

**Main Request for Funding Form**  
**Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council**  
**Fiscal Year 2013**

**Program or Project Title:** Living Shallow Lakes & Wetlands Initiative

**Funds Requested:** \$8,000,000

**Manager's Name:** Jon Schneider  
**Organization:** Ducks Unlimited, Inc.  
**Street Address:** 311 East Lake Geneva Road  
**City:** Alexandria **State:** Minnesota **Zip:** 56308  
**Telephone:** 320-762-9916  
**E-Mail:** [@ducks.](mailto:ducks@ducks.org)  
**Organization Web Site:** [www.ducks.org](http://www.ducks.org)

**County Location:** Multiple/Statewide

**Ecological Planning Regions:**

- Northern Forest       Forest/Prairie Transition       Southeast Forest  
 Prairie       Metro/Urban

**Activity Type:**

- Protect - Fee       Protect - Easement       Protect - Other  
 Restore     Enhance

**Priority Resources addressed by activity:**

- Wetlands       Forests       Prairie       Habitat

**Project Abstract**

This program is an ongoing initiative that restores, enhances, and protects shallow lakes and wetlands for waterfowl in partnership with the Minnesota DNR and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.

## Project Narrative

### Design and scope of work

Minnesota has lost approximately 90% of our prairie wetlands, and many wetlands in other parts of the state, to drainage. The shallow lakes and large marshes that remain are often those that were too deep to drain, and they now serve as the core of Minnesota's remaining waterfowl habitat complexes. However, these remaining wetlands now receive excessive water and nutrient runoff from a highly altered landscape, and invasive fish have easy access into them. As a result, many basins are now turbid and degraded due to high, stable water levels that allow carp and other invasive fish to proliferate and aquatic ecology to stagnate. The results is a lack of aquatic plants and invertebrates required to sustain migrating and breeding waterfowl, especially those species that rely on aquatic foods exclusively such as diving ducks.

As a result, ducks migrating through Minnesota on their way north to breed in spring find sparse aquatic food resources, much to their detriment further north, and also again in the fall when their passage through Minnesota appears briefer each year. Those waterfowl that remain here to breed find poor brood-rearing habitat, as shallow lakes and marshes have a paucity of high quality wetland habitat with abundant aquatic plants and invertebrate food resources on which young ducks rely. These factors have contributed to a decline in Minnesota's diverse waterfowl resources and, unfortunately, a decline in Minnesota's rich waterfowling traditions.

To remedy this situation, Ducks Unlimited requests support for our "Living Lakes Initiative" to assist the Minnesota DNR, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, and other conservation partners to enhance, restore, and protect Minnesota's shallow lakes and wetlands. This funding request will support Ducks Unlimited bio-engineering staff that work with these agencies to assess, design, and construct water control structures and fish barriers. DU biologists will work closely with Minnesota DNR Shallow Lakes Program biologists to assess wetland conditions and identify possible management solutions. DU biologists and engineers will survey, design, and construct the infrastructure necessary to actively manage water levels. Funding in this request will also support ongoing shallow lake technical assistance from DU biologists and engineers to assess, survey, and design future projects for implementation under future OHF appropriations.

Most enhancement work will occur in the prairie. Structures are used by agency managers to simulate natural temporary drought cycles in shallow lakes and wetlands that rejuvenate the aquatic ecological process that produces abundant aquatic plants and invertebrates. These structures last for 30 or more years and are generally use by agency staff every 5-7 years to conduct periodic temporary draw-downs that are key to enhancing and maintaining highly productive wetlands. Importantly, DU will also design and restore small wetlands on public and other protected land near shallow lakes. Shallow lakes are selected for enhancement by DNR and FWS managers, and generally enjoy strong support from the public for improvement. The Minnesota DNR holds public meetings to share information on the current condition and management plan for shallow lakes designated for wildlife management purposes.

