Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Shallow Lake & Wetland Protection & Restoration Program - Phase XIII

Laws of Minnesota 2024 Accomplishment Plan

General Information

Date: 04/30/2026

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

Funds Recommended: $7,670,000

Legislative Citation: ML 2024, Ch. 106, Art. 1, Sec. 2, Subd. 4(b)

Appropriation Language: $7,670,000 the second year is to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with Ducks Unlimited to acquire land in fee for wildlife management purposes under Minnesota Statutes, section 86A.05, subdivision 8, or to be designated and managed as Waterfowl production areas or national wildlife refuges in Minnesota, in cooperation with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, and to restore and enhance prairie lands, wetlands, and land buffering shallow lakes.

Manager Information

Manager's Name: Jon Schneider
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Location Information

County Location(s): Murray, Lyon, Martin, Nicollet, Cottonwood, Jackson, Big Stone, Yellow Medicine, Becker, McLeod, Sibley, Clay, Freeborn, Redwood, Lincoln, Rice, Kandiyohi, Douglas and Swift.

Eco regions in which work will take place:

Prairie

Metro / Urban

Activity types:

Protect in Fee

Priority resources addressed by activity:

Wetlands

Prairie

Narrative

Abstract

This is Phase 13 Ducks Unlimited's of prairie wetland acquisition and restoration program in Minnesota. DU proposes to acquire and restore land containing wetlands and drained wetlands, and land bordering shallow lakes in Minnesota's Prairie Pothole Region for inclusion in MNDNR state WMAs and USFWS federal WPAs/NWRs. This ongoing land acquisition/restoration program focuses on restoring cropland with drained wetlands near existing WMAs and WPAs/NWRs to help restore prairie wetland habitat complexes for breeding ducks, other wildlife, and people. DU biologists and engineers will survey, design, and hire private sector contractors to restore drained wetlands and uplands.

Design and Scope of Work

Phase 13 of Ducks Unlimited's ongoing program will Acquire and Restore wetlands and prairie on land for sale adjacent to MNDNR State Wildlife Management Areas (WMA) and federal Waterfowl Production Areas (WPAs) or National Wildlife Refuges (NWRs). DU works with willing seller private landowners with drained wetlands and converted prairie uplands, and land on shallow lakes in need of protection. DU purchases and temporarily holds land title through it's Wetlands America Trust (WAT), DU's supporting land-holding organization, of which DU is the sole corporate member.

Our goal is to help restore functioning prairie-wetland habitat complexes and complement other conservation efforts to 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 public lands is rarely offered for sale for conservation, and tracts are only available for a short time. DU works quickly and has spent much of our past OHF appropriations for land acquisition.

Ducks Unlimited works closely with Minnesota DNR Section of Wildlife and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service to find land parcels for sale, and partners with other NGOs, and local sportsmen clubs to restore lands acquired. 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 often attends county and township board meetings to discuss projects. The acquisitions and restorations proposed represents the amount of work DU can accomplish over 4-8 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 ducks 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 WPAs, these small public land patches rarely provide optimal wildlife habitat due to their disconnected, 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 habitat complexes for breeding ducks and other prairie wildlife.

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

Explain how the plan addresses habitat protection, restoration, and/or enhancement for fish, game & wildlife, including threatened or endangered species conservation

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 also provide habitat of significant value for other species listed in Appendix B of the Action Plan. 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.

What are the elements of this plan that are critical from a timing perspective?

Most wetlands and nearly all native prairie uplands have been drained and converted for agricultural use in southern Minnesota. Most public prairie wildlife lands are small and fragmented, and do not provide viable productive patches of functioning habitat that support prairie wildlife populations. Thus, acquisition of prairie lands for sale is a key component of our overall Minnesota Prairie Plan conservation efforts to restore and protect wildlife habitat. This work is time-sensitive because private land near or adjacent to state WMAs and federal WPA boundaries only rarely becomes available for sale to conservation interests, and thus it is important to be responsive to these land acquisition and restoration opportunities when they arise. Most private landowners will wait and work with conservation NGO land buyers for a short time, but won't wait indefinitely for conservation funding, and a generation may pass before these key parcels become available for purchase again.

