

**Program Title:** Accelerated Prairie Grassland Restoration and Enhancement Program on DNR lands and Roadsides

**Request for Funding Form  
Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council  
Fiscal Year 2011**

**Program or Project Title:** **#34 Accelerated Prairie Grassland Restoration and Enhancement Program on DNR lands and Roadsides**

**Date:** November 2, 2009

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	<b>Council Funding Request</b>	<b>Out-Year Projections of Needs</b>		
<b>Funds Requested</b>	<b>FY 2011</b>	<b>FY 2012</b>	<b>FY 2013</b>	<b>FY 2014</b>
WMA Acquisitions & Dev	<b>6,047,000</b>	5,000,000	10,000,000	10,000,000
SNA Prairie Bank Acquisitions	<b>2,041,000</b>	3,000,000	4,000,000	5,000,000
Existing WMA/AMA Habitat Work	<b>2,171,000</b>	2,000,000	2,000,000	2,000,000
Roadsides	<b>229,000</b>	225,000	225,000	225,000
Eco Resources Habitat	<b>1,230,000</b>	1,500,000	2,000,000	2,500,000
WMA Roving Crew	<b>885,000</b>			1,000,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>12,603,000</b>			

**A. Summary**

This program will acquire and develop approximately 1,622 acres of new Wildlife Management Area (WMA) lands for public hunting, trapping and compatible outdoor uses consistent with the Outdoor Recreation Act (M.S. 86A.05, Subd.8). Permanent protection and development of wildlife lands as part of a strategic habitat conservation program will focus efforts on existing and developing high value habitat complexes. Parcels offered for sale will be assessed for their contribution to the habitat complex and the highest priority parcels will be perused. New WMA acquisition acre targets by L-SOHC Sections will be consistent with the recommendations of The Citizens Advisory Committee report of 2002 "Minnesota's Wildlife Management Area Acquisition – The Next 50 Years". Parcels will be chosen based on selection ranking criteria tailored to priority actions within each L-SOHC Section. Lands will be acquired from willing sellers

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through established Department of Natural Resources (DNR) acquisition processes governed by statute, rule and policy. Initial site development of new WMAs is included in our program. Additionally, this program will protect 550 acres of native prairie as state Scientific & Natural Areas (SNAs) and perpetual Native Prairie Bank (NPB) easements. This will provide habitat for rare species, Species in Greatest Conservation Need as identified in the State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP) and provide habitat for other game and wildlife species. All public SNA's acquired through this project will be open to all forms of hunting and fishing.

This program will also accelerate the restoration and enhancement of approximately 28,000 acres of native prairie vegetation on Wildlife Management Areas, Aquatic Management Areas, Scientific and Natural Areas, State Forests and Roadsides in FY11/12/13, primarily in the Prairie and Prairie Transition Sections but also including Southeast Forest and Metropolitan Urbanizing Area Sections. This will provide much needed wildlife habitat for a host of grassland and farmland species. Prairie restoration efforts will center on site preparation, seeding of local ecotype seed, post-seed management to assure success, and seed harvest of local ecotype seed for prairie restoration at other public land sites. Prairie enhancement efforts will center on prescribed burning, managing woody cover encroachment, and interseeding. Goat prairie enhancements are a distinct target in the Southeast Forests.

There is a very significant unmet need for burning on public lands. Existing DNR staff already burns to the maximum extent possible, yet the needs are greater than the resources. It is not possible to contract burning on a scale that will meet the present and future needs. Burning is highly technical and requires extensive training and experience. Therefore, we propose to hire a roving burn crew located in northwestern MN for 3 years. The crew will be fully equipped and self sufficient and will therefore be capable of burning an additional 7,000 acres per year. Fifty-percent of their time will be spent on burning (this is the entire spring and fall burn season). During the non-burn season the crew will complete 1,000 acres woody encroachment management annually (25%) on WMAs. The remaining 25% will be spent on forest management activities for which costs and accomplishments are accounted for in the DNRs forest management proposal. This work is all supplemental to the existing DNR burning and woody cover management programs. During the initial year existing staff may need to be integrated into the crew due to the lack of suitable burn bosses. DNR Wildlife may look to other Divisions (e.g. Forestry) with Burn Bosses during the first year and sub-contract with them for this work.

All of the efforts described above are supplemental to grassland work already taking place. A significant portion of this work will be improvement of existing grasslands. Total accomplishments for all programs and all activities will be approximately 30,000 acres of habitat enhancement, protection and restoration.

**B. Background Information**

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## **1. What is the problem or opportunity being addressed?**

The availability of public hunting lands does not meet the expectations of a growing Minnesota population. Due to the current recession, land prices have stabilized or declined and a short-term opportunity exists to purchase more value for our expenditures. The Citizens Advisory Committee on WMA acquisitions recommended that due to long-term rising land costs and continued habitat loss, acquisition efforts should be accelerated to 21,000 acres per year for 10 years completing 30% of the 50 year goal of 702,200 acres. This objective has not been met due to inadequate funding. Supplementing our existing program with accelerated WMA acquisition will require additional temporary staff to acquire and develop new lands.

( [://files.dnr.state.mn.us/aboutdnr/reports/strategic-documents/wma-acquisition50year.](http://files.dnr.state.mn.us/aboutdnr/reports/strategic-documents/wma-acquisition50year.) )

Temperate grasslands are considered to be one of the most altered ecosystems on the earth. Native prairie and associated species have been targeted as critical habitats by the Minnesota County Biological Survey (MCBS). Since 1987, MCBS has evaluated and mapped about 200,000 acres of remaining prairie in the state as compared to the nearly 18 million acres identified about 100 years ago based on the public land surveys. Only half of this remaining prairie habitat is currently under some form of permanent protection.

Although Minnesota DNR has the training and know-how to restore high quality prairie vegetation current funding has been insufficient to meet all needs. Many sites on state lands are currently not being actively managed to realize full potential as a plant community or wildlife habitat. Re-establishing prairie on public lands requires periodic burning, inter-seeding grasslands with native species, and up to five years post-seeding management. Some state-owned grasslands are “problem” sites consisting of monotypic fields of brome that has low habitat values. Furthermore exotic and/or invasive plants are encroaching into them. Woody cover encroachment is an especially troublesome problem that must be addressed. Existing grasslands are impaired by the encroachment of woody vegetation. Newly acquired areas and state-owned marginal croplands also need to be seeded and treated. Using high quality seed from established prairie sites to plant at other locations has proven to be highly cost-effective.

The Roadsides for Wildlife Program has been improving grassland habitat along Minnesota roadsides since 1984. Still, most of Minnesota’s roadsides are presently dominated by smooth brome (a non-native grass) and are vectors of invasive species. Native grasses and wildflowers are more beneficial to pollinators and wildlife. DNR will cooperate with Mn/DOT to plant native prairie along selected roadsides for the next three years. Although roads and bridges are the priority of Mn/DOT, two-thirds of the state owned right-of-ways are actually vegetation. These narrow green ribbons can provide habitat for wildlife, improve water quality, prevent snow drifting, and beautify the state if they are well managed.

## **2. What action will be taken?**

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Acquisitions

The DNR will identify potential lands for sale from willing sellers statewide and determine appropriateness for acquisition as a WMA. Approved potential acquisitions will be identified within each L-SOHC Section to meet acreage targets established by The Citizens Report. Parcels will be prioritized according to criteria tailored for each L-SOHC Section. The DNR will follow established land acquisition procedures and if successful in acquiring will then develop an "Initial Development Plan" (IDP) to be funded with this program to make the new parcel fully functional as a WMA within the first two years of acquisition. The IDP will include boundary surveys and signage, user access and parking facilities, well and septic closure, building and dump disposal, restoration of shallow temporary and seasonal wetlands and cover bare ground with native vegetation. The SNA program will acquire 200 acres of native prairie in fee and another 350 acres with perpetual easements. DNR acquisition staff will target projects that fall into the one of the "Focal Landscapes" identified by the Division of Ecological Resources. A small amount of additional non-prairie acreage (e.g. crop fields) may also be acquired and reconstructed to provide additional habitat and buffer the native prairie.

