

Lessard Outdoor Heritage Council

**2009 Recommendation
Accomplishment Plan**

Project or Program Title: Minnesota Forests for the Future/Upper Mississippi Forest Project

Date: 3/11/09

Manager's Name: Richard Peterson

Title: Minnesota Forests for the Future Program Coordinator

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Funds Recommended (\$000s)	Council Recommendation Funding	Out-Year Projections of Needs		
	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013
Outdoor Heritage Fund	20,000,000	20,000,000	0	0

Summary: Our program/project will protect and maintain intact forest ecosystems through the use of perpetual conservation easements and other tools. This program/project will directly protect 187,277 acres of forest and wetlands with permanent conservation easements and 1,344 acres with fee acquisition.

Background.

This proposal will protect nearly 190,000 acres of private forest through the use of working forest conservation easements and fee acquisition that will prevent forestland conversion and parcelization. The highest priority blocks of forest within Minnesota's forested subsections will be targeted for permanent protection. Acquisitions will prevent development, assure traditional public access for hunting and fishing, and allow for sustainable forest management. The sale of large timber company holdings in Minnesota is part of a national trend. These large blocks of forest provide critical connectivity with public conservation lands. Private and public forest lands interact to create a working forest across the landscape that provides essential benefits Minnesotans care deeply about. The vision of the MFF is to protect up to 530,000 acres of private forests over the next 25 years (see Minnesota Forests for the Future: A Strategic Report. April 2008). The current request reflects an accelerated acquisition program over the next 3-4

years in order to take advantage of a short window of opportunity to protect some of the largest, remaining blocks of private forestland in the state. Projects funded under this program will protect forests, prevent forest fragmentation and encourage forest consolidation –outcomes consistent with Minnesota Statutes 97A.056.

The state faces a major challenge today and in the future due to the thousands of acres of privately owned forest being sold across Minnesota. These forestland sales can impact the state's ability to sustain its forests for multiple public benefits including fish and wildlife habitat, public recreation, and forest products production. Forest conversion from development and parcelization can lead to forest fragmentation, or the creation of many small forest "islands" separated by nonforested areas. Forest conversion and fragmentation erodes the functioning of the remaining natural system, reducing the forest's resilience to disturbances such as windstorms, fire, climate change and invasive species. Conversion and fragmentation also endangers habitat for native wildlife species, especially for larger mammals such as bears and wolves, which require large tracts of undeveloped land. Additionally, development and parcelization is a threat to public access of forests.

In cooperation with partners and stakeholders, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) will identify and protect the most critical large blocks of forestland in Minnesota. Prioritized projects will: provide permanent protection to forests and associated habitats; continue traditional public access and uses including hunting and fishing; and allow for the sustainable harvest of timber and other forest products. This proposal can have a significant impact at a landscape scale due to the immediate opportunities presented by several high priority projects within the Laurentian Mixed Forest Province. Pre-acquisition activities including conservation easement negotiations and appraisals are either completed or underway on these key projects. Additional project identification, prioritization and protection will be completed during 2010 through 2013. This project/program has been recommended and supported by local governments including Itasca County.

Specific conservation values protected by this project proposal include:

- *significant forest resources that are intended to be used for commercial timber production and which are an important element of the local, state, and regional economy;*
- *economically and environmentally important private forestlands that are threatened by fragmentation, parcelization and conversion to non-forest uses;*
- *the adjacency of the Protected Property to numerous parcels of public lands under forest management where coordination of harvests and related activities is important for the management of public lands; and*
- *water features, including 30 miles of state-designated trout streams and 121 miles of other streams, 133 miles of lake and pond shoreline, and over 60,000 acres of wetlands, which features provide value to water quality, habitat for species and natural communities, and enhance the public's recreational experience;*
- *significant cultural areas and native plant communities and wildlife species habitat as identified by the Minnesota Natural Heritage Program and other sources;*
- *native forests and natural ecosystems and unique geologic features including an intact esker;*
- *views of the Protected Property from 36 miles of publicly-recognized scenic roadways;*
- *the adjacency of the Protected Property to numerous parcels of public land thereby providing a buffer to the habitat and other values provided on said public parcels;*
- *the adjacency of the Protected Property to numerous public parcels of land which provides access to said public lands;*

- 82 miles of snowmobile trails and 262 miles of off-highway vehicle routes including 32 miles of state-designated off-highway vehicle trails;
- Over 187,000 acres for the public for other, non-motorized uses including hunting, fishing, trapping, cross-country skiing, birdwatching, berry picking, hiking, snow shoeing; and
- A corridor established for hiking and cross-country skiing trails including the North Country National Scenic Trail, which trail has been recognized by the United States Congress and Minnesota Department of Natural Resources as providing state and nationally significant scenic, recreational, historic, natural, and cultural qualities.

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

Land use plan	Priority	Recommendation	Page
Statewide Conservation and Protection Plan	Habitat 1	Protect priority land habitats	63
	Habitat 3	Improve connectivity and access to outdoor recreation	74
	Land Use 8	Protect large blocks of forestland.	130
	Land Use 8A	Identify forestlands for protection	130
	Land Use 8B	Prioritize forest lands for protection	130
	Land Use 8C	Support and promote permanent protection of forest lands	130
The Forest Legacy Program in Minnesota: Statewide Assessment of Need	Large continuous blocks	Locations in the state where large continuous blocks of forest remain are a priority for the Forest Legacy Program in Minnesota	12
Minnesota Habitat Conservation Partnership	Partnership Goals	Use existing programs to connect fragmented habitats, strengthen migration routes and enhance species' ability to reproduce and survive.	http://www.mnhabitatcorridors.org/
	Corridors Project Area map	Overlap of corridors with MFF proposed projects.	http://www.mnhabitatcorridors.org/
Minnesota Forests for the Future: Strategic Report	Program Focus:	Top priority should be given to acquiring easements on the largest blocks of forest land.	27

Budget			
Budget Item	Fiscal Year 10	Fiscal Year 11*	Fiscal Year 12
Personnel	\$50,000	\$50,000*	
Contracts			
Equipment/Tools/Supplies			
Fee Acquisition		\$300,000*	
Easement Acquisition	\$19,850,000	\$18,850,000*	
Easement Stewardship		\$750,000*	
Travel			
Additional Budget Items			
Professional services	\$100,000	\$50,000*	
TOTAL	\$20,000,000	\$20,000,000*	

*Note: the fy11 funds are based on a tentative \$20,000,000 allocation for that year. Closing and expenditure of acquisition funds will depend on when funds are available for a closing.

Personnel Details

Title	Name	Amount.
<i>Program coordinator</i>	<i>Richard Peterson</i>	<i>\$100,000;</i>
<i>Funding may be split among other staff as well.</i>		

Leverage

Source of Leverage	Fiscal Year 10	Fiscal Year 11	Fiscal Year 12
TOTAL		Up to \$10 million	

*The Conservation Fund is raising significant private capital that it will assemble and grant to the MN DNR at DNR's closing/final payment to UPM (whether in FY 10 or FY 11). The Conservation Fund's efforts include: \$2 million (anonymous) committed; up to \$7 million (Blandin Foundation) pending; \$1 million (National Fish and Wildlife Foundation-Acres for America) pending, and others. The Conservation Fund's donors intend that this funding be matched against the State's allocation in order to fully fund this project. These commitments and

amounts, if successful, are intended to be dedicated to the purchase price regardless of funding need and public appropriation amounts. If the purchase price became less than anticipated, the donated dollars would not decline.

Accomplishments:

Table 1 Accomplish- ments	Wetlands	Prairies	Forests	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
Restore				
Protect			Protect 187,277 acres of forests and wetlands w/easements: Protect 1,344 acres with fee title. Our forest protection project includes 60,000 acres of wetland habitat. Our forest protection project includes 280 miles of stream and lake shore.	
Enhance				

Table 2 Recommend Fund Allocation	Wetlands	Prairies	Forests	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
Restore				
Protect			\$20,000,000 + \$20,000,000 fy11	
Enhance				

Table 3 Counties Impacted	Wetlands	Prairies	Forests	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
Restore				
Protect			Itasca, St. Louis, Aitkin, Koochiching, Beltrami, Cass, Clearwater	
Enhance				

Table 4 Non-State Leverage \$	Wetlands	Prairies	Forests	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
Restore				
Protect			Up to \$10 million	
Enhance				

Table 5 Acquisition Data	Wetlands	Prairies	Forests	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
Acquired in Fee with State PILT Liability			1,344	
Acquired in Fee without State PILT Liability				
Permanent Easement			187,277	

Accomplishment Time Table

Milestone	Date	Measure
Complete forest fee protection project	December, 2010	1,344 acres
Complete forest conservation easement protection project	December, 2010	187,277 acres

Relationship to Your Current Budget

This funding will be used to supplement our current funding. There is no "customary" or usual funding for a project of this magnitude. Previous larger easement projects have relied on a combination of federal, state bonding, state ETF funds, and private funds. Current funds from the federal forest legacy program and 2008 bonding funds are dedicated to another large

project, the Koochiching Project. ETF funds currently available are dedicated to several smaller projects in the southeast bluffslands.

How Will the Habitat Improvements Be Sustained?

The conservation easement provides for management according to a forest management plan and specifically according to the Ecological Classification System and forest certification standards and other provisions that are intended to achieve ecological and economic outcomes. These outcomes will be monitored annually by the forest certification programs and MN DNR. This is a cost-effective program in that land management responsibilities reside with the landowner.

Costs for monitoring the easement are included in this proposal.

Costs associated with property taxes for the fee title would be included in State PILT payments.

Attach:

- 1) A list of your projects showing their county location and**

Upper Mississippi Forest Project

Conservation Easement acquisition	Fee Acquisition
Itasca, St. Louis, Koochiching, Aitkin, Beltrami, Cass, Clearwater	Koochiching

- 2) On the attached eight and a half by eleven map of Minnesota show counties each project as a dot. Note: my conservation easement project occurs in 7 counties, hence 7 dots; the fee acquisition occurs just in Koochiching County which shows up as an asterisk.**

Lessard Outdoor Heritage Council

**2009 Recommendation
Accomplishment Plan**

Project or Program Title: Shell Rock River Watershed Fish Barriers and Habitat

Date: 3-11-2009

Manager's Name: Brett Behnke

Title: District Administrator

Mailing Address: 411 S. Broadway, Albert Lea, MN 56007

Telephone: 507-377-5785

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Web Site: www.shellrock.org

Funds Recommended (\$000s)	Council Recommendation Funding	Out-Year Projections of Needs		
	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013
Outdoor Heritage Fund	\$655,000	0	0	0

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Summary

Our program will install fish barriers at (3) three locations on in the Watershed District to exclude carp and other rough fish that destroy fish habits and aquatic vegetation and stir-up phosphorous rich sediments that cause algal blooms and cause water quality impairments. The project will allow for effective carp control in an effort to improve fish habitat, fish spawning and habitat for waterfowl and other wildlife. Improving the fish habitat has a clear and measurable residual value in improving water quality and aquatic vegetation. These projects are provide for in the District's Ten year plan and complement the work completed on the Edgewater Land-fill project and provide a crucial step in the overall lake management of Fountain Lake and Albert Lea Lake.

Background

- The District's Chain of Lakes are highly visible, heavily used urban lake that forms the center of the City of Albert Lea. Albert Lea, population 18,356 (2000 Census) is the Freeborn County Seat. The Chain of Lakes in these projects form the upper headwater

- area of the Shell Rock River Watershed. The District is the headwater for the impaired waters of the Shell Rock River, which eventually drains into the Mississippi River.
- The Shell Rock River Watershed District (SRRWD) Clean Water Initiative encompasses 246 square miles in Freeborn County and includes 11 lakes that drain to the Shell Rock River which flows into the Cedar River. Water Quality in many of the lakes and waterways is poor due to high turbidity largely caused by carp.
 - Water quality in this Chain of Lakes has been assessed to be poor due to high turbidity, excessive nutrients and the lack of rooted aquatic vegetation resulting in algal blooms, oxygen depletion and water quality impairments... Studies conducted in similar shallow lakes and fish population assessments in these lakes have shown that high populations of Common Carp (*Cyprinus carpio*), other carp species and bottom feeding rough fish consume rooted aquatic vegetation, stir up phosphorus rich sediments and increase turbidity, reduce light penetration and cause algal blooms responsible for oxygen depletion. Assessments of these lake's carp population has determined that the large population of foraging rough fish is detrimental to the ecology of the lake having adverse effects on shoreline and littoral habitat for destroying hydrophytic vegetation, game fish spawning habitat, waterfowl nesting, breeding and feeding habitat and is adversely affecting fish, migratory bird and waterfowl, mammal and invertebrate populations in the entire area.
 - The project proposes to control carp by preventing upstream and downstream migration of the fish by installing fish barriers. The SRRWD project would install
 - Electrical fish barriers at the two inlets for Fountain Lake located at the Wedge Creek inlet and White Lake inlet.
 - Install a mechanical fish barrier at the outlet of Fountain Lake in Downtown Albert Lea.
 - Controlling the carp population will also enhance the fisheries of the lakes. The increase in nutrients and algal growth caused by the actions of carp can cause the bottom waters of lakes to lose oxygen during both the summer and winter months. This can cause stress in native fish species and even fish kills where entire populations are destroyed. Controlling the carp population can help reduce the stress on the native fish species.
 - Upon installation of the barriers, a treatment will be applied and water clarity will increase from a few inches to meters. The lake will then be stocked with game fish.
 - The Fountain Lake Fish Barriers will complement similar fish barriers installed in 2008 on Mud Lake, up-gradient of Fountain lake
 - The anticipated outcomes will restore and enhance the water quality, rooted aquatic vegetation, fish and wildlife habitat and will increase and enhance the community use of this important recreational resource in the center of Albert Lea. The strategy of carp/rough fish control and exclusion is known to be effective and is a program endorsed and being conducted with technical assistance and in cooperation with the DNR Fishery and Wildlife Divisions and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.
 - The fish barriers will be installed in cooperation with the City of Albert Lea and Minnesota Department of Natural Resources efforts to eradicate the existing carp population and re-introduce game fish (sunfish, crappie, bass, and northerns).
 - Water quality improvements and habitat restoration and enhancements are anticipated as soon as the carp are eradicated and prevented from re-entering Fountain Lake. Visible and measurable effects are anticipated within two to three years.
 - Fountain Lake has public access and is open to public fishing, hunting and trapping during the regular open seasons.
 - The fish barrier project has been identified as a high priority in the SRRWD Management Plan, a plan developed with public participation and subject to public review and

approval by the SRRWD Board. There are no known opponents or anticipated barriers to completion of the project. The project will be highly visible and is seen as a benefit to the entire community.

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

There are several State plans that these projects fall under:

- The Minnesota Conservation and Preservation Plan provisions that address the control of invasive species, the restoration of shallow lakes, water quality improvements in impaired waters and the protection and enhancement of fish and waterfowl breeding habitat.
- The Shell Rock River Watershed Management Plan, approved by BWSR, addresses these projects as a top priority.
- The MNDNR Invasive Species Control Program
- These projects are within the stated goals of the Basin Alliance for the Lower Mississippi in Minnesota (BALMM).
- Endorsed by local Chamber of Commerce and Sportsmen’s groups.

Budget

Budget Item	Fiscal Year 10	Fiscal Year 11	Fiscal Year 12
Personnel	\$50,000		
Contracts	\$671,000		
Equipment/Tools/Supplies	\$145,000		
Fee Acquisition	\$ 25,000		
Easement Acquisition	\$ 75,000		
Easement Stewardship			
Travel			
Additional Budget Items			
TOTAL	\$966,000		

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Personnel Details

Title	Name	Amount.
	11 Accomplishment Plan LOHC	

Conservation Technician	.8 FTE
Administration and Project Manager	.2 FTE
Temporary Construction Jobs	20

Leverage

Source of Leverage	Fiscal Year 10	Fiscal Year 11	Fiscal Year 12
Local Option Sales Tax – available in 2009	\$311,000		
TOTAL	\$311,000		

Accomplishments:

Table 1 Accomplishments	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife			
	Wetlands	Prairies	Forests	
Restore				Restore 3 Shallow lakes and improve lake management for the entire Shell Rock River Watershed.
Protect				Protect 20 miles of habitat buffers along streams
Enhance				Enhance the fish habitat and vegetation by reducing the rough fish population and introducing game fish and favorable aquatics

Table 2 Recommend Fund Allocation	Wetlands	Prairies	Forests	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
Restore				\$300,000
Protect				\$155,000
Enhance				\$200,000

Table 3 Counties Impacted	Wetlands	Prairies	Forests	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
Restore				Freeborn
Protect				Freeborn
Enhance				Freeborn

Table 4 Non-State Leverage \$	Wetlands	Prairies	Forests	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
Restore				\$211,000
Protect				
Enhance				\$100,000

Table 5 Acquisition Data	Wetlands	Prairies	Forests	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
Acquired in Fee with State PILT Liability				
Acquired in Fee without State PILT Liability				\$75,000
Permanent Easement				\$25,000

Accomplishment Time Table

Milestone	Date	Measure
Project Design	Completed	
Landowner Negotiation	Completed	
Final Site Design	May 1, 2009	
Groundbreaking	July 1, 2009	
Fish Barrier and Habitat Construction	Fall 2009	
Lake Treatment and Restocking	Winter/Spring 2009-2010	

Relationship to Your Current Budget

The District Currently operates under a \$2 million annual budget and has the matching funds available.

The District had budgeted funds for a small portion of the overall proposed project and wishes to leverage these limited funds to complete the entire Fish Barrier and Habitat Project that is being proposed.

How Will the Habitat Improvements Be Sustained?

The proposed projects are LONG-TERM. By controlling the fish habitat at the top of the watershed through complete eradication of the invasive species, these projects provide lasting improvements. The Watershed District is a permanent municipality, funded through property taxes that will allow for continued maintenance and management of these benefits.

The District is a permanent municipality, subject to annual independent audits, with a proven track record of successfully constructing and maintaining projects.

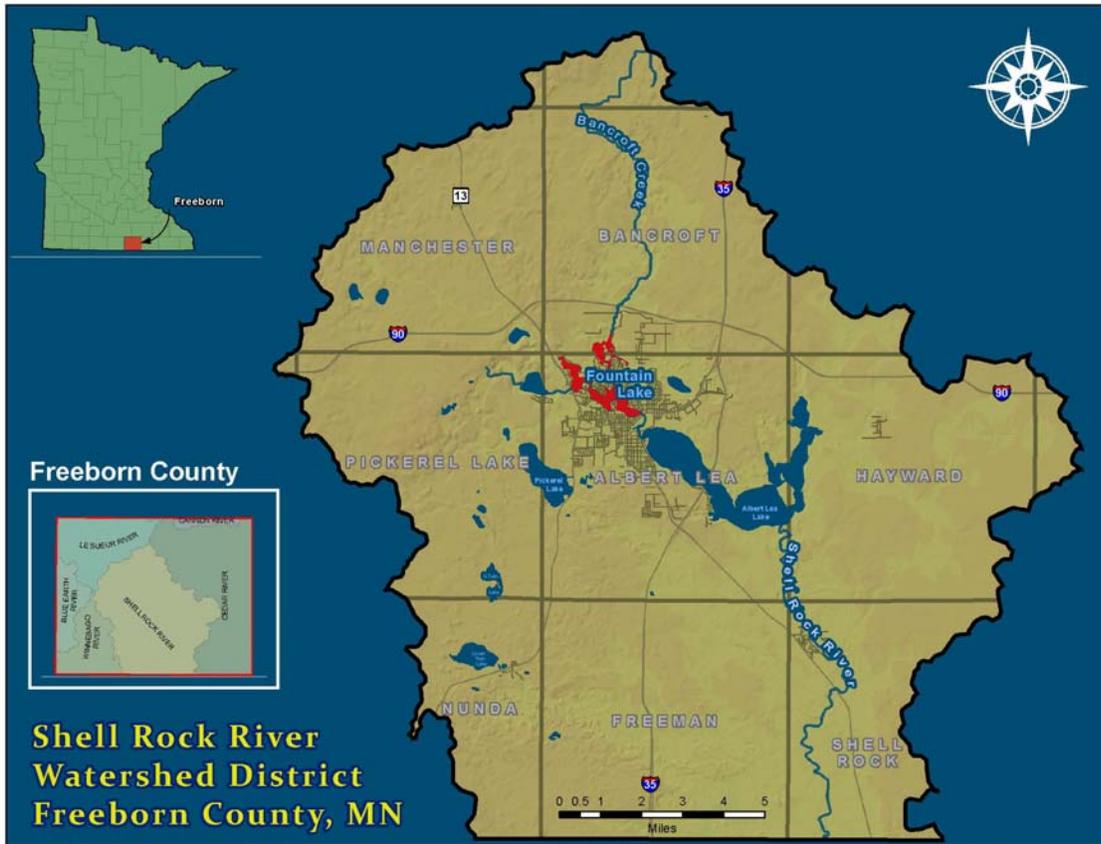
The District has a regular and permanent source of funding through local property taxes.

Attach:

- 3) A list of your projects showing their county location and**
- 4) On the attached eight and a half by eleven map of Minnesota show counties each project as a dot.**



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Accomplishment Plan
LOHC



Lessard Outdoor Heritage Council

**2009 Recommendation
Accomplishment Plan**

Project or Program Title: Trout Unlimited Coldwater Fish Habitat Restoration and Enhancement Program

Date: March 12, 2009

Manager's Name: John Lenczewski
Title: Chairman, Minnesota Council of Trout Unlimited
Mailing Address: 18776 Twilight Trail, Eden Prairie, MN 55346
Telephone: 612- 670-1629
Fax: NA
E-Mail: jlenczewski@comcast.net
Web Site: www.mntu.org

Funds Recommended (\$000s)	Council Recommendation Funding	Out-Year Projections of Needs		
	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013
Outdoor Heritage Fund	\$2,050,000	0	0	0

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Summary

Our program will restore and enhance in-stream and riparian fish and wildlife habitat in 11 watersheds across the state of Minnesota. The proposed projects will improve habitat for both game and non-game fish and wildlife species uniquely associated with coldwater trout streams and provide expanded recreational opportunities for Minnesota anglers.

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Background

As part of our ongoing program of trout and salmon habitat restoration and enhancement, the Minnesota Council of Trout Unlimited ("MNTU") has identified the priority conservation projects listed below. MNTU proposes to restore or enhance in-stream and riparian fish and wildlife habitat in and along the following Minnesota waters (counties) in 2009 and 2010:

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1. Hay Creek (Goodhue);
2. Kabekona Creek (Hubbard);
3. Lawndale Creek (Wilkin);
4. Little Rock Creek (Benton);
5. Middle Branch of Whitewater River (Olmsted);
6. Mill Creek (Fillmore);
7. Pickwick Creek (Winona);
8. Trout Run Creek (Fillmore);
9. Straight River (Becker & Hubbard);
10. Sucker River (St. Louis);
11. Vermillion River (Dakota).

Degraded coldwater habitat is an important statewide conservation issue that requires immediate investment through habitat restoration and enhancement projects. The distinct natural resource characteristics of each ecologically distinct region of Minnesota, together with the variation in the type and magnitude of poor land uses practices in different watersheds, require that fish habitat restoration methods vary around the state. MNTU understands this and tailors our projects accordingly. In the Lake Superior basin, this may mean restoring in-stream cover which was removed decades ago to facilitate log drives. In Southeast Minnesota this may mean restoring overhead bank cover, while drastically sloping soil back to remove thick sediment deposited from the uplands and restore streams' access to their floodplains.

The projects to be undertaken by MNTU as part of this program will be designed to: a) reduce stream bank erosion and associated sedimentation, b) reconnect streams to their flood plains to reduce negative impacts from severe flooding, c) increase natural reproduction of trout and other aquatic organisms, d) maintain or increase adult trout abundance, e) increase biodiversity for both in-stream and non-game species, f) be long lasting with minimal maintenance required, and g) improve angler access.

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Relationship to the *Minnesota Conservation and Preservation Plan* and Other Published Resource Management Plans:

Minnesota Statewide Conservation and Preservation Plan – Land & Aquatic Preservation Plan.

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Habitat 2. Protect critical shorelands of streams & lakes...pp. 67-74

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- Target shallow wildlife lakes, natural environment lakes, shallow bays of deep lakes, cold-water/designated trout streams...

Habitat 3: Improve connectivity and access to outdoor recreation. pp. 74-77

- Also provide benefits to wildlife, SGCN, etc.

Habitat 6: Protect and restore critical in-water habitat of lakes and streams. pp 81-84

- Expand efforts to restore critical habitats for aquatic communities in near-shore areas of lakes, in-stream areas of rivers and streams, and deep-water lakes with exceptional water quality

- Reverse negative effects of stream channelization on in-stream habitats

Habitat 7: Keep water on the landscape – pp.84-87

- Habitat benefits include improved water quality, maintaining habitat for wildlife and game species, and enhancing biological diversity
- Increase riparian buffers along shorelines of rivers, lakes, and sinkholes
- Maintain and restore headwater wetlands, riparian areas, and floodplains
- Enhance and expand the use of perennial vegetation.

Minnesota’s Nonpoint Source Management Program Plan 2008

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Goal 1: Promote a Healthy Hydrological Regime for Minnesota’s Streams and Rivers. – pp. 4.3 – 176

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- Promote stream restoration projects that restore connectivity between rivers and their flood plains.
- Develop an interagency program to assess/control streambank erosion...

Tomorrow’s Habitat for the Wild & Rare – an action plan for Minnesota Wildlife.

