

Agricultural Resources Management Plan



OSBT 6/8/16 Update

Update Topics

- Timeline
- Plan Changes
 - Updated Outline
 - Policy and Strategic Actions Focus



Plan Development Schedule

Past		
Planning Stage	Public and Board Input Opportunities	Timeframe
Plan Development	OSBT Study Session – Scoping (July 9, 2014)	2014
	Public Comment/Open House – Scoping (September 10, 2014)	
	OSBT Study Session – 1 st Tier Topics (June 15, 2015)	2015 – 2 nd Q 2016
	Public Comment – 1 st Tier Topics (June 10-24, 2015)	
	Lessee Input – 1 st Tier Topics, leases (February 11-21, 2016)	
Future		
Plan Development & Plan Review, Revision, and Approval	Public Comment, Open House	3 rd & 4 th Q 2016
	OSBT 4 th Q	

Plan Outline - Chapters

Introduction

Agricultural Management

Ecological Integration

Community and Visitor Integration

Acquisitions

Plan Implementation

Agricultural Management

Working Lands

Leasing Ag Lands

Diversity of Ag Operations

- Increase Diversified Vegetable Farming
- Evaluation of Alternative Agricultural Activities

Connecting Farmers to
Local Markets

Connecting Farmers to
Resources

Infrastructure: Structures

Infrastructure: Water
Delivery

Soil Conditions

Integrated Pest
Management

Climate Change
Preparedness

- Expansion of previous Grass Banks plan component

Ecological Integration

Bobolink Habitat

Ute Ladies Tresses Habitat

Raptor Habitat

Pollinator Habitat

Prairie Dog Habitat

Grazing in Native
Grasslands

Riparian Areas

Water Quality

Community and Visitor Integration

Scenic and Cultural
Resources

Public Access/Passive
Recreation

Community Connections

Local Foods

Education and Outreach

Service Learning and
Volunteers

- Policy Guidance
- Existing Conditions
- Goals
- Management Strategies
- Measures of Success

Agricultural Structures

Existing Policy Guidance

Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. Phasellus consectetur id lorem in vehicula. Aliquam pharetra tempor urna, sit amet volutpat dui consectetur eget. Cras.

Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. Proin finibus quis ex nec vestibulum. Suspendisse.

Existing Structures & Current Conditions

Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. Suspendisse pharetra elit placerat sapien tempus, ac rutrum eros pretium. Sed consequat volutpat nibh, sed suscipit erat scelerisque et. Nulla pulvinar porttitor feugiat. Vivamus suscipit eros molestie risus hendrerit, at viverra felis mattis. Nullam mollis auctor nunc, et eleifend nisi euismod sit amet. Fusce nisi sapien, cursus sed quam in, congue rhoncus felis. Donec et libero a eros malesuada rutrum. Nullam faucibus sollicitudin lectus, eget ultrices dolor aliquet at. Nulla dignissim tellus.

Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. Duis metus leo, venenatis id neque a, malesuada volutpat nisi. Suspendisse laoreet magna in massa semper malesuada. Nulla justo arcu, aliquam vellaoreet ut, maximus quis eros. Morbi nec arcu sapien. Suspendisse facilisis eget dolor sit amet vestibulum. Mauris tristique quam est, at feugiat nunc tincidunt lacinia. Mauris aliquam porta ligula. Curabitur dignissim nisl id nisl pretium, non lacinia ante tempor. Integer rhoncus urna et mattis tincidunt. Aenean ullamcorper sit amet ligula et sodales. Nullam semper

Policy Guidance

OSMP Charter

ARTICLE XII. OPEN SPACE

Sec. 176. Open Space Purposes – Open space land.

Open space land may not be improved after acquisition unless such improvements are necessary to protect or maintain the land or to provide for passive recreational, open agricultural, or wildlife habitat use of the land. (Added by Ord. No. 4996 (1986), 1, adopted by electorate on Nov. 4, 1986.)

Open Space and Mountain Parks Long Range Management Policies (LRMP), Approved by City Council in 1995.