WMA/AMA Habitat Work

Grassland restoration work will be primarily through seeding either bare ground (e.g. newly acquired agricultural fields) or old-field habitat (e.g. smooth brome). Techniques for this work include site preparation such as mowing, spraying or burning when necessary; direct seeding and aerial seeding (along some roadsides). Seed will be obtained via harvesting of local native or restored prairie when possible and purchase of seed from vendors when necessary.

Grassland enhancement work uses a number of methods to reinvigorate or increase diversity of existing prairie type grasslands. Techniques that will be employed include brush and tree removal, chemical treatment, mowing, inter-seeding and burning.

This proposal contains 2 FTEs that will manage habitat enhancement and restoration projects on both existing and newly acquired WMAs. These positions will assist Area staff in developing contracts, working with contractors, ensuring that seed sources meet specifications, doing field inspections to ensure that work was completed properly, etc. MCC and contract vendors will be used to the greatest extent possible although DNR staff may perform some work when suitable contractors are not available.

Roadsides

The Roadsides prairie habitat connectivity project, in Martin County, will begin at Krahmer Wildlife Management Area (WMA) and go west 7-miles to the Fox Lake State Wildlife Refuge. Fox Lake State Wildlife Refuge is a core block of wildlife habitat where we are currently acquiring additional state hunting land. This prairie reconstruction project will provide a key linkage to the Kramer WMA which is a popular hunting area along Swan Slough and Eagle Lake. One hundred and fifty acres of prairie habitat reconstruction will take place along both sides of the interstate and the median. In addition to the interstate corridor, this area also connects to the north-south railroad right of way which has fair to very good quality remnant native prairie. This project will

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provide tangible connectivity for nesting grassland birds such as pheasants and will benefit plant and insect populations as well.

Ecological Resources Habitat Work

Restoration of prairie will occur on 50 acres of severely altered lands by reconstructing the native prairie plant community. These restorations will be either in-holdings within a native prairie, or lands surrounding native prairies. Restoration activities include seedbed preparation, seed harvest, and seed installation. Prairie enhancement activities will be implemented on 1,725 acres of existing and newly acquired prairies throughout the prairie regions of the State. Enhancement activities include invasive species treatments (herbaceous and woody species) and prescribed burning. Assessments of the restoration and enhancement activity outcomes will be conducted so future activities can be adjusted to maximize the ecological benefits (i.e. adaptive management).

WMA Roving Crew

A DNR WMA roving crew will be assembled with 5.25 FTEs consisting ultimately of new limited-term employees. This crew will be capable of burning 7,000 acres per year (at full capacity – less the first year) assuming normal weather conditions and manage an additional 1,000 acres of woody encroachment for a total of 24,000 acres treated over the three year life of this proposal. The crew will work 75% time on grassland projects and 25% time on forest projects (covered in another proposal). It should be noted that there is a severe shortage of private sector personnel who meet the State of MN burning certification requirements. One recent estimate (SNA Program) is that only 6 people statewide that are non-agency staff meet Burn Boss certification requirements. Furthermore, insurance and other hurdles prevent some contractors from being able to bid on state contracts. Over time we are interested in building private sector capacity as burning is a useful and long-term management strategy.

**3. Who will take action and when?**

Acquisition

The DNR is currently in an ongoing process to identify potential willing sellers for WMA acquisitions. Upon approval of funding through the Legislature, the DNR will begin appraisals to acquire approximately 50% of the project acquisition goal in year one and 50% in year two. Initial Development Plans will be implemented within the first two years following acquisition. The SNA acquisition projects and associated transactions will be completed by DNR staff. In FY11 funds will be used to acquire sites where landowner interest has already been identified and to initiate new landowner negotiations. The new landowner negotiations initiated in FY11 will lead to additional acquisitions to be completed in FY12 and FY13. Initial Development Plans will be developed by DNR staff. Implementation of IDPAs will be primarily through contracts with MCC and private sector vendors and managed by DNR staff.

WMA/AMA Habitat Work

MN/DNR will contract as much WMA/AMA work as possible throughout the allocation period. Two FTEs will be hired for three years to manage implementation of projects on

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both existing WMAs and newly acquired tracts. Their responsibilities will include working with contracts and contractors, completing on-site inspections, quality assurance (especially seed source) and other tasks to ensure that contracted work is successfully completed and meets DNR standards and L-SOHC expectations. Due to a severe shortage of qualified burn personnel, 5.25 new DNR FTEs will be hired to address burning and woody cover encroachment management needs on WMAs. SNA projects will be implemented using a combination of DNR staff and contract services.

Roadsides

The Roadsides project will be managed by MN/DOT staff with technical support from MN/DNR.

Ecological Services Habitat Work

Restoration and enhancement practices will be designed and administered by DNR staff, while implementation and assessment will use a combination of DNR staff and contracted services. There is a backlog of management needs on DNR administered lands and implementation of restoration and enhancement can begin immediately upon receipt of funds. Restoration, enhancement and preliminary assessment projects would be completed by the end of FY12.

**4. How will you coordinate this program with the other Constitutional Funding?**

We believe that the work being proposed is most appropriate for Outdoor Heritage funding rather than other Constitutional funding. However, DNR will consult and coordinate with other partners that receive constitutional funding to ensure all funding sources complement each other and provide the greatest natural resource outcomes.

**5. What specific habitat changes will occur if this item is funded? Be specific about and list multiple benefits if they exist.**

Acquisitions

Acquisition of wildlife lands will focus on identifying the best remaining wildlife habitat in existing or restorable complexes and protecting critical sites for wildlife and native plants. Each L-SOHC planning section will have individual habitat protection priorities such as wetland/grassland complexes, shallow lake and large wetland complexes, bluff prairie communities or oak savannas. A primary emphasis will be on completing and expanding existing WMAs and other protected lands within habitat complexes. Large blocks of wildlife lands provide a wider range of management options, habitat diversity and wildlife use. Each parcel will be developed to enhance the native habitat characteristics appropriate for the location and provide for hunting and fishing recreation. The protection of 550 acres of native prairie through SNA programs ensures that these prairie lands will not be converted to other land uses and lose their habitat values. Having these lands under administration also ensures they will be managed to preserve and enhance their ecological values.

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WMA/AMAs

Five thousand acres of existing native and planted prairies will be enhanced to increase wildlife value for grassland nesting birds. This will be accomplished primarily through the removal of inappropriately located (volunteer, old farmstead, etc) woody cover. Woody cover can act as a negative influence on grassland nesting species as it provides perches for raptors and cover for mammalian predators. Additionally, 1000 acres of non-native grasslands/cropland will be converted to planted prairie to provide additional grassland habitat.

Roadsides

This prairie habitat connectivity project, in Martin County, will begin at Krahmer Wildlife Management Area (WMA) and go west 7-miles to the Fox Lake State Wildlife Refuge. Fox Lake State Wildlife Refuge is a core block of wildlife habitat where we are currently acquiring additional state hunting land. This prairie reconstruction project will provide a key linkage to the Kramer WMA which is a popular hunting area along Swan Slough and Eagle Lake. Prairie habitat reconstruction will take place along both sides of the interstate and the median. In addition to the interstate corridor, this area also connects to the north-south railroad right of way which has fair to very good quality remnant native prairie. This project will provide tangible connectivity for plant and insect biodiversity between the two sites, and will benefit small game as well.

Ecological Services Habitat Work

Restoration of 50 additional acres will provide new wildlife habitat and will buffer native prairie tracts from potentially damaging adjacent land uses. Applying enhancement practices to 1,725 acres of native prairie land increases the capacity of those lands to provide high quality and more diverse habitat and improved ecological functions such as soil and water erosion control, carbon sequestration, and pollination services. Removal of red cedar and other invasive trees on goat prairies is a special focus in the Southeastern Forest Goat planning section.

WMA Roving Crews

Approximately 7,000 acres of wildlife habitat will be improved through burning per year assuming normal weather conditions and an additional 1,000 acres of prairie grasslands will be enhanced through the direct removal of woody encroachment. Fire is an important natural process that has been largely eliminated from prairie ecosystems. Fire re-invigorates plant growth and increases diversity and productivity resulting in increased game and non-game populations. Grassland SCGNs will benefit from burning. Woody cover can act as a negative influence on grassland nesting species as it provides perches for raptors and cover for mammalian predators. Direct removal and treatment is necessary when trees become too large, the site is too wet, or burning is not feasible.

