



**Thurston-Dakota Bluffs** landscape includes the steep bluffs and floodplain of the Missouri River in Thurston and Burt counties in north-central Nebraska. The majority of the bluffs support eastern deciduous forest of bur oak, basswood and ironwood. The Missouri River floodplain contains some of the last remnants of cottonwood-dominated floodplain forest and wet meadows, though the meadows are somewhat degraded. The majority of the landscape lies within the Omaha and Winnebago Indian reservations. It is the largest intact deciduous forest in the state. There are primitive roads through the forest on the reservations and many scattered houses. Much of the forest on the reservations is divided into small ownership tracts with multiple owners making conservation delivery difficult.

## Stresses Affecting Species and Habitats

- ❖ Invasion of garlic mustard, common buckthorn and other exotic plants in woodlands
- ❖ Woody encroachment in ridge prairies
- ❖ High-grade logging on private and reservation lands
- ❖ Housing development
- ❖ Excess deer browsing
- ❖ Poorly-sited utility-scale wind turbines

## Conservation Strategies

- ❖ Conduct annual surveys for garlic mustard and other invasive plants in woodlands
- ❖ Develop and implement control programs for garlic mustard and other exotic woodland plants on conservation lands and reservations
- ❖ Coordinate with landowners interested in using conservation easements or voluntary fee title acquisition to protect key habitats from development and commercial logging of mature forests
- ❖ Develop and implement conservation planning in conjunction with tribes for reservation lands
- ❖ Offer financial incentives to private landowners to implement prescribed fire in the forests to control unwanted tree species and to promote native plants
- ❖ Offer educational programs to landowners and loggers about methods that improve habitat and allow for some tree removal
- ❖ Improve access to and harvest of deer
- ❖ Communicate with energy companies and developers in an effort to minimize fragmentation and impacts to native wildlife

## Tier I At-risk Species

### **Plants:**

None

### **Animals:**

Cerulean Warbler<sup>4</sup>

Wood Thrush

Regal Fritillary

### **Aquatic Communities:**

Headwater, Warm Water Stream

Large, Warm Water River

### **Terrestrial Communities:**

Red Oak-Basswood-Ironwood Forest\*

Bur Oak-Basswood-Ironwood Forest\*

Dry-Mesic Bur Oak Forest and Woodland\*

Dry Upland Bur Oak Woodland\*

Freshwater Seep

\* Priority for conservation in this BUL

<sup>1</sup> This is the only BUL where the species is known to occur

<sup>2</sup> Known to occur in only one other BUL

<sup>3</sup> Known to occur in only two other BULs

<sup>4</sup> Known to occur in only three other BULs