Describe how the plan expands habitat corridors or complexes and/or addresses habitat fragmentation:

Ducks Unlimited uses science to strategically focus acquisition of lands adjacent to existing state WMAs with restorable wetlands to 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 in areas of 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. Three potential land acquisition examples include:

Minneota WMA Tract 8 in Jackson County is 136 acres adjacent to an existing WMA and WPA totaling 400 contiguous acres of wetland-grassland habitat. This area is a MCBS Site of Moderate Biodiversity due to abundant native prairie. This parcel would also protect 5 acres of native prairie and part of a 45-acre wetland of Moderate Biological Significance. It supports 10-25 breeding duck pairs per square mile (PPSM) and falls within a Minnesota Prairie Conservation Plan Strategic Habitat Complex. There are restorable uplands and numerous restorable wetlands on this property that will increase habitat for breeding waterfowl and other grassland birds.

Expandere WMA Tract 39 is 168 acres bordering Long Lake, one of Minnesota DNR's legally designated "Wildlife Management Lakes" in need of buffering. This large prairie-wetland complex supports 10-25 breeding duck PPSM, is very near a larger complex of prairie potholes protected by U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and priority lands identified by Minnesota DNR Wildlife for management and is near a Minnesota Prairie Conservation Plan Corridor identified for protection and restoration.

Moccasin WMA Tract 17 in Becker County is 640 acres in the upper reaches of Moccasin Creek of the Red River Watershed where flood control is a priority. The property is poorly drained cropland with an estimated 160 acres of restorable wetlands that can also provide flood water storage as will be designed by DU engineers to strategically provide both flood control and wildlife habitat benefits, and supports over 40 duck PPSM. It is located in a MN Prairie Conservation Plan Corridor near the Waubun Core Area.

Which top 2 Conservation Plans referenced in MS97A.056, subd. 3a are most applicable to this project?

Long Range Duck Recovery Plan

Minnesota Prairie Conservation Plan

Explain how this plan will uniquely address habitat resilience to climate change and its anticipated effects on game, fish & wildlife species utilizing the protected or restored/enhanced habitat this proposal targets.

This program strives to protect and restore wetlands and prairie uplands around them, including the restoration of marginal cropland and drained wetlands. As such, it will remove marginal cropland from annual cultivation that annually releases carbon and restore it back to native vegetation that sequesters carbon. Restoring wetlands also helps filter water and retain precipitation on the landscape to lessen the effects of floodwaters downstream. Finally, and most importantly, this program strives to add protected and restored wetland and prairie habitat to existing small patches of state and federal wildlife lands that are often too small to function, thereby growing their patch size to increase local wildlife populations and help breeding wildlife overcome the effects of wildlife habitat fragmentation and increased predation that results from dwindling wildlife habitat abundance and patch size.

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 prairie pothole wetlands and grasslands. Native grass and forb wildflower grasslands will surround wetlands as functional habitat for pollinators, migratory birds, and resident wildlife. Lands transferred into the state Wildlife Management Area system will provide additional prairie habitat for migratory species and public use, both of which will be monitored by Minnesota DNR. Restored lands acquired will be monitored by DNR area wildlife field staff and managed to optimize wildlife habitat conditions. Prairie uplands will be managed to minimize trees and encourage native plants.*

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 supplant or substitute previous 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 private sources of funding for DU conservation programs.

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 or to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service for inclusion in the National Wildlife Refuge system (which includes Waterfowl Production Areas). Minnesota DNR and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service 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. Both agencies routinely use prescribed fire and water level management techniques to maintain ecological productivity of prairie grasslands and wetlands for wildlife habitat. Both state WMAs and federal WPAs are open for wildlife habitat compatible public uses, and both agencies maintain public accesses for visitors.

Actions to Maintain Project Outcomes

Year	Source of Funds	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3
2030	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

Provide an assessment of how your program celebrates cultural diversity or reaches diverse communities in Minnesota, including reaching low- and moderate-income households:

Ducks Unlimited conserves wetlands for waterfowl and people alike. Our habitat projects restore natural infrastructure, which helps to alleviate society's climate impacts and provide clean water for BIPOC communities,

who are disproportionately impacted by the effects of wetland loss and climate change.

