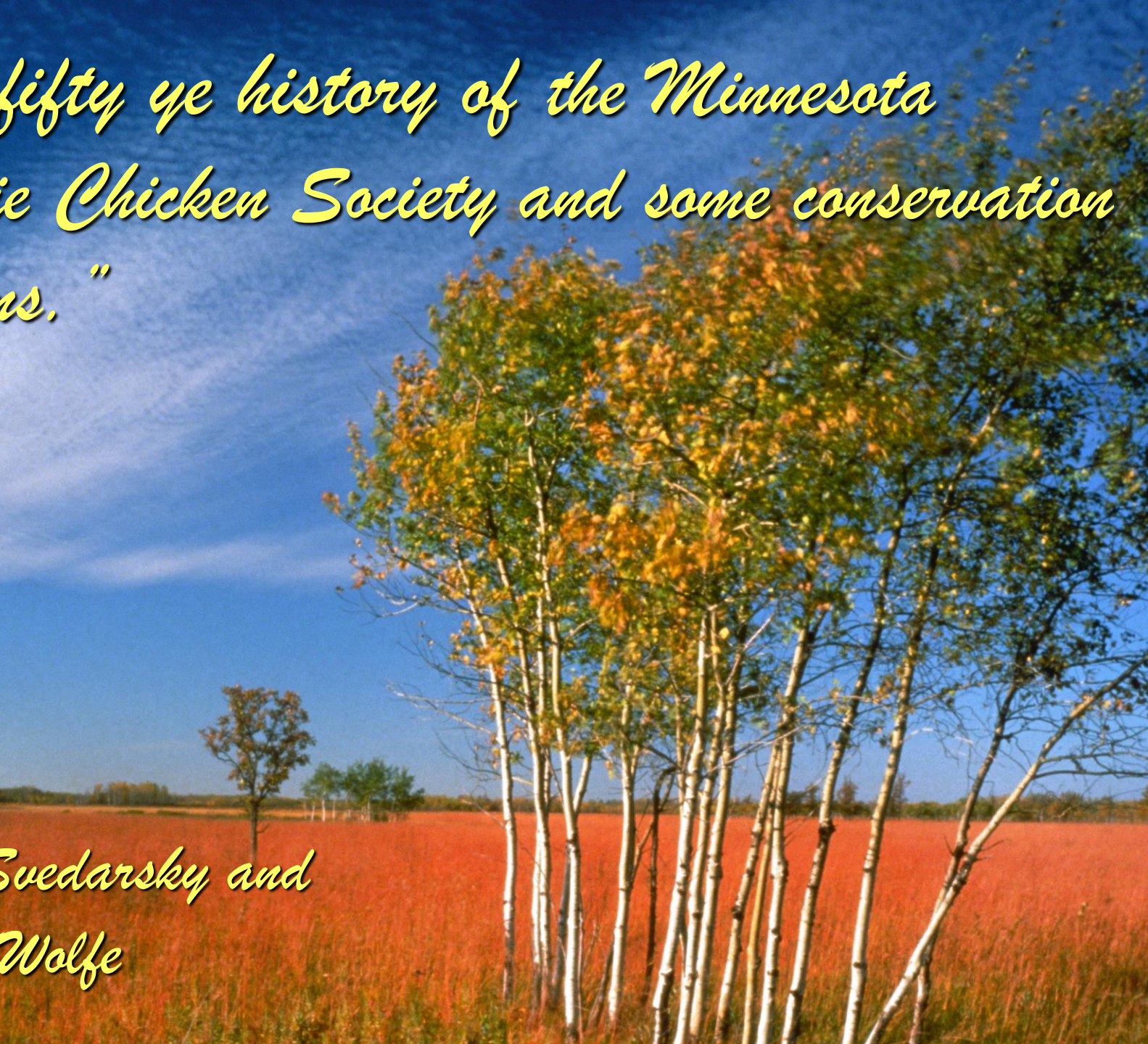
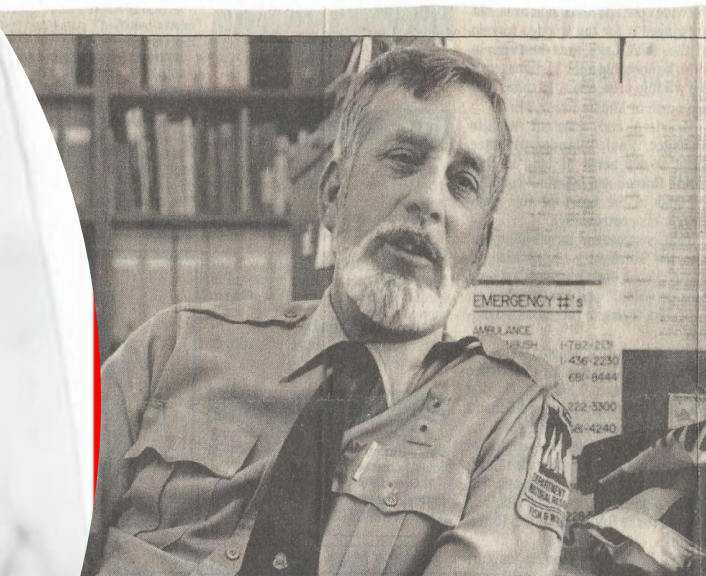


*"The fifty ye history of the Minnesota
Prairie Chicken Society and some conservation
concerns."*



*Dan Svedarsky and
Terry Wolfe*





John Stennes, staff photographer
 s, DNR Thief Lake area wildlife Minnesota Fish and Wildlife Employees
 recently was honored by the Association.

DNR chief prefers woods to his office

By Ann Bailey
 Herald Staff Writer

THIEF LAKE WILDLIFE REFUGE, Minn. — Jerry Maertens can swivel his chair away from mounds of paperwork and gaze out a window that frames poplars and pines rising out of knee-deep snow.

The DNR Thief Lake area wildlife manager, recently honored by the Minnesota Fish and Wildlife Employees Association, readily volunteers that, given the choice, he'd spend more time in the world outside of his window and less time tied to his desk.

The association honored Maertens — one man stuck in the middle of the great Grygla, Minn., elk controversy — for his contributions to wildlife during the 13 years he's managed the area.

He's spent much more time than he

likes pushing a pencil during those 13 years, a job demand he would trade for tagging birds at a moment's notice.

"We end up with, for about every hour of field work, two hours of paper work," said Maertens, a tall, trim man with a neatly clipped white beard.

"Almost all of the wildlife people are snowed with paper work."

