



Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Laws of Minnesota 2018 Accomplishment Plan

General Information

Date: 12/03/2021

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: Eran Sandquist

Title: State Coordinator- MN

Organization: Pheasants Forever, Inc.

Address: 410 Lincoln Ave S Box 91

City: South Haven, MN 55382

Email: esandquist@pheasantsforever.org

Office Number: 320 236 7755

Mobile Number: 763 242 1273

Fax Number:

Website: www.pheasantsforever.org

Location Information

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

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**Abstract**

We propose to enhance 6,500 acres of grassland and wetland habitat to increase the productivity of game species and other wildlife on Minnesota lands open to public hunting including Wildlife Management Areas (WMA), Waterfowl Production Areas (WPA), and National Wildlife Refuges (NWR). We will accomplish this by working with our partners to follow best practices to conduct wetland restorations, conservation grazing, invasive tree removal, prescribed fire, and diversity seeding in the prairie, forest/prairie transition, and metro regions.

Design and Scope of Work

Greater than 95% of Minnesota's prairies have been lost to the plow and development. Many of the remaining acres of native and restored grasslands have been degraded from lack of fire and spread of invasive trees. Many wetlands are now in need of repair while others can be enhanced or restored. This project aims to address the loss of productivity on WPAs, WMAs, and NWRs that are open to hunting so they can reach their full potential for wildlife production.

Research has shown that trees are detrimental to prairie/grassland wildlife and will be removed with this proposal. Common species that degrade this habitat include but are not limited to Siberian Elm, Box Elder, and Eastern Red Cedar. The trees provide perches for avian predators such as red-tailed hawks, great-horned owls, and crows, and dens for red fox, raccoon, and skunk. Predators like these are highly effective at preying on both nests and nesting birds, especially in fragmented habitat. Wetlands will be restored/enhanced by removing drain tile, and constructing/repairing earthen dams and/or water control structures. Wetlands targeted for enhancement are vital to providing food, cover, and space required for breeding waterfowl and are essential to water quality and aquifer recharge.

Research has shown that a diverse mixture of native grasses and forbs is ideal for nesting and brood rearing of upland nesting birds along with being essential for pollinator species. Many WMAs, WPAs, or NWRs were purchased in sub-optimal habitat condition (e.g. monotype of brome grass) or were restored using low diversity seed mixes that are less productive for wildlife. We will use a site-specific combination of techniques (e.g. cultivation, tree removal, herbicide, and prescribed fire) to bring back productivity to these public lands. In close collaboration with the land managers, we will seed a diverse mix of native grasses and forbs that are well adapted to site conditions. Mowing will be used as needed to manage annual weed pressure to ensure establishment.

Conservation grazing is an important enhancement tool for sites that are difficult to conduct prescribed fires or need to target specific enhancement needs (e.g. cool season grass suppression, tree invasion, etc.). Permanent infrastructure with a lifespan of 30+ years will be installed to conduct conservation grazing plans written to benefit wildlife.

Prescribed burning is the primary management tool for managing grassland habitat for waterfowl, game birds, and songbirds. It increases vigor, sets back invasive woody species, and removes built up residue.

Our goal is to make every acre of public land as productive as possible. By adding capacity to enhance habitat on WPAs, NWRs and WMAs, we will strive to help our collective public land management entities so that they no longer need mechanical or chemical treatments and high-quality habitat can be sustained with prescribed fire only.

An RFP and ranking process has been developed in previous phases that allow us to identify, rank and deliver the projects that have the most impact for grassland and wetland wildlife.

How does the plan address habitats that have significant value for wildlife species of greatest conservation need, and/or threatened or endangered species, and list targeted species?

This project directly addresses the loss of wildlife production on reconstructed and native prairies through restoration and enhancement best practices. By increasing the quality of existing remnant prairie habitat (largely through fire and invasive tree removal) we can benefit numerous species that are of special concern, threatened, or endangered. This proposal targets grassland species, including but not limited to greater prairie chicken, ring-necked pheasants, monarch butterflies, honey bees and Dakota skippers.

Describe how the plan uses science-based targeting that leverages or expands corridors and complexes, reduces fragmentation or protects areas identified in the MN County Biological Survey:

The science and strategy of habitat enhancement in this part of Minnesota is to build functional complexes of habitat where it once existed. The quantity and spatial arrangement of habitat is important. Another important aspect relates to the quality of habitat found there. By enhancing and restoring grasslands and wetlands in key landscapes, we aim to make every acre as productive as possible to provide the most benefit to wildlife and the people of Minnesota. To maximize efficiency and effectiveness, projects will be developed in conjunction with MNDNR and USFWS land managers.

