



## Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

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### Laws of Minnesota 2014 Final Report

#### General Information

**Date:** 12/30/2020

**Project Title:** Accelerating the Waterfowl Production Area Program - Phase 6

**Funds Recommended:** \$7,280,000

**Legislative Citation:** ML 2014, Ch. 256, Art. 1, Sec. 2, Subd. 4(b)

**Appropriation Language:** \$7,280,000 in the second year is to the commissioner of natural resources for a contract with Pheasants Forever to acquire land in fee to be designated and managed 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.

#### Manager Information

**Manager's Name:** Sabin Adams

**Title:**

**Organization:** Pheasants Forever

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#### Location Information

**County Location(s):** Lyon, Lincoln, Stearns, Sibley, Pope, Becker and Kandiyohi.

**Eco regions in which work will take place:**

- Forest / Prairie Transition
- Prairie
- Metro / Urban

**Activity types:**

- Protect in Fee

**Priority resources addressed by activity:**

- Wetlands
- Prairie

## Narrative

### Summary of Accomplishments

The goal of this program was to accelerate the protection of 887 acres as Waterfowl Production Area's. Pheasants Forever successfully protected eight parcels totaling 1,554.39 acres of prairie wetland and grasslands providing excellent habitat for numerous wildlife.

In total, we under spent on our budget, over delivered on acre goals, and over delivered on match leverage received.

### Process & Methods

The loss of grassland and wetland habitats in Minnesota is well documented. One of the primary ways to reverse this downward trend is to permanently acquire and restore previously converted wetland and grassland habitats on those properties. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) and their partners have been employing this strategy for over 50-years with the Small Wetlands Acquisition Program (SWAP). This sixth phase of the acceleration program acquires AND restores 335 acres of wetland and 505 acres of grassland habitats which will be permanently protected as Waterfowl Protection Areas managed by the Service. Using landscape level planning tools [e.g. Thunderstorm Maps produced by the Service's Habitat and Population Evaluation Team (HAPET)], Pheasants Forever (PF) will acquire strategically identified properties. Based on HAPET evaluation strategies, modeling predictions can be made on the numbers of nesting waterfowl, grassland nesting birds, and other wildlife the acres affected by this grant application will produce. Besides the obvious wildlife benefits, once restored, the lands acquired through this grant will provide additional water quality, groundwater recharge, and flood abatement benefits. These strategies are well tested and are supported by the greater conservation community here in Minnesota. Hunting and fishing stakeholders are very interested in increasing opportunities for hunting and fishing public access and have used WPA's extensively in the past. To address concerns related to the erosion of county tax revenues due to public land, the Service and PF will notify counties prior to acquisition of lands. Once acquired, the Service will make a one-time Trust Fund payment to the County where the property is located. In addition, the Service will make annual Refuge Revenue Sharing payments for all fee lands within the respective Counties.

Funding for restoration of the properties will be solicited from partners. If this funding is available, budgeted Outdoor Heritage restoration funds under this proposal would be able to accomplish additional fee title w/o PILT acquisition funds. Wetlands, on the properties acquired, will be restored by either surface ditch "plugs" or breaking sub-surface tile lines. Grasslands will be restored by planting appropriate native grasses and forbs to converted grassland habitats. Grassland restoration on individual tracts may take three to five years and involve one to two years of post acquisition farming to prepare the seed base, one year for seeding and one to two years to establish.

### Explain Partners, Supporters, & Opposition

We worked in close collaboration with USFWS to find and evaluate the best properties to peruse 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.

### **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.

### **What other funds contributed to this program?**

- Other : Pheasants Forever was able to bring additional funds to this program through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Partners For Fish and Wildlife program, as well as the NAWCA grants program.

### **How were the funds used to advance the program?**

These other programs brought more than \$529,300 to the program and allowed us to purchase additional acres as well as complete restoration projects. These funds allowed us to purchase over 120 additional acres of new WPA's.

NAWCA \$475,000, Partners for Fish & Wildlife \$54,329, PF Donated \$9,992, LO Donated \$232,700, FWS Leverage \$2,883,850

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

All parcels acquired have been transferred to the USFWS for enrollment into the Waterfowl Production Area program. All parcels were acquired then restored 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.

