

RECLAIMED MINELANDS GRASSLAND HABITATS NARRATIVE

Habitat description

Open areas created by total soil disturbance related to surface mining activities and revegetated with warm or cool season grasses.

Problems affecting species and habitats

Species threats

Technical experts did not provide input on a representative species for this habitat.

Upon review, technical experts and conservation organizations offered the following responses:

- The greatest threat to grassland birds nesting in Indiana would be losing these reclaimed mineland grasslands to housing developments, golf courses and industrial development.

There are no species of greatest conservation need in this guild.

If you would like to provide information on this habitat please contact Tim Longwell at (574)-258-0100 or at cws@djcase.com.

Additional research and survey efforts

Current body of research

Species research

Technical experts did not provide input on a representative species for this habitat.

Upon review, technical experts and conservation organizations offered the following responses:

- Also, see list of literature references pertaining to reclaimed minelands, habitat fragmentation and brown-headed cowbird parasitism.

There are no species of greatest conservation need in this guild.

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Conservation actions necessary

Species actions

Technical experts did not provide input on a representative species for this habitat.

Upon review, technical experts and conservation organizations offered the following responses:

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- Non-native vegetation including tall fescue, smooth brome, orchard grass and Japanese brome was used successfully for nesting. The size of the reclaimed minelands and isolation from forested habitat apparently accounted for a reduced level of brown-headed cowbird parasitism and high nesting use and success.

There are no species of greatest conservation need in this guild.

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Habitat actions

Technical experts did not provide input on this habitat.

Upon review, technical experts and conservation organizations offered the following responses:

- Purchase of fee title or easement rights by the State is the last hope to preserve significant grassland habitat for grassland and savanna nesting birds.

There are no species of greatest conservation need in this guild.

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