

**Outdoor Heritage Fund 2009 Appropriations  
M.L. 2009, Chapter 172, Art. 1, Sec. 2**

**Accomplishment Plans**

**Prepared for the Lessard Outdoor Heritage Council**

**JUNE 12, 2009**



Subd. 2. **Prairies**

(a) **Accelerated Prairie and Grassland Management** Ready in August

\$1,700,000 in fiscal year 2010 is to the commissioner of natural resources to accelerate the restoration and enhancement of native prairie vegetation on public lands, including roadsides. A list of proposed projects, describing the types and locations of restorations and enhancements, must be provided as part of the required accomplishment plan. To the extent possible, prairie restorations conducted with money appropriated in this section must plant vegetation or sow seed only of ecotypes native to Minnesota, and preferably of the local ecotype, using a high diversity of species originating from as close to the restoration site as possible, and protect existing native prairies from genetic contamination.

(b) **Green Corridor Legacy Program** 6

\$1,617,000 in fiscal year 2010 is to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with the Southwest Initiative Foundation or successor to acquire land for purposes allowed under the Minnesota Constitution, article XI, section 15, in Redwood County to be added to the state outdoor recreation system as defined in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 86A. A list of proposed fee title acquisitions must be provided as part of the required accomplishment plan. The commissioner of natural resources must agree to each proposed acquisition. No more than five percent of this appropriation may be spent on professional services directly related to this appropriation's purposes.

(c) **Prairie Heritage Fund – Acquisition and Restoration** Ready in July

\$3,000,000 in fiscal year 2010 is to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with Pheasants Forever or successor to acquire and restore land to be added to the state wildlife management area system. A list of proposed fee title acquisitions and a list of proposed restoration projects, describing the types and locations of restorations, must be provided as part of the required accomplishment plan. The commissioner of natural resources must agree to each proposed acquisition. To the extent possible, prairie restorations conducted with money appropriated in this section must plant vegetation or sow seed only of ecotypes native to Minnesota, and preferably of the local ecotype, using a high diversity of species originating from as close to the restoration site as possible, and protect existing native prairies from genetic contamination.

(d) **Accelerated Prairie Grassland Wildlife Management Area Acquisition** 11

\$3,913,000 in fiscal year 2010 is to the commissioner of natural resources to acquire land for wildlife management areas with native prairie or grassland habitats. A list of proposed fee title acquisitions must be provided as part of the required accomplishment plan.

- (e) **Northern Tall Grass Prairie National Wildlife Refuge Protection** 18  
 \$1,583,000 in fiscal year 2010 is to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service to acquire land or permanent easements within the Northern Tall Grass Prairie Habitat Preservation Area in western Minnesota. The commissioner may advance funds to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service. A list of proposed fee title and permanent easement acquisitions must be provided as part of the required accomplishment plan. Land removed from this program shall transfer to the state.
- (f) **Bluffland Prairie Protection Initiative** 25  
 \$500,000 in fiscal year 2010 is to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with the Minnesota Land Trust or successor to acquire permanent easements protecting critical prairie and grassland habitats in the blufflands in southeastern Minnesota. A list of proposed fee title and permanent easement acquisitions must be provided as part of the required accomplishment plan.
- (g) **Rum River – Cedar Creek Initiative** 33  
 \$1,900,000 in fiscal year 2010 is to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with Anoka County to acquire land at the confluence of the Rum River and Cedar Creek in Anoka County. Acquired land must remain open to hunting and fishing, consistent with the capacity of the land, during the open season, as determined by the commissioner of natural resources. This is the first of two planned appropriations for this acquisition.
- Subd. 3. **Forests** 39  
 \$18,000,000 in fiscal year 2010 and \$18,000,000 in fiscal year 2011 are to the commissioner of natural resources to acquire land or permanent working forest easements on private forests in areas identified through the Minnesota forests for the future program under Minnesota Statutes, section 84.66. Priority must be given to acquiring land or interests in private lands within existing Minnesota state forest boundaries. Any easements acquired must have a forest management plan as defined in Minnesota Statutes, section 290C.02, subdivision 7. A list of proposed fee title and easement acquisitions must be provided as part of the required accomplishment plan. The fiscal year 2011 appropriation is available only for acquisitions that, by August 15, 2009, are: (1) subject to a binding agreement with the commissioner; and (2) matched by at least \$9,000,000 in private donations.
- Subd. 4. **Wetlands**
- (a) **Accelerated Wildlife Management Area Acquisition** 47  
 \$2,900,000 in fiscal year 2010 is to the commissioner of natural resources to acquire land for wildlife management areas. A list of proposed fee title acquisitions must be provided as part of the required accomplishment plan.
- (b) **Accelerated Shallow Lake Restorations and Enhancements** 54  
 \$2,528,000 in fiscal year 2010 is to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with Ducks Unlimited, Inc. or successor to restore and enhance shallow lake habitats. Up to \$400,000 of this appropriation may be used for permanent easements related to shallow lake restorations and enhancements. A list of proposed easements and projects, describing the types and locations of easements, restorations,

and enhancements, must be provided as part of the required accomplishment plan. The commissioner of natural resources must agree to each easement, restoration, and enhancement.

**(c) Accelerate the Waterfowl Production Area Program in Minnesota** To be delivered 6-12

\$5,600,000 in fiscal year 2010 is to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with Pheasants Forever or successor to acquire and restore wetland and related upland habitats, in cooperation with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and Ducks Unlimited, Inc. or successor to be managed as waterfowl production areas. A list of proposed acquisitions and a list of proposed projects, describing the types and locations of restorations, must be provided as part of the required accomplishment plan.

**(d) Reinvest in Minnesota Wetlands Reserve Program Acquisition and Restoration** Ready in August

\$9,058,000 in fiscal year 2010 is to the Board of Water and Soil Resources to acquire permanent easements and restore wetlands and associated uplands in cooperation with the United States Department of Agriculture Wetlands Reserve Program. A list of proposed acquisitions and a list of proposed projects, describing the types and locations of restorations, must be provided as part of the required accomplishment plan.

**(e) Shallow Lake Critical Shoreland** 60

\$450,000 in fiscal year 2010 is to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with Ducks Unlimited, Inc. or successor to protect habitat by acquiring land associated with shallow lakes. A list of proposed acquisitions must be provided as part of the required accomplishment plan. The commissioner of natural resources must agree to each proposed acquisition.

**Subd. 5. Fish, Game, and Wildlife Habitat**

**(a) Outdoor Heritage Conservation Partners Grant Program** In Progress

\$4,000,000 in fiscal year 2010 is to the commissioner of natural resources for a pilot program to provide competitive, matching grants of up to \$400,000 to local, regional, state, and national organizations, including government, for enhancement, restoration, or protection of forests, wetlands, prairies, and habitat for fish, game, or wildlife in Minnesota. Up to 6-1/2 percent of this appropriation may be used for administering the grant. The funds may be advanced in three equal sums, on or after November 1, 2009, February 1, 2010, and April 1, 2010. Grantees may protect land through acquisition of land or interests in land. Easements must be permanent. Land acquired in fee must be open to hunting and fishing during the open season unless otherwise provided by state law. The commissioner of natural resources must agree to each proposed acquisition of land or interest in land. The program shall require a match of at least \$1 nonstate funds to \$10 state funds. The nonstate dollars match may be in-kind. The criteria for evaluating grant applications must include amount of habitat restored, enhanced, or protected; local support; degree of collaboration; urgency; multiple benefits; habitat benefits provided; consistency with sound conservation science; adjacency to protected lands; full funding of the project; supplementing existing funding; public access for hunting and fishing during the open season; sustainability; and use of native plant materials. All projects must conform to the Minnesota statewide conservation and preservation plan. Wildlife habitat projects must also conform to the state wildlife action plan. Priority may be given to projects acquiring land or easements associated with existing wildlife management areas. All restoration or enhancement projects must be

on land permanently protected by conservation easement or public ownership. To the extent possible, a person conducting prairie restorations with money appropriated in this section must plant vegetation or sow seed only of ecotypes native to Minnesota, and preferably of the local ecotype, using a high diversity of species originating from as close to the restoration site as possible, and protect existing native prairies from genetic contamination. Subdivision 10 applies to grants awarded under this paragraph. This appropriation is available until June 30, 2013, at which time all grant projects must be completed and final products delivered, unless an earlier date is specified in the grant agreement. No less than 15 percent of the amount of each grant must be held back from reimbursement until the grant recipient has completed a grant accomplishment report in the form prescribed by and satisfactory to the Lessard Outdoor Heritage Council. As a condition of proceeding with this appropriation, the commissioner shall report on the feasibility, process, and timeline for creation of a Minnesota fish and wildlife foundation, to be modeled after the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, and on the possibility of allowing for the administration by this entity of the conservation partners grant program. The legislative guide created in this act shall consider whether this program should be administered by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, the commissioner of natural resources, or some neutral third party.

**(b) Aquatic Management Area Acquisition** 66

\$5,748,000 in fiscal year 2010 is to the commissioner of natural resources to acquire and in fee title and easement to be added to the state aquatic management area system. Acquired land must remain open to hunting and fishing, consistent with the capacity of the land, during the open season, as determined by the commissioner of natural resources. A list of proposed fee title and easement acquisitions must be provided as part of the required accomplishment plan.

**(c) Cold Water River and Stream Restoration, Protection, and Enhancement** 73

\$2,050,000 in fiscal year 2010 is to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with Trout Unlimited or successor to restore, enhance, and protect cold water river and stream habitats in Minnesota. A list of proposed acquisitions and a list of proposed projects, describing the types and locations of restorations and enhancements, must be provided as part of the required accomplishment plan. The commissioner of natural resources must agree to each proposed acquisition, restoration, and enhancement.

**(d) Dakota County Habitat Protection** 86

\$1,000,000 in fiscal year 2010 is to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with Dakota County for acquisition of permanent easements. A list of proposed acquisitions must be provided as part of the required accomplishment plan.

**(e) Lake Rebecca Water Quality Improvement Project** 92

\$450,000 in fiscal year 2010 is to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with the Three Rivers Park District to improve the water quality in Lake Rebecca in Lake Rebecca Park Reserve in Hennepin County. A description of the activities to enhance fish habitat in Lake Rebecca must be provided as part of the required accomplishment plan.

**(f) Fountain Lake Fish Barriers** 98

\$655,000 in fiscal year 2010 is to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with the Shell Rock River Watershed District to construct fish barriers at

three locations on Fountain Lake. Land acquisition necessary for fish barrier construction is permitted. A list of proposed projects, describing the types and locations of barriers, must be provided as part of the required accomplishment plan. The commissioner of natural resources must agree to each proposed barrier.

**Lessard – Sams Outdoor Heritage Council  
Outdoor Heritage Fund**

**2009 Appropriation  
Accomplishment Plan**

**Project or Program Title: Green Corridor Legacy Program – Creating a Legacy of Connectivity, Habitat Viability, and Public Access with the Mid-Minnesota River Watershed.**

**Date: June 10, 2009**

**Manager’s Name: Brad Cobb**

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**E-Mail: 1231tlc@charter.net**

**Fiscal Management Contact: Nancy Fasching**

**Title: Grants Officer, Southwest Initiative Foundation**

**Mailing Address: 15 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue South, Hutchinson, MN 55350**

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**E-Mail: nancyf@swifoundation.org**

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<b>Funds Recommended (\$000s)</b>	<b>Funding</b>	<b>Out-Year Projections of Needs</b>		
	<b>FY 2010</b>	<b>FY 2011</b>	<b>FY 2012</b>	<b>FY 2013</b>
Outdoor Heritage Fund (OHF)	<b>\$1,617,000</b>	\$3,500,000	\$3,500,000	\$3,500,000

**Summary**

The Green Corridor Legacy Program will provide public access (WMA’s) to high quality game and wildlife habitat. The proposed acquisitions are: 1) one large block acquisition of 476 acres with 1 shallow lake, 3-4 wetlands, restored prairie, and woody cover plantings and 2) one acquisition of approximately 140 acres which is an expansion of a current WMA. The Green Corridor Legacy will secure the cooperation from the landowners to acquire these properties as soon as appropriations are made, appraisals completed, and title transfer methods to the state are finalized – both projects have the support of the regional DNR office for acceptance into the WMA inventory system. Any leftover acquisition appropriations due to lower than anticipated land values and/or appraisals will be used towards acquiring another possible tract which meets all of the requirements of OHF in Redwood County – probably in partnership with other partners; e.g DNR, Pheasants Forever Inc. The Green Corridor Legacy will provide an updated and L-SOHC staff approved Accomplishment Plan if this were to occur.

