



Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Living Shallow Lake Enhancement & Wetland Restoration Initiative - Phase V
Laws of Minnesota 2017 Final Report

General Information

Date: 01/19/2023

Project Title: Living Shallow Lake Enhancement & Wetland Restoration Initiative - Phase V

Funds Recommended: \$4,716,000

Legislative Citation: ML 2017, Ch. 91, Art. 1, Sec. 2, subd. 4(f)

Appropriation Language: \$4,716,000 in the first year is to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with Ducks Unlimited to restore and enhance shallow lakes and wetlands on public lands and wetlands under permanent conservation easement for wildlife management purposes. A list of proposed shallow lake enhancements and wetland restorations must be provided as part of the required accomplishment plan.

Manager Information

Manager's Name: Jon Schneider

Title: Manager- Minnesota Conservation Programs

Organization: Ducks Unlimited

Address: 311 East Lake Geneva Road

City: Alexandria, MN 56308

Email: jschneider@ducks.org

Office Number: 3207629916

Mobile Number: 3208150327

Fax Number:

Website: www.ducks.org

Location Information

County Location(s): Lac qui Parle, Meeker, Cottonwood, Le Sueur, Murray, Jackson, Grant, Swift, Pope, Sibley, Yellow Medicine and Lincoln.

Eco regions in which work will take place:

- Prairie

Activity types:

- Restore
- Enhance

Priority resources addressed by activity:

- Wetlands

Narrative

Summary of Accomplishments

Ducks Unlimited successfully enhanced 3,437 wetland acres and restored 83 wetland acres through this grant, which significantly exceeds our grant acre goals of 2,000 acres of wetland enhancement and 50 acres of wetlands restored for this 2017 OHF appropriation. Ducks Unlimited successfully completed this work by spending 99% of this OHF grant appropriation while also providing significantly more non-state leverage than proposed, specifically \$886,800, which is 443% more than the \$200,000 pledged back in 2017 by successfully leveraging several federal North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) grants along with providing more DU private funding too.

Process & Methods

Ducks Unlimited promptly began spending this ML 2017 OHF grant in July 2017, with DU biologists and engineers surveying and designing several new shallow lake enhancement projects while beginning construction of several previously-designed projects too. The following is a list of wetland projects and acres completed by Ducks Unlimited for the Minnesota DNR and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service under this 2017 OHF appropriation:

458 wetland acres enhanced in North and South Badger Lakes in Murray County, where DU constructed a new variable-crest water level control weir structure on the outlet of North Lake.

30-acre wetland enhancement on Riverside WMA in Lac Qui Parle County.

102 acres enhanced in two wetlands on Haydenville WMA in Lac Qui Parle County.

361-acre Sanborn Lake was enhanced with a large variable-crest water level control structure in Le Sueur County.

150 wetland acres enhanced via new water control structure on the outlet of Tyler WMA in Lincoln County.

206-acre Long Lake was enhanced with a water control structure in Cottonwood County.

13 acres of wetlands restored on the Ullenhop USFWS Easement adjacent to Long Lake in Cottonwood County.

202 acres enhanced in Hurricane Lake in Cottonwood County by modifying and improving the existing water level control structure to make it more effective and manageable.

706-acre Lake Hassel was enhanced in Swift County north of Benson;

290 acres wetland acres enhanced on Redhead Slough WPA in Grant County;

216-acre Ward Lake enhanced in McLeod County;

260-acre Timm Lake enhanced in Yellow Medicine County;

5 acres of wetlands restored on Fish Lake WPA in Cottonwood County;

14 acres of wetlands restored on Buffalo Lake WPA in Murray County

2 acres of wetlands restored on the Welch USFWS Easement in Meeker Co.

20 acres of wetlands restored on the Doering USFWS Easement in Meeker Co.

1 acre wetland restored on Harder Lake WPA in Cottonwood County;

16 acres of wetlands enhanced on Ben Wade WPA in Pope County;

20 acres of wetlands restored on Ward Lake WMA in Sibley County;

3 acres of wetlands restored on Watonwan River WPA in Cottonwood County;

5 acres of wetlands restored on Cottonwood Lake WPA in Cottonwood County, and,

440-acre Curtis Lake enhanced in Yellow Medicine County.

Total accomplishments include 3,437 wetland acres enhanced and 83 wetland acres restored by DU through this grant, which significantly exceeds the acre goals of 2,000 acres of shallow lake enhancement and restore 50 acres of wetland habitat for this 2017 OHF appropriation.

How did the program address habitats of significant value for wildlife species of greatest conservation need, threatened or endangered species, and/or list targeted species?