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Goal I: Stabilize and increase Species in Greatest Conservation Need; 8. Stream habitats, actions include: – pp. 80

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- Maintain good water quality, hydrology, geomorphology, and connectivity in priority stream reaches.
- Maintain and enhance riparian areas along priority stream reaches.

Strategic Plan for Coldwater Resources Management in Southeast Minnesota 2004-2015

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- Theme 1: Provide for the protection, improvement, and restoration of coldwater aquatic habitat and fish communities so that this unique resource is available for future generations. pp 9.
- Theme 2: Provide diverse angling opportunities so that a broad range of experiences are available to anglers. pp 12.

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Minnesota’s 2008-2012 State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreational Plan

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- **Strategy 1:** Acquire, protect and restore Minnesota’s natural resource base on which outdoor recreation depends.. pp12.
- **Strategy 2:** Develop and maintain a sustainable and resilient outdoor recreation infrastructure. pp 17.

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DNR, Division of Fish and Wildlife Long Range Plan for Fisheries Management Covering Fiscal Years 2004-2010

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- Core Function 2. Conserve, Improve, and Rehabilitate Fish Populations and Aquatic Habitat. pp8
 - Shoreline habitat restoration program – rehabilitate riparian and aquatic vegetation to improve fish habitat, wildlife habitat and water quality;
 - Metro trout stream initiative – conserve and rehabilitate threatened trout stream resources in the Twin Cities metropolitan area;
- Core Function 4. Provide Opportunities for Partnerships, Public Information, and Aquatic Education. pp.8
 - Increased public involvement with fisheries projects.

Trout Unlimited Driftless Area Restoration Effort – strategic plan

Goals: Through DARE, TU is partnering with local, state and federal agencies, nongovernmental organizations and private landowners to strategically link upland conservation and stream corridor restoration to achieve the following goals: - pp 15

- Protect and restore habitat for fish and other species of interest to increase angling and other recreational opportunities. – pp 15

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Budget:

Budget Item	Fiscal Year 10	Fiscal Year 11	Fiscal Year 12
Personnel	\$ 95,000		
Contracts	\$ 867,000		
Equipment/Tools/Supplies	\$1,088,000*		
Fee Acquisition	0		
Easement Acquisition	0		
Easement Stewardship	0		
Travel	0		
Additional Budget Items	0		
TOTAL	\$2,050,000		

*This amount includes \$584,450 in material costs and \$503,550 in equipment usage costs.

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Personnel:

Title	Name	Amount.
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Project administrator (.425 FTE),
Project manager (.125 FTE),
Comptroller (.125 FTE).

\$95,000 (combined)

Leverage:

Source of Leverage	Fiscal Year 10	Fiscal Year 11	Fiscal Year 12
Trout Unlimited	\$322,000		
Nat. Fish Habitat Action Plan	\$160,000		
LCCMR	\$173,650		
MNDNR	\$ 207,370		
TOTAL	\$863,020		

Note: Leverage amounts are estimates.

Accomplishments:

Table 1 Accomplish- ments	Wetlands	Prairies	Forests	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
Restore				Restore fish habitat in 14.3 miles of trout stream*
Protect				
Enhance				1. Enhance fish habitat in 0.5 to 1.0 mile of trout stream. 2. Enhance 90 acres (along 6.25 miles of trout stream)

* Leveraging additional funding may enable us to restore trout habitat on an additional 2.25 to 2.5 miles of stream by 2011.

Table 2 Recommend Fund Allocation	Wetlands	Prairies	Forests	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
Restore				\$1,730,000
Protect				
Enhance				\$320,000

Table 3 Counties Impacted	Wetlands	Prairies	Forests	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
Restore				Becker Benton Dakota Fillmore Goodhue Hubbard Olmsted St. Louis Wilkin Winona
Protect				
Enhance				1. Becker Hubbard 2. Fillmore Goodhue Olmsted Winona

Table 4 Non-State Leverage \$				Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
	Wetlands	Prairies	Forests	
Restore				\$457,500
Protect				
Enhance				\$ 24,500

Table 5 Acquisition Data				Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
	Wetlands	Prairies	Forests	
Acquired in Fee with State PILT Liability				
Acquired in Fee without State PILT Liability				
Permanent Easement				

Accomplishment Time Table

1. Hay Creek (Goodhue):

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Milestone	Date	Measure
Begin fish habitat restoration	July 2009	
Complete initial section of in -stream restoration	October 2009	2,200 feet
Prepare for 2010 in-stream work	October 2009	on 6,000 feet
Complete second section of in-stream work	October 2010	6,000 feet

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2. Kabekona Creek (Hubbard):

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Milestone	Date	Measure
Complete fencing	September 2009	2,845 feet
Complete cattle crossing	September 2009	50 feet
Complete re-vegetation	September 2009	500 feet

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3. Lawndale Creek (Wilkin):

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Milestone	Date	Measure	
Conduct Environmental Review (EAW) process (by DNR)	Summer 2009	Draft EAW submitted	Formatted: Font: (Default) Arial, 11 pt
Complete Environmental Review process	Fall 2009	EAW approved	Formatted: Font: (Default) Arial, 11 pt
Begin Phase I of stream channel modifications	September 2009	< 3.5 miles	Formatted: Font: (Default) Arial, 11 pt
Complete Phase I, begin Phase III of stream channel modifications	September 2010	3.5 miles	Formatted: Font: (Default) Arial, 11 pt
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4. Little Rock Creek (Benton):

Milestone	Date	Measure	
Identify Cedar trees for removal.	September 2009	40 acres	Formatted: Font: (Default) Arial, 11 pt
Identify section of stream for improvement.	September 2009	2000 feet	
Remove impinging alders from stream channel.	May 2010	2000 feet	
Install Cedar tree brush bundles.	May 2010	200 feet	
Remove fallen Oak trees from stream channel.	June 2010	100 feet	
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5. Middle Branch of Whitewater (Olmsted);

6. Mill Creek (Fillmore);

7. Pickwick (Winona);

8. Trout Run Creek (Fillmore):

Milestone	Date	Measure	
In-Stream Habitat Improvement (HI)	July - October 2009	2.0 Miles	Formatted: Font: (Default) Arial, 11 pt
Stream Bank Restoration (WI)	October 2009 – March 2010	3.10 Miles	
In-Stream Habitat Improvement (HI)	April – June 2010	1.0 Miles	
In-Stream Habitat Improvement (HI)	July – October 2010	2.0 Miles	
Stream Bank Restoration (WI)	October 2010 – March 2011	3.15 Acres	

9. Straight River (Becker & Hubbard):

Milestone	Date	Measure	
Complete final assessment of HI methods and sites	July 2009		Formatted: Font: (Default) Arial, 11 pt
Complete initial section of in -stream restoration	July-October 2009	0.5 to 1.0 miles	Formatted: Font: (Default) Arial, 11 pt
Complete second section of in-stream work	June 2010	0.5 to 1.0 miles	Formatted: Font: (Default) Arial, 11 pt
10. Sucker River (St. Louis):			Formatted: Font: (Default) Arial

Milestone	Date	Measure	
Complete final assessment of HI methods and sites	July 2009		Formatted: Font: (Default) Arial, 11 pt
Complete initial section of in -stream restoration	July-October 2009	0.5 to 1.0 miles	Formatted: Font: (Default) Arial, 11 pt
Complete second section of in-stream work	June 2010	0.5 to 1.0 miles	Formatted: Font: (Default) Arial, 11 pt
10. Sucker River (St. Louis):			Formatted: Font: (Default) Arial

Milestone	Date	Measure	
Complete pre work survey	July 2009		Formatted: Font: (Default) Arial, 11 pt
Complete in -stream restoration	July - October 2009	1,300 feet	
Complete tree planting	June 2010		

11. Vermillion River (Dakota)-Project 1:			
Milestone	Date	Measure	
Complete in-stream habitat enhancement	July 2009	4750 feet	Formatted: Font: (Default) Arial, 11 pt
Plant tree and shrub seedlings	May 2010	500 seedlings	Formatted: Font: (Default) Arial, 11 pt
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11. Vermillion River (Dakota)-Project 2:			
Milestone	Date	Measure	
Begin Environmental Review (EAW) process	April 2009	Draft EAW submitted	Formatted: Font: (Default) Arial, 11 pt
Complete Environmental Review process	May 2010	EAW approved	Formatted: Font: (Default) Arial, 11 pt
Complete construction of new stream, install habitat elements	September 2010	6140 ft of stream	Formatted: Font: (Default) Arial, 11 pt
Connect new stream to flow, fill old ditched channel	September 2011	3920 ft of stream	Formatted: Font: (Default) Arial, 11 pt

Relationship to Your Current Budget

Funds appropriated for this program will supplement the cash and in-kind resources typically raised by MNTU to support similar projects. This program represents a significant increase in the amount of local effort to be invested in similar habitat projects, but it is within the range of habitat restoration and enhancement projects managed by Trout Unlimited as an organization.

How Will the Habitat Improvements Be Sustained?

MNTU habitat restoration and enhancement projects are designed for long-term ecological and hydraulic stability. Following completion of the projects included in this program, it is anticipated that long-term monitoring of the integrity of the improvements will be done in conjunction with routine inspections and biological monitoring conducted by local DNR staff, MNTU members, or landowners as appropriate. This monitoring will not require separate funding.

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Attachment to LOHC 2009 Recommendation Accomplishment Plan

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Minnesota Council of Trout Unlimited



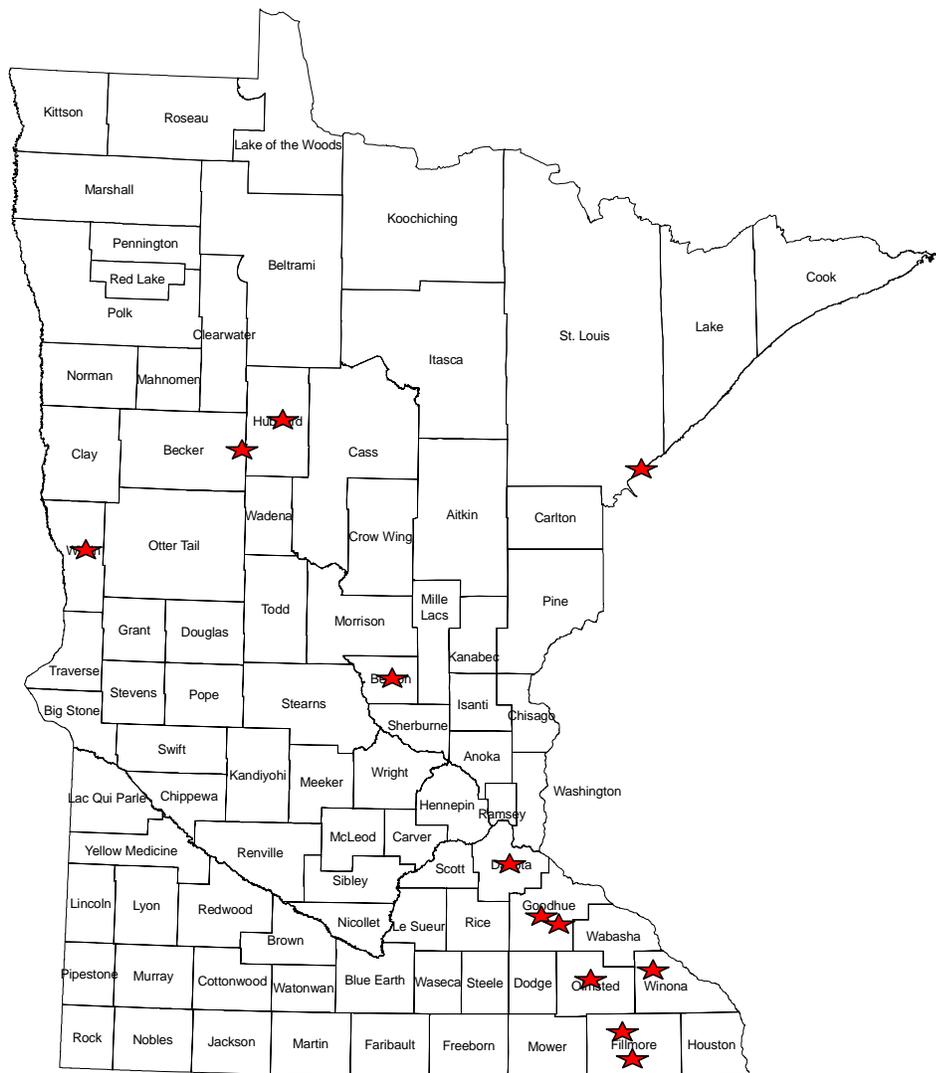
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**Minnesota Coldwater Fish Habitat Restoration
and Enhancement Priorities (March 2009)**

As part of our ongoing program of trout and salmon habitat restoration and enhancement, the Minnesota Council of Trout Unlimited ("MNTU") has identified the priority conservation projects listed below. MNTU proposes to undertake fish habitat restoration and enhancement projects on at least these Minnesota streams in 2009 and 2010:

1. Hay Creek (Goodhue);
2. Kabekona Creek (Hubbard);
3. Lawndale Creek (Wilkin);
4. Little Rock Creek (Benton);
5. Middle Branch of Whitewater (Olmsted);
6. Mill Creek (Fillmore);
7. Pickwick (Winona);
8. Trout Run Creek (Fillmore);
9. Straight River (Becker & Hubbard);
10. Sucker River (St. Louis);
11. Vermillion River (Dakota);
12. Various streams (Goodhue; other Southeast MN counties).



Lessard Outdoor Heritage Council

**2009 Recommendation
Accomplishment Plan**

Project or Program Title: Aquatic Management Area (AMA) Acquisition
(FGW7)

Date: March 12, 2009

Manager's Name: Mike Halverson
Title: Fisheries Land Acquisition Consultant
Mailing Address: 500 Lafayette Road, Box 20
Telephone: 651 259-5209
Fax: 651 297-4916
E-Mail: mike.halverson@dnr.state.mn.us
Web Site: www.dnr.state.mn.us

Funds Recommended (\$000s)	Council Recommendation Funding	Out-Year Projections of Needs		
	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013
Outdoor Heritage Fund	5,748,000	15,000,000	15,000,000	15,000,000

Summary: Our program will permanently protect approximately 1,246 acres (8.9-miles) of lake and warmwater stream shoreline through fee title and permanent easement acquisition. Our program will also secure 54 Acres (3.1-miles) of permanent habitat management easements that include angler access on designated trout streams.

Background

Aquatic Management Areas were established to protect, develop, and manage lakes, rivers, streams, and adjacent wetlands and lands that are critical for fish and other aquatic life, for water quality, and for the intrinsic biological value, public fishing, or other compatible outdoor recreational uses. AMAs provide angler or management access; protect fish spawning, rearing, or other unique habitat; protect aquatic wildlife feeding and nesting areas; and protect critical shoreline habitat, among other purposes authorized by Minnesota Statutes 86A.05, Subdivision 14.

Guiding Principles

- Conserve critical shoreline habitat for all fish and wildlife species
- Conserve vital fish spawning and rearing areas
- Provide angling and management access corridors on trout and warmwater streams
- Provide non-motorized angler access on lakes and streams
- Preserve examples of healthy shoreline habitats as maps for future restoration of disturbed sites.

Project dollars will secure fee title or permanent easements on approximately 921 acres (6.6 miles) of lake and warm water stream shoreline, and leverage about 325 acres (2.3 miles) of similar acquisition through partner funds. Project dollars will also secure 54 acres (3.1 miles) of permanent habitat management easements that include angler access on designated trout streams, primarily in the Southeast and Northeast areas of the state. Overall priority will be given to acquiring regionally significant fish and wildlife habitat that will build on existing shoreline habitat and provide angler and hunter access. Projects may occur anywhere within the state, depending on priorities, risk of development, and potential partners. Project lists will change, as new parcels become available and as previously included projects become unavailable. Collaborative partnerships will be promoted in order to acquire key lands. Project money is expected to generate additional non-state funded acres and shoreline miles, for a grand total of 1,300 acres (12 miles) of critical shoreline habitat.

Department policy is to notify County and Township governments when acquiring AMA's. Local support for AMA acquisition is usually substantial, and local groups commonly offer to help raise funds.

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

MNDNR Strategic Conservation Agenda Update:

Meets the criteria of conservation in the Mission Statement, 'work with citizens to conserve and manage the state's natural resources, and goals for: Conservation of natural lands, maintenance of open spaces, conservation of stable and healthy fish and wildlife habitats, reduce loss of stable and healthy fish and wildlife habitats, provide additional access to public land, stabilize land ownership trends along lakeshore, and conservation of natural lakeshore and parts of lake watersheds.

Minnesota Conservation and Preservation Plan

Habitat Recommendation 2 (p. 67) includes fee acquisition and conservation easements among tools needed for protection of critical shorelines of streams and lakes. Acquiring the highest-priority shorelines "is one essential component of a multi-strategy approach to preserving the clean water legacy that Minnesota's citizens and visitors are used to experiencing. (p.69)" Benefits include protection of critical shoreline habitats from degradation, public angler access, and providing areas for education and research.

Minnesota's AMA Acquisition Plan 2008-2033

The DNR's AMA Acquisition Plan calls for shoreline acquisition to ensure shoreline habitat protection, water quality maintenance, and angler access for present and future generations.

This plan envisions acquisition of 3,428 miles of lake and stream habitat during the next 25 years. This funding proposal would further that goal.

Generalized budget for AMA Acquisition:

Budget Item	LOHC Fund \$\$	Other State Funds \$\$	Other Non- State Funds \$\$	Total Funds \$\$
Land (fee, easement)	\$5,431,600	\$359,100	\$1,500,000	\$7,290,700
Professional Services*	\$287,400	\$19,000		\$306,400
AMA Improvement**	29,000	\$1,900		\$30,900
Total	\$5,748,000	\$380,000	\$1,500,000	\$7,628,000

* Professional service costs include: staff time for the Division of Lands and Minerals and the Attorney General's Office, survey costs, appraisal and review costs, recording and abstracting fees, deed tax, and any property taxes due the subsequent year following conveyance to the DNR. The total cost to process and complete the estimated land conveyances to the DNR under this program is approximately 5% of the total value of these acquisitions.

** AMA improvements include: conversion of tillable acres to fish and wildlife habitat.

Budget

Budget Item	Fiscal Year 10	Fiscal Year 11	Fiscal Year 12
Fee Acquisition	\$2,978,000	\$993,000	Fee Acquisition
Easement Acquisition	\$1,310,000	\$438,000	
AMA Improvement	\$22,000	\$7,000	
TOTAL	\$4,310,000	\$1,438,000	

Personnel Details: Dollars will not be used for additional personnel

Leverage

Source of Leverage	Fiscal Year 10	Fiscal Year 11	Fiscal Year 12
RIM-CHM	\$285,000	\$95,00	
Donations of cash and land value	\$1,125,000	\$375,000	
TOTAL	\$1,410,000	\$470,000	

Accomplishments:

Table 1 Accomplishments	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife			
	Wetlands	Prairies	Forests	
Restore				
Protect				Protect 12 miles of shorelines, including 1,300 acres of adjoining critical habitat.
Enhance				

Table 2 Recommend Fund Allocation	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife			
	Wetlands	Prairies	Forests	
Restore				
Protect				\$5,748,000
Enhance				

Table 3 Counties Impacted	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife			
	Wetlands	Prairies	Forests	
Restore				
Protect				All Ecological Sections of the State are included in plan: current projects are located in 6 of the 9 Ecological Sections (22 counties -see attached map)
Enhance				

Table 4 Non-State Leverage \$	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife			
	Wetlands	Prairies	Forests	
Restore				
Protect				\$1,500,000
Enhance				

Table 5 Acquisition Data	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife			
	Wetlands	Prairies	Forests	
Acquired in Fee with State PILT Liability				9 miles of shoreline with acquisition value of \$5,128,000
Acquired in Fee without State PILT Liability				
Permanent Easement				3 miles of shoreline with acquisition value of \$2,500,000

Accomplishment Time Table

Milestone	Date	Measure
Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife	February 1, 2010	3 miles
Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife	October 30, 2010	6 miles
Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife	June 30, 2011	<u>3 miles</u>
	Total	12 miles

Relationship to Your Current Budget

This allocation will about double the 8 year average of State dollars used for funding AMA acquisition. The DNR Section of Fisheries supports the AMA acquisition program with 1 permanent FTE program consultant funded by Game and Fish funds.

Requests for funding will continue to be made from all available sources, including Bonding, Environmental Trust Fund, Heritage, Trout Stamp, Grants and other sources when available.

How Will the Habitat Improvements Be Sustained?

Acquired parcels will be designated as Aquatic Management Areas, a unit of DNR's Outdoor Recreation System. Management and monitoring will be done on a regular basis by local Area Fish and Wildlife Staff. Conservation Easements will be monitored according to established DNR monitoring protocol. Property taxes will be paid by the State via Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT).

AMA Projects With Fact Sheets and "In Works" as of 3/12/09

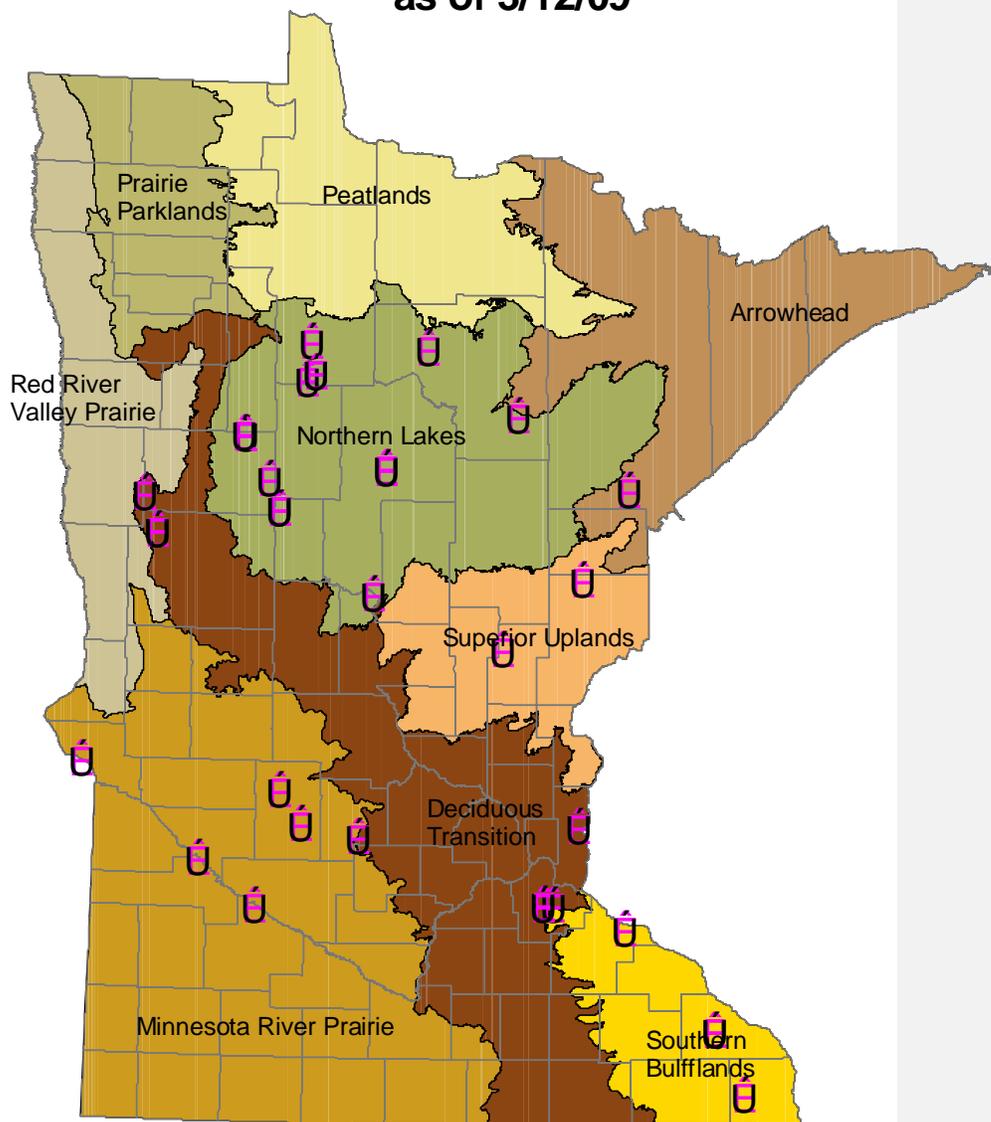
Fisheries - Lake & Stream Acquisition Priorities for FY09-10

