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SECTION 1: Identification Information

Originator: Minnesota DNR - Division of Ecological Services - Scientific & Natural Areas Program

Title: Scientific and Natural Area Boundaries

Metadata Product ID: 22000015

Abstract: A polygon database delineated on and digitized from 1:24,000 U.S.G.S. quad maps of Minnesota Scientific and Natural Areas (SNAs). (The following text is taken from: A Guide to Minnesota's Scientific and Natural Areas, copyright 1995, MN DNR, Scientific and Natural Areas Program.) Scientific and natural areas are established to protect and perpetuate in an undisturbed natural state those lands and waters embracing natural features of exceptional scientific and educational value. The SNA Program's goal is to ensure that no single rare feature is lost from any region of the state. This requires protection and management of each feature in sufficient quantity and distribution across the landscape. The Programs' Long Range Plan is to protect at least five locations of plant communities known to occur in each landscape region, and three locations per region of each rare species, plant or animal, and geologic feature. It is estimated that 500 natural areas are needed throughout the state to adequately protect significant features. Because over 40 percent of these rare features occur in prairies, 200 SNAs would be in the prairie area of the state. Of the remainder, approximately 135 are estimated to be needed in the deciduous and 165 in coniferous forest landscape communities in the next 100 years. Protection of multiple sites in each landscape region is a vital means of capturing the genetic diversity and preventing the loss of important species, communities, and features. This strategy observes the wisdom of not putting all our eggs in one basket. In addition to SNA, Itasca and Crow Wing Counties have established county natural areas. Itasca County's natural areas were established in 1966. Sites are set aside as SNAs because of their natural attributes and rare resources, which warrant protection for their inherent values and as places for scientific and educational use. Protection guards against developments such as trails, campgrounds, picnic sites, logging, mineral exploration and development, cultivation, and other uses of land, public or private, that interfere with the preservation of its natural features.

Purpose: To provide a multi-part polygon view of SNA Sites that can be shared with the public and used on the DNR web site. This layer includes only SNA blocks that are DESIGNATED.

The original purpose for digitizing SNAs was to include them on the Minnesota County Biological Survey's maps of natural communities and rare species. This began in 1989. The Peatland SNAs were digitized 1993

for the generation of a series of maps showing existing trails within these SNAs. Many prairie SNAs with burn units were digitized in 1995-6 for management purposes. The remaining SNAs were digitized in 1996-99 to complete the SNA cover statewide.

Usage Tips: This Representation SNA boundaries is based on the SNA_BASE_DATA feature class in the DNR's core GIS Library. It includes only DEDICATED features, which are dissolved on the following attributes: SITENAME, SITE_ID, BREMCODE.

The coverage should be reasonably accurate although the boundaries probably will not line up with other public land survey information. Information probably will not line up with other public land survey information.

Time Period of Content: 1987-Present

Currentness Reference: USGS Quad Maps, DNR Land Records Database System

Progress: Complete

Maintenance Frequency: Bi-Yearly

Spatial Extent of Data: Statewide

Bounding Coordinates:
E = -89
W = -97.5
N = 49.5
S = 43

Place Keywords: Minnesota

Theme Keywords: SNA, Scientific and Natural Areas, Rare Plant Communities, boundaries, managed areas

Theme Keyword Thesaurus: None

Access Constraints: None

Use Constraints: Because this data layer includes lands "Not Dedicated" it is for internal DNR use only.