To protect the shoreland along shallow lakes from future subdivision and development and protect the state's investment in water level management infrastructure, Ducks Unlimited will work with private landowners on key shallow lakes managed for waterfowl to secure permanent conservation easements. Conservation easements permanently protect important wildlife habitat on private lands that remain on local tax rolls, but are not designed to ensure certain mandatory uses of the land such as for public access. Private landowners retain the right to

allow public trespass on their land, and conservation easements do not acquire or enforce that right. Most private landowners will consider allowing public access if permission is requested. The shallow lakes selected by DU for protection via conservation easements are generally those with a history of strong waterfowl migrations but that are located in areas with increasing development pressures such as along the I-94 corridor along the forest-prairie transition.

## **Planning**

Every statewide conservation plan recognizes the need for improving and protecting Minnesota's shallow lakes and associated wetlands for optimal wildlife habitat. The Minnesota DNR's *Duck Recovery Plan* is the most specific, calling for the active management of 1,800 shallow lakes and adding 64,000 wetlands to Minnesota's landscape. DU's *Living Lakes Initiative* supports this plan through a goal of improving 300 Minnesota shallow lakes in 10 years. Shallow lakes and wetlands are identified as critical habitat for several "Species of Greatest Conservation Need" listed in Minnesota's "Tomorrow's Habitat for the Wild & Rare: An Action Plan for Minnesota Wildlife", including lesser scaup, northern pintail, and trumpeter swan.

Importantly, this funding request will enable Ducks Unlimited's Living Lakes Initiative to directly address Minnesota's Statewide Conservation & Preservation Plan Habitat Recommendations #4 and #5 on pages 78 and 80, respectively, which calls for the restoration and protection of shallow lakes (page 78) and the restoration of land, wetlands, and watersheds (page 80).

Finally, the North American Waterfowl Management Plan's Prairie Pothole Joint Venture prioritizes the restoration and management of wetlands and shallow lakes through goals and objectives for improved brood-rearing and migration habitat for ducks. Many of the shallow lakes and wetlands prioritized for enhancement by DU are located within wetland habitat complexes identified by the US Fish & Wildlife Service's Strategic Habitat Conservation model and are high priority basins for both Service and Minnesota DNR field managers. DU shallow lake and wetland enhancement work is performed in close coordination and collaboration with either the Minnesota DNR or U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, and these agencies assume future management and operation of DU engineered water control structures.

## **Relationship to Other Constitutional Funds**

This request complements some DU conservation work funded in the past by the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund. Funding for shallow lake and wetland enhancements and restorations is no longer funded by the Trust Fund, and although additional limited funding for DU conservation easements is pending, funding levels are not adequate to fully protect the managed shallow lakes DU has prioritized. No funding from the Clean Water Fund or Parks and Trails Fund has been directly requested or received by DU.

## **Relationship to Current Organizational Budget**

Funding from the Outdoor Heritage Fund supplements traditional DU conservation budgets and allows DU to continue to accelerate shallow lake and wetland conservation work in Minnesota that simply would otherwise not be possible through existing DU funding. Since Outdoor Heritage Funds do not fully reimburse DU for all our expense associated with these projects, funding for this request leverages DU funding to fully pay for more wetland projects and technical assistance than would otherwise be feasible within our limited non-profit budget.

## **Sustainability and Maintenance**

Enhancement projects funded through this request will be managed and maintained by Minnesota DNR and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service field staff currently responsible for managing and maintaining those areas. Minnesota DNR often uses state duck stamp fund to pay for annual wetland and shallow lake management and maintenance expense. Management and

maintenance of private land permanently protected and restored through DU conservation easements funded by this request remains the responsibility of the private landowner, and DU endows the future annual easement monitoring, stewardship, and enforcement costs of every easement DU accepts as per Land Trust Alliance standards (DU is certified).

