Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Shallow Lake & Wetland Protection & Restoration Program - Phase IX
Laws of Minnesota 2020 Accomplishment Plan

General Information

Date: 09/18/2024

Project Title: Shallow Lake & Wetland Protection & Restoration Program - Phase IX

Funds Recommended: $4,608,000

Legislative Citation: ML 2020, Ch. 104, Art. 1, Sec. 2, subd 4(b)

Appropriation Language: $4,608,000 the second year is to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with Ducks Unlimited to acquire lands in fee for wildlife management under Minnesota Statutes, section 86A.05, subdivision 8, and to restore and enhance prairie lands, wetlands, and land buffering shallow lakes. A list of proposed acquisitions must be provided as part of the required accomplishment plan.

Manager Information

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Location Information

County Location(s): Cottonwood, Swift, Murray, Lyon, Lincoln, Big Stone, Sibley, Kandiyohi, Nicollet, Freeborn, Chippewa, Douglas, Clay, Waseca, Jackson, McLeod and Redwood.

Eco regions in which work will take place:

- Prairie

Activity types:

- Protect in Fee

Priority resources addressed by activity:

- Wetlands
- Prairie

Narrative

Abstract

This is Phase 9 of Ducks Unlimited's wetland and prairie acquisition and restoration program. DU will acquire and restore 516 acres of land containing drained wetlands in SW Minnesota's Prairie Pothole Region for restoration and transfer to the Minnesota DNR for inclusion in the state WMA system. This land acquisition and restoration program focuses on restoring cropland with drained wetlands along shallow lakes and adjoining WMAs to help restore prairie wetland habitat complexes for breeding ducks and other wildlife. DNR will help seed uplands, and DU will survey, engineer/design, and hire private sector contractors to restore drained wetlands.

Design and Scope of Work

This is Phase 9 of Ducks Unlimited's ongoing program to both Acquire and Restore wetlands and prairie on land for sale adjacent to existing Minnesota DNRs State Wildlife Management Areas (WMA). DU works with willing seller private landowners adjacent to WMAs that have drained wetlands and converted prairie uplands, and land on shallow lakes in need of protection. DU purchases and holds land title through it's Wetlands America Trust (WAT), DU's supporting land-holding fiduciary organization, of which DU is the sole corporate member.

Our goal is to help restore functioning prairie-wetland habitat complexes to complement other conservation efforts that protect intact native prairie. Our work addresses the habitat goals in Minnesota's Long-range Duck Recovery Plan, Minnesota's Prairie Conservation Plan, and the North American Waterfowl Management Plan. This work is time-sensitive because farmland adjacent to state WMAs is rarely offered for sale for conservation, and tracts are only available for a short time. DU works quickly, and has already spent most ML2016 - ML2019 OHF funds appropriated.

DU will work in cooperation with Minnesota DNR Section of Wildlife, and will coordinate with Pheasants Forever, other NGO partners, and local sportsmen clubs such as Swan Lake Area Wildlife Association and Cottonwood County Game and Fish League. Although approval is not requested from county boards for DU land acquisitions, DU communicates frequently with county and township officials to ensure local official awareness of our conservation work, and routinely attends county board meetings to discuss questions. The acquisitions and restorations proposed represents the amount of work DU can accomplish in three to five years, is scalable, and benefits game and non-game wildlife species alike - from mallards to monarch butterflies.

Because 90% of Minnesota's prairie wetlands have been drained and 99% of prairie uplands converted in Minnesota, acquisition and restoration of prairie and small wetlands is critical – especially for breeding waterfowl in the Prairie Pothole Region of SW Minnesota where DU focuses our efforts. Furthermore, most remaining undrained wetlands here are in poor ecological condition due to massive landscape prairie conversion to cropland

and wetland drainage that degrades both wetland condition and habitat function for prairie wildlife.

Although many of our remaining prairie wetlands and shallow lakes are contained within state WMAs or federal Waterfowl Production Areas (WPA), these small public land patches rarely provide optimal wildlife habitat due to their fragmented shape and small size. Similarly, most prairie shallow lakes are surrounded by a thin ribbon of uplands that fail to adequately buffer them from surrounding agricultural land runoff. Therefore, acquisition and restoration of drained wetlands and cultivated cropland in close proximity to our public lands will improve and buffer our public shallow lakes and remaining wetlands, and help create functioning prairie-wetland complexes of habitat for breeding ducks and other prairie wildlife.

