

CHAPTER 2

PRAIRIE WIDE DIRECTION - DESIRED CONDITIONS, GOALS, AND OBJECTIVES

2.1. INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents the desired conditions and multiple-use goals and objectives for the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie. The desired conditions describe the mosaic of land and resource conditions envisioned for the future, which will be attained through the cumulative achievement of the goals and objectives. Achievement of the goals and objectives is subject to applicable management standards and guidelines and will be strongly influenced by annual budget direction and fiscal limitations.

Goals - are concise statements that describe a desired condition sometime in the future, expressed in broad, general terms. There is no specific date by which goals are to be completed. Goal statements form the principle basis from which objectives are developed.

Objectives - are measurable, time-specific indicators used to measure progress toward attaining the goals. They address short-term and long-term actions taken to meet goals during the planning period.

2.2. DEVELOPMENT OF MIDEWIN GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The Forest Service mission, and strategic goals and objectives, are derived from the laws defining and regulating the agency's activities. The Prairie Plan guides on-the-ground management of natural resources to ensure sustainable ecosystems and provide multiple benefits. The goals and objectives presented here are tiered to several other national and regional documents:

- a) 1995 Illinois Land Conservation Act, the enabling legislation that established the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie to be managed as part of the National Forest System;
- b) *"USDA Forest Service Strategic Plan: 2000 Revision"*, with goals and objectives that fall under the overall mission of the Forest Service - *To sustain the health, productivity and diversity of the land to meet the needs of present and future generations*;
- c) 1999 Biodiversity Recovery Plan for the Chicago Wilderness Region, an integrated plan for more than 200,000 acres of conservation lands in the greater Chicago area, with Midewin as the largest single parcel of protected open space.

The President signed the legislation establishing Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie in February 1996. The Illinois Land Conservation Act established Midewin to be managed for National Forest System purposes. In addition, the ILCA section 2914 (c) "PURPOSES OF THE MIDEWIN NATIONAL TALLGRASS PRAIRIE", included the following:

- 1) To manage the land and water resources of Midewin in a manner that will conserve and enhance the native populations and habitats of fish, wildlife, and plants.
- 2) To provide opportunities for scientific, environmental, and land use education and research.
- 3) To allow the continuation of agricultural uses of lands within Midewin consistent with section 2916 (b).
- 4) To provide a variety of recreation opportunities that are not inconsistent with the preceding purposes."

The Prairie Plan goals were developed to respond to the above purposes, to identify public issues, resource uses, and management opportunities. The goals collectively provide a means to restore the prairie ecosystem at Midewin, while developing compatible public uses. Objectives will be achieved over the 10-year period for this Land and Resource Management Plan.

2.3. A VISION FOR THE FUTURE

In the summer of 1840, while traveling through the area near Joliet, Illinois, Eliza Steele recorded the following passage in her journal, later published as **Summer Journey in the West**:

"...I started with a surprise and delight. I was in the midst of a prairie! A world of grass and flowers stretched around me, rising and falling in gentle undulations, as if an enchanter had struck the ocean swell, and it was at rest forever....We passed whole acres of blossoms all bearing one hue, as purple perhaps, or masses of yellow or rose; and then again a carpet of every color intermixed, or narrow bands, as if a rainbow had fallen upon the verdant slopes. When the sun flooded this mosaic floor with light, and the summer breeze stirred among their leaves, the iridescent glow was beautiful and wondrous beyond anything I had ever conceived..."

The vision for the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie returns the Prairie lands, as much as is realistically possible, to the splendor and wonder first recorded by Eliza Steele. The vision includes restoring the ecology of the Prairie thereby promoting sustainable ecosystems, conserving populations of fish, wildlife and plants, providing for scientific, environmental and land use education and research, and providing a variety of recreation opportunities that enhance the visitor's appreciation of the prairie ecosystem.

2.4. ECOLOGICAL SUSTAINABILITY

2.4.1. *Desired Condition*

The desired future condition of Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie is a more natural appearing landscape than exists today. Return to the historic landscape is not possible due to a number of factors. Today provisions need to be made for threatened and endangered species that in the past would have had a much more expansive landscape to find habitat. Extensive modifications to the land are virtually irreversible or will be considered infeasible due to the capital investment required to return the land to its original form. Some remnants of the past will be maintained for their educational or interpretive value. Outside of these exceptions, efforts will be made to move the landscape character to a more natural appearing condition.