Project Name	Lake/Stream	County	Shore Ft	Acres	Anticipated Value	Ant Part Funding	Crit Hab	Prox Hab	Don Pot	Partners	Pub Acc	Will Sell	Win Op	Proj Frui	Avail \$\$	Total	Partners
Woman Lake AMA, P5	Woman Lake	Cass	4,000	25	\$150,000	\$100,000	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	2	26	Landowner
Camp Miller AMA	Sturgeon Lake	Pine	5,910	338	\$1,200,000	\$500,000	3	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	2	25	Landowner
Big Stone Lake AMA, P1	Big Stone Lk	Big Stone	400	2.5	\$100,000	\$100,000	3	2	3	3	3	3	2	2	3	24	Landowner
Little Knife AMA, P1	Little Knife	Kanabec	7,165	257	\$800,000	\$300,000	3	2	2	3	3	3	3	3	2	24	Landowner
Florida Lake AMA, P1	Florida Lake	Kandiyohi	950	4.6	\$900,000	\$450,000	3	3	2	2	3	3	3	2	2	23	Landowner
Greenleaf AMA	Greenleaf	Meeker	5,415	51	\$200,000	\$100,000	3	3	2	2	3	3	3	2	2	23	Parks C.
Bemidji AMA	Bemidji	Beltrami	3,000	21	\$1,000,000	\$400,000	3	3	2	2	2	3	3	3	2	23	City, T&W
Straight River AMA 13A	Straight River	Becker	3,200	80	\$150,000	\$10,000	3	3	2	2	3	3	3	2	2	23	TU
Preece Point AMA	Marquette Lk	Beltrami	1,700	15	\$400,000	\$100,000	3	2	2	2	3	3	3	2	2	22	Landowner
Bad Medicine Lake AMA	Bad Medicine	Becker	5,700	9	\$850,000	\$400,000	3	2	2	2	3	3	3	2	2	22	Landowner
Whispering Ridge AMA	Minnesota R	Redwood	4,778	178	\$500,000	\$250,000	3	2	2	2	3	3	3	2	2	22	Green Corr
Kasota/Minnetoga AMA	Kasota	Kandiyohi	480	3.8	\$100,000	\$70,000	3	3	2	3	3	2	2	2	2	22	Trails
Lizzie Lake AMA	Lizzie Lake	Otter Tail	935	3.1	\$155,000	\$10,000	3	2	2	2	3	3	3	2	2	22	Landowner
Little Sand AMA, P1	Little Sand	Itasca	330	77	\$400,000	\$250,000	3	2	3	2	3	3	2	2	2	22	Landowner
Bad Medicine Lk AMA, 13	Bad Medicine	Becker	775	7.6	\$500,000	\$200,000	3	3	2	2	3	2	2	2	2	21	Landowner
Up Cormorant Lk AMA, 7	Up Cormorant	Becker	1,800	19.7	\$200,000	\$0	3	3	1	1	3	3	3	2	2	21	Landowner
Wegdahl Bottoms AMA	Minnesota R	Chippewa	332	336	\$600,000	\$0	3	2	2	2	3	3	2	2	2	21	Fundraising
Little Grand AMA	Little Grand	St. Louis	620	3	\$70,000	\$35,000	3	3	2	2	3	2	2	2	2	21	Fundraising
Vermillion River AMA, 7	Vermillion R	Dakota	3,250	80	\$400,000	\$100,000	3	3	2	2	3	2	2	2	2	21	County

Vermillion River AMA, 9	Vermillion R	Dakota	4,800	160	\$800,000	\$100,000	3	3	2	2	3	2	2	2	2	21	County
Bullard Creek AMA	Bullard Creek	Goodhue	3,150	9.6	\$57,700		3	3	1	1	2	3	3	3	2	21	
West Beaver Cr AMA	W Beaver Cr	Houston	3,725	8	\$39,400		3	3	1	1	2	3	3	3	2	21	
Garvin Brook AMA	Statewide	Winona	3,265	9.9	\$56,060	\$0	3	3	1	1	2	3	3	3	2	21	
Little Turtle Lake AMA	Little Turtle	Beltrami	2,500	12.2	\$90,000	\$0	3	2	1	1	3	3	3	2	2	20	
Miss River, Cons Eas	Mississippi R	Crow Wing	4,200	240	\$1,200,000	\$800,000	3	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	20	ACUB
Vermillion River AMA, 5	Vermillion R	Dakota	1,750	60	\$350,000	\$100,000	3	2	2	2	3	2	2	2	2	20	County
Browns Creek AMA	Browns Cr	Wash	0	5	\$150,000	\$0	3	3	1	1	3	3	2	2	2	20	
Bird's Eye Lake AMA	Bird's Eye	Itasca	5,300	163	\$200,000	\$100,000	3	3	2	2	3	3	1	1	2	20	LLAWF
Trout Stream Easements	Statewide	All	18,480	60	\$350,000	\$0	3	3	1	1	2	3	3	2	2	20	
Spirit Lake AMA	Spirit	Wadena	1,560	51	\$386,100	\$100,000	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	19	Fundraising
			Feet	Acres	Value	Value											
		Totals	99,470	2,290	\$12,354,260	\$4,575,000											
		Miles =	18.8		State \$\$	\$7,779,260											

Project list is subject to change, with new parcels being added as they become available and projects being dropped as they become unavailable.

AMA Acquisition by Ecological Section Acquisitions with Fact Sheets and "In The Works" as of 3/12/09



Lessard Outdoor Heritage Council

**2009 Recommendation
Accomplishment Plan**

Project or Program Title: Dakota County Habitat Protection

Date: March 12, 2009

Manager's Name: Alan Singer
Title: Dakota County Land Conservation Manager
Mailing Address: 14955 Galaxie Avenue, Apple Valley, MN 55124-8579

Telephone: 952-891-7001
Fax: 952-891-7031
E-Mail: al.singer@co.dakota.mn.us
Web Site: www.co.dakota.mn.us

Funds Recommended (\$000s)	Council Recommendation Funding	Out-Year Projections of Needs		
		FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013
Outdoor Heritage Fund	1,000,000	0	0	0

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Summary

The Dakota County Farmland and Natural Areas Program will protect 350 acres of high quality wildlife habitat including 1.0 miles of Cannon River shoreline, 1.5 miles of Chub Creek shoreline and .75 miles of shoreline along Marcott Lake in Dakota County. Permanent conservation easements from willing landowners will be acquired and landowners will be required to complete natural resource management plans.

Background

Dakota County has experienced significant residential growth over the last two decades and the most highly desirable location in suburban and rural areas are near rivers, lakes and relatively few remaining natural areas. In addition, the price of agricultural crops is placing intense pressure to reduce vegetated buffers, CRP land, etc. Though there may be a lull due to the economic downturn, there will be increased stresses placed on these areas in the future.

Dakota County, through the Farmland and Natural Areas Program (FNAP), has been protecting natural areas for wildlife habitat and water quality improvements outside of the regional park system since 2004. The County anticipates completing each of the easement acquisition projects, totaling 350 acres, by June 30, 2010. As a condition of funding, a detailed natural

resource management plan will be completed with County funds used to begin implementation. Activities will be prioritized based upon respective sites, with some habitat improvement such as the removal of invasive species or the planting of native grasses taking place as early as 2010.

FNAP has had a very successful track record of working with landowners, multiple agencies and non-profit organizations and all levels of government in completing 50 projects since the program's inception. Townships are involved in the initial support of rural land protection projects with formal resolutions and The City of Inver Grove Heights is supportive of both projects located there. All funding decisions are reviewed by a Citizen Advisory Committee and approved by the Dakota County Board of Commissioners.

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

These projects are located in Dakota County where five different ecological subsections converge. The Statewide Conservation and Preservation Plan use several criteria for determining priority areas for habitat protection. Each of the proposed projects is located in zones from medium to high in importance for several of these criteria. These areas were originally identified in the Metro Greenprint. The projects are included in the respective Focus Areas of the adopted Metro Conservation Corridor Plan that has been used to direct millions of state and other funds for land protection, restoration and enhancement. Finally, these projects were included in the Dakota County Farmland and Natural Area Protection Plan adopted by the County Board and used as the basis for requesting citizens supporting a \$20 million referendum which was eventually approved in 2003.

Budget

Budget Item	Fiscal Year 10	Fiscal Year 11	Fiscal Year 12
Personnel	\$0	\$0	\$0
Contracts	\$0	\$0	\$0
Equipment/Tools/Supplies	\$0	\$0	\$0
Fee Acquisition	\$0	\$0	\$0
Easement Acquisition	\$1,000,000	\$0	\$0
Easement Stewardship	\$0	\$0	\$0
Travel	\$0	\$0	\$0
Additional Budget Items	\$0	\$0	\$0
TOTAL	\$1,000,000		

Personnel Details

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Table 2 Recommend Fund Allocation	Wetlands	Prairies	Forests	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
Restore	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,000,000
Enhance	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

Table 3 Counties Impacted	Wetlands	Prairies	Forests	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
Restore				
Protect				Dakota
Enhance				

Table 4 Non-State Leverage \$	Wetlands	Prairies	Forests	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
Restore	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,000,000
Enhance	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

Table 5 Acquisition Data	Wetlands	Prairies	Forests	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
Acquired in Fee with State PILT Liability	None	None	None	None
Acquired in Fee without State PILT Liability	None	None	None	None
Permanent Easement	None	None	None	350 acres

Accomplishment Time Table .

Milestone	Date	Measure
<i>Protection along Chub Creek and adjacent to Chub Lake WMA</i>	<i>June 30, 2010</i>	<i>194 acres</i>
<i>Protection of 1 mile of Cannon River shoreline</i>	<i>June 30, 2010</i>	<i>36 acres</i>
<i>Protection of upland habitat and Marcott Lake shoreline</i>	<i>June 30, 2010</i>	<i>120 acres</i>

Relationship to Your Current Budget

To date, Dakota County has committed or expended nearly \$14.5 million of the \$20 million in bond funds to permanently protect nearly 6,000 acres of land with a total value of over \$70 million. This proposed funding is a significant addition to the program budget. With the current land protection applications, there is not enough funding to complete all of the highest quality projects. This funding will augment but not replace currently available funding but allows us to expand land protection efforts and provide additional examples of the importance of having locally committed funds for land conservation projects. At the same time, these eight projects are easily within the capacity of the current staff to complete by the anticipated deadline.

How Will the Habitat Improvements Be Sustained?

Each of these easement projects will require a natural resource management plan with a prioritized work plan prior to acquisition with provisions to revise every five years. Each of the easements meets or exceeds the standards set by the Land Trust Alliance and includes an executed, baseline documentation Property Report to ensure compliance. The County already contracts with the Soils and Water Conservation to conduct annual monitoring reports signed by the landowner. All Easements are included in a recently developed and sophisticated Land Management Data Base. The County Attorney's Office is responsible for enforcing any significant easement violations. We are currently working on establishing a Stewardship Fund to provide additional incentives for landowner management activities.

Attach:

A list of your projects showing their county location and On the attached eight and a half by eleven map of Minnesota show counties each project as a dot.

Attachment A: List of Proposed Dakota County Habitat Protection Projects

<u>Project</u>	<u>County Location</u>
110 acres along Chub Creek and adjacent to the Chub Lake Wildlife Management Area	Eureka Township
Portions of three properties totaling 83 acres along Chub Creek	Greenvale Township
Portion of one property totaling 36 acres along the Cannon River	Sciota Township
Portion of one property totaling 50 acres of upland and wetlands	Inver Grove Heights
Portion of three properties totaling 70 acres along Marcott Lake	Inver Grove Heights



Lessard Outdoor Heritage Council

**2009 Recommendation
Accomplishment Plan**

Project or Program Title: Lake Rebecca Water Quality Improvement Project

Date: March 11, 2009

Manager's Name: John M. Barten

Title: Director of Natural Resources Management

Mailing Address: 12615 County Road 9, Plymouth, MN 55441

Telephone: 763-694-7841

Fax: 763-557-4943

E-Mail: jbarten@threeriversparkdistrict.org

Web Site: www.threeriversparkdistrict.org

Funds Recommended (\$000s)	Council Recommendation Funding	Out-Year Projections of Needs		
	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013
Outdoor Heritage Fund	450,000	0	0	0

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Summary

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Our project will improve the water quality of Lake Rebecca in Lake Rebecca Park Reserve, and improve the fish habitat in the premier muskellunge brood stock lake in Minnesota. Water quality improvements will be achieved through a combination of management activities in the watershed to reduce phosphorus inflow to Lake Rebecca, control of the invasive species curly-leaf pondweed, stabilization of eroding shorelines, and application of alum (aluminum sulfate) to reduce internal phosphorus loading. The main objective is to reduce the in-lake phosphorus concentration to less than 40 ppb and thus improve lake water clarity and quality, and to enhance the growth of native plants both in the lake and along the shoreline

Background

Lake Rebecca is a 256-acre degraded lake located in Lake Rebecca Park Reserve, Hennepin County. Three Rivers Park District maintains a swimming beach, picnic areas, hike/bike trails, a boat launch, a boat rental facility, and two fishing piers in or adjacent to the lake. In addition, Lake Rebecca is utilized by the DNR as a muskellunge brood stock lake for egg collection. The lake is heavily used for pan fishing by minority populations, and for trophy muskellunge fishing.

In 2008, Lake Rebecca was listed as an impaired waterbody by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency because of excessive phosphorus levels and poor water clarity. Seasonal algae blooms cause “pea-soup” green conditions in the lake, periodically resulting in fish mortality (Over 30 and six bass died in 2007 from low dissolved oxygen levels) as dissolved oxygen levels decline when algae populations die back. Algae blooms are so severe that Three Rivers Park District must isolate the swimming facility from the main lake with a beach curtain in order to provide swimming to park guests.

Three Rivers Park District proposes to implement the water quality improvement program beginning in 2009. The Park District plans to initiate the Curly-leaf pondweed control program in 2009. The alum treatment will occur after Curly-leaf pondweed control in order to ensure successful application. Shoreline stabilization practices will be implemented in 2010. These activities will reduce phosphorus inflow to the lake and reduce internal recycling of phosphorus. Reducing the in-lake phosphorus concentration will improve water clarity which, along with control of invasive plant species in the lake, will enhance the growth of native plant communities. Improved water clarity, reduced algae growth, and increase native plant growth will provide improved habitat for fish. In particular, sight feeders such as muskies and bass will benefit from improved water clarity. In addition, the fish will experience reduced mortality because of improved dissolved oxygen conditions in the lake.

If this item is funded, the lake will experience improved clarity and replacement of invasive plants with native plant populations. Because the Park District owns the entire lake shoreline, we can eliminate herbicide applications along the majority of shoreline and protect native plant populations. In addition, the Park District can protect and enhance shoreline buffer areas along the lake shoreline. The Park District has been collecting water quality data on Lake Rebecca for over 10 years. Based on that data, water quality improvements are anticipated to occur within a year of initiation of the curly-leaf pondweed control program. Growth response by native plants is expected to occur within two years. Ultimate water quality goals will be achieved following the alum treatment. The proposed management practices are proven technologies and have been used in other programs. Therefore the project has a very high likelihood of success.

Three Rivers Park District works very closely with the local landowners, municipalities and watershed management organization to plan and implement water quality management programs. The decisions of these organizations can affect positively or negatively the expected impact of the proposed improvement program. The Park District believes that the cooperative relationships it has developed with these organizations will lead to decisions that support the Park District efforts. The Pioneer-Sarah Creek WMO has adopted a “non-degradation” policy to ensure long term protection of water resources.

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

Pioneer-Sarah Creek Watershed Management Commission Watershed Management Plan – List Lake Rebecca water quality improvement as a High Priority.

Three Rivers Park District Water Resources Management Plan – Lists Lake Rebecca improvement plan as a High Priority.

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This proposal helps to implement Habitat Recommendation #6, "Protect and restore critical in-water habitat of lakes and streams" of the MN Conservation and Preservation Plan. As indicated above, Lake Rebecca serves as a critical muskie rearing lake for Minnesota, and implementation of this project will enhance the fish habitat in the lake.

Budget

Budget Item	Fiscal Year 10	Fiscal Year 11	Fiscal Year 12
Personnel			
Contracts	\$250000	\$200000	
Equipment/Tools/Supplies			
Fee Acquisition			
Easement Acquisition			
Easement Stewardship			
Travel			
Additional Budget Items			
TOTAL	\$250000	\$200000	

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Personnel Details

Title	Name	Amount.
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Leverage

Source of Leverage	Fiscal Year 10	Fiscal Year 11	Fiscal Year 12
Three Rivers Park District	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000
TOTAL	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000

Accomplishments:

Table 1 Accomplish- ments	Wetlands	Prairies	Forests	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
Restore				Restore 1 Shallow lake
Protect				
Enhance				

Table 2 Recommend Fund Allocation	Wetlands	Prairies	Forests	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
Restore				\$450,000
Protect				
Enhance				

Table 3 Counties Impacted	Wetlands	Prairies	Forests	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
Restore				Hennepin
Protect				
Enhance				

Table 4 Non-State Leverage \$	Wetlands	Prairies	Forests	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
Restore				\$40,000
Protect				\$20,000
Enhance				

Table 5 Acquisition Data	Wetlands	Prairies	Forests	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
Acquired in Fee with State PILT Liability				
Acquired in Fee without State PILT Liability				
Permanent Easement				

Accomplishment Time

Milestone	Date	Measure
Restore eroding shoreline	Fall FY 2010	500 feet
Control curly-leaf pondweed in Lake Rebecca	Spring FY 2010	120 acres
Restore native plant community in Lake Rebecca	Fall FY 2011	120 acres
Complete alum treatment to restore water clarity	Fall FY 2011	250 acres

Relationship to Your Current Budget

The Three Rivers Park District annual water resources management budget totals approximately \$214,000. The majority of these funds are allocated to monitoring and operational management functions. The funds would provide the capital dollars needed to effectively meet the goals of the water quality plan for this lake. This funding would supplement the existing budget and allow implementation of the water quality improvement plan.

How Will the Habitat Improvements Be Sustained?

As part of the Regional Park System, Lake Rebecca is within the operations of Three Rivers Park District. Long term protection of this resource will be included in the Park District operating and capital budgets.



Lessard Outdoor Heritage Council

**2009 Recommendation
Accomplishment Plan**

Project or Program Title: LOHC Small Grants Management

Date: March 10, 2009

Manager's Name: Donn Waage

Title: Director, Central Partnership Office

Mailing Address: 1 Federal Drive, Ft. Snelling, MN 55111

Telephone: 612-713-5173

Fax: 612-713-5285

E-Mail: waage@nfwf.org

Web Site: nfwf.org

Funds Recommended (\$000s)	Council Recommendation Funding	Out-Year Projections of Needs		
	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013
Outdoor Heritage Fund	4,000,000	0	0	0

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Summary: The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation will manage a small grants program for the LOHC. The Foundation will actively solicit grants from throughout the State, create a decision making process and administer the grants to meet LOHC guidelines.

Background

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

Budget

Budget Item	Fiscal Year 10	Fiscal Year 11	Fiscal Year 12
Personnel	156,000	66,000	28,000
Contracts			
Equipment/Tools/Supplies			

Fee Acquisition			
Easement Acquisition			
Easement Stewardship			
Travel	7,000	2,000	1,000
Additional Budget Items			
TOTAL			

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Personnel Title	Name	Amount.
Regional Director	Donn Waage	\$50,000
Assistant Regional Director	Todd Hogrefe	\$25,000
Program Manager		\$95,000
Project Administrators		\$70,000
Expert Staff		\$10,000

Leverage Source of Leverage	Fiscal Year 10	Fiscal Year 11	Fiscal Year 12
TOTAL			

Accomplishments:

Accomplishment Time Table:

Milestone	Date	Measure
All dates are following a formal Agreement with the State		
Develop criteria with LOHC	10 days	
Develop custom questions for EasyGrants system	10 days	

Release RFP (6 weeks response)	11 days
Undertake solicitation campaign	11- ongoing
Create advisory committee	32 days
First grant deadline grants	53 days
Meet w advisory Committee	74 days
Present slate to LOHC	81 days
Contact successful applicants	82 days
Contact unsuccessful applicants	83 days
Begin contracting process	83 days
Manage grant to completion	up to 3 years
Submit semiannual report to LOHC	180 days

Relationship to Your Current Budget

The administrative budget of the Foundation is approximately \$5 million a year. The Foundation has program costs of approximately \$72 million per year in approximately 50 grant programs. The Foundation also manages 80 separate funds for mitigation and other activities as a fiduciary.

Lessard Outdoor Heritage Council

**2009 Recommendation
Accomplishment Plan**

Project or Program Title: Accelerated Prairie Grassland Restoration and Management (P13)

Date: 3/11/2009

Manager's Name: Dennis Simon
Title: Wildlife Management Section Chief, MN DNR
Mailing Address: 500 Lafayette Road, St. Paul, MN 55155
Telephone: 651-259-5237
Fax: 651 297-4961
E-Mail: dennis.simon@dnr.state.mn.us
Web Site: www.dnr.state.mn.us

Funds Recommended (\$000s)	Council Recommendation Funding	Out-Year Projections of Needs		
	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013
Outdoor Heritage Fund	1,700,000	2,000,000	2,000,000	2,000,000

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Summary

This program will complete the initial WMA development on 800 acres of land acquired in the Accelerated Prairie Grassland WMA Acquisition program and accelerate the restoration, enhancement and management of approximately 6,550 acres of native prairie vegetation on existing public lands including priority roadside corridors under MNDOT easement. Prairie restoration efforts include 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 include prescribed burning, managing woody cover encroachment, grazing management, and biomass harvest.

Background

Native grasslands are a rarity in Minnesota, less than one percent remains. Prairie ecosystems have evolved with fire disturbance, and much of the prairie vegetation and prairie obligate wildlife species depend upon it. Grassland birds, for example, have had a steeper more consistent and widespread population declines than any other group of North American

avifauna. Prairie ecosystems are also threatened by the encroachment and dominance of woody species and exotic plants.

Since settlement, most prairie sites in the targeted areas have not been exposed to natural ecological processes (such as fire and grazing) needed for sustaining or enhancing prairie plant communities. Furthermore, many existing grassland sites on state-owned public lands need to be restored to native prairie vegetation to improve wildlife habitat and reduce long-term maintenance costs. Creation of accelerated prairie management teams would address a long-standing "back log" of management needs by implementing intensive prairie stewardship practices.

Although Minnesota DNR has the training and know-how to restore high quality prairie vegetation currently funding has been insufficient to meet all needs. Many sites on public 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 consist of monotypic fields of brome that have low habitat values. Furthermore exotic and/or invasive plants are encroaching into them. 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.

Managing and enhancing existing prairie vegetation on public lands requires periodic burning, grazing, and/or mowing. Woody cover encroachment is an especially troublesome problem that must be addressed. Removing trees and brush will impact about 3,000 acres of native prairie and other grassland habitat at a cost of \$5 and \$8 per tree - larger trees (> 20 feet tall) cost significantly more to remove than smaller trees. Prairie enhancement work is done during primarily in early spring, fall, and winter.

The Roadsides for Wildlife Program has been improving grassland habitat along Minnesota roadsides since 1984. On average, the DNR seeds native prairie on 50-300 acres of roadsides a year at 5-20 sites, typically on county and township roadsides. In contrast, Iowa seeds approximately 3,000 acres a year. The DNR will continue to work with counties and townships but would also like to accelerate seeding on state-owned highway right-of-ways (ROW). The problem is that most of Minnesota's roadsides are presently dominated by smooth brome (a non-native grass) and are vectors of invasive species and disease. 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. These prairie corridors can provide habitat for wildlife, improve water quality, prevent snow drifting, and beautify the state if they are well managed.

Conservation Delivery

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 from vendors of local seed and harvested from native or restored prairie to supplement when needed. Projects will be designed and managed by DNR personnel (except ROW projects which will be managed by DOT). Contract vendors will be used to the greatest extent possible although DNR staff may perform some work when suitable contractors are not available.

Easement Acquisition	0		
Easement Stewardship	0		
Travel	3,000	3,000	
Additional Budget Items	0		
TOTAL	840,000	860,000	

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Personnel Details

Title	Name	Amount.
Contract Specialist (Unclassified part-time)		\$60,000

Leverage

Source of Leverage	Fiscal Year 10	Fiscal Year 11	Fiscal Year 12
TOTAL			

Accomplishments:

Table 1 Accomplish- ments	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife		
	Wetlands	Prairies	Forests
Restore		Restore 2000 acres	
Protect			
Enhance		Enhance 5,350 acres	

Table 2 Recommend Fund Allocation	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife		
	Wetlands	Prairies	Forests
Restore		\$462,000	
Protect			
Enhance		\$1,238,000	

Table 3 Counties Impacted				Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
	Wetlands	Prairies	Forests	
Restore		Kittson, Marshall, Polk, Norman, Mahnomen, Clay, Becker, Wilkin, Otter Tail, Traverse, Grant Douglas, Big Stone, Stevens, Pope, Swift, Lac qui Parle, Stearns, Kandiyohi, Meeker, Chippewa, Yellow Medicine, Renville, McLeod, Sibley, Nicollet, Brown, Redwood, Lyon, Lincoln, Yellow Medicine, Pipestone, Murray, Cottonwood, Watonwan, Blue Earth, Waseca, Freeborn, Faribault, Martin, Jackson, Nobles, Rock, Clearwater, Morrison, Benton, Sherburne, Wright, Isanti, Chisago, Anoka, Washington, Ramsey, Hennepin, Carver, Scott, Dakota, Goodhue, Wagasha, Rice, Le Sueur, Dodge, Olmstead, Winona, mower, Fillmore, Houston		
Protect				
Enhance		Same as above		

Table 4 Non-State Leverage \$				Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
	Wetlands	Prairies	Forests	
Restore		\$0		
Protect		\$0		
Enhance		\$0		

Table 5 Acquisition Data				Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
	Wetlands	Prairies	Forests	
Acquired in Fee with State PILT Liability		0		
Acquired in Fee without State PILT Liability		0		
Permanent Easement		0		

Accomplishment Time Table

Milestone	Date	Measure
Identify prairie for restoration/ enhancement	October 30, 2009	7,350 acres
Complete initial prairie restoration/ enhancements	December 31, 2010	7,350 acres
Complete follow up management for restorations	December 31, 2011	2000 acres

Relationship to Your Current Budget

This work will be a significant acceleration of what we normally do on public land prairie management work.