**Background**

- ⇒ The initial phase of the program proposal will allow the citizens of Minnesota to have more access to public hunting lands by acquiring approximately 616 acres of land which would be developed and protected as Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs).
- ⇒
- ⇒ The program proposal will succeed because numerous partnerships have developed from a wide variety of disciplines (e.g. U of M, DNR, local SWCD, USFWS, PF, MDHA, NWTF, community/civic groups, regional business leaders, and supportive landowners) that will assist in monitoring outcomes, provide long range management of the acquired lands, provide technical support, and ensure that program activities will advance the goals, objectives, and strategies of the various state-wide conservation plans (e.g. Duck Recovery Plan, the Pheasant Plan, the Wild Turkey Plan, the WMA Acquisition Plan, and numerous strategies associated to the MN Conservation and Preservation Plan.)
- ⇒
- ⇒ Other program activities outside of OHF will include:
  - ⇒ Short and long range program development to ensure continuing community/citizen/regional support of the program
  - ⇒ Public relations and outreach
  - ⇒ Partnership involvement in program development and local/state government cooperation
  - ⇒ Fiduciary responsibility for the program including the land transactions
  - ⇒ Financial oversight, transparency and accountability to all program activities and outcomes
  - ⇒ Development of a strategy to continue the investment for possible future Outdoor Heritage Funds (OHF) as a long range program activity
  - ⇒ Leadership development for those seeing the vision and opportunity of the Green Corridor Legacy Program
- ⇒
- ⇒ Through the Green Corridor Board of Directors, there is support for this project from local government agencies like the Soil and Water Conservation Board of Directors and the MN DNR, and cooperation from the local county officials. Once purchase agreements are secured, formal requests to the Board of County Commissioners will be completed, as is the normal protocol.
- ⇒
- ⇒ Once appropriations and/or grant agreements are finalized, the Southwest Initiative Foundation (SWIF), through the approval of the Green Corridor Board of Directors, will have the program manager begin the process of appraisals, purchase agreements, and title transfer activities. It is the assumption that the DNR and state of Minnesota can provide normal timelines to process these fee simple acquisition title transfers. Acquisitions and title transfers to the state of Minnesota and management by the MN DNR of these program acres are anticipated to be complete by June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2010.

### **Relationship to the *Minnesota Conservation and Preservation Plan* and Other Published Resource Management Plans**

The Green Corridor Legacy program will emphasize the several of the habitat strategies outlined in the Minnesota Conservation and Preservation Plan; 1) Protect priority land habitats, 2) Protect critical streams/river habitats, 3) Improve connectivity and access to outdoor recreation, 4) restore and protect shallow lakes, 5) Restore/protect land, wetlands, and wetland associated watersheds, and 6) keep water on the landscape.

The Green Corridor Legacy program will also emphasize the key elements of the various state-wide conservation plans; e.g. the Duck Recovery Plan, Pheasant Plan, the WMA Acquisition

**Budget**

Budget Item	Fiscal Year 10	Fiscal Year 11	Fiscal Year 12
Personnel	\$38,500		
Contracts	\$40,425		
Equipment/Tools/Supplies			
Fee Acquisition	\$1,536,150		
Easement Acquisition			
Easement Stewardship			
Travel	\$1,925		
Additional Budget Items			
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,617,000</b>		

**Personnel Details**

Title	Name	Amount.
Accountant	.2 FTE	\$14,000
Grant Officer	.35 FTE	\$24,500
Consultant/Program Manager	Bradley H. Cobb –Green Corridor Consulting, Inc	\$40,425

**Leverage**

Source of Leverage	Fiscal Year 10	Fiscal Year 11	Fiscal Year 12
SWIF In-Kind Services	\$20,000		
MDHA – Acquisition Donation	\$5,000		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$25,000</b>		

**Accomplishments:**

Table 1 Accomplishments	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife		
	Wetlands	Prairies	Forests
Restore			
Protect		Protect 616 acres of public land.	
Enhance			

<b>Table 2 Recommend Fund Allocation</b>	<b>Wetlands</b>	<b>Prairies</b>	<b>Forests</b>	<b>Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife</b>
<b>Restore</b>				
<b>Protect</b>		\$1,536,150		
<b>Enhance</b>				

<b>Table 3 Counties Impacted</b>	<b>Wetlands</b>	<b>Prairies</b>	<b>Forests</b>	<b>Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife</b>
<b>Restore</b>				
<b>Protect</b>		Redwood		
<b>Enhance</b>				

<b>Table 4 Non-State Leverage \$</b>	<b>Wetlands</b>	<b>Prairies</b>	<b>Forests</b>	<b>Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife</b>
<b>Restore</b>				
<b>Protect</b>				
<b>Enhance</b>				

<b>Table 5 Acquisition Data</b>	<b>Wetlands</b>	<b>Prairies</b>	<b>Forests</b>	<b>Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife</b>
<b>Acquired in Fee with State PILT Liability</b>		616 acres for acquisition value of \$1,536,150		
<b>Acquired in Fee without State PILT Liability</b>				
<b>Permanent Easement</b>				

**Accomplishment Time Table**

<b>Milestone</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Measure</b>
Acquire Fee Simple Acquisition Open to Public Hunting (WMA)	June 30, 2010	616 acres

**Relationship to Your Current Budget**

The Green Corridor Legacy program is a new community/citizen based initiative. However, the SWIF and Green Corridor Board of Directors have received \$1,000,000 from Environmental and Natural Resource Trust Fund (LCCMR Phase I) for FY2008-2010. This LCCMR program has very specific priorities/strategies that compliment LCCMR funding priorities that relate to the Minnesota River Valley natural/ecological resources, trails, historical/cultural, and tourism. LOHC funding will supplement, not substitute, other funding requests.

### **How Will the Habitat Improvements Be Sustained?**

The fee simple acquisition of these 616 acres will be administered by the MN DNR Division of Wildlife for long-term management and enforcement of state laws on these acquired properties. The Green Corridor Legacy Program has received commitments from Minnesota DNR Region 4 for funding this acquisition in its long range management activities.

This program is acquiring land from willing and supportive landowners to be transferred to the DNR for long-term habitat conservation, outdoor recreational access, sustainability, and monitoring. Payment in Lieu of tax (PILT) will be established by current or traditional methods.

### **Attach:**

**Project A)** Approximately 476 acres located in Redwood County, Gales Township. Property has one restored 30 acre shallow lake, 3-4 wetlands (types 3 &4), and the balance in restored native prairie. This property has received a very high priority by the DNR for acquisition. See attached map.

**Project B)** Approximately 140 acres in Redwood County, Lamberton Township. Property acquisition will expanded a current WMA and has been rated as a high priority by the DNR for acquisition. See attached map.

If after these two acquisitions (Projects A & B) there are residual appropriations because of lower than anticipated purchase price, the Green Corridor Legacy will attempt to acquire another tract which meets or exceeds OHF requirements in Redwood County as a possible WMA or AMA. This additional project would probably be in partnership with another organization or agency with L-SOHC staff approval. An updated Accomplishment Plan would be generated with specific information and details.

## Lessard Outdoor Heritage Council

### 2009 Appropriation Accomplishment Plan

**Project or Program Title:** Accelerated Prairie Grassland WMA Acquisition (P9)

**Date:** March 11, 2009

**Manager's Name:** Dennis Simon  
**Title:** DNR Wildlife Management Section Chief  
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**E-Mail:** dennis.simon@dnr.state.mn.us  
**Web Site:** www.dnr.state.mn.us

Funds Recommended (\$000s)	Funding	Out-Year Projections of Needs		
	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013
Outdoor Heritage Fund	<b>3,913,000</b>	5,000,000	5,000,000	5,000,000

**Summary :** Our program will protect 800 acres of new wildlife habitat in the Prairie, Deciduous Transition, and Southeast Bluffland ecological sections of Minnesota through fee title acquisition. Title of all lands acquired will be held by the State and designated as Wildlife Management Area open to hunting, trapping, fishing and compatible outdoor recreation uses.

#### Background

Minnesota has lost 99% of the original prairie landscape resulting in drastic declines in grassland dependant wildlife. Examples of species in greatest conservation need in the prairie include American Badger, Grasshopper Sparrow, Northern Pintail, Bobolink and Eastern Meadowlark. Prairie grasslands support populations of upland game birds such as pheasants, prairie chickens and sharp-tailed grouse and a variety of dabbling ducks when associated with prairie wetland complexes. These game populations drive local and statewide hunting recreation and economy. The DNR will acquire converted and degraded lands in the prairie, transition moraine, and bluffland ecological sections over the next two years and restore the grassland complexes by planting native prairie. DNR will prioritize acquisitions at sites where there is an existing habitat base in prairie grassland complexes to address habitat fragmentation and to maximize habitat benefits. Project lists will change, as new parcels become available and as previously included projects become unavailable. Collaborative partnerships will be promoted in order to acquire key lands. DNR will work with and seek a resolution from the County Board of Commissioners approving all WMA acquisitions.

#### Relationship to the *Minnesota Conservation and Preservation Plan* and Other Published Resource Management Plans

The Minnesota Statewide Conservation and Preservation Plan identifies habitat loss and degradation as the number one driver of change for wildlife in Minnesota and further states that the prairie regions have experienced the greatest amount of habitat loss of any region.

Minnesota’s Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy for species in greatest conservation need has identified significant loss and degradation of habitat as the number one management challenge and one of the principle strategies is to provide protection through selective acquisition of key habitats in the prairie regions.

Minnesota’s Long Range Duck Recovery Plan lists the objective of restoring a breeding population of 1 million ducks by 2056. The primary strategy is the protection and restoration of 2 million additional acres of habitat of which 70% will be grassland in the prairie ecoregion.

Minnesota’s Long Range Plan for the Ring-necked Pheasant lists the objective of increasing pheasant population to 1.8 million birds. To accomplish this objective the plan calls for an additional 21,000 acres of grassland to be protected through acquisition of WMAs.

Citizens report Minnesota’s Wildlife Management Area Acquisition – The Next 50 Years recommends acquisition goals of an additional 494,000 acres WMA in the prairie and transition regions over the next 50 years.

**Budget**

Budget Item	Fiscal Year 10	Fiscal Year 11	Fiscal Year 12
<b>Personnel</b>			
<b>Contracts</b>	15,000	5,000	
<b>Equipment/Tools/Supplies</b>			
<b>Fee Acquisition</b>	3,281,600	500,000	
<b>Easement Acquisition</b>			
<b>Easement Stewardship</b>			
<b>Travel</b>			
<b>Additional Budget Items</b>	96,400	15,000	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,393,000</b>	<b>520,000</b>	

**Personnel Details**

Title	Name	Amount.
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None

**Leverage**

Source of Leverage	Fiscal Year 10	Fiscal Year 11	Fiscal Year 12
<b>TOTAL</b>			

**Accomplishments:**

<b>Table 1 Accomplish- ments</b>	<b>Wetlands</b>	<b>Prairies</b>	<b>Forests</b>	<b>Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife</b>
<b>Restore</b>				
<b>Protect</b>	160 acres	640 acres		
<b>Enhance</b>				

<b>Table 2 Recommend Fund Allocation</b>	<b>Wetlands</b>	<b>Prairies</b>	<b>Forests</b>	<b>Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife</b>
<b>Restore</b>				
<b>Protect</b>	\$756,000	\$3,02,600		
<b>Enhance</b>				

<b>Table 3 Counties Impacted</b>	<b>Wetlands</b>	<b>Prairies</b>	<b>Forests</b>	<b>Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife</b>
<b>Restore</b>				
<b>Protect</b>	Dakota, Wright, Meeker, Wabasha, Martin, Redwood, Cottonwood, Chippewa	Dakota, Wright, Meeker, Wabasha, Martin, Redwood, Cottonwood, Chippewa		
<b>Enhance</b>				

<b>Table 4 Non-State Leverage \$</b>	<b>Wetlands</b>	<b>Prairies</b>	<b>Forests</b>	<b>Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife</b>
<b>Restore</b>				
<b>Protect</b>				
<b>Enhance</b>				

<b>Table 5 Acquisition Data</b>	<b>Wetlands</b>	<b>Prairies</b>	<b>Forests</b>	<b>Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife</b>
<b>Acquired in Fee with State PILT Liability</b>	160 acres for \$782,600	640 acres for \$3,02,600		
<b>Acquired in Fee without State PILT Liability</b>				
<b>Permanent Easement</b>				

### **Accomplishment Time Table**

<b>Milestone</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Measure</b>
Purchase WMA land	June 30, 2010	680 acres
Purchase WMA land	Dec. 31, 2010	120 acres

### **Relationship to Your Current Budget**

The DNR Section of Wildlife supports the WMA acquisition program with 1 FTE permanent program coordinator funded by Game and Fish funds. Annual base funding for traditional fee title acquisition includes \$895,000 in Small Game Surcharge that purchases about 300 acres annually. Additional WMA acquisition funding sources vary from year to year and include on average \$1,800,000 in RIM Critical Habitat License Plate match and \$125,000 from the North American Wetlands Conservation Act per year. These funds acquire an average of 650 acres per year. Our proposal would accelerate land acquisition by an additional 800 acres over two years.

