

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Fiscal Year 2017 / ML 2016 Request for Funding



Date: July 13, 2015

Program or Project Title: Grassland Conservation Partnership Phase II

Funds Requested: \$6,848,500

Manager's Name: Steve Hobbs

Title: Minnesota State Director

Organization: The Conservation Fund

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Website: www.conservationfund.org

County Locations: Big Stone, Lac qui Parle, Pennington, Pope, Renville, Stevens, and Swift.

Regions in which work will take place:

- Prairie

Activity types:

- Protect in Easement
- Protect in Fee

Priority resources addressed by activity:

- Wetlands
- Prairie
- Habitat

Abstract:

This project will protect high priority grassland, prairie and wetland wildlife habitat with 1,090 acres in fee acquisition and 800 acres in conservation easements throughout western Minnesota's core prairie areas. Grasslands represent one of Minnesota's most threatened habitat types.

Design and scope of work:

A Conservation Legacy in Jeopardy

Native grasslands are the most threatened ecosystem in Minnesota and one of the most threatened in the world. The LSOHC defined Prairie Section has suffered the greatest habitat loss of any of the five sections examined by the Council. Furthermore, only a third of the remaining habitat in the Prairie Section is permanently protected. To compound the problem, in the next five years approximately 800,000 acres of Minnesota's conservation lands enrolled in the federal Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) will expire. Unless action is taken to continue protection of these lands by using a combination of conservation programs, many will likely be converted to cropland, eliminating most of the wildlife habitat and associated ecosystem benefits.

Project Scope

This project will combine two land protection strategies in order to protect high-priority grassland wildlife habitat: conservation easements on private lands and fee-title acquisition for public lands. The Grasslands Conservation Partnership project builds upon the success The Conservation Fund (TCF) and the Minnesota Land Trust (MLT) have had in protecting important wildlife habitats in the previous pilot phase of this project using conservation easements that use innovative managed grazing and grassland management as an important conservation tool for Minnesota.

Conservation Easements:

As one of the founding partners in the development of the Prairie Plan, TCF has been working with other non-profits, United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to protect more than 600 acres of prairie habitat in the past two years. Part of this effort was working with BWSR, MLT, and DNR to develop a strategies for protecting working grasslands that are vital for wildlife in the prairie region. This joint effort enabled MLT to establish the first privately-held working-grassland conservation easement in Minnesota in 2015 protecting nearly 300 acres in Pope County.

Science has proven that proper application of haying and grazing techniques can be used to mimic natural processes necessary for healthy grass natural communities. Our colleagues at The Nature Conservancy and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service have proven these techniques successful in Minnesota over a significant period of time. Working with these partners, as well as the Land Stewardship Project, Ducks Unlimited, Pheasants Forever, local Soil and Water Conservation Districts, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), the Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association and the McKnight Foundation, we are confident that the time is right to expand our previous efforts to protect even more land. All easements will be held and monitored by MLT. TCF will perform the initial landowner contact and negotiations leading to the establishment of a conservation easement.

Lands targeted for conservation easement protection through this project will meet the following criteria:

1. Lands with significant existing prairie or grassland habitat
2. Lands near or within the Core Areas identified in the Prairie Plan
3. Lands within approximately two miles of permanently protected land (e.g. WMA, WPA, CREP, TNC preserves, etc.)
4. Lands which will help establishing connections to permanently protected land wherever possible and create larger habitat complexes
5. Lands which may also include low production cropland that can be converted back into grasslands, thereby increasing overall grassland habitat

MLT and TCF will use the above criteria to generate a systematic ranking system to vet potential projects and ensure maximum conservation values. We will also screen for producers with a proven ability to successfully implement the best management practices for conservation grazing. Whenever possible, MLT will use the proven "reverse-bid" model to ensure that conservation funds are used as efficiently as possible. This reverse bid model first ranks the projects according to their habitat values and then ranks them according to the landowner's bid on what they are willing to get paid for the conservation easements. Projects that MLT will prioritize are those with the greatest conservation benefits at the lowest cost to the State.

Fee-Title Acquisitions:

In addition to the easement work that MLT will pursue, TCF will also pursue the acquisition of approximately 1,090 acres in fee for donation to the Minnesota DNR as critical additions to existing Wildlife Management Areas. These sites have been designated by DNR as among their highest priorities for protection. These sites have be subject to DNR's WMA site scoring regime. TCF is being asked to assist in the acquisition of these sites as they either don't fit the criteria for other NGOs and/or they need help to accomplish the conservation goals for the state. The sites serve as excellent grassland habitat. These sites will complement existing and ongoing acquisition and restoration work being conducted by DNR, Audubon Minnesota and TNC in and around the Pembina area. Celebrating 30 years of land and water conservation, TCF has quietly conserved more than 7.5 million acres nationally and more than 260,000 acres in Minnesota.

Capacity:

TCF and MLT are two of only four land trusts operating in Minnesota accredited by the Land Trust Accreditation Commission. The Commission awards accreditation to land trusts that meet national standards for excellence, uphold the public trust and ensure that conservation efforts are permanent. Accreditation is not a one-time action and land trusts must maintain their accredited status by applying for renewal every five years.

Crops:

Will there be planting of corn or any crop on OHF land purchased or restored in this program - **Yes**

Explain

The land purchased in fee will become WMA additions. The primary purposes of WMAs are to develop and manage for the production of wildlife and for compatible outdoor recreation. To fulfill those goals, the DNR may use limited farming specifically to enhance or benefit the management of state lands for wildlife. This proposal may include initial development plans or restoration plans to utilize farming to prepare previously farmed sites for native plant seeding. This is a standard practice across the Midwest to

prepare the seedbed for native seed planting. On a small percentage of WMAs (less than 2.5%), DNR uses farming to provide a winter food source for a variety of wildlife species in agriculture-dominated landscapes largely devoid of winter food sources. There are no immediate plans to use farming for winter food on any of the parcels in this proposal. None of the land to be protected by conservation easement will have crops.