DNR wildlife spent the following on prairie management activities on public land in FY08 using state crews and equipment:

Prairie grassland management	\$814, 432 – 6,486 acres
Prescribed burns	\$721,808 - 21,009 acres

Existing DNR staff will be used to identify work sites, assist with technical guidance on site-specific BMPs, and complete work site inspections and reports.

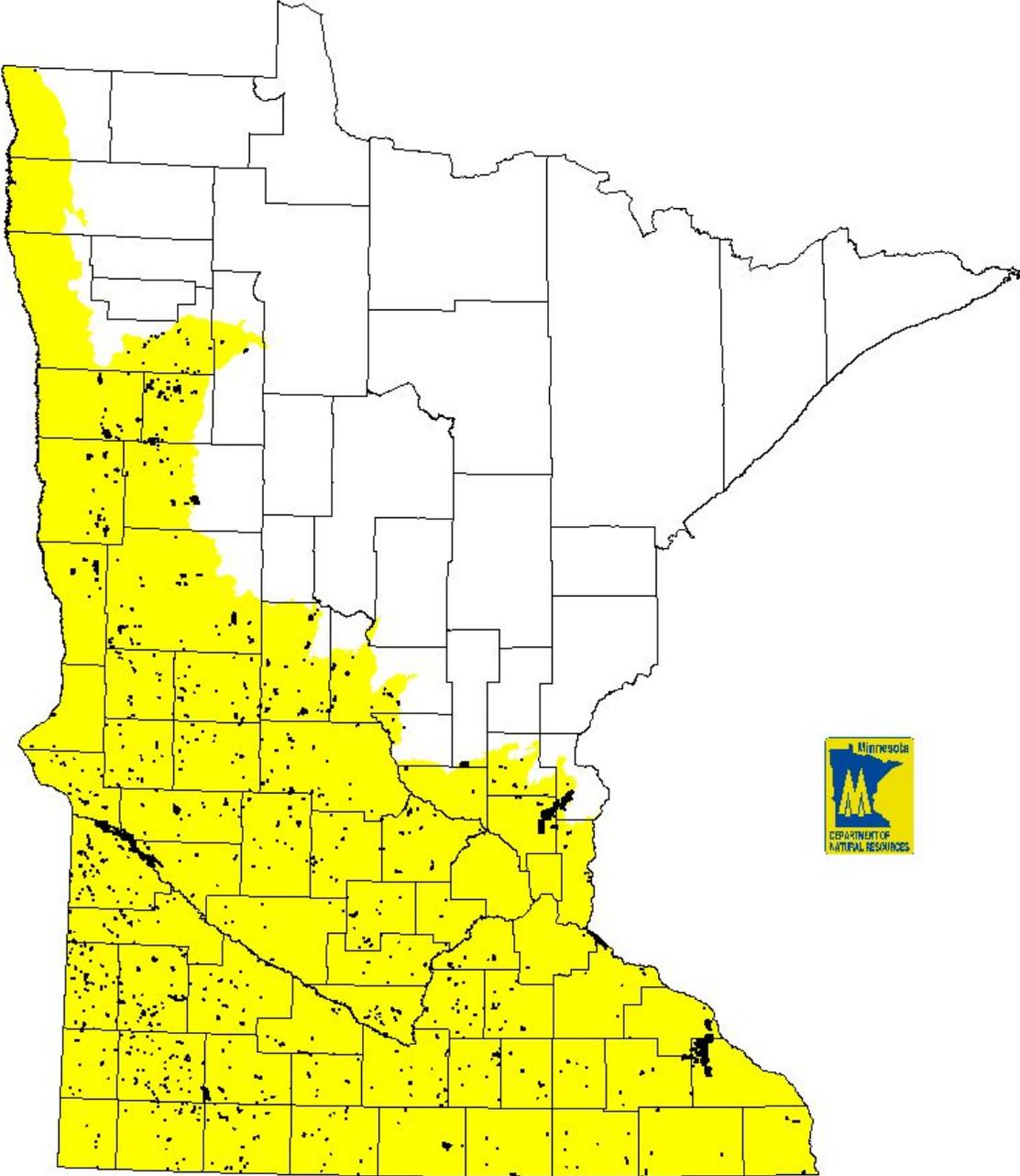
How Will the Habitat Improvements Be Sustained?

These restorations and enhancements will occur on public lands (primarily Wildlife Management Areas) which are owned in fee title by the state. Long-term maintenance will be incorporated into DNR's regular planning and maintenance schedule.

Attach:

Specific project have not yet been selected. However, there is a backlog of projects waiting to be implemented thus there will be a sufficient number of specific project to choose from by the time LOHC funds are available. The attached map shows the target area in yellow and DNR Wildlife Management Areas in black. Work will occur within the identified areas.

Prairie/ Grassland Restoration and Management Program



Dark areas are Wildlife Management Areas in the prairie province.

Lessard Outdoor Heritage Council

**2009 Recommendation
Accomplishment Plan**

Project or Program Title: Green Corridor Legacy Program – Creating a Legacy of Connectivity, Habitat Viability, and Public Access with the Mid-Minnesota River Watershed.

Date: March 11, 2009

Manager’s Name: Brad Cobb

Mailing Address: 333 4th Ave. S.E., St. Joseph MN 56374

Telephone: 320.493.4695

E-Mail: 1231tlc@charter.net

Fiscal Management Contact: Nancy Fasching

Title: Grants Officer, Southwest Initiative Foundation

Mailing Address: 15 3rd Avenue South, Hutchinson, MN 55350

Telephone: 800-594-9480

Fax: 320-587-3838

E-Mail: nancyf@swifoundation.org

Web Site: www.swifoundation.org

	Council Recommendation Funding	Out-Year Projections of Needs		
		FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013
Funds Recommended (\$000s)	FY 2010			
Outdoor Heritage Fund	\$1,617,000	\$5,000,000	\$6,000,000	\$7,000,000

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Summary

The Green Corridor Legacy Program will provide public access (WMA's) to high quality game and wildlife habitat. The proposed acquisitions are: 1) one large block acquisition of 480 acres with 1 shallow lake, 3-4 wetlands, restored prairie, and woody cover plantings and 2) one acquisition of approximately 100 acres which is an expansion of a current WMA. The Green Corridor Legacy will secure the cooperation from the landowners to acquire these properties as soon as appropriations are made, appraisals completed, and title transfer methods to the state

are finalized – both projects have the support of the regional DNR office for acceptance into the WMA inventory system.

Background

The initial phase of the program proposal will allow the citizens of Minnesota to have more access to public hunting lands by acquiring approximately 580 acres (reduced from the original proposal of 1,200 acres) of land which would be developed and protected as Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs).

The program proposal will succeed because numerous partnerships have developed from a wide variety of disciplines (e.g. U of M, DNR, local SWCD, USFWS, PF, MDHA, NWTF, community/civic groups, regional business leaders, and supportive landowners) that will assist in monitoring outcomes, provide long range management of the acquired lands, provide technical support, and ensure that program activities will advance the goals, objectives, and strategies of the various state-wide conservation plans (e.g. Duck Recovery Plan, the Pheasant Plan, the Wild Turkey Plan, the WMA Acquisition Plan, and numerous strategies associated to the MN Conservation and Preservation Plan.)

Other program activities will include the fiduciary responsibility for the program including the land transactions along with the financial oversight, transparency and accountability to all program activities and outcomes.

Through the Green Corridor Board of Directors, there is support for this project from local government agencies like the Soil and Water Conservation Board of Directors and the MN DNR, and cooperation from the local county officials. Once purchase agreements are secured, formal requests to the Board of County Commissioners will be completed, as is the normal protocol.

Once appropriations and grant agreements are finalized, the Southwest Initiative Foundation (SWIF), through the approval of the Green Corridor Board of Directors, will have the program manager begin the process of appraisals, purchase agreements, and title transfer activities. It is the assumption that the DNR and state of Minnesota can provide normal timelines to process these fee simple acquisition title transfers. Acquisitions and title transfers to the state of Minnesota and management by the MN DNR of these program acres are anticipated to be complete by June 30th, 2010.

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

The Green Corridor Legacy program will emphasize the several of the habitat strategies outlined in the Minnesota Conservation and Preservation Plan; 1) Protect priority land habitats, 2) Protect critical streams/river habitats, 3) Improve connectivity and access to outdoor recreation, 4) restore and protect shallow lakes, 5) Restore/protect land, wetlands, and wetland associated watersheds, and 6) keep water on the landscape.

The Green Corridor Legacy program will also emphasize the key elements of the various state-wide conservation plans; e.g. the Duck Recovery Plan, Pheasant Plan, the WMA Acquisition

Budget

Budget Item	Fiscal Year 10	Fiscal Year 11	Fiscal Year 12
Personnel	\$38,500		
Contracts	\$40,425		
Equipment/Tools/Supplies			
Fee Acquisition	\$1,536,150		
Easement Acquisition			
Easement Stewardship			
Travel	\$1,925		
Additional Budget Items			
TOTAL	\$1,617,000		

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Personnel Details

Title	Name	Amount.
Accountant	.2 FTE	\$14,000
Grant Officer	.35 FTE	\$24,500
Consultant/Program Manager Consulting, Inc	Bradley H. Cobb –Green Corridor	\$40,425

Leverage

Source of Leverage	Fiscal Year 10	Fiscal Year 11	Fiscal Year 12
SWIF In-Kind Services	\$20,000		
TOTAL	\$20,000		

Accomplishments:

Table 1 Accomplish- ments	Wetlands	Prairies	Forests	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
Restore				
Protect		Protect 580 acres of public land.		
Enhance				

Table 2 Recommend Fund Allocation	Wetlands	Prairies	Forests	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
Restore				
Protect		\$1,536,150		
Enhance				

Table 3 Counties Impacted	Wetlands	Prairies	Forests	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
Restore				
Protect		Redwood		
Enhance				

Table 4 Non-State Leverage \$	Wetlands	Prairies	Forests	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
Restore		\$5,000 by USFWS Private Lands prior to acquisition		
Protect				
Enhance				

Table 5 Acquisition Data	Wetlands	Prairies	Forests	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
Acquired in Fee with State PILT Liability		580 acres for acquisition value of \$1,536,150		
Acquired in Fee without State PILT Liability				
Permanent Easement				

Accomplishment Time Table

Measure	Milestone	Date	
Acquire Fee Simple Acquisition Open to Public Hunting (WMA) acres	Acquire Fee Simple Acquisition Open to Public Hunting (WMA)	June 30, 2010	580

Relationship to Your Current Budget

Assuming the reference is toward the lower appropriation from original request, the Green Corridor will do less than the original request based on the lower recommended appropriation. Additional program funding will be requested in future appropriation cycles. There is capacity to achieve these outcomes as outlined in the Milestone Accomplishments as listed above.

The Green Corridor Legacy program is a new community/citizen based initiative. However, the SWIF and Green Corridor Board of Directors have received \$1,000,000 from Environmental and Natural Resource Trust Fund (LCCMR Phase I) for FY2008-2010 and are currently developing a Request for Proposal for LCCMR Phase II funding due in May 2009. This LCCMR program has very specific priorities/strategies that compliment LCCMR funding priorities that relates to the Minnesota River Valley natural/ecological resources, trails, historical/cultural, and tourism. LOHC funding will supplement, not substitute, other funding requests.

How Will the Habitat Improvements Be Sustained?

The fee simple acquisition of these 580 acres will be administered by the MN DNR Division of Wildlife for long-term management and enforcement of state laws on these acquired properties. The Green Corridor Legacy Program has received commitments from DNR Regional 4 for funding this acquisition in its long range management activities.

This program is acquiring land from willing and supportive landowners to be transferred to the appropriate state agency for long-term habitat conservation, outdoor recreational access,

sustainability, and monitoring. Payment in Lieu of tax (PILT) will be established by current or traditional methods.

Attach:

Project A) Approximately 480 acres located in Redwood County, Gales Township. Property has one restored 30 acre shallow lake, 3-4 wetlands (types 3 &4), and the balance in restored native prairie. This property has received a very high priority by the DNR for acquisition. See attached map.

Project B) Approximately 100 acres in Redwood County, Lamberton Township. Property acquisition will expanded a current WMA and has been rated as a high priority by the DNR for acquisition. See attached map.



6
Accomplishment Plan
LOHC

LOHC

Lessard Outdoor Heritage Council

**2009 Recommendation
Accomplishment Plan**

Project or Program Title: Northern Tallgrass Prairie NWR Land Acquisition

Date: March 11, 2009

Manager's Name: Alice Hanley

Title: Refuge Manager

Mailing Address: 44843 County Road 19 Odessa, MN 56276

Telephone: 320-273-2191 ext. 100

Fax: 320-273-2231

E-Mail: Alice.Hanley@fws.gov

Web Site: www.fws.gov/midwest/NorthernTallgrassPrairie/

Funds Recommended (\$000s)	Council Recommendation Funding	Out-Year Projections of Needs		
	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013
Outdoor Heritage Fund	\$1,583,000	0	0	0

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Summary

Our program will protect, in perpetuity, approximately 525 acres of native prairie through fee title acquisition, 1,583 acres through the purchase of habitat easements, or a combination of the two. Lands protected will be within the Northern Tallgrass Prairie Habitat Preservation Area (HPA) in western Minnesota and will become units of the Northern Tallgrass Prairie National Wildlife Refuge.

Background

The purpose of the Northern Tallgrass Prairie National Wildlife Refuge is to preserve, restore, and manage a portion of the remaining critical northern tallgrass prairie habitat and associated habitats at widespread locations throughout the western Minnesota and northwestern Iowa historic range. Only 5 percent of the original tallgrass prairie remains for preservation consideration throughout the entire historic tallgrass prairie range. Native prairie declines of 99.9 and 99.6 percent have occurred in Iowa and Minnesota, respectively. Grassland bird species have shown steeper, more consistent, and geographically more widespread declines than any other group of North American birds.

The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has specific trustee responsibilities for migratory birds, endangered species, interjurisdictional fish, certain marine mammals, and lands administered by the Service. The HPA is a new way for the Service to cooperatively meet its trustee responsibilities within the tallgrass prairie landscape. The Service works with individuals, groups, and governmental entities to preserve tracts of northern tallgrass prairie.

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The Service's goal is to permanently protect and enhance prairie remnants through partnership, incentives, education, and cooperative agreements. Any conservation easements or acquisition of full title will be done by the Service and Service partners.

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

The Minnesota Conservation and Preservation Plan recommends protecting priority land habitats. This proposal will protect and restore priority native grasslands and their associated wetlands important to grassland dependent wildlife, especially grassland and wetland birds.

This proposal will also implement the following habitat recommendations within the plan:

1. Improve connectivity and access to outdoor recreation - All fee title lands acquired and restored will be open to the public for hunting and other activities allowed under the national wildlife refuge system.
2. Keep water on the landscape – by protecting and restoring grasslands, this proposal will help keep water on the landscape (permanent vegetation restoration).

The need for this project is outlined in the Northern Tallgrass Prairie Habitat Preservation Area Final Environmental Impact Statement, US Fish and Wildlife Service 1998. The primary purpose of the Northern Tallgrass Prairie Habitat Preservation Area is to preserve and enhance the remaining remnant tracts of northern tallgrass prairie and aspen parklands habitats within Iowa and Minnesota.

A secondary purpose is to link existing prairie tracts together (Federal, state, tribal, private organization, and private landowner ownerships) into larger blocks plus buffer remnant prairie. This will establish larger, more viable units of managed prairie and allow travel corridors for wildlife. Prairie restoration used to link existing prairies together would utilize the same techniques used in managing existing prairies.

Budget

Budget Item	Fiscal Year 10	Fiscal Year 11	Fiscal Year 12
Personnel			
Contracts			
Equipment/Tools/Supplies			
Fee Acquisition	\$1,583,000 (1)		
Easement Acquisition	\$1,583,000 (1)		
Easement Stewardship			

Travel			
Additional Budget Items			
TOTAL			

(1) Funding will be used to purchase lands in fee title, purchase habitat easements, or a combination of the two acquisition authorities.

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Personnel Details

Title	Name	Amount.
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Not Applicable

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Leverage

Source of Leverage	Fiscal Year 10	Fiscal Year 11	Fiscal Year 12
Land and Water Conservation Funds	\$500,000		
In-kind Services - US Fish and Wildlife Service	\$100,000		
TOTAL	\$600,000		

Accomplishments:

Table 1 Accomplish- ments	Wetlands	Prairies	Forests	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
Restore				
Protect		Protect 525 acres by fee title purchase, 1583 acres with habitat easement purchase, or a combination of the acquisition authorities.		
Enhance				

Table 2 Recommend Fund Allocation	Wetlands	Prairies	Forests	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
Restore				
Protect		\$1,583,000		
Enhance				

Table 3 Counties Impacted	Wetlands	Prairies	Forests	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
Restore				
Protect		Wilkin, Polk, Rock, and Clay and in any of the other 44 MN counties within the Habitat Preservation Area		
Enhance				

Table 4 Non-State Leverage \$	Wetlands	Prairies	Forests	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
Restore				
Protect		\$600,000		
Enhance				

Table 5 Acquisition Data	Wetlands	Prairies	Forests	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
Acquired in Fee with State PILT Liability				
Acquired in Fee without State PILT Liability		525+/- acres for \$1,583,000 (if all funding is used for fee title purchases)		
Permanent Easement		1,583 +/- acres for \$1,583,000 (if all funding is used to purchase habitat easements)		

Accomplishment Time Table

Milestone	Date	Measure
Identify priority acquisitions (fee and easement)	May 30, 2009	20 potential properties
Easement Options finalized	December 31, 2009	5 options
Appraisals ordered	December 31, 2009	3 appraisals
Purchase agreements (fee title) finalized	June 30, 2010	3 options

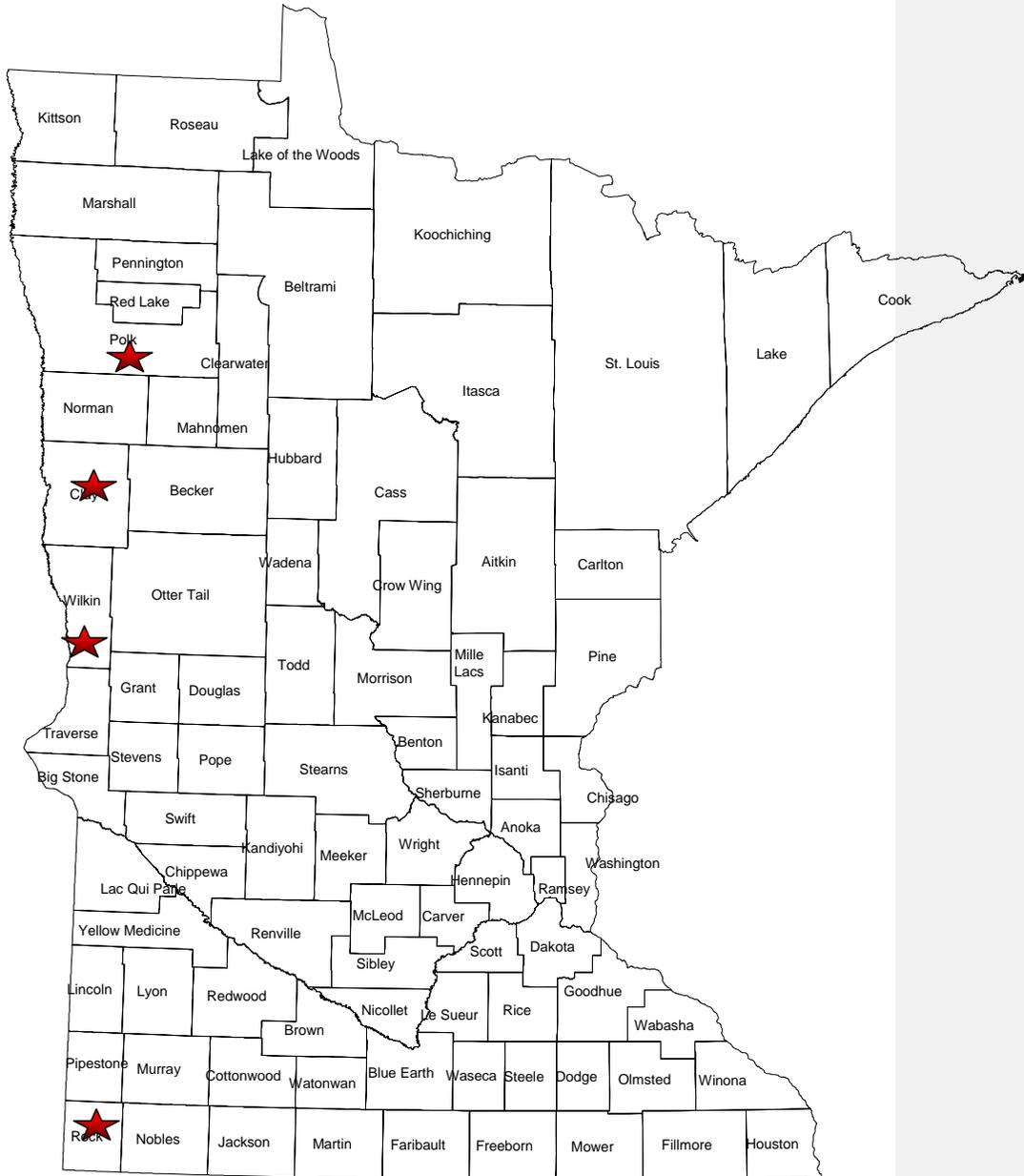
Relationship to Your Current Budget

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has received approximately \$500,000 in Land and Water Conservation Funds annually to acquire lands for the Northern Tallgrass Prairie National Wildlife Refuge since 2000. This annual funding has allowed the Service to purchase smaller sized tracts of prairie during the last 8 years. The addition of Outdoor Heritage Funds will greatly increase our ability to protect larger tracts of native prairie throughout the 48 Minnesota Counties in the HPA.

How Will the Habitat Improvements Be Sustained?

Outdoor Heritage Funds will be used to purchase the land in fee title or purchase perpetual habitat easements. The land purchased will become units of the Northern Tallgrass Prairie NWR. Long term costs for restoration, management, and wildlife and habitat monitoring will be funded through annual refuge operations funding. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Habitat easements are perpetual and FWS managers will work with landowners to maintain and, where needed, restore the native prairie on each tract of land.

Revenue sharing payments (in lieu of taxes) will be made for all fee title lands in accordance with federal law. Habitat easement purchases do not impact property taxes as they remain the responsibility of the landowner.



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Accomplishment Plan
LOHC

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Lessard Outdoor Heritage Council

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**2009 Recommendation
Accomplishment Plan**

Project or Program Title: Minnesota Land Trust
Mississippi River Bluffland Prairie Protection Initiative

Date: March 11, 2009

Manager's Name: Jane Prohaska
Title: President and Executive Director
Mailing Address: 2356 University Avenue West, St. Paul, MN 55114
Telephone: 651.647.9590
Fax: 651.647.9769
E-Mail: jprohaska@mnland.org
Web Site: www.mnland.org

Funds Recommended (\$000s)	Council Recommendation Funding	Out-Year Projections of Needs		
	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013
Outdoor Heritage Fund	\$500,000	0	0	0

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This is an ongoing program of the Minnesota Land Trust but we do not know if we will request additional funding from the Outdoor Heritage Fund in coming years for protection work on other properties. We will fully complete all activities associated with the easements we accept under this funding with the funding available or with other funds available to the Land Trust.

Summary

Through our Mississippi River Blufflands Protection Initiative, the Land Trust will protect 300-500 acres of land in the blufflands region of southeastern Minnesota--an area that contains unique and ecologically important prairie, oak savanna and grassland habitat along with outstanding forested bluffs, woodlands, wetlands and cold water trout streams along the Mississippi River.

In order to protect these rare habitats from destruction by development or incompatible land use, we will work with willing sellers to complete 3-5 perpetual conservation easements on private lands. These easements prohibit those land uses or development that harm or

negatively affect important habitat values and will require habitat management plans as appropriate, ensuring that long term land management will maximize habitat values.

The Minnesota Land Trust works with donated easements whenever possible and purchases easements where necessary, typically at a bargain sale price. Through conservation easements, the Land Trust is able to protect land at a fraction of what it would cost to purchase the land outright in fee

Background

The Mississippi River Blufflands ecological subsection is identified in *Minnesota's Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy* as having the highest concentration of species in greatest conservation need in the entire State. This includes a high concentration of neo-tropical migrant birds and waterfowl, as well as reptiles, mammals, mollusks and insects. Many of these game and non-game species exist in part because of the rich tapestry of habitat types in the region—hardwood forests, floodplain wetlands, cold water streams—and the unique presence of bluff prairie, oak savanna and re-established grasslands.

This rich tapestry is threatened today by the destructive impacts of land fragmentation, bluff-top development and changes in agricultural practices. The Minnesota Land Trust has been engaged in the protection of the Blufflands for more than a decade, having preserved more than 6,000 acres of land through 42 projects, making it one of the organization's highest priorities.

The Land Trust has already secured the interest of 8 landowners in the area. These landowners collectively own more than 2,000 acres of land, including 300 acres of prairies or grassland habitat. In addition, the Land Trust has now has information on an additional 20 other landowners that DNR has identified and ranked as having *outstanding* prairie property. Specific activities proposed for funding under this grant include: further identifying and negotiating with these interested landowners, drafting and completing easements, documenting property conditions, and creating plans for and dedicating funds for the perpetual monitoring, management and enforcement of those easements.