### **How Will the Habitat Improvements Be Sustained?**

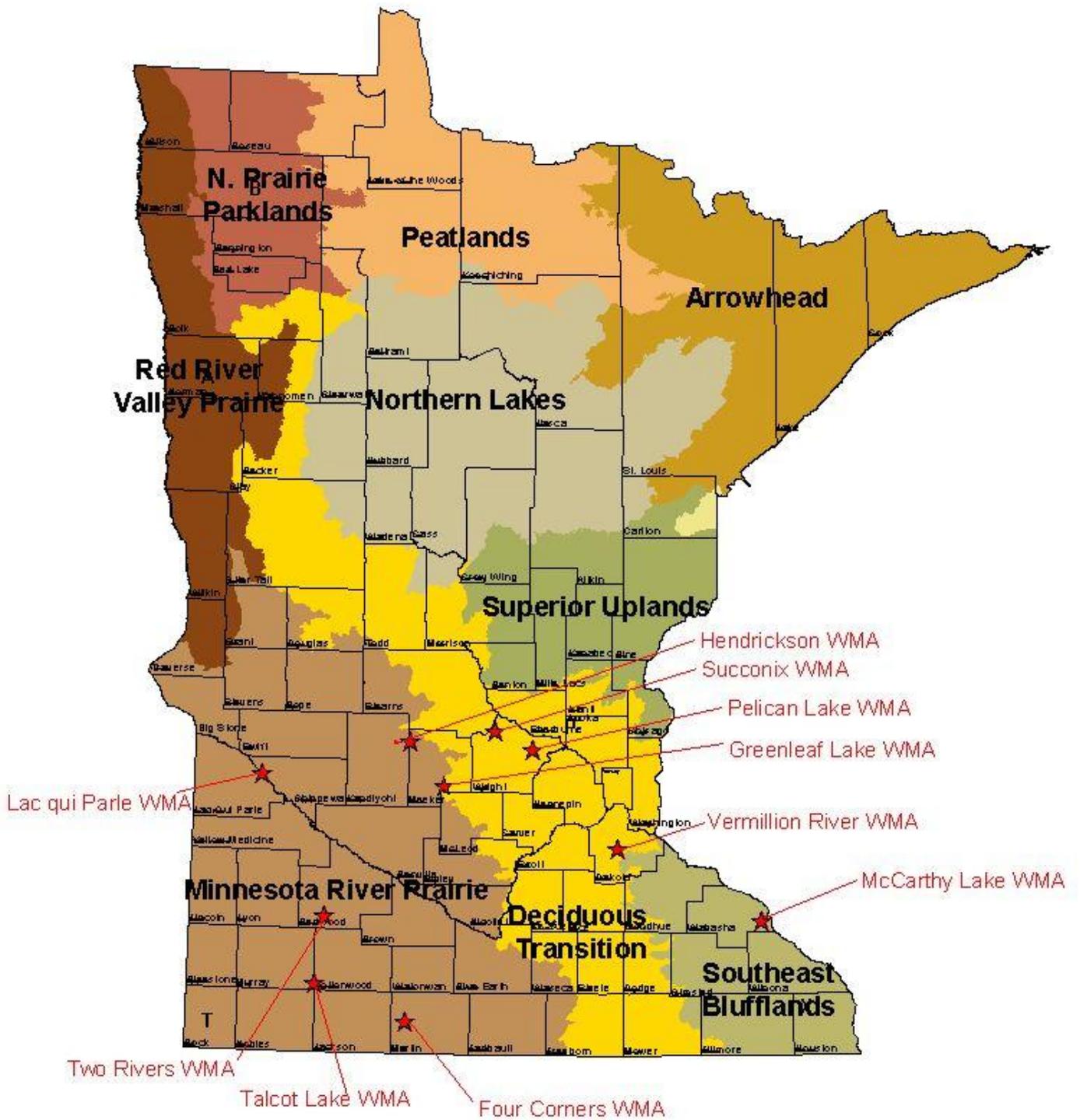
Lands acquired under this program will be designated as State Wildlife Management Areas under authority of the Outdoor Recreation Act of 1978 and managed in perpetuity with DNR Game and Fish funds. Payment of in-lieu of tax payments are made to the counties from biennial appropriations by the Legislature from the general fund.

### **Attach:**

- 1) A list of your projects showing their county location and**
- 2) On the attached eight and a half by eleven map of Minnesota show counties each project as a dot.**

County	WMA Name	Estimated Cost	Acres
Wright	Pelican Lake WMA	\$2,600,000.00	260
Meeker	Greenleaf Lake WMA	\$500,000.00	119
Dakota	Vermillion River WMA	\$3,000,000.00	352
Wabasha	McCarthy Lake WMA	\$1,500,000.00	500
Martin	Four Corners WMA	\$750,000.00	161
Wright	Suconnix WMA	\$600,000.00	123
Redwood	Two Rivers WMA	\$600,000.00	274
Meeker	Hendrickson Estate WMA	\$814,000.00	240
Cottonwood	Talcot Lake WMA	\$119,000.00	24
Cottonwood	Talcot Lake WMA	\$150,000.00	6
Cottonwood	Talcot Lake WMA	\$150,000.00	51
Cottonwood	Talcot Lake WMA	\$460,000.00	115
Chippewa	Lac qui Parle WMA	\$400,000.00	27
Freeborn	Magaksica WMA	\$50,000.00	8
Big Stone	Prairie WMA	\$40,000.00	22
Big Stone	Gibson WMA	\$190,000.00	190
Brown	Bashaw WMA	\$550,000.00	220
Clay	Barnesville WMA	\$100,000.00	80
Clay	Barnesville WMA	\$300,000.00	240
Goodhue	Warsaw WMA	\$50,000.00	21
Kandiyohi	Yohi WMA	\$478,000.00	106
Lac Qui Parle	Baxter WMA	\$200,000.00	80
Lac Qui Parle	Sweetwater WMA	\$128,000.00	64
Lac Qui Parle	Schueller WMA	\$70,000.00	33
LeSueur	Murphy WMA	\$75,000.00	12
Lincoln	Archerville WMA	\$297,000.00	99
Lincoln	New	\$271,200.00	160
Lyon	Clifton WMA	\$538,000.00	134
Lyon	Coon Creek WMA	\$155,200.00	47
Lyon	Garvin WMA	\$567,187.00	151
Lyon	New	\$664,800.00	222
McLeod	Hepner WMA	\$280,000.00	80
Mower	Cartney WMA	\$25,500.00	8
Mower	Ramsey Mill Pond WMA	\$387,000.00	129
Nicollet	Swan Lake WMA	\$400,000.00	100
Renville	Dybsand WMA	\$100,000.00	50
Stearns	L. Daniel Frenzel WMA	\$480,000.00	160
Swift	Jossart WMA	\$276,000.00	120
Yellow Medicine	Middle Antelope Valley	\$560,000.00	160

Yellow Medicine	Middle Antelope Valley WMA	\$560,000.00	160
Yellow Medicine	Sioux Nation WMA	\$915,860.00	398
Yellow Medicine	NEW - Nothem	\$302,800.00	151
Yellow Medicine	Spring Creek WMA	\$520,000.00	160



## Lessard Outdoor Heritage Council

### 2009 Appropriation Accomplishment Plan

**Project or Program Title: Northern Tallgrass Prairie NWR Land Acquisition**

**Date: June 9, 2009**

**Manager's Name: Alice Hanley**

**Title: Refuge Manager**

**Mailing Address: 44843 County Road 19 Odessa, MN 56276**

**Telephone: 320-273-2191 ext. 100**

**Fax: 320-273-2231**

**E-Mail: [Alice.Hanley@fws.gov](mailto:Alice.Hanley@fws.gov)**

**Web Site: [www.fws.gov/midwest/NorthernTallgrassPrairie/](http://www.fws.gov/midwest/NorthernTallgrassPrairie/)**

Funds Recommended (\$000s)	Funding	Out-Year Projections of Needs		
	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013
Outdoor Heritage Fund	<b>\$1,583,000</b>	0	0	0

#### Summary

Our program will protect, in perpetuity, native prairie tracts in western Minnesota. Fee title tracts will be the top priority for the funding. Funding will be used for the purchase of habitat easements if the funding cannot be used entirely on fee title tracts. The funding will purchase approximately 525 acres of native prairie in fee title, 1,583 acres of habitat easements, or a combination of the two. Lands protected will be within the Northern Tallgrass Prairie Habitat Preservation Area (HPA) in western Minnesota and will become units of the Northern Tallgrass Prairie National Wildlife Refuge.

#### Background

⇒  
⇒ The purpose of the Northern Tallgrass Prairie National Wildlife Refuge is to preserve, restore, and manage a portion of the remaining critical northern tallgrass prairie habitat and associated habitats at widespread locations throughout the western Minnesota and northwestern Iowa historic range. Only 5 percent of the original tallgrass prairie remains for preservation consideration throughout the entire historic tallgrass prairie range. Native prairie declines of 99.9% and 99.6% have occurred in Iowa and Minnesota, respectively. Grassland dependent bird species have shown steeper, more consistent, and geographically more widespread declines than any other group of North American birds.

The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has specific trustee responsibilities for migratory birds, endangered species, interjurisdictional fish, certain marine mammals, and lands administered by the Service. The HPA is a new way for the Service to cooperatively meet its

trustee responsibilities within the tallgrass prairie landscape. The Service works with individuals, groups, and governmental entities to preserve tracts of northern tallgrass prairie.

- ⇒
- ⇒ The Service’s goal is to permanently protect and enhance prairie remnants through partnership, incentives, education, and cooperative agreements. Any conservation easements or acquisition of full title will be done by the Service and Service partners.

**Relationship to the *Minnesota Conservation and Preservation Plan* and Other Published Resource Management Plans**

The Minnesota Conservation and Preservation Plan recommends protecting priority land habitats. This proposal will protect and restore priority native grasslands and their associated wetlands important to grassland dependent wildlife, especially grassland and wetland birds. This proposal will also implement the following habitat recommendations within the plan:

1. Improve connectivity and access to outdoor recreation - All fee title lands acquired and restored will be open to the public for hunting and other activities allowed under the national wildlife refuge system.
2. Keep water on the landscape – by protecting and restoring grasslands, this proposal will help keep water on the landscape (permanent vegetation restoration).

The need for this project is outlined in the ***Northern Tallgrass Prairie Habitat Preservation Area Final Environmental Impact Statement***, US Fish and Wildlife Service 1998. The primary purpose of the Northern Tallgrass Prairie Habitat Preservation Area is to preserve and enhance the remaining remnant tracts of northern tallgrass prairie and aspen parklands habitats within Iowa and Minnesota.

A secondary purpose is to link existing prairie tracts together (Federal, state, tribal, private organization, and private landowner ownerships) into larger blocks plus buffer remnant prairie. This will establish larger, more viable units of managed prairie and allow travel corridors for wildlife. Prairie restoration used to link existing prairies together would utilize the same techniques used in managing existing prairies.

**Budget**

Budget Item	Fiscal Year 10	Fiscal Year 11	Fiscal Year 12
Personnel			
Contracts			
Equipment/Tools/Supplies			
Fee Acquisition	\$1,583,000 (1)		
Easement Acquisition	\$1,583,000 (1)		
Easement Stewardship			
Travel			
Additional Budget Items			
<b>TOTAL</b>			

**(1) Funding will be used to purchase lands in fee title (top priority), purchase habitat easements, or a combination of the two acquisition authorities.**



<b>Table 3 Counties Impacted</b>	<b>Wetlands</b>	<b>Prairies</b>	<b>Forests</b>	<b>Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife</b>
<b>Restore</b>				
<b>Protect</b>		Rock, Wilkin, Polk, Norman, Mahnomen, Lincoln and in any of the other 42 MN counties within the Habitat Preservation Area		
<b>Enhance</b>				

<b>Table 4 Non-State Leverage \$</b>	<b>Wetlands</b>	<b>Prairies</b>	<b>Forests</b>	<b>Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife</b>
<b>Restore</b>				
<b>Protect</b>		\$600,000		
<b>Enhance</b>				

<b>Table 5 Acquisition Data</b>	<b>Wetlands</b>	<b>Prairies</b>	<b>Forests</b>	<b>Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife</b>
<b>Acquired in Fee with State PILT Liability</b>				
<b>Acquired in Fee without State PILT Liability</b>		525+/- acres for \$1,583,000 (if all funding is used for fee title purchases)		
<b>Permanent Easement</b>		1,583 +/- acres for \$1,583,000 (if all funding is used to purchase habitat easements)		

### Accomplishment Time Table

<b>Milestone</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Measure</b>
Identify priority acquisitions (fee and easement)	May 30, 2009	14 potential properties
Appraisals ordered	June 1, 2009	4 appraisals
Easement Options finalized	December 31, 2009	5 options
Purchase agreements (fee title) finalized	June 30, 2010	3 options

**Relationship to Your Current Budget**

Since 2000, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has received annual appropriations of approximately \$500,000 in Land and Water Conservation Funds to acquire lands for the Northern Tallgrass Prairie National Wildlife Refuge. This annual funding has allowed the Service to purchase smaller sized tracts of prairie during the last 8 years. The addition of Outdoor Heritage Funds will greatly increase our ability to protect larger tracts of native prairie throughout the 48 Minnesota Counties in the HPA.