Are any of the crop types planted GMO treated - **No**

How does the request address MN habitats that have: historical value to fish and wildlife, wildlife species of greatest conservation need, MN County Biological Survey data, and/or rare, threatened and endangered species inventories:

This project will protect hundreds of acres of grassland, wetland and prairie habitat, as identified as a priority in the Outdoor Heritage Fund's 25-Year Framework, and more specifically identified in the Prairie Plan. This project will focus on lands that have been identified by scientists at DNR, USFWS, and our partners as necessary for the conservation of habitat for wildlife and species of concern. TCF and MLT is using MN County Biological Survey data as well as USFWS data to search out sites that are suitable for grassland game birds as well as non-game species such as the Dakota skipper and the Poweshiek skipperling, both recently listed as threatened by USFWS. Because the majority of prairie and grassland habitats are found on private lands, this project will help protect those habitats and establish important connects to other protected lands, thereby creating larger complexes of protected grassland habitats.

What is the nature of urgency and why it is necessary to spend public money for this work as soon as possible:

The price of farmland has now stabilized from the recent boom, market conditions are conducive to an expanded and targeted acquisition effort. The conservation partners recognize the need to expand our efforts to include privately held land managed for grassland habitat. This has been a gap within the existing programs.

Describe the science based planning and evaluation model used:

We will use existing conservation plans, such as the Prairie Plan, along with assessment of conservation professionals from USFWS, DNR, DU, PF, SWCDs and TNC to determine sites that complement their ongoing efforts. We will assess how our selection methods fill important gaps in current protected land and adjust accordingly.

Which sections of the Minnesota Statewide Conservation and Preservation Plan are applicable to this project:

- H1 Protect priority land habitats
- H3 Improve connectivity and access to recreation

Which other plans are addressed in this proposal:

- Minnesota DNR Nongame Wildlife Plans
- Minnesota Prairie Conservation Plan

Which LSOHC section priorities are addressed in this proposal:

Prairie:

- Protect, enhance, or restore existing wetland/upland complexes, or convert agricultural lands to new wetland/upland habitat complexes

Relationship to other funds:

- Not Listed

How does this proposal accelerate or supplement your current efforts in this area:

Just in the past year, TCF and MLT have been able to protect more than 500 acres in this region working with our partners at USFWS and BWSR through the pilot Grasslands Forever project funded by OHF funds and other efforts. The first phase of this project was largely a pilot project to determine how well received working grassland conservation would be in the region and what tools are necessary to successfully protect them. Now that we have a successful template that has been well-received by local landowners, we are quite confident that we can build upon this past success. We are encouraged to pursue this proposal by all our partner agencies and organizations to help fill an important gap in current protection strategies. We are also encouraged by the landowner interest and feel

the time is right to expand beyond the pilot phase of the project.

Describe the source and amount of non-OHF money spent for this work in the past:

Not Listed

How will you sustain and/or maintain this work after the Outdoor Heritage Funds are expended:

MLT is a nationally accredited land trust with a very successful stewardship program that includes annual property monitoring, effective records management, addressing inquiries and interpretations, tracking changes in ownership, investigating potential violations and defending the easement in case of a true violation. The conservation easements secured under this program will also require landowners to have robust habitat management plans to guide the ongoing management of the property.

TCF will transfer ownership of fee-acquired lands to the MN DNR for their stewardship.

Explain the things you will do in the future to maintain project outcomes:

| Year | Source of Funds | Step 1 | Step 2 | Step 3 |
|------|--|--|---|-------------------------------|
| 2017 | DNR internal funds that may be supplemented by OHF funds | Site management as appropriate for fee acquisitions | | |
| 2019 | MLT internal funds | Completion of conservation easement, baseline documentation, habitat management plans, monitoring plans and other documents necessary for easement stewardship | Annual monitoring for compliance with terms of conservation easements | Defend easements as necessary |

Activity Details:

If funded, this proposal will meet all applicable criteria set forth in MS 97A.056 - **Yes**

Will local government approval be sought prior to acquisition - **Yes**

Is the land you plan to acquire free of any other permanent protection - **Yes**

Is this land currently open for hunting and fishing - **No**

Will the land be open for hunting and fishing after completion - **Yes**

Land purchased in fee will be fully open to hunting. Land protected via conservation easement will be open to hunting as the landowner allows. Landowners with easements will be encouraged to open their land to hunting.

Will the eased land be open for public use - **No**

Is the land you plan to acquire free of any other permanent protection - **Yes**

Accomplishment Timeline:

| Activity | Approximate Date Completed |
|--|----------------------------|
| TCF to complete negotiations and conveyance of fee acquisitions to DNR | June 2019 |
| MLT to complete acquisition of conservation easements | June 2019 |

Federal Funding:

Do you anticipate federal funds as a match for this program - **No**

Outcomes:

Programs in prairie region:

- Remnant native prairies are part of large complexes of restored prairies, grasslands, and large and small wetlands DNR has identified key parcels to acquire to enhance the viability of important WMAs within the Prairie Planning area and is requesting the assistance of TCF in acquiring these lands. TCF and MLT will seek lands that are suitable for conservation easements, either existing grasslands or croplands that can be converted to grasslands, which are situated as to complement existing protected areas. TCF will initiate the landowner contact with

producers interested in pursuing working grassland easements and provide to MLT viable projects to pursue. MLT will obtain conservation easements ensuring permanent protection of the grasslands with habitat management plans.