Wetlands recharge groundwater in aquifers that provide clean, dependable water supplies while removing pollutants and reducing downstream flooding. Generational wealth in BIPOC communities is compromised by a lack of natural infrastructure such as wetlands. BIPOC community resiliency is enhanced by the function of wetlands and adjacent grassland habitats that clean water and help absorb impacts from severe weather events.

Restoring wetlands in the Mississippi River watershed benefits BIPOC communities who draw their water from the river such as Minneapolis, St. Paul, and St. Cloud. Minneapolis alone draws 21 billion gallons of water a year from the Mississippi River to produce 57 million gallons of drinking water each day.

Public lands and waters also provide numerous opportunities for fishing, hunting, canoeing, kayaking, birding, and outdoor education for BIPOC communities that may not otherwise have access to natural open spaces. Indigenous communities may benefit from DU wetland enhancements and restorations that create suitable conditions for wild rice to proliferate. Wetlands deliver a return on investment that helps to support the health, resiliency, and well-being of BIPOC communities.

In this program, Ducks Unlimited works closely with the Minnesota DNR to strategically purchase lands with drained wetlands and lands bordering shallow lakes that are important to both waterfowl, other prairie wildlife, and people too. Ducks Unlimited restores drained pothole wetlands and adjacent uplands back to native prairie grasslands for both wildlife habitat and the public using competitively-selected contractors following state procurement guidelines. These lands are open to the public for outdoor recreational use, community programs, environmental education, and open for BIPOC and diverse communities to access nature.

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 notifies and strives to discuss land acquisition plans with counties and townships prior to land acquisition closings. Discussions with local county and other government officials will be held in conjunction with acquiring lands only if and after private land negotiations result in a legal 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 private land acquisitions are very personal and sensitive matters, especially between private landowners and private non-profit conservation organizations, disclosing details publicly in advance of purchase agreements can jeopardize land deals with private landowners. Because requesting formal local approval involves elected officials publicly 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 are typically higher than previous assessed county tax rates for cultivated land acquired by DU in the Prairie Section of SW Minnesota that results in more tax revenue, county boards have usually been 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 land tracts or portions of lands may contain some acres under state RIM easement, but the value of those acres will be appraised separately and OHF grant funds will not be used to purchase those acres. Some tracts may have federal USFWS Wetland Easements that protect intact wetland basins imbedded within agricultural lands, which prohibits wetland drainage, burning, and filling, but otherwise allowing farming when dry, so the impact on value of most agricultural lands is minimal and the value of these areas will be determined 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 and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service for incorporation into state WMAs and federal WPAs for long-term wildlife habitat management and public use. Initial Development and Restoration Plans are developed in partnership with Minnesota DNR and USFWS land manager approval according to agency management plan goals. The primary purposes of WMAs and WPAs are to provide habitat for the production of wildlife and provide opportunities for compatible outdoor recreation. To fulfill those goals, DNR may use limited farming specifically to enhance or benefit the management of state lands for resident wildlife, and both DNR and USFWS use farming to prepare land for native prairie grassland restoration.

Lands proposed to be acquired for prairie restoration as WMAs and WPAs 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 works closely with DNR through our cooperative acquisition and restoration planning process to minimize purchasing land 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. However, some lands may be acquired with some acres where DNR determines food plots are required.

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 via 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 to 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 before land restoration.

Will insecticides or fungicides (including neonicotinoid and fungicide treated seed) be used within any activities of this program either in the process of restoration or use as food plots?
No

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:
All lands to be acquired are in rural areas and will be included in state Wildlife Management Areas or federal USFWS Waterfowl Production Areas or National Wildlife Refuge, and open to public use as per Minnesota DNR and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service rules. Whereas all lands acquired for inclusion in federal Waterfowl Production Areas will be open for public hunting as per federal requirements, some lands acquired for National Wildlife Refuges may have limited hunting restrictions, depending on the Refuge.

Who will eventually own the fee title land?

State of MN

Federal

Land acquired in fee will be designated as a:

WMA

National Wildlife Refuge

WPA

What is the anticipated number of closed acquisitions (range is fine) you plan to accomplish with this appropriation?
4-8 parcels will be acquired, most likely about 6, depending on land tract opportunity sizes and prices.