Data Use Contact: [Contact](#)

Sample Graphic: [Data Sample](#)

SECTION 2: Data Quality Information

Attribute Accuracy: *bdry_snap3.dbf*: Not specifically assessed

Logical Consistency: Data are topologically correct using ArcInfo 7.1.1

Completeness: The data are statewide. Most of the SNA polygons were delineated on and digitized from 1:24,000 USGS quad maps over a period of more than 10 years. Newer SNA additions were digitized in ArcView GIS 3.x, based on 1:24,000 USGS Digital Raster Graphics (DRGs) with additional reference to USGS and NAIP aerial photography

Horizontal Positional Accuracy: Unknown

Vertical Positional Accuracy: Not Applicable

Lineage: Attribute Lineage:

bdry_snapy3.dbf: Derived from sna_base_data featureclass

Cartographic Lineage:

bdry_snapy3.polygon: The majority of SNA boundaries included here were delineated on and digitized from paper copies of 1:24,000 USGS quad maps over a period of more than 10 years. These polygons were digitized using PC ARC/INFO 3.3 in NAD27 (yshift = -4,700,000 meters) UTM zone 15. SNA polygons added after 1/1/1999 were originally digitized using ArcView 3.1, from 1:24,000 USGS Digital Raster Graphic (DRG) images, then integrated into the existing SNA coverage using ArcInfo 7.2.1.

Currently (2007), this data is managed as a File Geodatabase feature class called SNA_BASE_DATA in ArcGIS 9.x. Using an ArcGIS model, this particular shapefile is created by querying for "DEDICATED" features, then dissolving the results on the following attributes: SITE_NAME, SITE_ID, BREMCODE.

Source Scale Denominator: 24000

SECTION 3: Spatial Data Organization Information

Native Data Set Environment: ArcView Shapefile

Geographic Reference for Tabular Data: Not Applicable

Tiling Scheme: state

Spatial Object Type: polygon

Vendor Specific Object Types: polygon

SECTION 4: Spatial Reference Information

Horizontal Coordinate Scheme: UTM

Ellipsoid: GRS1980

<i>Horizontal Datum:</i>	NAD83
<i>Horizontal Units:</i>	meters
<i>Altitude Datum:</i>	Not Applicable
<i>Altitude Units:</i>	Not Applicable
<i>Depth Datum:</i>	Not Applicable
<i>Depth Units:</i>	Not Applicable
<i>Cell Width:</i>	0
<i>Cell Height:</i>	0
<i>Latitude Resolution:</i>	0
<i>Longitude Resolution:</i>	0
<i>UTM Zone Number:</i>	15
<i>SPCS Zone Identifier:</i>	null
<i>County Coordinate Zone Identifier:</i>	null
<i>Coordinate Offsets or Adjustments:</i>	Not Applicable
<i>Map Projection Name:</i>	Transverse Mercator
<i>Map Projection Parameters:</i>	Not Applicable
<i>Other Coordinate System Definition:</i>	Not Applicable

SECTION 5: Entity and Attribute Information

<i>Entity and Attribute Overview:</i>	SNA polygons with attributes of name, unit, ownership code, and ownership description.. Detailed descriptions of entities can be found in: A Guide to Minnesota's Scientific and Natural Areas, copyright 1995, MN DNR, Scientific and Natural Areas Program.
<i>Entity and Attribute Citation:</i>	See link to detail.
<i>Attribute Tables:</i>	Data Table

SECTION 6: Distribution Information

<i>Publisher:</i>	Minnesota DNR - Division of Ecological Services
<i>Publication Date:</i>	9/4/2003
<i>Distribution Contact</i>	Contact
<i>Distributor Data Set Identifier:</i>	bdry_snapy3
<i>Distribution Liability:</i>	The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources makes no representation or warranties, express or implied, with respect to the reuse of data provided herewith, regardless of its format or the means of its transmission. There is no guarantee or representation to the user as to the

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Transfer Format Name: Shapefile
Transfer Format Version: Not Applicable
Ordering Instructions: Contact the distributor by telephone or email.
Online Linkage: None

SECTION 7: Metadata Reference Information

Metadata Content Contact: [Contact](#)
Metadata Standard Name: Minnesota Geographic Metadata Guidelines
Metadata Standard Date: 4/4/2001
Metadata Standard Version: 1.2
Metadata Standard Online Linkage: <http://www.gis.state.mn.us/stds/metadata.htm>

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