Regionally Significant Terrestrial and Wetland Ecological Areas*

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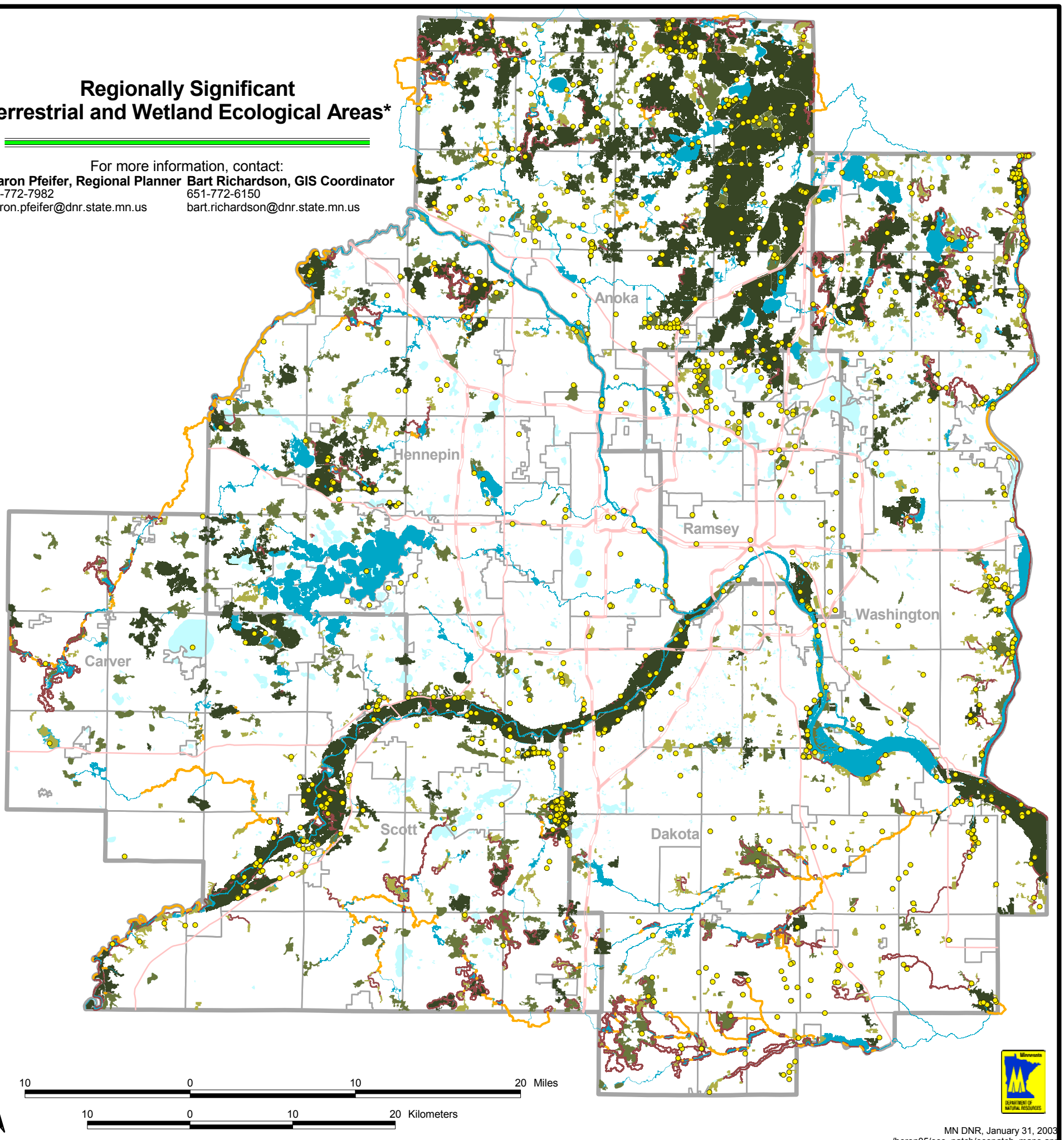

MN DNR, January 31, 2003
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Ecological Score*+

Regionally Significant Ecological Areas were given a score of 1, 2, or 3 (3 being the highest possible score) based on how well continuous natural areas met standards for size, shape, connectivity, adjacent land use, and species diversity.

3 - *These areas tend to be larger in size, and/or with few adjacent land cover types or land uses that could adversely affect the area; may have greater diversity of vegetation cover types; or it may be an isolated native plant community mapped and given a score of outstanding biodiversity significance by the Minnesota County Biological Survey.*

2 - *These areas tend to be moderate in size and/or with more adjacent land cover types or land uses that could adversely affect the area; may have less diversity of vegetation cover types; or it may be an isolated native plant community mapped and given a score of high biodiversity significance by the Minnesota County Biological Survey.*

1 - *These areas tend to be smaller in size while still meeting the minimum size requirements for regional significance (minimum size is variable based on cover type); may have less diversity of vegetation cover types; may have more adjacent cover types or land uses that could adversely affect the area; or it may be an isolated native plant community mapped and given a score of moderate biodiversity significance by the Minnesota County Biological Survey.*

River and Stream Corridors*+

Shortest-distance paths in and along rivers, streams, lakes, and wetlands that connect at least two RSEAs.

Terrestrial Species Routes
link upland derived RSEAs using natural/ semi-natural vegetation cover along the banks of open water.

Aquatic Species Routes
link wetland derived RSEAs using any open water (streams, rivers, or lakes).

Sections where Routes Coincide

Rare Species and Animal Aggregations**+

Mapped by the Minnesota County Biological Survey

Animals and plants, federally- or state-listed, found after 1970, excluding aquatic species.

Open Water
Interstate Highway
Federal Trunk Highway
Municipal Boundary
County Boundary

The Regionally Significant Terrestrial and Wetland Ecological Areas (RSEA) are derived from a modeling process that predicts the likelihood that regionally significant natural resources exist in a contiguous area. These areas must meet specific criteria that were established to qualify an area as regionally significant (size, shape, connectivity, adjacent land use, and species diversity). The River and Stream Corridors show connections via rivers, streams, lakes, and wetlands for the RSEAs. The data for the modeling process was compiled from several different sources and its completeness or total accuracy cannot be guaranteed. The data and products have not been ground truthed. NOTE: The Terrestrial and Wetland Ecological Assessment does not model for aquatic species, although some aquatic features appear in the results. The Metropolitan Council, in association with DNR staff is undertaking a separate Aquatic Ecological Assessment.

Rare features data included here were provided by the Natural Heritage and Nongame Research Program of the Division of Ecological Services, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR), and were current as of January 31, 2003. These data are not based on an exhaustive inventory of the state. Permission to use these data does not imply endorsement or approval by the DNR of any interpretations or products derived from the data.

+There may be inaccuracies in the data or which the DNR is not aware and for which the DNR will not be held responsible.
The lack of data for any geographic area shall not be construed to mean that no significant features are present.