In the future vegetation conditions will contribute to the recovery of federally listed, proposed, or sensitive species. Viable populations of native species are present and distributed similar to historical patterns, including species that were once listed, or proposed for listing, as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act, or listed as sensitive by the Regional Forester.

Populations of noxious weeds and invasive plant species are reduced or eradicated. Existing habitats facilitate beneficial interactions (such as pollination) among native species.

Watersheds sustain healthy ecosystems and provide conditions for the viability of native riparian and aquatic species. Soil properties, hydrological patterns, vegetation, and watershed disturbances mimic the natural range of variability. Planning and management activities recognize and complement watershed processes at different scales and the connections of aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems.

2.4.2. *Dry/Mesic Upland Prairie and Wet Prairie/Sedge Meadow Restoration*

The future conditions for restored dry/mesic or upland prairie and wet prairie/sedge meadow vegetation types will be a mosaic. Restoration will occur to both communities simultaneously within a given area. The primary difference between these two types of restoration is soil moisture content and the plant communities they support. This will be the most extensive restoration area and will require the landscape to be restored to close to the historic condition to meet restoration goals. This will include removal of roads, railroad beds, and most structures, some re-contouring of the soil, removal of drainage tiles, as well as removing trees and hedges of non-native species. Bunkers will probably remain in this area in the foreseeable future, although this is the area that bunker removal would be preferred if the opportunity arises in the future. Restoration of vegetation communities to resemble the native vegetation will occur in these areas. Vegetation species mix will vary dependent upon landscape position, soil type, and other factors, and will

consist of a mix of prairie forbs and grasses. This degree of restoration is most important in high visibility areas, such as the visitor center and near high use trails.

During restoration, grazing and mowing may be used to aid in the restoration process. Following restoration, grazing may be used to maintain a variety of grass heights for sensitive bird species.

The largest portion of Prairie Creek lies within the grassland habitat area. Reforestation along Prairie Creek will vary dependent upon several factors. What is now a forested riparian habitat will remain much the same. Changes that will likely occur within the riparian corridor are: reduction of tree canopy width, reduction of tree canopy density, and reduction of woody debris and tree leaf litter. Tree species composition will remain much the same while shrubs will be replaced with more grasses and forbs.

2.4.3. Grassland Habitat

The grassland habitat will require less extensive restoration efforts, although hedge rows of trees and unneeded physical structures will be removed. Roads and railway beds will be removed where possible, but it is less likely that extensive re-contouring will occur. Wetlands and sedge meadows may be common along former road and railway bed lines. The grassland areas will be seeded with a mixture of non-native grasses and forbs that are typical of the pasture vegetation being used by grassland birds. It is expected that native plants will begin to appear and take hold in this area. Cattle grazing and hay mowing will be common in this area to maintain grass heights for grassland birds. Evidence of management will likely be visible here for the long term including farm machinery, cattle and hay bales. Grassland habitat areas will have a more pastoral appearance of rolling grass covered hills and valleys with occasional remnants of past cultural use.

2.4.4. Savanna Restoration

Savanna appears as a mixture of forest and prairie. It has a park-like setting of scattered trees although it is still open to the sun and the wind. Groupings of open grown prairie trees such as bur oak, white oak and shagbark hickory with canopy cover between 5% and 50% are found in the savanna habitat. The understory may or may not include a shrub layer. The lower layer consists of a variety of herbaceous plants from the prairie and woodland/forest communities. Tree density varies by location and landscape position. The savanna habitat type is found along sandy slopes as well as in open prairie. Remnants of some savanna areas still exist and it may be decades before more savanna areas are restored.

2.4.5. Forest/Woodland Restoration

The forest/woodland will have two to three distinct vegetative layers. There will be a tree layer with 50%-100% canopy cover, a sub-canopy layer

consisting of understory trees, shrubs and vines, and with an herbaceous layer on the forest floor. Forest/woodland areas provide visitors with a much more protected and enclosed feeling than savanna, although canopy openings are not uncommon.

2.4.6. Goal 1 – Ecosystem management sustains habitats and processes necessary to maintain the biological diversity of the tallgrass prairie and provide for multiple-use outputs.

