

Attachment P

Initiative Name and Acronym: Driftless Area Landscape Conservation Initiative (DALCI)

Initiative Description/Summary:

The DALCI is supported by EQIP, WHIP, and GRP to provide producers in approved states with assistance to implement conservation practices specifically targeted to enhance wildlife habitat across the landscape and reduce erosion and sedimentation within the Driftless Area.

DALCI is governed by a Board of Directors, chaired by the RCs and composed of the State Conservationists of included states. Adoption and modification of this guidance shall be reviewed and approved through the Board of Directors, assisted by the Initiative Coordinator.

Approved or Participating States:

- Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, and Wisconsin

Program Contact Information:

EQIP: Mark Rose at (202) 690-2621; mark.rose@wdc.usda.gov

WHIP: Albert Cerna, (202) 720-9358, albert.cerna@wdc.usda.gov

GRP – Elizabeth Crane-Wexler, (202) 720-0242, elizabeth.crane-wexler@wdc.usda.gov

DALCI Coordinator – Martin Lowenfish, (202) 690-4979, martin.lowenfish@wdc.usda.gov

ProTracts Requirements:

1. Subaccount Guidance:

State Conservationists (STCs) will select the **Driftless Area** sub-account type in ProTracts for administration of funds related to the Initiative. The funding pool sub-accounts must be assigned the name of **DALCI - (project or local name if applicable)** for both EQIP and WHIP funds, to facilitate monitoring of data in ProTracts.

2. Application, Evaluation, and Ranking Tool Guidance – Choice Lists and Matrix Data:

• **Approved Land Types to be populated in ProTracts AERT:**

States must assign the following land uses as eligible for this initiative. (Other land uses are not authorized for DALCI)

| Required Land Use |
|-------------------|
| Crop |
| Forest |
| Hay |
| Natural Area |
| Pasture |
| Wildlife |

• **Approved Natural Resource Concerns to be populated in ProTracts AERT:**

States must assign the following natural resource concerns for this initiative (Other resource concerns are not authorized for DALCI).

| Fish and Wildlife |
|---|
| Habitat Fragmentation |
| Imbalance Among and Within Populations |
| Inadequate Cover/Shelter |
| Inadequate Food |
| Inadequate Space |
| Inadequate Water |
| T&E Species: Declining Species, Species of Concern |
| Threatened and Endangered Fish and Wildlife Species |

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| Plant Condition |
| Forage Quality and Palatability |
| Noxious and Invasive Plants |
| Plants not adapted or suited |
| Productivity, Health and Vigor |
| T&E Plant Species: Declining Species, Species of Concern |
| Threatened and Endangered Plant Species |
| Soil Erosion |
| Classic Gully |
| Ephemeral Gully |
| Sheet and Rill |
| Streambank |
| Water Quality |
| Excessive Suspended Sediment and Turbidity in Surface Water |
| Harmful Temperatures of Surface Water |

Note: No additional resource concerns may be added or used in ProTracts AERT to support this initiative.

- **Approved Conservation Practices to be populated in ProTracts AERT:**

Contracts developed under DALCI must include at least one of the applicable core practices, or must be completing a conservation system that supports core practices that are documented as already applied on the land under contract.

| Core Practices | |
|---|---------------|
| Practice Name | Practice Code |
| Access Control | 472 |
| Aquatic Organism Passage | 396 |
| Brush Management | 314 |
| Conservation Cover | 327 |
| Conservation Crop Rotation | 328 |
| Contour Buffer Strip | 332 |
| Contour Farming | 330 |
| Cover Crop | 340 |
| Critical Area Planting | 342 |
| Diversion | 362 |
| Field Border | 386 |
| Filter Strip | 393 |
| Forage and Biomass Planting | 512 |
| Forest Stand Improvement | 666 |
| Grade Stabilization Structure | 410 |
| Grassed Waterway | 412 |
| Heavy Use Area Protection | 561 |
| Herbaceous Weed Control | 315 |
| Lined Waterway or Outlet | 468 |
| Prescribed Burning | 338 |
| Prescribed Grazing | 528 |
| Residue and Tillage Management, No Till | 329 |
| Riparian Forest Buffer | 391 |
| Sediment Basin | 350 |
| Stream Crossing | 578 |
| Streambank and Shoreline Protection | 580 |
| Stream Habitat Improvement and Management | 395 |
| Stripcropping | 585 |
| Terrace | 600 |
| Tree/Shrub Establishment | 612 |
| Upland Wildlife Habitat Management | 645 |

