



**STATE  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY**  
OF NORTH DAKOTA

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State Historical Board

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Merlan E. Paaverud, Jr.  
*Director*

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of Museums since 1986*

July 18, 2011

Charles A. Bello  
EHP Team Lead  
FEMA  
600 South Second Street  
Bismarck, North Dakota 58504

**NDSHPO REF.: 11-1952b (11-1983) FEMA Proposed Temporary Group  
Housing Site #1, Ward County, North Dakota.**  
[T155N R83W Section 34]

Dear Charlie :

We have received and reviewed documentation for: 11-1952b (11-1983) FEMA Proposed Temporary Group Housing Site #1, Ward County, North Dakota "Class II Reconnaissance Inventory of Proposed Temporary Group Housing Site #1, Ward County, North Dakota," by Charles A. Bello (FEMA, July 2011) and find it acceptable. We concur with a "No Historic Properties Affected" determination provided the project is of the nature stated and it takes in the plotted location in the FEMA project documentation.

Thank you for the opportunity to review the project, and we look forward to further consultation on it. If you have questions please contact either Lisa Steckler at (701) 328-3577 or [lsteckler@nd.gov](mailto:lsteckler@nd.gov) or Paul Picha at [ppicha@nd.gov](mailto:ppicha@nd.gov) or (701) 328-3574.

Sincerely,

for Merlan E. Paaverud, Jr.  
State Historic Preservation Officer (North Dakota)  
and  
Director, State Historical Society of North Dakota  
c: Ron Deiss, COE



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July 14, 2011

Charles A. Bello  
EHP Team Lead  
FEMA  
600 South Second Street  
Bismarck, North Dakota 58504

**NDSHPO REF.: 11-1952 (11-1983) FEMA Proposed Temporary Group  
Housing Sites, Ward County, North Dakota. ]**

Dear Charlie :

We have received and reviewed documentation for: **11-1952 (11-1983) FEMA Proposed Temporary Group Housing Sites, Ward County, North Dakota** "Class II Reconnaissance Inventory of Five Properties—Proposed Temporary Group Housing Sites, Ward County, North Dakota," by Charles A. Bello (FEMA, July 2011) and find it acceptable. We concur with a **"No Historic Properties Affected"** determination provided the project is of the nature stated and it takes in the plotted locations in the FEMA project documentation.

Also, we look forward to reviewing the forthcoming Class III CRI inventory for a sixth location (Site # 18) near Burlington, North Dakota.

Thank you for the opportunity to review the project, and we look forward to further consultation on it. If you have questions please contact either Susan Quinnell at (701) 328-3576 or [squinnell@nd.gov](mailto:squinnell@nd.gov) or Paul Picha at [ppicha@nd.gov](mailto:ppicha@nd.gov) or (701) 328-3574.

Sincerely,

Merlan E. Paaverud, Jr.  
State Historic Preservation Officer (North Dakota)  
and  
Director, State Historical Society of North Dakota  
c: Ron Deiss, COE



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July 18, 2011

Charles A. Bello  
EHP Team Lead  
FEMA  
600 South Second Street  
Bismarck, North Dakota 58504

**NDSHPO REF.: 11-1952a (11-1983) FEMA Proposed Temporary Group  
Housing Site #18, Ward County, North Dakota.**  
[T155N R84W Section 12]

Dear Charlie :

We have received and reviewed documentation for: 11-1952a (11-1983) FEMA Proposed Temporary Group Housing Site #18, Ward County, North Dakota "Class III Cultural Resources Inventory—Proposed Temporary Group Housing Site #18, Ward County, North Dakota," by Charles A. Bello (FEMA, July 2011) and find it acceptable. We concur with a **"No Historic Properties Affected"** determination provided the project is of the nature stated and it takes in the plotted location in the FEMA project documentation.

Thank you for the opportunity to review the project, and we look forward to further consultation on it. If you have questions please contact either Lisa Steckler at (701) 328-3577 or [lsteckler@nd.gov](mailto:lsteckler@nd.gov) or Paul Picha at [ppicha@nd.gov](mailto:ppicha@nd.gov) or (701) 328-3574.