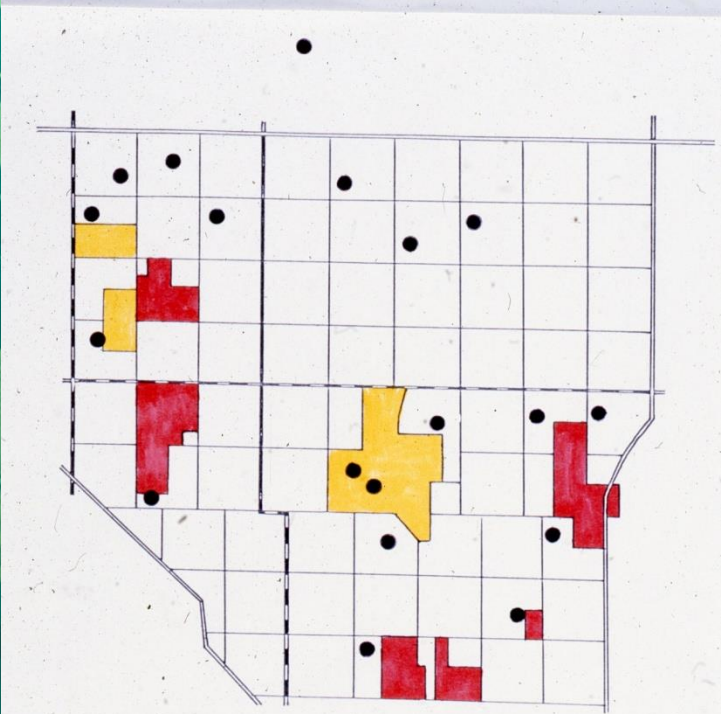
Maertens, 50, tries to compensate for the time spent working indoors by heading outdoors, especially in the spring when the birds return. He said his wife, Shirley, and daughters, Kim, Michele and Lisa, share his love for the outdoors.

"I think it's really nice to see the birds come back," he said. "We had our first geese back Thursday"

■ DNR: See Page 2B

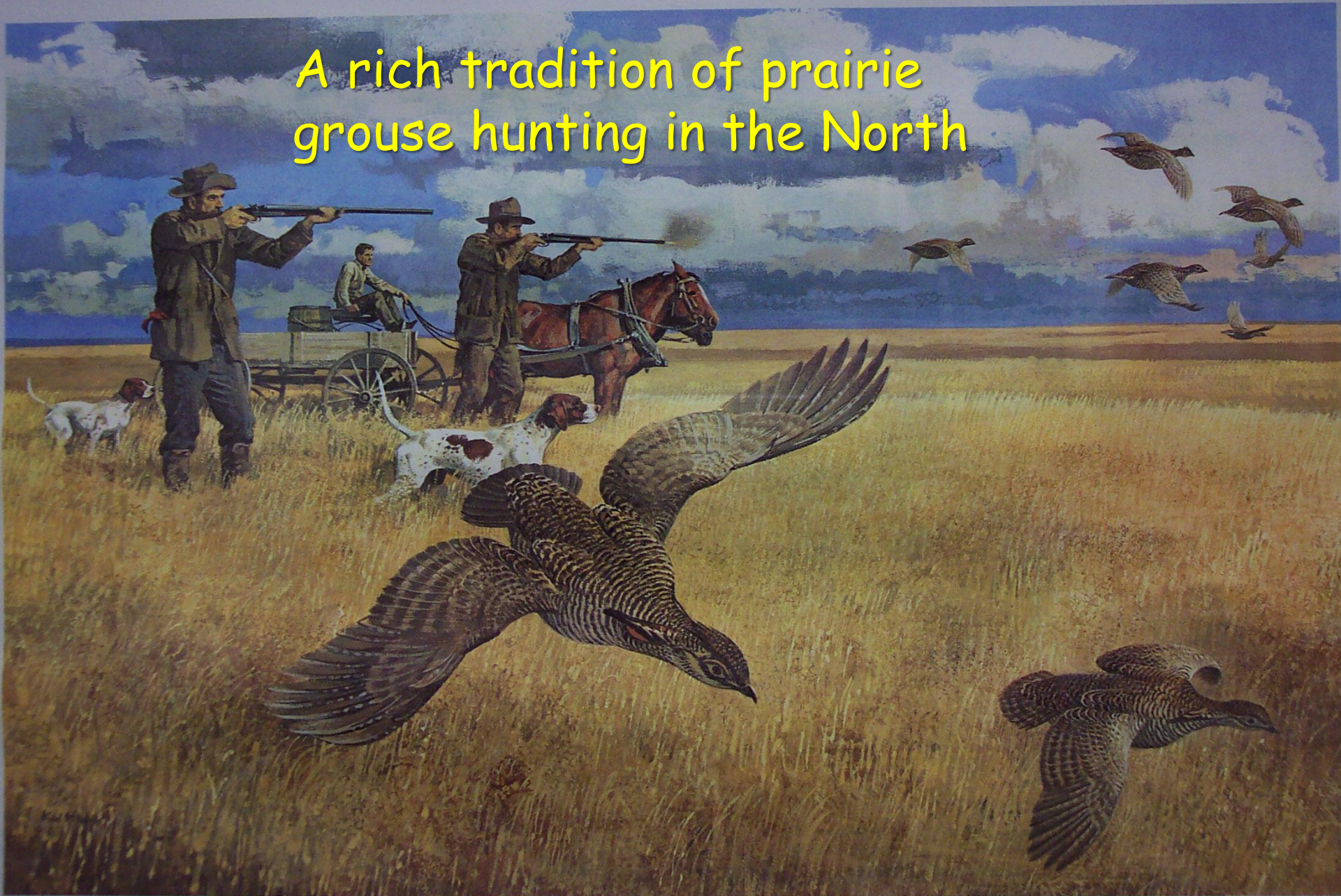
A tribute to Jerry Maertens and other managers who, got 'er done!





DISTRIBUTION OF BOOMING GROUNDS AND SANCTUARIES
IN KERTSONVILLE STUDY AREA, 1980

A rich tradition of prairie grouse hunting in the North





I ran across an old photo in a book "Side Trips, The photography of Sumner W. Matteson 1898-1908". It is of Prairie Chicken hunters in Polk Co. 1905. The fella lying on the ground is identified as J.W. Stairs of Crookston, "*a one-legged international champion wing shot*".
Erik Fritzell



ie chickens in Polk County, Minnesota, 1905.