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| Water and Sediment Control Basin | 638 |
| Wetland Creation | 658 |
| Wetland Restoration | 657 |
| Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management | 644 |

Supporting Practices that States may offer to support this initiative:

| Supporting Practices | |
|----------------------------|---------------|
| Practice Name | Practice Code |
| Access Road | 560 |
| Animal Trails and Walkways | 575 |
| Fence | 382 |
| Firebreak | 394 |
| Forage Harvest Management | 511 |
| Forest Trails and Landings | 655 |
| Livestock Pipeline | 516 |
| Mulching | 484 |
| Obstruction Removal | 500 |
| Spring Development | 574 |
| Subsurface Drain | 606 |
| Underground Outlet | 620 |
| Water Well | 642 |
| Watering Facility | 614 |
| Woody Residue Treatment | 384 |

| Conservation Activity Plans | |
|---|---------------|
| Practice Name | Practice Code |
| Fish and Wildlife Habitat Management Plan | 142 |
| Forest Management Plan | 106 |

Conservation Activity Plans (CAPs) are conservation systems/plans designed to address specific resource concerns on an agricultural operation. CAPs must be developed by a certified Technical Service Provider. CAPs are for use in EQIP contracts only. The use of a CAP is the only instance where a core practice is not required to be used.

• **AERT Practice-Resource Concern Matrix**

States will populate the approved conservation practices in the ProTracts AERT and associate all approved resource concerns designated "C", "X", or "System" as indicated in the DALCI practice-CPPE matrix at the end of these guidelines. Within the matrix, the designations "C", "X" and "System" indicate:

- "C" = Core Practice required to be offered; resource concern optional to be offered
- "X" = Supporting Practice optional to be offered;
- "System" = if offered for the indicated resource concern, the practice must be implemented as part of a system of practices that addresses the resource concern indicated on the practice-resource concern matrix.

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3. Application, Evaluation, and Ranking Tool Guidance – Ranking Criteria Questions:

The total ranking points associated with initiative are distributed in AERT and approved ranking questions as follows:

| AERT Level | Maximum Points | Point Percentage |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|------------------|
| National Level Ranking Questions | 250 | 25% |
| State Level Ranking Questions | 250 | 25% |
| Local Level Ranking Questions | 400 | 40% |
| Efficiency Score | 100 | 10% |
| Total Points for this initiative: | 1,000 | 100% |

The following are detailed instructions for populating ranking questions and points in ProTracts AERT.

National Level Ranking Criteria Requirements:

National ranking questions are established in ProTracts by the national office. By national policy, national ranking questions must account for 250 points or 25% of total points.

State Level Ranking Criteria Requirements:

State ranking questions must prioritize DALCI projects that address priority needs of each state, consistent with the overall DALCI objectives. These questions will be entered into ProTracts as the “State Ranking Questions” section of the AERT by each state.

Local Level Ranking Criteria Requirements:

Local ranking questions are approved and entered into ProTracts at the State level.

Local level ranking questions must account for a total of 250 points or at least 25% of total points available.

Cost Effectiveness Calculation:

By agency policy, the amount of points associated with the AERT cost efficiency calculation must be 100 points or 10% of total points available.

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DALCI Practice – CPPE Matrix