Sincerely,

Merlan E. Paaverud, Jr.  
State Historic Preservation Officer (North Dakota)  
and  
Director, State Historical Society of North Dakota  
c: Ron Deiss, COE



Jack Dalrymple, Governor  
Mark A. Zimmerman, Director

1600 East Century Avenue, Suite 3  
Bismarck, ND 58503-0649  
Phone 701-328-5357  
Fax 701-328-5363  
E-mail [parkrec@nd.gov](mailto:parkrec@nd.gov)  
[www.parkrec.nd.gov](http://www.parkrec.nd.gov)

Terry Alberico  
Emergency Management Specialist  
St Paul District US Army Corps of Engineers  
18 5<sup>th</sup> Street East Suite 700  
St Paul, MN 55101-1678

Re: Souris Housing Natural Resource Agency Coordination

Dear Mr. Alberico:

The North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department (the Department) has reviewed the above referenced proposal for a proposed temporary housing projects for the cities of Burlington and Minot, ND.

Our agency scope of authority and expertise covers recreation and biological resources (in particular rare plants and ecological communities). The project as defined does not affect state park lands that we manage or Land and Water Conservation Fund recreation projects that we coordinate.

The North Dakota Natural Heritage biological conservation database has been reviewed to determine if any plant or animal species of concern or other significant ecological communities are known to occur within an approximate one-mile radius of the project area. Based on this review, there are no documented occurrences in our database within or adjacent to project area. Because this information is not based on a comprehensive inventory, there may be species of concern or otherwise significant ecological communities in the area that are not represented in the database. The lack of data for any project area cannot be construed to mean that no significant features are present. The absence of data may indicate that the project area has not been surveyed, rather than confirm that the area lacks natural heritage resources.

The Department recommends that the project be accomplished with minimal impacts and that all efforts be made to ensure that critical habitats not be disturbed in the project area to help secure rare species conservation in North Dakota. Regarding any reclamation efforts, we recommend that any impacted areas be revegetated with species native to the project area.

We appreciate your commitment to rare plant, animal and ecological community conservation, management and inter-agency cooperation to date. For additional information please contact me at (701-328-5370 or [kgduttonhefner@nd.gov](mailto:kgduttonhefner@nd.gov)). Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this proposed project.

Sincerely,

A small, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kathy Duttonhefner".

Kathy Duttonhefner, Coordinator  
Natural Resources Program

R.USNDNHI\*2011\_164 KD7/18/2011DL7/18/2011

• • • • •  
*Play in our backyard!*



REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF

**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
**ST. PAUL DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS**  
180 FIFTH STREET EAST, SUITE 700  
ST. PAUL MINNESOTA 55101-1678

14 July 2011

Mr. Jeffrey Towner  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
North Dakota Field Office  
3425 Miriam Avenue  
Bismarck, North Dakota 58501-7926

Dear Mr. Towner:

This is to provide an Effects Determination on threatened or endangered species in Ward and McHenry Counties, North Dakota of a proposed emergency temporary housing project in the Souris or Mouse River Basin.

On June 22, 2011, the worst flooding in the history of Minot, North Dakota, was recorded and by June 24, 2011, the river exceeded the 130 year record. By afternoon of the same day, river levels were more than 5 feet above major flood. Over 4,000 structures were damaged in Minot and 230 housing units were damaged in Burlington. Additional rural residences were affected in the area between Burlington and Minot in Ward County. Because of the number of residences affected FEMA proposes the construction of temporary housing for many of the displaced people. The US Army Corps of Engineers has been tasked to develop a site for up to 200 manufactured housing units.

The final number of temporary housing units required will depend on the extent of damage and the number of people eligible for housing. The St. Paul District, US Army Corps of Engineers has been tasked by FEMA to develop housing sites. Multiple sites are being considered for development to ensure that enough temporary housing can be made available as the needs are identified. The sites would each hold from 150-200 units and on properties that are large enough more than one site might be developed. The sites would be separated on the property by green space or other features.

The sites would house Minot residents for 12 to 18 months, then be returned to their previous condition. While the intent is to temporarily house Minot residents, the utilities will be placed to permanent standards (8.5 feet deep for main lines) and will be capped rather than removed. Use of the site after it is no longer needed by those displaced by flooding will be determined by normal non-emergent procedures. The Proposed Action encompasses certain parcels in Ward and McHenry Counties in the State of North Dakota, along the Souris River drainage system (Attachments 1 and 2 Wetlands in Burlington and Minot, ND).