### Outcomes

Full funding for this request will restore 97 wetland acres on public land, restore 400 prairie upland acres under permanent DU conservation easement, enhance 2,803 acres in 18 wetlands or shallow lakes, and protect 900 upland acres along key shallow lakes. Funding this request will also support ongoing shallow lake technical assistance from DU biologists and engineers to assess, survey, and design future projects for implementation under future OHF appropriations to ensure future OHF funding requests for similar work are possible. The outcomes will be restored and enhanced public water shallow lake and wetland aquatic habitat conditions for waterfowl, and permanently protected shallow lake shorelands no longer vulnerable to future subdivision and development pressures.

### Activity Type Detail

#### Fee Acquisition Projects

Will local government approval be sought prior to acquisition?

Yes                       No, please explain                       not applicable

If no, please explain here:

Is the land you plan to acquire free of any other permanent protection?

Yes                       No, please explain                       not applicable

If no, please explain here:

#### Easement Acquisition Projects

Will the eased land be open for public use?

Yes                       No, please explain                       not applicable

If no, please explain here:

Conservation easements secured by DU are intended to protect the shoreland along key shallow lakes from future subdivision and development and protect the state's investment in lake management. Conservation easements permanently protect important wildlife habitat on private lands that remain on local tax rolls, but are not designed to ensure certain mandatory uses of the land such as for public access. Private landowners retain the right to allow public trespass on their land, and conservation easements do not acquire or enforce that right. Most private landowners will consider allowing public access if permission is requested.

Will the conservation easement be permanent?

Yes                       No, please explain                       not applicable

If no, please explain here:

**Restoration and Enhancement Projects**

Is the activity on permanently protected land and/or public waters?

Yes                       No, please explain                       not applicable

If no, please explain here:

Does the activity take place on an Aquatic Management Area (AMA), Scientific and Natural Area (SNA), Wildlife Management Area (WMA), or State Forests?

Yes, which ones                       No, please explain                       not applicable

If so, please indicate which ones:

Several shallow lake enhancement projects will occur on state WMAs, including Klages WMA in Big Stone County, Erlandson WMA in Otter Tail County, Hobza WMA in Blue Earth County, Teal Lake WMA in Jackson County, Malardi WMA in Wright County, Banks WMA in Cottonwood County, Four Corners WMA in Martin County, Yaeger WMA in Wadena County, Prairie Dell WMA in Lincoln County, Shakotan WMA in Lincoln County, and Everglade WMA in Stevens County. All other wetland and shallow lake enhancement projects are either under DNR control via easements or wildlife lake designation, or are on public U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service lands.

**Past Outdoor Heritage Fund Appropriations Received for this program**

<b>ML 2009</b>	<b>ML 2010</b>	<b>ML 2011</b>
\$2,528,000	\$5,042,000	\$1,891,000

## Accomplishment Timeline

Activity	Milestone	Date
Restore prairie wetlands	Restore 97 acres of wetlands	June 30, 2014
Enhance wetlands and shallow lakes	Enhance 2,803 acres of public water wetlands and shallow lakes	June 30, 2014
Protect shallow lake shoreland	Secure 900 acres under permanent conservation easements on private land along shallow lakes	June 30, 2014
Restore land under DU easement	Restore 400 acres of prairie or wetlands on land under permanent DU conservation easements	June 30, 2015

### Attachments:

- A. Budget
- B. Proposed Output Tables 1-5
- C. Parcel List

**Attachment A. Budget Spreadsheet**

<b>Name of Proposal:</b>	Living Shallow Lakes & Wetlands Initiative
<b>Date:</b>	15-Jul-11
	Ducks Unlimited

[Link HERE to definitions of the budget items below.](#)