DU professional engineers and biologists work closely with DNR field staff to plan and implement both robust prairie and wetland restorations, including diverse native forb/grass seed plantings and complex wetland restorations that often involve extensive tile drainage systems.

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 proposal protects and restores prairie lands, which are identified as critical habitats for many "Species of Greatest Conservation Need" listed in Minnesota's "Tomorrow's Habitat for the Wild & Rare: An Action Plan for Minnesota Wildlife." Specific species listed in the Action Plan as requiring prairie (page 255) include seven species of butterflies and three bird species that are native prairie specialists: chestnut-collared longspur, Sprague's pipit, and Baird's sparrow. The Prairie Parkland has 139 species listed on the SGCN with 13 of these species being unique to the section.

In addition to these specific wildlife species listed as SGCN examples in the Action Plan, restored prairie in the Prairie Parkland will provide habitat of significant value for other species listed in Appendix B of the Action Plan too. Restored and protected prairie will provide habitat of significant value for other SGCN including bird species: upland sandpiper, bobolink, burrowing owl, le conte's sparrow, grasshopper sparrow, eastern meadowlark, swamp sparrow, sharp-tailed grouse, short-eared owl, northern harrier, dickcissel, Henslow's sparrow, and Nelson's sharp-tailed sparrow. Upland nesting waterfowl will also benefit including waterfowl listed as SGCN; northern pintail and lesser scaup, which have both seen declines in continental populations. Wetland associated birds such as trumpeter swan, black tern, American bittern, Wilson's phalarope, and marbled godwit will benefit from wetlands either restored or buffered in the prairie landscape. Mammals such as northern grasshopper mouse and Richardson's ground squirrels, reptiles such as lined snake and Blanding's turtle, and amphibians such as northern cricket frog and common mudpuppy are listed as SGCN for the Prairie Parkland.

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:

Ducks Unlimited uses science to strategically focus on lands adjacent to existing state WMAs with restorable wetlands that build prairie-wetland complexes for breeding ducks or buffer managed shallow lakes. U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's "Thunderstorm Map" and "Restorable Wetlands Inventory" help determine importance to

breeding waterfowl. We prioritize lands with restorable wetlands and prairie near WMAs with relatively high biological diversity and significance based on the Minnesota DNR County Biological Survey (MCBS) to improve the ecological functionality of existing public WMAs for ducks. Examples include:

Expandere WMA Tract 12 in Cottonwood County is 121 acres adjacent to 1,000 contiguous acres of wetland-grassland habitat, a significant MCBS Sites of Outstanding and High Biodiversity due to excellent quality native wet-prairie within its borders. It supports over 21 breeding duck pairs per square mile, falls within a Pheasant complex, and is 1 mile from a Minnesota Prairie Conservation Plan Core Area.

Ruthton WMA Tract 1A in Murray county is 180 acres adjoining Ruthton WMA which includes a portion of the Redwood River. This complex supports over 41 breeding duck pairs per square mile and falls within a Minnesota Prairie Conservation Plan Corridor.

Dovray WMA Tracts 19&19A in Murray County comprise 165 acres adjoining Dovray WMA and less than a quarter mile from Slaughter Slough WPA in Murray County. The complex supports over 41 breeding duck pairs per square mile and is adjacent to four priority shallow lakes as identified by the Minnesota DNR. It is within a Minnesota Prairie Conservation Plan Strategic Habitat Complex, and nearly surrounds a partially-drained shallow lake within Dovray WMA, thus making restoration feasible.

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

- H4 Restore and protect shallow lakes
- H5 Restore land, wetlands and wetland-associated watersheds

Which two other plans are addressed in this program?

- Long Range Duck Recovery Plan
- Minnesota Prairie Conservation Plan

Which LSOHC section priorities are addressed in this program?

