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## **Broad Incidental Take Permit/Authorization Grassland and Savanna Protocols**

### **Greater Prairie Chicken (*Tympanuchus cupido*)**

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This Broad Incidental Take Permit/Authorization (BITP/A) has been issued by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources to allow landowners to conduct certain grassland and savanna management activities while remaining in compliance with the state's endangered species law (s. 29.604, Wis. Stats.). This BITP/A allows for the incidental taking (mortality) of the state threatened greater prairie chicken (*Tympanuchus cupido*) that may occur as a result of the grassland and savanna management activities listed below.

Full background information/criteria on this BITP/A can be found here:

[https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/ERReview/Documents/GSP\\_Overview.pdf](https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/ERReview/Documents/GSP_Overview.pdf)

Protocols for all other species covered under this BITP/A can be found here:

<https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/ERReview/ItGrasslands.html>

*Note: If carrying out a given protocol is not feasible, or multiple listed species in a given management area pose conflicts, contact the Bureau of Natural Heritage Conservation (NHC) at [DNRRERReview@wisconsin.gov](mailto:DNRRERReview@wisconsin.gov). Staff in NHC will work with species experts and managers to establish an acceptable protocol for a given site that will allow for incidental take without further legal consultation or public notice.*

#### **I. Species Background Information**

**State Status:** Threatened

Background information on the greater prairie chicken can be found on the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources' web page for the species:

<https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/EndangeredResources/Animals.asp?mode=detail&SpecCode=ABNLC13010>

#### **II. Management Protocol for Permitted/Authorized Incidental Take**

If the management activity is for the purpose of recovering, maintaining, or improving the grassland, prairie, or savanna ecosystem that includes habitat for prairie chickens, then incidental take is allowed if these conditions are followed:

First, for any suitable prairie chicken nesting habitat, the **combined total of all treatments (as listed below) may not exceed 20%** of the entire property between the following dates (outside of these dates all management actions are allowed so long as take is minimized).

**A. Burning**

Burning is not allowed between May 10 and August 1.

**B. Mowing**

Mowing is not allowed between May 10 and August 1.

*Note: Many grassland birds may nest earlier than prairie chickens. To minimize impacts to all grassland birds, mowing should begin being restricted after April 15<sup>th</sup>.*

**C. Selective Brush Cutting**

No restrictions on brush cutting.

**D. Grazing**

Grazing is not allowed between May 10 and August 1.

*Note: Many grassland birds may nest earlier than prairie chickens. To minimize impacts to all grassland birds, grazing should begin being restricted after April 15<sup>th</sup>.*

**E. Herbicide Use**

To the extent possible, herbiciding should be avoided between May 10 and August 1. If herbiciding during this period is necessary to control herbaceous vegetation, spot application with low persistence/short half-life herbicide using wick, sponge, or hand-held spray applications may be used. During this period, broadcast spraying should not be conducted. For woody species, cut- stump or basal bark applications should be used.