**Total Amount of Request** \$ 8,000,000 *From page 1 on the funding form.*

**Personnel**

Position breakdown here	FTE	Over # of years	Anticipated Cash		Cash Leverage Source	Total
			LSOHC Request	Leverage		
<i>Manager of Programs</i>	0.3	2	\$ 60,000	\$ 18,000	private	\$ 78,000
<i>Field Biologists</i>	2	2	\$ 300,000	\$ 90,000	private	\$ 390,000
<i>Engineering Technicians</i>	2	2	\$ 320,000	\$ 96,000	private	\$ 416,000
<i>Surveyor/Construction Mgr.</i>	2	2	\$ 320,000	\$ 96,000	private	\$ 416,000
<i>Professional Engineers</i>	2	2	\$ 455,000	\$ 136,500	private	\$ 591,500
<i>Land Protection Specialist</i>	1	2	\$ 150,000	\$ 45,000	private	\$ 195,000
						\$ -
<b>Total</b>	<b>9.3</b>		<b>\$ 1,605,000</b>	<b>\$ 481,500</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 2,086,500</b>

**Budget and Cash Leverage (All your LSOHC Request Funds must be direct to and necessary for program outcomes.)**

*Please describe how you intend to spend the requested funds.*

Budget Item	Anticipated Cash		Cash Leverage Source	Total
	LSOHC Request	Leverage		
<b>Personnel - auto entered from above</b>	\$ 1,605,000	\$ 481,500	\$ -	\$ 2,086,500
<b>Contracts</b>	\$ 3,320,000	\$ 166,000	private	\$ 3,486,000
<b>Fee Acquisition w/ PILT (breakout in table 7)</b>				\$ -
<b>Fee Acquisition w/o PILT (breakout in table 7)</b>				\$ -
<b>Easement Acquisition</b>	\$ 2,600,000			\$ 2,600,000
<b>Easement Stewardship</b>		\$ 126,000	private	\$ 126,000
<b>Travel (in-state)</b>	\$ 144,000	\$ 9,950	private	\$ 153,950
<b>Professional Services</b>	\$ 169,000	\$ 8,450	private	\$ 177,450
<b>Direct Support Services</b>				\$ -
<b>DNR Land Acquisition Costs (\$3,500 per acquisition)</b>				\$ -
<b>Other</b>				\$ 170,100
Capital Equipment (auto entered from below)	\$ 90,000	\$ 4,500	private	\$ 94,500
Other Equipment/Tools	\$ 17,000	\$ 850	private	\$ 17,850
Supplies/Materials	\$ 55,000	\$ 2,750	private	\$ 57,750
	\$ 8,000,000	\$ 800,000	\$ -	\$ 8,800,000

**Capital Equipment (single items over \$10,000 - auto entered into table above)**

Item Name	LSOHC Request	Leverage
<i>Portable Pump with trailer, fuel tank, etc. for enhancing wetlands</i>	90,000	4,500
<b>Total</b>	<b>90,000</b>	<b>4,500</b>

## Attachment B. Output Tables

<b>Name of Proposal:</b>	Living Shallow Lakes & Wetlands Initiative
<b>Date:</b>	15-Jul-11
	Ducks Unlimited

*Table 1 and Table 3 column totals should be the same AND Table 2 and Table 4 column totals should be the same*

*If your project has lakes or shoreline miles instead of land acres, convert miles to acres for Tables 1 and 3 using the following conversion:*

*Lakeshore = 6 acres per lakeshore mile / Stream & River Shore = 12 acres per linear mile, if both sides*

**Table 1. Acres by Resource Type**

Describe the scope of the project in acres (use conversion above if needed)

	Wetlands	Prairies	Forest	Habitats	Total
Restore	97	400			497
Protect Fee					0
Protect Easement		900			900
Protect Other					0
Enhance	2803				2803
<b>Total</b>	2900	1300	0	0	

Total Acres (sum of Total column)  
Total Acres (sum of Total row)

4200  
4200

*These two cells should be the same figure.*

**Table 2. Total Requested Funding by Resource Type**

	Wetlands	Prairies	Forest	Habitats	Total
Restore	\$ 385,000	\$ 400,000			\$ 785,000
Protect Fee					\$ -
Protect Easement		\$ 2,855,000			\$ 2,855,000
Protect Other					\$ -
Enhance	\$ 4,360,000				\$ 4,360,000
<b>Total</b>	\$ 4,745,000	\$ 3,255,000	\$ -	\$ -	

Total Dollars (sum of Total column)  
Total Dollars (sum of Total row)

\$ 8,000,000  
\$ 8,000,000

*These two cells should be the same figure.*

Check to make sure this amount is the same as the Funding Request Amount on page 1 of Main Funding Form.