| NRCS Approved Resource Concerns NRCS Natural Resource Concern Categories for ProTracts AERT. "C" = Core Practice required to be offered; resource concern optional to be offered; "X" = Supporting Practice optional to be offered; "System" = if offered, practice must be implemented as a system addressing the indicated resource concern. | | | | | | |
|---|-------------|--|---|---|--|---|
| | | Fish and Wildlife-Habitat Fragmentation | Fish and Wildlife-Imbalance Among and Within Populations | Fish and Wildlife-Inadequate Cover/Shelter | Fish and Wildlife-Inadequate Food | Fish and Wildlife-Inadequate Space |
| Conservation Practice | Code | | | | | |
| Access Control | 472 | C | C | C | C | C |
| Aquatic Organism Passage | 396 | C | | | | |
| Brush Management | 314 | | C | | C | |
| Conservation Cover | 327 | C | C | C | C | C |
| Conservation Crop Rotation | 328 | C | C | C | | |
| Contour Buffer Strip | 332 | C | | C | C | C |
| Contour Farming | 330 | | | | | |
| Cover Crop | 340 | | C | C | C | |
| Critical Area Planting | 342 | C | C | C | C | |
| Diversion | 362 | | | | C | C |
| Field Border | 386 | C | C | C | C | C |
| Filter Strip | 393 | C | C | C | C | C |
| Forage and Biomass Planting | 512 | C | C | C | C | |
| Forest Stand Improvement | 666 | C | C | C | C | C |
| Grade Stabilization Structure | 410 | | | | C | |
| Grassed Waterway | 412 | | | | C | |
| Heavy Use Area Protection | 561 | | | | | |
| Herbaceous Weed Control | 315 | | C | | C | |
| Lined Waterway or Outlet | 468 | | | | | |
| Prescribed Burning | 338 | | C | | C | C |
| Prescribed Grazing | 528 | C | C | C | C | C |
| Residue and Tillage Management, No Till | 329 | | | | | |
| Riparian Forest Buffer | 391 | C | | C | | |
| Sediment Basin | 350 | C | C | | | |
| Stream Crossing | 578 | | | | | |
| Streambank and Shoreline Protection | 580 | C | C | C | C | |
| Stream Habitat Improvement and Management | 395 | C | C | C | C | C |
| Stripcropping | 585 | C | | C | C | |
| Terrace | 600 | C | | | | |

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| Tree/Shrub Establishment | 612 | C | C | C | C | C |
| Upland Wildlife Habitat Management | 645 | C | C | C | C | C |
| Water and Sediment Control Basin | 638 | | | | | |
| Wetland Creation | 658 | C | C | C | C | C |
| Wetland Restoration | 657 | C | C | C | C | C |
| Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management | 644 | C | | C | | |
| Access Road | 560 | | | | | |
| Animal Trails and Walkways | 575 | | | | | |
| Fence | 382 | | | | | |
| Firebreak | 394 | | | | | |
| Forage Harvest Management | 511 | | | X | X | |
| Forest Trails and Landings | 655 | X | | | X | |
| Livestock Pipeline | 516 | | | | | |
| Mulching | 484 | | | | | |
| Obstruction Removal | 500 | | | | | |
| Spring Development | 574 | | | | | |
| Subsurface Drain | 606 | | | | | |
| Underground Outlet | 620 | | | | | |
| Water Well | 642 | | | | | |
| Watering Facility | 614 | | | | | |
| Woody Residue Treatment | 384 | | | | | |

DALCI Practice – CPPE Matrix

| NRCS Approved Resource Concerns | | Fish and Wildlife- Inadequate Water | Fish and Wildlife- T&E Species: Declining Species, Species of Concern | Fish and Wildlife: Threatened and Endangered Fish and Wildlife Species | Plant Condition- Forage Quality and Palatability | Plant Condition- Noxious and Invasive Plants |
|---|-------------|--|--|---|---|---|
| NRCS Natural Resource Concern Categories for ProTracts AERT. "C" = Core Practice required to be offered; resource concern optional to be offered; "X" = Supporting Practice optional to be offered; "System" = if offered, practice must be implemented as a system addressing the indicated resource concern. | | | | | | |
| Conservation Practice | Code | | | | | |
| Access Control | 472 | C | C | C | | |
| Aquatic Organism Passage | 396 | | C | C | | |
| Brush Management | 314 | | C | | C | C |
| Conservation Cover | 327 | | C | C | | C |
| Conservation Crop Rotation | 328 | | | | C | C |
| Contour Buffer Strip | 332 | | C | C | | |
| Contour Farming | 330 | | | | | |
| Cover Crop | 340 | | C | C | C | C |