Relevant Policies:

- Facilities can be constructed on OSMP land if necessary to support approved activities as specified in an Open Space management plan (and in accordance with the Charter Section 176).
- Structures should be consistent with Open Space purposes, be compatible with natural processes, functional, energy efficient and cost-effective.
- Existing buildings will be considered before new construction is contemplated.
- All facility costs including initial construction, refurbishment, or restoration, ongoing maintenance and operational costs should be considered.
- Facilities will be integrated into the Open Space environment so as to result in minimum impact.
- Facilities will be designed and developed to avoid competing with or dominating Open Space features.

nunc eu quam rutrum luctus. Fusce a dolor rutrum sem aliquam venenatis. Curabitur ac venenatis metus, vel molestienibh. Cras nec leo non mi maximus fermentum. Mauris laoreet varius volutpat.

Goals

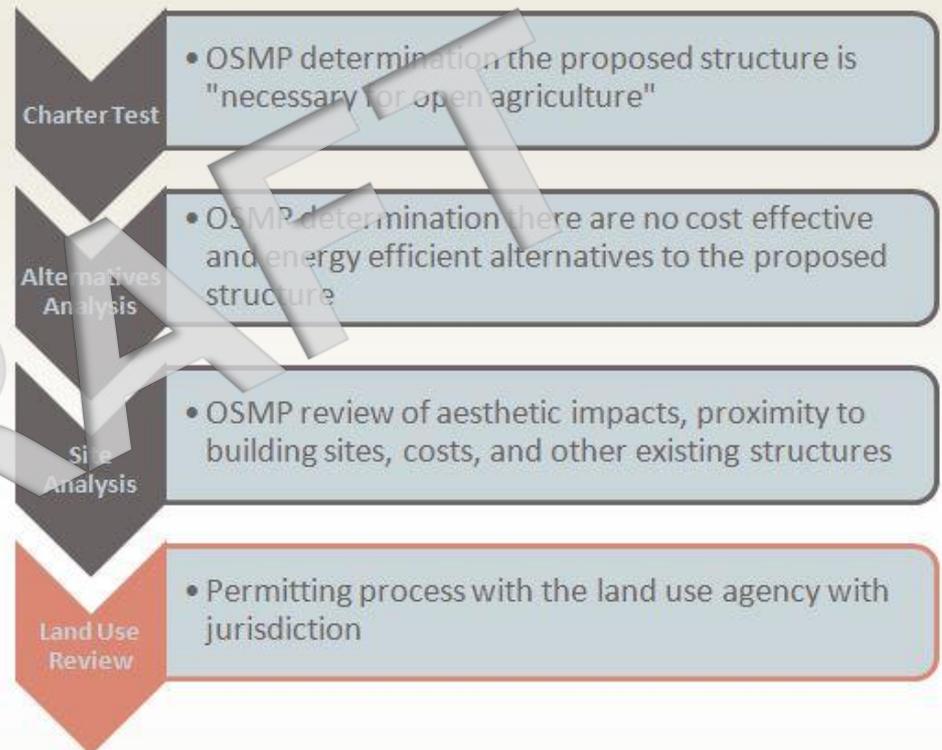
- ❖ Provide the infrastructure necessary to support a diversity of agricultural operations.
- ❖ Maintain agriculturally related structures in an acceptable condition or as identified in the department wide structures assessment.

Management Strategies

- ❖ Provide a framework or process to evaluate proposed new or replacement agricultural structures.
- ❖ Prioritization of major maintenance and replacement needs.

Framework for Evaluating Proposed New or Replacement Agricultural Structures

Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. Praesent et urna ut nisi sollicitudin posuere id non magna. Mauris metus odio, tempus ut neque ullamcorper, aliquet dapibus neque. Quisque vitae sodales eros, at vehicula leo. Proin lectus justo, finibus sed sollicitudin non, elementum non est. Donec porta pretium ex. Duis non dui ac risus mattis imperdiet scelerisque eget velit. Cras id est.