"In Harry Stairs backyard and the pup that died in October"

*THE
PRAIRIE CHICKEN
IN
MINNESOTA*

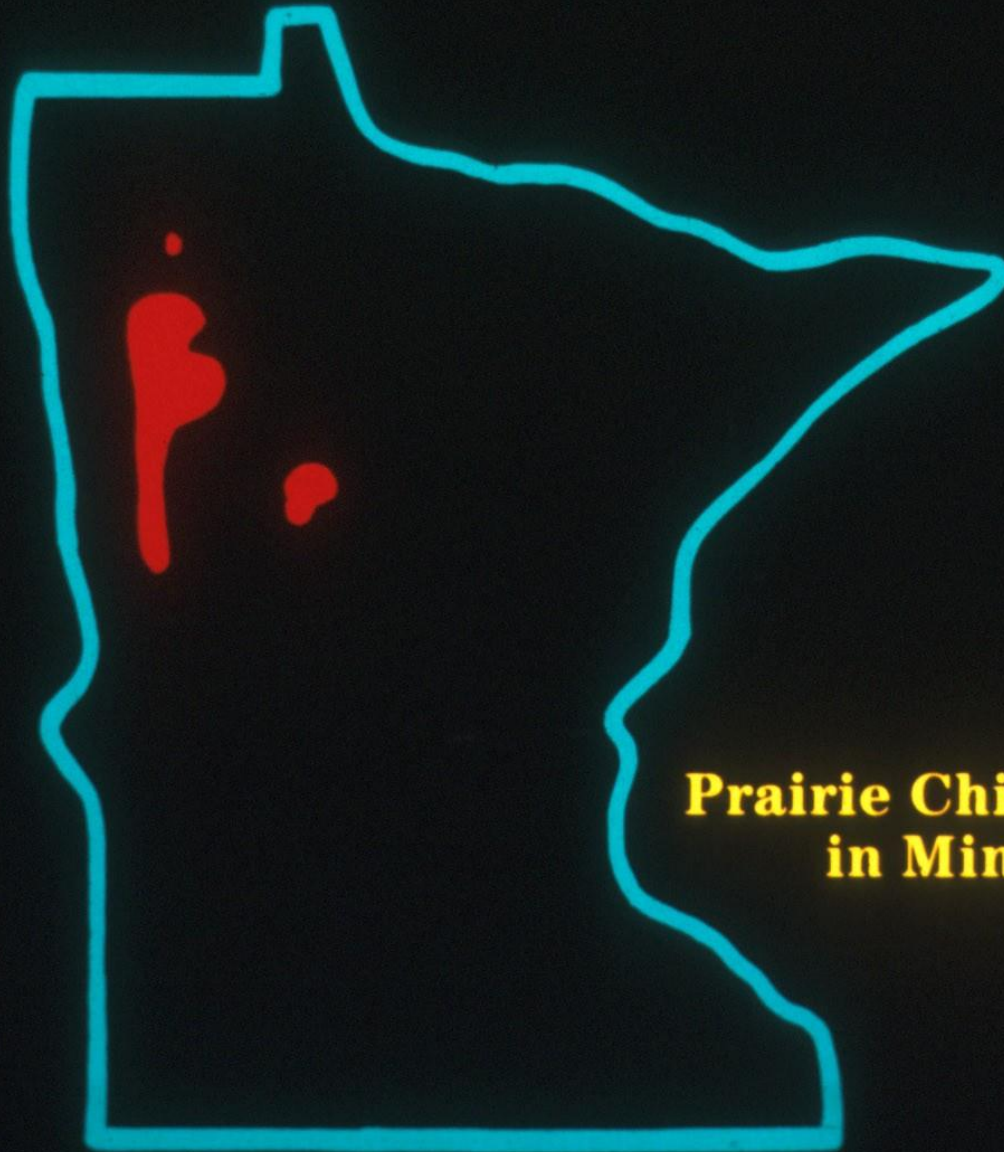


*CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS
APRIL 28, 1973*

*UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
CROOKSTON, MINNESOTA*

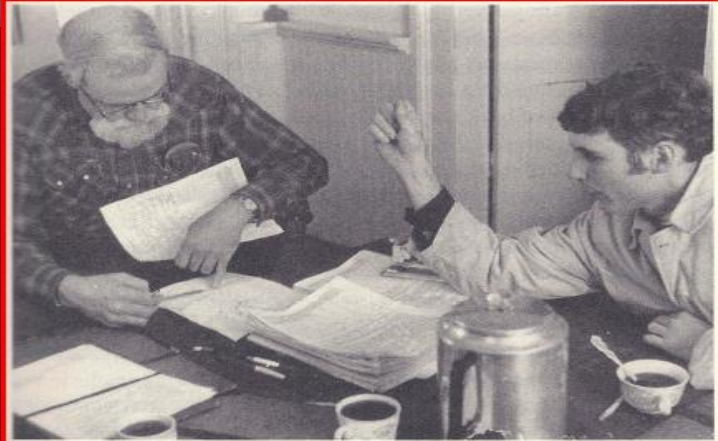
**Prairie Chicken
Range Contract**





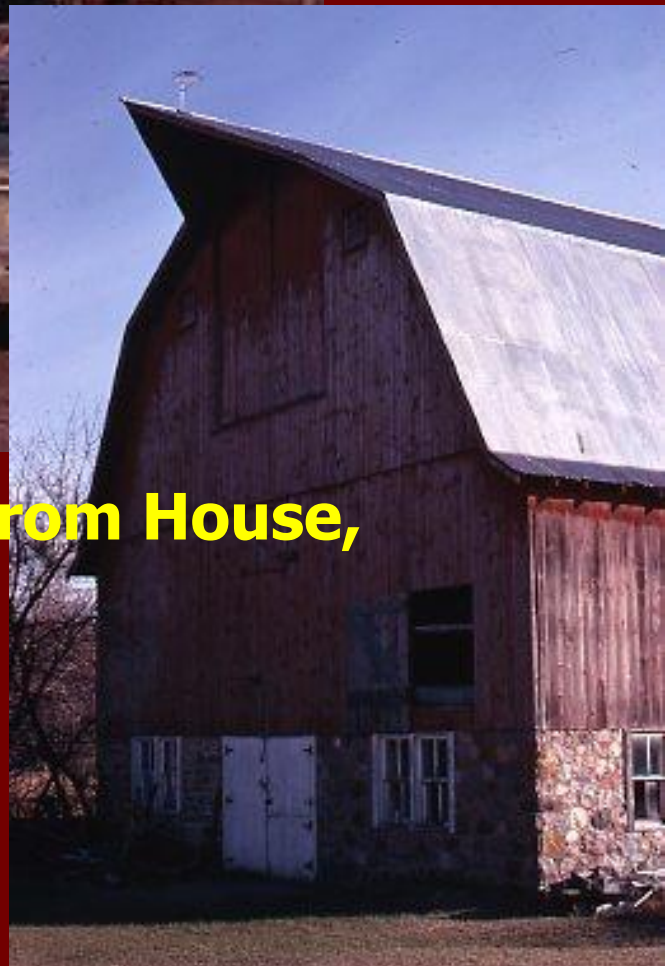
**Prairie Chicken Range
in Minnesota**





Hammy in the early 1960s, studying an observer's map of the booming ground activity assigned to him that morning. *Sheboygan Press*

The Hamerstrom House, and barn





Aldo Leopold with two of his prize graduate students, probably in 1939. Hammy assumes an ironic professorial stance; Fran is her photogenic self.