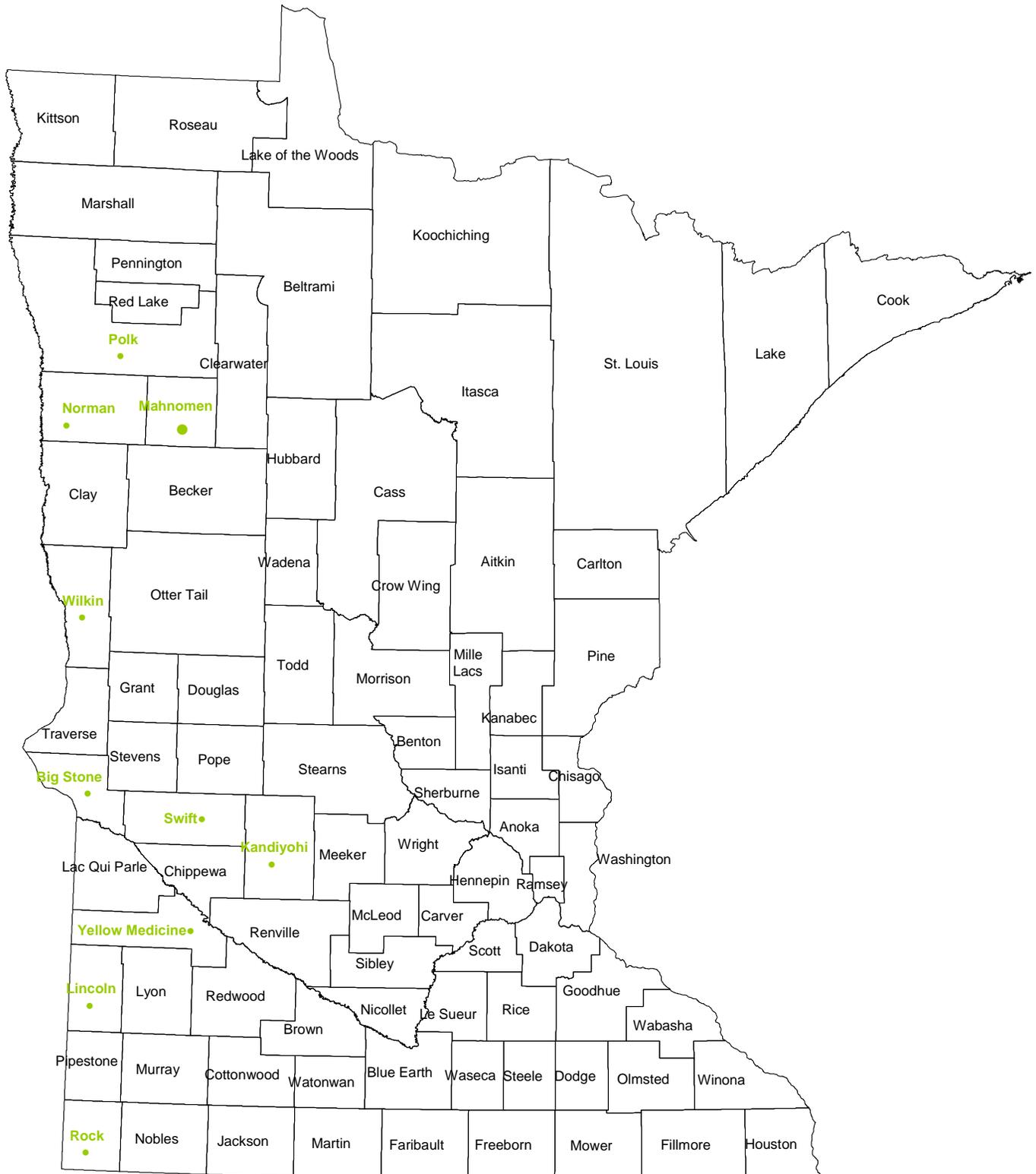
**How Will the Habitat Improvements Be Sustained?**

Outdoor Heritage Funds will be used to purchase the land in fee title or purchase perpetual habitat easements. The land purchased will become units of the Northern Tallgrass Prairie NWR. Long term costs for restoration, management, and wildlife and habitat monitoring will be funded through annual refuge operations funding. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Habitat easements are perpetual and FWS managers will work with landowners to maintain and, where needed, restore the native prairie on each tract of land.

Revenue sharing payments (in lieu of taxes) will be made for all fee title lands in accordance with federal law. Habitat easement purchases do not impact property taxes as they remain the responsibility of the landowner.

## **Pending Acquisition Properties for Northern Tallgrass Prairie NWR Land Acquisition Project in Priority Order**

1. 160 acres for fee purchase in Rock County
2. 790 acres for fee purchase in Wilkin County
3. 120 acres for fee purchase in Lincoln County
4. 563 acres for fee purchase in Polk County
5. 260 acres for easement purchase in Norman County
6. 160 acres for easement purchase in Mahnommen County
7. 70 acres for easement purchase in Kandiyohi County
8. 136 acres for easement purchase in Lincoln County
9. 36 acres for easement purchase in Yellow Medicine County
10. 74.5 acres for easement purchase in Lincoln County
11. 72 acres for easement purchase in Lincoln County
12. 61 acres for easement purchase in Big Stone County
13. 41 acres for easement purchase in Yellow Medicine County
14. 48 acres for easement purchase in Swift



## Lessard Outdoor Heritage Council

### 2009 Appropriation Accomplishment Plan

**Project or Program Title:** Minnesota Land Trust  
Mississippi River Bluffland Prairie Protection Initiative

**Date:** March 11, 2009

**Manager's Name:** Jane Prohaska

**Title:** President and Executive Director

**Mailing Address:** 2356 University Avenue West, St. Paul, MN 55114

**Telephone:** 651.647.9590

**Fax:** 651.647.9769

**E-Mail:** [jprohaska@mnland.org](mailto:jprohaska@mnland.org)

**Web Site:** [www.mnland.org](http://www.mnland.org)

	Funding	Out-Year Projections of Needs		
Funds Recommended (\$000s)	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013
Outdoor Heritage Fund	\$500,000	0	0	0

This is an ongoing program of the Minnesota Land Trust but we do not know if we will request additional funding from the Outdoor Heritage Fund in coming years for protection work on other properties. We will fully complete all activities associated with the easements we accept under this funding with the funding available or with other funds available to the Land Trust.

#### Summary

Through our Mississippi River Blufflands Protection Initiative, the Land Trust will protect 300-500 acres of land in the blufflands region of southeastern Minnesota--an area that contains unique and ecologically important prairie, oak savanna and grassland habitat along with outstanding forested bluffs, woodlands, wetlands and cold water trout streams along the Mississippi River.

In order to protect these rare habitats from destruction by development or incompatible land use, we will work with willing sellers to complete 3-5 perpetual conservation easements on private lands. These easements prohibit those land uses or development that harm or negatively affect important habitat values and will require habitat management plans as appropriate, ensuring that long term land management will maximize habitat values.

The Minnesota Land Trust works with donated easements whenever possible and purchases easements where necessary, typically at a bargain sale price. Through conservation

easements, the Land Trust is able to protect land at a fraction of what it would cost to purchase the land outright in fee

## **Background**

The Mississippi River Blufflands ecological subsection is identified in *Minnesota's Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy* as having the highest concentration of species in greatest conservation need in the entire State. This includes a high concentration of neo-tropical migrant birds and waterfowl, as well as reptiles, mammals, mollusks and insects. Many of these game and non-game species exist in part because of the rich tapestry of habitat types in the region—hardwood forests, floodplain wetlands, cold water streams—and the unique presence of bluff prairie, oak savanna and re-established grasslands.

This rich tapestry is threatened today by the destructive impacts of land fragmentation, bluff-top development and changes in agricultural practices. The Minnesota Land Trust has been engaged in the protection of the Blufflands for more than a decade, having preserved more than 6,000 acres of land through 42 projects, making it one of the organization's highest priorities.

The Land Trust has already secured the interest of 8 landowners in the area. These landowners collectively own more than 2,000 acres of land, including 300 acres of prairies or grassland habitat. In addition, the Land Trust has now has information on an additional 20 other landowners that DNR has identified and ranked as having *outstanding* prairie property. Specific activities proposed for funding under this grant include: further identifying and negotiating with these interested landowners, drafting and completing easements, documenting property conditions, and creating plans for and dedicating funds for the perpetual monitoring, management and enforcement of those easements.

The conservation easements the Land Trust will negotiate with each landowner will be specifically designed to protect the natural features and habitat values of that landowner's particular tract of land. The easement will limit commercial, industrial and residential development and division of the property, restrict inappropriate agricultural practices and require an approved land management plan to encourage proper management of the resource. In this working landscape, the Land Trust anticipated that it will need to purchase some easements to meet our goals. However, we have had great success with donated easements, particularly with the availability of expanded income tax benefits which are now in place but due to expire at the end of the calendar year.

The use of conservation easements to protect critical habitats is a widely-accepted practice which has demonstrated great results both in Minnesota and around the country. The Minnesota Land Trust has an effective track record of using easements in a similar capacity for almost 20 years, holding more conservation easements than any other private conservation organization in the state--making it one of the most experienced organizations working with this unique conservation tool.

The success of conservation easements requires an effective partnership with the private landowners. As such, the Land Trust has developed an effective conservation easement stewardship program to both *prevent* future impacts through encouraging voluntary compliance with the terms of the easement and to *enforce* and *defend* the easement in the unlikely case of an easement violation. The Minnesota Land Trust and conservation organizations around the

country have recognized the great importance of substantially investing in stewardship activity. Our successful history of easement stewardship is one of the important factors which led to the Minnesota Land Trust being one of the first *accredited* land trusts in the country. Our proposal requests the funds necessary to make sure we can continue to meet our obligations with respect to easement acquired through this grant.

Though not required when working with private landowners on private land, the Minnesota Land Trust has a history of working closely with the local governments in the Blufflands. We have worked extensively with the City of Red Wing to help that community implement its own conservation plans. Many of our bluffland projects have been initiated at the City's request. Similarly, we have worked with the City of La Crescent to help the City establish local natural parks. We expect this pattern to continue and have established an office in Red Wing to cement our local presence and commitment to local issues.

**Relationship to the *Minnesota Conservation and Preservation Plan* and Other Published Resource Management Plans**

The protection of prairie, oak savanna and grassland habitat is well supported or identified in several plans, including the Minnesota Conservation and Preservation Plan, Minnesota's Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy, the Minnesota County Biological Survey and the DNR's survey of existing native prairie.

In addition, the use of conservation easements is one of most established and effective means of permanently protecting these critical habitats, as many of them are located on private lands. This method of protection has also been recognized in the plans referred to above.

**Budget**

<b>Budget Item</b>	<b>Fiscal Year 10</b>	<b>Fiscal Year 11</b>	<b>Fiscal Year 12</b>
<b>Personnel, including benefits</b>	\$35,000		
<b>Contracts</b>			
<b>Equipment/Tools/Supplies</b>	\$2,000		
<b>Fee Acquisition</b>	N/A		
<b>Easement Acquisition, including all costs and professional fees associated with negotiating and completing easements</b>	\$395,000		
<b>Easement Stewardship</b>	\$65,000		
<b>Travel</b>	\$3,000		
<b>Additional Budget Items</b>			
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$500,000</b>		

This is an estimated budget and actual expenditures may vary based upon the nature of the transactions of the specific projects completed. We hope to secure a number of donated easements, which require significant staff time and resources but little capital allowing us to

protect land of significant value with relatively little investment of public moneys. This is a working landscape and so we do anticipate that we may need to purchase easements, hopefully at significant bargain sales. The acquisition costs identified are based upon previous experiences but will depend upon the specific projects completes. Easement stewardship costs are also estimated using the Land Trust's internal cost analysis but may vary depending upon the number and nature of the final projects completed. The Land Trust will only accept conservation easements under this proposal where we have the funds to fully meet our perpetual easement monitoring, management and enforcement responsibilities.

**Personnel Details**

<b>Title</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Amount.</b>
Conservation Staff		\$30,000
Staff Attorney		\$5,000

Our proposal contemplates covering the cost of the equivalent of approximately .5 FTE. This may be new staff hired for this project or may include portions of current staff not currently working full time. Other staff costs will be covered by other Minnesota Land Trust funds. This figure includes all related staff benefits.

**Leverage**

<b>Source of Leverage</b>	<b>Fiscal Year 10</b>	<b>Fiscal Year 11</b>	<b>Fiscal Year 12</b>
<b>Contributions from foundations and private individuals</b>	\$70,000		
<b>Estimated donated value of conservation easements</b>	\$450,000		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$520,000</b>		

The value of donated easements is difficult to predict, but previous Land Trust experience indicates that we are likely to get much greater donated easement value, often as much as \$10 in value for each state dollar invested.

