
Broad Incidental Take Permit/Authorization Grassland and Savanna Protocols

Wing Snaggletooth (*Gastrocopta procera*)

This Broad Incidental Take Permit/Authorization (BITP/A) has been issued by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources to allow landowners to conduct certain grassland and savanna management activities while remaining in compliance with the state's endangered species law (s. 29.604, Wis. Stats.). This BITP/A allows for the incidental taking (mortality) of the state threatened wing snaggletooth (*Gastrocopta procera*) that may occur as a result of the grassland and savanna management activities listed below.

Background information/criteria on this BITP/A must also be reviewed and followed:
https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/ERReview/Documents/GSP_Overview.pdf

Protocols for all other species covered under this BITP/A can be found here:
<https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/ERReview/ItGrasslands.html>

Note: If carrying out a given protocol is not feasible, or multiple listed species in a given management area pose conflicts, contact the Bureau of Natural Heritage Conservation (NHC) at DNRRERReview@wisconsin.gov. Staff in NHC will work with species experts and managers to establish an acceptable protocol for a given site that will allow for incidental take without further legal consultation or public notice.

I. Species Background Information

State Status: Threatened

Background information on the wing snaggletooth can be found on the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources' web page for the species:
<https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/EndangeredResources/Animals.asp?mode=detail&SpecCode=IMGAS15130>

II. Management Protocols for Permitted/Authorized Incidental Take

If the management activity is for the purpose of recovering, maintaining or improving the prairie ecosystem that includes habitat for the wing snaggletooth, then incidental take is allowed if the conditions listed below are followed:

A. Burning

1. If burning from November 1 through March 30, then it is assumed take will be minimal and there are no further restrictions on the activity.

2. If burning from April 1 through October 31, then areas of accumulated litter adjoining and on rock outcrops that likely harbor snaggletooth snails either:

a) must be subject only to low-intensity, patchy burning

OR

b) if subject to high-intensity burning, must be burned no more frequently than a fire-return interval of 3 years.

B. Mowing/Haying

Permitted to remove woody and invasive vegetation. Damage to soil and litter layer must be minimized. Hand mowing may be conducted annually, but heavy equipment should only be used if it is the only possible method to remove woody vegetation and should not be used annually.

C. Selective Brush/Tree-cutting

Permitted to remove woody and invasive vegetation. Damage to soil and litter layer must be minimized. Hand mowing may be conducted annually, but heavy equipment should only be used if it is the only possible method to remove woody vegetation and should not be used annually.

D. Grazing

Grazing may only be employed under consultation with the Bureau of Natural Heritage Conservation.

E. Herbicide Use

Spot-application of herbicide for controlling woody vegetation or invasives is permitted. Care must be taken to contain herbicide use to woody or invasive vegetation. Damage to the soil and litter layer must be minimized.

F. Vehicle Traffic

Vehicular traffic is permitted for equipment deemed necessary for the management practices above. All other vehicle traffic may only be permitted under consultation with the Bureau of Natural Heritage Conservation.

Survey Protocols

If surveys are desired or deemed necessary; surveys shall be conducted by personnel adequately trained in the use of appropriate field sampling techniques and experienced in winged snaggletooth identification. Specific sampling locations will be selected by searching hill prairie sites to identify areas with living snails or fresh shells. Due to discrete localized populations, random sampling is not effective. Efforts should be concentrated on areas of accumulated litter on or adjacent to rock outcrops. Vegetative litter samples (0.5-2liters sample) will be collected from appropriate sites and should include approximately 1cm of underlying surface soil. Samples will be taken to the laboratory for processing and identification of snail species by appropriate personnel.