## Budget

### Totals

| Item                       | Request            | Spent              | Antic. Leverage    | Received Leverage  | Leverage Source      | Original Total     | Final Total         |
|----------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|----------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| Personnel                  | \$90,000           | \$45,900           | \$336,000          | -                  | -                    | \$426,000          | \$45,900            |
| Contracts                  | \$416,000          | \$355,800          | -                  | \$61,700           | Federal, PF, Private | \$416,000          | \$417,500           |
| Fee Acquisition w/ PILT    | -                  | -                  | -                  | -                  | -                    | -                  | -                   |
| Fee Acquisition w/o PILT   | \$6,614,000        | \$5,782,400        | \$2,240,000        | \$3,609,600        | Federal, PF, Private | \$8,854,000        | \$9,392,000         |
| Easement Acquisition       | -                  | -                  | -                  | -                  | -                    | -                  | -                   |
| Easement Stewardship       | -                  | -                  | -                  | -                  | -                    | -                  | -                   |
| Travel                     | \$5,000            | \$700              | -                  | -                  | -                    | \$5,000            | \$700               |
| Professional Services      | \$60,000           | \$64,700           | \$112,000          | \$2,600            | Federal, PF, Private | \$172,000          | \$67,300            |
| Direct Support Services    | -                  | -                  | -                  | -                  | -                    | -                  | -                   |
| DNR Land Acquisition Costs | \$10,000           | \$2,200            | -                  | -                  | -                    | \$10,000           | \$2,200             |
| Capital Equipment          | -                  | -                  | -                  | -                  | -                    | -                  | -                   |
| Other Equipment/Tools      | -                  | -                  | -                  | -                  | -                    | -                  | -                   |
| Supplies/Materials         | \$85,000           | \$81,000           | -                  | -                  | -                    | \$85,000           | \$81,000            |
| DNR IDP                    | -                  | -                  | -                  | -                  | -                    | -                  | -                   |
| <b>Grand Total</b>         | <b>\$7,280,000</b> | <b>\$6,332,700</b> | <b>\$2,688,000</b> | <b>\$3,673,900</b> | <b>-</b>             | <b>\$9,968,000</b> | <b>\$10,006,600</b> |

### Personnel

| Position                    | Annual FTE | Years Working | Funding Request | Antic. Leverage | Leverage Source | Total    |
|-----------------------------|------------|---------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------|
| PF Director of Conservation | 0.08       | 3.0           | \$15,300        | -               | -               | \$15,300 |
| PF Regional Staff           | 0.08       | 3.0           | \$15,300        | -               | -               | \$15,300 |
| PF National Grants Staff    | 0.2        | 3.0           | \$15,300        | -               | -               | \$15,300 |

### Explain any budget challenges or successes:

Pheasants Forever and our partners are happy to bring in over \$3,600,000 of non-state match dollars to this effort. While coming in under budget we were able to buy more acres than our original proposal. This demonstrates the efficiency of Pheasants Forever as the economical provider for building Waterfowl Production Areas. No challenges were encountered and PF achieved and exceeded all outlined goals within the budget.

**Total Revenue:** \$67,935

**Revenue Spent:** \$22,066

**Revenue Balance:** \$45,869

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

- B. This revenue, or a portion of it, was used for other purposes as approved in the AP by the LSOHC.
- C. This revenue, or a portion of it, was transferred back to the OHF.



## Output Tables

### Acres by Resource Type (Table 1)

| Type                                     | Wetland (AP) | Wetland (Final) | Prairie (AP) | Prairie (Final) | Forest (AP) | Forest (Final) | Habitat (AP) | Habitat (Final) | Total Acres (AP) | Total Acres (Final) |
|--|--------------|-----------------|--------------|-----------------|-------------|----------------|--------------|-----------------|------------------|---------------------|
| Restore                                  | 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  | 353          | 304             | 534          | 1,250           | 0           | 0              | 0            | 0               | 887              | 1,554               |
| Protect in Easement                      | 0            | 0               | 0            | 0               | 0           | 0              | 0            | 0               | 0                | 0                   |
| Enhance                                  | 0            | 0               | 0            | 0               | 0           | 0              | 0            | 0               | 0                | 0                   |
| <b>Total</b>                             | <b>353</b>   | <b>304</b>      | <b>534</b>   | <b>1,250</b>    | <b>0</b>    | <b>0</b>       | <b>0</b>     | <b>0</b>        | <b>887</b>       | <b>1,554</b>        |