Grady Mann and the Hamerstoms at Fergus Falls meeting of the Minnesota Prairie Chicken Society. 1974

Beginnings – The Minnesota Prairie Chicken Society



STEVEN THOMAS
ONEY



Stalking
Chickens

A Parker Robinson Mystery

in Sleepy Eye paper

Herald Dispatch

Sometime, spring of 1973

Pure folly, says Jim

The status and future of Minnesota's prairie chicken will be the subject of a conference in Crookston.

Jim Putnam, editor of the Granite Falls Tribune, thinks it's pure folly to call such a meeting. He says there has been no open season on prairie chicken since 1942. The population began to decline sharply as the acreage of cultivated land increased, grass lands disappeared and land owners converted their wheat fields to corn and soybeans.

Putnam said he grew up with a .410 shotgun and has never killed or even seen a prairie chicken. Said he:

"We haven't seen any zebras running around the acres, either. The chickens have flown the coop and the meeting at Crookston is just another reason why Minnesota taxes are among the highest in the world."

"It is not the critic who counts, ----- blah, blah, blah "

T. Roosevelt, arena speech.

"We have requested 1 ¼ million dollars over 10 years to acquire 10,000 acres of prairie chicken lands.

12-18-1974

The fact that all of you worked together on the prairie chicken conference a year ago and had this data compiled in one spot made it possible for us to submit this request."

From: Roger: Holmes

To: G. Nielsen, R. Farnes, T. Wolfe, M. Paterson, and G. Maertens.

Subject: Prairie Chicken Proposal to Minnesota Resources Commission

DEPARTMENT Natural Resources - Wildlife Office Memorandum

TO : G. Nielsen, R. Farnes, T. Wolfe, M. Paterson and G. Maertens DATE: 12-18-74

FROM : Roger Holmes *Roger*

SUBJECT: Prairie Chicken Proposal to MRC

I have sent copies of our MRC proposal on prairie chickens to the regional managers but wanted to write you a separate memo.

We have, as outlined in the proposal, requested 1¼ million dollars over a ten-year period to acquire 10,000 acres of prairie chicken lands.

The fact that all of you worked together on the prairie chicken conference a year ago and had this data compiled in one spot made it possible for us to submit this request.

We only found out about the need for submitting requests to MRC about a week before all proposals had to be in. This was evidently because of a lack of communication between the MRC Committee and the Department. We also found out at that time they were not going to give much consideration to on going programs, so Dave suggested we ask for money for the prairie chicken and I pulled a request together using the Prairie Chicken Conference Proceedings.

Obviously all the information was taken out of the Conference Proceedings and without this data, we would not have been able to make the request.

We do not know if we will get any money, but there is at least a possibility and if nothing else, the matter will receive some additional publicity.

RMH:pmt
cc: Vern Gunvalson
Merlyn Westoh
Mike Casey



*The Hamerstrom Award - in tribute
to Fred and Fran Hamerstrom*

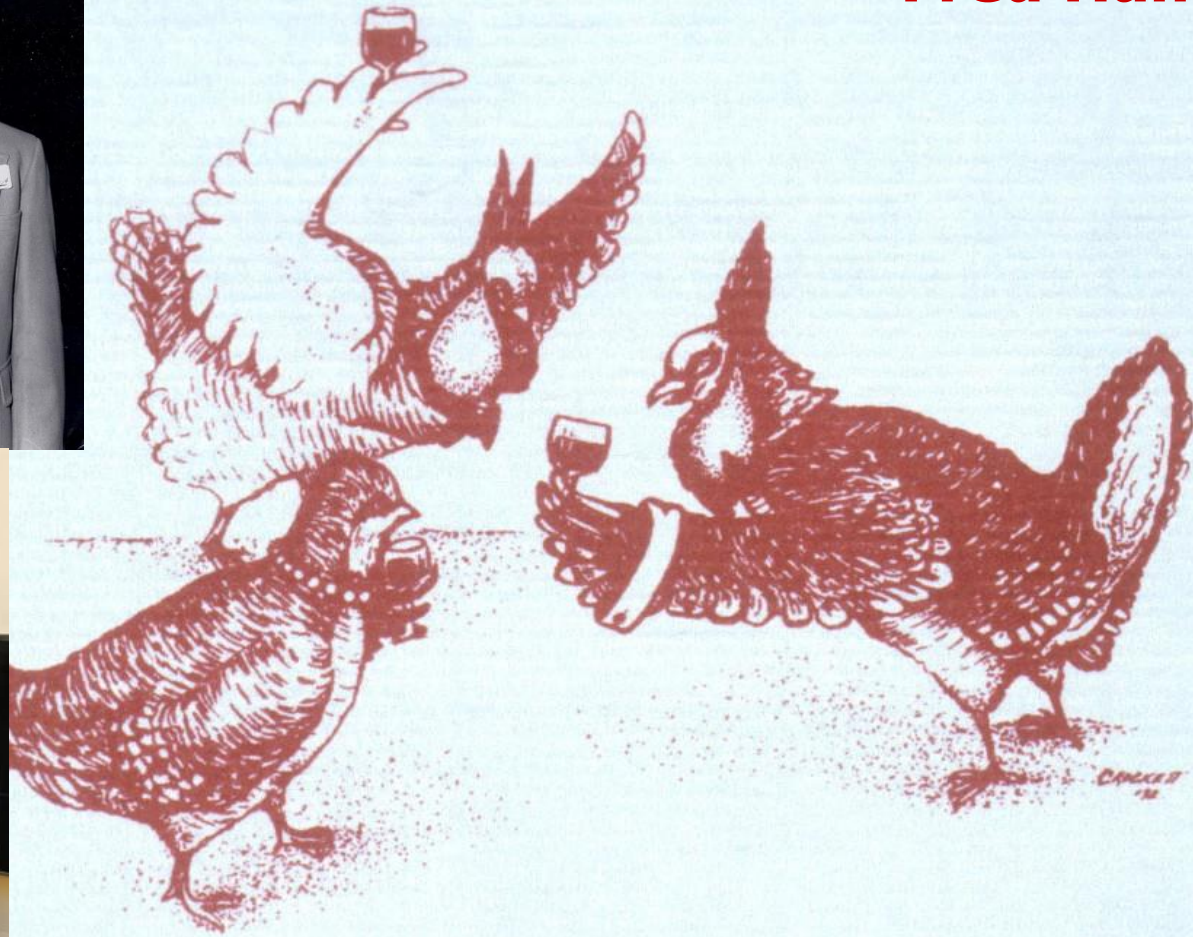
"Good works need not be done in a sepulchral atmosphere!"