**Table 3. Acres within each Ecological Section**

	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	Northern Forest	Total
Restore	100	100		297		497
Protect Fee						0
Protect Easement	200	300		400		900
Protect Other						0
Enhance				2419	384	2803
<b>Total</b>	300	400	0	3116	384	

Total Acres (sum of Total column)  
Total Acres (sum of Total row)  
Total Acres from Table 1.

4200  
4200  
4200

*These three cells should be the same figure.*



**Attachment B. Output Tables**

**Table 4. Total Requested Funding within each Ecological Section**

	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	Northern Forest	Total
Restore		\$ 205,000		\$ 580,000		\$ 785,000
Protect Fee						\$ -
Protect Easement	\$ 855,000	\$ 1,360,000		\$ 640,000		\$ 2,855,000
Protect Other						\$ -
Enhance	\$ 250,000	\$ 200,000		\$ 3,760,000	\$ 150,000	\$ 4,360,000
<b>Total</b>	\$ 1,105,000	\$ 1,765,000	\$ -	\$ 4,980,000	\$ 150,000	

Total Dollars (sum of Total column)

\$ 8,000,000

*These two cells should be the same figure.*

Total Dollars (sum of Total row)

\$ 8,000,000

Check to make sure these amounts are the same as the Funding Request Amount on page 1 of Main Funding Form.

**Table 5. Target Lake/Stream/River Miles**

# miles of Lakes / Streams / Rivers Shoreline

**Table 6. Acquisition by PILT Status (enter information in acres)**

	Wetlands	Prairies	Forests	Habitats	Total
Acquired in Fee with State PILT Liability					0
Acquired in Fee w/o State PILT Liability					0
Permanent Easement PILT Liability		900			900
	0	900	0	0	

**Table 7. Estimated Value of Land Acquisition by PILT Status (enter information in dollars)**

	Wetlands	Prairies	Forests	Habitats	Total	
Acquired in Fee with State PILT Liability					\$ -	\$ -
Acquired in Fee w/o State PILT Liability					\$ -	\$ -
Permanent Easement PILT Liability		\$ 2,600,000			\$ 2,600,000	\$ 2,600,000
	\$ -	\$ 2,600,000	\$ -	\$ -		

*FYI: should match total in budget table that is auto entered below*

**Attachment C. Parcel List**

<b>Name of Proposal:</b>	Living Shallow Lakes & Wetlands Initiative
<b>Date:</b>	15-Jul-11
	Ducks Unlimited

