



## United States Department of the Interior

### U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Sherburne National Wildlife Refuge  
17076 293<sup>rd</sup> Avenue  
Zimmerman, MN 55398



### Oak Savanna Seeding of South Spur By Helicopter

Greetings Homeowners:

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that the Sherburne National Wildlife Refuge is preparing for the next phase of our 900 acres oak savanna restoration project. The project is occurring on the area known as the “South Spur”, located south of County Rd 4 and east of County Rd 15. The U.S Fish and Wildlife Service selected Minnesota Native Landscapes (MNL) to do an aerial native plant seeding. A 1964 Hiller UH-12D Helicopter will be used to efficiently distribute native seed throughout the rugged landscape. On the day of the seeding, you may see and hear the helicopter spreading seed across the designated restoration area. The date has not yet been determined because weather conditions will dictate when the helicopter can fly. It is likely to occur next week.

The South Spur Restoration Project is a 900 acre restoration that consists of removing non-native tree species and thinning trees that have become invasive. This will provide an open canopy to allow sunlight to reach native trees such as the bur oak and white pines. Oak savanna habitat is an imperiled habitat with only less than .02 percent left in the world. Once the restoration is complete you can expect to see a variety of Minnesota native flowers, including asters, goldenrods, and milkweeds, along with several Minnesota prairie grasses such as Canada wild rye, big bluestem, and Indian grass. Once these plants have established themselves, a variety of wildlife will benefit from this restored habitat.

For any questions or concerns, please contact:

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Thank You,

Steve Karel  
Refuge Manager

MNL 1964 Hiller UH-12D used on South Spur Restoration