Fred Hamerstrom

1991



2023



ANNUAL GATHERING OF THE FLOCK

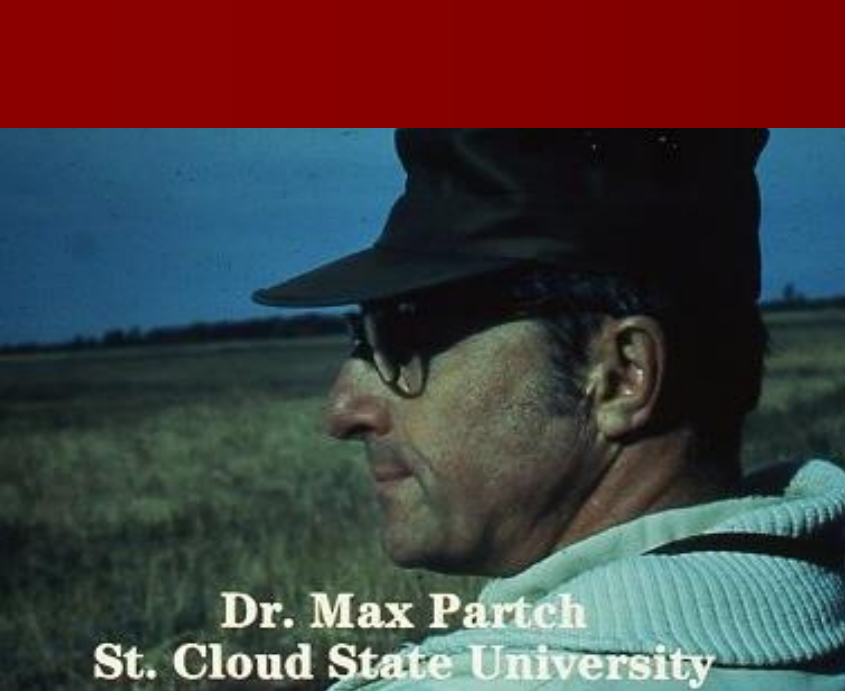


Dancing has even been known to break out at grouse gathering!

Some of the Rothsay Chicken People







Dr. Max Partch
St. Cloud State University



Ben Thoma and Bud Tordoff



**Who says chickens don't
have star power?**

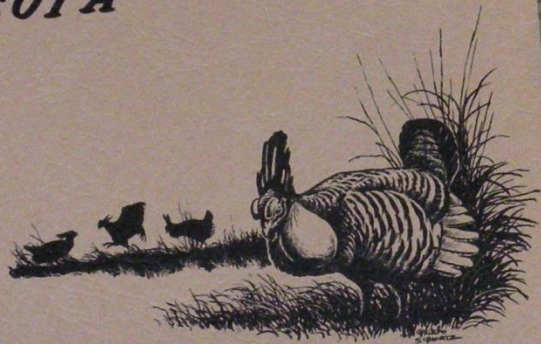




Karen Smith, burn
manager and artist,
extraordinaire



**THE
PRAIRIE CHICKEN
IN
MINNESOTA**



**CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS
APRIL 28, 1973**

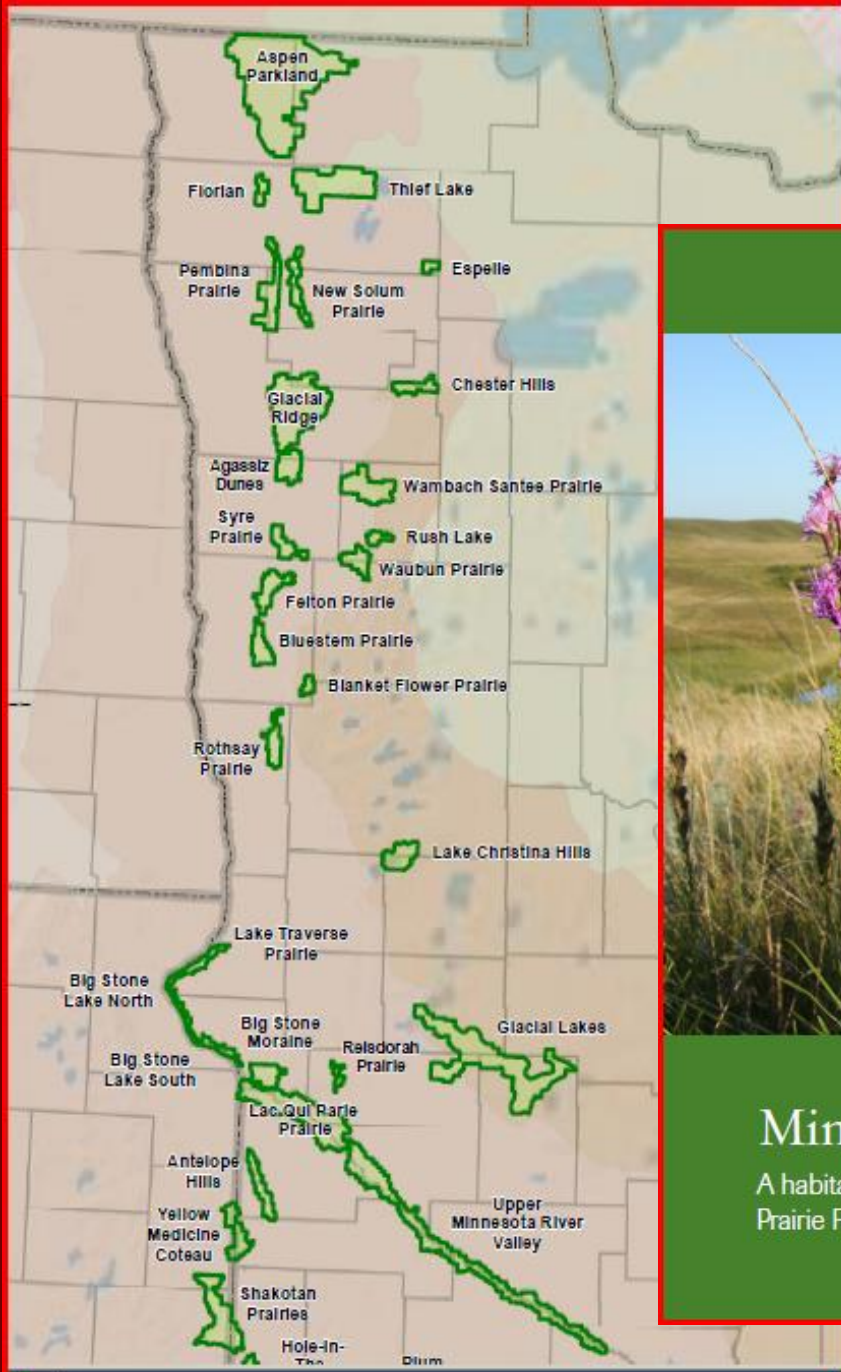
**UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
CROOKSTON, MINNESOTA**

**The Greater Prairie Chicken
A National Look**



W. Daniel Svedarsky, Ross H. Hier
and Nova J. Silvy, editors

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
Miscellaneous Publication 99-1999
Minnesota Agricultural Experiment Station



Minnesota Prairie Conservation Plan

A habitat plan for native prairie, grassland, and wetlands in the Prairie Region of western Minnesota

Fast forward to 2004 and due to the efforts of a WHOLE bunch of people and partnerships, Governor Pawlenty and Secretary of Interior Gail Norton establish the Glacial Ridge National Wildlife Refuge!