**6. When do you expect to see these habitat changes?**

Most of the habitat work being proposed can be completed within one to two years. Long term enhancement efforts will begin immediately and progress over time.

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Acquisition of land typically takes up to two years to complete. The initial Development Plan will be implemented within two years of acquisition. Delays in acquisition and/or unforeseen difficulties in development implementation (e.g. weather) may require additional funding cycles to complete.

Hiring burning staff and completing training will take six months. Existing DNR Burn Bosses may be used for the first year as new Burn Bosses are hired and trained. By the second year both crews should be self sufficient.

**7. Will your Outdoor Heritage Fund dollar request complete the planned accomplishments?**

☒ YES ☒ NO  
If not, how will you finance completion?

This proposal includes numerous projects, many of short duration that will be completed during this funding cycle. Other projects will require multiple funding cycles to complete. Phased projects have been identified and total cost estimates along with cost for this funding cycle will be included in the accomplishment plan. It is our intention to re-apply to L-SOHC for funding for future phases of these projects as other sources of financing are currently unavailable.

The acquisitions in this proposal will be completed with funds from this request.

**8. How will you pay for the maintenance of the accomplishments?**

WMA/AMA

Routine maintenance will be accomplished by Area Wildlife staff as part of their public land management responsibilities within future operating budgets. Priority will be given to acquiring additions to existing WMAs or purchasing large parcels that will increase efficiency of routine maintenance through economy of scale. Periodic enhancements such as invasive species removal, prescribed burning, supplemental vegetation planting or wetland and water level management will be accomplished through annual funding requests from a variety of funding sources including but not limited to Game and Fish Fund, Bonding, Gifts, Federal Sources, Environmental Trust Fund, and Outdoor Heritage Fund.

Roadsides

Long-term management will be incorporated into MN/DOTs normal maintenance activities.

SNAs

The Division of Ecological Resources and its protection, restoration, and enhancement activities are supported largely by special project funds. The ongoing maintenance of SNA administered lands requires the program to continually seek additional funds to perform its mission. In the future the SNA program will continue to seek Outdoor

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Heritage Funds as well as other project appropriations to protect, restore, and enhance natural areas.

**9. How does this action directly restore, enhance, or protect prairies, wetlands, forests or habitat for fish, game, and wildlife?**

Acquisition of priority habitats provide permanent protection backed by state and federal laws. Implementation of the Initial Development Plans and subsequent enhancement projects will restore converted lands to functioning communities and develop a core of habitat complexes that represent the wide range of unique habitat types for each planning section. A broad network of restored habitat complexes composed of a mix of ownership and protection programs will form the nucleus of landscape level habitat management focused in the most productive areas for wildlife within each planning section.

Habitat improvement actions enhance existing degraded habitat to directly increase the productivity of nesting habitat for pheasants, waterfowl and a variety of non-game grassland species such as meadowlarks, longspurs, and other Species of Greatest Conservation Need. Additionally, some lands are converted from a non-wildlife friendly (such as row crops) use to wildlife habitat as newly acquired lands are incorporated into the system. Wetland, river and lake systems are improved as water quality improvements are implemented through grassland management and result in better habitat for waterfowl and fish.

**10. If you are restoring or enhancing property, is the activity on permanently protected land?**

☒ YES ☐ NO

If yes briefly describe the kind of protection.

Activities will occur on Wildlife Management Areas, Aquatic Management Areas, Scientific and Natural Areas, State Forest land, and roadsides owned in fee title by the state of Minnesota.

**11. How will you ensure transparency and provide information about your work and use of Outdoor Heritage Fund dollars.**

The DNR, as a state agency, is subject to intense scrutiny and operates under well established fiscal laws, rules and policies subject to regular fiscal audits. DNR is also subject to data practices policies that make appropriate information available upon request. The DNR will provide all proposals, plans, updates and progress reports to the Legislative Coordinating Commission for publication on their Web site.

**12. Why will this strategy work?**

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The WMA system, started in 1951, has 58 years of support from conservationists, hunters, and legislators. Over 1.3 million acres of habitat in over 1,400 WMAs are protected by the DNR. Protection, development and enhancement of public lands as core elements in a diverse network of habitat complexes will provide permanent population banks from which wildlife and plant communities can expand into the surrounding landscape during optimum environmental conditions. These networks will provide migration corridors for movement of both animal and plant communities in response to changing conditions. Strategically located, these complexes will provide many tangential benefits including water quality improvements, seed sources and local economic diversity. This strategy will focus on completing and expanding complexes with some existing public ownership and identifying new target complexes where there are gaps in the network. The SNA program, created by the 1969 Minnesota Legislature, currently administers over 140 natural areas and 95 Native Prairie Bank easements. Lands designated as Scientific and Natural Areas have the highest level of protection the state of Minnesota can afford to land.

Most restoration and enhancement practices being applied with this proposal have been proven to provide desired outcomes on existing state-managed lands. This project will also assess these practices for effectiveness and inform future habitat improvement strategies. Through this funding, the state will be able to accelerate improvements on state land thereby providing for improved function of critical wildlife habitat and a more functional prairie landscape.

**13. Who might make decisions that assist or work against achieving the expected impact program?**

The DNR Division of Fish and Wildlife Division Management Team will approve acquisition proposals within the bounds of the Departments Biennial WMA Acquisition Plan. All fee title purchased lands acquired by the State as WMAs and SNAs must be approved by resolution of the County Boards of Commissioners.

These restorations and enhancements will occur on public lands (primarily Wildlife Management Areas, Aquatic Management Areas, Scientific and Natural Areas, State Forests and roadsides which are owned in fee title by the state and have already been identified as priorities for accelerated work. It is expected that there will be support for these programs.

**14. If this is acquisition of land, has the local government formally approved the acquisition?**

☒X ☐ YES

☐ NO

Minnesota law requires county board approval before we can acquire a parcel of land in fee for a WMA or SNA. These regulations control the timing of our request for approval.

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**15. If this is fee simple acquisition of land, is the land free of any other permanent protection such as a conservation easement?**

☒ YES

☐ NO

**16. If this is an easement acquisition, will the eased land be open for public use? If so what kind of use?**

☒ YES

☐ NO

If Yes what kind of use?

Native Prairie Bank easements are open to scientific and natural observation, education, and research.

**17. If easement acquisition, will the easement be a permanent conservation easements as described in MS 2009, Chapter 84C.01, specifically protecting the natural resource values of real property forever?**

☒ YES

☐ NO

**18. If you are proposing funding for a new or ongoing program how long into the future do you expect this program to operate?**

In 2002, the Citizens Advisory Committee recommended 50 years of accelerated WMA acquisition to acquire an additional 702,200 acres needed to meet conservation goals. This program is ongoing as opportunity and needs arise. Periodic reviews of land assets may identify lands that no longer meet their original purpose and that could be sold or exchanged and replacement lands acquired. DNR expects to be enhancing and restoring wildlife habitat on state lands indefinitely.

By statute, the SNA program is perpetual.

**19. Which planning sections will you work in? Check all that apply in the list below.**

☐ Northern Forest

☒ Forest/Prairie Transition

☒ Southeast Forest

☒ Prairie

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☒ Metropolitan Urbanizing Area

**20 Does the request address an urgent conservation opportunity that will be lost if not immediately funded?**

☒ YES ☐ NO

If yes, please explain.

Dedicated funding for the next 24 years provides a unique opportunity for the current generation to build a foundation of publicly owned wildlife habitat and hunting lands that will provide unparalleled opportunity and access for future generations of hunters and outdoor users. In the short-term, land markets are depressed along with the general economy and speculative development pressures have temporarily eased. This will provide a short-term opportunity to extend the state's acquisition buying power. In the long-term, steadily rising land costs, increasing urban development from population expansion, and conversion of existing native habitats to other land uses such as agriculture make protection and restoration of remaining native habitats urgent.

Much of the proposed work either enhances or restores degraded habitat. Long time-lags between conservation activities make the job much harder and more expensive. It also lowers the probability of initial success and may require additional follow-up work. Prairies are one of the states rarest and most rapidly diminishing habitats with ongoing threats that diminish the restoration and acquisition potential with each passing year. Goat prairies in the Southeastern Forests will receive special attention for restoration actions.

