

Project Highlight – SD State Wildlife Grant

Project Type Habitat inventory

Title Testing the ecosystem diversity approach of South Dakota’s Wildlife Action Plan

In a nutshell This project demonstrated how the ecosystem diversity approach of South Dakota’s Wildlife Action Plan can be implemented at a regional scale. The selected area was a portion of the Missouri Coteau in northcentral South Dakota, part of the prairie pothole region that is commonly called North America’s “duck factory.” This landscape assessment identified a high percentage of native ecosystems that are now nearly absent or much reduced in function and quality.

Relevant Species of Greatest Conservation Need

- Dakota skipper (*Hesperia dacotae*)
- regal fritillary (*Speyeria idalia*)
- Ottoe skipper (*Hesperia ottoe*)
- Baird’s sparrow (*Ammodramus bairdii*)
- Sprague’s pipit (*Anthus spragueii*)
- Chestnut-collared longspur (*Calcarius ornatus*)
- Franklin’s ground squirrel (*Spermophilus franklinii*)
- Richardson’s ground squirrel (*Spermophilus richardsonii*)

Relevant Habitats grass/shrub ecosystems

Cooperators Ecosystem Management Research Institute (EMRI); Dr. Jon Haufler, Executive Director and principle investigator

Purpose

- develop a prototype process for focusing the scope of the South Dakota Wildlife Action Plan to address discrete local-level planning areas using a selected portion of the Missouri Coteau Planning Area
- identify and explore additional opportunities to assess South Dakota’s ecosystem diversity at a local level

Timeframe 2006 - 2009

Location Missouri Coteau region of northcentral South Dakota



Summary or Important Findings

- A high percentage of native terrestrial ecosystems in the study area are nearly absent; others are significantly reduced in function and quality.
- Impacts to terrestrial ecosystems have resulted from land-use conversions; many untilled ecological sites also exhibited high levels of introduced species.
- Meeting the 10% restoration goal for native ecosystem diversity will require cooperation of both private and public landowners in the region.

Best contact person Jon Haufler, EMRI

More Information

Project summary: Testing the ecosystem diversity approach of South Dakota's Wildlife Action Plan; T-31-R-1; Jon Haufler.