Which two sections of the Minnesota Statewide Conservation and Preservation Plan are most applicable to this project?

- H3 Improve connectivity and access to recreation
- H5 Restore land, wetlands and wetland-associated watersheds

Which two other plans are addressed in this program?

- Long Range Plan for the Ring-Necked Pheasant in MN
- Minnesota Prairie Conservation Plan

Which LSOHC section priorities are addressed in this program?

Forest / Prairie Transition

- Protect, enhance, and restore migratory habitat for waterfowl and related species, so as to increase migratory and breeding success

Metro / Urban

- Protect, enhance, and restore remnant native prairie, Big Woods forests, and oak savanna with an emphasis on areas with high biological diversity

Prairie

- Restore or enhance habitat on public lands

Does this program include leveraged funding?

-

Non-OHF Appropriations

Year	Source	Amount
2002-2010	Heritage Enhancement Grants	\$145,000 HE / \$14,500 PF
2015-2017	NAWCA	\$150,000 HE

How will you sustain and/or maintain this work after the Outdoor Heritage Funds are expended?

The portions of enhancement work that will be completed by this proposal will generally allow the unit to be managed more effectively by the resource manager, whether that be the USFWS or the MNDNR. However, with limited funds and constant pressure to our public land grasslands/wetlands from volunteer invasive trees, water quality decline, aging grasslands, etc., we also expect continued opportunity to supplement local agency efforts. While it's difficult for a third party like us to provide an analysis of future costs on existing public land, according to the Long-Range Budget Analysis of Land Management Needs, the cost of long-term management ranges from \$11-16/acre annually. We expect that average need to be the same for the parcels we worked on.

Actions to Maintain Project Outcomes

Year	Source of Funds	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3
Post Project Completion - WMA	MN DNR - Game and Fish Funds	Monitoring	Maintenance	-
Post Project Completion - WPA	USFWS - Federal	Monitoring	Maintenance	-
Post Project Completion -NWR	USFWS-Federal	Monitoring	Maintenance	-

Activity Details

Requirements

If funded, this program will meet all applicable criteria set forth in MS 97A.056?

Yes

Will restoration and enhancement work follow best management practices including MS 84.973 Pollinator Habitat Program?

Yes

Is the restoration and enhancement activity on permanently protected land per 97A.056, Subd 13(f), tribal lands, and/or public waters per MS 103G.005, Subd. 15?

Yes

Where does the activity take place?

- WMA
- WPA
- Refuge Lands

Land Use

Will there be planting of any crop on OHF land purchased or restored in this program?

No

Timeline

Activity Name	Estimated Completion Date
Distribute Project Request for Proposals to Area Land Managers	Fall 2018
Review Project RFPs with project selection committee	Winter 2018-19
Select Projects for completion and hire contractors to complete habitat work	Winter 2018-19
Enhancement / Restoration work begins	Spring 2019
Re-evaluate project status/budget and solicit additional projects as needed	Winter 2020
Enhancement / Restoration work completed	Summer 2023

Date of Final Report Submission: 11/01/2023

Budget

Budget reallocations up to 10% do not require an amendment to the Accomplishment Plan.

Totals

Item	Funding Request	Antic. Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	\$86,700	-	-	\$86,700
Contracts	\$2,037,000	\$43,400	Federal, Private, PF	\$2,080,400
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-
Travel	\$4,300	-	-	\$4,300
Professional Services	-	-	-	-
Direct Support Services	\$32,000	-	-	\$32,000
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	-	-	-	-
Supplies/Materials	-	-	-	-
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	\$2,160,000	\$43,400	-	\$2,203,400

Personnel

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Antic. Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
PF Field Staff	0.25	3.0	\$54,200	-	-	\$54,200
PF Grants Staff	0.12	3.0	\$26,000	-	-	\$26,000
PF State Coordinator - MN	0.02	3.0	\$6,500	-	-	\$6,500

Amount of Request: \$2,160,000

Amount of Leverage: \$43,400

Leverage as a percent of the Request: 2.01%

DSS + Personnel: \$118,700

As a % of the total request: 5.5%

Easement Stewardship: -

As a % of the Easement Acquisition: -

How will this program accommodate the reduced appropriation recommendation from the original proposed requested amount?

We have reduced accomplishments/costs proportionately across the overall program to accommodate the reduced appropriation. As a result of the reduction, we will be able to enhance fewer acres.

Describe and explain leverage source and confirmation of funds:

Leverage is expected from multiple sources including but not limited to federal sources, land value donations,

contractor donations, and PF. Not every source is 100% confirmed at this point. However, PF has an exemplary track record of delivery and over-achievement of match commitments that further stretch OHF funding.