Prairie

- Protect, enhance, or restore existing wetland/upland complexes, or convert agricultural lands to new wetland/upland habitat complexes

Outcomes

Programs in prairie region:

- Protected, restored, and enhanced shallow lakes and wetlands ~ *Land bordering shallow lakes and land containing drained wetlands will be acquired and restored back to functioning wetlands for waterfowl with native grass and forb wildflower grassland surrounding them as habitat for pollinators, migratory birds, and resident wildlife. Lands will transferred into the state Wildlife Management Area system to provide additional*

prairie habitat for migratory species and public use, both of which will be monitored by Minnesota DNR. Restored wetland basins will be monitored by DNR area wildlife field staff, and managed to optimize wetland habitat conditions. Prairie uplands will be managed to minimize trees and encourage native plants.

Does this program include leveraged funding?

Yes

Explain the leverage:

DU strives to use non-federal OHF expense to leverage federal NAWCA grant funds to further our conservation mission. However, NAWCA is highly competitive and complex, takes at least a year for funding approval, requires a firm match commitment, and proposal success is uncertain. Nonetheless, DU works closely with Minnesota DNR, and NGO partners to offer recent past state OHF acquisitions as non-federal match to leverage federal NAWCA funds to help fund OHF land restoration and also acquire additional lands too. For example, several recent past OHF acquisitions were recently pledged as match in NAWCA proposals likely to be funded later in 2018 or 2019 that will help pay for restoration costs on those lands acquired. Similarly, DU partners with DNR and other NGOs to request federal NAWCA grant funds to restore lands acquired through this OHF appropriation too by using OHF expense as non-federal match. Federal NAWCA and other leverage expense will be reported in our final report to the LSOHC at the end of this grant.

Per MS 97A.056, Subd. 24, Please explain whether the request is supplanting or is a substitution for any previous funding that was not from a legacy fund and was used for the same purpose.

This request does not supplanting or substituting previous DU funding. This request is for new land acquisition funding to supplement traditional DU conservation activities and allow DU to expand our conservation program to buy/restore land, and will not supplant or substitute traditional sources of funding for DU conservation efforts.

Non-OHF Appropriations

Year	Source	Amount
2009	DU private	$26,500
2010	DU private	$10,000
2013	DU private	$56,600
2015	DU private and federal NAWCA	-
2016	DU private and federal NAWCA	-
2017	DU private and federal NAWCA	-
2018	DU private and federal NAWCA	-
2019	DU private and federal NAWCA	-

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

All lands acquired will be transferred to the Minnesota DNR for inclusion in the state's Wildlife Management Area system. Thus, Minnesota DNR Wildlife land managers will sustain and maintain the prairie and wetlands acquired and restored by Ducks Unlimited in perpetuity, and manage them to provide optimal wildlife habitat and for public use.

Actions to Maintain Project Outcomes

Year	Source of Funds	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3
2022	DNR G&F Fund, OHF	Mow restored prairie for weed control	Periodically burn native prairie every 5 years as needed	Assess and manage water levels in larger restored wetlands as vegetation and ecological conditions warrant action

Activity Details

Requirements

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

Will county board or other local government approval be formally sought prior to acquisition, per 97A.056 subd 13(j)?**
No

Describe any measures to inform local governments of land acquisition under their jurisdiction:
DU strives to notify and discuss land acquisition plans prior to land acquisition closings. Discussions with local county and other government officials will be held in conjunction with acquiring lands once negotiations result in a purchase agreement. Initial notification will include initial phone contact to individual board members representing the location of the land to be acquired. Official written notification to township and county boards will be made at least 30 days before closing. Because land acquisition deals are very private and sensitive matters, disclosing details in advance of purchase agreements can jeopardize land deals with private landowners. Because requesting formal local approval involves elected officials voting on private land deals, which invites local politics and makes private landowner intentions public, DU does not seek local government approval of our land acquisitions. Instead, DU contacts and meets with county and township boards in person to inform and discuss pending plans to ensure local government awareness of the public benefits of our land acquisition and restoration work, and changes in future tax payments. DU pays taxes in full at the county assessed rate during our hold time, and because state PILT amounts have been higher than previous assessed county tax rates for land acquired by DU in the Prairie Section of SW Minnesota, county boards have been very pleased with DU land acquisitions for the Minnesota DNR.