**21. Does the request restore and/or enhance habitat on existing state-owned Wildlife or Aquatic Management Areas or Scientific and Natural Areas?**

☒ YES ☐ NO

If Yes, list the names of the WMAs and/or SNAs and the acres to be restored and/or enhanced.

See attached map

**22. Is this request based on assessment through a science based strategic planning and evaluation model similar to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service's Strategic Habitat Conservation model?**

☒ YES ☐ NO

If yes explain the model briefly.

The Division of Fish and Wildlife does not use a single planning and evaluation model in our acquisition priority setting process but rather assesses each parcel individually and in context to other existing and proposed public land. This process is not a sophisticated Geographic Information System model but rather a review and approval process that includes the priority criteria outlined in item number 24 below. We also rely on direction

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provided by the Citizens Advisory Committee report which used 10 Ecological Classification Sections to identify existing levels of wildlife land protection and established goals for additional protection in both the short-term and long-term within each Ecological Section.

Project areas proposed for inclusion in the SNA program have been identified by the Minnesota County Biological Survey program that evaluated native prairie extent and quality, documented locations of rare species and Species of Greatest Conservation Need using survey methods developed in conjunction with universities, museums and with the international organization NatureServe (see also below).

The long range pheasant plan, MN County Biological Survey and State Wildlife Action Plan all use science based strategic planning. The programs within this proposal are designed to meet the goals of these plans.

**23. Explain the scientific foundation for your project, and the benefits it will produce.**

Acquisition and sound ecological management of lands focused within habitat complexes has proven to provide optimum wildlife habitat benefits by targeting these efforts in areas that can build on remnant or existing wildlife populations and habitats. Large blocks of habitat provide diversity within the complex and begin to function as an integrated sustainable community. Ongoing staff assessment of habitat quality, acquisition opportunity and enhancement planning will be essential to success.

Minnesota's State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP) includes a problem assessment (chapter 4, page 38 SWAP) that identifies habitat loss and degradation as the predominant challenges facing prairie Species in Great Conservation Need (SGCNs). SWAP identifies 139 SGCNs alone in the Prairie Parkland Province. SWAP also identifies prairie as a key habitat in 11 different ecological subsections within the State. Prairie, as a habitat type, contains more SGCNs than any other habitat in Minnesota. Goal I of SWAP is to stabilize and increase SGCN populations statewide (SWAP pg. 36). Key to the conservation of species dependant on native prairie is to protect and enhance remaining prairies and to reconstruct additional habitat.

**24. How do you set priorities? *(Be sure to list the criteria you use and the weight you give each one.)***

Acquisitions – WMAs

<u>Forest/Prairie Transition – 6% of Acquisitions</u>	<u>Weight</u>
1. Inholdings/additions to existing WMAs	7
2. Shallow lakes, wild rice lakes	6
3. Wetland/Grassland complexes	5
4. Brushlands threatened with development or other uses	4
5. County Biological Site – native plant community	3
6. Collaborative partnerships	2

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7. Habitat Corridor 1

Southeast Forest – 9% of Acquisitions Weight

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. Inholdings/additions to existing WMAs                        | 7 |
| 2. Bluff (goat) prairies  | 6 |
| 3. Forest/oak savanna threatened with development or other uses | 5 |
| 4. Wetland/Grassland complexes                                  | 4 |
| 5. County Biological Site/Rare Natural Element                  | 3 |
| 6. Collaborative partnerships                                   | 2 |
| 7. Habitat Corridor   | 1 |

Prairie – 60% of Acquisitions Weight

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. Inholdings/additions to existing WMAs             | 7 |
| 2. Wetland/Grassland complexes                       | 6 |
| 3. Shallow Lakes/large wetlands                      | 5 |
| 4. County Biological Site – native prairie community | 4 |
| 5. Oak savanna/big woods threatened with development | 3 |
| 6. Collaborative partnerships                        | 2 |
| 7. Habitat Corridor                                  | 1 |

Metropolitan Urbanizing Area – 14% of Acquisitions Weight

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. Inholdings/additions to existing WMAs             | 7 |
| 2. Shallow Lakes/large wetlands                      | 6 |
| 3. Wetland/Grassland complexes                       | 5 |
| 4. County Biological Site – native prairie community | 4 |
| 5. Oak savanna/big woods threatened with development | 3 |
| 6. Collaborative partnerships                        | 2 |
| Habitat Corridor                                     | 1 |

Acquisitions – SNAs

Native prairie sites of outstanding and high biodiversity significance as identified by the Minnesota County Biological Survey (MCBS) were prioritized for protection. Sites are identified by MCBS as priorities for protection because they contain rare and endangered plant and animal species, relatively high quality native plant communities, and key habitats for Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) identified in the State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP). About 35,000 acres of high quality native prairie have been identified across the state that would qualify for protection as SNAs or NPBs. Acquisition efforts will target the highest quality remaining prairies the fall into one of the “Focal Landscapes”. These landscapes are areas within Minnesota that have the high percentage of remaining prairie, and offer the greatest opportunity to provide connectivity and functional landscapes.

WMA/AMA Habitat Work

Work on public lands is our highest priority. Individual projects are prioritized by Area Wildlife Managers using best professional judgment and reviewed by Regional Wildlife

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Managers and are tailored to individual needs of specific units. Work load is used to temper priorities within each Area. There is no specific weighting system.

#### Roadsides

Highly visible demonstration projects that link existing WMAs were identified.

#### Ecological Resources Habitat Work

Native prairie sites of outstanding and high biodiversity significance as identified by the Minnesota County Biological Survey (MCBS) were prioritized for protection. Sites are identified by MCBS as priorities for protection because they contain rare and endangered plant and animal species, high quality native plant communities, and key habitats for Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) identified in the State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP). About 35,000 acres of high quality native prairie have been identified across the state that would qualify for protection as SNAs or NPBs. Information from the scientific assessment (described in 23. above), used in an adaptive management context, will be used to determine subsequent management priorities.

#### WMA Roving Crew

Burning will be prioritized based upon standard burn plans that indicate frequency of burns. Wood encroachment management work will be secondary to burning. All other activities are tertiary.

### **C. Relationship to the *Minnesota Conservation and Preservation Plan* and Other Published Resource Management Plans**

The Minnesota Statewide Conservation and Preservation Plan identifies habitat loss and degradation as the number one driver of change for wildlife in Minnesota. The plan further states that the prairie regions have experienced the greatest amount of habitat loss of any region. This project addresses the following priorities in the *Minnesota Conservation and Preservation Plan*:

- “Critical Land Protection” recommendations H1 “Protect priority land habitats” (which specifically targets native prairie and savanna as well as landscape-scale complexes centered on concentrations of existing remnant habitat – pp. 63 & 66 of Habitat Recommendations)
- “Land and Water Restoration and Protection” recommendations H5 “Restore land, wetlands, and wetland-associated watersheds” (with emphasis on prairie – p. 80)

Tomorrow’s Habitat for the Wild and Rare - Minnesota’s Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy for species in greatest conservation need (SGCNs) has identified (p. 38) significant loss and degradation of habitat as the number one management challenge and one of the principle strategies is to provide protection through selective acquisition of key habitats in each Ecological Section. This proposal directly addresses many of the State Wildlife Action Plan’s Strategies and Priority Conservation Actions to “stabilize and increase SGCN [species of greatest conservation need] populations” for the subsections with prairie ecosystems (pp. 86, 92, 98, 104, 110, 206, 212, 218, 224,

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234) and the prairie, savanna, and surrogate grassland habitats (pp. 255, 263, and 265).

Minnesota's Long Range Duck Recovery Plan lists the objective of restoring a breeding population of 1 million ducks by 2056. The primary strategy is the protection and restoration of 2 million additional acres of habitat.

Minnesota's Long Range Plan for the Ring-necked Pheasant lists the objective of increasing pheasant population to 1.8 million birds. To accomplish this objective the plan calls for an additional 21,000 acres of grassland to be protected through acquisition of WMAs.

Citizens report Minnesota's Wildlife Management Area Acquisition – The Next 50 Years recommends acquisition goals of an additional 702,200 acres of WMAs s over the next 50 years.

The national Grassland Conservation Plan for Prairie Grouse identifies habitat needs for prairie chickens and sharp-tailed grouse in Minnesota.