Contracts

What is included in the contracts line?

We anticipate that all of the contract funding will be used for restoration and enhancement activities.

Travel

Does the amount in the travel line include equipment/vehicle rental?

-

Explain the amount in the travel line outside of traditional travel costs of mileage, food, and lodging

I understand and agree that lodging, meals, and mileage must comply with the current MMB Commissioner Plan:

No

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.

Federal Funds

Do you anticipate federal funds as a match for this program?

Yes

Are the funds confirmed?

No

What is the approximate date you anticipate receiving confirmation of the federal funds?

07/01/2018

Output Tables

Acres by Resource Type (Table 1)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat	Total Acres
Restore	21	44	0	0	65
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Easement	0	0	0	0	0
Enhance	21	6,414	0	0	6,435
Total	42	6,458	0	0	6,500

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

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

Total Requested Funding by Resource Type (Table 2)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat	Total Funding
Restore	\$7,200	\$14,400	-	-	\$21,600
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	\$7,200	\$2,131,200	-	-	\$2,138,400
Total	\$14,400	\$2,145,600	-	-	\$2,160,000

Acres within each Ecological Section (Table 3)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest	Total Acres
Restore	15	15	0	35	0	65
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Easement	0	0	0	0	0	0
Enhance	108	1,300	0	5,027	0	6,435
Total	123	1,315	0	5,062	0	6,500

Total Requested Funding within each Ecological Section (Table 4)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest	Total Funding
Restore	\$5,000	\$5,000	-	\$11,600	-	\$21,600
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	\$36,000	\$432,000	-	\$1,670,400	-	\$2,138,400
Total	\$41,000	\$437,000	-	\$1,682,000	-	\$2,160,000

Average Cost per Acre by Resource Type (Table 5)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat
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Restore	\$342	\$327	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-
Enhance	\$342	\$332	-	-

Average Cost per Acre by Ecological Section (Table 6)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest
Restore	\$333	\$333	-	\$331	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	\$333	\$332	-	\$332	-

Target Lake/Stream/River Feet or Miles

Outcomes

Programs in forest-prairie transition region:

- Increased waterfowl and upland bird migratory and breeding success ~ *Outcomes will be measured by resource professionals and evaluated by using the best science available to land managers.*

Programs in metropolitan urbanizing region:

- Other ~

Programs in prairie region:

- Improved condition of habitat on public lands ~ *Outcomes will be measured by resource professionals and evaluated by using the best science available to land managers.*

Parcels

For restoration and enhancement programs ONLY: Managers may add, delete, and substitute projects on this parcel list based upon need, readiness, cost, opportunity, and/or urgency so long as the substitute parcel/project forwards the constitutional objectives of this program in the Project Scope table of this accomplishment plan. The final accomplishment plan report will include the final parcel list.

Parcel Information

Sign-up Criteria?

[Yes](#)