Is the land you plan to acquire (fee title) free of any other permanent protection?
No

Describe the permanent protection and justification for additional protection:
Some tracts may contain a USFWS wetland easement protecting intact wetland basins and prohibiting wetland drainage, burning, and filling, but otherwise allowing farming when dry so the value of these areas can be accommodated and considered in the appraisal.

Land Use

Will there be planting of any crop on OHF land purchased or restored in this program, either by the proposer or the end owner of the property, outside of the initial restoration of the land?
Yes

Explain what will be planted and include the maximum percentage of any acquired parcel that would be planted into foodplots by the proposer or the end owner of the property:

DU purchases land in Minnesota to protect and restore prairie, wetlands, and shallow lake shoreland for ducks and other prairie and wetland-dependent wildlife. Lands acquired will be transferred to the Minnesota DNR for inclusion in state Wildlife Management Areas (WMA) for long-term management and public use. Initial Development and Restoration Plans are developed in partnership with Minnesota DNR and area wildlife manager approval according to WMA management plan goals. The primary purposes of WMAs are to develop and manage habitat for the production of wildlife and for compatible outdoor recreation. To fulfill those goals, the DNR may use limited farming specifically to enhance or benefit the management of state lands for wildlife.

Lands proposed to be acquired for prairie restoration as WMAs may utilize limited farming to prepare previously farmed sites for native plant seeding. This is the standard prairie restoration practice across the Midwest. On a small percentage of WMAs (less than 2.5%), DNR uses farming to provide a winter food source for a variety of wildlife species in agriculture-dominated landscapes largely devoid of winter food sources. DU will work closely with DNR through our cooperative acquisition and restoration planning process to avoid purchasing tracts where DNR requires placement of food plots and instead defers those to DNR to acquire directly, as restoration of prairie and wetlands for waterfowl is our strategic focus and mission.

Most lands to be acquired and restored through this program will be farmland with cropped fields, which DU will restore to prairie and wetland habitat. Very limited short-duration row-cropping of soybeans or use of oats as a cover crop, or other farming activity may be required immediately after acquisition prior to restoration prior to native prairie grass and forb seeding to rid the soil of residual herbicides that limit native plant growth and excess nutrients that promote weeds. Increasingly, farmers are using herbicides with an 18-month carryover residual effect, that requires an additional year of farming with other compatible herbicides before native plants can be seeded. DU strives to minimize this circumstance by working with private landowners to guide their final year of cropping prior selling, but arranging such is not always possible and use of cover crops or an additional year of "safe" row cropping in soybeans is sometimes required. DU will strive to use non-GMO treated seed whenever and wherever possible if planting of crops is required.

Are any of the crop types planted GMO treated?

True

Is this land currently open for hunting and fishing?

No

Will the land be open for hunting and fishing after completion?

Yes

Describe any variation from the State of Minnesota regulations:

No variations anticipated. All lands to be acquired are in rural areas and will be included in state Wildlife Management Areas, and open to public use as per Minnesota DNR rules.

Who will eventually own the fee title land?

- State of MN

Land acquired in fee will be designated as a:

- WMA

What is the anticipated number of closed acquisitions (range is fine) you plan to accomplish with this appropriation?
We anticipate purchasing approximately 3-6 land parcels through this appropriation, +/-.

Are there currently trails or roads on any of the proposed acquisitions?
No

Will new trails or roads be developed or improved as a result of the OHF acquisition?
No

Will the acquired parcels be restored or enhanced within this appropriation?
Yes

> Yes, DU strives to restore land acquired using the same appropriation whenever possible. In the rare unanticipated event where wetland restoration cost exceeds our initial estimates, DU will request LSOHC staff approval to use OHF funds from another appropriation to restore wetlands.