Twenty-nine sites were identified for consideration for temporary housing sites or staging areas. Sites 1, 8, 9, 9A, 13, 14, 16, 18, 21, 26 and 29 are still being considered with site 9A and 9 as priority sites. The following sites are no longer being considered: 1A, 1B, 2, 3, 4A, 4B, 5, 5A, 6, 10, 11, 12, 17, 19, 20, 22, 23, 24, 25, 27. Many were far from existing utilities. Some didn't have flat enough topography. Sites 7, 15 and 28 (at Velva, not on the

attachments) were considered for staging the manufactured housing units while they are being prepared for installation on the pads. FEMA is working on the NEPA compliance documentation for the staging area and Site 28, the Verendrye substation in Velva, is considered the priority staging area.

The group sites will include development of temporary gravel pads for housing foundations, gravel roadways and utilities related to the infrastructure of the community including a sewer system, waterline and hydrant installation, and electric. The sites could include appurtenant support features such as emergency storm shelters, bus shelters, mail box units. Development of the site will require a number of steps including surveying, clearing, stripping, soil testing, grading, utility and access road design and installation, and surface storm water and erosion control. From 5 to 10 acres will be required for the development of a base camp for those working on recovery. The base camp will be developed on one of the sites being considered for temporary housing. The review for that project will be carried out by FEMA once a site has been selected.

Utilities on the site will include potable water, sanitary sewer, and electricity. The contractor will ensure that the new utility infrastructure is compatible with capacity needed for the remainder of the city. Trench depths of 8.5 ft will be required for water and sewer for this project. The construction schedule will be coordinated with the city and other utility providers, such as gas and communications, and they will be allowed an opportunity add these utilities when the trenches are open. Storm water will be managed as surface drainage; storm sewers won't be placed with the project.

#### Wetlands

The attachments show the sites being considered for temporary housing and data from the National Wetlands Inventory. On the Burlington map site 18 has no NWI wetlands within the site. On the Minot map the sites assessed are all outside of the area that was flooded this year which means they are well above the 100-year floodplain. All but one site (site 16) are on the outskirts of Minot and all but one are in agricultural land that is actively farmed or hayed. Site 8 was reviewed for development into an agricultural park. Prairie potholes are found throughout the sites, some more than others. Larger freshwater emergent wetland features could be used as green space to divide up larger properties into sites of 150-200 units as well as for surface water drainage.

#### Endangered Species

The North Dakota endangered species list for Ward and McHenry counties showed the following threatened and endangered species ([http://www.fws.gov/northdakotafieldoffice/county\\_list.htm](http://www.fws.gov/northdakotafieldoffice/county_list.htm)):

Status	Species
E	Crane, whooping except where EXPN ( <i>Grus americana</i> )
E	Wolf, gray Lower 48 States ( <i>Canis lupus</i> )
T	Plover, piping except Great Lakes watershed ( <i>Charadrius melodus</i> )
C	Dakota Skipper ( <i>Hesperia dacotae</i> )
	Spragues Pipit ( <i>Anthus spragueii</i> )
	Critical Habitat for Piping Plover

The pipin plover is a small shorebird listed as "threatened" in 1985. Habitat loss and poor breeding success are major reasons for the population decline. North Dakota is the most important State in the Great Plains for nesting piping plovers. More than three-fourths of piping plovers in North Dakota nest on prairie alkali lakes, while the remainder use the Missouri River. Piping plovers inhabit barren sand and gravel shores of rivers and lakes.

An infrequent visitor to North Dakota, the gray wolf occasionally comes across the borders from neighboring Minnesota, Montana, or the province of Manitoba, Canada. Once abundant in the State, the gray wolf was hunted to near extinction by 1940 at the urging of western settlers, who believed wolves caused widespread livestock losses. Biologists say most wolves prefer deer or moose, only a few attack livestock, and programs exist to repay ranchers for their losses. The gray wolf was added to the Endangered Species List in 1978.