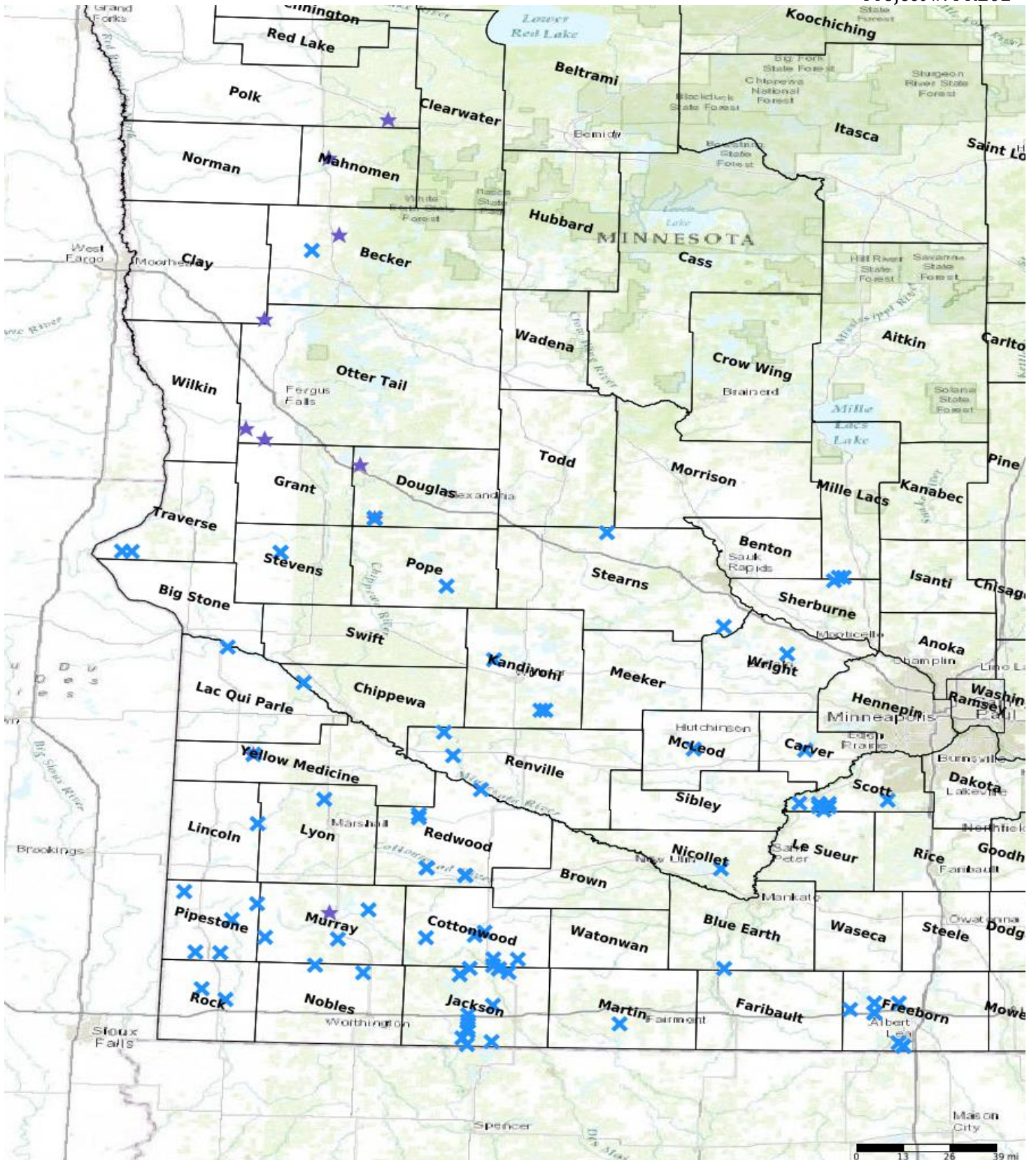
Explain the process used to identify, prioritize, and select the parcels on your list:

Restore / Enhance Parcels

Name	County	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection
SPRING MARSHES WPA	Becker	14042209	532	\$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	131	\$56,330	Yes
WHISKY LAKE WPA	Clay	13744225	3	\$10,000	Yes
Long Lake WPA	Cottonwood	10638223	160	-	Yes
Bennett WMA	Cottonwood	10535224	230	\$49,450	Yes
Harder Lake WPA	Cottonwood	10636216	160	-	Yes
Cottonwood Lake WPA	Cottonwood	10535219	150	-	Yes
Watonwan River WPA	Cottonwood	10636211	138	\$58,650	Yes
Wolf Lake WPA	Cottonwood	10535231	65	\$6,500	Yes
Bengston WPA	Douglas	12740223	172	\$89,440	Yes
Bengston WPA	Douglas	12740223	102	\$66,300	Yes
Bengston WPA	Douglas	12740223	0	\$63,000	Yes
Bengston WPA	Douglas	12740223	8	\$7,600	Yes
Odens WPA	Douglas	13040232	10	\$30,000	Yes
Halls Lake WPA	Freeborn	10322219	202	\$81,810	Yes
Foster Creek WPA	Freeborn	10323232	240	-	Yes
Bhagyam WPA	Freeborn	10121230	190	-	Yes
Bhagyam WPA	Freeborn	10121230	9	\$5,000	Yes
Two Island WPA	Freeborn	10322224	240	-	Yes
Slaughter Slough	Freeborn	10740211	55	\$5,000	Yes
Goose Creek WPA	Freeborn	10122224	400	-	Yes
I.C.E. WPA	Freeborn	10222206	64	\$5,000	Yes
I.C.E WPA	Freeborn	10222206	24	\$5,000	Yes
Bhagyam WPA	Freeborn	10121230	9	\$5,000	Yes
Minneota WMA	Jackson	10136232	78	\$23,514	Yes
Timber Lake WPA	Jackson	10437213	265	-	Yes
String Lake WPA	Jackson	10436205	235	-	Yes
Sioux Forks WPA	Jackson	10136219	380	-	Yes
Pletz Marsh WPA	Jackson	10136205	130	-	Yes
Loon Lake WPA	Jackson	10135230	192	-	Yes
Christiania WPA	Jackson	10435210	135	-	Yes
Boot Lake WPA	Jackson	10335231	300	-	Yes
Fish Lake WPA	Jackson	10435205	100	-	Yes
Bisaillon WPA	Jackson	10136208	3	\$300	Yes