2.4.7. Objectives

- a) Within 10-15 years demonstrate positive trends in habitat quality and availability, reflecting biological diversity within the range of natural variability.
- b) During the next 10-15 years move at least 20 percent of lands adversely affected by human activities or natural events (including agricultural croplands, sites with warehouses, roads etc) toward a functioning mosaic of vegetation types, consistent with the following desired conditions:
 - 1,380 acres of dolomite prairie.
 - 6,690 acres of agricultural grasslands.
 - 4,020 acres of upland typic prairie.
 - 4,640 acres of wet prairie/sedge meadow.
 - 430 acres forest/woodland.
 - 490 acres of savanna.
 - 10,260 acres total of grassland, prairie, or sedge meadow in large open tracts (unfragmented habitat) of 500 to 3,000 acres.
 - Marshes and seeps as inclusions.
- c) Within 2 years, implement prescribed fire in a manner consistent with desired conditions and management area direction to restore fire as natural disturbance processes to the prairie ecosystem.
- d) Within 2 years, implement a grazing management program consistent with desired condition for grassland bird habitat.
- e) Continue to manage all hazardous materials and sites to eliminate or prevent unacceptable risk to human and ecological health.
- f) Continue coordinating with the Army, US Department of Agriculture, US EPA, Illinois EPA, Illinois Department of Natural Resources and US Fish and Wildlife Service to assess risks, and define remediation goals and responsibilities for cleanup for lingering soil and sediment contamination issues from the former Joliet Arsenal.
- g) Proceed with implementing projects as sites are evaluated through the NEPA process for release from the 1998 moratorium on ground disturbance activities.

2.4.8. Goal 2 – Provide ecological conditions to sustain viable populations of native and non-native species and to achieve objectives for Management Indicator Species (MIS/focal species).

2.4.9. Objectives

- a) Within 15 years, demonstrate positive trends in ecological conditions for populations, habitat availability, habitat quality, or other factors affecting threatened, endangered, and sensitive species.
- b) Protect, manage, monitor, and enhance all existing native vegetation remnants.
- c) Reduce by approximately 150 acres per year, the area under permit for agriculture crops and initiate restoration to either grassland or native prairie habitat.
- d) Continue working cooperatively with volunteers, local, state and national agencies and organizations to restore and maintain the prairie ecosystem.
- e) Foster scientific study to gain knowledge about managing and restoring prairie ecosystems. Emphasize priority research needs for threatened, endangered and sensitive species.
- f) During the planning period, monitor ecological conditions for the following Management Indicators (ecological conditions and species):

- Dolomite Prairie
- Upland Typic Prairie
- Wet Typic Prairie
- Sedge Meadow
- Marsh
- Seep
- Savanna
- Woodland/Forest
- Short stature Grassland Habitat
- Medium stature Grassland Habitat
- Tall stature Grassland Habitat
- Perennial Stream/Aquatic Invertebrates
- White-tailed Deer
- Leafy Prairie-Clover
- Henslow's Sparrow

2.4.10. Goal 3 – Reduce noxious weed and exotic, invasive plant and animal species infestations and prevent new invader species from becoming established.

2.4.11. Objectives

- a) Within 3 years, begin implementation of an integrated pest management program for noxious weed and invasive species prevention and control .
- b) Within 10 years, reduce or limit expansion of the areas affected by noxious and invasive species, with emphasis on areas where these species have a high potential for establishment and spread.
- c) Manage noxious weeds and invasive species with a coordinated effort including potentially affected resources, users, adjacent landowners, and funding sources.

- d) After treatment re-establish vegetation that is compatible with desired long-term vegetative conditions, management direction, and management area priorities.

2.4.12. Goal 4 – Improve and protect watershed conditions to provide the water quality and quantity and soil conditions necessary to support ecological functions and intended beneficial water uses. (See Figure 8 for a map of watersheds and riparian areas).

