

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Laws of Minnesota 2012 Final Report



Date: March 31, 2017

Program or Project Title: Accelerating the Waterfowl Production Area Program , Phase 4

Funds Recommended: \$5,400,000

Manager's Name: Eran Sandquist

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Legislative Citation: ML 2012, Ch. 264, Art. 1, Sec. 2, Subd. 4(b)

Appropriation Language: \$5,400,000 in the second year is to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with Pheasants Forever to acquire land in fee to be managed and designated as waterfowl production areas in Minnesota, in cooperation with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service. A list of proposed land acquisitions must be provided as part of the required accomplishment plan.

County Locations: Clay, Lac qui Parle, Murray, Stevens, and Swift.

Regions in which work was completed:

- Forest / Prairie Transition
- Prairie
- Metro / Urban

Activity types:

- Protect in Fee

Priority resources addressed by activity:

- Wetlands
- Prairie

Summary of Accomplishments:

This program accelerated the permanent protection of 1,001 acres of wetlands (185 acres) and grasslands (816 acres) as Waterfowl Production Areas open to public hunting in Minnesota. Over the course of the appropriation, PF acquired 5 parcels for a total of 1,001 acres which exceeded our total acre goal of 935 acres by 66 acres. Breaking down acres by ecological section we exceeded our acre goal in the prairie area by 346 acres. We are also happy to bring in \$3,794,200 of non-state match dollars to this effort, exceeding our match goal of \$3,320,000 by \$474,200. We have a balance of \$61,800 that will be returned to the Fund despite exceeding our acre goals which demonstrates the high level of efficiency which Pheasants Forever operates at.

In total, we under-spent on our budget, over delivered on acre goals and over delivered on match while using less personal costs than proposed.

Process & Methods:

Working in close collaboration with partners, Pheasants Forever acquired 1,001 acres of strategic habitat that builds onto existing protected lands and/or develops corridors for wildlife. These USFWS Waterfowl Production Areas (WPA) will be protected and managed in perpetuity by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). We have worked together with federal, state and local partners when acquiring the 5 parcels which will be celebrated as new WPAs. These new additions to existing WPAs not only provides

access and recreational opportunities for all Minnesotans, but helps reduce erosion, improve water filtration, and provide quality habitat for many of Minnesota's non-game species.

The offers to the landowners were based on fair market values and appraisals. The acquired parcels addressed a backlog of willing sellers that now are helping slow the loss, degradation, and fragmentation of habitat in Minnesota. Parcels were identified jointly with the USFWS, ranked, and prioritized on habitat goals and feasibility. Pheasants Forever's methods are formed around the principle of accelerating the Waterfowl Production Area program in MN by targeting only the best available habitat with willing sellers. We utilize local partner expertise to focus on building a system of interconnected wildlife complexes that create habitat mosaics. We also utilize the latest geospatial layers to help determine factors such as: habitat restoration potential, landscape scale significance, presence of rare features and native habitat, and how these acquisitions fit into other priorities for our partners such as the MN Prairie Conservation Plan, the Pheasant Action Plan, or the State Wildlife Action Plan.

Hanson WPA Addition and John Giese WPA were the two largest permanent protection projects in this proposal making up over half of the total 1,001 acquired acres. The 282 acre Hanson WPA Addition builds on the existing 80 acre Hanson WPA. Within 2 miles of this tract there are 2 WPAs totaling 724 acres and 2 WMAs totaling 1,597 acres. In addition there are numerous perpetual RIM and FWS conservation easements in this area. All these tracts build around Lake Simon which is the focus area of a lot of conservation efforts including the MN Prairie Conservation plan (this area has the highest designation within this plan as a core area), Chippewa 10% Simon Lake Challenge focus area, in a Grassland Bird Conservation Area, is in a priority area for the MN Wildlife Action Plan, and scores a 20 HAPET score (which is the highest USFWS Habitat and Population and Evaluation team designation). The 320 acre John Giese WPA is an addition to the 5,000+ acre Talcot Lake WMA and 155 acre Talcot Lake WPA. In addition to being a priority area for many of the same plans above, this Talcot Lake area is a Southwest MN hot spot for all outdoor enthusiasts being comprised of marshes, bottomlands and adjacent grassland and cropland. Talcot Lake is historically important for migrating waterfowl and other species including Canada geese, common yellowthroats, northern cardinals, indigo buntings, and ring-necked pheasants. Mammals include beavers, muskrats, white-tailed deer, red foxes, and minks. With the help of the LSOHC's recommendations we were able to permanently protect these two high priority tracts helping fulfill the mission of the council and provide recreational opportunities for all Minnesotans.