Timeline

Activity Name	Estimated Completion Date
Appraise and acquire lands in fee-title.	June 2023
Restore lands acquired and transfer to Minnesota DNR.	June 2028

Date of Final Report Submission: 10/31/2028

Availability of Appropriation: Subd. 7. Availability of Appropriation

Money appropriated in this section may not be spent on activities unless they are directly related to and necessary for a specific appropriation and are specified in the accomplishment plan approved by the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council. Money appropriated in this section must not be spent on indirect costs or other institutional overhead charges that are not directly related to and necessary for a specific appropriation. Unless otherwise provided, the amounts in this section are available until June 30, 2023. For acquisition of real property, the amounts in this section are available until June 30, 2024, if a binding agreement with a landowner or purchase agreement is entered into by June 30, 2023, and closed no later than June 30, 2024. Funds for restoration or enhancement are available until June 30, 2025, or five years after acquisition, whichever is later, in order to complete initial restoration or enhancement work. If a project receives at least 15 percent of its funding from federal funds, the time of the appropriation may be extended to equal the availability of federal funding to a maximum of six years if the federal funding was confirmed and included in the original approved draft accomplishment plan. Funds appropriated for fee title acquisition of land may be used to restore, enhance, and provide for public use of the land acquired with the appropriation. Public-use facilities must have a minimal impact on habitat in acquired lands.

Budget

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

Totals

Item	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	$330,000	$30,000	DU Private and Federal NAWCA	$360,000
Contracts	$1,040,000	$50,000	DU Private and Federal NAWCA	$1,090,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	$2,800,000	-	-	$2,800,000
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-
Travel	$30,000	$10,000	DU Private and Federal NAWCA	$40,000
Professional Services	$126,000	-	-	$126,000
Direct Support Services	$30,000	-	-	$30,000
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	$50,000	-	-	$50,000
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	$52,000	-	-	$52,000
Supplies/Materials	$20,000	-	-	$20,000
DNR IDP	$130,000	-	-	$130,000
Grand Total	**$4,608,000**	**$90,000**	**-**	**$4,698,000**

Personnel

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
DU staff conservation program manager to coordinate land acquisition and restoration activities, and administer the grant.	0.2	0.0	$30,000	-	-	$30,000
DU staff realty specialist, biologists, and engineers to purchase and restore land, including engineering survey, design, and construction management to restore drained wetlands and seed grasslands.	1.0	0.0	$300,000	$30,000	DU Private and Federal NAWCA	$330,000

Amount of Request: $4,608,000
Amount of Leverage: $90,000
Leverage as a percent of the Request: 1.95%
DSS + Personnel: $360,000
As a % of the total request: 7.81%
Easement Stewardship: -
As a % of the Easement Acquisition: -

How will this program accommodate the reduced appropriation recommendation from the original proposed requested amount?
The appropriation recommendation budget will be pro-rated for each budget category according to the original amounts requested based on 40% allocated to DU, with minor adjustments.

Describe and explain leverage source and confirmation of funds:
DU leverage is a combination of private funds raised by DU through events plus major philanthropic gifts from individuals, foundations and corporations, and public federal funds to be requested from the North American Wetlands Conservation Act via U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service in the future to restore lands acquired.

Contracts

What is included in the contracts line?
Contracts will include earth-moving to restore drained wetlands by plugging ditches, removing drainage tile and sediment, and building berms, and seeding of cropped uplands to native prairie plants to restore grassland around wetlands.

Travel

Does the amount in the travel line include equipment/vehicle rental?
No

Explain the amount in the travel line outside of traditional travel costs of mileage, food, and lodging
None - DU travel costs consist of in-state mileage, food, and lodging only (primarily mileage and lodging for program manager, biologists, and engineering field staff).

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?
Minnesota DNR grants staff previously reviewed and approved DU accounting methodology for Direct Support Services, which are calculated and included in DU staff costs. DU Direct Support Services constitute approximately 10% of DU overall staff costs on average among DU conservation staff billing categories. DU breaks out and invoices for Direct Support Service expenses approved by DNR for reimbursement separately from Personnel expenses. In accordance with 2 CFR 200, DU uses the direct allocation method of allocating costs to programs and final cost objectives. This process of allocating costs is accomplished through the use of hourly rates. The direct cost of activities, including direct support expenses, is included in these hourly rates. The rates are comprised of costs for salaries, benefits, office space, general insurance, support staff, office supplies, and other various direct expenses incurred at the regional offices and conservation department at the home office. All costs are assigned to conservation projects (net of applicable personnel and other costs that are non-conservation related.) Hourly charges represent the amount that DU charges conservation projects per hour for each staff member working on the project. These costs represent expenses that directly support the labor cost necessary for the development of a specific water/wetlands conservation project.

