



Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Enhanced Public Land – Grasslands - Phase III

Laws of Minnesota 2018 Final Report

General Information

Date: 09/07/2023

Project Title: Enhanced Public Land – Grasslands - Phase III

Funds Recommended: \$2,160,000

Legislative Citation: ML 2018, Ch. 208, Art. 1, Sec. 2, subd 2(n)

Appropriation Language: \$2,160,000 the second year is to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with Pheasants Forever to enhance and restore grassland and wetland habitat on public lands. A list of proposed land restorations and enhancements must be provided as part of the required accomplishment plan.

Manager Information

Manager's Name: Sabin Adams

Title: Public Lands Manager

Organization: Pheasants Forever

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Location Information

County Location(s): Redwood, Mille Lacs, Freeborn, Chippewa, Murray, Traverse, Carver, Becker, Pipestone, Renville, Pope, Polk, Otter Tail, Nobles, McLeod, Lyon, Lincoln, Kandiyohi, Jackson, Douglas, Cottonwood, Clay, Sherburne, Stearns, Yellow Medicine, Stevens, Scott, Blue Earth, Wright, Mahnommen and Rock.

Eco regions in which work will take place:

- Forest / Prairie Transition
- Prairie
- Metro / Urban

Activity types:

- Restore
- Enhance

Priority resources addressed by activity:

- Wetlands
- Prairie

Narrative

Summary of Accomplishments

This program enhanced 10,583 and restored 198 acres for a total impact of 10,781 acres by restoring wetlands, removing invasive trees, seeding prairies, prescribed burning, and installing infrastructure for conservation grazing. These practices took place on Waterfowl Production Areas (WPA's), and Wildlife Management Areas (WMA's) in the prairie, metro and the forest/prairie transition regions of Minnesota. We exceeded our acre goals in every category, brought \$45,768.51 in match funds, and are returning \$833.50 in funds.

Process & Methods

Pheasants Forever sent a Request for Proposal (RFP) to wildlife managers within the MN DNR (managing WMA's), and USFWS (managing WPA's), giving them the opportunity to submit projects to be funded under this phase. Eligible practices included wetland restoration, invasive tree removal, upland enhancement/restoration, prescribed fire, and conservation grazing. Projects were ranked based on cost and priorities such as the impact on threatened & endangered species, project location within Conservation Plan Focus Areas, size of the complex, and potential benefit to water quality. For selected projects, PF restoration staff worked with area wildlife managers to develop restoration/enhancement plans and translate those into statements of work (SOW). The SOW was sent along with the Request for Bid to local contractors as part of the solicitation process that is laid out in PF's Procurement Policy. Once awarded, PF and agency staff monitored construction to ensure work was completed to quoted specifications, in time, and on budget.

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

Value to T&E species is one of our project ranking criteria as part of our RFP. Projects that directly benefitted T&E species were more likely to be funded. In addition, all projects were carefully planned and monitored to mitigate any negative impact to T&E or SGCN.

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

As with T&E and SGCN, we specifically prioritized project sites in complex areas, as well as sites within the MN Prairie Conservation plan in the RFP. By targeting restoration and enhancement in ecologically strategic areas, our efforts directly reduce habitat fragmentation and expand habitat corridors.

Explain Partners, Supporters, & Opposition

This program works closely with MN DNR and USFWS managers to complete work on proposed projects on WMA's, and WPA's. Often, these projects are brought to managers attention by members of the hunting community or other non-profit conservation groups. We again partnered with the North American Wetlands Conservation Act to provide leverage and financial assistance to complete large wetland restoration projects. No significant opposition was brought to our attention as a result of these restoration and enhancement projects.

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

While working through multiple phases of this program, we start to witness true landscape level changes with regards to prairie grassland and wetland habitats. As with any program, there are always minor challenges and failures, ranging from weather delays and conflicts with contractor schedules, to wetland restorations being infeasible due to neighbor disputes. New to this phase we've also included navigating restrictions due to COVID-19 to the list of challenges. Diligence and the outstanding relationship PF has with its agency partners led us to overcome these obstacles and impact over 10,782 acres, which, compared to other states is a unique opportunity to seize.