This program enhances and restores shallow lakes, large marshes, and small pothole wetlands in Minnesota's Prairie Section. Many wildlife species of greatest conservation need and those listed as Threatened or Endangered rely on wetlands or are wetland-dependent. As Minnesota has lost 90% of our wetlands in the Prairie Section and most of the larger marshes and shallow lakes there are turbid and degraded due to agricultural drainage runoff and invasive fish (especially common carp), this conservation work directly benefits the habitat needs of many Minnesota wildlife species of greatest conservation need, including Threatened/Endangered species found in Minnesota's Prairie Section.

How did the program use science-based targeting that leveraged or expanded corridors and complexes, reduced fragmentation, or protected areas in the MN County Biological Survey.

This program implements projects in partnership with the Minnesota DNR and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, and DU biologists work closely with wildlife managers in these agencies to restore and enhance wetlands, marshes, and shallow lakes on public land or under state and federal agency control. These areas were purchased or eased by state and federal agencies using science-based targeting and planning, and DU serves as a wetland restoration/enhancement partner.

Explain Partners, Supporters, & Opposition

This program implemented wetland projects in partnership with the Minnesota DNR and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, and DU biologists work closely with wildlife managers in these agencies to ensure public awareness and support for our conservation work is secure. In the case of shallow lakes, MN DNR often holds public meetings to present shallow lake water level draw-down plans and gain wildlife lake management designation approval before projects are implemented (e.g., Lake Hassel, Sanborn Lake, and Timm Lake enhanced via this grant). Several projects relied on easements for water level control structures and outlet pipelines on private land (e.g., Lake Hassel). In short, no significant opposition was encountered, and landowners were usually very supportive. DU

also secured federal North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) grants to help fund several projects and further leverage state OHF grant funds spent thru this program.

Exceptional challenges, expectations, failures, opportunities, or unique aspects of program

Ducks Unlimited successfully enhanced 3,437 wetland acres and restored 83 wetland acres through this grant, which significantly exceeds our grant acre goals of 2,000 acres of wetland enhancement and 50 acres of wetlands restored for this 2017 OHF appropriation. Ducks Unlimited successfully completed this work by spending 99% of this OHF grant appropriation while also providing significantly more non-state leverage than proposed, specifically \$886,800, which is 443% more than the \$200,000 pledged back in 2017 by successfully leveraging several federal North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) grants along with providing more DU private funding too.

What other fund may contribute to this program?

- N/A

What is the plan to sustain and/or maintain this work after the Outdoor Heritage Funds are expended?

All wetland projects restored and enhanced through this grant are owned and managed by either Minnesota DNR or the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. As such, wildlife habitat managers in these state and federal agencies will be responsible for sustaining and maintaining the water level control structures and wetland habitats enhanced and restored through this grant in perpetuity.

Actions to Maintain Project Outcomes

Year	Source of Funds	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3
2023 and beyond	State DNR and Federal USFWS	Agency staff will monitor/manage	Agencies will annually inspect	Agencies will maintain as needed

Budget

Totals

Item	Requested	AP Amount	Spent	Antic. Leverage	Received Leverage	Leverage Source	Original Total	Final Total
Personnel	\$710,000	\$1,000,000	\$985,100	\$50,000	\$583,900	Federal NAWCA, DU Private	\$760,000	\$1,569,000
Contracts	\$3,750,000	\$3,431,000	\$3,472,800	\$150,000	\$256,000	NAWCA Federal and DU Private	\$3,900,000	\$3,728,800
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Travel	\$75,000	\$100,000	\$96,000	-	\$38,500	DU Private and NAWCA Federal	\$75,000	\$134,500
Professional Services	\$70,000	\$41,000	\$30,500	-	\$1,400	DU Private	\$70,000	\$31,900
Direct Support Services	\$71,000	\$75,000	\$71,400	-	-	-	\$71,000	\$71,400
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	\$30,000	\$46,000	\$41,400	-	\$6,200	DU Private	\$30,000	\$47,600
Supplies/Materials	\$10,000	\$23,000	\$18,800	-	\$800	DU Private	\$10,000	\$19,600
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	\$4,716,000	\$4,716,000	\$4,716,000	\$200,000	\$886,800	-	\$4,916,000	\$5,602,800

Personnel

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Antic. Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Manager for Grant Administration and Coordination	0.5	4.0	\$30,200	\$10,900	DU Private	\$41,100
Wetland Engineers and Biologists to Survey, Design, and Manage Construction of Water Control Structures	6.0	4.0	\$954,900	\$573,000	Federal NAWCA	\$1,527,900

Direct Support Services

How did you determine which portions of the Direct Support Services of your shared support services is direct to this program?

DU DSS costs comprise approximately 10% of our staff personnel costs and are calculated according to accounting methodology previously reviewed and approved by DNR and LSOHC staff.