2003. 12. 31 10:00

John Toepfer



Morris "Pat" Paterson, first TNC prairie manager. "A passionate state of mind."





"One of the penalties of an ecological education is that one lives alone in a world of wounds."

Aldo Leopold

The first
chicken
season
since
1942!







It's getting people up and out "Sunrise Services!"





NEWSLETTER

Volume 48, No. 4, Fall, 2022



"Winter Chickens"

By Ross Hier



Feather Feature

- 50th Annual Meeting
- New Life Members
- Grouse Trail at Pheasant
- Awards to Close Compa
- The Adventures of Tympie
- Pieces of the Prairie

[Read More >>](#)

The Adventures of Tympie Nuchus
By Ross H. Hier



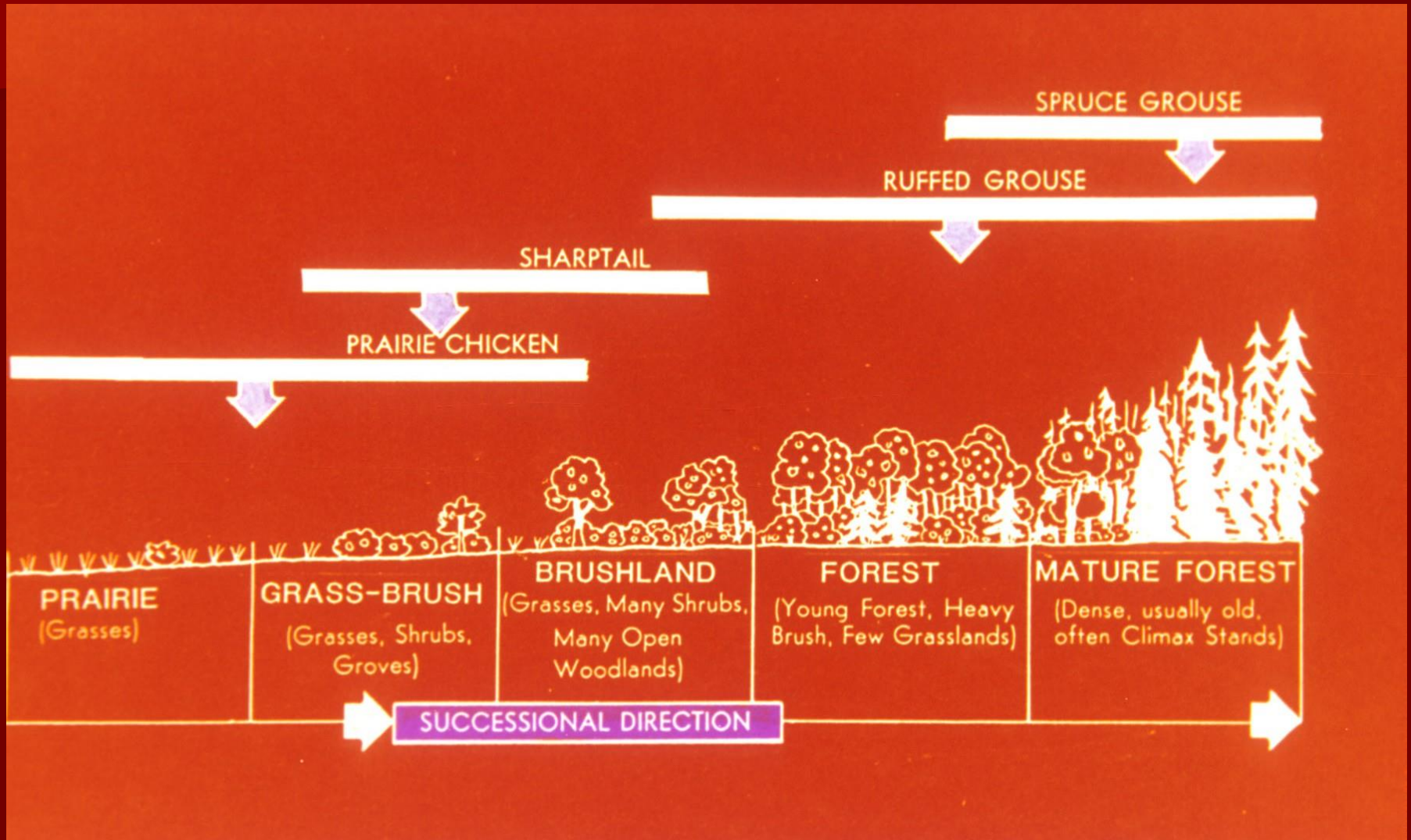


Brian Winter '78



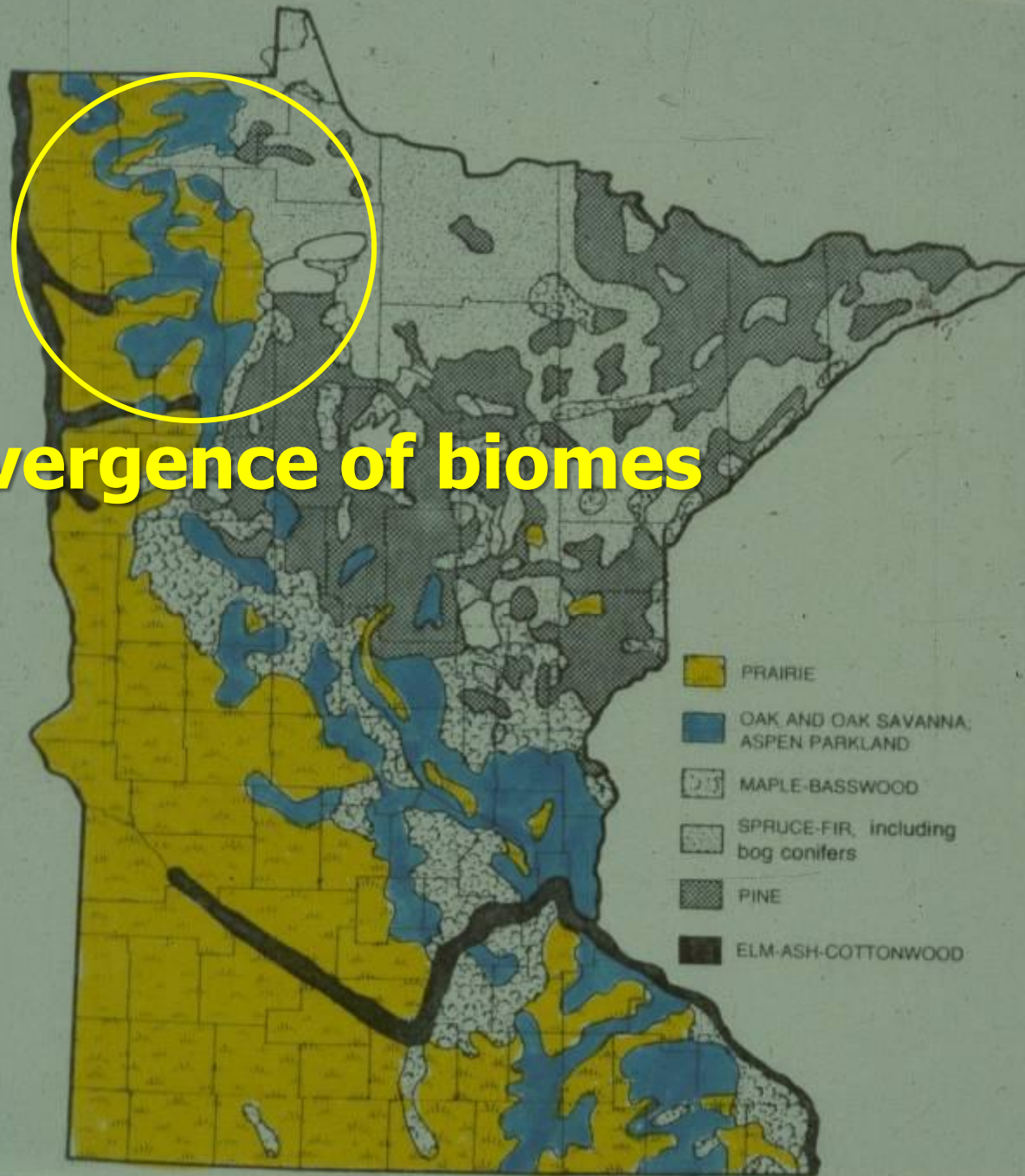
And now for some conservation concerns

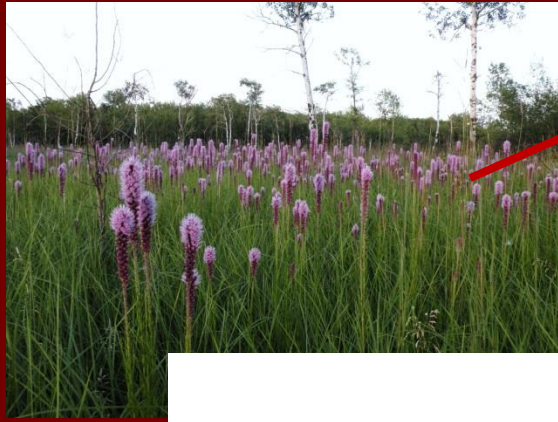
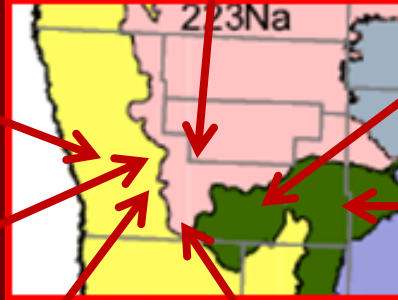
Grouse and plant succession





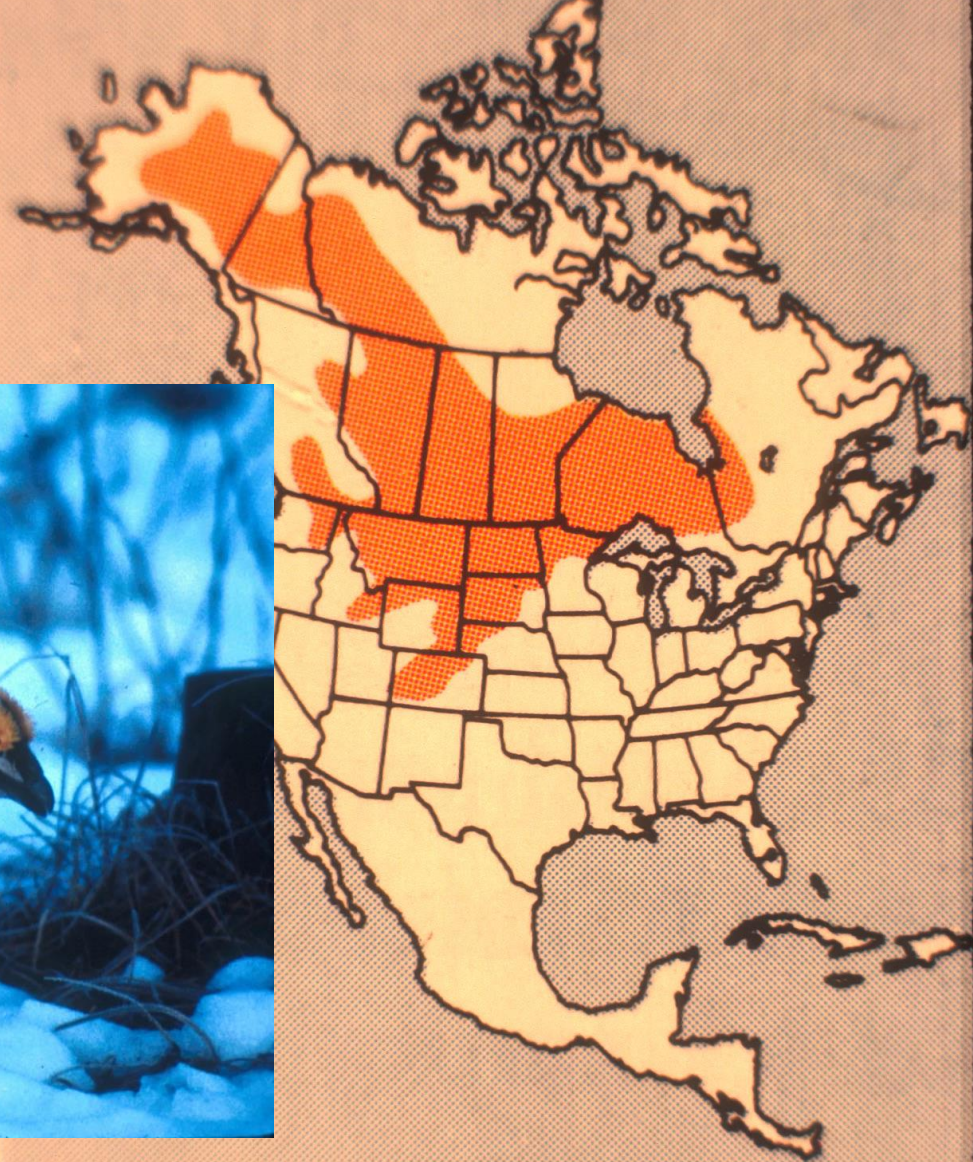
Convergence of biomes











Sharp-tailed Grouse
Range





Leo Kirsch, burn management pioneer



Fire - non-selective tool





1975



2003







Jason Ekstein, Master landscape restorationist and mentor, Glacial Ridge National Wildlife Refuge

