

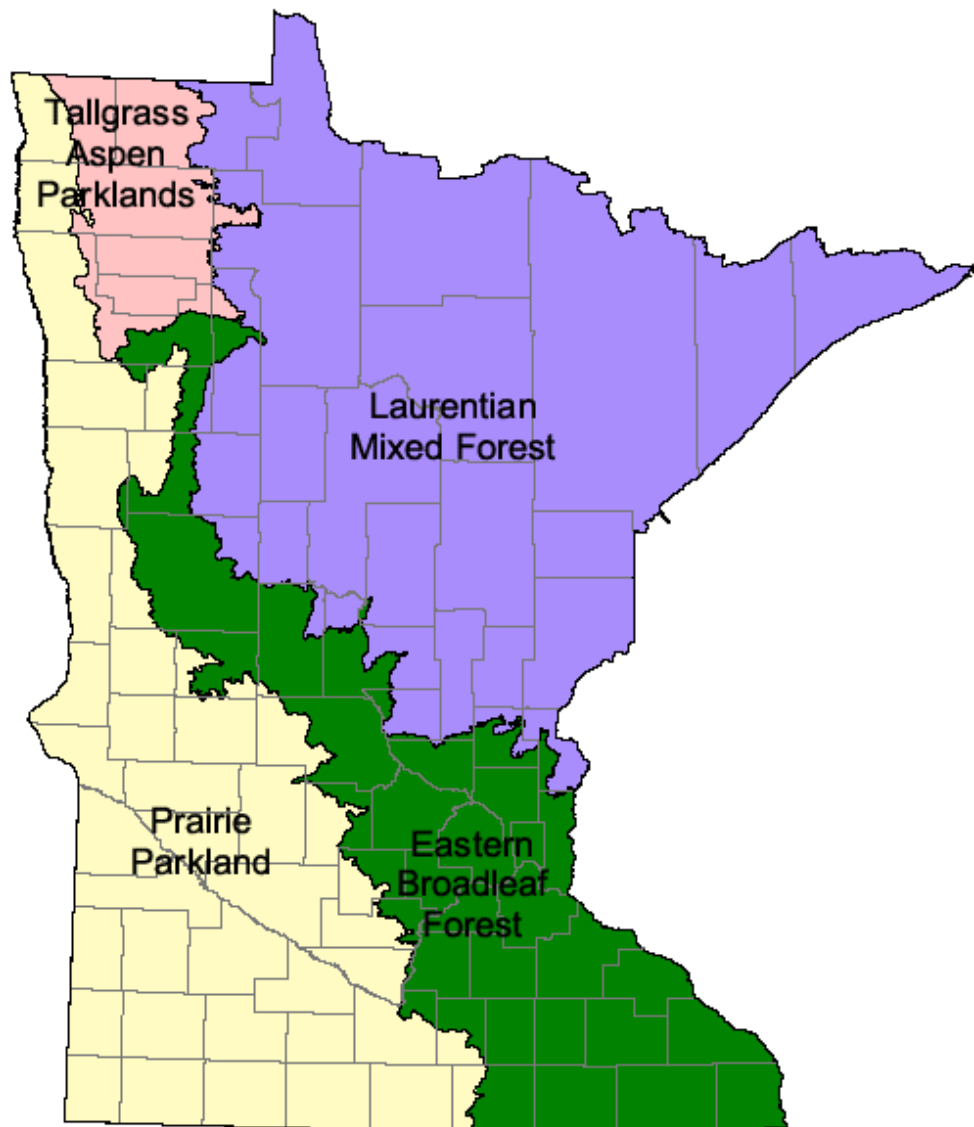


Fire, Smoke, and High-speed Traffic

Ken Graeve | Prescribed Fire Program Coordinator

Office of Environmental Stewardship

February 20, 2019



MnDOT Roadside Prescribed Fire

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 Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
 600 Lakeside Road
 Grand Rapids, MN 55744
 (218) 327-4449 ext 239