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?**
> Beginning in July 2021 via future NAWCA grants leveraged to help restore lands acquired via OHF, by using the cost of land acquisitions as match for federal NAWCA funds to restore land.

Output Tables

Acres by Resource Type (Table 1)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat	Total Acres
Restore	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	100	416	0	0	516
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Easement	0	0	0	0	0
Enhance	0	0	0	0	0
Total	**100**	**416**	**0**	**0**	**516**

Total Requested Funding by Resource Type (Table 2)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat	Total Funding
Restore	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	$893,000	$3,715,000	-	-	$4,608,000
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**$893,000**	**$3,715,000**	**-**	**-**	**$4,608,000**

Acres within each Ecological Section (Table 3)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest	Total Acres
Restore	0	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	0	0	516	0	516
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Easement	0	0	0	0	0	0
Enhance	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	**0**	**0**	**0**	**516**	**0**	**516**

Total Requested Funding within each Ecological Section (Table 4)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest	Total Funding
Restore	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	$4,608,000	-	$4,608,000
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**-**	**-**	**-**	**$4,608,000**	**-**	**$4,608,000**

Average Cost per Acre by Resource Type (Table 5)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat
Restore	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	$8,930	$8,930	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-

Average Cost per Acre by Ecological Section (Table 6)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest
Restore	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	$8,930	-

Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-

Target Lake/Stream/River Feet or Miles

Parcels

Parcel Information

Sign-up Criteria?
No

Explain the process used to identify, prioritize, and select the parcels on your list:
Ducks Unlimited prioritizes parcels approved by MN DNR for acquisition based on their importance to waterfowl and other wetland birds, including the number of restorable or existing wetland basins, proximity to or inclusion of large marshes or shallow lakes, and landscape importance to breeding waterfowl based on the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's "thunderstorm maps" that predict landscape attractiveness to breeding pairs of ducks as developed by the Service's "Habitat and Population Evaluation Team (HAPET) in Fergus Falls, MN. Ducks Unlimited is strategically focused on lands in the Prairie Pothole Region in the SW 1/2 of the state where wetland loss is estimated at 90% and where loss of native prairie uplands is estimated at 99%, and where ducks and other prairie wildlife simply need more habitat to reproduce and grow in abundance to address state conservation plans and population goals, etc.

Restore / Enhance Parcels

Name	County	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection	Description
Thielke Lake WMA - Tracts 9-12 Ronning	Big Stone	12346234	237	$100,000	Yes	DU will restore wetlands and prairie on the this tract that was purchased via ML2021 OHF appropriation to DU for this program.
Expandere WMA Tract 39 - Wojahn/Schneider Farm	Cottonwood	10638226	150	$100,000	Yes	DU will restore wetlands and prairie on the this tract that was purchased via ML2022 OHF appropriation to DU for this program.
Gobbler WMA - Herrington	Lincoln	11345217	320	$100,000	Yes	DU will restore wetlands and prairie on the this tract that was purchased via ML2024 OHF appropriation to DU for this program.
Long Lake WMA Tract 4 - Lavonne Johnson Tract 5	Lyon	10941233	170	$100,000	Yes	DU will restore wetlands and prairie on the this tract that was purchased via ML2023 OHF appropriation to DU for this program.
Shetek Inlet WMA Tract 1&2, Lavonne Johnson Tracts 1-4	Murray	10841203	368	$100,000	Yes	DU will restore wetlands and prairie on the this tract that was purchased via ML2023 OHF appropriation to DU for this program.
Shetek Inlet WMA - Tract 9 Lanoue	Murray	10841211	77	$100,000	Yes	DU will restore wetlands and prairie on the this tract that was purchased via ML2022 OHF appropriation to DU for

						this program.
Badger Lakes WMA - Tract 5 Reusse	Murray	10541211	80	$100,000	Yes	DU will restore wetlands and prairie on the this tract that DU will purchase via other OHF appropriation to DU for this program.
Great Oasis WMA - Tract 27	Murray	10742210	199	$30,000	Yes	DU will complete wetland restoration of this parcel that was acquired by DU via ML2019.
Indian Lake WMA - Tract 13 Bartz	Sibley	11329227	40	$100,000	Yes	DU will restore wetlands and prairie on the this tract that was purchased via ML2022 OHF appropriation to DU for this program.
Monson WMA - Tract 23 Urke	Swift	12237233	80	$100,000	Yes	DU will restore wetlands and prairie on the this tract that DU will purchase via other OHF appropriation to DU for this program.