Explain any budget challenges or successes:

Ducks Unlimited successfully spent 99% of this OHF grant appropriation while also providing significantly more non-state leverage than proposed, specifically \$886,800, which is 443% more than the \$200,000 pledged back in

2017. This was made possible by successfully leveraging several federal North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) grants along with providing more DU private funding too.

Total Revenue: \$0

Revenue Spent: \$0

Revenue Balance: \$0

Of the money disclosed above, what are the appropriate uses of the money:

- E. This is not applicable as there was no revenue generated.

Output Tables

Acres by Resource Type (Table 1)

Type	Wetland (AP)	Wetland (Final)	Prairie (AP)	Prairie (Final)	Forest (AP)	Forest (Final)	Habitat (AP)	Habitat (Final)	Total Acres (AP)	Total Acres (Final)
Restore	50	83	0	0	0	0	0	0	50	83
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Easement	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Enhance	2,000	3,437	0	0	0	0	0	0	2,000	3,437
Total	2,050	3,520	0	0	0	0	0	0	2,050	3,520

Total Requested Funding by Resource Type (Table 2)

Type	Wetland (AP)	Wetland (Final)	Prairie (AP)	Prairie (Final)	Forest (AP)	Forest (Final)	Habitat (AP)	Habitat (Final)	Total Funding (AP)	Total Funding (Final)
Restore	\$216,000	\$722,400	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$216,000	\$722,400
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	\$4,500,000	\$3,992,100	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$4,500,000	\$3,992,100
Total	\$4,716,000	\$4,714,500	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$4,716,000	\$4,714,500

Acres within each Ecological Section (Table 3)

Type	Metro / Urban (AP)	Metro / Urban (Final)	Forest / Prairie (AP)	Forest / Prairie (Final)	SE Forest (AP)	SE Forest (Final)	Prairie (AP)	Prairie (Final)	N. Forest (AP)	N. Forest (Final)	Total (AP)	Total (Final)
Restore	0	0	0	0	0	0	50	83	0	0	50	83
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Easement	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Enhance	0	0	0	0	0	0	2,000	3,437	0	0	2,000	3,437
Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	2,050	3,520	0	0	2,050	3,520

Total Requested Funding within each Ecological Section (Table 4)

Type	Metro / Urban (AP)	Metro / Urban (Final)	Forest / Prairie (AP)	Forest / Prairie (Final)	SE Forest (AP)	SE Forest (Final)	Prairie (AP)	Prairie (Final)	N. Forest (AP)	N. Forest (Final)	Total (AP)	Total (Final)
Restore	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$216,000	\$722,400	-	-	\$216,000	\$722,400
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$4,500,000	\$3,992,100	-	-	\$4,500,000	\$3,992,100
Total	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$4,716,000	\$4,714,500	-	-	\$4,716,000	\$4,714,500

Target Lake/Stream/River Feet or Miles

Outcomes

Programs in prairie region:

- Enhanced shallow lake productivity ~ *All projects were completed in partnership with the Minnesota DNR Section of Wildlife (Fish & Wildlife Division) and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, and field staff from these land management agency partners will annually monitor and manage the shallow lake and wetland habitats restored and enhanced through this appropriation. For shallow lakes enhanced through this appropriation, the Minnesota DNR Shallow Lakes Program's specialists will conduct shallow lake assessment surveys when requested by Minnesota DNR Area Wildlife Managers responsible for those lakes.*