The whooping crane is making a slow, but steady comeback. From a low of 21 birds in the 1940s, the current whooper population is believed to be about 264. Its decline is blamed on loss of habitat and excessive shooting. It was declared "endangered" in 1970. At a height of five feet, the whooping crane is the tallest bird in North America. Equally impressive is its 7-foot wingspan. Most whoopers migrate through North Dakota each spring and fall, frequently with sandhill cranes.

The Dakota skipper is a small butterfly with a 1-inch wingspan. Dakota skippers are found in native prairie containing a high diversity of wildflowers and grasses. Habitat includes two prairie types: 1) low (wet) prairie dominated by bluestem grasses, wood lily, harebell, and smooth camas; and 2) upland (dry) prairie on ridges and hillsides dominated by bluestem grasses, needlegrass, pale purple coneflower and upright coneflowers and blanketflower. Dakota skipper populations have declined historically due to widespread conversion of native prairie. Remnant native prairies occupied by Dakota skippers are subject to a variety of threats.

The Sprague's Pipit (*Anthus spragueii*): Endemic to the northern great Plains native short-to-mixed grass prairie. Sensitive to fragmentation and conversion of grassland habitat. Sprague's pipits prefer relatively large prairie patches of at least approximately 72 acres, with larger patches of at least 360 acres preferred.

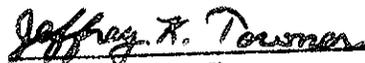
### Effects on Endangered Species

The piping plover would not be affected by the project as there is no critical habitat for that species within the sites being considered for temporary housing. The gray wolf is most frequently observed in the Turtle Mountains area of North Dakota. The project would be within or very near the city limits of Minot. In a USFWS fact sheet it is noted that "From a biological standpoint, we know that wolves can and do survive near urban areas. But whether wolves survive near cities and towns will depend on people. There are areas near large cities that have sufficient wild prey to support wolves. Wolves are predators, however, and conflicts arise when they kill livestock and domestic animals, including pets. These conflicts, along with urban hazards such as vehicle traffic, will likely limit the establishment of wolf populations near urban areas."

The whooping crane migrates through west and central North Dakota in the Spring and Fall and prefer potholes with good visibility. The proximity of the sites to the activities in and around Minot and the great number of wetlands throughout the area farther from the project site reduce the likelihood that the wetlands within the proposed sites would be used by whooping cranes during their migration. The Dakota skipper would not be affected because the sites do not contain their preferred native prairie habitat. While the Sprague's pipit breeding area includes the Souris Basin, the sites of interest are all actively farmed or hayed and would not provide the preferred large, undisturbed patches of shortgrass prairie or grasslands.

Based on the information presented above comparing the biology of the threatened or endangered species and the characteristics of the proposed project sites, I have determined that the project would not affect threatened or endangered species.

Christopher Atkins  
Mission Manager, Temporary Housing Mission  
St. Paul District, Corps of Engineers

<b>U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE</b>	
<b>ECOLOGICAL SERVICES</b>	
<b>ND FIELD OFFICE</b>	
Project as described will have no significant impact on fish and wildlife resources. No endangered or threatened species are known to occupy the project area. IF PROJECT DESIGN CHANGES ARE MADE, PLEASE SUBMIT PLANS FOR REVIEW.	
7/15/11 Date	 Jeffrey K. Towner Field Supervisor



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The final number of temporary housing units required will depend on the extent of damage and the number of people eligible for housing. The St. Paul District, US Army Corps of Engineers has been tasked by FEMA to develop housing sites. Multiple sites are being considered for development to ensure that enough temporary housing can be made available as the needs are indentified. The sites would each hold from 150-200 units and on properties that are large enough more than one site might be developed. The sites would be separated on the property by green space or other features.

The sites would house Minot residents for 12 to 18 months, then be returned to their previous condition. While the intent is to temporarily house Minot residents, the utilities will be placed to permanent standards (8.5 feet deep for main lines) and will be capped rather than removed. Use of the site after it is no longer needed by those displaced by flooding will be determined by normal non-emergent procedures. The Proposed Action encompasses certain parcels in Ward and McHenry Counties in the State of North Dakota, along the Souris River drainage system (Attachments 1 and 2 Wetlands in Burlington and Minot, ND).