County	Township (25-258)	Range (01-51)	Direction most parcels are 2 with the exception of some areas of Cook County which is 1	Section (01 thru 36)	TRDS	# of acres	Budgetary Estimate (includes administrative, restoration or other related costs and do not include matching money contributed or earned by the transaction)	Description	Activity PF=Protect Fee PE=Protect Easement PO=Protect Other R=Restore E=Enhance	If Easement, what is the easement cost as a % of the fee acquisition?	Any existing protection? (yes/no)	Open to hunting and fishing? (yes/no)	
<b>Parcel Name</b>													
Anderson WPA	Becker	139	42	2	1	13942201	100	210000	Install water control structure	E		Yes	Yes
Spink WPA	Grant	128	43	2	25	12843225	40	155000	Install water control structure	E		Yes	Yes
Demaree WPA	Grant	130	43	2	16	13043216	80	210000	Install water control structure	E		Yes	Yes
Meeker WPA	Kandiyohi	118	33	2	1	11833201	75	155000	Install water control structure	E		Yes	Yes
Henjum WPA	Kandiyohi	121	36	2	28	12136228	25	110000	Install water control structure	E		Yes	Yes
Christiania WPA	Jackson	104	35	2	10	10435210	22	105000	Restore wetland hydrology	R		Yes	Yes
Klages WMA - Lake 14	Big Stone	121	44	2	7	12144207	48	150000	Install water control structure	E		Yes	Yes
Erlandson WMA	Ottertail	131	43	2	25	13143225	35	140000	Restore wetland hydrology	R		Yes	Yes
Hobza WMA - Spring Lake	Blue Earth	106	25	2	15	10625215	142	145000	Install water control structure	E		Yes	Yes
Teal Lake	Jackson	105	35	2	27	10535227	88	180000	Install water control structure	E		Yes	Yes
Malardi WMA	Wright	119	26	2	25	11926225	149	205000	Install water control structure	E		Yes	Yes
Banks WMA	Cottonwood	105	35	2	27	10535227	66	140000	Install water control structure	E		Yes	Yes
Four Corners WMA	Martin	103	32	2	31	10332231	40	140000	Restore wetland hydrology	R		Yes	Yes
Yaeger WMA	Wadena	137	34	2	3	13734203	384	150000	Install water control structure	E		Yes	Yes
Sand Lake	Sibley	112	30	2	24	11230224	132	180000	Install water control structure	E		Yes	Yes
Prairie Dell WMA	Lincoln	113	45	2	16	11345216	45	180000	Install water control structure	E		Yes	Yes
Stokman Lake	Blue Earth	105	25	2	34	10525234	110	180000	Install water control structure	E		Yes	Yes
Simon Lake	Pope	123	37	2	29	12337229	569	180000	Install water control structure	E		Yes	Yes
Shakotan WMA	Lincoln	111	46	2	4	11146204	144	210000	Install water control structure	E		Yes	Yes
Sanborn Lake	Le Sueur	112	23	2	26	11223226	448	230000	Install water control structure	E		Yes	Yes
Everglade WMA	Stevens	126	44	2	36	12644236	158	280000	Install water control structure	E		Yes	Yes
DU Conservation Easements	multiple - na	na	na	2	na	na	400	400,000	Restore prairie and wetlands	R		Yes	No
L. Christina Conserv. Ease.	Douglas	130	40	2	10	13040210	350	1,080,000	Purchase Conservation Easement	PE	est 50-75%	No	No
Fish L. Conserv. Easement	Stearns	123	35	2	32	12335332	100	230,000	Purchase Conservation Easement	PE	est 50-75%	No	No
Simon L. Conserv. Easement	Pope	123	37	2	33	12337233	100	230,000	Purchase Conservation Easement	PE	est 50-75%	No	No
Cedar L. Conserv. Easement	Meeker	118	30	2	32	11830232	50	230,000	Purchase Conservation Easement	PE	est 50-75%	No	No
L. Hassel Conserv. Easement	Swift	132	39	2	9	13239209	50	130,000	Purchase Conservation Easement	PE	est 50-75%	No	No
L. Moore Conserv. Easement	Swift	132	39	2	10	13239210	50	130,000	Purchase Conservation Easement	PE	est 50-75%	No	No
Smith L. Conserv. Easement	Wright	119	27	2	31	11927231	50	230,000	Purchase Conservation Easement	PE	est 50-75%	No	No
Malardi L. Conserv. Easement	Wright	119	26	2	25	11926225	50	230,000	Purchase Conservation Easement	PE	est 50-75%	No	No
Pelican L. Conserv. Easement	Wright	121	25	2	36	12125236	50	280,000	Purchase Conservation Easement	PE	est 50-75%	No	No
Geneva L. Conserv. Easement	Freeborn	104	20	2	17	10420217	50	130,000	Purchase Conservation Easement	PE	est 50-75%	No	No