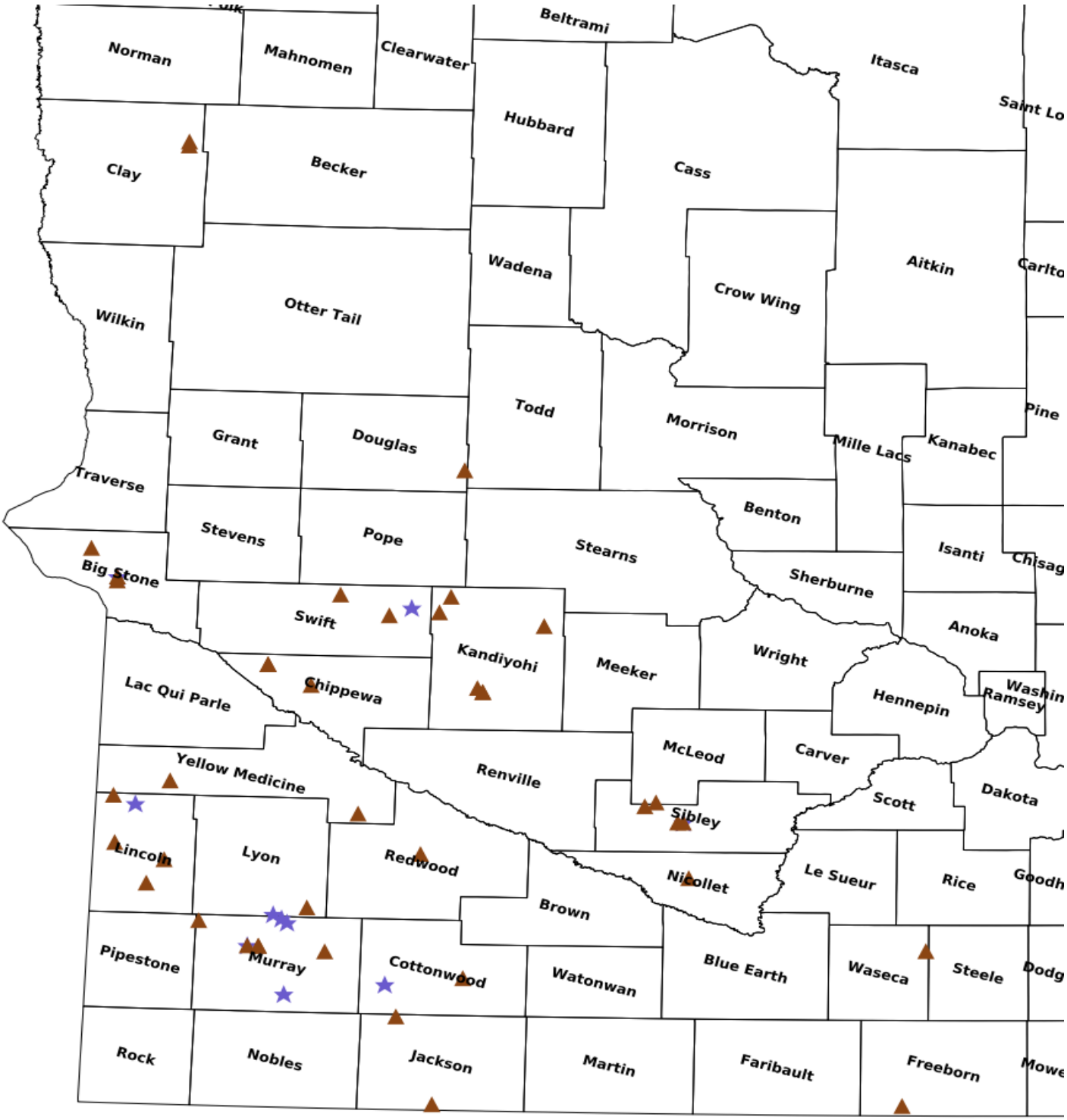
Fee Parcels

Name	County	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection
Skoog WMA - Tract 6	Big Stone	12447226	92	$550,000	No
Numo WMA - Tract 3	Chippewa	11840209	67	$600,000	No
Benderberg WMA - Tract 17a	Chippewa	11941218	128	$700,000	No
Benderberg WMA - Tract 17b	Chippewa	11941218	103	$570,000	No
Goose Prairie WMA - Tract 12	Clay	14144227	27	$150,000	No
Goose Prairie WMA - Tract 10	Clay	14144222	61	$300,000	No
Little Swan Lake WMA - Tract 14	Cottonwood	10635218	17	$125,000	No
Osakis WMA - Niehaus Tract	Douglas	12736201	36	$75,000	No
Mahto WMA - Tract 4	Freeborn	10122220	53	$400,000	No
Winkler WMA - Tract 5	Jackson	10437206	41	$60,000	No
Minneota WMA - Tract 8	Jackson	10136229	136	$820,000	No
Oleander WMA - Tract 13	Kandiyohi	12236215	79	$400,000	No
Whitefield WMA - Tract 12	Kandiyohi	11835215	40	$250,000	No
Whitefield WMA - Tract 5	Kandiyohi	11835209	234	$1,214,936	No
Cabinrock WMA - Tract 7	Kandiyohi	12136205	81	$400,000	No
Whitefield WMA - Tract 3	Kandiyohi	11835215	30	$150,000	No
Poposki WMA - Tract 21	Lincoln	11444217	40	$200,000	No
Bohemian WMA - Tract 7	Lincoln	11346203	20	$60,000	No
Posen WMA - Tracts 7 & 7a	Lincoln	11339224	66	$400,000	No
Coot WMA - Tract 17	Lincoln	11144230	60	$300,000	No
Greenhead WMA - Tract 2	Lyon	10940221	119	$500,000	No
Kujas Lake WMA - Tract 2	McLeod	11430235	156	$340,000	No