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The [Dakota skipper](#) is a small butterfly with a 1-inch wingspan. Dakota skippers are found in native prairie containing a high diversity of wildflowers and grasses. Habitat includes two prairie types: 1) low (wet) prairie dominated by bluestem grasses, wood lily, harebell, and smooth camas; and 2) upland (dry) prairie on ridges and hillsides dominated by bluestem grasses, needlegrass, pale purple coneflower and upright coneflowers and blanketflower. Dakota skipper populations have declined historically due to widespread conversion of native prairie. Remnant native prairies occupied by Dakota skippers are subject to a variety of threats.

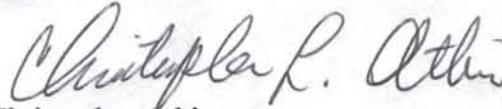
The [Sprague's Pipit](#) (*Anthus spragueii*): Endemic to the northern great Plains native short-to-mixed grass prairie. Sensitive to fragmentation and conversion of grassland habitat. Sprague's pipits prefer relatively large prairie patches of at least approximately 72 acres, with larger patches of at least 360 acres preferred.

#### Effects on Endangered Species

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The whooping crane migrates through west and central North Dakota in the Spring and Fall and prefer potholes with good visibility. The proximity of the sites to the activities in and around Minot and the great number of wetlands throughout the area farther from the project site reduce the likelihood that the wetlands within the proposed sites would be used by whooping cranes during their migration. The Dakota skipper would not be affected because the sites do not contain their preferred native prairie habitat. While the Sprague's pipit breeding area includes the Souris Basin, the sites of interest are all actively farmed or hayed and would not provide the preferred large, undisturbed patches of shortgrass prairie or grasslands.

Based on the information presented above comparing the biology of the threatened or endangered species and the characteristics of the proposed project sites, I have determined that the project would not affect threatened or endangered species.



Christopher Atkins  
Mission Manager, Temporary Housing Mission  
St. Paul District, Corps of Engineers

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The final number of temporary housing units required will depend on the extent of damage and the number of people eligible for housing. The St. Paul District, US Army Corps of Engineers has been tasked by FEMA to develop housing sites. Multiple sites are being considered for development to ensure that enough temporary housing can be made available as the needs are indentified. The sites would each hold from 150-200 units and on properties that are large enough more than one site might be developed. The sites would be separated on the property by green space or other features. About 40 acres are required to accommodate 200 units with green space and access. This is a change from previous information and is the result of new information from the city regarding lot size.

The sites would house Minot residents for 12 to 18 months, then they could be returned to their previous condition. While the intent is to temporarily house Minot residents, the utilities will be placed to permanent standards (8.5 feet deep for main lines) and will be capped rather than removed. Use of the site after it is no longer needed by those displaced by flooding will be determined by normal non-emergent procedures. The Proposed Action encompasses certain parcels in Ward and McHenry Counties in the State of North Dakota, along the Souris River drainage system (Attachments 1 and 2 Wetlands in Burlington and Minot, ND).

Twenty-nine sites were identified for consideration for temporary housing sites or staging areas. Sites 1, 8, 9, 9A, 13, 14, 16, 18, 21, 26 and 29 are still being considered with site 9A and 9 as priority sites. The following sites are no longer being considered: 1A, 1B, 2, 3, 4A, 4B, 5, 5A, 6, 10, 11, 12, 17, 19, 20, 22, 23, 24, 25, 27. Many were far from existing utilities. Some didn't have flat enough topography. Sites 7, 15 and 28 (at Velva, not on the attachments) were considered for staging the manufactured housing units while they are being prepared for installation on the pads. FEMA is working on the NEPA compliance documentation for the staging area and Site 28, the Verendrye substation in Velva, is considered the priority staging area.

The group sites will include development of temporary gravel pads for housing foundations, gravel roadways and utilities related to the infrastructure of the community including a sewer system, waterline and hydrant installation, and electric. The sites could include appurtenant support features such as emergency storm shelters, bus shelters, mail box units. Development of

the site will require a number of steps including surveying, clearing, stripping, soil testing, grading, utility and access road design and installation, and surface storm water and erosion control. From 5 to 10 acres will be required for the development of a base camp for those working on recovery. The base camp will be developed on one of the sites being considered for temporary housing. The review for that project will be carried out by FEMA once a site has been selected.