**Accomplishments:**

<b>Table 1 Accomplishments</b>	<b>Wetlands</b>	<b>Prairies</b>	<b>Forests</b>	<b>Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife</b>
<b>Restore</b>				
<b>Protect</b>		Complete 3-5 conservation easement protecting 300-500 acres of land containing remaining native prairie, oak savannah and related systems.		
<b>Enhance</b>				

<b>Table 2 Recommend Fund Allocation</b>	<b>Wetlands</b>	<b>Prairies</b>	<b>Forests</b>	<b>Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife</b>
<b>Restore</b>				
<b>Protect</b>		\$500,000		
<b>Enhance</b>				

<b>Table 3 Counties Impacted</b>	<b>Wetlands</b>	<b>Prairies</b>	<b>Forests</b>	<b>Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife</b>
<b>Restore</b>				
<b>Protect</b>		Winona Goodhue Houston Wabasha Fillmore Olmsted		
<b>Enhance</b>				

<b>Table 4 Non-State Leverage \$</b>	<b>Wetlands</b>	<b>Prairies</b>	<b>Forests</b>	<b>Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife</b>
<b>Restore</b>				
<b>Protect</b>		\$520,000		
<b>Enhance</b>				

<b>Table 5 Acquisition Data</b>	<b>Wetlands</b>	<b>Prairies</b>	<b>Forests</b>	<b>Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife</b>
<b>Acquired in Fee with State PILT Liability</b>				
<b>Acquired in Fee without State PILT Liability</b>				
<b>Permanent Easement</b>		300-500 acres of land with a collective easement value estimated at potentially \$775,000 or more (protecting land with fee value 30-60% higher)		

### **Accomplishment Time Table**

<b>Milestone</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Measure</b>
Identify specific landowners with projects to be funded under this proposal.	September 30, 2009	List of at least 3-5 specific landowners
Complete negotiations on 3 easements.	October 30, 2009	3 landowner commitments in hand
Complete negotiations any additional easements	December 31, 2009	2 or more landowner commitments in hand
Close on all easements, including completing baseline documentation and any other needed documents under easement	June 30, 2010	300-500 acres
Complete conservation easement stewardship plans and dedicate funding to support plans	June 30, 2010	All plans and funding in place

### **Relationship to Your Current Budget**

The Minnesota Land Trust's overall annual operational budget is approximately \$1,000,000, with capital expenditures to secure permanent conservation easements of almost \$400,000 in the last fiscal year. Most Minnesota Land Trust support is on an annual basis with no firm commitments for longer term funding. Public and private sources of funding are grant and donor dependent at the discretion of the funder.

While the Land Trust has an established program in the Blufflands for a number of years, it rarely has had sufficient capital or operating support necessary to effectively need the conservation needs of the region. Funding from the Outdoor Heritage Fund will allow the Land Trust to add staff capacity and capital to purchase conservation easements focused

specifically on the prairie and grassland complexes of the southeast, expenses not completely covered by the next fiscal year budget.

### **How Will the Habitat Improvements Be Sustained?**

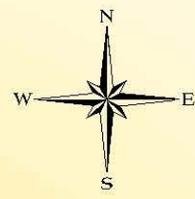
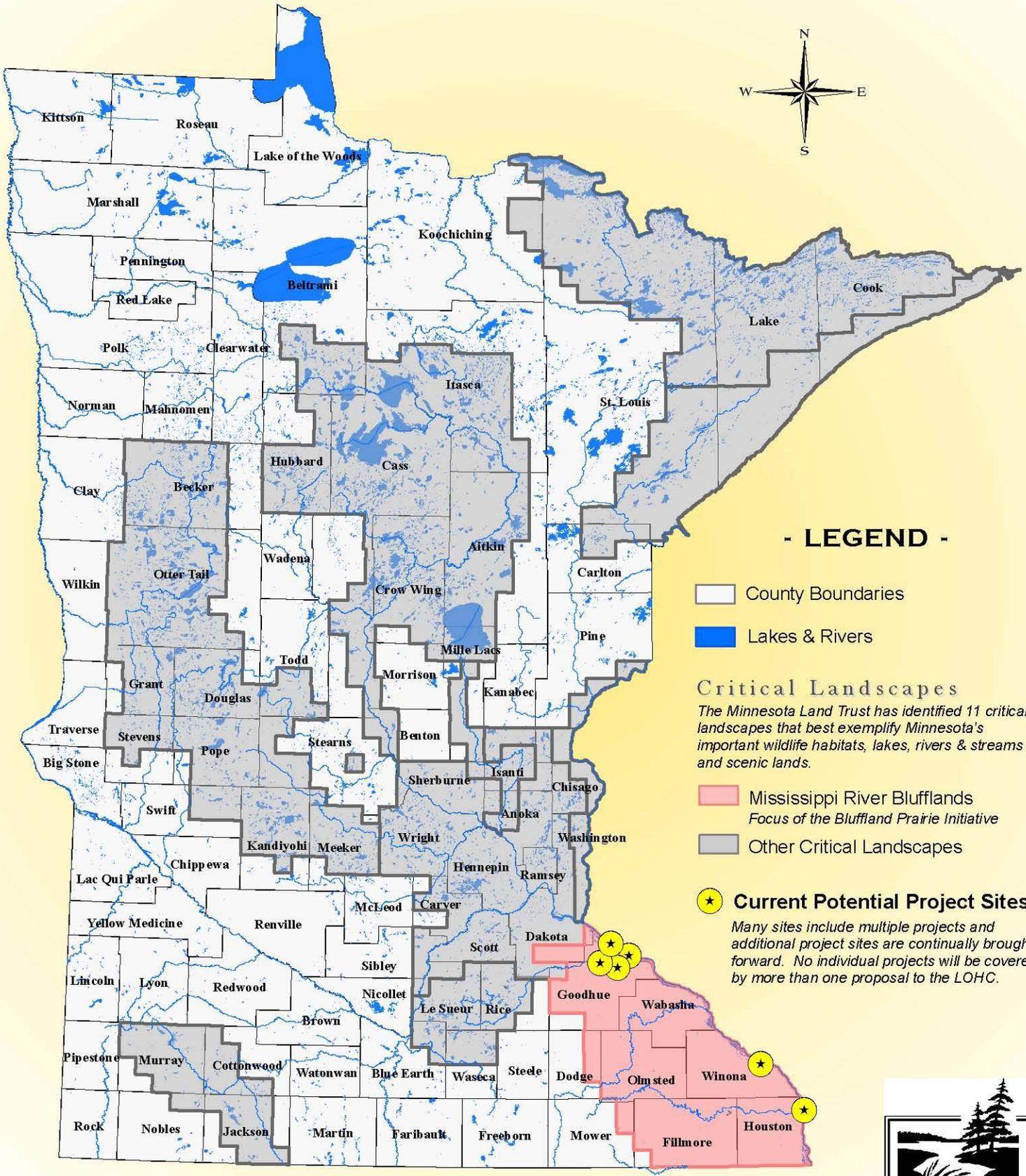
The land protected will be sustained through the best standards and practices for conservation easement stewardship. Funding for easement stewardship is included in the budget as outlined above. Minnesota Land Trust's conservation easement stewardship program includes annual property monitoring, effective records management, addressing inquiries and interpretations, tracking changes in ownership, investigating potential violations and aggressively defending in the easement in the case of a real violation.

### ***Attachments:***

- 1) List of Potential Project Site***
- 2) Map with Locations of Potential Project Sites***

# MINNESOTA LAND TRUST

## *Bluffland Prairie Protection Initiative*



### - LEGEND -

- County Boundaries
- Lakes & Rivers

### Critical Landscapes

The Minnesota Land Trust has identified 11 critical landscapes that best exemplify Minnesota's important wildlife habitats, lakes, rivers & streams and scenic lands.

- Mississippi River Blufflands  
*Focus of the Bluffland Prairie Initiative*
- Other Critical Landscapes

### ★ Current Potential Project Sites

Many sites include multiple projects and additional project sites are continually brought forward. No individual projects will be covered by more than one proposal to the LOHC.



## Lessard Outdoor Heritage Council

### 2009 Appropriation Accomplishment Plan

**Project or Program Title:** Rum River/Cedar Creek Conservation Area

**Date:** 06/04/09

**Manager's Name:** John VonDeLinde

**Title:** Director

**Mailing Address:** Anoka County Parks and Recreation  
550 Bunker Lake Blvd., NW, Andover, MN 55304

**Telephone:** 763-767-2860

**Fax:** 763-755-0230

**E-Mail:** [john.vondelinde@co.anoka.mn.us](mailto:john.vondelinde@co.anoka.mn.us)

**Web Site:** [www.anokacountyparks.com](http://www.anokacountyparks.com)

Funds Recommended (\$000s)	Funding	Out-Year Projections of Needs		
	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013
Outdoor Heritage Fund	1,900	1,900	0	0

#### Summary

This project will acquire 550 acres of prairie, wetland, forest and shoreline habitat for fish, game and wildlife along the Rum River and Cedar Creek in the cities of Oak Grove and Andover and will provide additional opportunities for public fishing, hunting and wildlife conservation.

#### Background

##### Problem Addressed:

The problem this acquisition project addresses is the urgent need to protect and enhance 550 acres of land that will provide an excellent conservation area along the Rum River and Cedar Creek. The proposed acquisition parcels are currently owned by a development group planning to sell the land for residential construction. The acquisition and protection of these parcels is of utmost concern, because without immediate action, this opportunity could be permanently lost. By acquiring this land, the LOHC has an excellent opportunity to increase and enhance the biological diversity in the area, as well as create additional hunting and fishing opportunities in the region.

##### Action Plan:

⇒ Once funding is appropriated, Anoka County would start the acquisition process immediately. Appraisals have been conducted and negotiations are underway with the

seller for the purchase of 275 acres in 2010 and the remaining 275 acres in 2011 as proposed in the Lessard Outdoor Heritage Council recommendations.

**Relation to LOHC Goals:**

This acquisition project relates directly to the “restore, protect and enhance habitat” provisions outlined in the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Program. First, upon acquisition, the land will be protected by being under County ownership. Second, after acquisition, the County proposes to restore approximately 250 acres of the 550 acres to a prairie/grassland habitat. Restoring and enhancing the land back to a prairie/grassland habitat will help provide the necessary biological diversity needed to support game populations, such as ring-neck pheasants, ruffed grouse, wild turkeys, white tail deer, wood ducks and mallards and furbearers. Acquired land will remain open to hunting and fishing, consistent with the capacity of the land, during the open season, as determined by the commissioner of natural resources.

**Habitat Changes:**

Existing non-agricultural land on the site is recognized by the MNDNR as a high quality ecologically diverse corridor along two major greenways, the Rum River and Cedar Creek. With the acquisition, this corridor would be protected and enhanced to increase the number of species and increase the ease with which they move through this corridor.

After acquisition, County proposes to restore approximately 250 acres of the 550 acres to a prairie/grassland habitat. The ecological restoration plan will include restoring the forests, wetland and prairies. Restoration work will include introducing over 30 species of native grasses, sedges, and forbs to restore the mosaic of dry, mesic and wet prairie habitats. In addition, the existing high quality fens, wet meadows, shrub swamps and oak savannas will be managed to sustain their high quality value. Restoring and enhancing the land back to its native habitat will help provide the necessary biological diversity needed to support a diverse variety of wildlife.

The acquisition of these parcels will protect 550 acres of habitat at the confluence of the Rum River and Cedar Creek. There is approximately 1-1/2 miles of shoreline along the Rum River and about 3/4 of a mile of the Cedar Creek that runs through the property. The Rum River provides angling access opportunities for some of the most sought after game fish, such as walleye, northern pike, and small mouth bass; the river provides exceptional fisheries habitat for these game fish. As future funding is available, restoration of the flood plain and riparian edges along the Rum River and Cedar Creek will enhance habitat and cover for all migratory waterfowl species, white tail deer and wild turkeys.

**Schedule:**

Restoration work would start as soon after acquisition as funding allows. The majority of the restoration work is anticipated to be completed within three years of acquisition. Restoration monitoring and maintenance will be provided on an on-going basis.

**Strategy:**

The strategy for this project will work because the Anoka County Parks and Recreation Department is a governmental agency that currently manages a large natural resource based parks and open space system throughout the County. The County has the budget, equipment and staff with the expertise to manage this project and the on-going maintenance required. In

addition, it has the support of the Anoka County Board of Commissioners and the local communities.

**Support:**

⇒ The Anoka County Board of Commissioners unanimously supports this project. The Andover City Council has written a letter of support for the acquisition. The Oak Grove City Council concurs with the County’s plans to proceed with funding requests for the acquisition. Strong support in favor of the project has been expressed by area residents. There are no known barriers to the success of this project.

**Relationship to the *Minnesota Conservation and Preservation Plan* and Other Published Resource Management Plans**

The project area is identified in the Minnesota Conservation and Preservation Plan as a site of high biodiversity value based on the Minnesota County Biological Survey. In addition, the project area scored high in the areas of integrated terrestrial value and integrated aquatic habitat quality.

This project is supported by the Andover Comprehensive Plan; Oak Grove Parks and Open Space Plan; Cedar Creek Conservation Corridor Strategic Plan; Metropolitan Conservation Corridors Plan; Anoka County Comprehensive Open Space Plan; Anoka Conservation District Open Space Plan.