What other dedicated funds may collaborate with or contribute to this program?

- N/A

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

Most of the work completed in this program takes lands that are of lower quality habitat for wildlife and improves them. One example of this is removing invasive trees from grassland habitat. This work will generally allow the unit to be managed more effectively by allowing the manager to focus on grassland management instead of invasive species management. While it's difficult for a third party like Pheasants Forever to provide an analysis of future costs on existing public land, work done under this proposal will facilitate future management activities.

Actions to Maintain Project Outcomes

Year	Source of Funds	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3
5-10 yrs after project completion	MN DNR, PF, Federal	Identify management needs	Identify funding	Complete Management

Budget

Totals

Item	Requested	AP Amount	Spent	Leverage	Received Leverage	Leverage Source	Original Total	Final Total
Personnel	\$86,700	\$86,700	\$95,400	-	\$1,300	PF	\$86,700	\$96,700
Contracts	\$2,037,000	\$2,037,000	\$2,031,800	\$43,400	\$44,500	Federal	\$2,080,400	\$2,076,300
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Travel	\$4,300	\$4,300	\$2,300	-	-	-	\$4,300	\$2,300
Professional Services	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Direct Support Services	\$32,000	\$32,000	\$29,700	-	-	-	\$32,000	\$29,700
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Supplies/Materials	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	\$2,160,000	\$2,160,000	\$2,159,200	\$43,400	\$45,800	-	\$2,203,400	\$2,205,000

Personnel

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Amount Spent	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
PF State Coordinator - MN	0.02	3.0	\$6,500	-	-	\$6,500
PF Field Staff	0.25	3.0	\$58,600	\$1,300	PF	\$59,900
PF Grants Staff	0.12	3.0	\$30,300	-	-	\$30,300

Direct Support Services

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

PF utilizes the Total Modified Direct Cost method. This methodology is annually approved by the U.S. Department of Interior's National Business Center as the basis for the organization's Indirect Cost Rate agreement. PF's allowable direct support services cost is 4.12%. In this proposal, PF has discounted its rate to 1.5% of the sum of personnel, contracts, and travel. We are donating the difference-in-kind.

Explain any budget challenges or successes:

PF was able to bring an additional \$45,768.51 in federal match funds via the North American Wetland Conservation Act, allowing us to complete numerous large wetland restoration projects.

Total Revenue: \$0

Revenue Spent: \$0

Revenue Balance: \$0

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

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	21	87	44	111	0	0	0	0	65	198
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Easement	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Enhance	21	0	6,414	10,583	0	0	0	0	6,435	10,583
Total	42	87	6,458	10,694	0	0	0	0	6,500	10,781

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

Type	Native Prairie (AP)	Native Prairie (Final)
Restore	0	0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	0
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	0	0
Protect in Easement	0	0
Enhance	21	0
Total	21	0

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	\$7,200	\$17,500	\$14,400	\$22,200	-	-	-	-	\$21,600	\$39,700
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	\$7,200	-	\$2,131,200	\$2,119,500	-	-	-	-	\$2,138,400	\$2,119,500
Total	\$14,400	\$17,500	\$2,145,600	\$2,141,700	-	-	-	-	\$2,160,000	\$2,159,200

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	15	0	15	14	0	0	35	184	0	0	65	198
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Fee w/o State PILT Liability													
Protect in Easement	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Enhance	108	160	1,300	87	0	0	5,027	10,336	0	0	6,435	10,583	
Total	123	160	1,315	101	0	0	5,062	10,520	0	0	6,500	10,781	

Total Requested Funding within each Ecological Section (Table 4)