Budget Spreadsheet

Total Amount of Request: \$6,848,500

Budget and Cash Leverage

| BudgetName | LSOHC Request | Anticipated Leverage | Leverage Source | Total |
|----------------------------|---------------|----------------------|-----------------|-------------|
| Personnel | \$140,000 | \$50,000 | Private | \$190,000 |
| Contracts | \$0 | \$0 | | \$0 |
| Fee Acquisition w/ PILT | \$4,050,000 | \$100,000 | Private | \$4,150,000 |
| Fee Acquisition w/o PILT | \$0 | \$0 | | \$0 |
| Easement Acquisition | \$2,240,000 | \$0 | | \$2,240,000 |
| Easement Stewardship | \$160,000 | \$0 | | \$160,000 |
| Travel | \$10,000 | \$0 | | \$10,000 |
| Professional Services | \$175,000 | \$0 | | \$175,000 |
| Direct Support Services | \$63,500 | \$0 | | \$63,500 |
| DNR Land Acquisition Costs | \$10,000 | \$0 | | \$10,000 |
| Capital Equipment | \$0 | \$0 | | \$0 |
| Other Equipment/Tools | \$0 | \$0 | | \$0 |
| Supplies/Materials | \$0 | \$0 | | \$0 |
| DNR IDP | \$0 | \$0 | | \$0 |
| Total | \$6,848,500 | \$150,000 | | \$6,998,500 |

Personnel

| Position | FTE | Over # of years | LSOHC Request | Anticipated Leverage | Leverage Source | Total |
|---|------|-----------------|---------------|----------------------|-----------------|-----------|
| Conservation Acquisition Associate | 0.30 | 2.00 | \$50,000 | \$50,000 | Private | \$100,000 |
| Conservation Staff, project and Legal staff | 0.33 | 3.00 | \$90,000 | \$0 | | \$90,000 |
| Total | 0.63 | 5.00 | \$140,000 | \$50,000 | | \$190,000 |

Budget and Cash Leverage by Partnership

| BudgetName | Partnership | LSOHC Request | Anticipated Leverage | Leverage Source | Total |
|----------------------------|--------------|---------------|----------------------|-----------------|-------------|
| Personnel | Conserv Fund | \$50,000 | \$50,000 | Private | \$100,000 |
| Contracts | Conserv Fund | \$0 | \$0 | | \$0 |
| Fee Acquisition w/ PILT | Conserv Fund | \$4,050,000 | \$100,000 | Private | \$4,150,000 |
| Fee Acquisition w/o PILT | Conserv Fund | \$0 | \$0 | | \$0 |
| Easement Acquisition | Conserv Fund | \$0 | \$0 | | \$0 |
| Easement Stewardship | Conserv Fund | \$0 | \$0 | | \$0 |
| Travel | Conserv Fund | \$5,000 | \$0 | | \$5,000 |
| Professional Services | Conserv Fund | \$30,000 | \$0 | | \$30,000 |
| Direct Support Services | Conserv Fund | \$40,000 | \$0 | | \$40,000 |
| DNR Land Acquisition Costs | Conserv Fund | \$10,000 | \$0 | | \$10,000 |
| Capital Equipment | Conserv Fund | \$0 | \$0 | | \$0 |
| Other Equipment/Tools | Conserv Fund | \$0 | \$0 | | \$0 |
| Supplies/Materials | Conserv Fund | \$0 | \$0 | | \$0 |
| DNR IDP | Conserv Fund | \$0 | \$0 | | \$0 |
| Total | | \$4,185,000 | \$150,000 | | \$4,335,000 |

Personnel - Conserv Fund

| Position | FTE | Over # of years | LSOHC Request | Anticipated Leverage | Leverage Source | Total |
|------------------------------------|------|-----------------|---------------|----------------------|-----------------|-----------|
| Conservation Acquisition Associate | 0.30 | 2.00 | \$50,000 | \$50,000 | Private | \$100,000 |
| Total | 0.30 | 2.00 | \$50,000 | \$50,000 | | \$100,000 |

| BudgetName | Partnership | LSOHC Request | Anticipated Leverage | Leverage Source | Total |
|--------------------------|----------------------|---------------|----------------------|-----------------|-------------|
| Personnel | Minnesota Land Trust | \$90,000 | \$0 | | \$90,000 |
| Contracts | Minnesota Land Trust | \$0 | \$0 | | \$0 |
| Fee Acquisition w/ PILT | Minnesota Land Trust | \$0 | \$0 | | \$0 |
| Fee Acquisition w/o PILT | Minnesota Land Trust | \$0 | \$0 | | \$0 |
| Easement Acquisition | Minnesota Land Trust | \$2,240,000 | \$0 | | \$2,240,000 |

| | | | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------|-------------|-----|-------------|
| Easement Stewardship | Minnesota Land Trust | \$160,000 | \$0 | \$160,000 |
| Travel | Minnesota Land Trust | \$5,000 | \$0 | \$5,000 |
| Professional Services | Minnesota Land Trust | \$145,000 | \$0 | \$145,000 |
| Direct Support Services | Minnesota Land Trust | \$23,500 | \$0 | \$23,500 |
| DNR Land Acquisition Costs | Minnesota Land Trust | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| Capital Equipment | Minnesota Land Trust | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| Other Equipment/Tools | Minnesota Land Trust | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| Supplies/Materials | Minnesota Land Trust | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| DNR IDP | Minnesota Land Trust | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| Total | - | \$2,663,500 | \$0 | \$2,663,500 |