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|---|-----|---|---|---|---|---|
| Critical Area Planting | 342 | | C | C | | C |
| Diversion | 362 | | | | | |
| Field Border | 386 | | | | | C |
| Filter Strip | 393 | | C | C | | |
| Forage and Biomass Planting | 512 | | | | C | |
| Forest Stand Improvement | 666 | | C | C | | C |
| Grade Stabilization Structure | 410 | C | | | | |
| Grassed Waterway | 412 | C | | | | |
| Heavy Use Area Protection | 561 | | | | | |
| Herbaceous Weed Control | 315 | | C | | C | C |
| Lined Waterway or Outlet | 468 | | | | | |
| Prescribed Burning | 338 | | | | C | C |
| Prescribed Grazing | 528 | | C | C | C | C |
| Residue and Tillage Management, No Till | 329 | | | | | |
| Riparian Forest Buffer | 391 | | C | C | | |
| Sediment Basin | 350 | C | C | C | | |
| Stream Crossing | 578 | | | | | |
| Streambank and Shoreline Protection | 580 | | C | C | | |
| Stream Habitat Improvement and Management | 395 | C | C | C | | |
| Stripcropping | 585 | | | | | |
| Terrace | 600 | | | | | |
| Tree/Shrub Establishment | 612 | | C | C | | C |
| Upland Wildlife Habitat Management | 645 | | C | C | | C |
| Water and Sediment Control Basin | 638 | C | | | | |
| Wetland Creation | 658 | C | C | C | | C |
| Wetland Restoration | 657 | C | C | C | | |
| Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management | 644 | | C | C | | C |
| Access Road | 560 | X | X | X | | |
| Animal Trails and Walkways | 575 | | | | | |
| Fence | 382 | | | | X | |
| Firebreak | 394 | | | | X | X |
| Forage Harvest Management | 511 | | X | X | X | |
| Forest Trails and Landings | 655 | | X | X | | |
| Livestock Pipeline | 516 | | | | X | X |
| Mulching | 484 | | | | | |
| Obstruction Removal | 500 | | X | | | |
| Spring Development | 574 | | | | X | |
| Subsurface Drain | 606 | | | | X | |

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| Underground Outlet | 620 | | | | | |
| Water Well | 642 | | | | X | |
| Watering Facility | 614 | | | | X | |
| Woody Residue Treatment | 384 | | | | | |

DALCI Practice – CPPE Matrix

| NRCS Approved Resource Concerns | | Plant Condition-Plants not adapted or suited | Plant Condition-Productivity, Health and Vigor | Plant Condition-T&E Species: Declining Species, Species of Concern | Plant Condition-Threatened and Endangered Plant Species | Soil Erosion-Classic Gully |
|---|-------------|---|---|---|--|-----------------------------------|
| NRCS Natural Resource Concern Categories for ProTracts AERT. "C" = Core Practice required to be offered; resource concern optional to be offered; "X" = Supporting Practice optional to be offered; "System" = if offered, practice must be implemented as a system addressing the indicated resource concern. | | | | | | |
| Conservation Practice | Code | | | | | |
| Access Control | 472 | C | C | C | C | C |
| Aquatic Organism Passage | 396 | | | | | |
| Brush Management | 314 | C | C | C | C | C |
| Conservation Cover | 327 | C | C | | | C |
| Conservation Crop Rotation | 328 | C | C | | | C |
| Contour Buffer Strip | 332 | C | C | C | C | C |
| Contour Farming | 330 | | C | | | C |
| Cover Crop | 340 | C | C | | C | C |
| Critical Area Planting | 342 | C | C | C | C | C |
| Diversion | 362 | | C | | | C |
| Field Border | 386 | C | C | | | C |
| Filter Strip | 393 | C | C | C | C | C |
| Forage and Biomass Planting | 512 | C | C | | | C |
| Forest Stand Improvement | 666 | C | C | C | C | C |
| Grade Stabilization Structure | 410 | | | | | C |
| Grassed Waterway | 412 | C | C | | | C |
| Heavy Use Area Protection | 561 | | C | | | C |
| Herbaceous Weed Control | 315 | C | C | | | C |
| Lined Waterway or Outlet | 468 | | | | | C |
| Prescribed Burning | 338 | C | C | C | C | |
| Prescribed Grazing | 528 | C | C | C | C | C |
| Residue and Tillage Management, No Till | 329 | | | | | |
| Riparian Forest Buffer | 391 | | | C | C | |
| Sediment Basin | 350 | | | | | C |
| Stream Crossing | 578 | | C | | | |
| Streambank and Shoreline Protection | 580 | | | | | C |

