

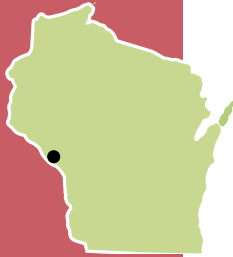


## TREMPEALEAU RIVER SEDGE MEADOW WETLAND TYPES

Thomas Meyer

Sedge meadow, low prairie, shrub carr, marsh, floodplain forest

BUFFALO/TREMPEALEAU  
COUNTY



# TREMPEALEAU RIVER SEdge MEADOW

Property Owner: WDNR

Recognitions & Designations: WI State Natural Area, WI  
Land Legacy Place, WI Wildlife Action Plan Reference Site

Funding for this project provided by The McKnight Foundation, which seeks to improve the quality of life for present and future generations through grantmaking, coalition-building and encouragement of strategic policy reform.

## ECOLOGY & SIGNIFICANCE

This relatively small Driftless Area Wetland Gem features a complex of high quality riverine wetlands on the border of Buffalo and Trempealeau Counties. While the Trempealeau River headwaters are cold trout streams, the section of the river that meanders through this site is wide and supports a productive warmwater fishery. The river's frequent flooding nourishes extensive and diverse sedge meadows and other wetland habitats. These undisturbed wetlands are unusual because of the absence of invasive species, and as such support an abundance and diversity of wildlife.

## FLORA & FAUNA

Diverse sedge meadow is the primary wetland habitat at this site. Dominant plant species include tussock sedge, fox sedge, bluejoint grass, prairie cordgrass, fowl manna grass, and rice cutgrass. These meadows also have a variety of flowering plants including Canada anemone, marsh pea, panicled aster, swamp milkweed, spotted joe-pye weed, American water horehound, and blunt-leaf bedstraw. Adjacent to the meadow is a

shallow marsh with numerous emergent aquatics such as cattails, river bulrush, common rush, woolgrass, common bur-reed, swamp loosestrife, bulbet water hemlock, wild rice and broad-leaved arrowhead. Old oxbows within the Trempealeau River channel harbor deep-water marshes characterized by a variety of submerged aquatic plant species.

Trempealeau River Sedge Meadow provides excellent habitat for many reptiles, amphibians, birds and mammals. The meadow provides nesting habitat for large numbers of grassland birds, which are declining in Wisconsin. Species include bobolink, savannah sparrow, eastern meadowlark, sedge wren and the rare Le Conte's sparrow. Other rare birds using the site include red-headed woodpecker, great blue heron, bald eagle, and the state threatened great egret.

## THREATS

Runoff from agricultural areas in the watershed threatens water quality in the Trempealeau River and these associated wetlands. Careful monitoring is needed to prevent future spread of invasive species into the site's undisturbed native plant communities.

## ACCESS

Visit the Wisconsin State Natural Areas Program website: [dnr.wi.gov/land/er/sna](http://dnr.wi.gov/land/er/sna).



Sandhill cranes — Dennis Malueg



Joe-pye weed — Kate Redmond

## Sources:

Wisconsin State Natural Areas  
Program (WDNR)  
Wisconsin Land Legacy Report  
(WDNR)  
Wisconsin's Strategy for Wildlife  
Species of Greatest Conserva-  
tion Need (WDNR)