**Budget**

Budget Item	Fiscal Year 10	Fiscal Year 11	Fiscal Year 12
<b>Personnel</b>			
<b>Contracts</b>			
<b>Equipment/Tools/Supplies</b>			
Fee Acquisition	1,900,000	1,900,000	
<b>Easement Acquisition</b>			
<b>Easement Stewardship</b>			
<b>Travel</b>			
<b>Additional Budget Items</b>			
<b>TOTAL</b>	1,900,000	1,900,000	

**Personnel Details**

Title	Name	Amount.
N/A		

**Leverage**

Source of Leverage	Fiscal Year 10	Fiscal Year 11	Fiscal Year 12
County In-Kind (Acquisition)	\$15,000	\$15,000	

<b>County In-Kind (Restoration)</b>	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$100,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$100,000

**Accomplishments:**

<b>Table 1 Accomplishments</b>	<b>Wetlands</b>	<b>Prairies</b>	<b>Forests</b>	<b>Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife</b>
<b>Restore</b>				
<b>Protect</b>	<i>Protect 150 acres of wetland.</i>	<i>Protect 250 acres of restored prairie</i>	<i>Protect 150 acres of riparian and upland forests</i>	<i>Protect 2.25 miles of shoreline along Cedar Creek and Rum River</i>
<b>Enhance</b>				

<b>Table 2 Recommend Fund Allocation</b>	<b>Wetlands</b>	<b>Prairies</b>	<b>Forests</b>	<b>Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife</b>
<b>Restore</b>				
<b>Protect</b>	<i>\$850,000</i>	<i>\$1,600,000</i>	<i>\$850,000</i>	<i>\$500,000</i>
<b>Enhance</b>				

<b>Table 3 Counties Impacted</b>	<b>Wetlands</b>	<b>Prairies</b>	<b>Forests</b>	<b>Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife</b>
<b>Restore</b>				
<b>Protect</b>	<i>Anoka</i>	<i>Anoka</i>	<i>Anoka</i>	<i>Anoka</i>
<b>Enhance</b>				

<b>Table 4 Non-State Leverage \$</b>	<b>Wetlands</b>	<b>Prairies</b>	<b>Forests</b>	<b>Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife</b>
<b>Restore</b>		<i>\$15,000</i>		<i>\$5,000</i>
<b>Protect</b>	<i>\$6,500</i>	<i>\$13,000</i>	<i>\$6,500</i>	<i>\$4,000</i>
<b>Enhance</b>				

<b>Table 5 Acquisition Data</b>	<b>Wetlands</b>	<b>Prairies</b>	<b>Forests</b>	<b>Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife</b>
<b>Acquired in Fee with State PILT Liability</b>				
<b>Acquired in Fee without State PILT Liability</b>	<i>150 acres for \$850,000</i>	<i>250 acres for \$1,600,000</i>	<i>150 acres for \$850,000</i>	<i>2.25 miles for \$500,000</i>
<b>Permanent Easement</b>				

### **Accomplishment Time Table**

<b>Milestone</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Measure</b>
Acquire 275 acres for protection	Jan. 31, 2010	275 acres
Acquire 275 acres for protection	Jan 31, 2011	275 acres

### **Relationship to Your Current Budget**

Acquisition of these parcels will be provided through LOHC funding. This is new funding and does not supplant existing funding. This project is not in any current funding program or C.I.P. Continued operations and maintenance of the parcels will be supported through the Anoka County Parks and Recreation Annual Operating Budget.

### **How Will the Habitat Improvements Be Sustained?**

On-going operations and maintenance of the land and restoration will be sustained following the Anoka County Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Natural Resource Management Plan and will be supported through the annual Operations and Maintenance Budget for the Parks and Recreation Department. As a government agency, Anoka County is tax-exempt, therefore long term costs, such as property taxes will not be an issue.

#### **Attach:**

- 3) A list of your projects showing their county location and**
- 4) On the attached eight and a half by eleven map of Minnesota show counties each project as a dot.**



## Lessard Outdoor Heritage Council

### 2009 Appropriation Accomplishment Plan

**Project or Program Title: Minnesota Forests for the Future/Upper Mississippi Forest Project**

**Date: 6/5/09**

**Manager's Name: Richard Peterson**

**Title: Minnesota Forests for the Future Program Coordinator**

**Mailing Address: 1810-30<sup>th</sup> St. NW Faribault, MN 55021**

**Telephone: 507/333-2012 x222**

**Fax: 507/333-2008**

**E-Mail: Richard.Peterson@dnr.state.mn.us**

**Web Site: www.dnr.state.mn.us**

Funds Recommended (\$000s)	Funding	Out-Year Projections of Needs		
	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013
Outdoor Heritage Fund	<b>18,000,000</b>	18,000,000	0	0

**Summary:** Our program/project will protect and maintain intact forest ecosystems through the use of perpetual conservation easements and other tools. This program/project will directly protect 187,277 acres of forest and wetlands with permanent conservation easements and 1,344 acres with fee acquisition.

#### **Background.**

This proposal will protect nearly 190,000 acres of private forest through the use of working forest conservation easements and fee acquisition that will prevent forestland conversion and parcelization. The highest priority blocks of forest within Minnesota's forested subsections will be targeted for permanent protection. Acquisitions will prevent development, assure traditional public access for hunting and fishing, and allow for sustainable forest management. The sale of large timber company holdings in Minnesota is part of a national trend. These large blocks of forest provide critical connectivity with public conservation lands. Private and public forest lands interact to create a working forest across the landscape that provides essential benefits Minnesotans care deeply about. The vision of the MFF is to protect up to 530,000 acres of private forests over the next 25 years (see Minnesota Forests for the Future: A Strategic Report. April 2008). The current request reflects an accelerated acquisition program over the next 3-4 years in order to take advantage of a short window of opportunity to protect some of the largest, remaining blocks of private forestland in the state. Projects funded under this program will protect forests, prevent forest fragmentation and encourage forest consolidation – outcomes consistent with Minnesota Statutes 97A.056.

The state faces a major challenge today and in the future due to the thousands of acres of privately owned forest being sold across Minnesota. These forestland sales can impact the state's ability to sustain its forests for multiple public benefits including fish and wildlife habitat, public recreation, and forest products production. Forest conversion from development and parcelization can lead to forest fragmentation, or the creation of many small forest "islands" separated by nonforested areas. Forest conversion and fragmentation erodes the functioning of the remaining natural system, reducing the forest's resilience to disturbances such as windstorms, fire, climate change and invasive species. Conversion and fragmentation also endangers habitat for native wildlife species, especially for larger mammals such as bears and wolves, which require large tracts of undeveloped land. Additionally, development and parcelization is a threat to public access of forests.

In cooperation with partners and stakeholders, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) will identify and protect the most critical large blocks of forestland in Minnesota. Prioritized projects will: provide permanent protection to forests and associated habitats; continue traditional public access and uses including hunting and fishing; and allow for the sustainable harvest of timber and other forest products. This proposal can have a significant impact at a landscape scale due to the immediate opportunities presented by several high priority projects within the Laurentian Mixed Forest Province. Pre-acquisition activities including conservation easement negotiations and appraisals are either completed or underway on these key projects. Additional project identification, prioritization and protection will be completed during 2010 through 2013.

This project/program has been recommended and supported by local governments including Itasca County.

Specific conservation values protected by this project proposal include:

- *significant forest resources that are intended to be used for commercial timber production and which are an important element of the local, state, and regional economy;*
- *economically and environmentally important private forestlands that are threatened by fragmentation, parcelization and conversion to non-forest uses;*
- *the adjacency of the Protected Property to numerous parcels of public lands under forest management where coordination of harvests and related activities is important for the management of public lands; and*
- *water features, including 30 miles of state-designated trout streams and 121 miles of other streams, 133 miles of lake and pond shoreline, and over 60,000 acres of wetlands, which features provide value to water quality, habitat for species and natural communities, and enhance the public's recreational experience;*
- *significant cultural areas and native plant communities and wildlife species habitat as identified by the Minnesota Natural Heritage Program and other sources;*
- *native forests and natural ecosystems and unique geologic features including an intact esker;*
- *views of the Protected Property from 36 miles of publicly-recognized scenic roadways;*
- *the adjacency of the Protected Property to numerous parcels of public land thereby providing a buffer to the habitat and other values provided on said public parcels;*
- *the adjacency of the Protected Property to numerous public parcels of land which provides access to said public lands;*
- *82 miles of snowmobile trails and 262 miles of off-highway vehicle routes including 32 miles of state-designated off-highway vehicle trails;*

- Over 187,000 acres for the public for other, non-motorized uses including hunting, fishing, trapping, cross-country skiing, birdwatching, berry picking, hiking, snow shoeing; and
- A corridor established for hiking and cross-country skiing trails including the North Country National Scenic Trail, which trail has been recognized by the United States Congress and Minnesota Department of Natural Resources as providing state and nationally significant scenic, recreational, historic, natural, and cultural qualities.

**Relationship to the *Minnesota Conservation and Preservation Plan* and Other Published Resource Management Plans**

<b>Land use plan</b>	<b>Priority</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>Page</b>
Statewide Conservation and Protection Plan	Habitat 1	Protect priority land habitats	63
	Habitat 3	Improve connectivity and access to outdoor recreation	74
	Land Use 8	Protect large blocks of forestland.	130
	Land Use 8A	Identify forestlands for protection	130
	Land Use 8B	Prioritize forest lands for protection	130
	Land Use 8C	Support and promote permanent protection of forest lands	130
	Land Use 10	Support and expand sustainable practices on working forest lands	131
The Forest Legacy Program in Minnesota: Statewide Assessment of Need	Large continuous blocks	Locations in the state where large continuous blocks of forest remain are a priority for the Forest Legacy Program in Minnesota	12
Minnesota Habitat Conservation Partnership	Partnership Goals	Use existing programs to connect fragmented habitats, strengthen migration routes and enhance species' ability to reproduce and survive.	<a href="http://www.mnhabitatcorridors.org/">http://www.mnhabitatcorridors.org/</a>
	Corridors Project Area map	Overlap of corridors with MFF proposed projects.	<a href="http://www.mnhabitatcorridors.org/">http://www.mnhabitatcorridors.org/</a>
Minnesota Forests for the Future: Strategic Report	Program Focus:	Top priority should be given to acquiring easements on the largest blocks of forest land.	27

**Budget**

<b>Budget Item</b>	<b>Fiscal Year 10</b>	<b>Fiscal Year 11*</b>	<b>Fiscal Year 12</b>
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<b>Personnel</b>	\$50,000	\$50,000
<b>Contracts</b>		
<b>Equipment/Tools/Supplies</b>		
<b>Fee Acquisition</b>		\$300,000
<b>Easement Acquisition</b>	\$17,850,000	\$16,850,000
<b>Easement Stewardship</b>		\$750,000
<b>Travel</b>		
<b>Additional Budget Items</b>		
<b>Professional services</b>	\$100,000	\$50,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	\$18,000,000	\$18,000,000

**Personnel Details**

<b>Title</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Amount.</b>
Program coordinator	Richard Peterson	\$100,000;
Funding may be split among other staff as well.		

**Leverage**

<b>Source of Leverage</b>	<b>Fiscal Year 10</b>	<b>Fiscal Year 11</b>	<b>Fiscal Year 12</b>
<b>The Conservation Fund*</b>		See below*	
<b>TOTAL</b>		Up to \$10 million	

\*The Conservation Fund is raising significant private capital that it will assemble and grant to the MN DNR at DNR's closing/final payment to UPM (whether in FY 10 or FY 11). The Conservation Fund's efforts include: \$2 million (anonymous) committed; up to \$7 million (Blandin Foundation) pending; \$1 million (National Fish and Wildlife Foundation-Acres for America) pending, and others. The Conservation Fund's donors intend that this funding be matched against the State's allocation in order to fully fund this project. These commitments and amounts, if successful, are intended to be dedicated to the purchase price regardless of funding need and public appropriation amounts. If the purchase price became less than anticipated, the donated dollars would not decline.

**Accomplishments:**

<b>Table 1 Accomplish- ments</b>	<b>Wetlands</b>	<b>Prairies</b>	<b>Forests</b>	<b>Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife</b>
<b>Restore</b>				
<b>Protect</b>			<p><i>Protect 187,277 acres of forests and wetlands w/easements: Protect 1,344 acres with fee title. Our forest protection project includes 60,000 acres of wetland habitat. Our forest protection project includes 280 miles of stream and lake shore.</i></p>	
<b>Enhance</b>				

<b>Table 2 Recommend Fund Allocation</b>	<b>Wetlands</b>	<b>Prairies</b>	<b>Forests</b>	<b>Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife</b>
<b>Restore</b>				
<b>Protect</b>			<p><i>\$18,000,000 + \$18,000,000 fy11</i></p>	
<b>Enhance</b>				

<b>Table 3 Counties Impacted</b>	<b>Wetlands</b>	<b>Prairies</b>	<b>Forests</b>	<b>Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife</b>
<b>Restore</b>				
<b>Protect</b>			<p><i>Itasca, St. Louis, Aitkin, Koochiching, Beltrami, Cass, Clearwater</i></p>	
<b>Enhance</b>				

Table 4 Non-State Leverage \$				Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
	Wetlands	Prairies	Forests	
Restore				
Protect			Up to \$10 million	
Enhance				

Table 5 Acquisition Data				Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
	Wetlands	Prairies	Forests	
Acquired in Fee with State PILT Liability			1,344	
Acquired in Fee without State PILT Liability				
Permanent Easement			187,277	

### Accomplishment Time Table

Milestone	Date	Measure
Secure a binding agreement between Landowner and	August, 2010	Signed DNR Option
Secure \$9 million in private match	August, 2010	Signed Option
<i>Complete forest fee protection project</i>	<i>December, 2010</i>	<i>1,344 acres</i>
<i>Complete forest conservation easement protection project</i>	<i>December, 2010</i>	<i>187,277 acres</i>

### Relationship to Your Current Budget

This funding will be used to supplement our current funding. There is no “customary” or usual funding for a project of this magnitude. Previous larger easement projects have relied on a combination of federal, state bonding, state ETF funds, and private funds. Current funds from the federal forest legacy program and 2008 bonding funds are dedicated to another large project, the Koochiching Project. ETF funds currently available are dedicated to several smaller projects in the southeast bluffslands.