Goals

- ❖ *Provide the infrastructure necessary to support a diversity of agricultural operations.*
- ❖ *Maintain agriculturally related structures in an acceptable condition as identified in the OSMP structures assessment.*

Management Strategies

- ❖ *Provide a framework/process to evaluate proposed new or replacement agricultural structures.*
- ❖ *Prioritization of major maintenance and replacement needs.*

Framework for Evaluating Proposed New or Replacement Agricultural Structures

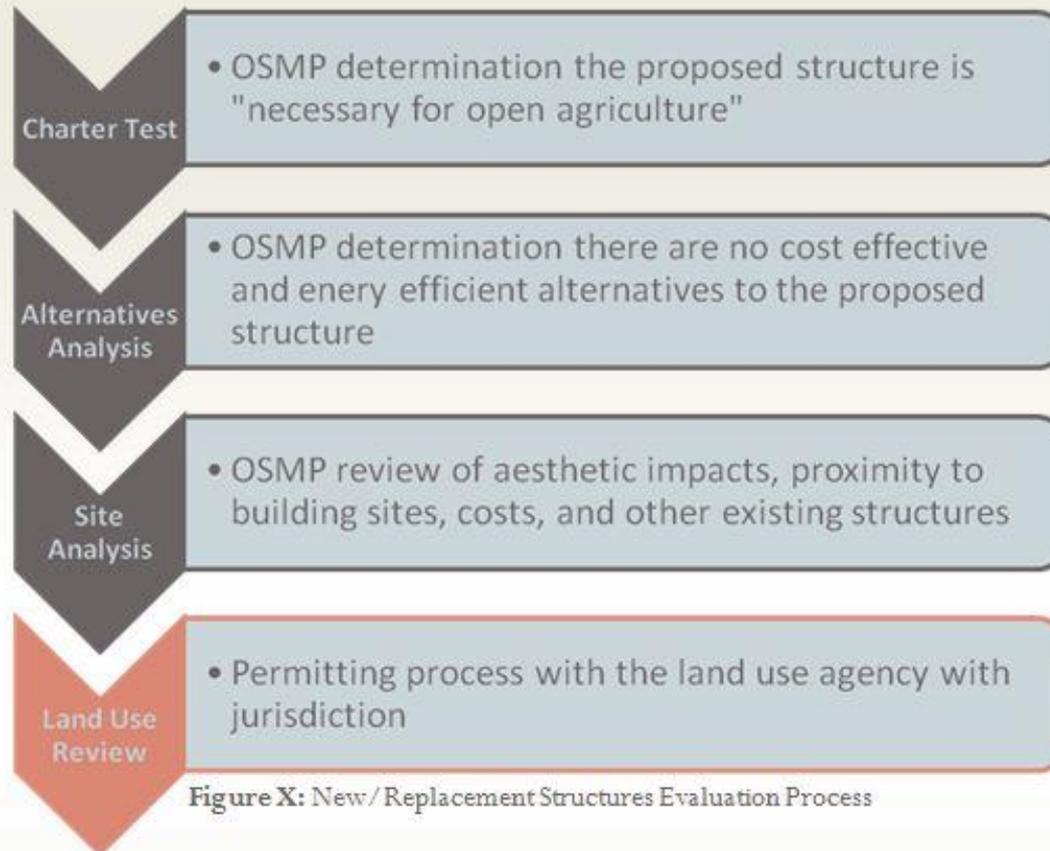
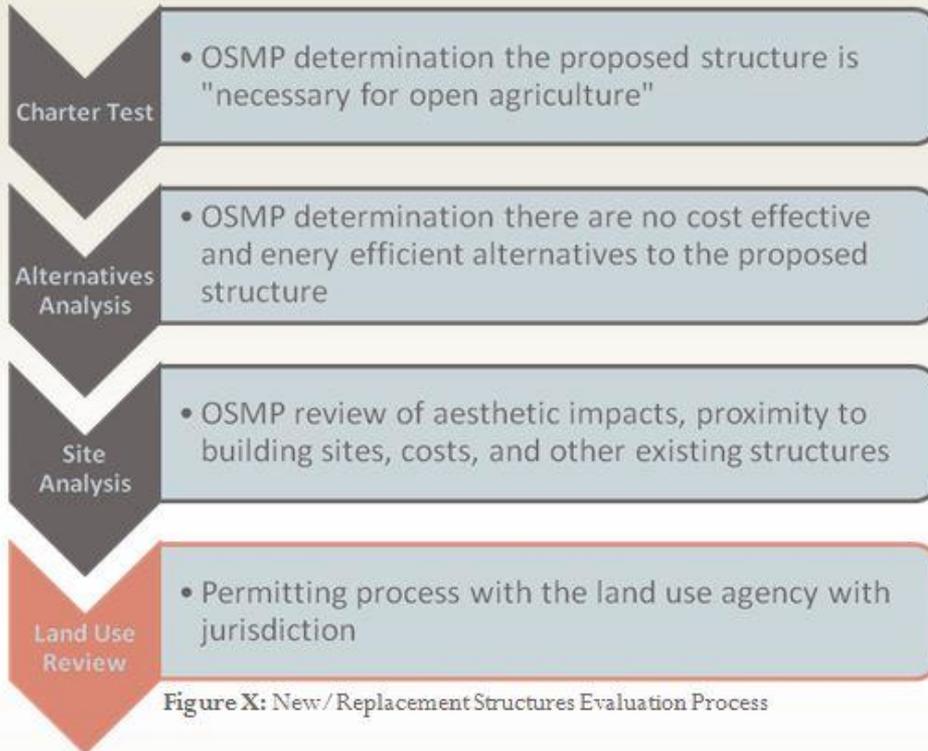