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| Stream Habitat Improvement and Management | 395 | C | | | | |
| Stripcropping | 585 | | C | | | C |
| Terrace | 600 | | C | | | C |
| Tree/Shrub Establishment | 612 | C | C | C | C | C |
| Upland Wildlife Habitat Management | 645 | C | C | | | C |
| Water and Sediment Control Basin | 638 | | | | | C |
| Wetland Creation | 658 | C | C | | | |
| Wetland Restoration | 657 | C | C | C | C | |
| Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management | 644 | | | | | |
| Access Road | 560 | X | X | | | X |
| Animal Trails and Walkways | 575 | | | | | |
| Fence | 382 | | | | | X |
| Firebreak | 394 | X | X | | | |
| Forage Harvest Management | 511 | | X | | | X |
| Forest Trails and Landings | 655 | X | X | | | X |
| Livestock Pipeline | 516 | | X | | | X |
| Mulching | 484 | | X | | | X |
| Obstruction Removal | 500 | | | | | X |
| Spring Development | 574 | | X | | | X |
| Subsurface Drain | 606 | | X | | | X |
| Underground Outlet | 620 | | | | | X |
| Water Well | 642 | | X | | | |
| Watering Facility | 614 | | X | | | X |
| Woody Residue Treatment | 384 | | X | | | |

DALCI Practice – CPPE Matrix

| NRCS Approved Resource Concerns | | Soil Erosion-Ephemeral Gully | Soil Erosion-Sheet and Rill | Soil Erosion-Streambank | Water Quality-Excessive Suspended Sediment and Turbidity in Surface Water | Water Quality-Harmful Temperatures of Surface Water |
|---|-------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|--|
| NRCS Natural Resource Concern Categories for ProTracts AERT. "C" = Core Practice required to be offered; resource concern optional to be offered; "X" = Supporting Practice optional to be offered; "System" = if offered, practice must be implemented as a system addressing the indicated resource concern. | | | | | | |
| Conservation Practice | Code | | | | | |
| Access Control | 472 | C | C | C | C | C |
| Aquatic Organism Passage | 396 | | | | | C |
| Brush Management | 314 | C | C | C | C | |
| Conservation Cover | 327 | C | C | | C | C |