Minnesota's Roadsides for Wildlife Management Plan describes the need for roadside brome grass conversions to link habitat blocks and provide highly visible demonstration projects.

Mn/DOT's Best Practices Handbook for Roadside Vegetation Management is devoted to improving vegetation along roadsides. Chapter 4 describes in detail the many benefits of using native prairie plants in roadsides.

The national Grassland Conservation Plan for Prairie Grouse identifies habitat needs for prairie chickens and sharp-tailed grouse in Minnesota.

Additionally, this project also helps meet goals outlined in the following plans:

- *Scientific & Natural Areas Long Range Plan*
- *Minnesota's Timber Rattle Snake Recovery Plan*
- *Minnesota DNR's Nongame Strategic Plan*

#### **D. Budget**

<b>Budget Item</b>	<b>Fiscal Year 11</b>	<b>Fiscal Year 12</b>	<b>Fiscal Year 13</b>
<b>Personnel</b>	614,000	614,000	357,000
<b>Contracts</b>	1,547,000	1,134,000	10,000
<b>Equipment/Tools/Supplies</b>	174,000	197,000	218,000
<b>Fee Acquisition</b>	3,350,000	1,800,000	979,000
<b>Easement Acquisition</b>	200,000	300,00	400,000
<b>Easement Stewardship</b>	0	0	0
<b>Professional Services*</b>	245,000	190,000	143,000

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<b>Travel</b>	43,000	47,000	34,000
<b>Additional Budget Items</b>			
<b>(Training)</b>	3,000	4,000	0
<b>Total</b>	6,176,000	4,286,000	2,141,000

*\* Professional services include contracted costs for shared services activities including DNR Office of Management and Budget Services, Human Resources, Management Resources and Information & Education base level services.*

**E. Personnel Details** *In the space below list the names, titles and anticipated program funds to be paid by this recommendation. If you will need to fill a position just list the title and amount.*

<b>Title</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Amount.</b>
<u>WMA Acquisitions</u>		
Land Acq. Specialist	0.25 FTE	\$60,000 over 3 years
<u>SNA Acquisitions</u>		
Natural Resources Specialist	0.5FTE	\$105,000 over 3 years
<u>Eco Resources Habitat Work</u>		
Natural Resources Specialist	3.5 FTE	\$404,000 over 2 years
NR Tech and Laborers	1.25 FTE	\$110,000 over 2 years
<u>WMA/AMA Habitat Work</u>		
Habitat Dev. Specialists	2 FTE	\$300,000 over 3 years
<u>WMA Roving Crews</u>		
NR Spec Sr	.75 FTE	\$130,000 over 3 years
Laborer	4.5 FTE	\$445,400 over 3 years
	12.75 FTE total	

**F. All Leverage** *In the table below list the sources and amounts of leverage you anticipate by fiscal year you anticipate receiving it. Include state and non-state leverage.*

<b>Source of Leverage</b>	<b>Fiscal Year 11</b>	<b>Fiscal Year 12</b>	<b>Fiscal Year 13</b>
<b>Federal Aid</b>	1,117,000	759,000	311,000
<b>State Wildlife Grants</b>	100,000	25,000	
<b>NWTF</b>	63,000		
<b>DNR Nongame</b>	5,000		
<b>DNR in-kind Staff Time</b>	100,000	100,000	
<b>MCC Dedicated</b>	6,000		
<b>TOTAL</b>	1,391,000	884,000	311,000

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**G. Outcomes:**

- 1) *In the first table below, quantify the outcomes you plan to achieve with the recommended funds.*
- 2) *In the second table show list the sections where outcomes will occur.*
- 3) *In the third table, allocate your recommended funds to each cell with outcomes listed in table 1.*
- 4) *In the fourth table show the leverage to be applied to each cell with outcomes listed in table 1. and*
- 5) *If you have any outcomes listed in the “protect” row in table 1, account for them according to the type of acquisition and PILT status in table 5*

<b>Table 1 Accomplish- ments</b>	<b>Wetlands</b>	<b>Prairies</b>	<b>Forests</b>	<b>Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife</b>
<b>Restore</b>		1,389 acres		
<b>Protect</b>	324 acres	1848 acres		
<b>Enhance</b>		27,472 acres		

<b>Table 2 Sections Impacted and Impact Quantifier</b>	<b>Wetlands</b>	<b>Prairies</b>	<b>Forests</b>	<b>Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife</b>
<b>Restore</b>		Prairie/Prairie Transition		
<b>Protect</b>	Prairie/Prairie Transition	Prairie/Prairie Transition		
<b>Enhance</b>		Prairie/ Prairie Transition/ Southeast Forests/Metropolitan Urbanizing Area		

<b>Table 3 Recommend Fund Allocation</b>	<b>Wetlands</b>	<b>Prairies</b>	<b>Forests</b>	<b>Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife</b>
<b>Restore</b>		\$965,000		
<b>Protect</b>	\$1,200,000	\$6,875,698		
<b>Enhance</b>		\$3,555,000		

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<b>Table 4 Leverage \$</b>	<b>Wetlands</b>	<b>Prairies</b>	<b>Forests</b>	<b>Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife</b>
<b>Restore</b>				
<b>Protect</b>				
<b>Enhance</b>		\$2,585,000		

<b>Table 5 Acquisition Data</b>	<b>Wetlands</b>	<b>Prairies</b>	<b>Forests</b>	<b>Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife</b>
<b>Acquired in Fee with State PILT Liability</b>	324 acres	1498 acres		
<b>Acquired in Fee without State PILT Liability</b>				
<b>Permanent Easement</b>		350 acres (SNA)		

#### H. Accomplishment Time Table

<b>Milestone</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Measure</b>
<u>WMA Acquisition</u>		
Protect through fee acquisition	6/31/2011	1,400 ac
Implement Initial Development Plan	6/31/2012	1,400 ac
Protect through fee acquisition	6/31/2012	931 ac
Implement Initial Development Plan	6/31/2013	931 ac
<u>SNA Prairie Bank acquisition</u>		
Protect through fee acquisition (SNA/prairie bank)	6/30/2013	200 ac
Protect through easement (SNA/prairie bank)	6/30/2013	350 ac
<u>Roadsides</u>		
Initial site prep by DOT	12/ 30/2010	150 ac
Site prep by contractor	Spring 2011	150 ac

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Seed roadside with diverse native seed mix	6/30/2011	150 ac
First season maintenance by experienced contractor	10/30/ 2011	150 ac
<u>Ecological Resources Habitat Work</u>		
Restoration projects completed	6/30/2012	50 ac
Enhancement/assessment projects completed	6/30/2012	1725 ac
<u>WMA/AMA Habitat Work</u>		
Initial site treatment	6/31/2011	6,091 ac
Final site treatment	6/31/2012	6,091 ac
<u>WMA Roving Crew</u>		
Burn	6/30/2012	7,000 ac
Woody encroachment removal	6/30/2012	1,000 ac
Burn	6/30/2013	7,000 ac
Woody encroachment removal	6/30/2013	1,000 ac
Burn	6/30/2014	7,000 ac
Woody encroachment removal	6/30/2014	1,000 ac

**I. Relationship to Your Current Budget**

DNR Expenditures for FY 09

DNR - \$350M

FAW - \$92.6M

ECO - \$25.8M

Wildlife Section expenditures for FY 09

Grassland expenditures \$2,770,000

Total acquisition expenditures (excluding bonding) \$6,840,000

Eco Resources expenditures for FY09 including bonding

SNA/ Prairie Bank (site specific) & Assessment related to prairie \$1,771,000

**J. How Will the Habitat Improvements Be Sustained?**

Priority acquisitions will be lands associated with existing complexes of protected lands or in large blocks that will foster economies of scale and location. Restorations of converted lands is more costly then enhancements to existing lands and will provide job opportunities for MCC crews, contract ecological service vendors and a variety of seed and material vendors. Ongoing maintenance will be accomplished through routine management activities accomplished by our network of Area Wildlife offices throughout the state and supported by the Game and Fish Fund. Periodic enhancements will be accomplished by existing staff, MCC crews, temporary project staffing or through