Figure X: New/ Replacement Structures Evaluation Process

DRAFT

Case Study: Greenhouse and Hoophouse Evaluation



DRAFT

Measures of Success

- ✓ *Proportion of operations for which necessary infrastructure has been determined.*
- ✓ *Proportion of operations for which necessary infrastructure is currently available.*
- ✓ *Percent of Agricultural related structures in acceptable conditions as defined by the department structures assessment.*

Bobolink Habitat

Existing Policy

Bobolinks are protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and are considered “vulnerable to extirpation: (‘S3B”) by the Colorado Natural Heritage Program and a “rare breeding species” by the Boulder County Comprehensive Plan. The Grassland Ecosystem Management Plan established the goals, strategies, and measures of success relating to the conservation of bobolink habitat.

Existing Conditions

Goal

Integrate agricultural management practices that support nesting habitat for bobolinks.

Management Strategies

❖ Adjust timing of agricultural operations

Adjust management by delaying mowing on a select number of hayfields until after bobolink fledging, July 15 unless otherwise determined by monitoring.

❖ Establish Class A Bobolink Management Areas

*Establish 4 fields (267 acres), supporting higher abundance/densities of bobolinks, as Class A Bobolink Management Areas⁴: hayfields that are refrained from mowing **every year** until after bobolink fledging, July 15 unless otherwise determined by monitoring.*

Bobolink Nesting Habitat

Bobolinks are ground-nesting songbirds that originally nested in tallgrass or mixedgrass prairie, but because of land conversion, have now increased their use of irrigated hayfields. Unfortunately, due to their affinity to breed later in the nesting season - in the summer, haying/mowing often occurs before the young birds have left the nest. Biologists have documented a 90-100% failure rate of bobolink nests because of hayfield mowing. The consensus is that postponing mowing until July 15 allows for the majority of fledglings to be able to sustain flight and hence avoid mowing impacts. This use of hayfields as nesting habitat creates a potential management conflict as most operators would like to maximize yields, which translates to several harvests (i.e. mowings) each season.

⁴ Through the Grassland Plan 4 hayfields, equaling 267 acres were designated as Class A Bobolink Management Areas. The specific fields are not re-iterated as

Goals

- ❖ *Integrate agricultural management practices that support nesting habitat for bobolinks.*

Management Strategies

- ❖ *Adjust timing of agricultural operations - Delay mowing on a select number of hayfields until after bobolink fledging, July 15 unless otherwise determined by monitoring.*
- ❖ *Establish or maintain Class A Bobolink Management Areas - Establish 4 fields (267 acres), supporting higher abundance/densities of bobolinks, as Class A Bobolink Management Areas: hayfields that are refrained from mowing **every year** until after bobolink fledging, July 15 unless otherwise determined by monitoring.*
- ❖ *Establish or maintain Class B Bobolink Management Areas - Establish 10.5 fields, (223-316 acres) supporting higher abundance/densities of bobolinks, as Class B Bobolink Management Areas: hayfields that are not mowed until after bobolink fledging, **one year out of three.***

Establish 10.5 fields, (223-316 acres) supporting higher abundance/densities of bobolinks, as Class B Bobolink Management Areas²: hayfields that are not mowed until after bobolink fledging, one year out of three.