### Total Requested Funding by Resource Type (Table 2)

| Type                                     | Wetland (AP)       | Wetland (Final)    | Prairie (AP)       | Prairie (Final)    | Forest (AP) | Forest (Final) | Habitat (AP) | Habitat (Final) | Total Funding (AP) | Total Funding (Final) |
|--|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-------------|----------------|--------------|-----------------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| Restore                                  | -                  | -                  | -                  | -                  | -           | -              | -            | -               | -                  | -                     |
| Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability | -                  | -                  | -                  | -                  | -           | -              | -            | -               | -                  | -                     |
| Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability  | \$2,912,000        | \$1,240,600        | \$4,368,000        | \$5,092,100        | -           | -              | -            | -               | \$7,280,000        | \$6,332,700           |
| Protect in Easement                      | -                  | -                  | -                  | -                  | -           | -              | -            | -               | -                  | -                     |
| Enhance                                  | -                  | -                  | -                  | -                  | -           | -              | -            | -               | -                  | -                     |
| <b>Total</b>                             | <b>\$2,912,000</b> | <b>\$1,240,600</b> | <b>\$4,368,000</b> | <b>\$5,092,100</b> | <b>-</b>    | <b>-</b>       | <b>-</b>     | <b>-</b>        | <b>\$7,280,000</b> | <b>\$6,332,700</b>    |

### Acres within each Ecological Section (Table 3)

| Type                                     | Metro / Urban (AP) | Metro / Urban (Final) | Forest / Prairie (AP) | Forest / Prairie (Final) | SE Forest (AP) | SE Forest (Final) | Prairie (AP) | Prairie (Final) | N. Forest (AP) | N. Forest (Final) | Total (AP) | Total (Final) |
|--|--------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|----------------|-------------------|--------------|-----------------|----------------|-------------------|------------|---------------|
| Restore                                  | 0                  | 0                     | 0                     | 0                        | 0              | 0                 | 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                               | 180                | 129                   | 65                    | 277                      | 0              | 0                 | 642          | 1,148           | 0              | 0                 | 887        | 1,554         |

|                              |            |            |           |            |          |          |            |              |          |          |            |              |
|------------------------------|------------|------------|-----------|------------|----------|----------|------------|--------------|----------|----------|------------|--------------|
| Fee w/o State PILT Liability |            |            |           |            |          |          |            |              |          |          |            |              |
| 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            |
| <b>Total</b>                 | <b>180</b> | <b>129</b> | <b>65</b> | <b>277</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>642</b> | <b>1,148</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>887</b> | <b>1,554</b> |

#### Total Requested Funding within each Ecological Section (Table 4)

| Type                                     | Metro/Urban (AP)   | Metro/Urban (Final) | Forest / Prairie (AP) | Forest / Prairie (Final) | SE Forest (AP) | SE Forest (Final) | Prairie (AP)       | Prairie (Final)    | N. Forest (AP) | N. Forest (Final) | Total (AP)         | Total (Final)      |
|--|--------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|----------------|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------|----------------|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Restore                                  | -                  | -                   | -                     | -                        | -              | -                 | -                  | -                  | -              | -                 | -                  | -                  |
| Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability | -                  | -                   | -                     | -                        | -              | -                 | -                  | -                  | -              | -                 | -                  | -                  |
| Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability  | \$2,208,000        | \$525,100           | \$450,000             | \$1,129,900              | -              | -                 | \$4,622,000        | \$4,677,700        | -              | -                 | \$7,280,000        | \$6,332,700        |
| Protect in Easement                      | -                  | -                   | -                     | -                        | -              | -                 | -                  | -                  | -              | -                 | -                  | -                  |
| Enhance                                  | -                  | -                   | -                     | -                        | -              | -                 | -                  | -                  | -              | -                 | -                  | -                  |
| <b>Total</b>                             | <b>\$2,208,000</b> | <b>\$525,100</b>    | <b>\$450,000</b>      | <b>\$1,129,900</b>       | <b>-</b>       | <b>-</b>          | <b>\$4,622,000</b> | <b>\$4,677,700</b> | <b>-</b>       | <b>-</b>          | <b>\$7,280,000</b> | <b>\$6,332,700</b> |

#### Average Cost per Acre by Resource Type (Table 5)

| Type                                     | Wetland (AP) | Wetland (Final) | Prairie (AP) | Prairie (Final) | Forest (AP) | Forest (Final) | Habitat (AP) | Habitat (Final) |
|--|--------------|-----------------|--------------|-----------------|-------------|----------------|--------------|-----------------|
| Restore                                  | -            | -               | -            | -               | -           | -              | -            | -               |
| Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability | -            | -               | -            | -               | -           | -              | -            | -               |
| Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability  | \$8,249      | \$4,080         | \$8,179      | \$4,073         | -           | -              | -            | -               |
| Protect in Easement                      | -            | -               | -            | -               | -           | -              | -            | -               |
| Enhance                                  | -            | -               | -            | -               | -           | -              | -            | -               |