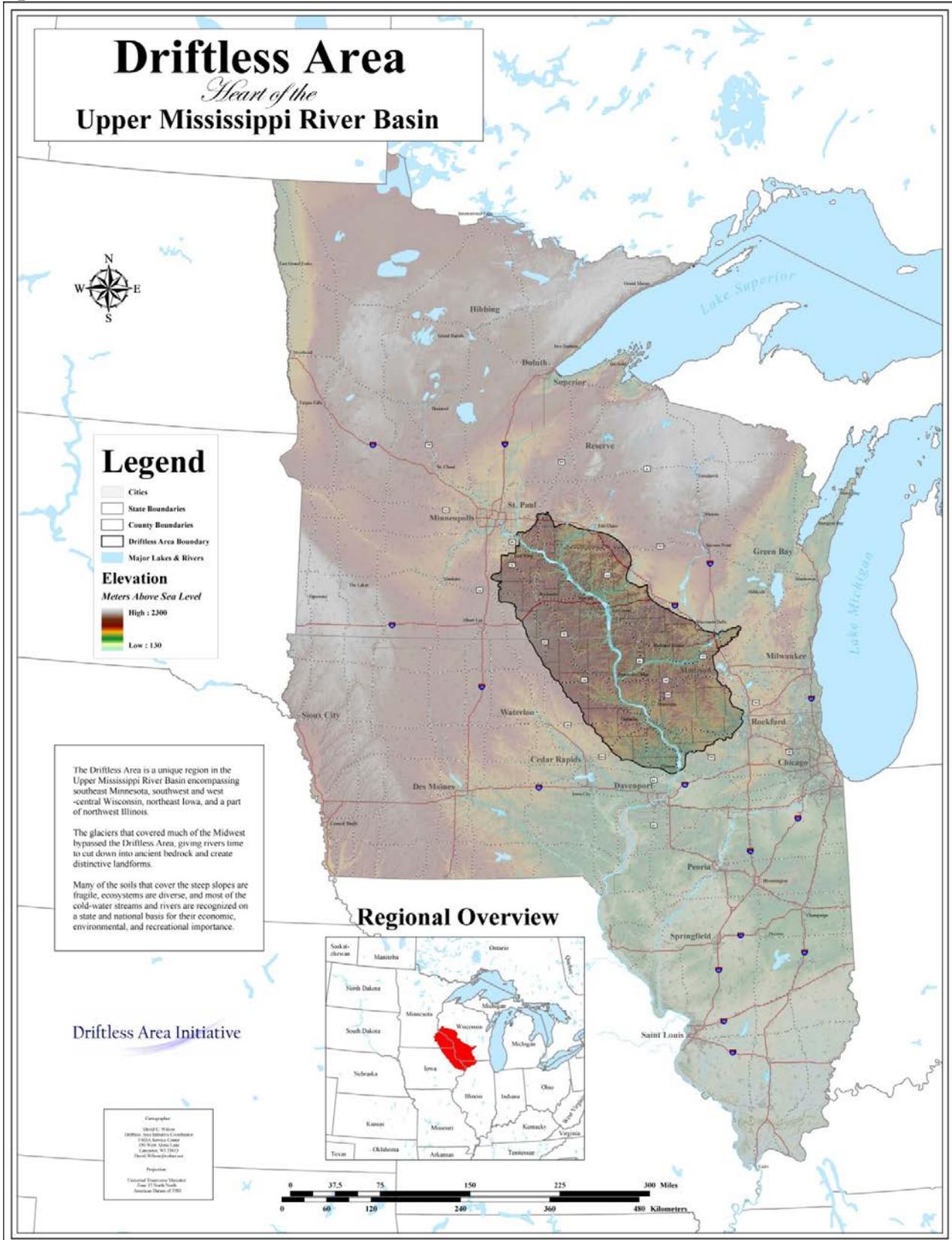
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|---|-----|---|---|---|---|---|
| Conservation Crop Rotation | 328 | C | C | C | C | C |
| Contour Buffer Strip | 332 | C | C | C | C | |
| Contour Farming | 330 | C | C | C | C | |
| Cover Crop | 340 | C | C | C | C | C |
| Critical Area Planting | 342 | C | C | C | C | C |
| Diversion | 362 | C | C | C | C | |
| Field Border | 386 | C | C | C | C | |
| Filter Strip | 393 | C | C | C | C | C |
| Forage and Biomass Planting | 512 | C | C | C | C | C |
| Forest Stand Improvement | 666 | | C | C | | C |
| Grade Stabilization Structure | 410 | | | C | C | |
| Grassed Waterway | 412 | C | C | | C | |
| Heavy Use Area Protection | 561 | C | C | C | C | |
| Herbaceous Weed Control | 315 | C | C | C | | |
| Lined Waterway or Outlet | 468 | C | C | C | C | |
| Prescribed Burning | 338 | C | C | | C | C |
| Prescribed Grazing | 528 | C | C | C | C | C |
| Residue and Tillage Management, No Till | 329 | C | C | | C | |
| Riparian Forest Buffer | 391 | | | C | C | C |
| Sediment Basin | 350 | | | C | C | |
| Stream Crossing | 578 | | | C | C | |
| Streambank and Shoreline Protection | 580 | C | C | C | C | |
| Stream Habitat Improvement and Management | 395 | | | C | C | C |
| Stripcropping | 585 | C | C | C | C | C |
| Terrace | 600 | C | C | C | C | |
| Tree/Shrub Establishment | 612 | C | C | C | C | C |
| Upland Wildlife Habitat Management | 645 | C | C | | C | C |
| Water and Sediment Control Basin | 638 | | | C | C | |
| Wetland Creation | 658 | | | | C | |
| Wetland Restoration | 657 | | | | C | C |
| Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management | 644 | | | | C | |
| Access Road | 560 | X | | X | X | |
| Animal Trails and Walkways | 575 | X | X | X | | |
| Fence | 382 | X | X | X | | X |
| Firebreak | 394 | | | | | |
| Forage Harvest Management | 511 | X | X | | | |
| Forest Trails and Landings | 655 | | X | X | | X |

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|-------------------------|-----|---|---|---|---|---|
| Livestock Pipeline | 516 | X | X | X | | X |
| Mulching | 484 | X | X | X | X | X |
| Obstruction Removal | 500 | X | X | X | | |
| Spring Development | 574 | X | X | X | X | |
| Subsurface Drain | 606 | | | X | X | X |
| Underground Outlet | 620 | X | X | X | | X |
| Water Well | 642 | | | | | |
| Watering Facility | 614 | X | X | X | X | |
| Woody Residue Treatment | 384 | | X | | | |

Map A



Map B