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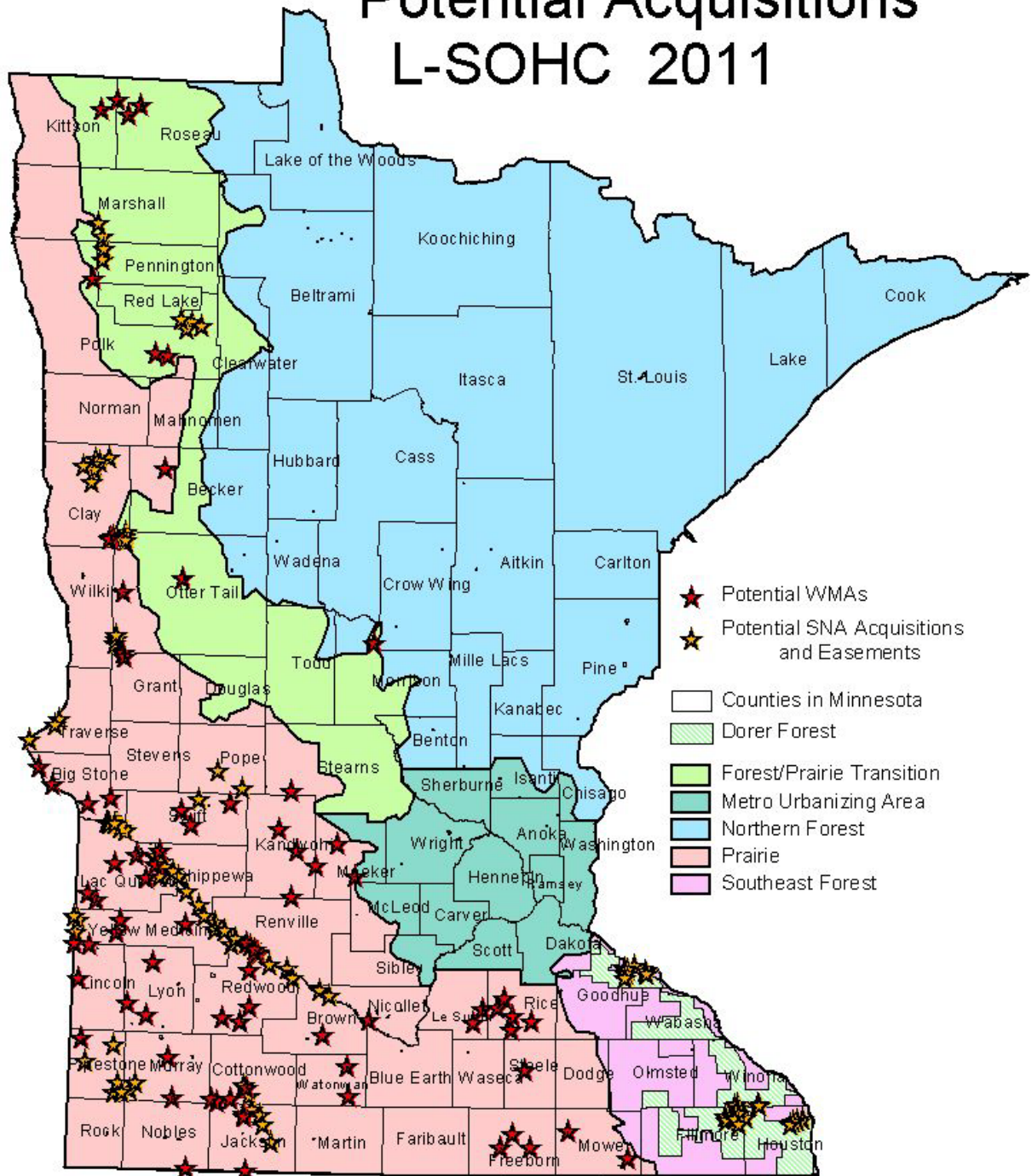
vendor contract using traditional habitat project funding, bonding, and future requests for funding from dedicated funding sources.

The ongoing maintenance of SNA administered lands requires the program to continually seek additional funds to perform its mission. In the future the SNA program will continue to seek Outdoor Heritage Funds as well as other project appropriations to protect, restore, and enhance natural areas.

**K. Attach a list of your projects listing their county location and edit the map of Minnesota on the next page to show each project as a symbol.**

See Pages 22-32. NOTE: List of projects is tentative and based upon a point-in-time assessment of opportunities and priorities. Actual project locations may differ although alternate projects will be selected within a strategic decision framework as described previously in this proposal.

# Prairie and Prairie Transition Potential Acquisitions L-SOHC 2011

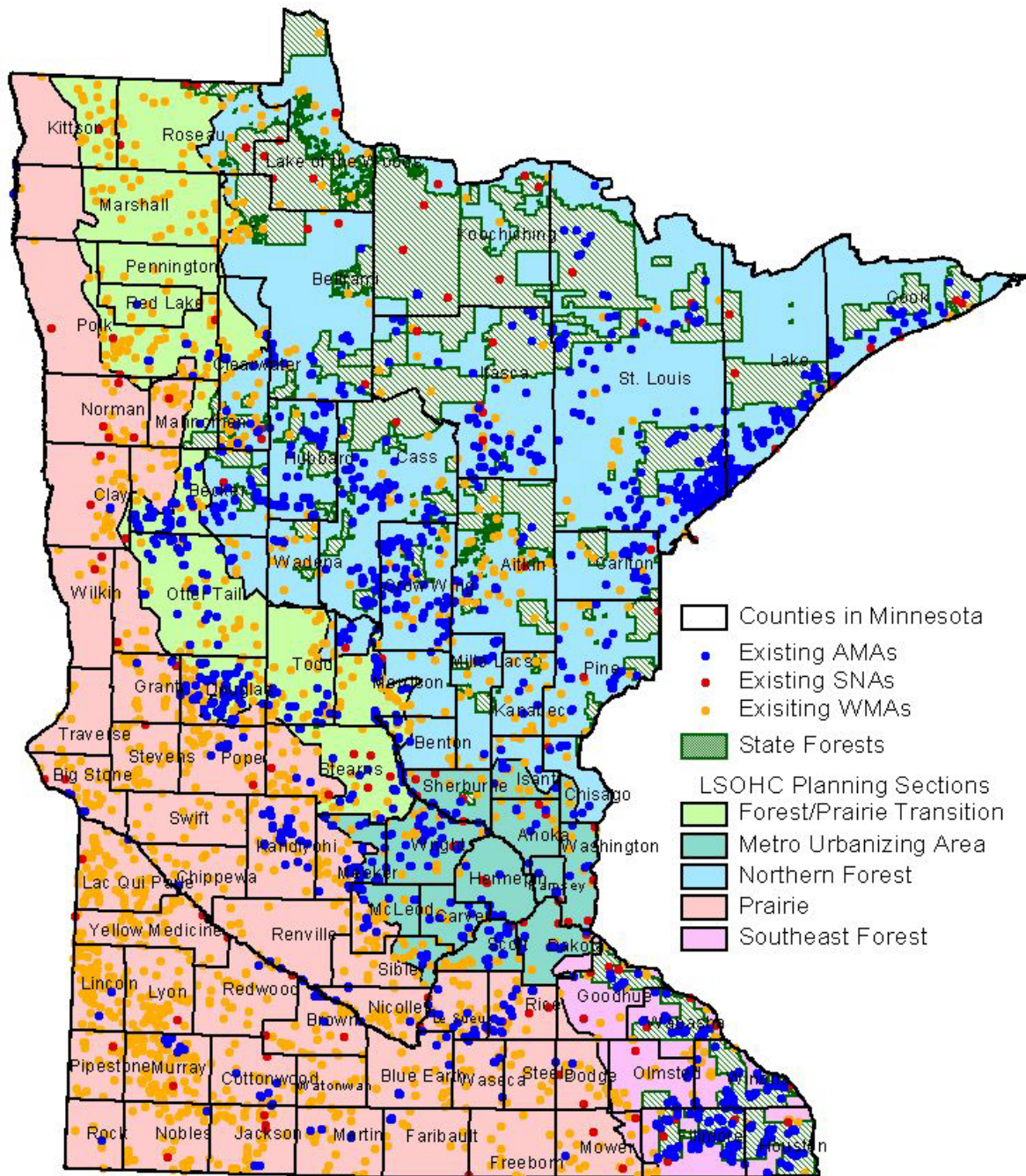


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## Existing WMAs, AMAs, SNAs, and State Forests