Personnel - Minnesota Land Trust

| Position | FTE | Over # of years | LSOHC Request | Anticipated Leverage | Leverage Source | Total |
|---|------|-----------------|---------------|----------------------|-----------------|----------|
| Conservation Staff, project and Legal staff | 0.33 | 3.00 | \$90,000 | \$0 | | \$90,000 |
| Total | 0.33 | 3.00 | \$90,000 | \$0 | - | \$90,000 |

Amount of Request: \$6,848,500

Amount of Leverage: \$150,000

Leverage as a percent of the Request: 2.19%

Output Tables

Table 1a. Acres by Resource Type

| Type | Wetlands | Prairies | Forest | Habitats | Total |
|--|----------|----------|--------|----------|-------|
| Restore | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability | 0 | 1,090 | 0 | 0 | 1,090 |
| Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Protect in Easement | 0 | 800 | 0 | 0 | 800 |
| Enhance | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 0 | 1,890 | 0 | 0 | 1,890 |

Table 1b. How many of these Prairie acres are Native Prairie?

| Type | Native Prairie |
|--|----------------|
| Restore | 0 |
| Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability | 400 |
| Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability | 0 |
| Protect in Easement | 50 |
| Enhance | 0 |
| Total | 450 |

Table 2. Total Requested Funding by Resource Type

| Type | Wetlands | Prairies | Forest | Habitats | Total |
|--|----------|-------------|--------|----------|-------------|
| Restore | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability | \$0 | \$4,185,000 | \$0 | \$0 | \$4,185,000 |
| Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| Protect in Easement | \$0 | \$2,663,500 | \$0 | \$0 | \$2,663,500 |
| Enhance | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| Total | \$0 | \$6,848,500 | \$0 | \$0 | \$6,848,500 |

Table 3. Acres within each Ecological Section

| Type | Metro/Urban | Forest/Prairie | SEForest | Prairie | Northern Forest | Total |
|--|-------------|----------------|----------|---------|-----------------|-------|
| Restore | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1,090 | 0 | 1,090 |
| Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Protect in Easement | 0 | 0 | 0 | 800 | 0 | 800 |
| Enhance | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1,890 | 0 | 1,890 |

Table 4. Total Requested Funding within each Ecological Section

| Type | Metro/Urban | Forest/Prairie | SEForest | Prairie | Northern Forest | Total |
|--|-------------|----------------|----------|-------------|-----------------|-------------|
| Restore | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$4,185,000 | \$0 | \$4,185,000 |
| Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| Protect in Easement | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$2,663,500 | \$0 | \$2,663,500 |
| Enhance | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| Total | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$6,848,500 | \$0 | \$6,848,500 |

Table 5. Average Cost per Acre by Resource Type

| Type | Wetlands | Prairies | Forest | Habitats |
|--|----------|----------|--------|----------|
| Restore | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability | \$0 | \$3,839 | \$0 | \$0 |
| Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| Protect in Easement | \$0 | \$3,329 | \$0 | \$0 |
| Enhance | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |

Table 6. Average Cost per Acre by Ecological Section

| Type | Metro/Urban | Forest/Prairie | SE Forest | Prairie | Northern Forest |
|--|-------------|----------------|-----------|---------|-----------------|
| Restore | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$3,839 | \$0 |
| Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| Protect in Easement | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$3,329 | \$0 |
| Enhance | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |

Target Lake/Stream/River Feet or Miles

Parcel List

Section 1 - Restore / Enhance Parcel List

No parcels with an activity type restore or enhance.

Section 2 - Protect Parcel List

Big Stone

| Name | TRDS | Acres | Est Cost | Existing Protection? | Hunting? | Fishing? |
|--------------------|----------|-------|-----------|----------------------|----------|----------|
| Easement Parcel #7 | 12245209 | 80 | \$224,000 | No | No | No |

Lac qui Parle

| Name | TRDS | Acres | Est Cost | Existing Protection? | Hunting? | Fishing? |
|--------------------|----------|-------|-----------|----------------------|----------|----------------|
| Easement Parcel #6 | 11746235 | 162 | \$453,600 | No | No | Not Applicable |

Pennington

| Name | TRDS | Acres | Est Cost | Existing Protection? | Hunting? | Fishing? |
|---------------|----------|-------|-------------|----------------------|----------|----------|
| Fee Parcel #1 | 15245206 | 330 | \$1,500,000 | No | Full | Full |
| Fee Parcel #2 | 15245204 | 760 | \$825,000 | No | Full | Full |

Pope

| Name | TRDS | Acres | Est Cost | Existing Protection? | Hunting? | Fishing? |
|--------------------|----------|-------|-----------|----------------------|----------|----------------|
| Easement Parcel #1 | 12337231 | 80 | \$224,000 | No | No | Not Applicable |
| Easement Parcel #2 | 12337226 | 40 | \$112,000 | No | No | Not Applicable |
| Easement Parcel #3 | 12439223 | 80 | \$224,000 | No | No | Not Applicable |

Renville

| Name | TRDS | Acres | Est Cost | Existing Protection? | Hunting? | Fishing? |
|--------------------|----------|-------|-------------|----------------------|----------|----------------|
| Easement Parcel #4 | 11437214 | 400 | \$1,120,000 | No | No | Not Applicable |
| Easement Parcel #5 | 11437208 | 147 | \$411,600 | No | No | Not Applicable |

Stevens

| Name | TRDS | Acres | Est Cost | Existing Protection? | Hunting? | Fishing? |
|--------------------|----------|-------|----------|----------------------|----------|----------------|
| Easement Parcel #8 | 12643232 | 0 | \$0 | No | No | Not Applicable |