The conservation easements the Land Trust will negotiate with each landowner will be specifically designed to protect the natural features and habitat values of that landowner's particular tract of land. The easement will limit commercial, industrial and residential development and division of the property, restrict inappropriate agricultural practices and require an approved land management plan to encourage proper management of the resource. In this working landscape, the Land Trust anticipated that it will need to purchase some easements to meet our goals. However, we have had great success with donated easements, particularly with the availability of expanded income tax benefits which are now in place but due to expire at the end of the calendar year.

The use of conservation easements to protect critical habitats is a widely-accepted practice which has demonstrated great results both in Minnesota and around the country. The Minnesota Land Trust has an effective track record of using easements in a similar capacity for almost 20 years, holding more conservation easements than any other private conservation organization in the state--making it one of the most experienced organizations working with this unique conservation tool.

The success of conservation easements requires an effective partnership with the private landowners. As such, the Land Trust has developed an effective conservation easement stewardship program to both *prevent* future impacts through encouraging voluntary compliance with the terms of the easement and to *enforce* and *defend* the easement in the unlikely case of an easement violation. The Minnesota Land Trust and conservation organizations around the country have recognized the great importance of substantially investing in stewardship activity. Our successful history of easement stewardship is one of the important factors which led to the Minnesota Land Trust being one of the first *accredited* land trusts in the country. Our proposal requests the funds necessary to make sure we can continue to meet our obligations with respect to easement acquired through this grant.

Though not required when working with private landowners on private land, the Minnesota Land Trust has a history of working closely with the local governments in the Blufflands. We have worked extensively with the City of Red Wing to help that community implement its own conservation plans. Many of our bluffland projects have been initiated at the City's request. Similarly, we have worked with the City of La Crescent to help the City establish local natural parks. We expect this pattern to continue and have established an office in Red Wing to cement our local presence and commitment to local issues.

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

The protection of prairie, oak savanna and grassland habitat is well supported or identified in several plans, including the Minnesota Conservation and Preservation Plan, Minnesota's Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy, the Minnesota County Biological Survey and the DNR's survey of existing native prairie.

In addition, the use of conservation easements is one of most established and effective means of permanently protecting these critical habitats, as many of them are located on private lands. This method of protection has also been recognized in the plans referred to above.

Budget

Budget Item	Fiscal Year 10	Fiscal Year 11	Fiscal Year 12
Personnel, including benefits	\$35,000		
Contracts			
Equipment/Tools/Supplies	\$2,000		
Fee Acquisition	N/A		
Easement Acquisition, including all costs and professional fees associated with negotiating and completing easements	\$395,000		

Easement Stewardship	\$65,000
Travel	\$3,000
Additional Budget Items	
TOTAL	\$500,000

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This is an estimated budget and actual expenditures may vary based upon the nature of the transactions of the specific projects completed. We hope to secure a number of donated easements, which require significant staff time and resources but little capital allowing us to protect land of significant value with relatively little investment of public moneys. This is a working landscape and so we do anticipate that we may need to purchase easements, hopefully at significant bargain sales. The acquisition costs identified are based upon previous experiences but will depend upon the specific projects completes. Easement stewardship costs are also estimated using the Land Trust's internal cost analysis but may vary depending upon the number and nature of the final projects completed. The Land Trust will only accept conservation easements under this proposal where we have the funds to fully meet our perpetual easement monitoring, management and enforcement responsibilities.

Personnel Details

Title	Name	Amount.
Conservation Staff		\$30,000
Staff Attorney		\$5,000

Our proposal contemplates covering the cost of the equivalent of approximately .5 FTE. This may be new staff hired for this project or may include portions of current staff not currently working full time. Other staff costs will be covered by other Minnesota Land Trust funds. This figure includes all related staff benefits.

Leverage

Source of Leverage	Fiscal Year 10	Fiscal Year 11	Fiscal Year 12
Contributions from foundations and private individuals	\$70,000		
Estimated donated value of conservation easements	\$450,000		

TOTAL	\$520,000			
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The value of donated easements is difficult to predict, but previous Land Trust experience indicates that we are likely to get much greater donated easement value, often as much as \$10 in value for each state dollar invested.

Accomplishments:

Table 1 Accomplishments	Wetlands	Prairies	Forests	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
Restore				
Protect		Complete 3-5 conservation easement protecting 300-500 acres of land containing remaining native prairie, oak savannah and related systems.		
Enhance				

Table 2 Recommend Fund Allocation	Wetlands	Prairies	Forests	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
Restore				
Protect		\$500,000		
Enhance				

Table 3 Counties Impacted	Wetlands	Prairies	Forests	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
Restore				
Protect		Winona Goodhue Houston Wabasha Fillmore Olmsted		
Enhance				

Table 4 Non-State Leverage \$				Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
	Wetlands	Prairies	Forests	
Restore				
Protect		\$520,000		
Enhance				

Table 5 Acquisition Data				Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
	Wetlands	Prairies	Forests	
Acquired in Fee with State PILT Liability				
Acquired in Fee without State PILT Liability				
Permanent Easement		300-500 acres of land with a collective easement value estimated at potentially \$775,000 or more (protecting land with fee value 30-60% higher)		

Accomplishment Time Table

Milestone	Date	Measure
Identify specific landowners with projects to be funded under this proposal.	September 30, 2009	List of at least Specific 3-5 landowners
Complete negotiations on 3 easements.	October 30, 2009	3 landowner commitments In hand
Complete negotiations any additional easements	December 31, 2009	2 or more landowner commitments in hand
Close on all easements, including completing baseline documentation and any other needed documents	June 30, 2010	300-500 acres under

easement

Complete conservation easement stewardship plans and dedicate funding in place June 30, 2010 All plans and funding to support plans

Relationship to Your Current Budget

The Minnesota Land Trust’s overall annual operational budget is approximately \$1,000,000, with capital expenditures to secure permanent conservation easements of almost \$400,000 in the last fiscal year. Most Minnesota Land Trust support is on an annual basis with no firm commitments for longer term funding. Public and private sources of funding are grant and donor dependent at the discretion of the funder.

While the Land Trust has an established program in the Blufflands for a number of years, it rarely has had sufficient capital or operating support necessary to effectively need the conservation needs of the region. Funding from the Outdoor Heritage Fund will allow the Land Trust to add staff capacity and capital to purchase conservation easements focused specifically on the prairie and grassland complexes of the southeast, expenses not completely covered by the next fiscal year budget.

How Will the Habitat Improvements Be Sustained?

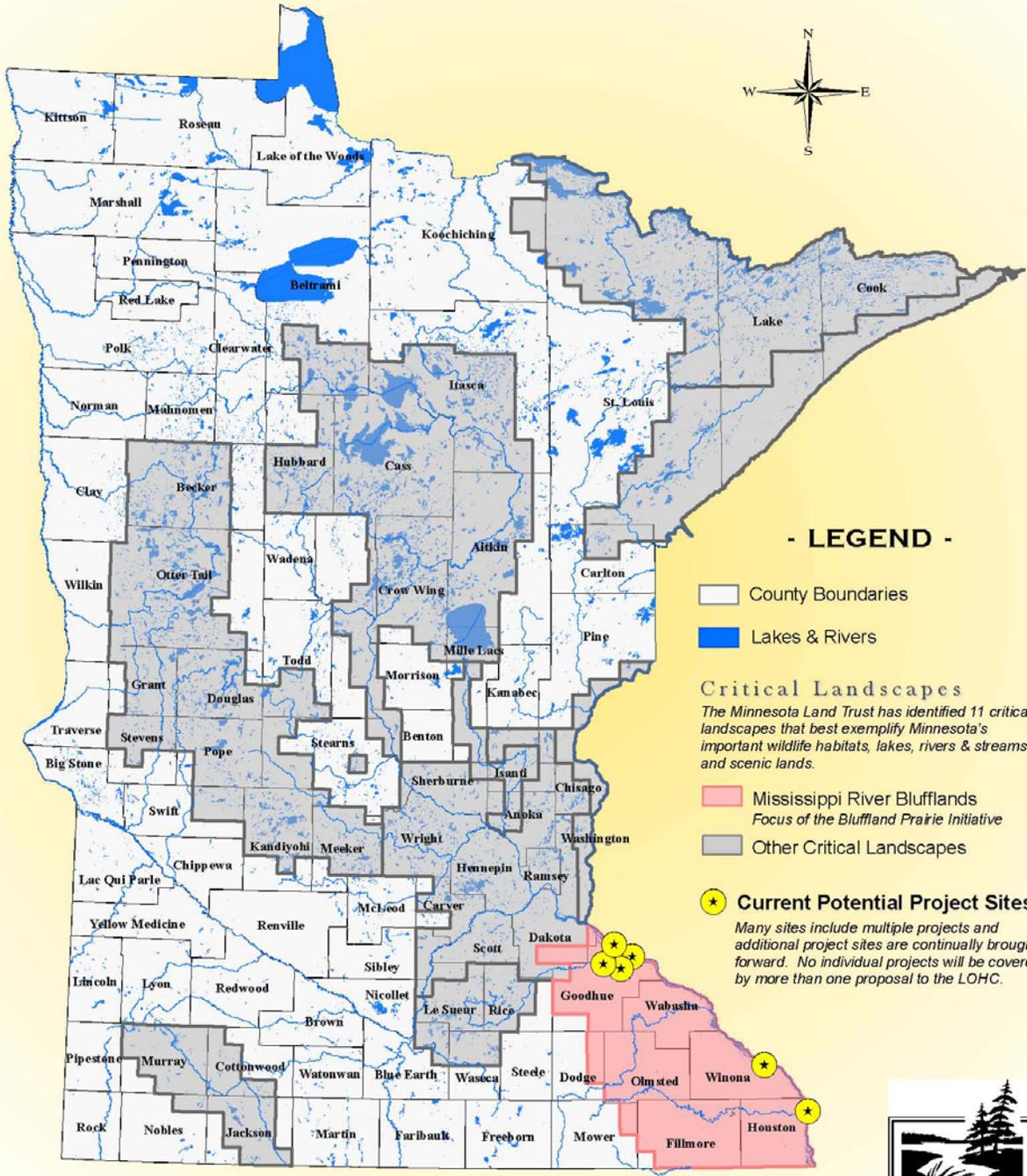
The land protected will be sustained through the best standards and practices for conservation easement stewardship. Funding for easement stewardship is included in the budget as outlined above. Minnesota Land Trust’s conservation easement stewardship program includes annual property monitoring, effective records management, addressing inquiries and interpretations, tracking changes in ownership, investigating potential violations and aggressively defending in the easement in the case of a real violation.

Attachments:

- List of Potential Project Site*
- Map with Locations of Potential Project Sites*

MINNESOTA LAND TRUST

Bluffland Prairie Protection Initiative



- LEGEND -

-  County Boundaries
 -  Lakes & Rivers
- Critical Landscapes**
The Minnesota Land Trust has identified 11 critical landscapes that best exemplify Minnesota's important wildlife habitats, lakes, rivers & streams and scenic lands.
-  Mississippi River Blufflands
Focus of the Bluffland Prairie Initiative
 -  Other Critical Landscapes
-  **Current Potential Project Sites**
Many sites include multiple projects and additional project sites are continually brought forward. No individual projects will be covered by more than one proposal to the LOHC.



Lessard Outdoor Heritage Council

2009 Recommendation

Accomplishment Plan

Project or Program Title: Prairie Heritage Fund Acquisition and Restoration

Date: 03/12/09

Manager's Name: Matt Holland

Title: Sr. Field Coordinator

Mailing Address: 679 West River Drive, New London, MN 56273

Telephone: 320-354-4377

Fax: 320-354-4377

E-Mail: mholland@pheasantsforever.org

Web Site: www.pheasantsforever.org ; www.minnesotapf.org

Funds Recommended (\$000s)	Council Recommendation Funding	Out-Year Projections of Needs		
	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013
Outdoor Heritage Fund	3,000,000	0	0	0

Summary: The Prairie Heritage Fund proposal will acquire 1,100 acres of state wildlife management areas (WMA) or federal waterfowl production areas (WPA) to enhance grassland and prairie habitat and provide public recreation opportunities for the citizens of Minnesota. In addition, PF restore an additional 1,500 acres of grassland habitat on permanently protected lands (WPA's or WMA's).

Background

Working with 76 local chapters and 26,000 members across the state of Minnesota, PF will acquire 1,100 acres of public land (WMA's or WPA's) to enhance grassland and prairie habitat and provide public recreation opportunities for the citizens of Minnesota. All projects are additions to existing WMA's or WPA's or have a direct connection to resources in the public trust (e.g. designated wildlife lakeshore). Purchase will be from willing sellers. Priority will be placed on remnant native prairie and tracts that provide significant grassland habitat protection and restoration. PF has currently identified 19 active projects consisting of 2,300 acres in eleven counties.

Less than 1% of Minnesota's native prairie remains, and grassland habitat losses are cited as the primary reason for population declines of breeding waterfowl, grassland birds, and other wildlife species. In this proposal, PF (with many partners assisting & in cooperation with the long-term stewards of the land – either DNR or USFWS) will acquire and permanently protect 1,100 acres of grasslands. In addition, PF will restore 1,500 acres of grassland habitat (much of this will be initial restoration on the acreage acquired within this proposal). All projects are building upon past investments in public or private land habitat conservation and seek to build functional habitat complexes for Minnesota's suite of grassland wildlife. Most of the work will involve restoring marginal croplands to grasslands with at least 15 species of grasses and forbs chosen to fit individual sites. Restoration activities include but are not limited to site preparation, herbicide application, seed purchase, planting, clipping. Wetland restoration is also considered part of our prairie system and will be considered under this proposal.

Pheasants Forever will work with guidance provided by LOHC to properly expend & acquire grassland habitats.

Relationship to the *Minnesota Conservation and Preservation Plan* and Other Published Resource Management Plans:

The *Minnesota Conservation and Preservation Plan* calls for protecting priority lands and this proposal will protect and restore priority grassland habitats important to grassland birds as well as the myriad species that call grasslands home. This proposal will also implement the following habitat recommendations within the plan:

3. Protect priority land habitats – this proposal contains priority grassland habitats important to pheasants, waterfowl, grassland and wetland birds as well as the myriad species that call grasslands home. Native remnant prairie tracts will receive priority.
4. Protect critical shorelands of rivers and lakes – there are potential projects that will protect shoreline of shallow lakes contained within this proposal.
5. Improve connectivity and access to outdoor recreation - All lands acquired and restored will be open to the public for hunting and other activities allowed under the WMA or WPA systems.
6. Restore and protect shallow lakes - there are potential projects that include protection of shallow lakes shoreline contained within this proposal.
7. Restore land, wetlands and wetland-associated watersheds – this proposal protects and restores grasslands (likely wetlands too as you cannot separate the two in much of prairie region of Minnesota). A majority of the lands purchased will be prior-converted.
8. Keep water on the landscape – by protecting and restoring grasslands, the work of this proposal will help keep water on the landscape through permanent vegetation restoration and permanent wetland restoration.

Minnesota DNR Long-range plan for the ring-necked pheasant in Minnesota cites secure, undisturbed nesting cover as a primary limiting factor for pheasant populations. This proposal contributes 1,100 acres to the plan goal of restoring 1,560,000 acres of habitat (grassland and wetland) within the pheasant range of Minnesota.

Minnesota DNR *Long-range Duck Recovery Plan* has priority goals for long term protection and restoration of wetland and grassland habitat for duck production. This proposal will contribute 1,100-acres to the 2,000,000 acre goal set under the plan. Specifically it will permanently protect and/or restore wetlands towards the 600,000-acre wetland goal and permanently protect and/or restore grasslands towards the 1,400,000-acre grassland goal

This proposal contributes to the North American Waterfowl Management Plan by contributing 1,100 acres of breeding habitat (grasslands and wetlands) to the 11.8 million acres goal to restore continental waterfowl populations. Most of the work proposed will occur within the Prairie Pothole Joint Venture which is recognized as a national priority for wetland and grassland habitat and breeding waterfowl and grassland bird species.

Budget

Budget Item	Fiscal Year 10	Fiscal Year 11*	Fiscal Year 12
Personnel	57,500		
Contracts	450,000		
Fee Acquisition	2,492,500		
TOTAL	3,000,000		

*PF recognizes that there are variables not under our control that may delay acquisition (sellers, process, title issues, etc) and restoration (e.g. weather and timing of acquisition) projects and would request the flexibility to go into FY11 to accomplish the goals laid out in this proposal.

Personnel Details

Title	Name	Amount.
Director of Conservation Programs		\$ 57,500

Leverage:

Source of Leverage	Fiscal Year 10	Fiscal Year 11**	Fiscal Year 12
Pheasants Forever*	725,000		
TOTAL	725,000		

*Pheasants Forever brings a \$725,000 non-state match commitment to this proposal. This includes but is not limited to: Pheasants Forever funding (documented project dollars, staff expense, administrative expenses, etc.), North American Wetlands Conservation Act funding, local partner funding (PF often works with multiple local partners to achieve projects and would include all important partnership contributions that realize projects under this LOHC effort.), and documented donations of land value.

** PF recognizes that there are variables not under our control that may delay acquisition (sellers, process, title issues, etc) and restoration (e.g. weather and timing of acquisition) projects and would request the flexibility to go into FY11 to accomplish the goals laid out in this proposal.

Accomplishments:

Table 1 Accomplishments	Wetlands	Prairies	Forests	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
Restore	Wetlands are not the focus of this proposal, but we will restore wetlands acquired to their fullest extent.	Restore 1,400 acres of quality grassland habitat attractive to pheasants, waterfowl and grassland species.		All of our restoration work will provide quality habitat for numerous game species.
Protect	Wetlands are not the focus of this proposal, but we will protect wetland basins acquired.	Protect 1,100 acres of grasslands. This will include wetland acres, but our focus is grassland habitat.		All protection work will provide quality habitat for numerous game species.

Table 2 Recommend Fund Allocation	Wetlands	Prairies*	Forests	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
Restore		\$507,500		
Protect		\$2,492,500		

*It is understood that the focus of this proposal is grassland habitat, but that wetlands, riparian habitat, and forested habitat as it occurs on the landscape in conjunction with grassland protection will be included.

Table 3 Counties Impacted*				Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
	Wetlands	Prairies	Forests	
Restore		All counties within the pheasant range. Projects have been identified in the following: Brown, Chippewa, Dakota, Goodhue, Faribault, Freeborn, McLeod, Mower, Pipestone, Pope, Renville, Rock, Traverse, Waseca, Watonwan		
Protect		All counties within the pheasant range. Projects have been identified in the following: Brown, Chippewa, Dakota, Goodhue, Faribault, Freeborn, McLeod, Mower, Pipestone, Pope, Renville, Rock, Traverse, Waseca, Watonwan		

*Pheasants Forever has identified potential projects, but reserve the right to add high priority, quality sites as they become available and contribute to the fish & wildlife habitat goals of this proposal.

Table 4 Non-State Leverage \$				Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
	Wetlands	Prairies	Forests	
Restore		\$ 75,000		
Protect		\$650,000		

Table 5 Acquisition Data				Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
	Wetlands	Prairies	Forests	
Acquired in Fee with State PILT Liability		1,100 acres for \$3,242,500 *		
Acquired in Fee without State PILT Liability		Potential for some acres above to be moved here if WPA is acquired		

*The focus of this proposal is state Wildlife Management Area acquisition; however acquisition of Waterfowl Production Areas could occur if a priority parcel is identified. Restoration work can occur on both WMA's and WPA's.

Accomplishment Time Table

Milestone	Date	Measure
Identify priority acquisitions	July 1, 2009 - Ongoing	18 Identified Projects
Identify priority restorations	July 1, 2009 – Ongoing	8 Identified projects
Contract appraisals ordered	September 2009	12 appraisals ordered
Complete initial grassland restoration	August, 2009 –Ongoing	1,500 acres
Purchase agreements	January 2010	4 signed
Contract appraisals ordered	January 2010	5 appraisals ordered
Purchase agreements	May 2010	4 signed
Closing	June 2010	1,100 acres protected

Relationship to Your Current Budget

Outdoor Heritage Fund monies will accelerate PF's acquisition and restoration capacity and accomplishments. PF plans to hire additional staff to assist in building our capacity in an efficient and effective manner that provides for additional habitat to be protected, restored and enhanced. PF has engaged its local chapter network in project development, raising funds for staff (capacity), and raising funds for habitat projects in conjunction with this proposal.

How Will the Habitat Improvements Be Sustained?

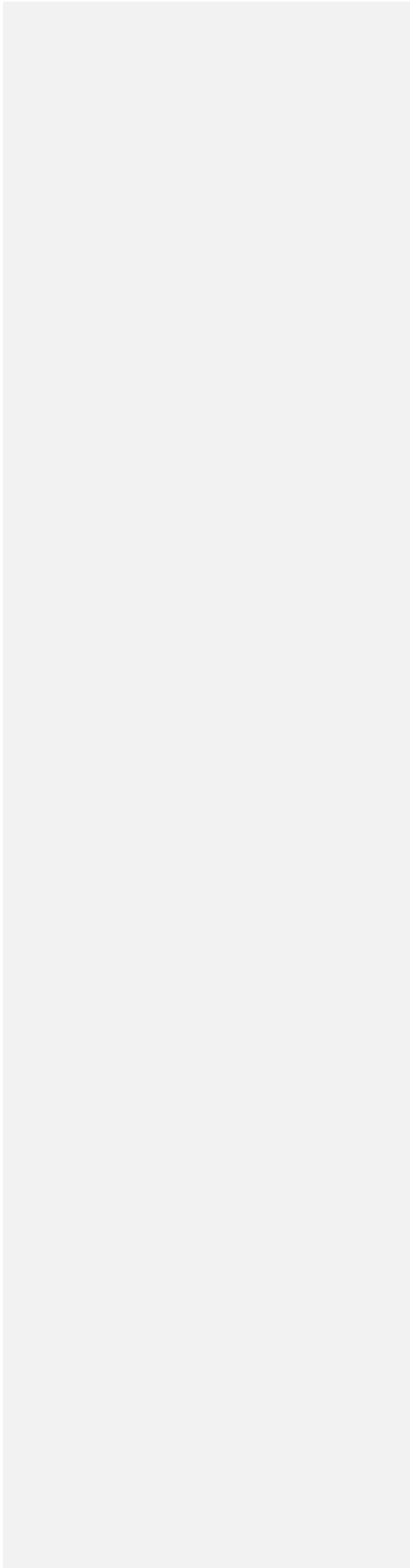
Acquired property will be enrolled into the state Wildlife Management Area System and management, taxes and upkeep would be the responsibility of the DNR division of fish and wildlife. Pheasants Forever has a 27-year history of working with DNR land managers to restore, enhance and maintain high quality habitat on our state WMA's and will continue to do so.

Please see the project list and map below for further information.

POTENTIAL ACQUISITION PROJECTS

Project Name	County
Winter WMA Addition	Pipestone
Bashaw WMA Addition	Brown
Rock River WMA Addition	Rock
Dean Christensen WMA Addition	Faribault
Rice Lake WMA	Faribault
Roscoe WMA Addition	Goodhue
Younger Brothers WMA Addition	Watsonwan
Ras-Lyn WMA	McLeod
Dysband WMA	Renville
Warsaw WMA Tract 2	Goodhue
Warsaw WMA Tract 3	Goodhue
Phasianus WMA Addition	McLeod
Panicum Prairie WMA Addition	Freeborn
Panicum Prairie WMA Addition	Freeborn
Roscoe WMA Addition	Goodhue
Milan WMA Addition	Chippewa
Benderberg WMA Addition	Chippewa
Mill Pond WMA Addition	Mower
Phare Lake WPA Addition	Renville
Barber Lake WPA Addition	McLeod

POTENTIAL RESTORATION PROJECTS



Vermillion River WMA	Dakota
Benderberg WMA	Chippewa
Geyer - Morris WMD	Traverse
Rustad Slough - Morris WMD	Pope
Norkunas	Dakota
Waseca #1	Waseca
Kaufmann (WPA)	Sibley

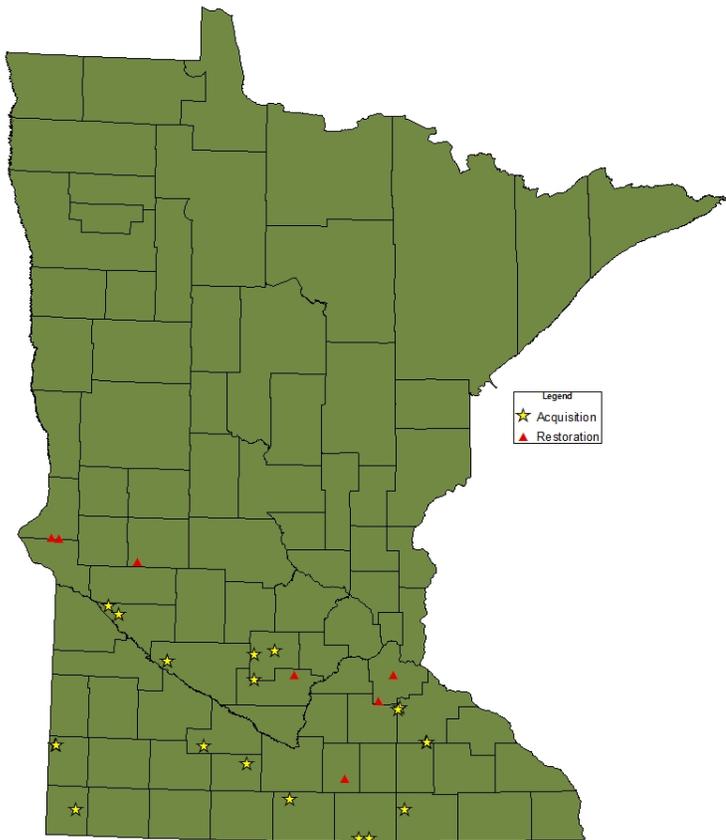


Prairie Heritage Fund

Grassland Acquisition & Restoration

Active Project Location Map as of 3/12/09

Pheasants Forever, Inc.