2.4.13. Objectives

- a) Within 5 years, complete watershed analyses to guide and support site-specific planning and management. Use watersheds, including riparian areas, as a template for ecosystem restoration and maintenance.
- b) Within 15 years, achieve a 20% reduction in human-caused adverse effects (e.g. road and building removal, restore agriculture crop lands to grassland or prairie, etc) on watershed integrity, soil productivity, and associated species and their habitats.
- c) Within 15 years, improve at least 20 of watershed conditions at Midewin including, water quality, water levels or streamflow, and habitat conditions for aquatic resources.
- d) Within 15 years restore topography, soil profiles, and hardened surfaces in at least 20% of the areas disturbed by fill or excavation, including road and rail beds, floodplain spoil piles, and building sites.
- e) Within 15 years, treat at least 20% of the ditches, drain tile systems, floodplains, and channelized creeks to improve habitat and the hydrological functions of the watershed ecosystems.
- f) Within 15 years, for areas with detrimentally impacted soils, restore or enhance soil properties and processes, such as infiltration capacities and erosion rates, to support healthy watersheds, e.g., approximately the levels under natural soil conditions.
- g) Collaborate and cooperate with Federal, State, and local agencies, landowners, and other stakeholders in watershed management.

2.5. RECREATION, INTERPRETATION, and SCENIC INTEGRITY

2.5.1. Desired Condition

Recreational opportunities provided, focus on educational experiences and resource interpretation. Recreational opportunities will be diverse, centering on key attractions such as Prairie Creek, historic sites or homesteads, and wildlife viewing areas, while promoting the appreciation of the scenic quality and importance of biodiversity and plant conservation to society.

Recreational opportunities will be managed to enhance the quality of the resources, which will not be adversely impacted by visitor presence. Visitors will feel relatively secure, without encountering many other people, except at the Visitor Center. Physically challenged visitors will be able to enjoy key features on the prairie in relative comfort, though some effort will be involved. Resources will be protected through a variety of means. Recreation experiences will offer interested people the opportunity to participate in ecosystem (prairie restoration) and heritage management through participatory projects. Local communities, partnerships, and volunteers are involved and benefit from their roles in restoring and maintaining the prairie ecosystem.

Visitors find opportunities for outdoor recreation in a unique setting. Visitors experience a sense of relative vastness and solitude in a more naturally appearing setting not found elsewhere in this vicinity. Experiences include opportunities to view the prairie landscape and wildlife from Illinois Route 53 or from a network of internal trails, and opportunities to become totally immersed in the prairie environment. Midewin provides trail opportunities unencumbered by vehicle traffic, with opportunities for both short, easy trips as well as more challenging trips by foot, bicycle or horseback. The landscapes offer a variety of naturally appearing settings from rural and roaded natural settings with opportunities for social interaction and comfort, to somewhat more primitive settings with greater opportunities for solitude and challenges.

Recreation facilities are constructed, located and improved as needed to provide safe, efficient, and environmentally responsible experiences and opportunities. Maintenance of recreation facilities meets established national standards and contributes to healthy and safe recreation experiences. New facilities, built to universal accessibility standards, provide recreation opportunities to physically challenged people. Conflicts among different recreation users and other users and resources are minimized.

Roads will be primarily for administrative use, designed for low maintenance, and constructed or reconstructed to meet minimum design and safety standards, while maintaining the rural quality and feeling of the prairie. Controlled access will be maintained for educational field trips and guided tours. Moderate to strenuous exercise and effort will be required to reach many points of interest on the prairie.

The combination of restored prairie ecosystems, coupled with safe, attractive recreational developments and educational and interpretive programs, provide recreational opportunities that enhance the visitor's appreciation of restoring, maintaining, and enjoying the tallgrass prairie ecosystem. The mandate of resource conservation and protection will be met through a set of manageable access points. Roads and trails will not contribute to resource degradation.

2.5.2. Goal 1 – Plan and manage the recreation program and recreation resources to provide for health and cleanliness, safety and security, facility conditions, permit administration, responsiveness to customers, environmental settings, aesthetics and recreational experiences, and restoration of natural appearing landscapes.