### How Will the Habitat Improvements Be Sustained?

The conservation easement provides for management according to a forest management plan and specifically according to the Ecological Classification System and forest certification standards and other provisions that are intended to achieve ecological and economic outcomes. These outcomes will be monitored annually by the forest certification programs and

MN DNR. This is a cost-effective program in that land management responsibilities reside with the landowner.

Costs for monitoring the easement are included in this proposal.

Costs associated with property taxes for the fee title would be included in State PILT payments.

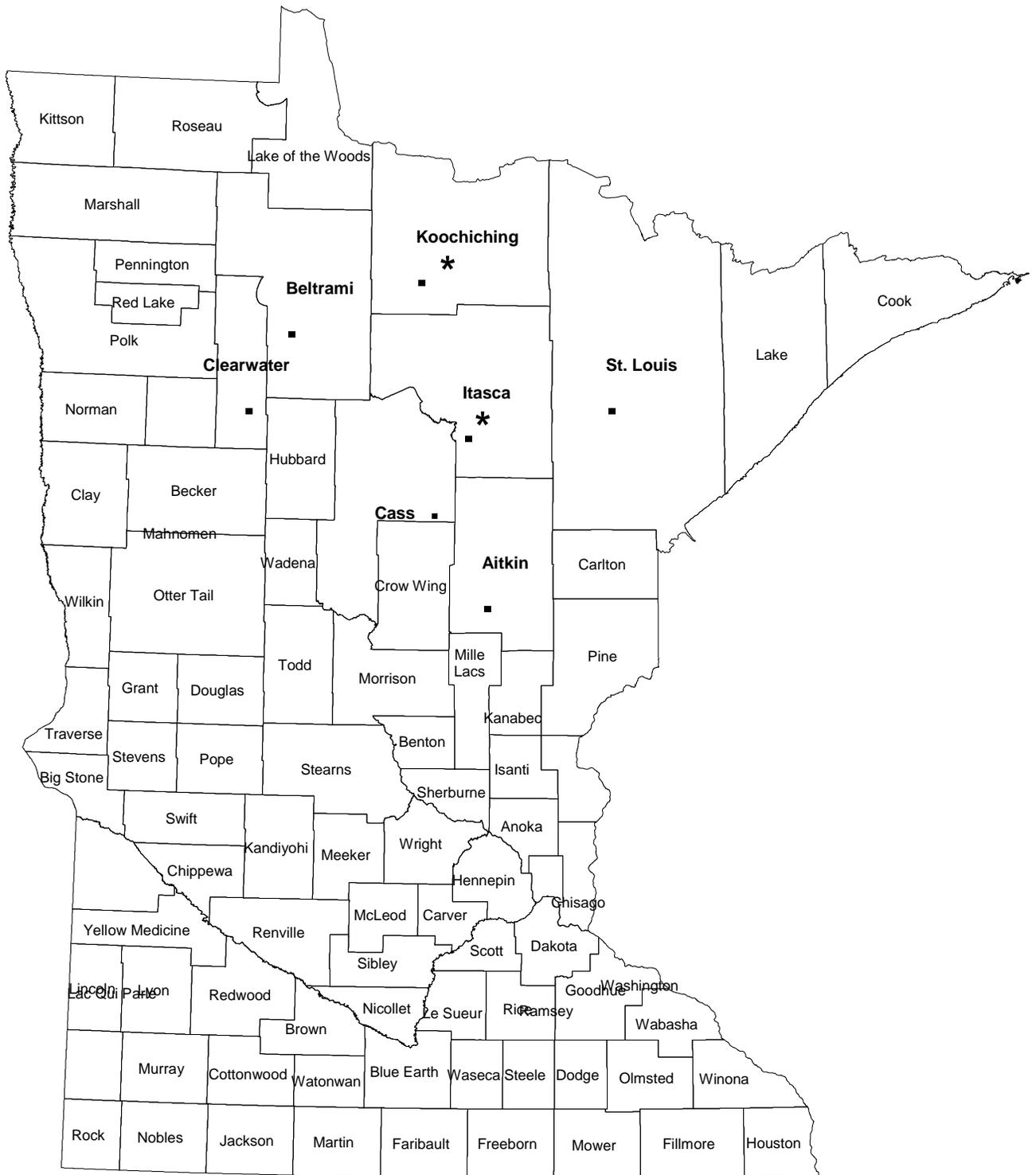
**Attach:**

**6) A list of your projects showing their county location and**

**Upper Mississippi Forest Project**

<b>Conservation Easement acquisition</b>	<b>Fee Acquisition</b>
<i>Itasca, St. Louis, Koochiching, Aitkin, Beltrami, Cass, Clearwater</i>	<i>Koochiching, Itasca</i>

**7) On the attached eight and a half by eleven map of Minnesota show counties each project as a dot. Note: The conservation easement project occurs in 7 counties, hence 7 dots; the fee acquisition occurs in both Itasca County and Koochiching County which shows up as asterisks.**



Pipestone

## Lessard Outdoor Heritage Council

### 2009 Appropriation Accomplishment Plan

**Project or Program Title:** Accelerated Wetland WMA Acquisition (W7)

**Date:** March 11, 2009

**Manager's Name:** Dennis Simon  
**Title:** DNR Wildlife Management Section Chief  
**Mailing Address:** Box 20, 500 Lafayette Road, St. Paul, MN 55155  
**Telephone:** (651) 259-5237 cell: (612) 390-3677  
**Fax:** (651) 297-4961  
**E-Mail:** dennis.simon@dnr.state.mn.us  
**Web Site:** www.dnr.state.mn.us

	Council Recommendation Funding	Out-Year Projections of Needs		
		FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013
Funds Recommended (\$000s)	FY 2010			
Outdoor Heritage Fund	<b>2,900,000</b>	4,000,000	4,000,000	4,000,000

**Summary :** Our program will protect and restore 700 acres of new wetland wildlife habitat in wetland complexes in Minnesota through fee title acquisition. Title of all lands acquired will be held by the State and designated as Wildlife Management Area open to hunting, trapping, fishing and compatible outdoor recreation uses.

### Background

The Minnesota Statewide Conservation and Preservation Plan states that "Habitat fragmentation, degradation and loss are arguably the most important issues facing the conservation and preservation of Minnesota resources. Over 90% of Minnesota's prairie wetlands have been drained or filled, including 1,500 shallow wildlife lakes. Remaining wetlands and shallow lakes are in a degraded state and upland grass buffers have been largely converted to cropland. DNR will acquire remaining and restorable wetlands and surrounding uplands in high priority wetland complexes as Wildlife Management Areas. Uplands will be restored to native grassland buffers, wetlands will be enhanced where possible and acquisitions will be developed to make them functional units in the outdoor recreation system. Project lists will change, as new parcels become available and as previously included projects become unavailable. Collaborative partnerships will be promoted in order to acquire key lands. DNR will work with and seek a resolution from the County Board of Commissioners approving all WMA acquisitions.

**Relationship to the *Minnesota Conservation and Preservation Plan* and Other Published Resource Management Plans**

The Minnesota Statewide Conservation and Preservation Plan identifies aquatic habitat loss and degradation as a primary driver of change for wetland dependant wildlife in Minnesota.

Minnesota’s Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy for species in greatest conservation need has identified significant loss and degradation of habitat as the number one management challenge and one of the principle strategies is to provide protection through selective acquisition of key wetland habitats in all regions.

Minnesota’s Long Range Duck Recovery Plan lists the objective of restoring a breeding population of 1 million ducks by 2056. The primary strategy is the protection and restoration of 2 million additional acres of habitat of which 30% will be wetlands including protecting and enhancing 1,800 shallow lakes.

Minnesota’s Long Range Plan for the Ring-necked Pheasant lists the objective of increasing pheasant population to 1.8 million birds. To accomplish this objective the plan identifies lack of secure winter habitat as a potential limiting factor. The plan calls for protecting an additional 60 emergent wetlands through acquisition of WMAs.

Citizens report Minnesota’s Wildlife Management Area Acquisition – The Next 50 Years recommends acquisition goals of an additional 702,000 acres of WMAs and recommends a distribution by ecological section.

**Budget**

Budget Item	Fiscal Year 10	Fiscal Year 11	Fiscal Year 12
<b>Personnel</b>			
Contracts	15,000	10,000	
<b>Equipment/Tools/Supplies</b>			
Fee Acquisition	2,075,000	725,000	
<b>Easement Acquisition</b>			
<b>Easement Stewardship</b>			
<b>Travel</b>			
Additional Budget Items	55,000	20,000	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,145,000</b>	<b>755,000</b>	

**Personnel Details**

Title	Name	Amount.
None		

**Leverage**

Source of Leverage	Fiscal Year 10	Fiscal Year 11	Fiscal Year 12
<b>TOTAL</b>			

**Accomplishments:**

<b>Table 1 Accomplish- ments</b>	<b>Wetlands</b>	<b>Prairies</b>	<b>Forests</b>	<b>Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife</b>
<b>Restore</b>				
<b>Protect</b>	140 acres	560 acres		
<b>Enhance</b>				

<b>Table 2 Recommend Fund Allocation</b>	<b>Wetlands</b>	<b>Prairies</b>	<b>Forests</b>	<b>Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife</b>
<b>Restore</b>				
<b>Protect</b>	560,000	2,240,000		
<b>Enhance</b>				

<b>Table 3 Counties Impacted</b>	<b>Wetlands</b>	<b>Prairies</b>	<b>Forests</b>	<b>Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife</b>
<b>Restore</b>				
<b>Protect</b>	<i>Dakota, Wright, Nicollet, Faribault, Isanti, Anoka, Washington, Murray, Swift</i>	<i>Dakota, Wright, Nicollet, Faribault, Isanti, Anoka, Washington, Murray, Swift</i>		
<b>Enhance</b>				

<b>Table 4 Non-State Leverage \$</b>	<b>Wetlands</b>	<b>Prairies</b>	<b>Forests</b>	<b>Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife</b>
<b>Restore</b>				
<b>Protect</b>				
<b>Enhance</b>				

<b>Table 5 Acquisition Data</b>	<b>Wetlands</b>	<b>Prairies</b>	<b>Forests</b>	<b>Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife</b>
<b>Acquired in Fee with State PILT Liability</b>	140 acres for \$560,000	560 acres for \$2,240,000		
<b>Acquired in Fee without State PILT Liability</b>				
<b>Permanent Easement</b>				

### **Accomplishment Time Table**

<b>Milestone</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Measure</b>
Purchase WMA land	June 30, 2010	520 acres
Purchase WMA land	Dec. 31, 2010	180 acres

### **Relationship to Your Current Budget**

The DNR Section of Wildlife supports the WMA acquisition program with 1 FTE permanent program coordinator funded by Game and Fish funds. Annual base funding for traditional fee title acquisition includes \$895,000 in Small Game Surcharge that purchases about 300 acres annually. Additional WMA acquisition funding sources vary from year to year and include on average \$1,800,000 in RIM Critical Habitat License Plate match and \$125,000 from the North American Wetlands Conservation Act per year. These funds acquire an average of 650 acres per year. Our proposal would accelerate land acquisition by an additional 700 acres per year for two years.