All parcels acquired were restored and/or enhanced to as high a quality as practicable. The grassland restoration included using a broadcast or drill seeded method with a diverse mix of native grasses and forb species. Wetland restorations included using a combination of tile breaking, sediment removal, dike construction, and water control structures. Scattered invasive tree removal and prescribed fire were used where appropriate to enhance existing grassland habitat after protection.

Explain Partners, Supporters, & Opposition:

We worked in close collaboration with USFWS to find and evaluate the best properties to purchase based on the criteria listed in the process and methods section. During the process, we also worked with many other partners to gauge interest levels and determine if the property is suitable for a Waterfowl Production Area.

Additional Comments:

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

There were no exceptional failures or challenges that were encountered. This is due in part to our high level of collaboration and efficiency. We also strive to be respectful and accommodating in helping to facilitate landowners' wishes when working with willing sellers as many see this as leaving their own habitat legacy.

Other Funds Received:

- Not Listed

How were the funds used to advance the program:

Not Listed

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

Parcels are acquired then restored before being transferred to the USFWS as part of this effort. The long-term management & maintenance of these new WPAs will be the responsibility of the USFWS. Pheasants Forever is also active in additional habitat enhancement and restoration activities on existing public lands where there is a need.

Outcomes:

The original accomplishment plan stated the program would

Programs in forest-prairie transition region:

- Not Listed

How will the outcomes be measured and evaluated?

Not Listed

Programs in metropolitan urbanizing region:

- Not Listed

How will the outcomes be measured and evaluated?

Not Listed

Programs in prairie region:

- Short-term and Intermediate Outcomes: Agricultural lands are converted to grassland/wetland complexes resulting in net-gain of wildlife habitat. (450 acres of 935 proposed acquired acres converted), Improved access to public lands (935 additional acres of previously private lands protected and opened permanently for public access). Long Term and End Results: This proposal is working towards a long term outcome of creating stable and/or increasing wildlife populations of game and non-game species while increasing opportunities for wildlife dependent recreation through an increase in permanently protected and publicly owned Waterfowl Production Areas.

How will the outcomes be measured and evaluated?

We over delivered on our measurable short-term outcomes as defined in our accomplishment plan as follows: 1) We restored 729.7 acres to grassland and wetland complexes resulting in net-gain of wildlife habitat, 2) We created new public land access to 1,001 acres of now permanently protected habitat that builds on existing protected lands and creates an essential mosaic of habitat complexes. These short term outcomes contribute to our long term goals of creating stable and/or increasing game and non-game wildlife populations while increasing opportunities for wildlife dependent recreation by the public.

Budget Spreadsheet

Final Budget line item reallocations are allowed up to 10% and do not need require an amendment to the Accomplishment Plan