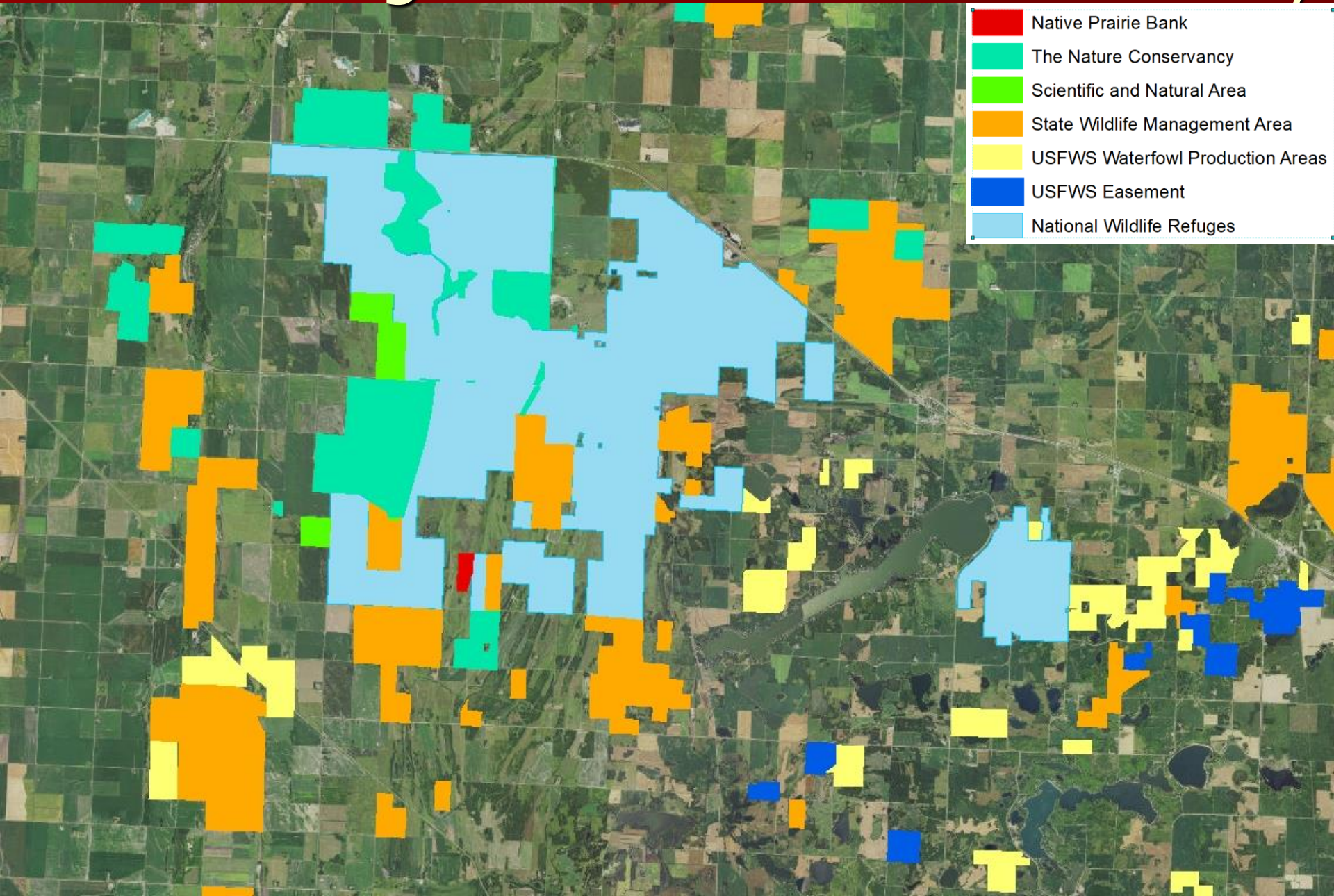
Central Polk County/Glacial Ridge Pembina Trail SNA (TNC)



Red River
Prairie



Glacial Ridge Prairies Central Polk County







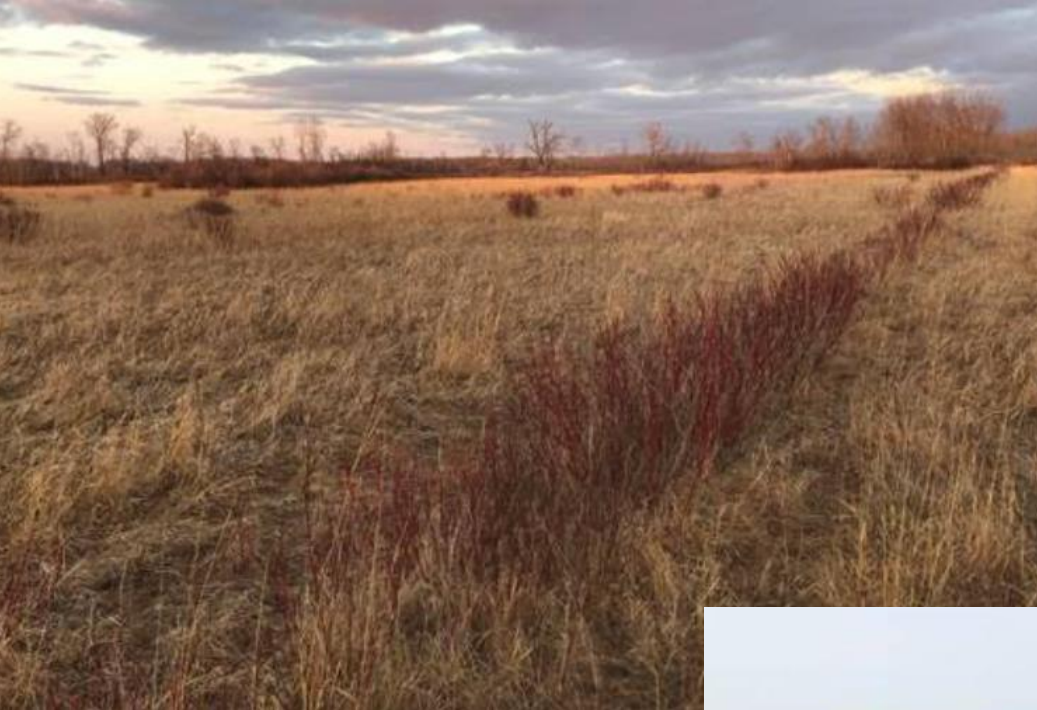
WPA near "Downer, MN" along H-9.
14 July 2023.



TNC's Pankratz Prairie. 23 July 2023



Infrequent (less than 3 years) is stimulatory.



Redosier dogwood
along old fenceline.

Pankratz Prairie.
14 Sept 2020

Looking east over
Kertsonville WMA.
Redosier dogwood
purple, willow still
green.
14 Sept 2020





The End