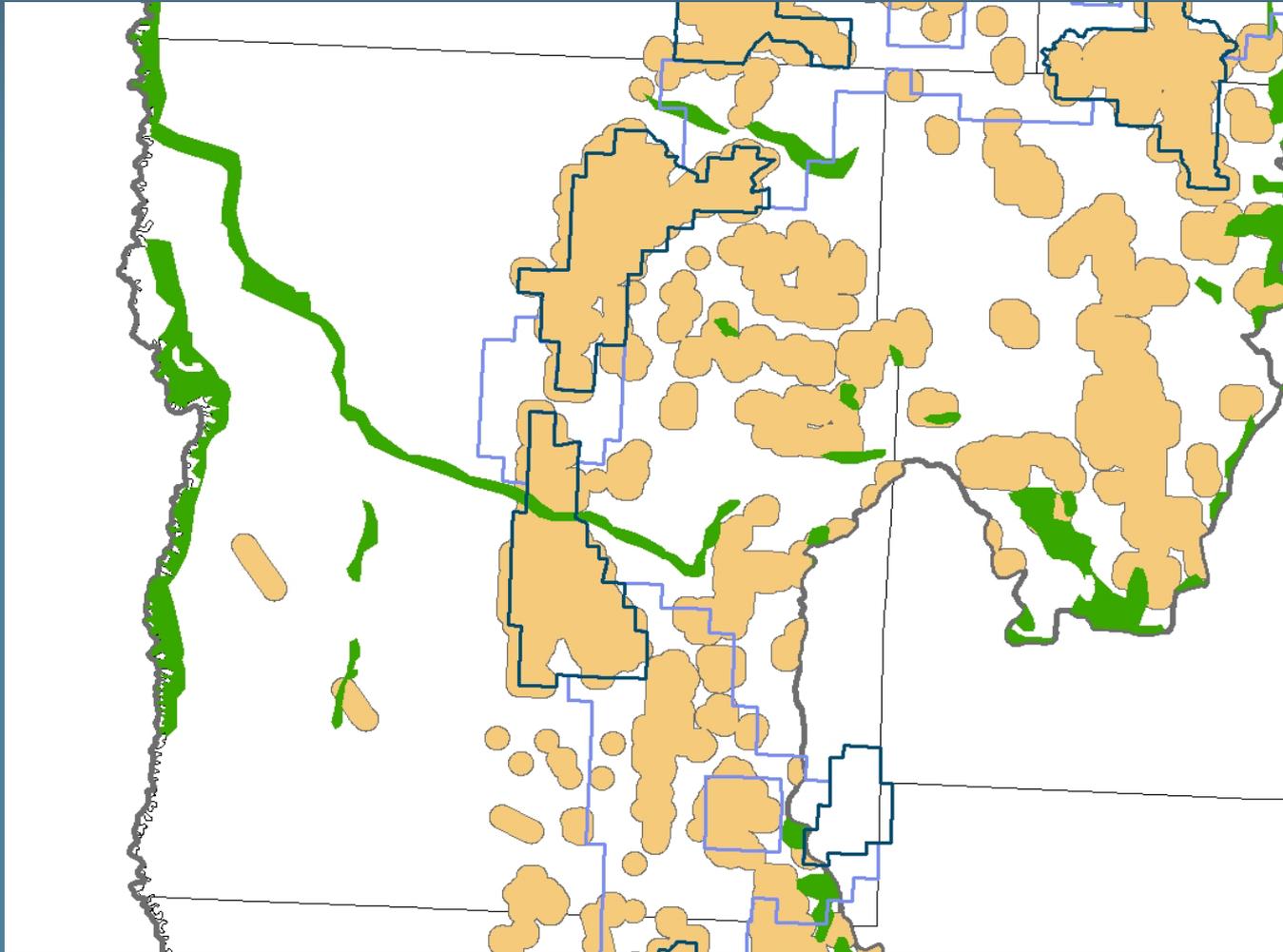
- Provide recommendations to help inform decision making
  - USDA program rules still apply
  - Eligible landowners have a right to apply
- Landscape and site level guidance
- There are shades of grey



# Landscape level guidance: A MAP!



# Zoomed in



# Site level guidance: A MATRIX!

Site Characteristic	Not Appropriate	High Concern	Concern	Neutral to Appropriate	Site Specific Determination
<b>Current Land Cover</b>	Select most appropriate box				
Native Prairie	X				
Conservation Grassland		X			
Other Grassland		X			
Cropland			X		
Wooded				X	
Developed (urban/farmstead)				X	
<b>Adjacent/ Nearby Land Cover</b>	Select most appropriate box				
Native Prairie (within ½ mile)	X				
Conservation Grassland (w/in ½ mile)		X			
Other grassland (adjacent)		X			
Cropland				X	
Wooded (within ½ mile)				X	
Developed				X	
<b>Historical Land Cover*</b>	Select most appropriate box				
Prairie (including prairie pothole wetlands)			X		
Savanna/Parkland/Brushland			X		
Forest				X	
<b>Landscape Position</b>	Select most appropriate box				
Large river floodplain					X
West / South facing slope			X		
North /East Facing Slope					X
"Fire Shadow" East side of large water bodies					X
<b>At-Risk Species (within 1 mile)</b>	Select most appropriate box				
Open Landscape Dependent	x				
Other			x		
<b>Landscape Plans</b>	If the answer is no, then check the "Concern" box. If the answer is yes, then check "Neutral/Appropriate" box.				
Consistent with Prairie Plan (Map 1)					
Consistent with Other Landscape Plans					
Appropriate design	If the answer is no, then check "Concern" box. If the answer is yes, then check "Neutral/Appropriate" box.				
Conservation objective requires trees/woody veg. (e.g., shelter belt)					
Proposed tree planting is adequate to meet the conservation objective					
Native tree species are used					
Shortest woody species suitable for objective are used.					



# Evaluation is to consider:

- What is on the land now
  - On the site and near by
  - Vegetation and at risk species
- Historical land cover and landscape position
- Relationship to any other landscape plans
- Design of conservation practice



Will it do the job?

What species are chosen?

# Informed Decision Making

- Staff and landowner work through matrix to determine the number and severity of concerns with tree planting.
- In the context of landowner conservation needs, program rules and landscape considerations – recommendations and decisions are made.



# Thank You

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