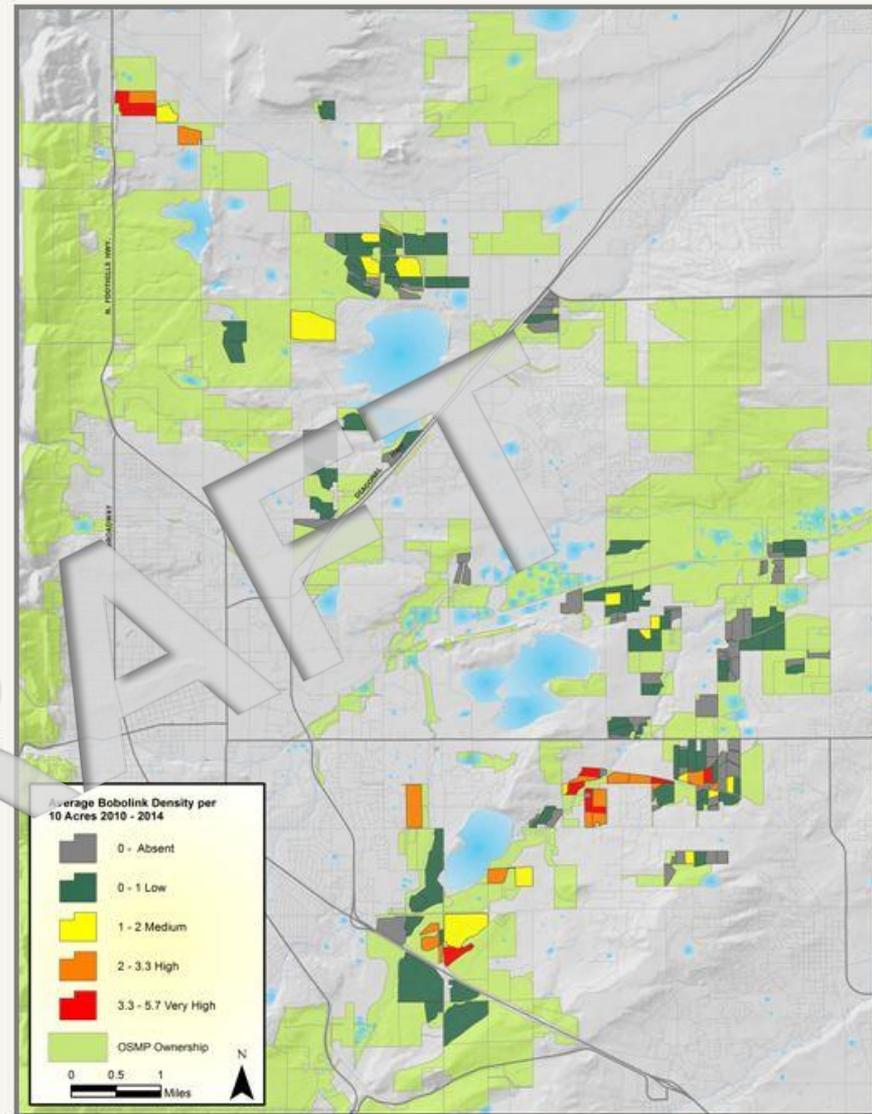
Best Opportunity Areas

Figure X illustrates the average bobolink density per 10 acres on monitored fields from 2010-2014. Areas with the higher abundance/densities and fields clustered together, so as to provide larger contiguous habitat blocks, present the best opportunities.

Measures of Success

- ✓ Percent of Class A & B Management Areas designated
- ✓ Percent of Class A & B Management Areas managed consistent with the mowing regimes associated with the area designations

² Through the Grassland Plan 5 hayfields, equaling 172 acres, were designated as Class B Bobolink Management Areas. The specific fields are not re-iterated as the locations will be established or re-confirmed through plan implementation processes.



Establish 10.5 fields, (223-316 acres) supporting higher abundance/densities of bobolinks, as Class B Bobolink Management Areas²: hayfields that are not mowed until after bobolink fledging, one year out of three.