Swift

| Name | TRDS | Acres | Est Cost | Existing Protection? | Hunting? | Fishing? |
|--------------------|----------|-------|----------|----------------------|----------|----------------|
| Easement Parcel #9 | 12237207 | 0 | \$0 | No | No | Not Applicable |

Section 2a - Protect Parcel with Bldgs

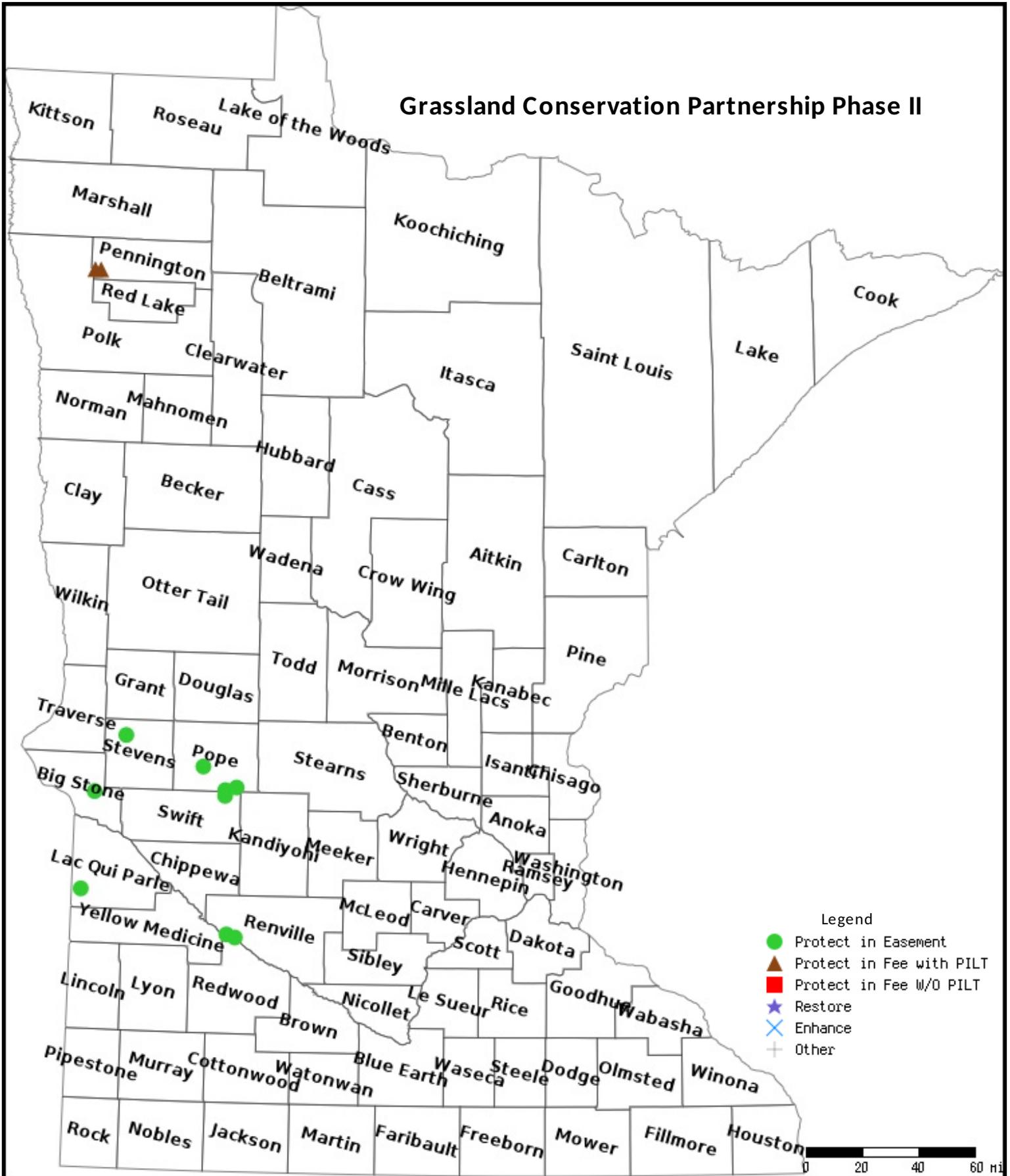
No parcels with an activity type protect and has buildings.

Section 3 - Other Parcel Activity

No parcels with an other activity type.

Parcel Map

Grassland Conservation Partnership Phase II



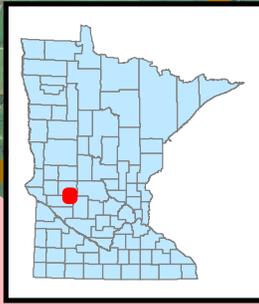
Data Generated From Parcel List

Grassland Conservation Partnership (Phase II) -Accomplishments of Phase I-

MLT Conservation Easement secured in Phase I, demonstrating how protecting private grasslands contributes to a larger habitat complex

