

Representative Sample Areas In Cass County

McKinley Prairie

Size: 110 Acres

Location: Section 9-138-32 (McKinley Township)

Description: McKinley Prairie is a southern dry prairie system (rare in Cass County) and is indicated as such on the Natural Resource Heritage Database. This prairie has known breeding populations of prairie obligate species as indicated on the Natural Resource Heritage Database. Other prairie associated species have also been spotted.

Monitoring: Annual monitoring will occur to ensure that no damaging activities have taken place by Cass County or through trespass by any other entity. Monitoring will take place once every three years to determine that prescribed burning is taking place (prairie will be burned every 4-6 years to eliminate encroaching vegetation and maintain the site; if burning is not possible, other methods will be considered). The Natural Heritage database will be monitored at least once every five years to determine whether the status of any species that occur or potentially occur within the site has changed. Annual surveying of prairie chicken booming grounds will take place to see if a population remains.

Bear Island

Size: 138.2 Acres

Location: All county administered lands in sections 2, 11, 12-142-29 (Unorganized 4) on Bear Island in Leech Lake

Description: Bear Island is an undeveloped island in Leech Lake with significant American Indian heritage and contains unusual plant communities because of its location in a warmer lake-effected micro-climate. This island also has known populations of rare plants and fore communities as indicated on the Natural Resource Heritage Database.

Monitoring: Annual monitoring will occur to ensure that no harvest activities have taken place by Cass County or through trespass by any other entity. The Natural Heritage database will be monitored at least once every five years to determine whether the status of any species that occur or potentially occur with the area has changed. The Tribal Historic Preservation Office database will be monitored at least once every five years to determine whether the status of any sites existing or potentially existing with the area has changed.

1976 Fire Area

Size: 30 Acres

Location: E½ SW¼, Section 14-138-32 (McKinley Township)

Description: 1976 Fire Area is a rare example of naturally occurring jack pine following wildfire. Natural reproduction of jack pine often occurs naturally in areas where fire has occurred due to the abundant release of seed from the cone which may remain sealed for 10-15 years. A large wildfire went through this area in 1976, resulting in this stand of natural jack pine. Stands like this area becoming more and more uncommon due to the suppression of fires.

Monitoring: Annual monitoring will occur to ensure that no harvest activities have taken place by Cass County or through trespass by any other entity. The Natural Heritage database will be monitored at least once every five years to determine whether the status of any species that occur or potentially occur with the area has changed. A permanent plot has been established and will be measured annually to monitor growth and mortality within the stand. Then NPC was checked and found to be correct when the permanent plot was established.

Deep Portage Preserve

Size: 655 Acres

Location: All county administered lands in 31-140-29; N½ NW¼, 6-139-29; N½ NE¼, 6-139-29; part of W½ NW¼, 32-140-29; and part of NE¼ NW¼, 32-140-29 (Ponto Lake and Blind Lake Townships)

Description: The Deep Portage Preserve was originally created as a “Natural and Scientific Area”, with the intent that no timber harvest would occur within its boundaries. Timber cover types within the preserve include Aspen, Paper Birch, Jack Pine and Red Pine. These cover types will be monitored as representative samples for the county. The Red Pine will also be evaluated for old growth characteristics. A section of the Boy River, part of Blind Lake and the southern shore of Big Deep Lake is included and is a wildlife travel corridor. The Natural Resources Heritage Database indicates the existence of nesting of rare species within the preserve.

Monitoring: Annual monitoring will occur to ensure that no harvest activities have taken place by Cass County or through trespass by any other entity. The Natural Heritage database will be monitored at least once every five years to determine whether the status of any species that occur or potentially occur with the area has changed. Permanent plots will be established and monitored annually in the aspen, birch, jack pine, and red pine.