Type	Metro/ Urban (AP)	Metro/ Urban (Final)	Forest / Prairie (AP)	Forest / Prairie (Final)	SE Fores t (AP)	SE Fores t (Final)	Prairie (AP)	Prairie (Final)	N. Fores t (AP)	N. Fores t (Final)	Total (AP)	Total (Final)
Restore	\$5,000	-	\$5,000	\$2,700	-	-	\$11,600	\$37,000	-	-	\$21,600	\$39,700
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easeme nt	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	\$36,000	\$32,200	\$432,000	\$17,400	-	-	\$1,670,400	\$2,069,900	-	-	\$2,138,400	\$2,119,500
Total	\$41,000	\$32,200	\$437,000	\$20,100	-	-	\$1,682,000	\$2,106,900	-	-	\$2,160,000	\$2,159,200

Target Lake/Stream/River Feet or Miles

Outcomes

Programs in forest-prairie transition region:

- Increased waterfowl and upland bird migratory and breeding success ~ *Restoration and enhancement projects in the forest-prairie transition region directly improved breeding success and provided habitat for migrating waterfowl and upland birds by impacting 101 acres.*

Programs in metropolitan urbanizing region:

- Other ~ *This program benefits the metropolitan urbanizing region of MN by restoring and enhancing habitats that are open to public access. We enhanced a total of 161 acres in this region.*

Programs in prairie region:

- Improved condition of habitat on public lands ~ *This program directly addressed the prairie region outcome to improve by condition of habitat on public lands as all practices did exactly that. We enhanced 10,336 and restored 185 acres for a total of 10,521 acres in this region.*

Parcels

Sign-up Criteria?

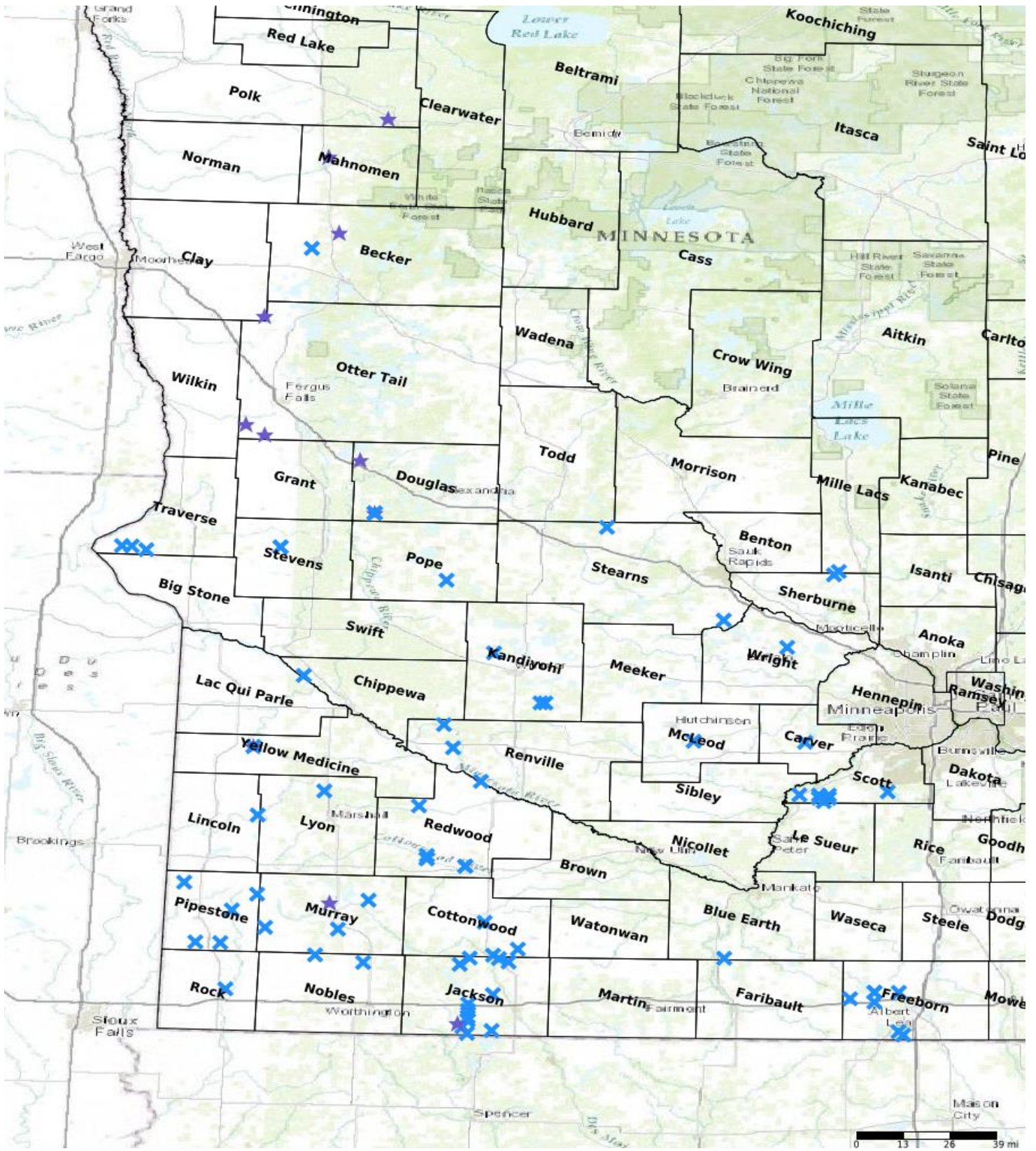
[Yes - Sign up criteria is attached](#)