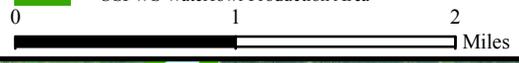
Camp Lake

Simon Lake
Shallow Lakes Management Program



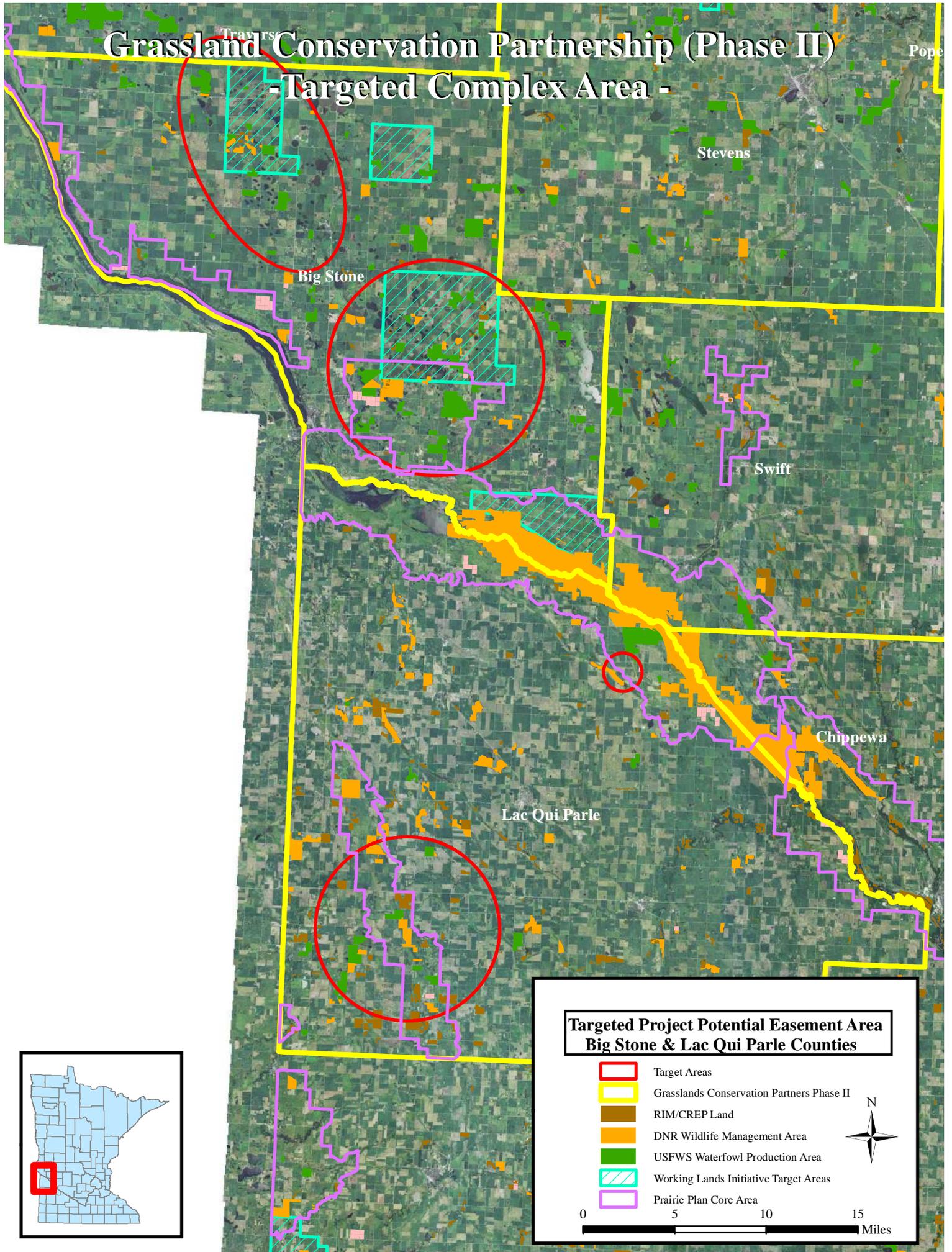
Completed Project Easement Protected Public/Private Lands Mosaic

- Prairie Plan Core Area Boundary
- TCF acquisition/PF restoration/USFWS final ownership
- DNR Designated Shallow Lake
- Lake
- Wetland
- MLT Conservation Easement (284 acres)
- RIM/CREP Land
- DNR Wildlife Management Area
- USFWS Waterfowl Production Area