Fish Lake WPA	Jackson	10435205	93	\$9,300	Yes
Bisaillion WPA	Jackson	10136208	3	\$300	Yes
Summers WMA	Jackson	10236217	59	\$17,700	Yes
Husen WMA	Jackson	10236229	38	\$17,100	Yes
Big Kandiyohi WPA, Unit 2 WPA	Kandiyohi	11734202	438	\$142,187	Yes
Big Kandiyohi WPA, Unit 1 WPA	Kandiyohi	11734203	208	\$104,000	Yes
Mamre WPA	Kandiyohi	12036224	189	\$92,799	Yes
Lac qui Parle-Simonson Soderberg WMA	Lac qui Parle	12045211	85	\$68,000	Yes
Gislason Lake WPA	Lincoln	11144201	85	\$144,500	Yes
Vallers WMA	Lyon	11341229	762	\$59,777	Yes
BARKER WPA	Mahnomen	14542224	16	\$7,500	Yes
Pierce Lake WPA	Martin	10231228	260	-	Yes
Phasianus WPA	McLeod	11629235	84	\$18,060	Yes
Kunkel WMA	Mille Lacs	03627234	20	\$4,000	Yes
Kunkel WMA	Mille Lacs	03627235	100	\$20,000	Yes
Big Slough WPA	Murray	10641226	140	-	Yes
Salt & Pepper WMA	Murray	10643229	66	\$2,188	Yes
Mason WPA	Murray	10741216	80	\$40,500	Yes
Lone Tree WMA	Nobles	10440215	132	\$2,250	Yes
Fenmont WMA	Nobles	10442201	323	\$4,064	Yes
Dahler Slough WPA	Otter Tail	13144225	13	\$15,600	Yes
Hensch WPA	Otter Tail	13144208	4	\$2,500	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
Poplar Creek WMA	Pipestone	10545223	102	\$2,313	Yes
Eden WMA	Pipestone	10546224	112	\$1,125	Yes
JENKINS WPA	Polk	14740224	9	\$5,000	Yes
Ouren WPA	Pope	12437232	83	\$51,200	Yes
Two Rivers WMA	Redwood	10938202	200	\$49,000	Yes
Two Rivers WMA	Redwood	11028235	44	\$10,000	Yes
Two Rivers WMA	Redwood	10938202	43	\$15,000	Yes
Lamberton WMA	Redwood	10936218	50	\$27,500	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
Faxvog WMA	Redwood	11238221	43	\$23,650	Yes
Chetomba Creek WMA	Renville	11637208	24	\$12,000	Yes
Sacred Heart WPA	Renville	11537215	498	\$27,401	Yes
Touch the Sky Prairie NWR	Rock	10345218	400	-	Yes
Rock River WMA	Rock	10345236	86	\$937	Yes
Bradshaw WMA	Scott	11322216	2	\$3,078	Yes
Marsh WMA	Scott	11324219	1	\$1,881	Yes
Clark WMA	Scott	11325221	3	\$4,446	Yes
Raven WMA	Scott	11324232	6	\$9,918	Yes
PF3 (Pheasants Forever Module 3) WMA	Scott	11324221	1	\$2,223	Yes
Michel WMA	Scott	11324228	1	\$1,368	Yes
Mahoney WMA	Scott	11324230	2	\$3,249	Yes
Kunkel WMA	Sherburne	03527204	68	\$34,300	Yes
Murray Lake WPA	Stearns	12228226	49	\$50,078	Yes
Lovell Lake WPA	Stearns	12632202	51	\$11,000	Yes
Pepperton WPA	Stevens	12543215	0	\$27,400	Yes
Pepperton WPA	Stevens	12543215	641	\$45,735	Yes
Mosquito Ranch WPA	Traverse	12548220	437	\$56,954	Yes
Robinhood WPA	Traverse	12548222	106	\$14,098	Yes
Angus Lake WPA	Wright	12026201	119	\$14,875	Yes
Oshkosh WMA (phase 2) WMA	Yellow	11544223	23	\$46,000	Yes

	Medicine				
Oshkosh WMA (phase 1) WMA	Yellow Medicine	11544223	55	\$9,625	Yes



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

Parcel Map
Enhanced Public Land - Grasslands - Phase III
(Data Generated From Parcel List)