Utilities on the site will include potable water, sanitary sewer, and electricity. The contractor will ensure that the new utility infrastructure is compatible with capacity needed for the remainder of the city. Trench depths of 8.5 ft will be required for water and sewer for this project. The construction schedule will be coordinated with the city and other utility providers, such as gas and communications, and they will be allowed an opportunity add these utilities when the trenches are open. Storm water will be managed as surface drainage; storm sewers won't be placed with the project.

### Wetlands

The attachments show the sites being considered for temporary housing and data from the National Wetlands Inventory. On the Burlington map site 18 has no NWI wetlands within the site. On the Minot map the sites assessed are all outside of the area that was flooded this year which means they are well above the 100-year floodplain. All but one site (site 16) are on the outskirts of Minot and all but one are in agricultural land that is actively farmed or hayed. Site 8 was reviewed for development into an agricultural park. Prairie potholes are found throughout the sites, some more than others. Larger freshwater emergent wetland features could be used as green space to divide up larger properties into sites of 150-200 units as well as for surface water drainage.

### Endangered Species

The North Dakota endangered species list for Ward and McHenry counties showed the following threatened and endangered species ([http://www.fws.gov/northdakotafieldoffice/county\\_list.htm](http://www.fws.gov/northdakotafieldoffice/county_list.htm)):

Status	Species
E	Crane, whooping except where EXPN ( <i>Grus americana</i> )
E	Wolf, gray Lower 48 States ( <i>Canis lupus</i> )
T	Plover, piping except Great Lakes watershed ( <i>Charadrius melodus</i> )
C	Dakota Skipper ( <i>Hesperia dacotae</i> )
	Spragues Pipit ( <i>Anthus spragueii</i> )
	Critical Habitat for Piping Plover

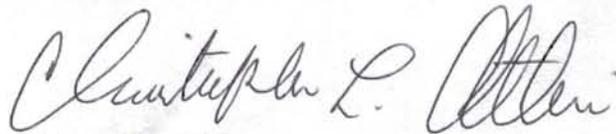
The [piping plover](#) is a small shorebird listed as "threatened" in 1985. Habitat loss and poor breeding success are major reasons for the population decline. North Dakota is the most important State in the Great Plains for nesting piping plovers. More than three-fourths of piping plovers in North Dakota nest on prairie alkali lakes, while the remainder use the Missouri River. Piping plovers inhabit barren sand and gravel shores of rivers and lakes.

An infrequent visitor to North Dakota, the gray wolf occasionally comes across the borders from neighboring Minnesota, Montana, or the province of Manitoba, Canada. Once abundant in the State, the gray wolf was hunted to near extinction by 1940 at the urging of western settlers, who believed wolves caused widespread livestock losses. Biologists say most wolves prefer deer or moose, only a few attack livestock, and programs exist to repay ranchers for their losses. The gray wolf was added to the Endangered Species List in 1978.

The whooping crane is making a slow, but steady comeback. From a low of 21 birds in the 1940s, the current whooper population is believed to be about 264. Its decline is blamed on loss of habitat and excessive shooting. It was declared "endangered" in 1970. At a height of five feet, the whooping crane is the tallest bird in North America. Equally impressive is its 7-foot wingspan. Most whoopers migrate through North Dakota each spring and fall, frequently with sandhill cranes.

The Dakota skipper is a small butterfly with a 1-inch wingspan. Dakota skippers are found in native prairie containing a high diversity of wildflowers and grasses. Habitat includes two prairie types: 1) low (wet) prairie dominated by bluestem grasses, wood lily, harebell, and smooth camas; and 2) upland (dry) prairie on ridges and hillsides dominated by bluestem grasses, needlegrass, pale purple coneflower and upright cone-flowers and blanketflower. Dakota skipper populations have declined historically due to widespread conversion of native prairie. Remnant native prairies occupied by Dakota skippers are subject to a variety of threats.

The Sprague's Pipit (*Anthus spragueii*): Endemic to the northern great Plains native short-to-mixed grass prairie. Sensitive to fragmentation and conversion of grassland habitat. Sprague's pipits prefer relatively large prairie patches of at least approximately 72 acres, with larger patches of at least 360 acres preferred.



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