



# Grasslands for the Future

## Grasslands Project Goals and Timeline

- Permanently protect 500 to 600 acres of critical grasslands by June 2016
- Collaborate with multiple partners to implement a cost-effective lands program at a large scale
- Provide permanent habitat protection in private, working landscapes

## An ocean of grass

Imagine waves of rolling grass, covering an expanse as far as the eye can see. Prior to European settlement, an estimated 18 million acres of prairie covered Minnesota, ranging from the northwest tip to the southeast blufflands.

Some of these native grasses can grow to over 6 feet tall. Along with the indigenous flowers that grow alongside them, these grasses provide food and habitat for a diverse and large group of wildlife.



## Some things should be forever

Grasslands for the Future will pilot new and innovative approaches to securing permanent conservation easements to protect large areas of critical grassland habitat.

Similar to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources' conservation grazing initiative, this program will provide wildlife benefits while aiding livestock producers in maintaining their herds.

Working with private landowners, the Minnesota Land Trust provides individual, customized conservation solutions which assure the protection of habitat, while also aiding to make management of grasslands profitable, and therefore, sustainable.

With your help the Minnesota Land Trust can preserve these vital areas of wildlife habitat for future generations.



Don Olson

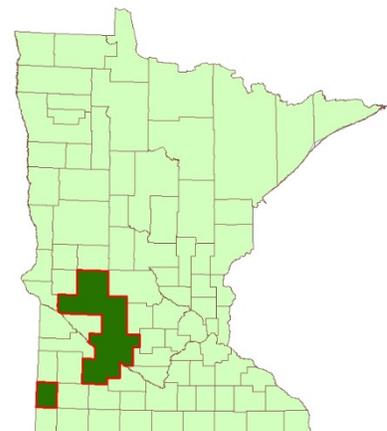
## Protecting our most threatened ecosystem

With the rapid conversion to agriculture to feed a growing nation and world, much of the original prairie landscape was lost as more and more land was turned over to cropland.

Today, less than 2% of Minnesota's native prairie remains. Of that remainder, only one-third is permanently protected.

To compound the problem, one million acres of grassland enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program will expire in the next five years. These lands could once again be lost to croplands, eliminating the wildlife habitat that it provides and its associated ecosystems benefits.

**For more information contact Pat Anderson, Program Manager, at 651-917-6288, or [panderson@mnland.org](mailto:panderson@mnland.org)**



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