Total Amount: \$5,400,000

Budget and Cash Leverage

Budget Name	Request	Spent	Cash Leverage (anticipated)	Cash Leverage (received)	Leverage Source	Total (original)	Total (final)
Personnel	\$62,000	\$28,200	\$432,000	\$0	Federal Government, Federal Government	\$494,000	\$28,200
Contracts	\$315,000	\$310,100	\$0	\$91,700	PF	\$315,000	\$401,800
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0	\$0
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	\$4,910,000	\$4,907,900	\$2,600,000	\$3,200,100	PF(355,000) FWS(2.8M)	\$7,510,000	\$8,108,000
Easement Acquisition	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0	\$0
Easement Stewardship	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0	\$0
Travel	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0	\$0
Professional Services	\$113,000	\$79,500	\$288,000	\$502,400	PF(500) FWS (501,900)	\$401,000	\$581,900
Direct Support Services	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0	\$0
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	\$0	\$12,500	\$0	\$0		\$0	\$12,500
Capital Equipment	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0	\$0
Other Equipment/Tools	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0	\$0
Supplies/Materials	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0	\$0
DNR IDP	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0	\$0
Total	\$5,400,000	\$5,338,200	\$3,320,000	\$3,794,200		\$8,720,000	\$9,132,400

Personnel

Position	FTE	Over # of years	Spent	Cash Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
PF Director of Conservation	0.04	3.00	\$11,400	\$0		\$11,400
PF Regional Staff (2)	0.03	3.00	\$10,000	\$0		\$10,000
PF Grants Staff (3)	0.05	3.00	\$6,800	\$0		\$6,800
Service Management Staff	0.00	0.00	\$0	\$0	Federal Government	\$0
Service Realty Staff	0.00	0.00	\$0	\$0	Federal Government	\$0
Total	0.12	9.00	\$28,200	\$0		\$28,200

Explain any budget challenges or successes:

Pheasants Forever (PF) and our partners are happy to bring in \$3,794,200 of non-state match dollars to this effort, exceeding our match goal of \$3,320,000 by \$474,200. No significant challenges were encountered in this process. PF also came in significantly under budget for personal costs, using only \$28,200 of the \$62,000 budgeted to buy more acres than our original proposal. This demonstrates the efficiency at which Pheasants Forever permanently protects habitat.

Output Tables

Table 1a. Acres by Resource Type

Type	Wetlands (original)	Wetlands (final)	Prairies (original)	Prairies (final)	Forest (original)	Forest (final)	Habitats (original)	Habitats (final)	Total (original)	Total (final)
Restore	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	235	185	700	816	0	0	0	0	935	1,001
Protect in Easement	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Enhance	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	235	185	700	816	0	0	0	0	935	1,001

Table 1b. How many of these Prairie acres are Native Prairie?

Type	Native Prairie (original)	Native Prairie (final)
Restore	0	0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	0
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	0	31
Protect in Easement	0	0
Enhance	0	0
Total	0	0

Table 2. Total Funding by Resource Type

Type	Wetlands (original)	Wetlands (final)	Prairies (original)	Prairies (final)	Forest (original)	Forest (final)	Habitats (original)	Habitats (final)	Total (original)	Total (final)
Restore	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	\$1,512,000	\$985,600	\$3,888,000	\$4,352,600	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$5,400,000	\$5,338,200
Protect in Easement	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Enhance	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total	\$1,512,000	\$985,600	\$3,888,000	\$4,352,600	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$5,400,000	\$5,338,200

Table 3. Acres within each Ecological Section

Type	Metro Urban (original)	Metro Urban (final)	ForestPrairie (original)	Forest Prairie (final)	SE Forest (original)	SE Forest (final)	Prairie (original)	Prairie (final)	N Forest (original)	N Forest (final)	Total (original)	Total (final)
Restore	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	80	0	200	0	0	0	655	1,001	0	0	935	1,001
Protect in Easement	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Enhance	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	80	0	200	0	0	0	655	1,001	0	0	935	1,001

Table 4. Total Funding within each Ecological Section

Type	Metro Urban (original)	Metro Urban (final)	ForestPrairie (original)	Forest Prairie (final)	SE Forest (original)	SE Forest (final)	Prairie (original)	Prairie (final)	N Forest (original)	N Forest (final)	Total (original)	Total (final)
Restore	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	\$432,000	\$0	\$11,880,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$3,780,000	\$5,338,200	\$0	\$0	\$16,092,000	\$5,338,200
Protect in Easement	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Enhance	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total	\$432,000	\$0	\$11,880,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$3,780,000	\$5,338,200	\$0	\$0	\$16,092,000	\$5,338,200