10/29/09

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Potential WMA Acquisitions - Prairie and Prairie Transition

			<b>LSOHC Planning Section</b>		
<b>County</b>	<b>Prairie</b>	<b>Acres</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Prairie Transition</b>	<b>Acres</b>
Murray	Thompson Prairie WMA	639.67		Roseau Exchange - out	
Meeker	Sioux Lake WMA	75.93	Kittson	Beaches WMA, P16	160
Yellow					
Medicine	Middle Antelope 4	155.02		Roseau Exchange - in	
Chippewa	Benderberg 19	72		Roseau River - Lindenfel	
Watonwan	Younger Bros	160	Polk	Pembina WMA	120
Renville	Cold Springs	80		Wren's Nest	
			Otter		
Watonwan	Seig WMA	64.92	Tail	Dead Lake WMA	188
Redwood	Lamberton - MDHA	110.02		Little Nokasippi, P4	
Chippewa	Lac Que Parle - Boraas	487.84	Polk	Crooked Lake	40
Nicollet	Swan Lake - Courtland	79.53			<b>508</b>
Nicollet	Cannon - Bohn	520			
Grant	Kube Swift Symonds	203.28			
Redwood	Whispering Ridge	280.56			
Chippewa	Lac Qui Parle - Ellingso	154.4			
Freeborn	Magaksica	112.94			
Cottonwood	Talcot Lake - Porth	23.43			
Big Stone	Hornstein Sch Trust	64.85			
Jackson	Timber Lake	98.06			
Cottonwood	Great Bend	207			
Rice	Boyd Sartell. Tr3	73.65			
Kandiyohi	Yohi Tr3B	104.39			
Big Stone	Foster	42.73			
LQP	Florida Creek	319.98			
Swift	Jossart	118.91			
Redwood	Cedar Rock - Hayes	97.22			
Jackson	Teal Lake Tr2	50.93			
Cottonwood	Talcot Lake Tr13	111.69			
Pipestone	Winter - Geis	157.11			
Grant	Kube-Swift - Biss	182.64			
Clay	Barnesville Tr23	158.59			
Clay	Barnesville Tr23A	79.92			
Otter Tail	Haldorsen Lake	108.87			
Nobles	Lake Bella	74.7			
Kandiyohi	Lake Lillian	162.8			
Cottonwood	Pat's Pasture	178.91			

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Becker	Omega Springs	514.16
Big Stone	Prairie WMA	22
Swift	Danvers WMA	100
Swift	Camp Kerk WMA	40
LQP	Baxter WMA	80
LQP	Sweetwater WMA	64
Yellow		
Medicine	Oshkosh WMA	17
Lincoln	Archerville WMA	99
Lincoln	Minn-Kota WMA	221
Lincoln	Shaokatan WMA	6
Lyon	Coon Creek WMA	77
Lyon	Lyrock WMA	226
Redwood	Two Rivers WMA	274
Jackson	Minneota WMA	40
Meeker	Wieker WMA	18
LeSeuer	Murphy WMA	12
Steele	Somerset WMA	47
Mower	Ramsey Mill Pond WMA	22
Mower	Cartney WMA	60
Stearns	Middlefork/Boie WMA	229
Freeborn	Juglans Woods WMA	270
Brown	Badger Track WMA	220
Yellow		
Medicine	Nothem WMA	151
	Hendrickson Estate	
Meeker	WMA	240
Redwood	Charlestown WMA	160
Murray	Hovno WMA	170
Kandiyohi	Hawick State WMA	90
Rice	Caron Lake WMA	368
Big Stone	Gibson WMA	190
Rice	Hands Marsh WMA	240
Lyon	New WMA	222
Rice	Roberds Lake WMA	202
LQP	Schueller WMA	33
Redwood	Cyto WMA	480
Rice	Le Tamaraque WMA	202
Freeborn	Goetz WMA	549
	<b>11567.65 Total</b>	

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**WMA/AMA Habitat Projects**

WMA	County	Treated Acres	WMA	County	Treated Acres
Rolling Hills WMA	Lyon	16	Clay County WMA	Clay	440
Salix WMA	Lincoln	80	Vangsness WMA	Norman	39
Gabriel Anderson WMA	Lyon	18	Teiken-dalve WMA	Becker	14
Shaokatan WMA	Lyon	40	Ranum WMA	Norman	40
Prairie WMA	Big Stone	186	Ranum WMA	Norman	25
Victory WMA	Big Stone	137	North Germany, Burgen Lake, Menahga, and Yaeger Lake WMAs	Wadena	150
Walter WMA	Lac Qui Parle	131	Hoffman WMA	Goodhue	54
Byrne Lake WMA	Swift	100	Whitewater WMA	Winona	400
Lac qui Parle WMA	Lac Qui Parle	40	Belgium	Polk	18
Lac qui Parle WMA	Lac Qui Parle	40	Burnham	Polk	200
Walnut Lake WMA	Faribault	60.2	Chicog	Polk	12
Gilfillan Lake WMA	Blue Earth	48	Enerson	Polk	38
Pebbles WMA	McLeod	38	Maple Meadows	Polk	25
Bob Gehlen WMA	Sibley	25	Maple Meadows	Polk	6
Alfsborg WMA	Sibley	6.6	Mentor Prairie	Polk	7
Earl Swain WMA	Le Sueur	10.5	Mentor Prairie	Polk	11
Cartney WMA	Mower	100	Mentor Prairie	Polk	60
Quade WMA	Waseca	53	Moran	Red Lake	5
Klabunde WMA	Redwood	17	Onstad	Polk	10
Delhi WMA	Redwood	40	Pembina	Polk	50
Beaver Falls WMA	Renville	40	Polk	Polk	6
Faxvog WMA	Redwood	25	Polk	Polk	11
Lamberton WMA	Redwood	130	Stipa	Polk	40
Terri WMA	Brown	60	Iona WMA	Todd	3
William A. Groebner WMA	Brown	60	Ras-Lynn	McLeod	30
Helget-Braulick WMA	Brown	17	Whitewater WMA	Winona	30
Rosenau-Lambrecht WMA	Brown	60	Erskine	Polk	20
Poplar Creek WMA	Pipestone	27.4	Marcoux	Red Lake	45
Burbank WMA	Kandiyohi	16	Pembina	Polk	65
Kandi WMA	Kandiyohi	25	Lac qui Parle WMA (Nygard Tract)	Swift	12
Mamre WMA	Kandiyohi	75	David B. Vesall WMA	Lac Qui Parle	46
Sunburg WMA	Kandiyohi	11	Daub's Lake	Redwood	18
Butternut WMA	Meeker	17.5	Robina WMA	Hennepin	10
Twin Lakes WMA	Kittson	100	Talcot Lake WMA	Cottonwood	22
Caribou WMA	Kittson	360	Ann Lake WMA	Kanabec	72

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Beaches Lake WMA	Kittson	80	Quistorff WMA	Todd	6.7
			Rice Area Sportsmens		
Beaches Lake WMA	Kittson	560	Club WMA	Morrison	19
Barnesville WMA	Clay	115	Richard J. Dorer WMA	Lincoln	57.1
Flowing WMA	Clay	85	Beaver Creek WMA	Fillmore	40
			<b>Aquatic Management Areas</b>		
Doran WMA	Otter Tail	300			
Hi-View WMA	Otter Tail	40	Minniebelle Lake AMA	Meeker	3.78
Highland Grove WMA	Clay	60	Thompson Lake AMA	Meeker	23.5
Ulen WMA	Clay	80	Horseshoe Lake AMA	Le Sueur	50
Manston Marsh WMA	Wilkin	285	Blue Earth River AMA	Faribault	22
			Buttermilk Run AMA	Murray	15
			Stay Lake AMA	Lincoln	5
				Total acres	6,091
			Roadsides	Martin	150

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**Potential SNA and NPB easement Acquisitions – Prairie, Prairie Transition, and  
SE Forest**