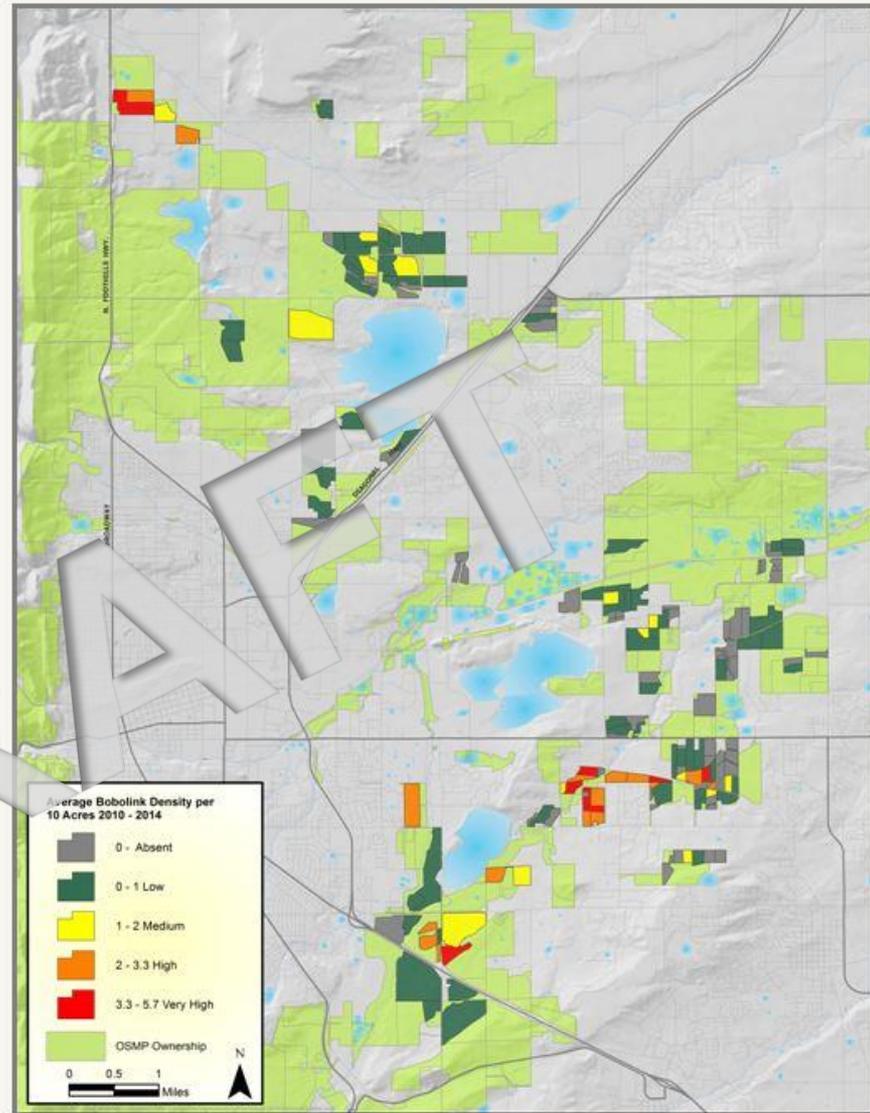
Best Opportunity Areas

Figure X illustrates the average bobolink density per 10 acres on monitored fields from 2010-2014. Areas with the higher abundance/densities and fields clustered together, so as to provide larger contiguous habitat blocks, present the best opportunities.

Measures of Success

- ✓ Percent of Class A & B Management Areas designated
- ✓ Percent of Class A & B Management Areas managed consistent with the mowing regimes associated with the area designations

² Through the Grassland Plan 5 hayfields, equaling 172 acres, were designated as Class B Bobolink Management Areas. The specific fields are not re-iterated as the locations will be established or re-confirmed through plan implementation processes.



Measures of Success

✓ *Percent Class A & B Bobolink Management Areas Designated.*

✓ *Percent of Class A & B Bobolink Management Areas managed consistent with the mowing regimes associated with the area designations.*