All acquisitions & restorations are to occur with WMA's or WPA's. Additional projects will be added as they become active and available.

**Lessard Outdoor Heritage Council
2009 Recommendation
Accomplishment Plan**

Project or Program Title: Rum River/Cedar Creek Conservation Area

Date: 03/11/09

Manager's Name: John VonDeLinde

Title: Director

**Mailing Address: Anoka County Parks and Recreation
550 Bunker Lake Blvd., NW, Andover, MN 55304**

Telephone: 763-767-2860

Fax: 763-755-0230

E-Mail: john.vondelinde@co.anoka.mn.us

Web Site: www.anokacountyparks.com

Funds Recommended (\$000s)	Council Recommendation Funding	Out-Year Projections of Needs		
	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013
Outdoor Heritage Fund	1,900	1,900	0	0

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Summary

This project will acquire and restore 550 acres of prairie, wetland, forest and shoreline habitat for fish, game and wildlife along the Rum River and Cedar Creek in the cities of Oak Grove and Andover and will provide additional opportunities for public fishing, hunting and wildlife conservation.

Background

Problem Addressed:

The problem this acquisition project addresses is the urgent need to protect and enhance 550 acres of land that will provide an excellent conservation area along the Rum River and Cedar Creek. The proposed acquisition parcels are currently owned by a development group planning

to sell the land for residential construction. The acquisition and protection of these parcels is of utmost concern, because without immediate action, this opportunity could be permanently lost. By acquiring this land, the LOHC has an excellent opportunity to increase and enhance the biological diversity in the area, as well as create additional hunting and fishing opportunities in the region.

Action Plan:

Once funding is appropriated, Anoka County would start the acquisition process immediately. Appraisals have been conducted and negotiations are underway with the seller for the purchase of 275 acres in 2010 and the remaining 275 acres in 2011 as proposed in the Lessard Outdoor Heritage Council recommendations.

Relation to LOHC Goals:

This acquisition project relates directly to the “restore, protect and enhance habitat” provisions outlined in the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Program. First, upon acquisition, the land will be protected by being under County ownership. Second, after acquisition, the County proposes to restore approximately 250 acres of the 550 acres to a prairie/grassland habitat. Restoring and enhancing the land back to a prairie/grassland habitat will help provide the necessary biological diversity needed to support game populations, such as ring-neck pheasants, ruffed grouse, wild turkeys, white tail deer, wood ducks and mallards and furbearers.

Habitat Changes:

Existing non-agricultural land on the site is recognized by the MNDNR as a high quality ecologically diverse corridor along two major greenways, the Rum River and Cedar Creek. With the acquisition, this corridor would be protected and enhanced to increase the number of species and increase the ease with which they move through this corridor.

After acquisition, County proposes to restore approximately 250 acres of the 550 acres to a prairie/grassland habitat. The ecological restoration plan will include restoring the forests, wetland and prairies. Restoration work will include introducing over 30 species of native grasses, sedges, and forbs to restore the mosaic of dry, mesic and wet prairie habitats. In addition, the existing high quality fens, wet meadows, shrub swamps and oak savannas will be managed to sustain their high quality value. Restoring and enhancing the land back to its native habitat will help provide the necessary biological diversity needed to support a diverse variety of wildlife.

The acquisition of these parcels will protect 550 acres of habitat at the confluence of the Rum River and Cedar Creek. There is approximately 1-1/2 miles of shoreline along the Rum River and about 3/4 of a mile of the Cedar Creek that runs through the property. The Rum River provides angling access opportunities for some of the most sought after game fish, such as walleye, northern pike, and small mouth bass; the river provides exceptional fisheries habitat for these game fish. As future funding is available, restoration of the flood plain and riparian edges along the Rum River and Cedar Creek will enhance habitat and cover for all migratory waterfowl species, white tail deer and wild turkeys.

Schedule:

Restoration work would start as soon after acquisition as funding allows. The majority of the restoration work is anticipated to be completed within three years of acquisition. Restoration monitoring and maintenance will be provided on an on-going basis.

Strategy:

The strategy for this project will work because the Anoka County Parks and Recreation Department is a governmental agency that currently manages a large natural resource based parks and open space system throughout the County. The County has the budget, equipment and staff with the expertise to manage this project and the on-going maintenance required. In addition, it has the support of the Anoka County Board of Commissioners and the local communities.

Support:

The Anoka County Board of Commissioners unanimously supports this project. The Andover City Council has written a letter of support for the acquisition. The Oak Grove City Council concurs with the County’s plans to proceed with funding requests for the acquisition. Strong support in favor of the project has been expressed by area residents. There are no known barriers to the success of this project.

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

The project area is identified in the Minnesota Conservation and Preservation Plan as a site of high biodiversity value based on the Minnesota County Biological Survey. In addition, the project area scored high in the areas of integrated terrestrial value and integrated aquatic habitat quality.

This project is supported by the Andover Comprehensive Plan; Oak Grove Parks and Open Space Plan; Cedar Creek Conservation Corridor Strategic Plan; Metropolitan Conservation Corridors Plan; Anoka County Comprehensive Open Space Plan; Anoka Conservation District Open Space Plan.

Budget

Budget Item	Fiscal Year 10	Fiscal Year 11	Fiscal Year 12
Personnel			
Contracts			
Equipment/Tools/Supplies			
Fee Acquisition	1,900,000	1,900,000	
Easement Acquisition			
Easement Stewardship			
Travel			
Additional Budget Items			

TOTAL	1,900,000	1,900,000
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Personnel Details	Name	Amount.
<i>N/A</i>		

Leverage	Fiscal Year 10	Fiscal Year 11	Fiscal Year 12
Source of Leverage			
County In-Kind (Acquisition)	\$15,000	\$15,000	
County In-Kind (Restoration)	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$100,000
TOTAL	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$100,000

Accomplishments:

Table 1 Accomplishments	Wetlands	Prairies	Forests	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
Restore				
Protect	Protect 150 acres of wetland.	Protect 250 acres of restored prairie	Protect 150 acres of riparian and upland forests	Protect 2.25 miles of shoreline along Cedar Creek and Rum River
Enhance				

Table 2 Recommend Fund Allocation	Wetlands	Prairies	Forests	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife

Restore Protect Enhance				
	\$850,000	\$1,600,000	\$850,000	\$500,000
Table 3 Counties Impacted	Wetlands	Prairies	Forests	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
Restore				
Protect	Anoka	Anoka	Anoka	Anoka
Enhance				

Table 4 Non-State Leverage \$	Wetlands	Prairies	Forests	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
	Restore	\$15,000		\$5,000
	Protect	\$6,500	\$13,000	\$6,500
Enhance				

Table 5 Acquisition Data	Wetlands	Prairies	Forests	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
	Acquired in Fee with State PILT Liability			
	Acquired in Fee without State PILT Liability	150 acres for \$850,000	250 acres for \$1,600,000	150 acres for \$850,000
Permanent Easement				

Accomplishment Time Table

Milestone	Date	Measure
Acquire 275 acres for protection	Jan. 31, 2010	275 acres
Acquire 275 acres for protection	Jan 31, 2011	275 acres

Relationship to Your Current Budget

Acquisition of these parcels will be provided through LOHC funding. This is new funding and does not supplant existing funding. This project is not in any current funding program or C.I.P. Continued operations and maintenance of the parcels will be supported through the Anoka County Parks and Recreation Annual Operating Budget.

How Will the Habitat Improvements Be Sustained?

On-going operations and maintenance of the land and restoration will be sustained following the Anoka County Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Natural Resource Management Plan and will be supported through the annual Operations and Maintenance Budget for the Parks and Recreation Department. As a government agency, Anoka County is tax-exempt, therefore long term costs, such as property taxes will not be an issue. ▲

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Attach:

***A list of your projects showing their county location and
On the attached eight and a half by eleven map of Minnesota show counties
each project as a dot.***



95
 Accomplishment Plan
 LOHC

6)

Lessard Outdoor Heritage Council

**2009 Recommendation
Accomplishment Plan**

Project or Program Title: Accelerated Prairie Grassland WMA Acquisition
(P9)

Date: March 11, 2009

Manager's Name: Dennis Simon
Title: DNR Wildlife Management Section Chief
Mailing Address: Box 20, 500 Lafayette Road, St. Paul, MN 55155
Telephone: (651) 259-5237 cell: (612) 390-3677
Fax: (651) 297-4961
E-Mail: dennis.simon@dnr.state.mn.us
Web Site: www.dnr.state.mn.us

Funds Recommended (\$000s)	Council Recommendation Funding FY 2010	Out-Year Projections of Needs		
		FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013
Outdoor Heritage Fund	3,913,000	5,000,000	5,000,000	5,000,000

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Summary : Our program will protect 800 acres of new wildlife habitat in the Prairie, Deciduous Transition, and Southeast Bluffland ecological sections of Minnesota through fee title acquisition. Title of all lands acquired will be held by the State and designated as Wildlife Management Area open to hunting, trapping, fishing and compatible outdoor recreation uses.

Background

Minnesota has lost 99% of the original prairie landscape resulting in drastic declines in grassland dependant wildlife. Examples of species in greatest conservation need in the prairie include American Badger, Grasshopper Sparrow, Northern Pintail, Bobolink and Eastern Meadowlark. Prairie grasslands support populations of upland game birds such as pheasants, prairie chickens and sharp-tailed grouse and a variety of dabbling ducks when associated with prairie wetland complexes. These game populations drive local and statewide hunting recreation and economy. The DNR will acquire converted and degraded lands in the prairie, transition moraine, and bluffland ecological sections over the next two years and restore the grassland complexes by planting native prairie. DNR will prioritize acquisitions at sites where there is an existing habitat base in prairie grassland complexes to address habitat fragmentation and to maximize habitat benefits. Project lists will change, as new parcels become available and as previously included projects become unavailable. Collaborative partnerships will be

promoted in order to acquire key lands. DNR will work with and seek a resolution from the County Board of Commissioners approving all WMA acquisitions.

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 and further states that the prairie regions have experienced the greatest amount of habitat loss of any region.

Minnesota’s Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy for species in greatest conservation need has identified 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 the prairie regions.

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 of which 70% will be grassland in the prairie ecoregion.

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 494,000 acres WMA in the prairie and transition regions over the next 50 years.

Budget

Budget Item	Fiscal Year 10	Fiscal Year 11	Fiscal Year 12
Personnel			
Contracts	15,000	5,000	
Equipment/Tools/Supplies			
Fee Acquisition	3,281,600	500,000	
Easement Acquisition			
Easement Stewardship			
Travel			
Additional Budget Items	96,400	15,000	
TOTAL	3,393,000	520,000	

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Table 4 Non-State Leverage \$				Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
	Wetlands	Prairies	Forests	
Restore				
Protect				
Enhance				

Table 5 Acquisition Data				Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
	Wetlands	Prairies	Forests	
Acquired in Fee with State PILT Liability	160 acres for \$782,600	640 acres for \$3,025,600		
Acquired in Fee without State PILT Liability				
Permanent Easement				

Accomplishment Time Table

Milestone	Date	Measure
Purchase WMA land	June 30, 2010	680 acres
Purchase WMA land	Dec. 31, 2010	120 acres

Relationship to Your Current Budget

The DNR Section of Wildlife supports the WMA acquisition program with 1 FTE permanent program coordinator funded by Game and Fish funds. Annual base funding for traditional fee title acquisition includes \$895,000 in Small Game Surcharge that purchases about 300 acres annually. Additional WMA acquisition funding sources vary from year to year and include on average \$1,800,000 in RIM Critical Habitat License Plate match and \$125,000 from the North American Wetlands Conservation Act per year. These funds acquire an average of 650 acres per year. Our proposal would accelerate land acquisition by an additional 800 acres over two years.

How Will the Habitat Improvements Be Sustained?

Lands acquired under this program will be designated as State Wildlife Management Areas under authority of the Outdoor Recreation Act of 1978 and managed in perpetuity with DNR Game and Fish funds. Payment of in-lieu of tax payments are made to the counties from biennial appropriations by the Legislature from the general fund.

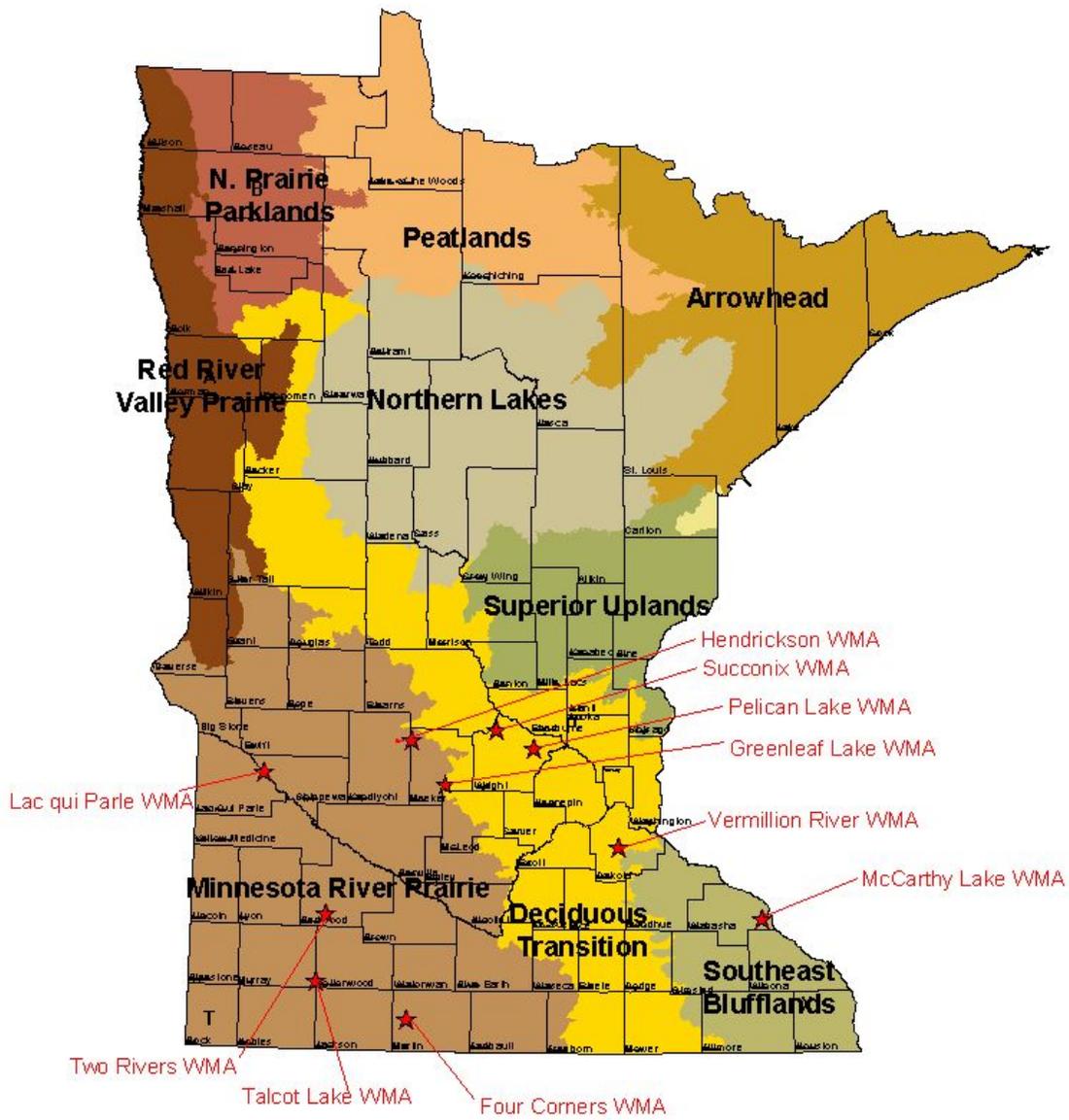
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***A list of your projects showing their county location and
On the attached eight and a half by eleven map of Minnesota show
counties each project as a dot.***

County	WMA Name	Estimated Cost	Acres
Wright	Pelican Lake WMA	\$2,600,000.00	260
Meeker	Greenleaf Lake WMA	\$500,000.00	119
Dakota	Vermillion River WMA	\$3,000,000.00	352
Wabasha	McCarthy Lake WMA	\$1,500,000.00	500
Martin	Four Corners WMA	\$750,000.00	161
Wright	Suconnix WMA	\$600,000.00	123
Redwood	Two Rivers WMA	\$600,000.00	274
Meeker	Hendrickson Estate WMA	\$814,000.00	240
Cottonwood	Talcot Lake WMA	\$119,000.00	24
Cottonwood	Talcot Lake WMA	\$150,000.00	6
Cottonwood	Talcot Lake WMA	\$150,000.00	51
Cottonwood	Talcot Lake WMA	\$460,000.00	115
Chippewa	Lac qui Parle WMA	\$400,000.00	27
Freeborn	Magaksica WMA	\$50,000.00	8
Big Stone	Prairie WMA	\$40,000.00	22
Big Stone	Gibson WMA	\$190,000.00	190
Brown	Bashaw WMA	\$550,000.00	220
Clay	Barnesville WMA	\$100,000.00	80

Clay	Barnesville WMA	\$300,000.00	240
Goodhue	Warsaw WMA	\$50,000.00	21
Kandiyohi	Yohi WMA	\$478,000.00	106
Lac Qui Parle	Baxter WMA	\$200,000.00	80
Lac Qui Parle	Sweetwater WMA	\$128,000.00	64
Lac Qui Parle	Schueller WMA	\$70,000.00	33
LeSueur	Murphy WMA	\$75,000.00	12
Lincoln	Archerville WMA	\$297,000.00	99
Lincoln	New	\$271,200.00	160
Lyon	Clifton WMA	\$538,000.00	134
Lyon	Coon Creek WMA	\$155,200.00	47
Lyon	Garvin WMA	\$567,187.00	151
Lyon	New	\$664,800.00	222
McLeod	Hepner WMA	\$280,000.00	80
Mower	Cartney WMA	\$25,500.00	8
Mower	Ramsey Mill Pond WMA	\$387,000.00	129
Nicollet	Swan Lake WMA	\$400,000.00	100
Renville	Dybsand WMA	\$100,000.00	50
Stearns	L. Daniel Frenzel WMA	\$480,000.00	160
Swift	Jossart WMA	\$276,000.00	120
Yellow Medicine	Middle Antelope Valley	\$560,000.00	160
Yellow Medicine	Middle Antelope Valley WMA	\$560,000.00	160
Yellow Medicine	Sioux Nation WMA	\$915,860.00	398

Yellow Medicine	NEW - Nothem	\$302,800.00	151
Yellow Medicine	Spring Creek WMA	\$520,000.00	160



Lessard Outdoor Heritage Council

**2009 Recommendation
Accomplishment Plan**

Project or Program Title: Accelerated Shallow Lake Enhancements & Easements

Date: March 12, 2009

Manager's Name: Jon Schneider
Title: Manager, Minnesota Conservation Programs
Mailing Address: 311 East Lake Geneva Road NE, Alexandria, MN 56308
Telephone: 320.762.9916
Fax: 320.759.1567
E-Mail: jschneider@ducks.org
Web Site: www.ducks.org

Funds Recommended (\$000s)	Council Recommendation Funding	Out-Year Projections of Needs		
	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013
Outdoor Heritage Fund	\$2,528,000	\$3,000,000	\$4,000,000	\$5,000,000

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Summary: Ducks Unlimited's "Living Lakes" conservation program will accelerate the improvement and protection of shallow lakes and large wetland habitat critical to migratory waterfowl and other wildlife in Minnesota by improving water quality and rejuvenating aquatic ecology in turbid shallow lake basins. DU will enhance eight (8) or more strategically-selected shallow lakes that have been legally designated by for wildlife management purposes by Minnesota DNR that total 6,000 wetland acres by engineering and implementing construction of water control structures, pumps, and fish barriers on their outlets. These structures will provide the Minnesota DNR and US Fish & Wildlife Service with water level control capability to conduct temporary, periodic draw-downs that will improve wetland habitat quality. DU will also engineer two or more additional shallow lake improvement projects for future implementation 2010 and 2011. As approved by the Council, DU will also use up to \$400,000 in grant funding to secure permanent conservation easement(s) on 180 acres on one or more shallow lake to protect shoreland and help buffer basins important to waterfowl.

Background: Shallow lakes and large wetlands throughout Minnesota have become degraded due to high, stable water levels, altered natural hydrology, lack of natural fish winterkill, and invasive animal and plant species. Through our Living Lakes Initiative, DU

provides wetland bio-engineering assistance to help the Minnesota DNR and US Fish & Wildlife Service structurally improve shallow lakes outlets and enhance the habitat quality of wetlands throughout Minnesota. DU will implement 8 shallow lake projects previously engineered that will enhance nearly 6,000 acres of wetland habitat, and will complete final engineering plans on several additional projects for future implementation. The implementation of these 8 projects constitute the immediate backlog of complex shallow lake and large wetland water control structure and/or fish barrier projects previously engineered by DU for DNR and the Service. Structures will be constructed by private contractors hired by DU in fall 2009 (through competitive bid process) on public land or on private land under permanent easement with DNR or the Service, and structures will be subsequently used in 2010 by state or federal land management staff to conduct temporary draw-downs to improve shallow lake ecology and habitat for waterfowl and other migratory birds by reducing invasive fish and rejuvenating aquatic plants and invertebrates. DU staff will provide final engineering and construction management oversight throughout the construction process, and will solicit competitive bids and award construction contracts to private firms to implement the projects. Basins will be slowly reflooded in 2011 or 2012 once aquatic plants become reestablished. This periodic, temporary water level "draw-down" management process simulates natural drought conditions that are vital to rejuvenating aquatic ecology in wetlands, and is routinely used by DNR and the Service. Support from private landowners and other stakeholders such as local sportsmen groups is secured in advance of project implementation through the DNR's wildlife lake designation process and lake management plan development process.

This grant will also fund DU bio-engineering staff that will assess turbid shallow lakes and develop new engineering plans for additional projects that can be implemented in the future. This will include all aspects of engineering (survey, design, plans and specifications), assisting state and federal agencies in assessing basins and securing structure or flowage easements from private landowners, permits, and assisting the legal "wildlife lake" designation process required to allow active water level management of additional shallow lakes. Funds to construct these additional shallow lake projects engineered through this grant will be subsequently requested from the LOHC in the future.

DU will also use up to \$400,000 in grant funds to secure permanent conservation easements on 180 acres along a managed shallow lake to protect it's shoreland, including making 80 acres of restored prairie habitat now in CRP permanent. These easements will be held and annually monitored by DU. Long-term conservation easement stewardship funding will be provided by these grant funds, through donation from the private landowner to ensure future monitoring and management of lands protected under permanent easement. Conservation easements will protect sensitive shallow lake shoreland buffers, and limit future development and subdivision activities that can disrupt shallow lakes and complicate shallow lake water level management by agencies.

Relationship to the *Minnesota Conservation and Preservation Plan* and Other Published Resource Management Plans:

This work supports the shallow lake and wetland priority conservation goals outlined in the *Minnesota Conservation and Preservation Plan*, and the shallow lake priorities in Minnesota's *Long-term Duck Recovery Plan* that calls for the improvement of 1,800 shallow lakes throughout Minnesota. Specifically, in pages 78-79 of the *Minnesota Conservation and Preservation Plan* under the "Land and Water Restoration" section of the habitat recommendation, item number 4 advises the need for acceleration of efforts to restore and improve shallow lake habitat to

reduce the number of lakes in a turbid-water state as well as the purchase of conservation easements to prevent development. These actions will benefit several species of greatest conservation need including black terns (*Chlidonias niger*) and lesser scaup (*Athya marila*).

Budget:

Budget Item	Fiscal Year 10	Fiscal Year 11	Fiscal Year 12
Personnel	\$ 226,000	\$ 40,000	
Contracts	\$ 1,800,000	\$ 225,000	
Equipment/Tools/Supplies			
Fee Acquisition			
Easement Acquisition	\$ 213,000		
Easement Stewardship	(private landowner donation)		
Travel	\$ 21,000	\$ 3,000	
Additional Budget Items			
TOTAL	\$ 2,260,000	\$ 268,000	

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Personnel Details:

Title	Name	Amount
Conservation Program Mgr.	Jon Schneider	\$ 10,000
Shallow Lakes Biologist	Josh Kavanagh	\$ 21,000
Land Protection Specialist	Robert Usgaard	\$ 5,000
Senior Regional Engineer	Doug Lipetzky	\$ 90,000
Regional Engineer	Jim Streifel	\$ 40,000
Senior Engineering Technician	Deb Knudson	\$ 5,000
Engineering Technician	Darin Will	\$ 5,000
Construction Management Sup.	Brad Karel	\$ 50,000
Construction Manager	Matt Olson	\$ 25,000
Construction Manager	Tom Ekroth	\$ 5,000
Construction Manager	Les Morgenstern	\$ 5,000
Chief Surveyor	Greg Johnson	\$ 5,000
	TOTAL:	\$266,000

Leverage (non-state):

Source of Leverage	Fiscal Year 10	Fiscal Year 11	Fiscal Year 12
North American Wetlands Conservation Council (NAWCA)	\$ 400,000		
Ducks Unlimited	\$ 200,000	\$ 50,000	
Private Landowner	\$ 125,000		
Christina-Ina-Anka Lake Association	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	
Chippewa River Watershed Improvement Project	\$ 10,000		
Viking Sportsmen	\$ 5,000		
TOTAL	\$ 790,000	\$ 100,000	

Accomplishments:

Table 1 Accomplishments	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife			
	Wetlands	Prairies	Forests	
Restore				
Protect	Protect 180 acres of wetlands and associated restored prairie and wooded shoreline habitat on a shallow lake.			
Enhance	Enhance habitat quality and water quality in eight shallow lakes totaling 6,000 acres.			