**LSOHC Planning Section**

<b>County</b>	<b>Forest/Prairie Transition Complexes</b>	<b>Acres</b>
Marshall and Pennington	Marshall-Pennington Beach Ridge Prairies	760
Polk	Chester Hills Prairies	1100
Clay	Blanket Flower Prairies	100
<b>County</b>	<b>Prairie Complexes</b>	<b>Acres</b>
Pope	Glacial Lakes and Moraines	300
Clay	Tansem Prairies	400
Clay	Felton Prairies	600
Ottertail	Ottertail Prairies	200
Murray and Pipestone	Chanarambie Creek Prairies	400
Big Stone	Corell Area Prairies	600
Brown, Renville, Redwood, Yellow Medicine,	Minnesota River Prairies	300
Jackson, Cottonwood	Des Moines River Prairies	280
Yellow Medicine	Yellow Medicine Coteau Prairies	300
Traverse	Lake Traverse Prairies	100
Swift	Mikkelson Prairies	240
Pipestone	Prairie Coteau Prairies	150
Pipestone	Pipestone Quartzite Outcrops	315
Redwood	Swedes Forest Prairies	360
<b>County</b>	<b>SE Forest Complexes</b>	<b>Acres</b>
Goodhue	Frontenac - Hay Creek Prairies	400
Houston, Fillmore, Winona	Root River Prairies	600
Fillmore	Root River Valley	150

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**SNA targeted sites for prairie restoration and enhancement**

<b>Scientific &amp; Natural Area</b>	<b>County</b>
Agassiz Dunes SNA	Norman
Black Dog Preserve SNA	Dakota
Blanket Flower Prairie SNA	Clay
Blue Devil Valley SNA	Yellow Medicine
Bluestem Prairie SNA	Clay
Bonanza Prairie SNA	Big Stone
Cedar Mountain SNA	Redwood
Clear Lake SNA	Sherburne
Clinton Prairie SNA	Big Stone
Compass Prairie SNA	Nobles
Cottonwood River Prairie SNA	Brown
Des Moines River SNA	Jackson
Falls Creek SNA	Washington
Felton Prairie SNA	Clay
Frenchman's Bluff SNA	Norman
Glynn Prairie SNA	Lyon
Gneiss Outcrops SNA	Chippewa
Grey Cloud Dunes SNA	Washington
Gully Fen SNA	Polk
Harry W. Cater Homestead Prairie SNA	Sherburne
Hastings SNA	Dakota
Helen Allison Savanna SNA	Anoka
Holthe Prairie SNA	Jackson
Hythecker Prairie SNA	Dodge
Iron Horse Prairie SNA	Dodge
Joseph A. Tauer Prairie SNA	Brown
Kasota Prairie SNA	LeSueur
Kellogg-Weaver Dunes SNA	Wabasha
King's and Queen's Bluff SNA	Winona
Lake Bronson Parkland SNA	Kittson
Lost Valley Prairie SNA	Washington
Lundblad Prairie SNA	Murray
Malmberg Prairie SNA	Polk
Mound Prairie SNA	Houston
Mound Spring Prairie SNA	Yellow Medicine
Oronoco Prairie SNA	Olmstead
Osmundson Prairie SNA	Faribault
Ottertail Prairie SNA	Otter Tail
Pembina Trail Preserve SNA	Polk
Pin Oak Prairie SNA	Fillmore

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Pine Bend Bluffs SNA	Dakota
Prairie Bush Clover SNA	Jackson
Prairie Coteau SNA	Pipestone
Prairie Creek Woods SNA	Rice
Prairie Smoke Dunes SNA	Norman
Racine Prairie SNA	Mower
Rice Lake Savanna SNA	Sherburne
Richard M. & Mathilda Rice Elliot SNA	Wilkin
River Terrace Prairie SNA	Goodhue
Rock Ridge Prairie SNA	Cottonwood
Roscoe Prairie SNA	Stearns
Rushford Sand Barrens SNA	Fillmore
Sandpiper Prairie SNA	Norman
Santee Prairie SNA	Mahnomen
Savage Fen SNA	Scott
Sedan Brook Prairie SNA	Stearns
Shooting Star Prairie SNA	Mower
Spring Creek Prairie SNA	Goodhue
St. Croix Savanna SNA	Washington
Swede's Forest SNA	Yellow Medicine
Twin Valley Prairie SNA	Norman
Two Rivers Aspen Prairie Parkland SNA	Roseau
Uncas Dunes SNA	Sherburne
Verlyn Marth Memorial Prairie SNA	Stevens
Western Prairie South SNA	Wilkin
Wild Indigo Prairie SNA	Mower
Yellow Bank Hills SNA	Lac Qui Parle

<b>Native Prairie Bank Easements</b>	<b>County</b>
Schellberg Prairie Bank	Big Stone
Berner Prairie Bank	Blue Earth
Johnson Prairie Bank	Big Stone
Peterson Prairie Bank	Brown
Strand Prairie Bank	Clay
Carney Prairie Bank	Murray
Pilegard Prairie Bank	Murray
Meine Prairie Bank	Brown
Odden Prairie Bank	Lac Qui Parle
B-B Ranch Prairie Bank	Clay
Vegoe Prairie Bank	Pope
Wallace Prairie Bank	Ottertail
Rogers Prairie Bank	Clay
Fibranz Prairie Bank	Traverse

**L-SOHC Request for Funding Form**

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on DNR lands and Roadsides

Woodke Prairie Bank	Grant
Selix Prairie Bank	Pope
Keister 20 Prairie Bank	Faribault
Olsen Prairie Bank	Grant
Mickelson Prairie Bank	Cottonwood
Storden 28 Prairie Bank	Cottonwood
Ulen 29 Prairie Bank	Clay
Tanberg 20 Prairie Bank	Wilkin
Carson 5 Prairie Bank	Cottonwood
Storden 21 Prairie Bank	Cottonwood
Otre 26 Prairie Bank	Big Stone
Camp Release North 30 Prairie Bank	Lac Qui Parle
Lake Pleasant 22 Prairie Bank	Red Lake
Lund 21 Prairie Bank	Douglas
Marsh Grove 36 Prairie Bank	Marshall
Petersburg 26 Prairie Bank	Jackson
North Star 32 Prairie Bank	Brown
Walls 7 Prairie Bank	Traverse
Island Lake 22 Prairie Bank	Lyon
Swedes Forest 20 Prairie Bank	Redwood
Holly 17 Prairie Bank	Murray
Lynd 36 & Lyons 1 Prairie Bank	Lyon
Johnsonville 30 Prairie Bank	Redwood
Minnesota Falls 10 Prairie Bank	Yellow Medicine
Petersburg 27 Prairie Bank	Jackson
Ann 25 Prairie Bank	Cottonwood
Petersburg 33 Prairie Bank	Jackson
Belmont 6 Prairie Bank	Jackson
Stony Run 11 Prairie Bank	Yellow Medicine
Belmont 5 Prairie Bank	Jackson
Christiana 31-1 Prairie Bank	Jackson
Walls 7, Parcel 2	Traverse
Moulton 5 Prairie Bank	Murray
Christiana 31, Parcel 2	Jackson
Bigstone 6	Big Stone
Norway Lake 5	Kandiyohi
Fortier 24	Yellow Medicine
Storden 4-1	Cottonwood
Custer 15	Lyon
Camp Release 32	Lac qui Parle
Storden 4-2	Cottonwood
Lamberton 15	Redwood
Stony Run 10	Yellow Med.
Lamberton 13	Redwood

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Great Bend 29	Cottonwood
Hantho 17	Lac Qui Parle
Holly 2	Murray
Linden 6	Brown
Plum Creek	Murray
Lund 2-1	Douglas
Warsaw 7-1	Goodhue
Nidaros 21	Ottertail
Ransom 4-1	Nobles
Dovray 7-1	Murray
Swedes Forest 20-2	Redwood
Lakeside 30-1	Cottonwood
Walls 18-1	Traverse
Home Lake 28-1	Norman
Swedes Forest 21-1	Redwood
Hantho 25-1	Lac qui Parle
Judson 3-1	Blue Earth
Wergeland 5-1	Yellow Med
Moulton 11-1	Murray
Moulton 19-1	Murray
Foster 34-1	Big Stone
Minnesota Falls 3-1	Yellow Medicine
Brownsville 26-1	Houston
Moulton 10-1	Murray
Fairfield 31-1	Swift
Agassiz 23-1	Lac qui Parle
Altona 31-1	Pipestone
Altona 31-2	Pipestone
Judson 4-1	Blue Earth
Judson 3-1	Blue Earth