Parcels

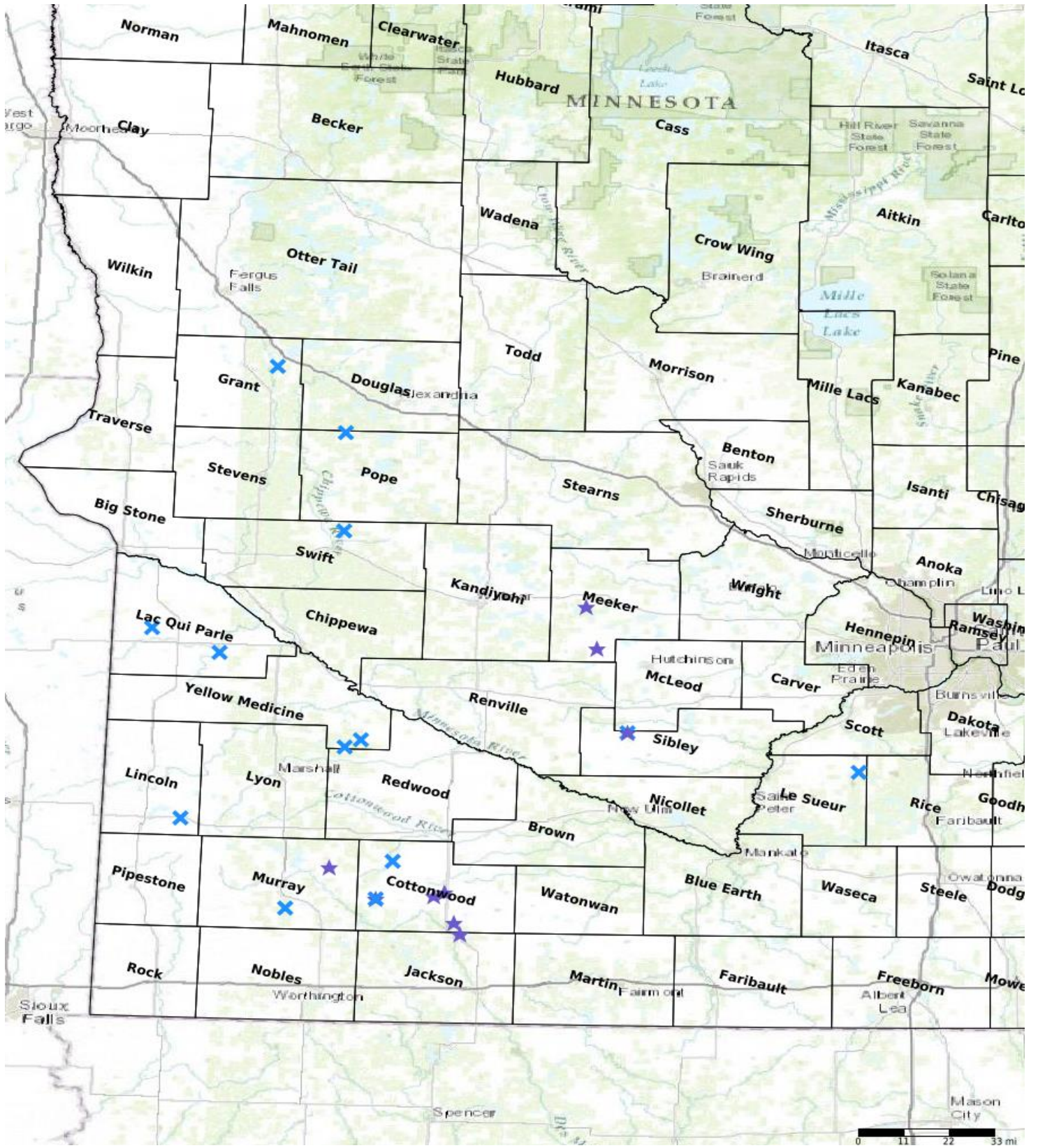
Sign-up Criteria?

No

Restore / Enhance Parcels

Name	County	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection
Hurricane Lake	Cottonwood	10837231	202	\$150,000	Yes
Cottonwood Lake WPA	Cottonwood	10535219	5	\$35,000	Yes
Ulhenhopp Long Lake FWS PL Easement	Cottonwood	10638222	13	\$100,000	Yes
Long Lake	Cottonwood	10638222	206	\$300,000	Yes
Harder Lake WPA	Cottonwood	10636216	1	\$5,000	Yes
Watonwan River WPA	Cottonwood	10636211	3	\$45,000	Yes
Redhead Slough WPA	Grant	12941208	290	\$400,000	Yes
Fish Lake WPA	Jackson	10435205	5	\$55,000	Yes
Haydenville WMA	Lac qui Parle	11845233	102	\$100,000	Yes
Riverside WMA	Lac qui Parle	11743234	30	\$100,000	Yes
Sanborn Lake	Le Sueur	11223226	361	\$500,000	Yes
Tyler WMA	Lincoln	10944209	150	\$200,000	Yes
Welch FWS Habitat Easement	Meeker	11731216	2	\$10,000	Yes
Thoen Lake - Doering USFWS Easement	Meeker	11931219	20	\$150,000	Yes
North and South Badger Lakes	Murray	10541202	458	\$975,000	Yes
Buffalo Lake WPA	Murray	10739207	14	\$20,000	Yes
Ben Wade WPA	Pope	12639204	16	\$100,000	Yes
Ward Lake	Sibley	11330204	216	\$200,000	Yes
Ward Lake WMA Small Wetlands	Sibley	11330204	20	\$30,000	Yes
Hassel Lake	Swift	12239216	706	\$975,000	Yes
Curtis Lake	Yellow Medicine	11338219	440	\$500,000	Yes
Timms Lake	Yellow Medicine	11339234	260	\$200,000	Yes

Parcel Map



- Protect in Easement
- ▲ Protect in Fee with PILT
- Protect in Fee W/O PILT
- ★ Restore
- ✕ Enhance
- ⊕ Other