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

All lands acquired will be fully restored and enhanced through this OHF program in partnership with MNDNR and USFWS land acquisition partners.

Will the land that you acquire (fee or easement) be restored or enhanced within this program's funding and availability?
Yes

Timeline

Activity Name	Estimated Completion Date
Complete land restorations	June 2031
Complete land transfers to Minnesota DNR.	June 2030
Appraise and acquire lands in fee-title.	June 2028

Date of Final Report Submission: 11/22/2032

Availability of Appropriation: Subd. 7.
Availability of Appropriation
(a) 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. Money 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.

(b) Money appropriated in this section is available as follows:
(1) money appropriated for acquiring real property is available until June 30, 2028;
(2) money appropriated for restoring and enhancing land acquired with an appropriation in this section is available for four years after the acquisition date with a maximum end date of June 30, 2032;
(3) money appropriated for restoring or enhancing other land is available until June 30, 2029;
(4) notwithstanding clauses (1) to (3), money appropriated for a project that receives at least 15 percent of its funding from federal funds is available until a date sufficient to match 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; and(5) money appropriated for other projects is available until the end of the fiscal year in which it is appropriated.

Budget

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

Totals

Item	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	$500,000	$100,000	DU private, federal NAWCA, and federal USFWS IRA-NbS	$600,000
Contracts	$1,000,000	$265,000	DU private, federal NAWCA, and federal USFWS IRA-NbS	$1,265,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	$5,700,000	-	-	$5,700,000
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	$520,000	Federal USFWS Migratory Bird Conservation Funds	$520,000
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-
Travel	$40,000	-	-	$40,000
Professional Services	$200,000	-	-	$200,000
Direct Support Services	$50,000	-	-	$50,000
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	$40,000	-	-	$40,000
Supplies/Materials	$140,000	-	-	$140,000
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	**$7,670,000**	**$885,000**	**-**	**$8,555,000**

Personnel

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Manager - Grant Management	0.1	5.0	$50,000	-	-	$50,000
Biologists & Engineers - Land Acquisition & Restoration	0.9	5.0	$450,000	$100,000	DU private, federal NAWCA, and federal USFWS IRA-NbS	$550,000

Amount of Request: $7,670,000
Amount of Leverage: $885,000
Leverage as a percent of the Request: 11.54%
DSS + Personnel: $550,000
As a % of the total request: 7.17%
Easement Stewardship: -
As a % of the Easement Acquisition: -

How will this program accommodate the reduced appropriation recommendation from the original proposed requested amount?
The budget for this program is reduced approximately proportionally to the OHF funding recommended as compared to our original request.

Detail leverage sources and confirmation of funds:
USFWS confirmed pledges of $520,000 in MBCF and $52,000 in federal IRA-NbS funds in writing via leverage letters. DU pledges OHF grant funds and additional private DU expense as non-federal match to leverage federal NAWCA grants to help pay DU engineers and contractors to restore drained wetlands acquired.

Does this project have the ability to be scalable?
Yes

If the project received 50% of the requested funding

Describe how the scaling would affect acres/activities and if not proportionately reduced, why?
The budget in this request will be scaled proportionately to the funding recommended.

Describe how personnel and DSS expenses would be adjusted and if not proportionately reduced, why?
This budget for personnel and DSS in this request will be scaled proportionately to the funding recommended.

Personnel

Has funding for these positions been requested in the past?
Yes

Contracts

What is included in the contracts line?
All DU land restoration work is surveyed and designed by DU engineers and biologists and is contracted to low-bid private contractors. These contracts are for wetland restoration activities such as ditch plugs, water level control structures, drainage tile removal/rerouting, and sediment and tree removal.

Professional Services

What is included in the Professional Services line?

Appraisals

Other : County permits and hearing fees to approve wetland restorations that require county ditch authorization and approval.

Surveys

Title Insurance and Legal Fees

Fee Acquisition

What is the anticipated number of fee title acquisition transactions?
DU anticipates acquiring 4-8 land parcels for MNDNR, with an average of about 6 parcels being most likely.