Table 2 Recommend Fund Allocation	Wetlands	Prairies	Forests	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
Restore				
Protect	\$ 225,000			
Enhance	\$ 2,303,000			

Table 3 Counties Impacted	Wetlands	Prairies	Forests	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
Restore				
Protect	Stearns			
Enhance	Douglas, Grant, Lac Qui Parle, Yellow Medicine, Murray, Wright, and Faribault.			

Table 4 Non-State Leverage \$	Wetlands	Prairies	Forests	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
Restore				
Protect	\$ 125,000			
Enhance	\$ 765,000			

Table 5 Acquisition Data	Wetlands	Prairies	Forests	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
Acquired in Fee with State PILT Liability				
Acquired in Fee without State PILT Liability				
Permanent Easement	Protect 180 acres, including 2,324 feet of shallow lake shoreline, for \$213,000			

Accomplishment Time Table:

Milestone	Date	Measure
Close conservation easement on shallow lake shoreland	August 31, 2009	180 acres protected
Prepare construction bid packages for shallow lake structure projects	August 31, 2009	8 projects
Award construction contracts for shallow lake structure projects	September 31, 2009	8 projects
Survey and begin engineering design of new shallow lake projects	October 31, 2009	2 new projects
Manage construction on 8 shallow lake projects	November 31, 2009	8 projects
Complete construction on 6 of 8 shallow lake projects	June 30, 2010	2,000 acres enhanced
Complete engineering plans for 2 of 3 new shallow lake projects	June 30, 2010	2 new designs finished
Complete construction on remaining 2 of 8 shallow lake projects	September 31, 2010	4,000 acres enhanced
Complete engineering plans for 1 of 3 new shallow lake projects	September 31, 2010	1 new design finished

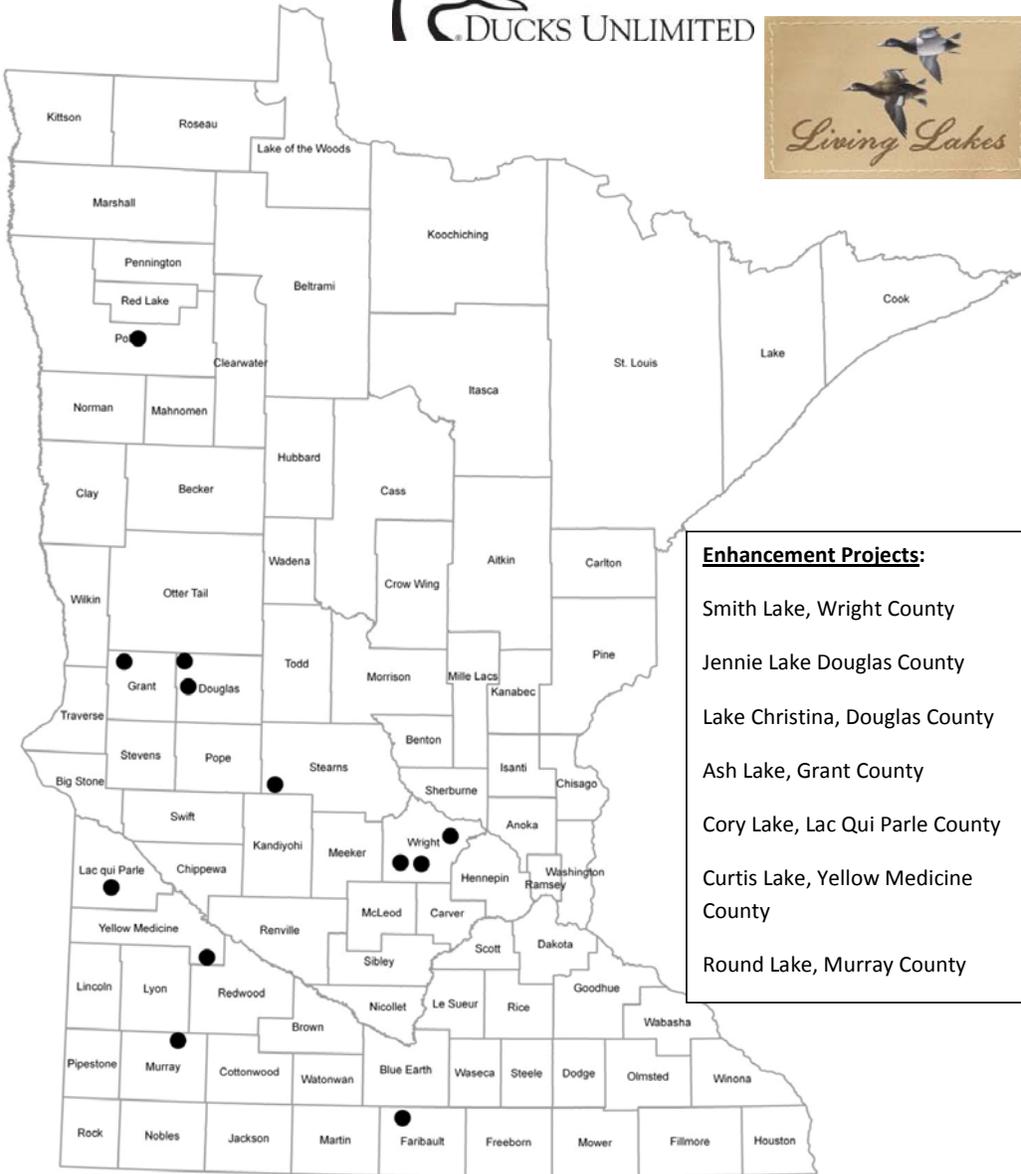
Relationship to Your Current Budget

This grant represents a significant increase in funding for shallow lake enhancement projects that Ducks Unlimited delivers for state and federal conservation agencies in Minnesota. DU relies on the combination of private funding and both state and federal grants to implement our projects. In the recent past, DU has received grants in the \$200,000 to \$450,000 range from the Minnesota Environment & Natural Resources Trust Fund, so this \$2.528 million grant is a significant increase and greatly supplements but does not supplant our current funding or budget.

How Will the Habitat Improvements Be Sustained?

All water control structures, pumps, and fish barriers will be constructed for the Minnesota DNR or US Fish & Wildlife Service on land under their control, and they will be managed in perpetuity by these agencies and their field staff. Regular, periodic assessments of the shallow lake basins will be conducted by DNR Wildlife’s shallow lakes program and assisted by DU field biologists to evaluate shallow lake condition and document improvements.

A financial contribution for perpetual easement stewardship endowment will be made by the private landowner. All DU conservation easements are monitored and visited annually, and management outreach to private landowners conducted routinely to ensure protected habitat is maintained.



- Enhancement Projects:**
- Smith Lake, Wright County
 - Jennie Lake Douglas County
 - Lake Christina, Douglas County
 - Ash Lake, Grant County
 - Cory Lake, Lac Qui Parle County
 - Curtis Lake, Yellow Medicine County
 - Round Lake, Murray County

Lessard Outdoor Heritage Council

**2009 Recommendation
Accomplishment Plan**

Project or Program Title: **Shallow Lake Shoreland Acquisitions**

Date: **March 12, 2009**

Manager's Name: **Jon Schneider**
Title: **Manager, Minnesota Conservation Programs**
Mailing Address: **311 East Lake Geneva Road NE, Alexandria, MN**
56308

Telephone: **320.762.9916**
Fax: **320.759.1567**
E-Mail: **jschneider@ducks.org**
Web Site: **www.ducks.org**

Funds Recommended (\$000s)	Council Recommendation Funding	Out-Year Projections of Needs		
	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013
Outdoor Heritage Fund	\$450,000	\$900,000	\$1,200,000	\$1,500,000

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Summary: DU will acquire fee title land from willing sellers on unprotected shoreline adjacent to shallow lakes of critical importance to ducks and other migratory birds in Murray County, Minnesota. Each shallow lake identified is actively managed (via water control structures) or soon to be managed (planned DU structure) by the Minnesota DNR for waterfowl and other wetland dependent wildlife. Through fee acquisition, DU will permanently protect 100 acres of uplands and small wetlands adjacent to these basins. All parcels targeted lie adjacent to existing Wildlife Management Areas and contain cropland and or seeded pasture that will be restored to native tall-grass prairie species thereby increasing both water quality (i.e. reducing surface run off directly into shallow lake basins) and wildlife habitat benefits provided by existing WMA lands.

Background:

Prairie shallow lakes in Minnesota suffer from degraded water quality caused by excess run off, over abundant fish populations, and nutrient loading. Turbid water conditions over prolonged periods reduces aquatic plant and invertebrate populations on which waterfowl and other wetland wildlife depend. Using water control structures, resource managers can improve water quality and habitat conditions for wildlife through temporary drawdowns, but restoring and protecting adjacent shorelands is an important component in the long-term management of these lakes. Securing shoreland protection and restoration via acquisition or easements permanently increases wildlife benefits (for both upland/wetland wildlife) and also helps managers maintain optimum habitat shallow lake conditions for longer periods of time. Permanent protection of shorelands on managed shallow lakes helps assure that these lakes will provide excellent waterfowl and wildlife habitat into the future. Permanent shoreland protection also eliminates future subdivision and development, thereby reducing disturbance to wildlife and the real possibility that lake-use expectations of new shoreline owners will conflict with water level management strategies for wildlife. The acquisitions targeted by DU using funds from this grant will increase critical shoreland protection, improve wildlife habitat, and help assure management of these lakes for waterfowl and other wildlife into the future.

Acquisitions of all identified parcels will be finalized within a year. DU will only work with willing sellers. Each acquisition will be appraised by a state certified appraiser following state guidelines. DU will provide a copy of the appraisal to each seller and will work closely with the Minnesota DNR in each step of the process to make sure the acquisition and subsequent transfer process meet the guidelines set forth by the DNR. DU will legally survey each parcel to be acquired.

The \$450,000 grant will fund fee-title purchase and due diligence related to working with private landowners, conducting initial property inspections, performing due diligence and grant administration.

Restoration of acquired parcels (50 acres of upland restoration) will take place over a two year window based on the crop rotation at the time of acquisition. Upon completion of restoration and items necessary to meet the minimum state standards, DU will transfer each parcel to the Minnesota DNR to be managed as a Wildlife Management Area. DU will work with the Minnesota DNR to secure county board approval for permission to transfer acquired lands to the state government. At this time, DU is not aware of any county or local opposition to any of the proposed acquisitions, but should opposition arise, DU will work with local landowners to listen to and address their concerns.

Relationship to the Minnesota Conservation and Preservation Plan and Other Published Resource Management Plans: This work supports the shallow lake and wetland priority conservation goals outlined in the *Minnesota Conservation and Preservation Plan*, and the shallow lake priorities in Minnesota’s *Long-term Duck Recovery Plan* that calls for the improvement of 1,800 shallow lakes throughout Minnesota.

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Budget:

Budget Item	Fiscal Year 10	Fiscal Year 11	Fiscal Year 12
Personnel	\$ 15,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 8,000

Contracts	\$ 14,000		\$ 25,000
Equipment/Tools/Supplies			
Fee Acquisition	\$ 378,000		
Easement Acquisition			
Easement Stewardship			
Travel	\$ 3,000	\$ 500	\$ 1,500
Additional Budget Items			
TOTAL	\$ 410,000	\$ 5,500	\$ 34,500

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Personnel Details:

Title	Name	Amount
Conservation Program Mgr.	Jon Schneider	\$ 5,000
Shallow Lakes Biologist	Josh Kavanagh	\$ 2,000
Regional Biologist	Robert Usgaard	\$ 16,000
Chief Surveyor	Greg Johnson	\$ 5,000

Leverage:

Source of Leverage	Fiscal Year 10	Fiscal Year 11	Fiscal Year 12
TOTAL			

Accomplishments:

Table 1 Accomplish- ments	Wetlands	Prairies	Forests	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
Restore		Restore 50 Acres of native grass and forb species		
Protect	Protect 10 acres of wetland adjacent to a critical shallow lake basin	Protect 90 acres of upland adjacent to a critical shallow lake basin		
Enhance				

Table 2 Recommend Fund Allocation	Wetlands	Prairies	Forests	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
Restore		\$ 31,500		
Protect	\$ 41,600	\$ 374,400		
Enhance				

Table 3 Counties Impacted	Wetlands	Prairies	Forests	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
Restore		Murray		
Protect	Murray	Murray		
Enhance				

Table 4 Non-State Leverage \$	Wetlands	Prairies	Forests	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
Restore				
Protect				
Enhance				

Table 5 Acquisition Data	Wetlands	Prairies	Forests	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
Acquired in Fee with State PILT Liability	10 acres for \$20,000	90 acres for \$359,000		
Acquired in Fee without State PILT Liability				
Permanent Easement				

Accomplishment Time Table:

Milestone	Date	Measure
Complete landowner/DNR discussions	July 31, 2009	
Order state certified appraisals	August 31, 2009	
Complete Purchase Negotiations	September 30, 2009	
Complete Title Work	October 31, 2009	
Complete Legal Boundary Survey	November 30, 2009	
Close on fee acquisition	December 31, 2009	100 acres
Complete restoration plan	February 28, 2010	
Complete upland restoration seeding	July 31, 2011	50 acres
Transfer to MN DNR	August 31, 2011	100 acres

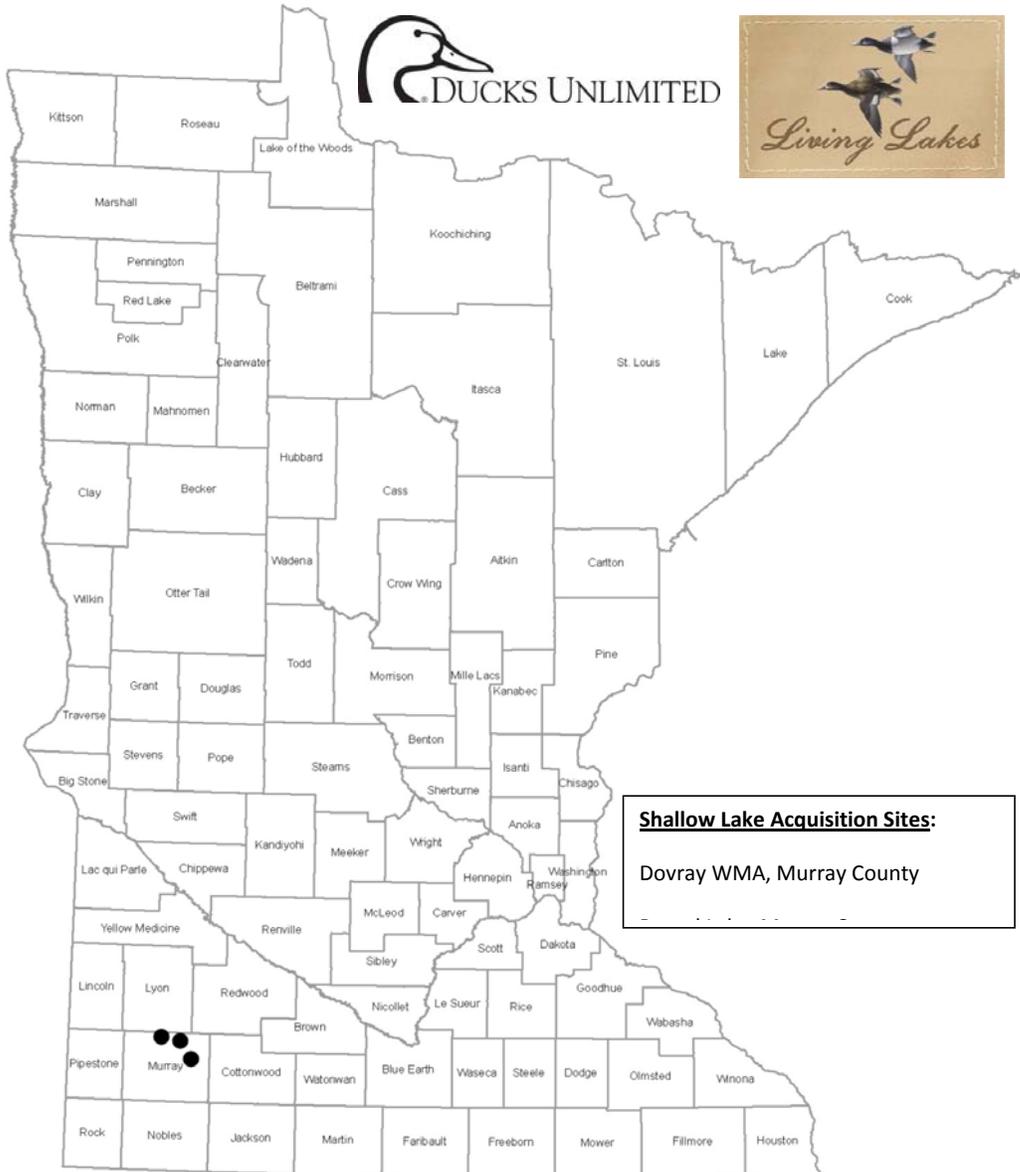
Seeding completion date will depend on timing of acquisition and crop rotation, lease agreements, etc.

Relationship to Your Current Budget:

Ducks Unlimited has not yet received public funding for land acquisition to date in Minnesota. However, DU has completed other land acquisitions here. Therefore, this \$450,000 grant is definitely an increase and does not supplant our funding.

How Will the Habitat Improvements Be Sustained?

Properties acquired by DU through use of these grant funds will be held for the time needed to restore converted lands and bring the property into compliance with minimum state fee transfer standards. During that time, the properties will be open to public access and DU will pay property taxes as assessed by the local assessor. Upon transfer to the DNR, these properties will be managed in perpetuity by the Minnesota DNR as Wildlife Management Areas. The DNR will carry out periodic management practices such as invasive species control and prescribed burning to maintain the restored grassland in a quality state. The state of MN will pay in lieu of tax payments once they receive the property from DU.



Lessard Outdoor Heritage Council

**2009 Recommendation
Accomplishment Plan**

Project or Program Title: Accelerating the Waterfowl Production Area Program in Minnesota – Protecting Our Investment

Date: 3/12/09

Manager's Name: Jim Leach, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Title: Refuge Supervisor
Mailing Address: One Federal Drive, Ft. Snelling, MN
Telephone: 612-713-5406
Fax: 612-713-5288
E-Mail: jim_leach@fws.gov
Web Site: www.fws.gov/midwest

Grant Recipient: Matt Holland, Pheasants Forever
Senior Field Coordinator
679 W. River Drive
New London, MN 56273
320-354-4377
mholland@pheasantsforever.org
Website: www.pheasantsforever.org

Funds Recommended (\$000s)	Council Recommendation Funding	Out-Year Projections of Needs		
	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013
Outdoor Heritage Fund	5,600,000	0	0	0

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Summary Pheasants Forever, Ducks Unlimited, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will cooperate to permanently restore and conserve approximately 800 acres of grassland and 400 acres of wetland as Waterfowl Production Areas in western and southern Minnesota. All lands acquired through this grant proposal will be owned and managed by the Service as part of the National Wildlife Refuge System.

Background

Waterfowl Production Areas (WPA) are managed as part of the National Wildlife Refuge System. However, land acquisition and restoration have not kept pace with habitat needs. This *Lessard* project will add to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's acquisition of Minnesota's valuable wetland and grassland habitats. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will immediately identify and prioritize lands to be acquired by Pheasants Forever and Ducks Unlimited. PF and DU will complete landowner contacts, appraisals, and purchase agreements. Lands will be deeded to and managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as WPA's. Under this management, restoration of native grasslands and wetlands will be completed and protected in perpetuity. Approximately 800 acres of grassland and 400 acres of wetlands will be protected. Acquisition will occur within 18 months and habitat restoration will occur over the next two years depending on funding and seedbed preparation needs. Waterfowl Production Areas will be open for public recreation according to the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act. This project will be part of the Waterfowl Production Area program that has successfully protected similar habitats in Minnesota for 50 years.

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

The *Minnesota Conservation and Preservation Plan* calls for protecting priority land (habitat recommendation #1) and this proposal is working to protect and restore priority grassland and wetland habitats important to waterfowl, grassland and wetland birds as well as the myriad species that call grasslands and wetlands home. This proposal will also implement the following habitat recommendations within the plan:

9. Protect priority land habitats – this proposal contains priority grassland and wetland habitats important to waterfowl, grassland and wetland birds as well as the myriad species that call grasslands and wetlands home.
10. Protect critical shorelands of rivers and lakes – there are potential projects that will protect shoreline of shallow lakes contained within this proposal.
11. Improve connectivity and access to outdoor recreation - All lands acquired and restored will be open to the public for hunting and other activities allowed under the national wildlife refuge system.
12. Restore and protect shallow lakes - there are potential projects that include protection of shallow lakes contained within this proposal.
13. Restore land, wetlands and wetland-associated watersheds – this proposal protects and restores wetlands and grasslands. A majority of the lands purchased will be prior-converted.
14. Keep water on the landscape – by protecting and restoring wetlands and grasslands, this proposal will return water to the landscape (permanent wetland restoration) and help keep water on the landscape (permanent vegetation restoration).

Minnesota DNR *Long-range Duck Recovery Plan* has priority goals for long term protection and restoration for wetland and grassland habitat for duck production. This proposal will contribute 1,200-acres to the 2,000,000 acre goal set under the plan. Specifically it will permanently protect and/or restore 400-acres of wetlands towards the 600,000-acre wetland goal and permanently protect and/or restore 800 acres of grasslands towards the 1,400,000-acre grassland goal

Minnesota DNR *Long-range plan for the ring-necked pheasant* in Minnesota has priority goals to protect and restore nesting and winter habitat for pheasants. This proposal contributes 1,200 acres to the plan goal of restoring 1,560,000 acres of habitat within the pheasant range of Minnesota.

This proposal contributes to the *North American Waterfowl Management Plan* by contributing 1,200 acres of breeding habitat (wetlands and grasslands) to the 11.8 million acres goal to restore continental waterfowl populations. Most of the work proposed will occur within the Prairie Pothole Joint Venture which is recognized as a national priority for wetland and grassland habitat and breeding waterfowl and grassland bird species.

Budget

Budget Item	Fiscal Year 10	Fiscal Year 11*	Fiscal Year 12
Personnel			
Contracts	200,000 (1)	100,000	
Equipment/Tools/Supplies	100,000 (2)	454,000 (2)	
Fee Acquisition	3,000,000	1,500,000	
Easement Acquisition			
Easement Stewardship			
Travel			
Additional Budget Items	246,000 (3)		
TOTAL	3,546,000	2,054,000	

*DU, PF and USFWS will make every effort to complete the work outlined in this proposal in FY10, however due to variables that the partnership does not have control over (sellers, acquisition process, weather (as it relates to restoration), etc.) we would request the flexibility to carry the grant into FY11 if necessary.

- 1) Contracting out for appraisals, legal surveys, and design/construction of water control structures.
- 2) Purchase of materials and supplies for grassland and wetland restoration.
- 3) Pheasants Forever overhead for grant administration.

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Personnel Details

Table 1 Accomplish- ments	Wetlands	Prairies	Forests	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
Restore	Restore 400 acres of wetlands	Restore 800 acres of grassland		
Protect	Protect 400 acres of wetland	Protect 800 acres of grassland		
Enhance				

Table 2 Recommend Fund Allocation	Wetlands	Prairies	Forests	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
Restore	\$ 360,000	\$ 240,000		
Protect	\$1,500,000	\$3,500,000		
Enhance				

Table 3 Counties* Impacted	Wetlands	Prairies	Forests	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
Restore	Counties within the Prairie Pothole Joint Venture of Minnesota and Wright County (See map attached). Counties with identified willing sellers currently include: Polk, Norman, Mahnomen, McLeod, Becker, Clay, Ottertail, Renville, Douglas, Grant, Stevens, Big Stone, Kandiyohi, Wright, Lincoln, Lyon, Jackson, Faribault	Counties within the Prairie Pothole Joint Venture of Minnesota and Wright County (See map attached). Counties with identified willing sellers currently include: Polk, Norman, Mahnomen, McLeod, Becker, Clay, Ottertail, Renville, Douglas, Grant, Stevens, Big Stone, Kandiyohi, Wright, Lincoln, Lyon, Jackson, Faribault		
Protect	Polk, Norman, Mahnomen, McLeod, Becker, Clay, Ottertail, Renville, Douglas, Grant, Stevens, Big Stone, Kandiyohi, Wright, Lincoln, Lyon, Jackson, Faribault	Polk, Norman, Mahnomen, McLeod, Becker, Clay, Ottertail, Renville, Douglas, Grant, Stevens, Big Stone, Kandiyohi, Wright, Lincoln, Lyon, Jackson, Faribault		
Enhance				

*Please note that we fully expect high quality, priority projects will arise that are not identified here, but meet with the wetland and grassland protection criteria to present themselves within the grant period. It would be the intent of the partners herein to evaluate and add priority projects that are consistent with the goals and purposes of the LOHC and partners.