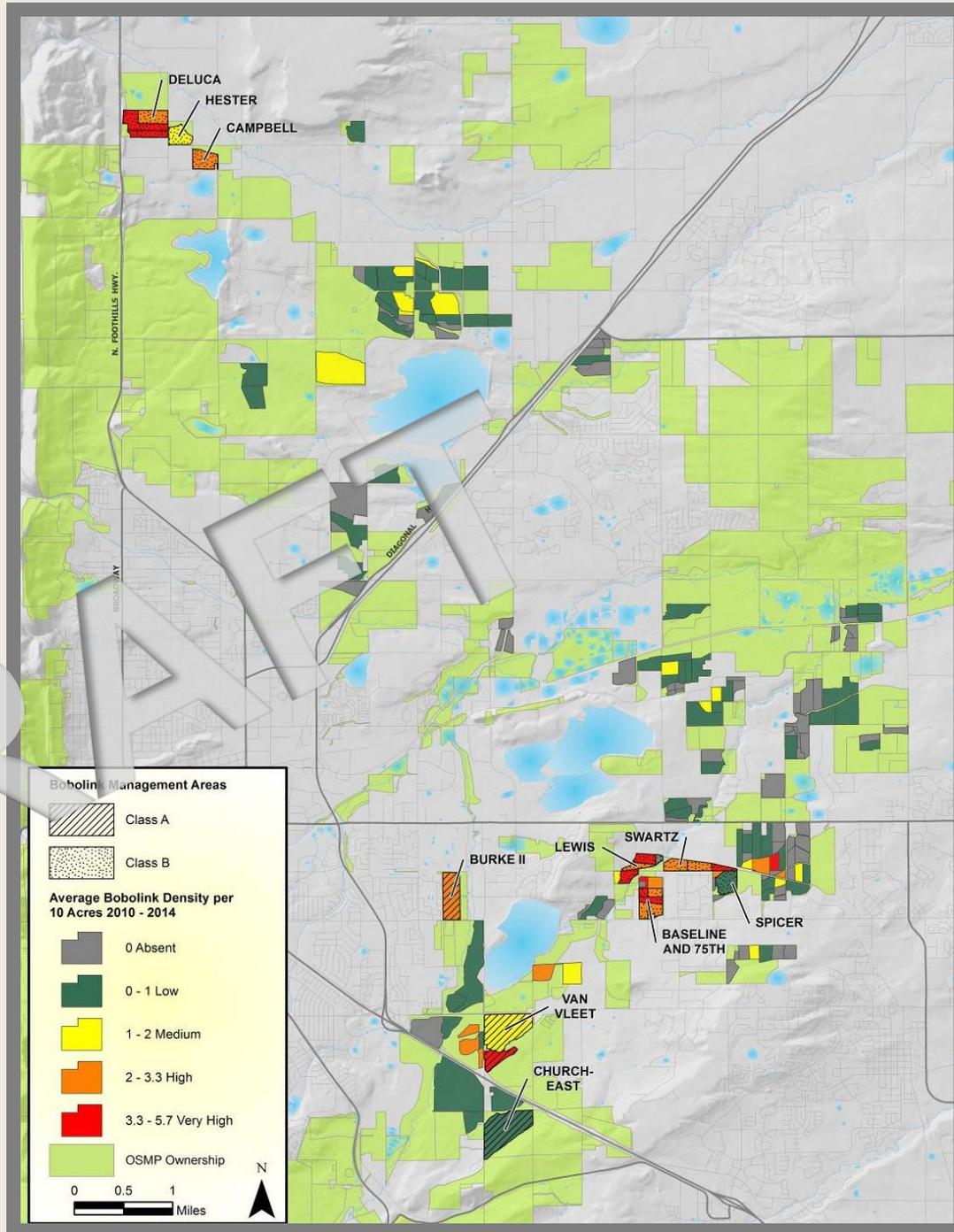
Plan Implementation

- Subject Area Expert Analysis
 - Locations
 - Site specifics
 - Operational Details
- Updates to OSBT

Class B Bobolink Management Areas

Property	Field	Acres
Lewis	245*	4
Lewis	244*	13
Lewis	251*	10
Lewis	256	13
Baseline & 75 th	265*	10
Baseline & 75 th	267*	19
Baseline & 75 th	280	10
Baseline & 75 th	283	9
Baseline & 75 th	285	13
Deluca	14	27
Deluca	13	32
Deluca	19	18
Hester	18	25
Campbell	459	29
Swartz	254	8
Swartz	250	15
Swartz	247	17
Spicer	260	29

Standard: 100% of Class B Bobolink Management areas mowed one year out of three after July 15 annually.



- Questions/comments
- Timeline?
- Plan Changes?