2.5.3. Objectives

- a) Within 10 years provide improved visitor facilities and services for orientation, interpretation and environmental education opportunities that enable people to develop an understanding and appreciation of the Prairie ecosystem and resources and their role in sustaining those resources.
- b) Provide non-motorized recreation opportunities.
- c) Within 15 years provide a group campground, picnic area, and dispersed campsites in areas identified as safe from environmental hazards.
- d) Within 20 years provide a network or system of approximately 48 miles of trails.
- e) Within the next 10 years provide approximately 10 miles of trail and identified areas safe from environmental hazards or risks, for non-motorized recreation use or environmental education opportunities.
- f) Within 10 years provide opportunities to easily view and experience the prairie landscape.
- g) Continue to improve and maintain naturally appearing landscapes especially when viewed from trails, roadways, and visitor or administrative facilities.
- h) Within 5 years determine the recreation use capacity for recreation facilities at Midewin, appropriate use allocations for commercial and non-commercial recreation uses. Determine the capacity of administrative and natural resources to administer recreational programs and effects of visitor use on the resource base to provide the basis for management actions to meet protection and conservation responsibilities.
- i) Continue to provide for the public enjoyment of historical and cultural heritage resources.
- j) Expand recreational and environmental education programs to a diverse audience, including people from urban areas, people with disabilities, and different age groups.
- k) Provide programs that motivate participants to action through stewardship and volunteer opportunities.
- l) Pursue and implement environmental education partnerships with other agencies and organizations.

2.5.4. Goal 2 – Improve or maintain the quality of scenic resources to meet the Scenic Integrity Objectives.

2.5.5. Objectives

1. In the next decade, enhance scenic integrity in areas currently rated as low or moderately low through ecosystem management activities and transportation planning.
2. During the next 10 years, implement practices that will meet or move the landscape toward scenic integrity objectives.
3. Long-term scenic integrity objectives show the desired scenic condition of the land over the long term. These objectives are displayed on the map in Figure 5. Within the next decade, long-term scenic integrity objectives will be implemented for all Midewin lands within the foreground of the Illinois Route 53 Viewshed and within the foreground of the Visitor Center Viewshed.
4. Short-term scenic integrity objectives are established because some long-term objectives cannot be accomplished during the next decade, due to the extensive modifications to the lands over the past 150 years. For the next ten years, the long-term objectives are modified as follows:

<u>If the long-term objective is</u>	<u>The short-term objective is</u>
High	Moderate
Moderate	Low
Low	Low

2.6. HERITAGE RESOURCES

2.6.1. Desired Condition

Heritage resources are protected, managed and interpreted in the spirit of stewardship for the benefit of the public, ensuring future generations an opportunity to appreciate and experience the diversity of human history and cultural heritage at Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie.

2.6.2. Goal 1 – Protect the integrity of heritage resources while providing for public education and research opportunities.

2.6.3. Objectives

- a) Prevent loss or damage of heritage resources until they can be evaluated for scientific study, interpretive or other appropriate uses.
- b) Foster scientific study to gain knowledge about past human behavior in the area.
- c) In the next 10 years, complete an inventory of all prehistoric and historic sites through field surveys to comply with the National Historic Preservation Act.
- d) Nominate significant sites to the National Register of Historic Places.

- e) Identify areas requiring special management needs, such as areas containing a high density of heritage resources.
- f) Emphasize heritage interpretation opportunities so the public may gain a better understanding and perspective of our heritage.
- g) Work cooperatively with Native American groups and communities to enhance historic and prehistoric values.

2.7. FACILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION

2.7.1. Desired Condition

Facilities are developed to the standard adequate for their intended purpose. Reconstruction and remodeling of existing facilities, and construction of new facilities, occur as facilities wear out or need to change. New or reconstructed facilities reflect Midewin architectural themes. Facilities are safe and efficient, and meet land and resource management objectives. Former Army facilities and related infrastructure not needed for long term objectives are demolished, removed or properly disposed, and the sites re-vegetated or stabilized. The transportation network matches the level of management activities occurring on the Prairie and supplies the access needed for resource management, public use, recreation, special uses, and fire protection. Roads needed to meet long-term objectives are maintained to provide user safety, and reduce sedimentation and other resource impacts. Roads not needed to meet long-term objectives are decommissioned and stabilized.

2.7.2. Goal 1 – Provide and maintain a safe, efficient transportation system across the Prairie that meets resource management and access needs, while minimizing adverse resource impacts.

2.7.3. Objectives

- a) Over the next 20 years provide a safe, efficient transportation system utilizing existing infrastructure where feasible, that includes:
 - Approximately 48 total miles of trail network.
 - 8 permitted public access points.
 - 7 public parking areas.
 - Approximately 16 miles of roads opened for administrative use only.
 - 9 miles of internal roads for an interpretive transportation route.
 - 4 additional administrative access points.
- b) Identify safety hazards on roads administered and owned by Midewin, establish maintenance and improvement priorities, correct or mitigate the situation, or close hazardous roads to public and/or administrative use.
- c) Prioritize road maintenance activities using factors such as user safety, resource protection needs, administrative needs, user comfort, and the identified traffic service level.