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; all DU travel charges invoiced to OHF grants are for mileage and lodging only.

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

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.

Other Equipment/Tools

Give examples of the types of Equipment and Tools that will be purchased?
Equipment and Tools includes GPS survey equipment for performing engineering wetland restoration survey work and engineering surveys of shallow lake and large wetland enhancement projects, including survey equipment lease charges instead of actual outright equipment purchases to avoid buying equipment that becomes obsolete due to upgrades and advancements. Other equipment may include laptop and/or tablet computers, printers and other office equipment for biologists or engineers may be needed, along with hand tools and other field equipment as needs arise. A trailer for the ATV purchased through this appropriation will fall into this Equipment and Tools category too.

Federal Funds

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

Are the funds confirmed?
Yes

Is Confirmation Document attached?
Yes, on file

Cash : $520,000

In Kind : $52,000

Output Tables

Acres by Resource Type (Table 1)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat	Total Acres
Restore	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	125	490	-	-	615
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	0	0	-	-	0
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**125**	**490**	**-**	**-**	**615**

Total Requested Funding by Resource Type (Table 2)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat	Total Funding
Restore	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	$1,565,000	$6,105,000	-	-	$7,670,000
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**$1,565,000**	**$6,105,000**	**-**	**-**	**$7,670,000**

Acres within each Ecological Section (Table 3)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest	Total Acres
Restore	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	615	-	615
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	0	-	0
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**-**	**-**	**-**	**615**	**-**	**615**

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	-	-	-	$7,670,000	-	$7,670,000
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**-**	**-**	**-**	**$7,670,000**	**-**	**$7,670,000**

Average Cost per Acre by Resource Type (Table 5)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat
Restore	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	$12,520	$12,459	-	-
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	-	-	-	$12,471	-
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 purchase of prairie farmland with restorable wetlands adjacent to existing public lands, and land adjacent to shallow lakes managed by DNR for inclusion in the Minnesota DNR's state Wildlife Management Area (WMA) system. DU focuses on acquiring and restoring converted/cultivated prairie with drained wetlands adjacent to existing WMAs to enlarge existing WMAs to create functioning prairie-wetland habitat complexes that benefit ducks and other prairie wildlife. This work also complements other conservation efforts to protect intact native prairie.

DU works in close partnership with the Minnesota DNR Section of Wildlife and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, and coordinates with other national and state NGO partners including Pheasants Forever, The Conservation Fund, and The Nature Conservancy to periodically review parcels for sale that DNR desires for WMAs. DU selects priority prairie parcels in the southern region that are highly regionally ranked by DNR and that add a good mix of prairie and wetland restorations to existing WMAs. USFWS prioritizes parcel opportunities based on federal science criteria and models that guide their WPA land and easement acquisition program.

DU strategically prioritizes tracts of land with restorable wetlands that DU wetland engineers can survey, design, and restore, especially those adjoining existing patches of prairie and wetland habitat that are not functioning as viable prairie-wetland complexes due to their small size and fragmented shape. DU also prioritizes land bordering shallow lakes managed by DNR in order to buffer those shallow, ecologically-sensitive wildlife lakes and help expand public prairie-wetland complexes.

Restore / Enhance Parcels

Name	County	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection	Description
Long Lake WMA - Lavonne Johnson Estate Tract 5	Lyon	10941233	170	$100,000	Yes	Restore drained wetlands on Johnson Estate land tract 5 that was previously acquired via this program in ML2023 OHF.
Shetek Inlet WMA & Long Lake WMA Lavonne Johnson Estate Parcels 1-4	Murray	10841203	368	$200,000	Yes	Restore drained wetlands on Johnson Estate land tracts 1-4 that were previously acquired via this program in ML2023 OHF.