Target Lake/Stream/River Feet or Miles (original)

0

Target Lake/Stream/River Feet or Miles (final)

0

Explain the success/shortage of acre goals:

We acquired 5 parcels for a total of 1001 acres which exceeded our total acre goal of 935 acres by 66 acres. We did not acquire any of the proposed acres in the metro or the forest/prairie transition section. This was because we instead acquired more strategic habitat in the prairie region, exceeding our prairie region goal of 655 acres by 346 acres.

Parcel List

Section 1 - Restore / Enhance Parcel List

No parcels with an activity type restore or enhance.

Section 2 - Protect Parcel List

Clay

Name	TRDS	Acres	OHF Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?	Description
Manitoba Junction WPA Addition	14044221	160	\$653,014	No	Yes		WPA Addition

Lac qui Parle

Name	TRDS	Acres	OHF Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?	Description
Hastad WPA Addition	11943208	40	\$156,380	Yes			WPA Addition

Murray

Name	TRDS	Acres	OHF Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?	Description
John Giese WPA	10539225	320	\$2,240,000	No	Yes		WPA Addition

Stevens

Name	TRDS	Acres	OHF Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?	Description
Niemackl Slough	12643203	199	\$1,016,277	Yes	Yes		WPA Addition

Swift

Name	TRDS	Acres	OHF Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?	Description
Hanson WPA Addition	12237205	282	\$781,000	No	Yes		WPA Addition

Section 2a - Protect Parcel with Bldgs

No parcels with an activity type protect and has buildings.

Section 3 - Other Parcel Activity

No parcels with an other activity type.

Completed Parcel: Hanson WPA Addition

# of Total Acres:	282
County:	Swift
Township:	122
Range:	37
Direction:	2
Section:	05
# of Acres: Wetlands/Upland:	40.9
# of Acres: Forest:	
# of Acres: Prairie/Grassland:	240.98
Amount of Shoreline:	
Name of Adjacent Body of Water (if applicable):	
Has there been signage erected at the site:	Yes
Annual Reporting Organization Name:	USFWS
Annual Reporting Manager Name:	Danielle Kepford
Annual Reporting Address:	5600 American Blvd.
Annual Reporting City:	Bloomington
Annual Reporting State:	MN
Annual Reporting Zip:	55437
Annual Reporting Email:	danielle_kepford@fws.gov
Annual Reporting Phone:	6127135460
Purchase Date:	November 19, 2014
Acquisition Title:	
Purchase Price:	\$804,430
Appraised Value:	\$781,000
Professional Service Costs:	\$15,859
Assessed Value:	\$585,500
Total Project Cost:	\$804,430
Fees Received:	\$0
Donations:	\$0
Related Parties:	
Property Managed By:	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service - WPA -
Name of the unit area or location government unit or land manager:	Bruce Freske

Completed Parcel: Hastad WPA Addition

# of Total Acres:	40
County:	Lac qui Parle
Township:	119
Range:	43
Direction:	2
Section:	08
# of Acres: Wetlands/Upland:	1.1
# of Acres: Forest:	
# of Acres: Prairie/Grassland:	38.9
Amount of Shoreline:	
Name of Adjacent Body of Water (if applicable):	
Has there been signage erected at the site:	Yes
Annual Reporting Organization Name:	USFWS
Annual Reporting Manager Name:	Danielle Kepford
Annual Reporting Address:	5600 American Blvd.
Annual Reporting City:	Bloomington
Annual Reporting State:	MN
Annual Reporting Zip:	55437
Annual Reporting Email:	danielle_kepford@fws.gov
Annual Reporting Phone:	6127135460
Purchase Date:	January 27, 2015
Acquisition Title:	
Purchase Price:	\$190,000
Appraised Value:	\$205,000
Professional Service Costs:	\$9,480
Assessed Value:	\$136,100
Total Project Cost:	\$205,000
Fees Received:	\$0
Donations:	\$15,000
Related Parties:	
Property Managed By:	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service - WPA -
Name of the unit area or location government unit or land manager:	Bruce Freske