#### Average Cost per Acre by Ecological Section (Table 6)

| Type    | Metro / Urban (AP) | Metro / Urban (Final) | Forest / Prairie (AP) | Forest / Prairie (Final) | SE Forest (AP) | SE Forest (Final) | Prairie (AP) | Prairie (Final) | N. Forest (AP) | N. Forest (Final) |
|---------|--------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|----------------|-------------------|--------------|-----------------|----------------|-------------------|
| Restore | -                  | -                     | -                     | -                        | -              | -                 | -            | -               | -              | -                 |

|  |          |         |         |         |   |   |         |         |   |   |
|--|----------|---------|---------|---------|---|---|---------|---------|---|---|
| Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability | -        | -       | -       | -       | - | - | -       | -       | - | - |
| Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability  | \$12,266 | \$4,070 | \$6,923 | \$4,079 | - | - | \$7,199 | \$4,074 | - | - |
| Protect in Easement                      | -        | -       | -       | -       | - | - | -       | -       | - | - |
| Enhance                                  | -        | -       | -       | -       | - | - | -       | -       | - | - |

## Target Lake/Stream/River Feet or Miles

6502

## Outcomes

### Programs in forest-prairie transition region:

- Water is kept on the land ~ *We acquired one tract in the forest-prairie transition region totaling 277.34, including 67.19 acres of wetlands. The acres on this property were restored to the highest extent possible and all acres are open to public recreation and hunting.*
- Other ~ *We acquired one tract in the forest-prairie transition region totaling 277.34, including 67.19 acres of wetlands. The acres on this property were restored to the highest extent possible and all acres are open to public recreation and hunting.*
- Protected, restored, and enhanced nesting and migratory habitat for waterfowl, upland birds, and species of greatest conservation need ~ *We acquired one tract in the forest-prairie transition region totaling 277.34, including 67.19 acres of wetlands. The acres on this property were restored to the highest extent possible and all acres are open to public recreation and hunting.*

### Programs in metropolitan urbanizing region:

- A network of natural land and riparian habitats will connect corridors for wildlife and species in greatest conservation need ~ *We acquired one tract in the metropolitan urbanizing region totaling 128.9 acres, including 105.36 acres of wetlands. The acres on this property were restored to the highest extent possible and all acres are open to public recreation and hunting.*
- Protected habitats will hold wetlands and shallow lakes open to public recreation and hunting ~ *We acquired one tract in the metropolitan urbanizing region totaling 128.9 acres, including 105.36 acres of wetlands. The acres on this property were restored to the highest extent possible and all acres are open to public recreation and hunting.*
- Other ~ *We acquired one tract in the metropolitan urbanizing region totaling 128.9 acres, including 105.36 acres of wetlands. The acres on this property were restored to the highest extent possible and all acres are open to public recreation and hunting.*

### Programs in prairie region:

- Expiring CRP lands are permanently protected ~ *Pheasants Forever acquired 6 tracts in the Prairie region of Minnesota. These acquisitions add 1148 acres of quality prairie and wetland habitat for wildlife as well as public land access for hunting and other outdoor recreation.*



- Improved access to public lands ~ *Pheasants Forever acquired 6 tracts in the Prairie region of Minnesota. These acquisitions add 1148 acres of quality prairie and wetland habitat for wildlife as well as public land access for hunting and other outdoor recreation.*
- Protected, restored, and enhanced habitat for migratory and unique Minnesota species ~ *Pheasants Forever acquired 6 tracts in the Prairie region of Minnesota. These acquisitions add 1148 acres of quality prairie and wetland habitat for wildlife as well as public land access for hunting and other outdoor recreation.*