- d) Progressively reduce road-related adverse effects to achieve habitat, soil, water, and other relevant objectives.
- e) Over the next 10 years, decommission 50% of the roads not needed for administrative access or Prairie management or to provide access to Army inholdings. Begin restoring the lands to desired resource management.
- f) Coordinate transportation system planning, management, and decommissioning with other federal, state, and county agencies, permittees, contractors, cooperators, and the public to develop a shared transportation system serving the needs of all parties.

2.7.4. Goal 2 – Provide and maintain safe, efficient and aesthetically appropriate facilities at Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie.

2.7.5. Objectives

- a) Provide and maintain safe and efficient administrative facilities to meet current and anticipated needs.
- b) Provide and maintain safe visitor facilities to meet objectives and needs as planned.
- c) Within 10 years reduce 20% of excess facilities, structures, and related infrastructure remaining on site from the former Joliet Arsenal to enhance public health and safety, and reduce adverse effects on habitat and other resources.

2.8. LANDS AND SPECIAL USES

2.8.1. Desired Condition

Special use permits, landownership adjustments, rights-of-way, landline location, and easements serve public needs. National Tallgrass Prairie property boundaries are located and posted on the ground. Adjustments made in landownership achieve resource management or protection objectives, provide needed access, or allow Prairie lands to be managed more efficiently. Pro-active efforts to educate and inform users and adjacent landowners result in reduced levels of un-permitted uses, encroachments, and user conflicts.

2.8.2. Goal 1 – Boundary lines between National Forest System lands and other ownerships are surveyed, posted, marked and protected and maintained at an appropriate interval to keep them visible, to protect the investment, and deter unintentional encroachment.

2.8.3. Objectives

- a) Within 15 years complete survey, posting and marking of boundary lines.
- b) Respond to cases of title claims or encroachment, and act to reduce the likelihood of future trespass, as needed.

2.8.4. Goal 2 – Adjustments to land ownership serve public needs, and protect or enhance key resource values or consolidate Prairie lands.

2.8.5. Objectives

- a) Identify and seek adjustments as opportunities permit to land ownership and National Tallgrass Prairie boundaries to serve public needs and protect resources.
- b) Use land acquisition, exchange, and conservation easements, where appropriate, to meet resource objectives.
- c) Keep land status records up to date and manage the status of Prairie lands to support resource goals.

2.8.6. Goal 3 – Special uses serve public needs or resource objectives.

2.8.7. Objectives

- a) Approve special use proposals consistent with applicable laws and regulations, desired conditions and resource needs.

2.9. FIRE MANAGEMENT

2.9.1. Desired Condition

Fire plays its natural disturbance role where appropriate to maintain desired ecological conditions, but is actively suppressed where necessary to protect life, investments, and valuable resources. Effects of prescribed fire are acceptable, and fire operates within historical fire regimes appropriate to the vegetation type. The selected suppression tactic is successful for any wildland fires.

2.9.2. Goal 1 – Restore or maintain desired plant community attributes, as well as ecological processes through the use of prescribed fire.

2.9.3. Objectives

- a) Develop vegetation treatment plans (burn plans) in coordination with other local governments, agencies, and landowners, to reduce the risk of escaped fire when doing controlled prescribed fire.
- b) Use prescribed fire alone or with other management activities to achieve desired vegetative conditions.
- c) Identify areas where use of prescribed fire is either limited or inappropriate.
- d) Implement management actions that reduce the risk of wildland fire.
- e) Meet scenic integrity objectives and consider aesthetics and recreational experiences, when using prescribed fire.

2.10. AIR QUALITY AND SMOKE MANAGEMENT

2.10.1. Desired Condition

Smoke emissions from prescribed fires and any wildland fires result in ambient air quality and visibility values across the Prairie and nearby highways that are within federal and state standards for particulate matter, ozone, and visibility.

2.10.2. Goal 1 – Protect air quality by complying with federal, state, and local pollution requirements relating to the Clean Air Act. This includes, but is not limited to, following State Implementation Plans, maintaining Air Quality Related Values, and conforming provisions to the Clean Air Act.

2.10.3. Objectives

- a) Over the planning period, Air Quality Related Values will be maintained.