Restore / Enhance Parcels

Name	County	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection
SPRING MARSHES WPA	Becker	14042209	0	\$60,394	Yes
KRUGER WPA	Becker	14141216	13	\$15,000	Yes
Shelby WPA	Blue Earth	10528236	120	\$35,000	Yes
Schneewind WMA	Carver	11625234	5	\$8,892	Yes
Lac qui Parle WMA	Chippewa	11942233	157	\$56,330	Yes
WHISKY LAKE WPA	Clay	13744225	1	\$10,000	Yes
Bennett WMA	Cottonwood	10535224	338	\$49,450	Yes
Watonwan River WPA	Cottonwood	10636211	138	\$58,650	Yes
Wolf Lake WPA	Cottonwood	10535231	65	\$6,500	Yes
Odens WPA	Douglas	13040232	5	\$30,000	Yes
Bengston WPA	Douglas	12740223	0	\$89,440	Yes
Bengston WPA	Douglas	12740223	0	\$63,000	Yes
Bengston WPA	Douglas	12740223	102	\$66,300	Yes
Bengston WPA	Douglas	12740223	0	\$7,600	Yes
Two Island WPA	Freeborn	10322224	188	\$4,523	Yes
Foster Creek WPA	Freeborn	10323232	110	\$2,647	Yes
I.C.E. WPA	Freeborn	10222206	45	\$5,000	Yes
Bhagyam WPA	Freeborn	10121230	2	\$5,000	Yes
Goose Creek WPA	Freeborn	10122224	311	\$7,483	Yes
Halls Lake WPA	Freeborn	10322219	1	\$25,000	Yes
Halls Lake WPA	Freeborn	10322219	204	\$81,810	Yes
Pletz Marsh WPA	Jackson	10136205	239	\$5,751	Yes
Loon Lake WPA	Jackson	10135230	151	\$3,633	Yes
Christiania WPA	Jackson	10435210	135	\$3,248	Yes
Boot Lake WPA	Jackson	10335231	82	\$1,973	Yes
Timber Lake WPA	Jackson	10437213	265	\$6,376	Yes
Husen WMA	Jackson	10236229	40	\$17,100	Yes
Summers WMA	Jackson	10236217	62	\$17,700	Yes
Minneota WMA	Jackson	10136232	88	\$23,514	Yes
Sioux Forks WPA	Jackson	10137213	31	\$15,000	Yes
Bisaillon WPA	Jackson	10136208	13	\$300	Yes
Fish Lake WPA	Jackson	10435205	93	\$9,300	Yes
Bisaillon WPA	Jackson	10136208	3	\$300	Yes
String Lake WPA	Jackson	10436205	244	\$5,871	Yes
Sioux Forks WPA	Jackson	10136219	318	\$7,652	Yes
Mamre WPA	Kandiyohi	12036224	113	\$92,799	Yes
Big Kandiyohi WPA, Unit 2 WPA	Kandiyohi	11734202	423	\$142,187	Yes
Big Kandiyohi WPA, Unit 1 WPA	Kandiyohi	11734203	204	\$104,000	Yes
Gislason Lake WPA	Lincoln	11144201	36	\$144,500	Yes
Vallers WMA	Lyon	11341229	762	\$59,777	Yes
BARKER WPA	Mahnomen	14542224	18	\$7,500	Yes
Phasianus WPA	McLeod	11629235	84	\$18,060	Yes
Kunkel WMA	Mille Lacs	03627234	21	\$4,000	Yes
Mason WPA	Murray	10741216	80	\$40,500	Yes
Big Slough WPA	Murray	10641226	24	\$577	Yes
Salt & Pepper WMA	Murray	10643229	66	\$2,188	Yes
Slaughter Slough WPA	Murray	10740211	33	\$5,000	Yes
Lone Tree WMA	Nobles	10440215	132	\$2,250	Yes
Fenmont WMA	Nobles	10442201	323	\$4,064	Yes