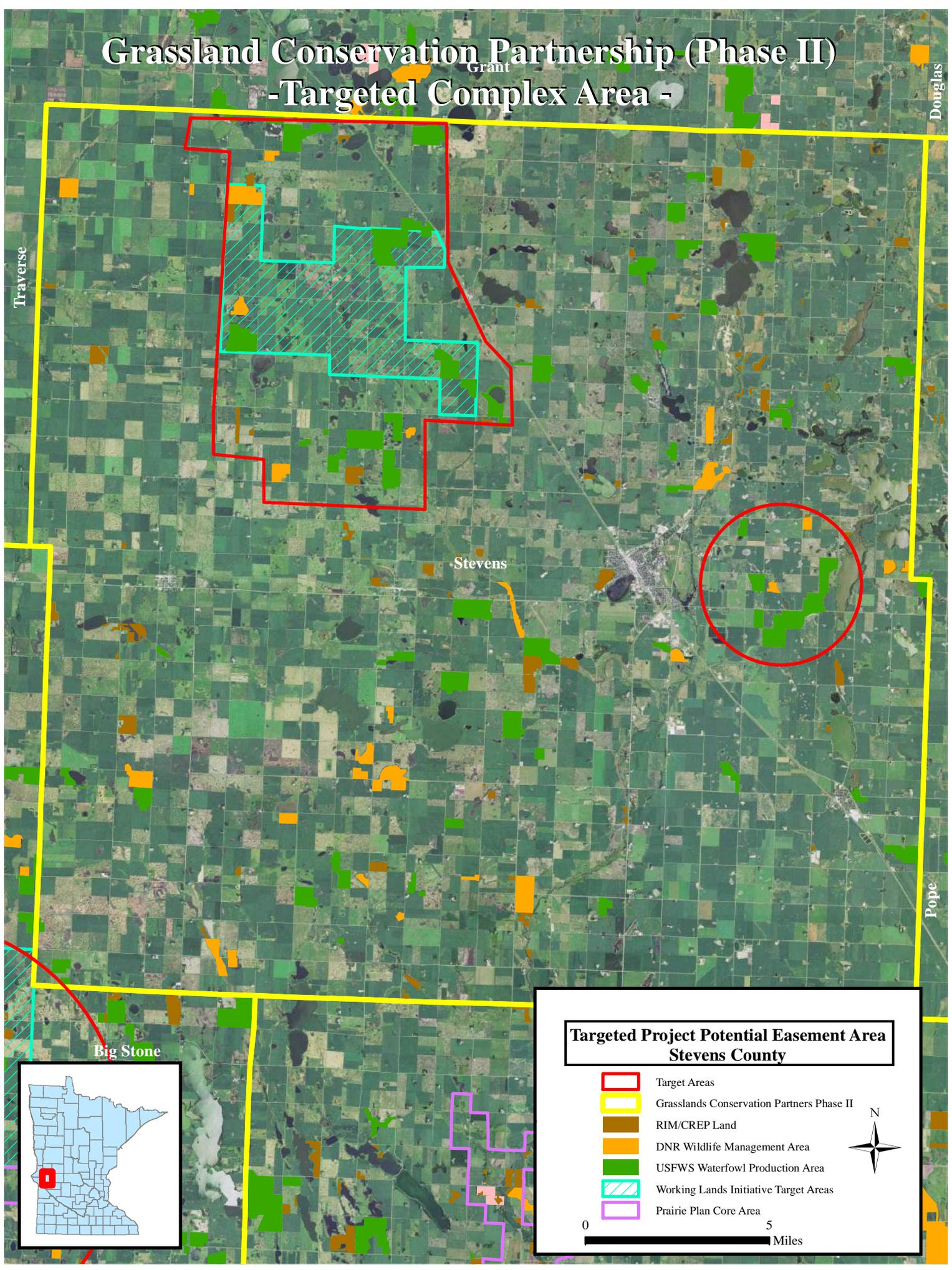


Grassland Conservation Partnership (Phase II)

- Targeted Complex Area -

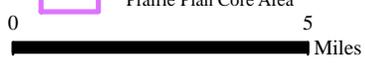


Grassland Conservation Partnership (Phase II) - Targeted Complex Area -



Targeted Project Potential Easement Area Stevens County

- Target Areas
- Grasslands Conservation Partners Phase II
- RIM/CREP Land
- DNR Wildlife Management Area
- USFWS Waterfowl Production Area
- Working Lands Initiative Target Areas
- Prairie Plan Core Area