September, 2000



Division of Forestry
 Ecological and
 Classification Program



Roadside Prairie Remnants



Wetland Mitigations



Planted Roadsides



Focus on the Easy Sites



Established Standards



Equipment



Equipment



Planning



Mn/DOT Prescribed Fire Plan

Hwy 371 and Brainerd Rest Area
District 3 Baxter and Little Falls Subareas

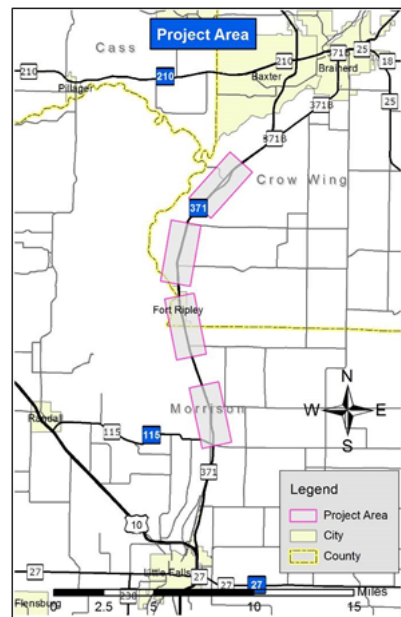
Project Area Description

Fuel Model	Vegetation	Size of Burn (acres)	Fuel Loading (estimate)
Gr 2	Brome-dominated remnant or planted prairie	90	1 ton/acre
Gr 4	Warm-season grass-dominated prairie or sedge-dominated wetland	14	2 tons/acre
Gr 6	Reed canary grass or cattails	5	3.5 tons/acre

Project area:

Scattered sites along Hwy 371 between Little Falls and Brainerd, including parts of the Brainerd Lakes Travel Information Center. Roadside segments to be burned are highlighted in yellow, and rest area burn units are outline in yellow. Much of this area was planted with prairie grasses and forbs, and some areas appear to have naturally occurring prairie species. This project will focus on burning areas where native vegetation may still be present and where implementing prescribed fire would be of moderate or low complexity. The cumulative size of burn units in this project area is 109 acres. 31 of these acres are at the rest area, 78 acres are along the roadside. Highway 371 is a four lane divided highway with a speed limit of 65 and an average annual daily traffic volume of around 12,000. The intent is to burn the entire project on a 3-6 year rotation by burning a few miles per day, with one or two burn days per season. A two- to four-mile burn would amount to about 15 to 30 acres.

- Staging area:
 - Rest Area parking lot
 - Various local cross-roads along 371
- Water can be refilled at
 - Baxter Truck Station: Hydrant, get wrench from Bridge Crew Rick Pekar 218-232-6707
 - Little Falls Truck Station: city hydrant, check with Todd Fussy
 - Rest Area: Hose bib on west side of building—ask **greenview** staff for key and hose
- Mower at rest area is off limits—bring a tractor mower for breaks



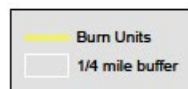
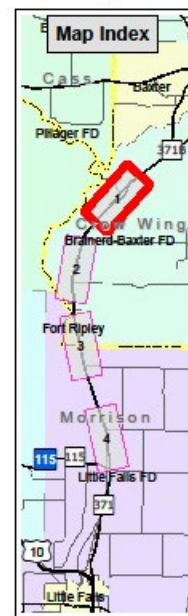
Vegetation Management Goal: maintain native grasses and forbs, out-compete invasive species, and control brush. Fire is an important management tool because the native grasses and forbs on these roadsides represent fire-tolerant and/or fire-dependent plant communities. Fire has been proven to be effective in the control of cool season native grasses, improving the vigor of native grasses and forbs, controlling brush, and in improving the ability of native grasses and forbs to compete with invasive species.

Topography is typical roadside with in-slope, ditch bottom, and back-slope. Surrounding terrain includes flat areas of Mississippi River floodplain and gently rolling topography with scattered wetlands and tributaries.