Dahler Slough WPA	Otter Tail	13144225	15	\$15,600	Yes
Hensch WPA	Otter Tail	13144208	6	\$2,500	Yes
Poplar Creek WMA	Pipestone	10545223	102	\$2,313	Yes
Eden WMA	Pipestone	10546224	112	\$1,125	Yes
Winter WMA	Pipestone	10846221	766	\$8,753	Yes
Terrace WMA	Pipestone	10744231	389	\$3,251	Yes
Woodstock WMA	Pipestone	10744201	156	\$2,313	Yes
JENKINS WPA	Polk	14740224	14	\$5,000	Yes
Ouren WPA	Pope	12437232	90	\$51,200	Yes
Two Rivers WMA	Redwood	10938202	43	\$15,000	Yes
Lamberton WMA	Redwood	10936218	50	\$27,500	Yes
Two Rivers WMA	Redwood	11038235	44	\$10,000	Yes
Two Rivers WMA	Redwood	10938202	242	\$49,000	Yes
Faxvog WMA	Redwood	11238216	123	\$60,500	Yes
Cedar Rock WMA	Redwood	11336203	27	\$37,500	Yes
Lamberton WMA	Redwood	10936218	148	\$36,750	Yes
Sacred Heart WPA	Renville	11537215	499	\$27,401	Yes
Chetomba Creek WMA	Renville	11637208	24	\$12,000	Yes
Rock River WMA	Rock	10345236	86	\$937	Yes
Raven WMA	Scott	11324232	6	\$9,918	Yes
PF3 (Pheasants Forever Module 3) WMA	Scott	11324221	2	\$2,223	Yes
Marsh WMA	Scott	11324219	1	\$1,881	Yes
Clark WMA	Scott	11325221	3	\$4,446	Yes
Michel WMA	Scott	11324228	1	\$1,368	Yes
Mahoney WMA	Scott	11324230	2	\$3,249	Yes
Bradshaw WMA	Scott	11322216	2	\$3,078	Yes
Kunkel WMA	Sherburne	03527204	0	\$34,300	Yes
Murray Lake WPA	Stearns	12228226	87	\$50,078	Yes
Lovell Lake WPA	Stearns	12632202	0	\$11,000	Yes
Pepperton WPA	Stevens	12543215	270	\$27,400	Yes
Pepperton WPA	Stevens	12543215	641	\$45,735	Yes
Lawrence WPA	Traverse	12547230	0	\$55,000	Yes
Robinhood WPA	Traverse	12548222	0	\$14,098	Yes
Mosquito Ranch WPA	Traverse	12548220	758	\$56,954	Yes
Angus Lake WPA	Wright	12026201	119	\$14,875	Yes
Oshkosh WMA (phase 2) WMA	Yellow Medicine	11544223	17	\$46,000	Yes
Oshkosh WMA (phase 1) WMA	Yellow Medicine	11544223	55	\$9,625	Yes

Parcel Map



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