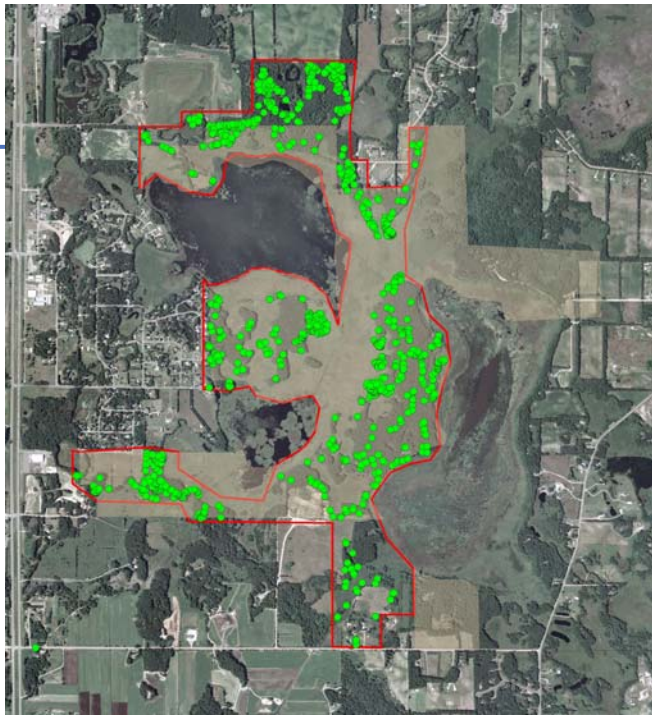


# SANDHILL CRANE NATURAL AREA



## Project Background

The more than 800 acre Sandhill Crane Natural Area consists of nearly pristine natural communities, similar to what conditions would have been at the time of settlement. While the natural communities within the SCNA were largely intact, they were and continue to be threatened by the spread of both common and glossy buckthorn. Controlling buckthorn early is more cost effective than waiting for it to become a larger problem. In the fall of 2006 a team of workers swept through the SCNA and marked buckthorn trees, returning in early 2007 to treat marked trees with herbicide. During site visits in the spring and summer of 2007 no marked trees were found living. Approximately 455 acres of upland within the SCNA were treated for buckthorn.



Crews swept through areas outlined in red. Green dots indicate clusters of buckthorn trees treated.

## Project Goals

- Control the invasive buckthorn trees
- Maintain natural communities in the SCNA
- Stay ahead of the problem while treatment is cost effective



Buckthorn leaves out early and retain leaves late into the fall creating dense shade that helps it to out-compete many native plants. Buckthorn lacks natural controls in Minnesota.

## Project Partners

Minnesota DNR (Conservation Partners)