Fee Parcels

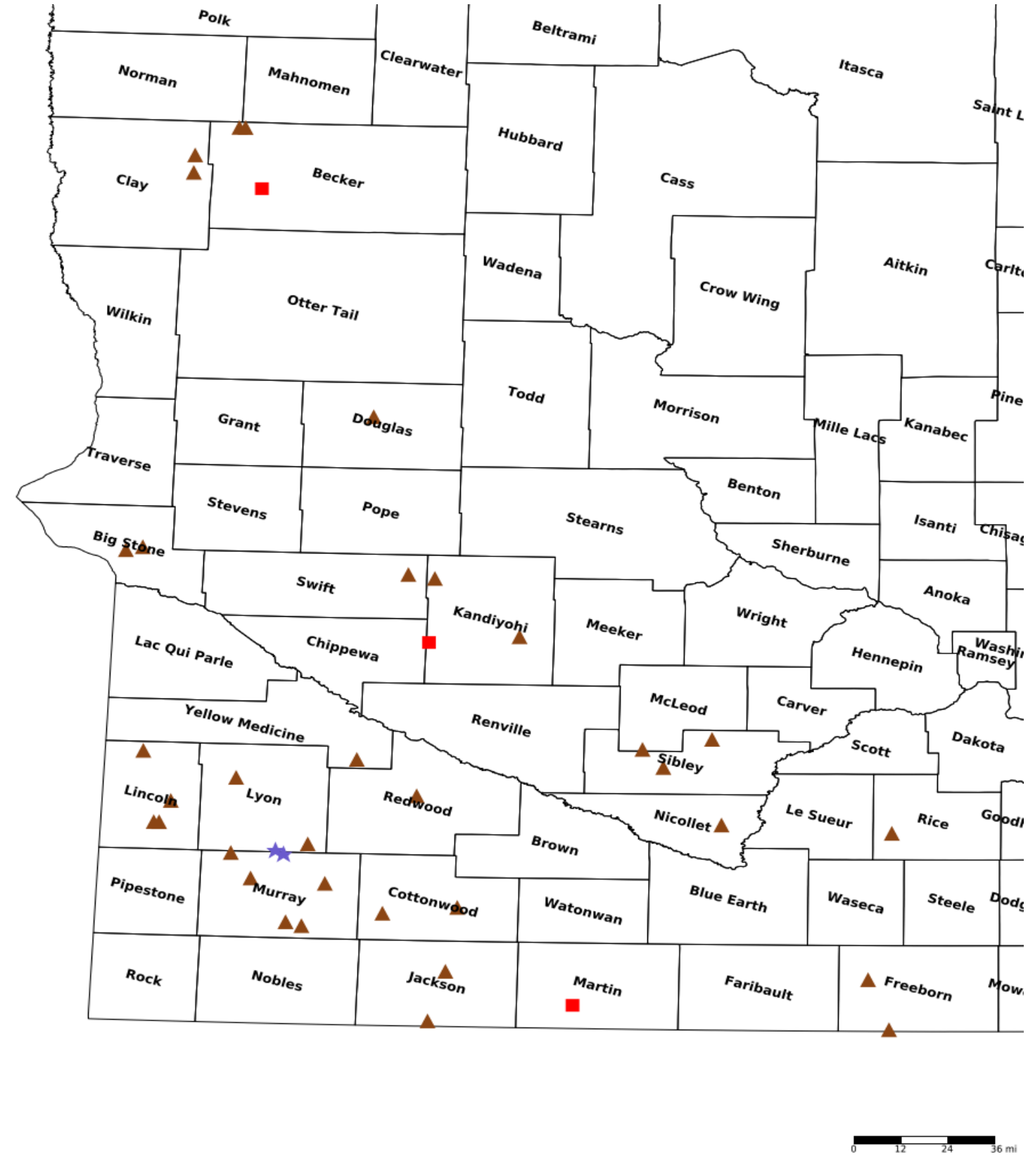
Name	County	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection
Hamden Slough NWR - Nelson Tract	Becker	13942203	120	$900,000	No
Moccasin WMA - Tract 17E	Becker	14242207	320	$1,600,000	No
Moccasin WMA - Tract 17W	Becker	14243212	320	$1,600,000	No
Goose Prairie WMA - Tract 10	Clay	14144222	61	$300,000	No
Hitterdahl WMA - Tract 3a	Clay	14044216	33	$200,000	No
Expandere WMA - Tract 39	Cottonwood	10638226	168	$1,200,000	No
Little Swan Lake WMA - Tract 14	Cottonwood	10635218	17	$125,000	No