Dovray WMA - Tracts 19/19a	Murray	10740213	165	$1,000,000	No
Lowville WMA - Tract 5	Murray	10742212	64	$200,469	Yes
Lowville WMA - Tract 6	Murray	10742212	150	$950,000	No
Ruthton WMA - Tract 1A	Murray	10843207	180	$1,100,000	No
Great Oasis WMA - Tract 17	Murray	10742210	334	$2,500,000	No
Swan Lake WMA – Gleisner	Nicollet	11029202	209	$2,400,000	No
Daubs Lake WMA - Tract 2/2a	Redwood	11137211	160	$1,200,000	No
Ward Lake WMA - Tract 3 Stamer	Sibley	11330204	40	$400,000	No
Indian Lake WMA - Tract 10	Sibley	11329228	67	$450,000	No
Indian Lake WMA - Tract 13 Bartz	Sibley	11329227	40	$400,000	No
Hollerberg WMA - Tract 4a	Swift	12138211	22	$27,571	No
Henry X WMA - Tract 3	Swift	12239217	40	$160,000	No
Moonan Marshes WMA - Tract 15	Waseca	10722201	40	$75,000	No

Fee Parcels with Buildings

Name	County	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection	Buildings	Value of Buildings
Thielke Lake WMA - Tract 4	Big Stone	12246203	134	$675,000	No	2	$10,000
Thielke Lake WMA - Tracts 9-12	Big Stone	12346234	236	$950,000	No	3	$0
Dietrich Lange WMA - Tract 16 Black Family	Kandiyohi	12133221	41	$810,861	No	5	$198,000
Chen Bay WMA - Tract 6A	Lincoln	11045227	157	$527,979	Yes	2	$0
Shaokatan WMA - Tract 19	Lincoln	11146203	240	$1,000,000	Yes	7	$0

Parcel Map



- Protect in Easement
- Protect in Fee with PILT
- Protect in Fee W/O PILT
- Restore
- Enhance
- Other