Completed Parcel: John Giese WPA

# of Total Acres:	320
County:	Murray
Township:	105
Range:	39
Direction:	2
Section:	25
# of Acres: Wetlands/Upland:	63
# of Acres: Forest:	
# of Acres: Prairie/Grassland:	257
Amount of Shoreline:	
Name of Adjacent Body of Water (if applicable):	
Has there been signage erected at the site:	Yes
Annual Reporting Organization Name:	USFWS
Annual Reporting Manager Name:	Danielle Kepford
Annual Reporting Address:	5600 American Blvd.
Annual Reporting City:	Bloomington
Annual Reporting State:	MN
Annual Reporting Zip:	55437
Annual Reporting Email:	danielle_kepford@fws.gov
Annual Reporting Phone:	6127135460
Purchase Date:	December 09, 2013
Acquisition Title:	
Purchase Price:	\$2,240,000
Appraised Value:	\$2,240,000
Professional Service Costs:	\$13,636
Assessed Value:	\$1,289,500
Total Project Cost:	\$2,240,000
Fees Received:	\$0
Donations:	\$0
Related Parties:	
Property Managed By:	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service - WPA -
Name of the unit area or location government unit or land manager:	Todd Luke

Completed Parcel: Manitoba Junction WPA Addition

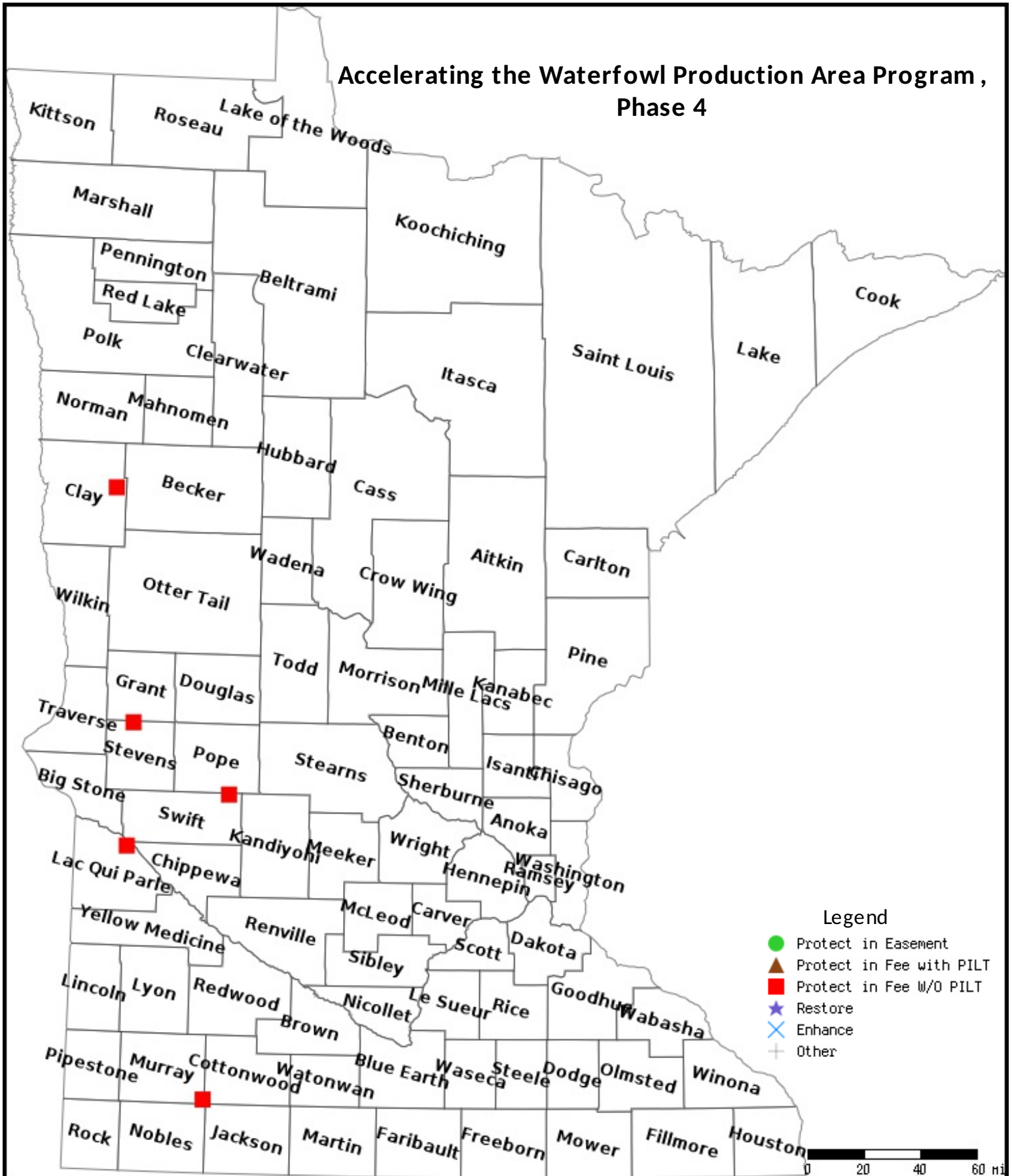
# of Total Acres:	160
County:	Clay
Township:	140
Range:	44
Direction:	2
Section:	21
# of Acres: Wetlands/Upland:	0.48
# of Acres: Forest:	
# of Acres: Prairie/Grassland:	159.52
Amount of Shoreline:	
Name of Adjacent Body of Water (if applicable):	
Has there been signage erected at the site:	Yes
Annual Reporting Organization Name:	USFWS
Annual Reporting Manager Name:	Danielle Kepford
Annual Reporting Address:	5600 American Blvd.
Annual Reporting City:	Bloomington
Annual Reporting State:	MN
Annual Reporting Zip:	55473