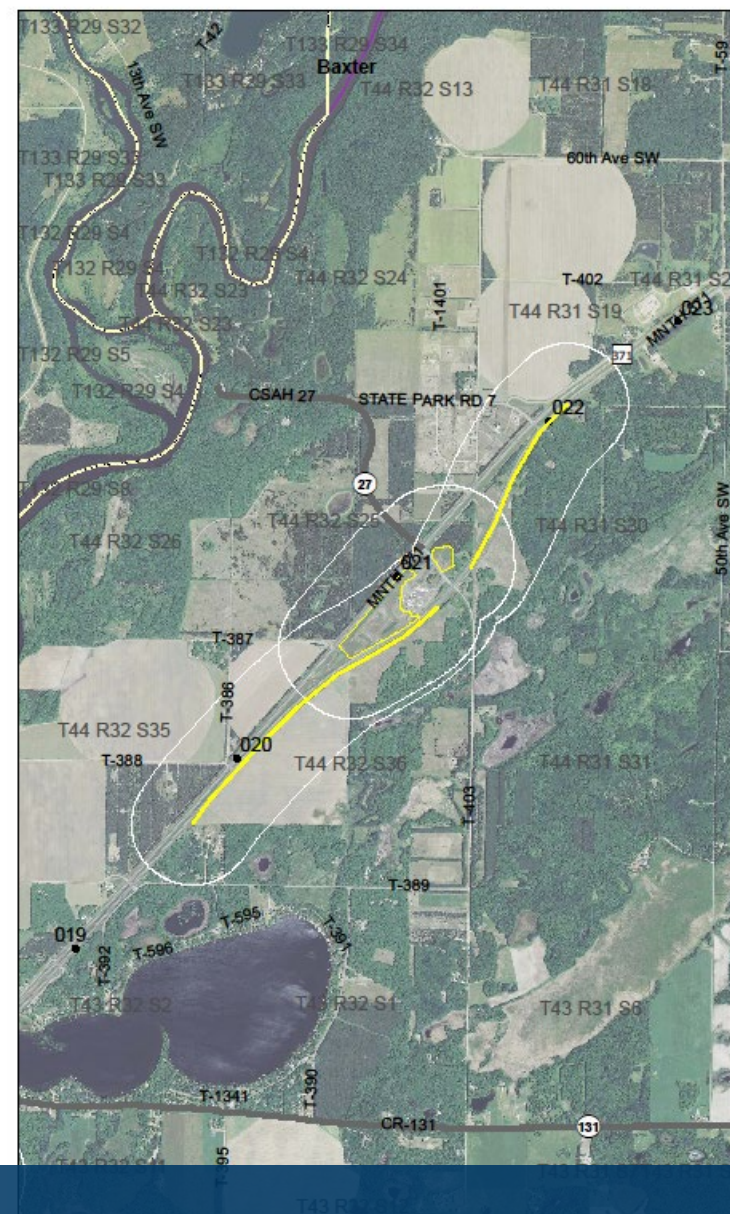
Fuels are primarily mixed height grasses and forbs, with some brushy areas. The predominant vegetation on these roadsides is a mix of smooth brome and scattered prairie grasses and forbs. Upland **backslopes** and **inslopes** contain dry to mesic prairie grasses and forbs, smooth brome and Kentucky bluegrass, and some brush. Wet ditches contain native grasses, sedges and forbs, willows and dogwoods, reed canary grass, cattails, or various combinations of

Hwy 371 & Brainerd Rest Area Prescribed Fire

Project Area
Map 1 of 4



Created April 2015
2013 imagery
Scale: 0 500,000 2,000 Feet



Planning



Traffic Control



Traffic Control



Traffic Control



Traffic Control



Coordination



Coordination



Messaging



How did we get here?



Obstacles



Solutions



Accomplishments



Goals

Thank you!

Ken Graeve

kenneth.graeve@state.mn.us

651-366-3613