Garfield WMA - Anderson Trust Tract	Douglas	12938220	215	$1,700,000	No
Freeborn Lake WMA -	Freeborn	10323224	113	$500,000	No
Minneota WMA - Tract 8	Jackson	10136229	136	$820,000	No
Two Sheds WMA - Tract 1 Stender	Jackson	10336214	151	$1,200,000	No
Capitol Hill WMA - Tract 1 Helgeson et. al.	Kandiyohi	11934225	114	$900,000	No
Chen Bay WMA - James Carlisle Parcel, Tract 7A	Lincoln	11045226	170	$1,200,000	Yes
Coot WMA - Tract 17	Lincoln	11144230	60	$285,000	No
Grandview WMA -Tract 7	Lyon	11242219	160	$1,100,000	No
Greenhead WMA - Tract 2	Lyon	10940221	119	$500,000	No
Holmes Lake WPA - Meyer	Martin	10232235	94	$1,100,000	No
Kujas WMA - Tract 2	McLeod	11430235	156	$1,150,000	No
Badger WMA - Tract 5 Reusse	Murray	10541211	80	$400,000	No
Dovray WMA - Tracts 19/19a	Murray	10740213	165	$1,000,000	No
Great Oasis WMA - Tract 17	Murray	10742210	334	$1,900,000	No
Wirock WMA - Tract 30 Kunze	Murray	10540217	164	$1,750,000	No
Swan Lake WMA - SLAWA Tract 75A	Nicollet	11027217	120	$1,700,000	No
Daubs Lake WMA - Tract 2/2a	Redwood	11137211	160	$1,300,000	No
Caron Lake WMA - Tract	Rice	11022227	277	$1,500,000	No
Indian Lake WMA - Tract 10	Sibley	11329228	67	$469,000	No
Severance Lake WMA - Tract 23 Sharpe	Sibley	11428213	65	$700,000	No
Posen WMA - Tract 7	Yellow Medicine	11339224	50	$300,000	No

Fee Parcels with Buildings

Name	County	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection	Buildings	Value of Buildings
Thielke Lake WMA - Larry Anderson Trust, Tract 20	Big Stone	12345231	391	$2,300,000	No	1	$0
Thielke Lake WMA - Tract 4	Big Stone	12246203	130	$7,650,000	No	1	$0
State Line Lake WMA - Tract 3b	Freeborn	10122234	109	$560,000	No	2	$0
Cabinrock WMA - Tract 7	Kandiyohi	12136205	81	$400,000	No	3	$30,000
Raymond WPA - Urban/Monson Parcel	Kandiyohi	11836206	153	$1,400,000	No	6	$10,000
Chen Bay WMA - Carlisle Estate Building Site, Tract 7B	Lincoln	11045227	20	$200,000	No	12	$40,000
Gobbler WMA - Tract 4	Lincoln	11345217	320	$2,220,000	No	3	$50,000
Nelson WMA - Tract 10 Val Trust	Murray	10843201	198	$1,750,000	No	4	$10,000
Monson WMA - Urke Tract	Swift	12237233	80	$500,000	No	1	$0

Parcel Map


Polk
Norman
Mahnomen
Clearwater
Beltrami
Itasca
Hubbard
Clay
Becker
Cass
Wadena
Crow Wing
Aitkin
Wilkin
Otter Tail
Todd
Morrison
Mille Lacs
Kanabec
Grant
Douglas
Traverse
Stevens
Pope
Stearns
Benton
Isanti
Big Stone
Swift
Kandiyohi
Sherburne
Anoka
Meeker
Wright
Lac Qui Parle
Chippewa
Hennepin
Ramsey
McLeod
Carver
Yellow Medicine
Renville
Scott
Dakota
Sibley
Lincoln
Lyon
Redwood
Nicollet
Le Sueur
Rice
Brown
Pipestone
Murray
Cottonwood
Watonwan
Blue Earth
Waseca
Steele
Rock
Nobles
Jackson
Martin
Faribault
Freeborn
0
12
24
36 mi
Protect in Easement
Protect in Fee with PILT
Protect in Fee W/O PILT
Restore
Enhance
Other