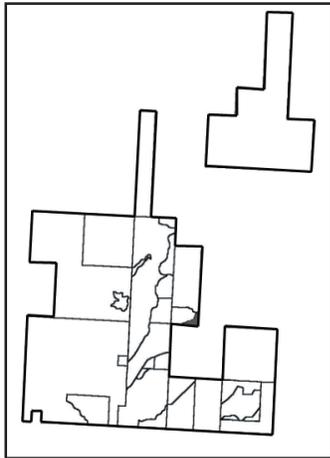


Preserve



St7c-P: Preserve, DNR, School Trust Fund, (Section 32, Hagen Township)

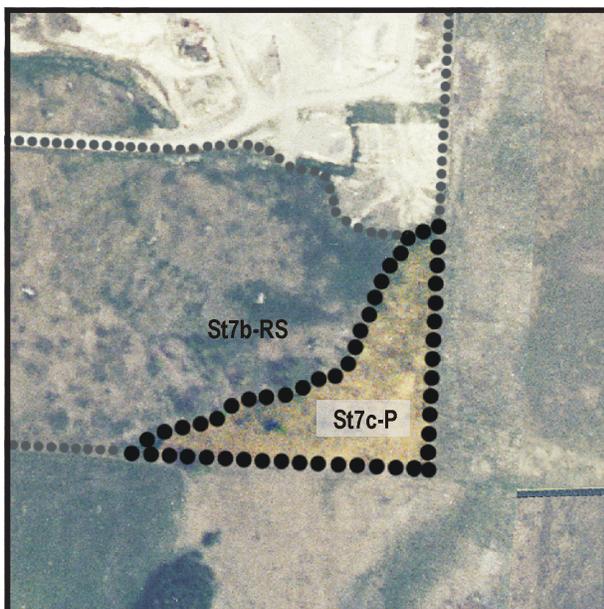
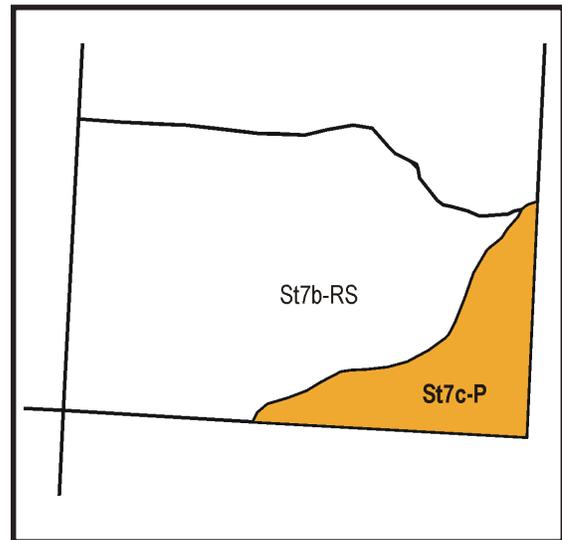
Aggregate Potential:
None documented.

Prairie Habitat Assessment: Mesic prairie currently under lease agreement to preserve, but exhibits some woody encroachment.

Fen Impacts: Mining in the water table range would impact both fens.

Area Statistics

	Landtype	Acres
	Mesic Prairie (Northwest)	5.06
	<i>Total</i>	5.06



Recommendations:

Transfer to WMA after reimbursing the School Trust Fund.

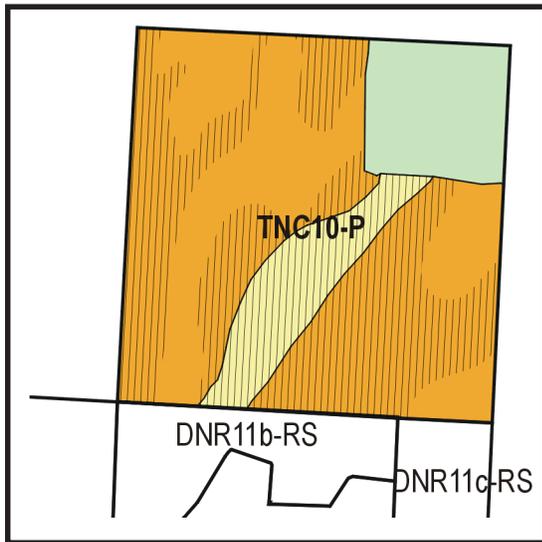
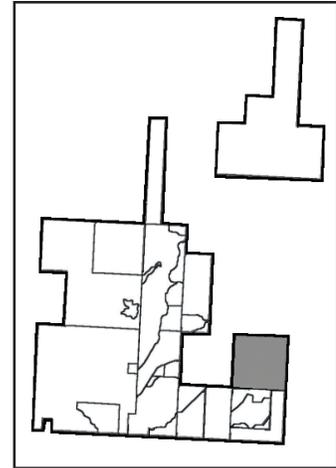
Habitat Management:

Cut or girdle trees. Maintain prairie with prescribed burning.