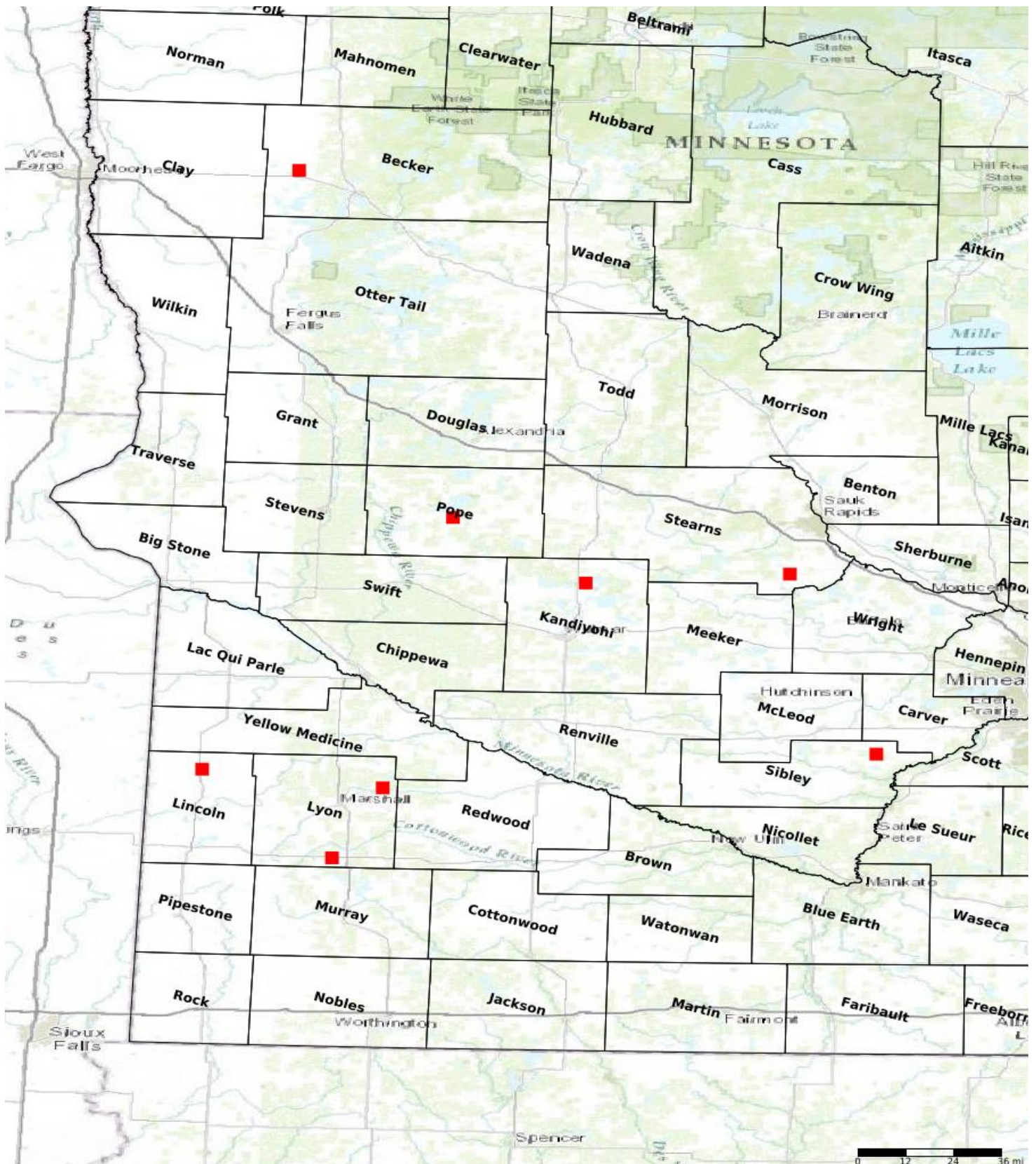
## Parcels

### Sign-up Criteria?

No

### Protect Parcels

| Name                        | County    | TRDS      | Acres | Est Cost    | Existing Protection |
|-----------------------------|-----------|-----------|-------|-------------|---------------------|
| Warling WPA                 | Becker    | 14043236  | 283   | \$1,000,000 | No                  |
| New London WPA Addition     | Kandiyohi | 12134205  | 37    | \$320,000   | No                  |
| Dubbeldee WPA               | Lincoln   | 11345227  | 160   | \$1,000,000 | No                  |
| Stofer WPA                  | Lyon      | 11240215  | 224   | \$1,378,000 | No                  |
| Bendix WPA Addition         | Lyon      | 109410220 | 125   | \$1,100,000 | No                  |
| Stenerson Lake WPA Addition | Pope      | 124380209 | 320   | \$1,200,000 | No                  |
| Mud Lake WPA Addition Tr. 3 | Sibley    | 11426221  | 129   | \$735,000   | No                  |
| Erpelding Generation WPA    | Stearns   | 12229224  | 277   | \$975,000   | No                  |



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

**Parcel Map**  
**Accelerating the Waterfowl Production Area**  
**Program - Phase 6**  
**(Data Generated From Parcel List)**