Table 4 Non-State Leverage \$	Wetlands	Prairies	Forests	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
Restore	\$			
Protect	\$1,500,000 (1)	\$3,500,000 (1)		
Enhance	\$			

1) U.S. FWS Duck Stamp Dollars used to acquire an additional 1000-1200 acres of WPA.

Table 5 Acquisition Data	Wetlands	Prairies	Forests	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
Acquired in Fee with State PILT Liability				
Acquired in Fee without State PILT Liability	400 acres	800 acres		
Permanent Easement				

Accomplishment Time Table

Milestone	Date	Measure
Identify priority acquisitions	March 2009	38 willing sellers
Contract appraisals ordered	Sept. 2009	20 appraisals ordered
Purchase agreements	January 2010	10 options signed
Contract appraisals ordered	January 2010	18 appraisals ordered
Closing on option properties	March 2010	800 acres protected
Purchase agreements	May 2010	9 options signed
Closing on option properties	July 2010	400 acres protected
Wetland restorations completed	November 2011	400 ac wetland restored
Grassland restorations completed	November 2011	800 ac grass restored

Relationship to Your Current Budget

LOHC council dollars will be in addition to existing land acquisition dollars available to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

How Will the Habitat Improvements Be Sustained?

All lands acquired with LOHC dollars will be managed as part of the National Wildlife Refuge System.

Attach:

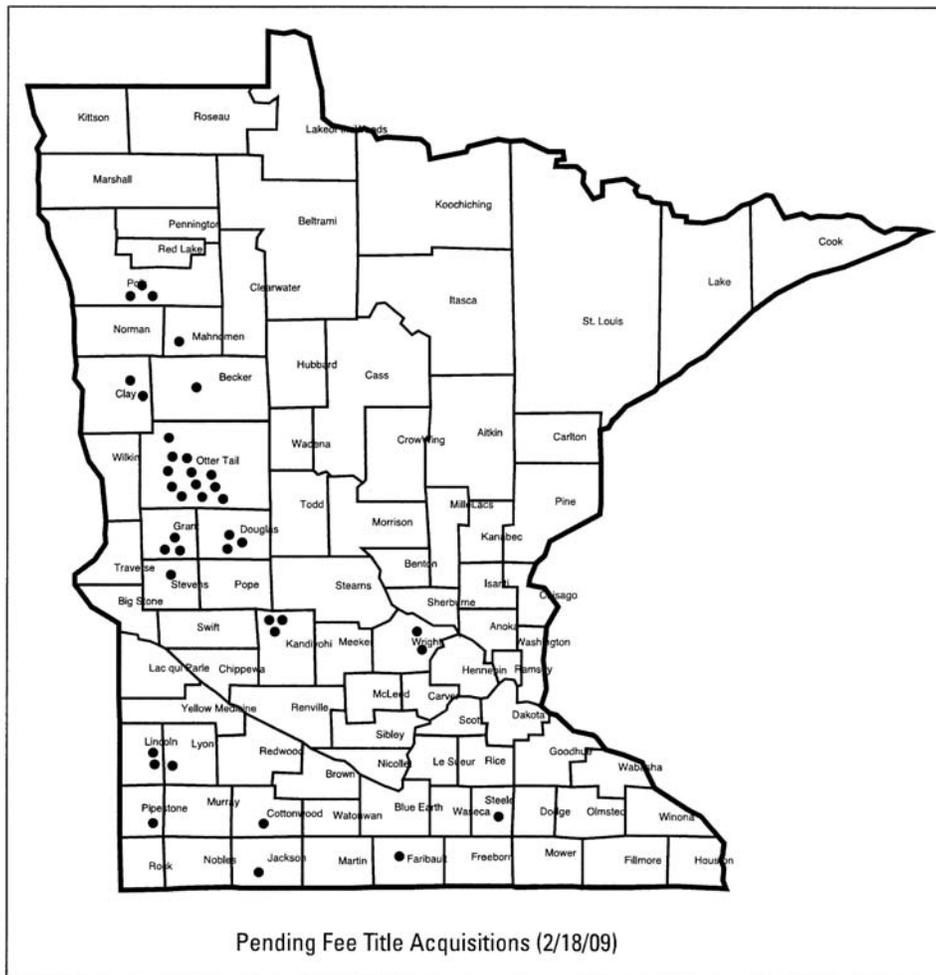
A list of your projects showing their county location and On the attached eight and a half by eleven map of Minnesota show counties each project as a dot.



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Lessard OHC Proposal

Accelerating the WPA Program in Minnesota - Protecting Our Investment



Lessard Outdoor Heritage Council

**2009 Recommendation
Accomplishment Plan**

Project or Program Title: Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) Reserve – Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) Leveraging Project

Date: March 11, 2009

Manager's Name: Kevin J. Lines
Title: Conservation Easement Section Manager
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Fax: 651-297-5615
E-Mail: kevin.lines@state.mn.us
Web Site: www.bwsr.state.mn.us

Funds Recommended (\$000s)	Council Recommendation Funding	Out-Year Projections of Needs		
	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013
Outdoor Heritage Fund	9,058,000	11,500,000	11,500,000	11,500,000

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Summary

The RIM-WRP partnership will expand past efforts and provide important benefits to the citizens of Minnesota by restoring and permanently protecting priority wetlands and associated upland native grassland wildlife habitat via perpetual conservation easements. This funding will leverage \$12.6 million of federal WRP funds for the State of Minnesota and is expected to create and sustain 343 jobs and income to local landowners, businesses and others in the state based on USDA economic estimates. With this level of funding from Outdoor Heritage Funds (OHF) we anticipate the protection and restoration of approximately 5,800 acres of new habitat under the RIM-WRP leveraging project. Since WRP receives annual appropriations from the 2008 Federal Farm Bill, this leveraging opportunity is available for at least the next five years.

Background

Described as the premier private lands wetland restoration easement program in the nation, the RIM-WRP partnership combines of Minnesota's RIM Reserve and the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Natural Resources Conversation Service (NRCS) Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP). Combining RIM Reserve and WRP allows OHF to leverage Federal Farm Bill conservation dollars. Utilizing both programs results in competitive payment rates to landowners and sharing of perpetual easement acquisition and restoration costs.

This opportunity will be offered statewide but has a priority focus in the ecological provinces of the state that have experienced significant losses of wetland and associated prairies (see map attached). It will be delivered by local NRCS staff, local Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) staff and assisted by program staff from both NRCS and the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR). Since the SWCD is responsible for the local delivery of the RIM Reserve program to private landowners on behalf of the State of Minnesota, they are ideally suited to work in concert with their local NRCS staff to efficiently and effectively deliver the RIM-WRP partnership. Once an easement is acquired NRCS is responsible for maintenance, inspection and monitoring during the life of their 30-year WRP easement. The State of Minnesota assumes sole responsibility via its RIM Reserve easement once the 30-year WRP easement has expired. BWSR partners with local SWCDs to carry-out oversight, monitoring and inspection of its conservation easements.

In 2008 BWSR and NRCS accepted nearly 300 applications during a limited three week sign-up period for RIM/WRP easements on over 33,000 acres at an estimated cost of over \$75 million. The applications were scored and ranked and the top scoring highest priority 98 applications were funded for easement acquisition totaling 9,775 acres. BWSR obligated \$15.6 million which leveraged \$21.0 million of federal WRP funds to permanently protect and restore these 98 conservation easements. Because of this partnership, Minnesota received almost 20% of the nations WRP funds in 2008.

BWSR and NRCS are preparing for the next sign-up of the RIM-WRP Partnership in the spring of 2009, pending OHF availability. Local offices are currently working with landowners on applications. Interest remains high and it is estimated that we will be able to secure in excess of \$100 million in applications. As new applications are received and existing unfunded applications are reconsidered we will once again fund the highest scoring priority applications based primarily on wildlife habitat potential with other secondary benefits also realized.

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

Several recent statewide Minnesota planning efforts have called attention to the dramatic loss of wetlands and native prairie grasslands over the last century and a half. Minnesota has lost over 99% of its original native prairie and over 90% of its prairie wetlands. The following is a list of strategic plans considered in development of RIM-WRP leveraging proposal which will permanently restore and protect wetland and native grassland complexes in strategically targeted areas of Minnesota.

- MN Statewide Conservation and Preservation Plan
- Tomorrow's Habitat for the Wild and Rare – State Wildlife Plan
- Campaign for Conservation – 50-Year Vision
- Prairie Pothole Joint Venture Implementation Plan
- Wetland Restoration Strategy – A Framework for Prioritizing Efforts in Minnesota, BWSR
- DNR's Long Range Duck Recovery Plan
- DNR's Long-Range Plan for Ring-Necked Pheasant in Minnesota

While all of the plans above note that wetland and native grassland complex restoration is a key strategy, the *Minnesota Statewide Conservation and Preservation Plan* (H1 Protect Critical Land Habitats; H5 Restore lands, wetlands and wetland associated watersheds; H7 Keep Water on the Landscape) and the *Minnesota Wetlands Restoration Strategy* specifically recommend that wetland restoration efforts need to be targeted in order to optimize wildlife habitat and other benefits.

Minnesota DNR's 2006 *Long Range Duck Recovery Plan* has identified even more specific habitat restoration objectives to restore wetlands and adjacent native grasslands to restore a productive one million breeding duck population for Minnesota. In this plan, the DNR identified the need to restore and protect 600,000 acres of wetlands and 1.4 million acres of adjacent native grasslands. The goals and strategies of this plan are consistent with the *Prairie Pothole Joint Venture Implementation Plan* under the North American Bird Conservation Initiative, including the *North American Waterfowl Management Plan*.

Budget Please describe how you intend to spend the recommended funds in the table below.

Budget Item	Fiscal Year 10	Fiscal Year 11	Fiscal Year 12
Personnel	\$ 152,476	\$ 152,476	\$ 152,476
Contracts (SWCD grants)	106,305	94,493	94,493
Equipment/Tools/Supplies	10,266	10,266	10,266
Fee Acquisition	0	0	0
Easement Acquisition	4,274,320	2,184,660	728,220
Easement Stewardship	0	0	0
Travel	40,761	40,761	40,761
Additional Budget Items	0	0	0
Conservation Practices	174,000	398,000	348,000
TOTAL	\$4,758,128	\$2,880,656	\$1,419,216

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Personnel Details

Title	Amount
1) Civil Engineer (0.25)	\$ 25,000
2) Civil Engineer Technician (0.75)	53,000
3) Plant Ecologist (0.50)	80,000
4) Realty Specialist (0.50)	<u>35,000</u>
	\$153,000

USDA-NRCS technical assistance (project and practices management) estimated at \$422,700/year

Leverage

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Accomplishment Plan
LOHC

Source of Leverage	Fiscal Year 10	Fiscal Year 11	Fiscal Year 12
USDA – WRP funds	\$12,681,200	\$16,500,000*	\$16,500,000*
TOTAL	\$12,681,200	\$16,500,000	\$16,500,000

*Minnesota NRCS is expected to receive annual WRP appropriations of \$16.5 million.

Accomplishments

Table 1 Accomplishments	Complexes			Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
	Wetlands	Prairies/Native Grasslands	Forests	
Restore	Restore 290 drained wetlands totaling ~1,700 acres of drained wetland	Restore 4,100 acres		Restore 5,800 acres of wetland/grassland complexes
Protect				
Enhance				

Table 2 Recommend Fund Allocation	Complexes			Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
	Wetlands	Prairies/Native Grasslands	Forests	
Restore	\$ 255,000	\$ 615,000		
Protect	2,371,820	5,816,180		

Table 3 Counties Impacted	Complexes			Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
	Wetlands	Prairies/Native Grasslands	Forests	
Restore Protect Enhance	Statewide with priority in ecological provinces that have lost significant wetlands and prairies (see map attached).			

Table 4 Non-State Leverage \$	Complexes			Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
	Wetlands	Prairies/Native Grasslands	Forests	
Restore	\$ 765,000	\$ 1,845,000		
Protect	2,912,548	7,138,652		
Enhance				

Table 5 Acquisition Data	Complexes			Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
	Wetlands	Prairies/Native Grasslands	Forests	
Acquired in Fee with State PILT Liability				
Acquired in Fee without State PILT Liability				
Permanent Easement	58 easements for ~1,700 acres of wetlands in 290 basins	58 easements for 4,100 acres native grassland		58 easements totaling 5,800 acres of protected and restored wetlands and native grassland wildlife habitat

Accomplishment Time Table

Milestone	Date	Measure
Conduct RIM-WRP sign-up, ranking, selection of applications	Spring/Summer 2009	300 applications received
Acquire RIM-WRP conservation easements	2009 - 2011	58 easements acquired
Restore drained wetland/native grassland on easements acquired	2010 - 2012	5,800 acres restored

Relationship to Your Current Budget

The RIM Reserve program was established in state statute in 1986 to restore and set aside marginal land principally for increasing fish and wildlife production. Past funding via bonding has inconsistently ranged from \$0 in most "off-year" bonding bills to a one-time maximum of \$52 million for the Minnesota River CREP in 2001. The proposed 2009 LOHC funding allocation for RIM Reserve does not replace traditional funds as 2009 is an "off-year" for bonding and the federal partnership to leverage WRP funding is a new endeavor. The proposed funding level of \$9.06 million is not a big change as it will utilize an existing and effective delivery mechanism now supplemented with a very significant federal partner agency with statewide authority and expertise.

How Will the Habitat Improvements Be Sustained?

Once a RIM-WRP easement is acquired, NRCS is responsible for maintenance, inspection and monitoring during the life of their 30-year WRP easement and all associated costs for this activity. The State of Minnesota assumes sole responsibility via its perpetual RIM Reserve easement once the 30-year WRP easement has expired.

The BWSR partners with local SWCDs to carry-out oversight, monitoring and inspection of its conservation easements.

Easements are inspected for the first five consecutive years beginning in the year after the easement is recorded. Thereafter, inspections are performed every three years. SWCDs report to BWSR on each site inspection conducted. A non-compliance procedure is implemented when potential violations or problems are identified.

Attachment

| Attached is a map showing RIM-WRP partnership priority regions.

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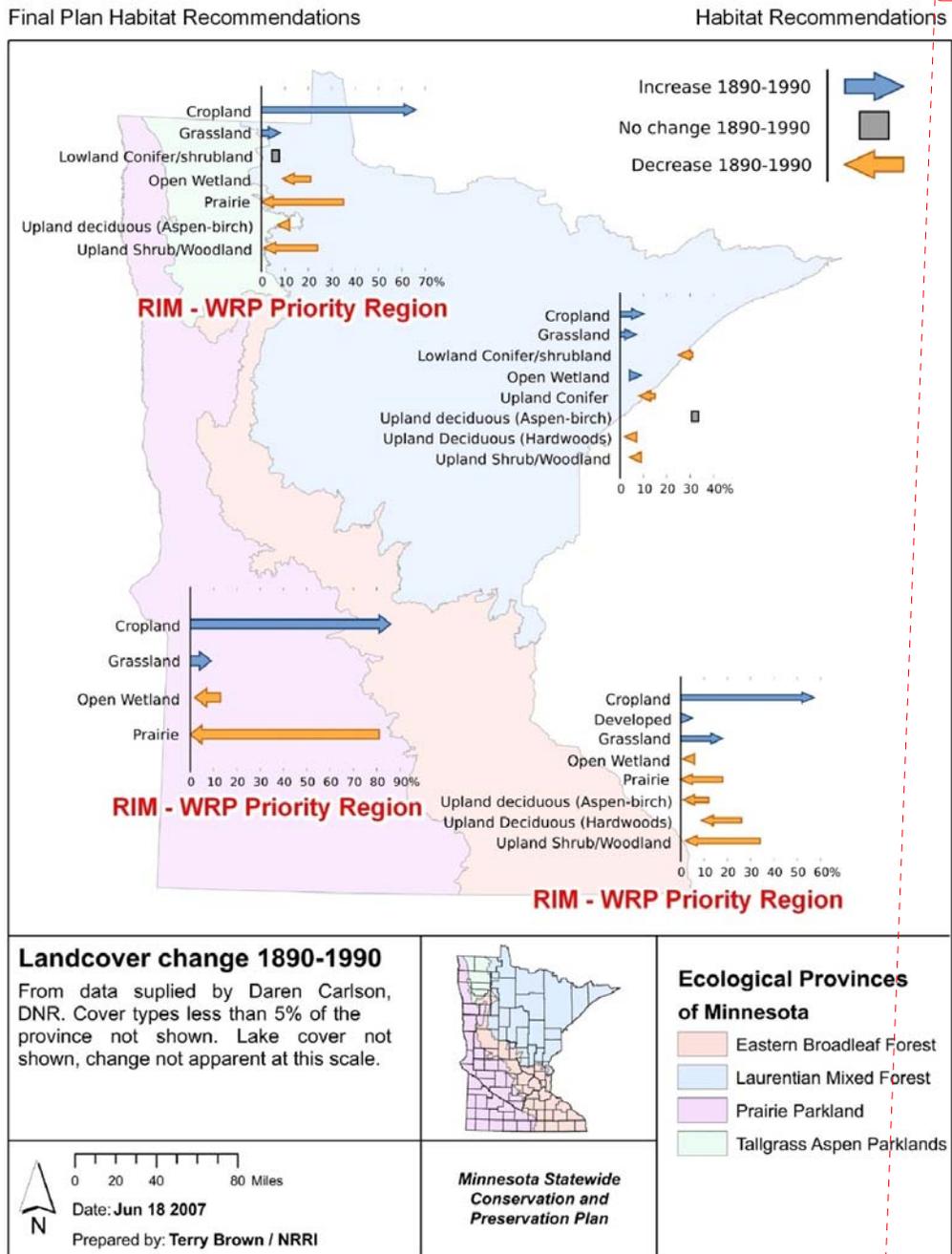


Figure H24. Land cover change, 1890–1990. Credit: Terry Brown, NRRI.

Lessard Outdoor Heritage Council

**2009 Recommendation
Accomplishment Plan**

Project or Program Title: Accelerated Wetland WMA Acquisition (W7)

Date: March 11, 2009

Manager's Name: Dennis Simon
Title: DNR Wildlife Management Section Chief
Mailing Address: Box 20, 500 Lafayette Road, St. Paul, MN 55155
Telephone: (651) 259-5237 cell: (612) 390-3677
Fax: (651) 297-4961
E-Mail: dennis.simon@dnr.state.mn.us
Web Site: www.dnr.state.mn.us

Funds Recommended (\$000s)	Council Recommendation Funding	Out-Year Projections of Needs		
	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013
Outdoor Heritage Fund	2,900,000	4,000,000	4,000,000	4,000,000

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Summary : Our program will protect and restore 700 acres of new wetland wildlife habitat in wetland complexes in Minnesota through fee title acquisition. Title of all lands acquired will be held by the State and designated as Wildlife Management Area open to hunting, trapping, fishing and compatible outdoor recreation uses.

Background

The Minnesota Statewide Conservation and Preservation Plan states that "Habitat fragmentation, degradation and loss are arguably the most important issues facing the conservation and preservation of Minnesota resources. Over 90% of Minnesota's prairie wetlands have been drained or filled, including 1,500 shallow wildlife lakes. Remaining wetlands and shallow lakes are in a degraded state and upland grass buffers have been largely converted to cropland. DNR will acquire remaining and restorable wetlands and surrounding uplands in high priority wetland complexes as Wildlife Management Areas. Uplands will be restored to native grassland buffers, wetlands will be enhanced where possible and acquisitions will be developed to make them functional units in the outdoor recreation system. Project lists will change, as new parcels become available and as previously included projects become unavailable. Collaborative partnerships will be promoted in order to acquire key lands. DNR will work with and seek a resolution from the County Board of Commissioners approving all WMA acquisitions.

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

The Minnesota Statewide Conservation and Preservation Plan identifies aquatic habitat loss and degradation as a primary driver of change for wetland dependant wildlife in Minnesota.

Minnesota’s Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy for species in greatest conservation need has identified 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 wetland habitats in all regions.

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 of which 30% will be wetlands including protecting and enhancing 1,800 shallow lakes.

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 identifies lack of secure winter habitat as a potential limiting factor. The plan calls for protecting an additional 60 emergent wetlands through acquisition of WMAs.

Citizens report Minnesota’s Wildlife Management Area Acquisition – The Next 50 Years recommends acquisition goals of an additional 702,000 acres of WMAs and recommends a distribution by ecological section.

Budget

Budget Item	Fiscal Year 10	Fiscal Year 11	Fiscal Year 12
Personnel			
Contracts	15,000	10,000	
Equipment/Tools/Supplies			
Fee Acquisition	2,075,000	725,000	
Easement Acquisition			
Easement Stewardship			
Travel			
Additional Budget Items	55,000	20,000	
TOTAL	2,145,000	755,000	

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Personnel Details

Title	Name	Amount.
None		

Leverage

Source of Leverage	Fiscal Year 10	Fiscal Year 11	Fiscal Year 12
TOTAL			

Accomplishments:

Table 1 Accomplishments	Wetlands	Prairies	Forests	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
Restore				
Protect	140 acres	560 acres		
Enhance				

Table 2 Recommend Fund Allocation	Wetlands	Prairies	Forests	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
Restore				
Protect	560,000	2,240,000		
Enhance				

Table 3 Counties Impacted	Wetlands	Prairies	Forests	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
Restore				
Protect	Dakota, Wright, Nicollet, Faribault, Isanti, Anoka, Washington, Murray, Swift	Dakota, Wright, Nicollet, Faribault, Isanti, Anoka, Washington, Murray, Swift		
Enhance				

Table 4 Non-State Leverage \$				Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
	Wetlands	Prairies	Forests	
Restore				
Protect				
Enhance				

Table 5 Acquisition Data				Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
	Wetlands	Prairies	Forests	
Acquired in Fee with State PILT Liability	140 acres for \$560,000	560 acres for \$2,240,000		
Acquired in Fee without State PILT Liability				
Permanent Easement				

Accomplishment Time Table

Milestone	Date	Measure
Purchase WMA land	June 30, 2010	520 acres
Purchase WMA land	Dec. 31, 2010	180 acres

Relationship to Your Current Budget

The DNR Section of Wildlife supports the WMA acquisition program with 1 FTE permanent program coordinator funded by Game and Fish funds. Annual base funding for traditional fee title acquisition includes \$895,000 in Small Game Surcharge that purchases about 300 acres annually. Additional WMA acquisition funding sources vary from year to year and include on average \$1,800,000 in RIM Critical Habitat License Plate match and \$125,000 from the North American Wetlands Conservation Act per year. These funds acquire an average of 650 acres per year. Our proposal would accelerate land acquisition by an additional 700 acres per year for two years.

How Will the Habitat Improvements Be Sustained?

Lands acquired under this program will be designated as State Wildlife Management Areas under authority of the Outdoor Recreation Act of 1978 and managed in perpetuity with DNR Game and Fish funds. Payment of in-lieu of tax payments are made to the counties from biennial appropriations by the Legislature from the general fund.

Attach:

***A list of your projects showing their county location and
On the attached eight and a half by eleven map of Minnesota show
counties each project as a dot.***

County	WMA Name	Estimated Cost	Acres
Nicollet	Swan Lake WMA-Mack Unit	\$500,000.00	128
Wright	Pelican Lake WMA	\$800,000.00	71
Dakota	Vermillion River WMA	\$300,000.00	80
Faribault	Walnut Lake WMA	\$338,000.00	102
Isanti	Becklin Homestead WMA	\$300,000.00	85
Otter Tail	Dead Lake WMA	\$1,000,000.00	62
Isanti	Spencer Brook WMA	\$250,000.00	238
Anoka	Carlos Avery WMA	\$350,000.00	80
Washington	Paul Hugo Farms WMA	\$1,500,000.00	67
Murray	Lake Maria WMA	\$419,500.00	133
Swift	Cry of the Marsh WMA	\$1,000,000.00	400
Isanti	Bethel WMA	\$120,000.00	16
Wadena	Dry Sand WMA	\$75,000.00	40
Benton	Graham WMA	\$200,000.00	40
Cass	Lake George WMA	\$220,000.00	34
Chisago	East Rush Lake WMA	\$150,000.00	168
Freeborn	Panicum Prairie WMA	\$75,000.00	46
Goodhue	Warsaw WMA	\$80,000.00	35
Goodhue	Warsaw WMA	\$250,000.00	135
Houston	Root River WMA	\$50,500.00	18
Houston	Root River WMA	\$150,000.00	15
Houston	Root River WMA	\$162,500.00	65
Houston	Root River WMA	\$182,000.00	70

Jackson	Timber Lake WMA	\$550,000.00	100
Lac Qui Parle	Florida Creek WMA	\$125,000.00	80
Lac Qui Parle	Wollschlager WMA	\$750,000.00	355
Lyon	Lyrock WMA	\$971,370.00	226
Martin	Krahmer WMA	\$270,000.00	66
Murray	Hovno WMA	\$635,000.00	170
Murray	Peters WMA	\$508,000.00	127
Otter Tail	Lone Pine Lake WMA	\$485,000.00	178
Pine	Stephen WMA	\$425,000.00	206
Polk	Crooked Lake WMA	\$50,000.00	40
Polk	Wren's Nest WMA	\$50,000.00	40
Rice	Boyd Sartel WMA	\$48,000.00	5
Rice	Hands Marsh WMA	\$400,000.00	240
Rice	Weinberger WMA	\$450,000.00	35
Swift	Danvers WMA	\$20,000.00	40
Wright	Suconnix WMA	\$390,000.00	65
Yellow Medicine	Oshkosh WMA	\$83,000.00	17

