

Biological Report Outline for Easements, Leases and Licenses on Lands with USFWS Funding Interest

DNR Lands and Minerals Tracking Number: ECOU101257

Name & Number of State Unit: String Lakes Management Area (WMA).

1. **Project location (including legal description):**

License Area: A strip of land 100 ft. wide and approximately 1,600 ft. long, impacting approximately 3.61 acres. All located in the SENW (Gov. Lot 4) of Section 29, Township 105, Range 36 in Cottonwood County, Minnesota. See attached map.

2. **Description of project:** As it affects the WMA this would grant the Joint Drainage Authority of Cottonwood County a permanent easement to maintain the realigned public drainage tile line across the WMA.

3. **Wildlife or fish habitat description:**

Cover types on project areas	Before Acres	After Acres
Planted Local Ecotype Native Prairie and Native Prairie	3.61	
Restored Local Ecotype Native Prairie, Native Prairie and Wetland		3.61

4. **Wildlife/fish use and values (before and after) including any impacts to any state or federal Threatened, Endangered, Proposed, Candidate or Special Concern species be impacted? If they may be impacted please describe how.**

Current use by wildlife is primarily nesting and roosting habitat. The reroute of the new non perforated county drainage system will restore their hydrology and wetland vegetation. Care has been taken to avoid T&E species on the existing native prairie. The existing native prairie (south 300 feet of reroute) was previously disturbed when the original tile line was installed and has been subject to maintenance.

5. **Describe short-term vs. long-term benefits of project:**

Short term impacts from excavation through the planted and native prairie are expected. Windom Wildlife staff will reestablish utilizing local harvest/local ecotype seed. Long term benefits are numerous from the restoration of the wetland.

6. Describe potential short and long-term adverse effects of project:

No known short or long term adverse impacts. Consideration could be given to maintenance of the new drainage tile when needed.

7. Describe any impacts to wetlands or floodplains:

Full hydraulic and vegetative restoration of previously drained wetland.

8. Are there alternate ways of accomplishing this project? Do you feel these alternatives are viable? Explain.

Non perforated tile could be used in the current location of the existing perforated drainage tile. This alternative would make maintenance and inspection of the rerouted tile difficult and impractical.

9. Compensation or mitigative measures requested:

None

10. What requirements would you want to see on the easement, lease, or license? (e.g. type of equipment, reseeding, time of year, etc.). It's not necessary to repeat requirements in standard DNR terms and conditions. – Separately communicate these requirements to LAM through regional review process.

None

Review completed by:

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