Big Stone

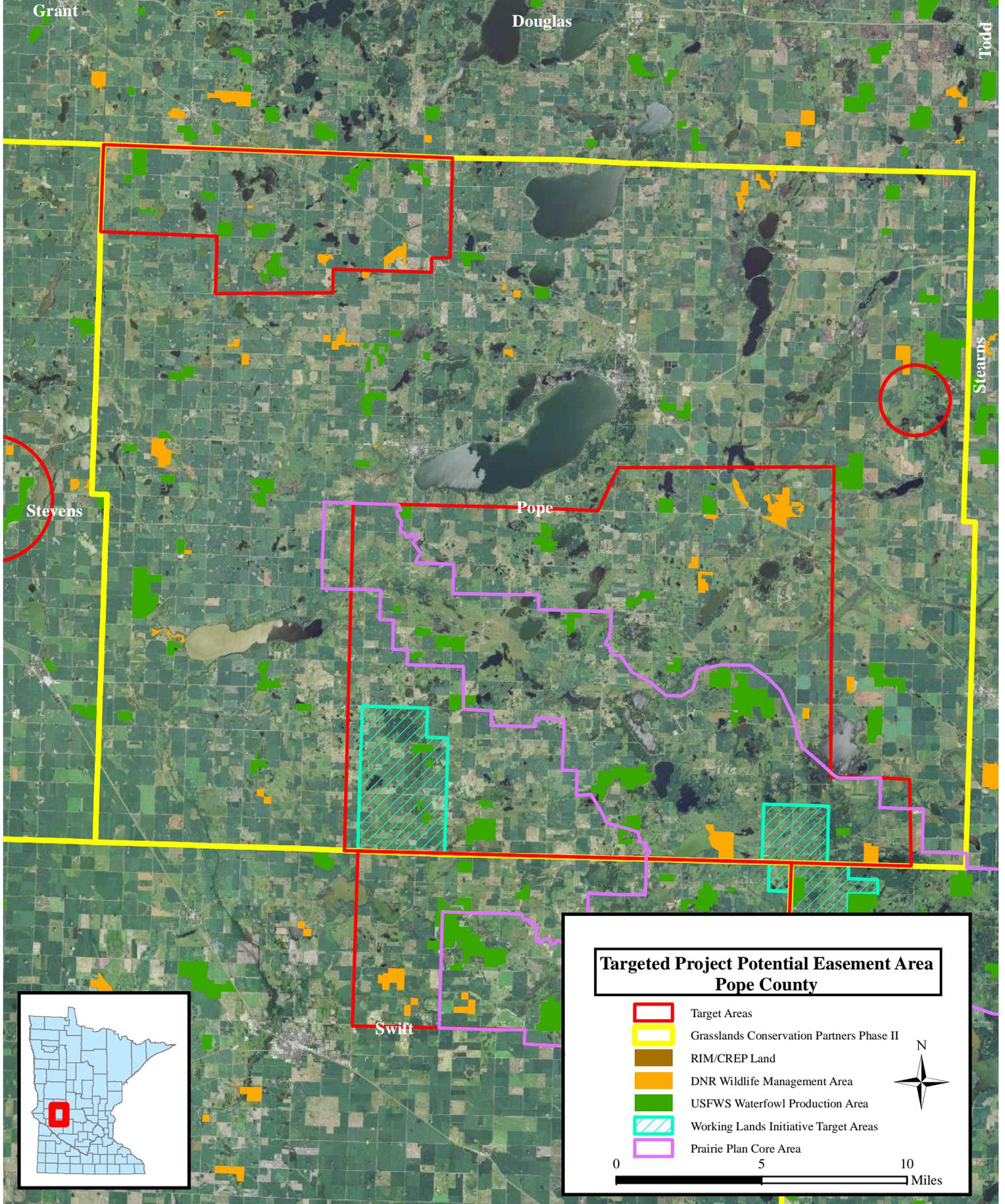
Stevens

Traverse

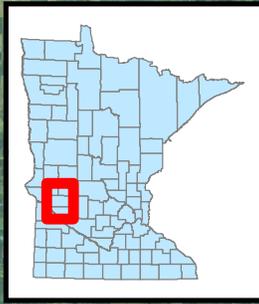
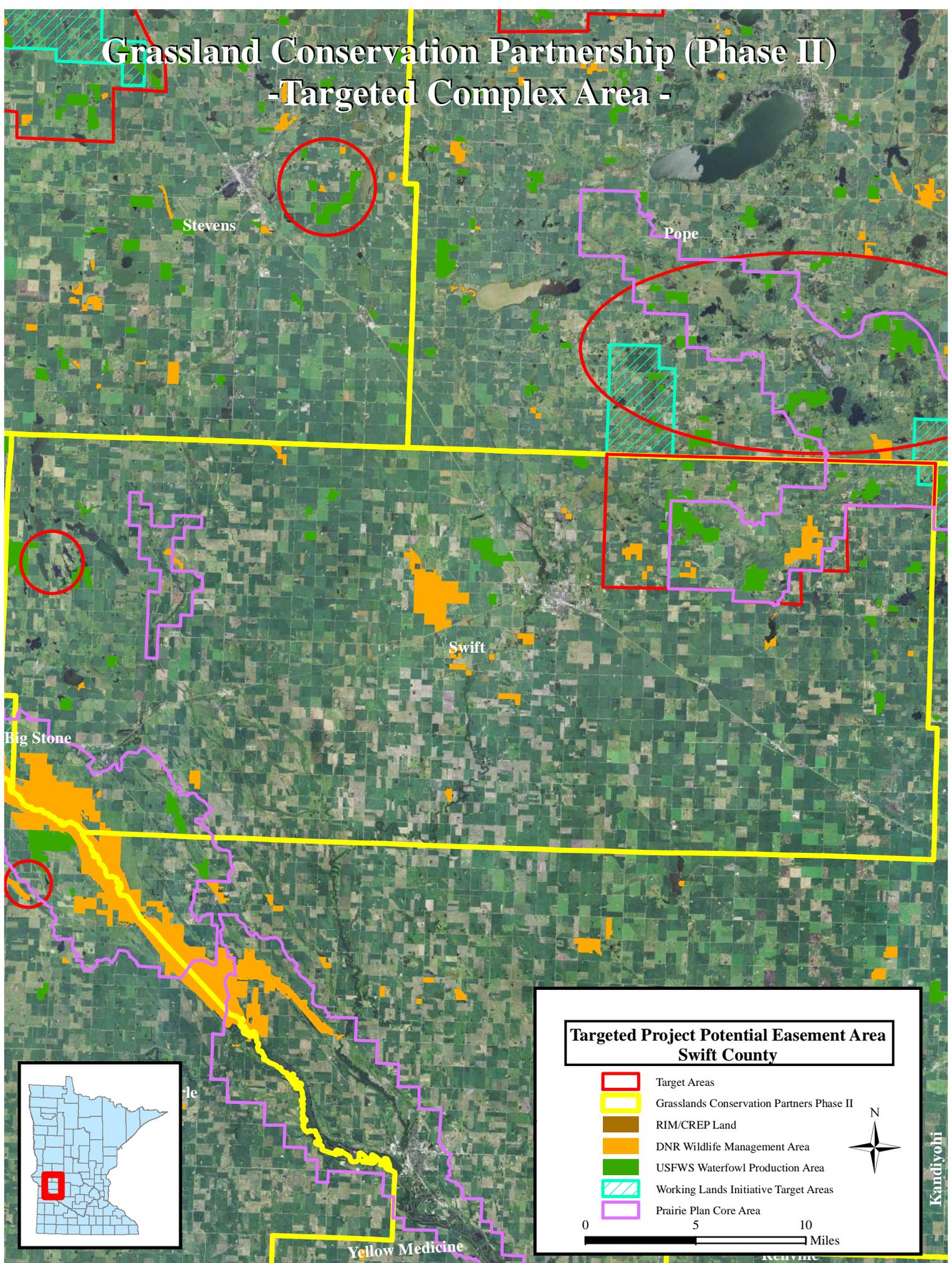
Douglas

Pope

Grassland Conservation Partnership (Phase II) - Targeted Complex Area -

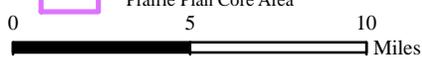


Grassland Conservation Partnership (Phase II) - Targeted Complex Area -



Targeted Project Potential Easement Area Swift County

- Target Areas
- Grasslands Conservation Partners Phase II
- RIM/CREP Land
- DNR Wildlife Management Area
- USFWS Waterfowl Production Area
- Working Lands Initiative Target Areas
- Prairie Plan Core Area



Kandiyohi

Grassland Conservation Partnership (Phase II) - Targeted Complex Area -