Annual Reporting Email:	danielle_kepford@fws.gov
Annual Reporting Phone:	6127135460
Purchase Date:	June 25, 2015
Acquisition Title:	
Purchase Price:	\$829,000
Appraised Value:	\$829,000
Professional Service Costs:	\$5,850
Assessed Value:	\$603,000
Total Project Cost:	\$829,000
Fees Received:	\$0
Donations:	\$0
Related Parties:	
Property Managed By:	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service - WPA -
Name of the unit area or location government unit or land manager:	Ryan Frohling

Completed Parcel: Niemackl Slough

# of Total Acres:	199
County:	Stevens
Township:	126
Range:	43
Direction:	2
Section:	03
# of Acres: Wetlands/Upland:	79.36
# of Acres: Forest:	
# of Acres: Prairie/Grassland:	119.91
Amount of Shoreline:	
Name of Adjacent Body of Water (if applicable):	
Has there been signage erected at the site:	Yes
Annual Reporting Organization Name:	USFWS
Annual Reporting Manager Name:	Danielle Kepford
Annual Reporting Address:	5600 American Blvd.
Annual Reporting City:	Bloomington
Annual Reporting State:	MN
Annual Reporting Zip:	55437
Annual Reporting Email:	danielle_kepford@fws.gov
Annual Reporting Phone:	612-713-5460
Purchase Date:	June 25, 2013
Acquisition Title:	
Purchase Price:	\$1,046,765
Appraised Value:	\$1,095,000
Professional Service Costs:	\$12,586
Assessed Value:	\$752,400
Total Project Cost:	\$1,095,000
Fees Received:	\$0
Donations:	\$48,235
Related Parties:	
Property Managed By:	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service - WPA -
Name of the unit area or location government unit or land manager:	Bruce Freske

Parcel Map

Accelerating the Waterfowl Production Area Program , Phase 4



Data Generated From Parcel List