**TNC (DNR) 10-P: Preserve,
The Nature Conservancy, lease to DNR
(NE ¼ section 5, Keene Township)**

Aggregate Potential:
None documented

Prairie Habitat Assessment:
Mesic and dry prairie utilized by rare species. Former agricultural field in NE corner should be reconstructed using native vegetation, preferably of local genotypes.

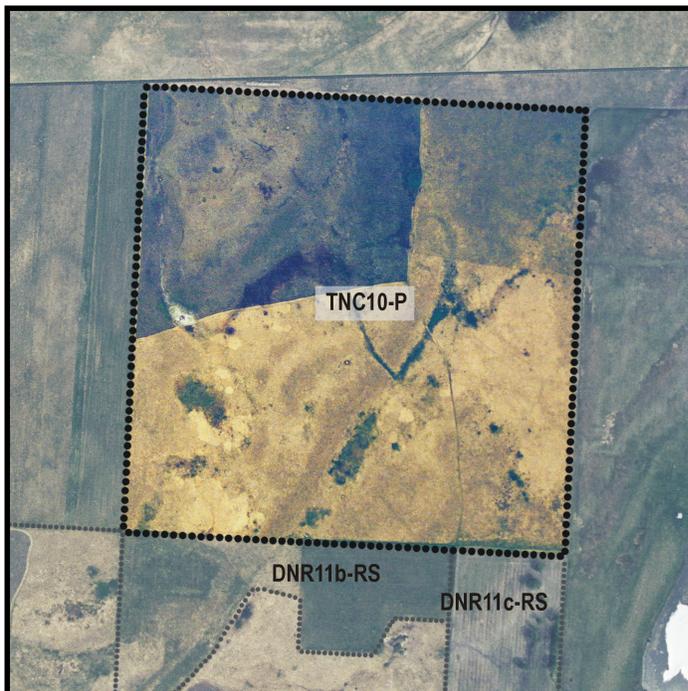


Area Statistics

	Landtype	Acres
	Grasslands	22.77
	Dry Prairie (Northwest) Sand-Gravel Subtype	18.98
	Mesic Prairie (Northwest)	124.53
	<i>Total</i>	166.28

Dakota Skipper Habitat

	Habitat	Acres
	Confirmed Good	89.64
	<i>Total</i>	89.64



Recommendations:

Coordinate management with other prairie sites in the Felton area.

Habitat Management:

Reconstruct former agricultural field with native species. Maintain prairie with prescribed burning.

Resource Management

D. General Resource Management Recommendations

Concepts and activities recommended for individual parcels are described in greater detail below.

Prescribed Burning

Prepare a coordinated burn plan for the Felton Prairie study area. Units should be burned every 4 to 6 years depending on moisture conditions. The wetter sites should be burned more often than the dry prairie sites to suppress the establishment and growth of woody species.

Noxious Weeds

Leafy spurge and Canada thistle occur in scattered colonies throughout the public lands in the study area. However, large infestations (80 acres or more) of leafy spurge on adjacent private lands increase the likelihood of continued invasion and control costs. A coordinated area-wide control strategy should be developed among private and public landowners, the county weed inspector, and other partners.

Haying

The county land should continue to be leased for hay harvest. The combination of haying, grazing, and burning grasslands in the Felton prairie area supports a diverse grassland system. The county's current hay lease could be modified to allow burning, seed harvest, or rest in selected years.

Woody Encroachment

Trees and other woody species have expanded tremendously over the past 50-75 years. Cottonwoods establish quickly on overburden piles and other exposed soils associated with gravel mining. Aspen and willow have expanded with the cessation of haying and fire, especially in the wetter areas. Russian olive, a non-native species is also spreading over the "Zillmer" portion (DNR-1, Section 1, Flowing Township) of the Felton WMA. While burning suppresses woody establishment, cutting and girdling trees may be required for taller, established stands. A coordinated plan should be developed to address existing stands, as well as to prevent new establishment on or around gravel pit areas. No tree planting should be done on any public lands in the Felton Prairie area.

Mine Site Management

Woody and invasive species frequently colonize overburden and stripped topsoil piles. These include cottowood, leafy spurge, Canada thistle, spotted knapweed, yellow and white sweet clover, brome grass and quack grass. A coordinated mining and reclamation plan should develop strategies to reduce the exposure of bare soil by temporary, non-invasive vegetation, or other means.

Roads

In the past, cartways (roads) have been established as needed with little planning or foresight. This has resulted in direct and indirect disturbance of the native prairie. Vehicle use should be limited to the current haul road running north-south from County Road 108 to Highway 34 and access into Bicentennial and Blazing Star Prairie SNA parking areas. Other access points should be gated and fenced (or boulders where practical) for use by authorized personnel and adjacent landowners as needed.