### **How Will the Habitat Improvements Be Sustained?**

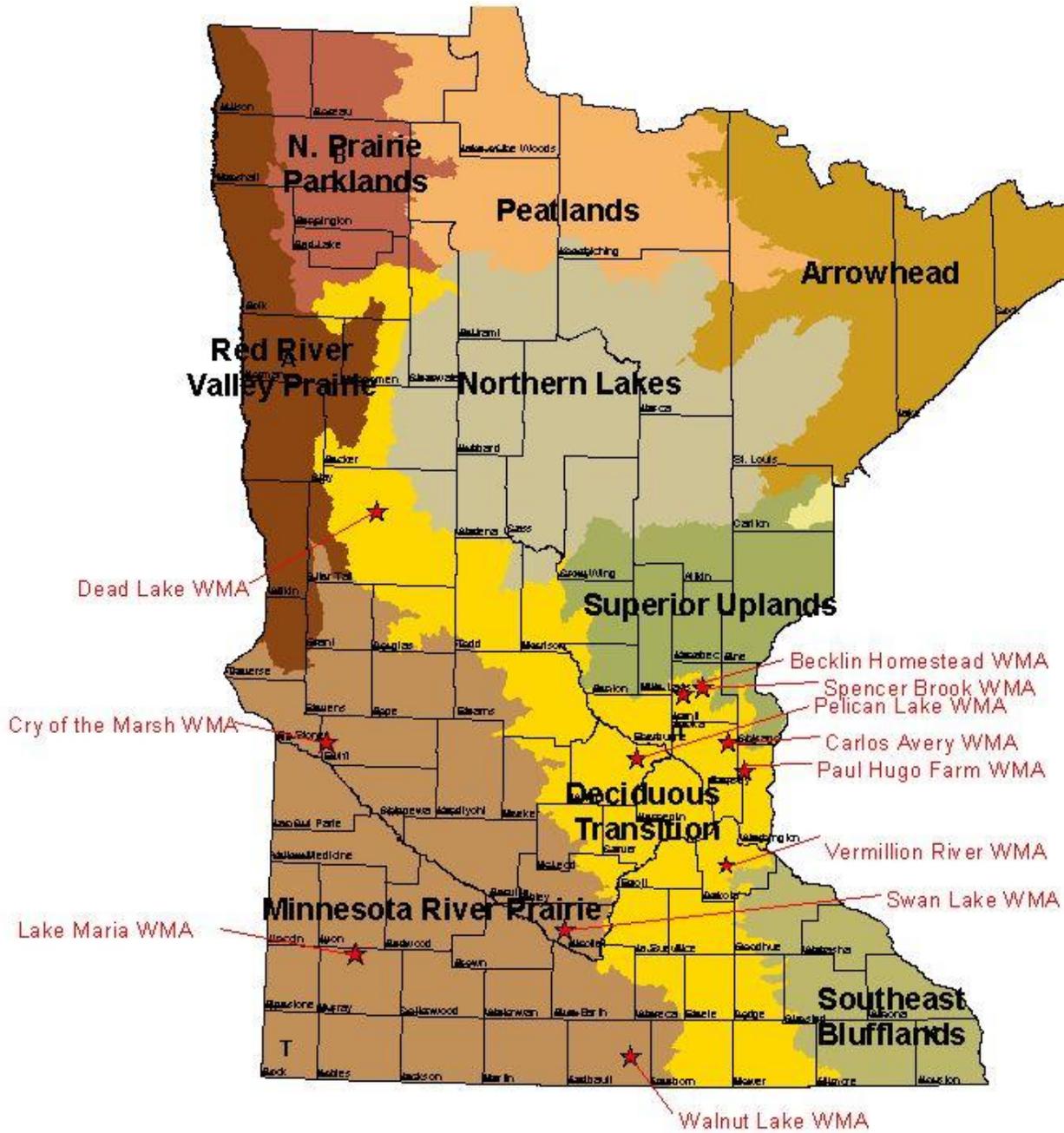
Lands acquired under this program will be designated as State Wildlife Management Areas under authority of the Outdoor Recreation Act of 1978 and managed in perpetuity with DNR Game and Fish funds. Payment of in-lieu of tax payments are made to the counties from biennial appropriations by the Legislature from the general fund.

### **Attach:**

- 8) A list of your projects showing their county location and**
- 9) On the attached eight and a half by eleven map of Minnesota show counties each project as a dot.**

County	WMA Name	Estimated Cost	Acres
Nicollet	Swan Lake WMA-Mack Unit	\$500,000.00	128
Wright	Pelican Lake WMA	\$800,000.00	71
Dakota	Vermillion River WMA	\$300,000.00	80
Faribault	Walnut Lake WMA	\$338,000.00	102
Isanti	Becklin Homestead WMA	\$300,000.00	85
Otter Tail	Dead Lake WMA	\$1,000,000.00	62
Isanti	Spencer Brook WMA	\$250,000.00	238
Anoka	Carlos Avery WMA	\$350,000.00	80
Washington	Paul Hugo Farms WMA	\$1,500,000.00	67
Murray	Lake Maria WMA	\$419,500.00	133
Swift	Cry of the Marsh WMA	\$1,000,000.00	400
Isanti	Bethel WMA	\$120,000.00	16
Wadena	Dry Sand WMA	\$75,000.00	40
Benton	Graham WMA	\$200,000.00	40
Cass	Lake George WMA	\$220,000.00	34
Chisago	East Rush Lake WMA	\$150,000.00	168
Freeborn	Panicum Prairie WMA	\$75,000.00	46
Goodhue	Warsaw WMA	\$80,000.00	35
Goodhue	Warsaw WMA	\$250,000.00	135
Houston	Root River WMA	\$50,500.00	18
Houston	Root River WMA	\$150,000.00	15
Houston	Root River WMA	\$162,500.00	65
Houston	Root River WMA	\$182,000.00	70
Jackson	Timber Lake WMA	\$550,000.00	100
Lac Qui Parle	Florida Creek WMA	\$125,000.00	80
Lac Qui Parle	Wollschlager WMA	\$750,000.00	355
Lyon	Lyrock WMA	\$971,370.00	226
Martin	Krahmer WMA	\$270,000.00	66
Murray	Hovno WMA	\$635,000.00	170
Murray	Peters WMA	\$508,000.00	127
Otter Tail	Lone Pine Lake WMA	\$485,000.00	178
Pine	Stephen WMA	\$425,000.00	206
Polk	Crooked Lake WMA	\$50,000.00	40
Polk	Wren's Nest WMA	\$50,000.00	40
Rice	Boyd Sartel WMA	\$48,000.00	5
Rice	Hands Marsh WMA	\$400,000.00	240
Rice	Weinberger WMA	\$450,000.00	35
Swift	Danvers WMA	\$20,000.00	40
Wright	Suconnix WMA	\$390,000.00	65
Yellow Medicine	Oshkosh WMA	\$83,000.00	17





**Lessard Outdoor Heritage Council**

**2009 Appropriation  
Accomplishment Plan**

**Project or Program Title:** Accelerated Shallow Lake Enhancements & Easements

**Date:** March 12, 2009

**Manager's Name:** Jon Schneider  
**Title:** Manager, Minnesota Conservation Programs  
**Mailing Address:** 311 East Lake Geneva Road NE, Alexandria, MN 56308  
**Telephone:** 320.762.9916  
**Fax:** 320.759.1567  
**E-Mail:** jschneider@ducks.org  
**Web Site:** www.ducks.org

Funds Recommended (\$000s)	Funding	Out-Year Projections of Needs		
	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013
Outdoor Heritage Fund	<b>\$2,528,000</b>	\$3,000,000	\$4,000,000	\$5,000,000

**Summary:** Ducks Unlimited's "Living Lakes" conservation program will accelerate the improvement and protection of shallow lakes and large wetland habitat critical to migratory waterfowl and other wildlife in Minnesota by improving water quality and rejuvenating aquatic ecology in turbid shallow lake basins. DU will enhance eight (8) or more strategically-selected shallow lakes that have been legally designated by for wildlife management purposes by Minnesota DNR that total 6,000 wetland acres by engineering and implementing construction of water control structures, pumps, and fish barriers on their outlets. These structures will provide the Minnesota DNR and US Fish & Wildlife Service with water level control capability to conduct temporary, periodic draw-downs that will improve wetland habitat quality. DU will also engineer two or more additional shallow lake improvement projects for future implementation 2010 and 2011. As approved by the Council, DU will also use up to \$400,000 in grant funding to secure permanent conservation easement(s) on 180 acres on one or more shallow lake to protect shoreland and help buffer basins important to waterfowl.

**Background:** Shallow lakes and large wetlands throughout Minnesota have become degraded due to high, stable water levels, altered natural hydrology, lack of natural fish winterkill, and invasive animal and plant species. Through our Living Lakes Initiative, DU provides wetland bio-engineering assistance to help the Minnesota DNR and US Fish & Wildlife Service structurally improve shallow lakes outlets and enhance the habitat quality of wetlands throughout Minnesota. DU will implement 8 shallow lake projects previously engineered that will enhance nearly 6,000 acres of wetland habitat, and will complete final engineering plans on several additional projects for future implementation. The implementation of these 8 projects constitute the immediate backlog of complex shallow lake and large wetland water control structure and/or fish barrier projects previously engineered by DU for DNR and the Service. Structures will be constructed by private contractors hired by DU

in fall 2009 (through competitive bid process) on public land or on private land under permanent easement with DNR or the Service, and structures will be subsequently used in 2010 by state or federal land management staff to conduct temporary draw-downs to improve shallow lake ecology and habitat for waterfowl and other migratory birds by reducing invasive fish and rejuvenating aquatic plants and invertebrates. DU staff will provide final engineering and construction management oversight throughout the construction process, and will solicit competitive bids and award construction contracts to private firms to implement the projects. Basins will be slowly reflooded in 2011 or 2012 once aquatic plants become reestablished. This periodic, temporary water level “draw-down” management process simulates natural drought conditions that are vital to rejuvenating aquatic ecology in wetlands, and is routinely used by DNR and the Service. Support from private landowners and other stakeholders such as local sportsmen groups is secured in advance of project implementation through the DNR’s wildlife lake designation process and lake management plan development process.

This grant will also fund DU bio-engineering staff that will assess turbid shallow lakes and develop new engineering plans for additional projects that can be implemented in the future. This will include all aspects of engineering (survey, design, plans and specifications), assisting state and federal agencies in assessing basins and securing structure or flowage easements from private landowners, permits, and assisting the legal “wildlife lake” designation process required to allow active water level management of additional shallow lakes. Funds to construct these additional shallow lake projects engineered through this grant will be subsequently requested from the LOHC in the future.

DU will also use up to \$400,000 in grant funds to secure permanent conservation easements on 180 acres along a managed shallow lake to protect it’s shoreland, including making 80 acres of restored prairie habitat now in CRP permanent. These easements will be held and annually monitored by DU. Long-term conservation easement stewardship funding will be provided by these grant funds, through donation from the private landowner to ensure future monitoring and management of lands protected under permanent easement. Conservation easements will protect sensitive shallow lake shoreland buffers, and limit future development and subdivision activities that can disrupt shallow lakes and complicate shallow lake water level management by agencies.

**Relationship to the *Minnesota Conservation and Preservation Plan* and Other Published Resource Management Plans:**

This work supports the shallow lake and wetland priority conservation goals outlined in the *Minnesota Conservation and Preservation Plan*, and the shallow lake priorities in Minnesota’s *Long-term Duck Recovery Plan* that calls for the improvement of 1,800 shallow lakes throughout Minnesota. Specifically, in pages 78-79 of the *Minnesota Conservation and Preservation Plan* under the “Land and Water Restoration” section of the habitat recommendation, item number 4 advises the need for acceleration of efforts to restore and improve shallow lake habitat to reduce the number of lakes in a turbid-water state as well as the purchase of conservation easements to prevent development. These actions will benefit several species of greatest conservation need including black terns (*Chlidonias niger*) and lesser scaup (*Athya marila*).

**Budget:**

Budget Item	Fiscal Year 10	Fiscal Year 11	Fiscal Year 12
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<b>Personnel</b>	\$ 226,000	\$ 40,000
<b>Contracts</b>	\$ 1,800,000	\$ 225,000
<b>Equipment/Tools/Supplies</b>		
<b>Fee Acquisition</b>		
<b>Easement Acquisition</b>	\$ 213,000	
<b>Easement Stewardship</b>	(private landowner donation)	
<b>Travel</b>	\$ 21,000	\$ 3,000
<b>Additional Budget Items</b>		
<b>TOTAL</b>	\$ 2,260,000	\$ 268,000

**Personnel Details:**

<b>Title</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Amount.</b>
Conservation Program Mgr.	Jon Schneider	\$ 10,000
Shallow Lakes Biologist	Josh Kavanagh	\$ 21,000
Regional Biologist	Robert Usgaard	\$ 5,000
Senior Regional Engineer	Doug Lipetzky	\$ 90,000
Regional Engineer	Jim Streifel	\$ 40,000
Senior Engineering Technician	Deb Knudson	\$ 5,000
Engineering Technician	Darin Will	\$ 5,000
Construction Management Sup.	Brad Karel	\$ 50,000
Construction Manager	Matt Olson	\$ 25,000
Construction Manager	Tom Ekroth	\$ 5,000
Construction Manager	Les Morgenstern	\$ 5,000
Chief Surveyor	Greg Johnson	\$ 5,000
	<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$266,000</b>

**Leverage (non-state):**

<b>Source of Leverage</b>	<b>Fiscal Year 10</b>	<b>Fiscal Year 11</b>	<b>Fiscal Year 12</b>
North American Wetlands Conservation Council (NAWCA)	\$ 400,000		
Ducks Unlimited	\$ 200,000	\$ 50,000	
Private Landowner	\$ 125,000		
Christina-Ina-Anka Lake Association	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	
Chippewa River Watershed Improvement Project	\$ 10,000		
Viking Sportsmen	\$ 5,000		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 790,000</b>	<b>\$ 100,000</b>	

**Accomplishments:**

<b>Table 1 Accomplish- ments</b>	<b>Wetlands</b>	<b>Prairies</b>	<b>Forests</b>	<b>Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife</b>
<b>Restore</b>				
<b>Protect</b>	Protect 180 acres of wetlands and associated restored prairie and wooded shoreline habitat on a shallow lake.			
<b>Enhance</b>	Enhance habitat quality and water quality in eight shallow lakes totaling 6,000 acres.			

<b>Table 2 Recommend Fund Allocation</b>	<b>Wetlands</b>	<b>Prairies</b>	<b>Forests</b>	<b>Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife</b>
<b>Restore</b>				
<b>Protect</b>	\$ 225,000			
<b>Enhance</b>	\$ 2,303,000			

<b>Table 3 Counties Impacted</b>	<b>Wetlands</b>	<b>Prairies</b>	<b>Forests</b>	<b>Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife</b>
<b>Restore</b>				
<b>Protect</b>	Stearns			
<b>Enhance</b>	Douglas, Grant, Lac Qui Parle, Yellow Medicine, Murray, Wright, and Faribault.			

<b>Table 4 Non-State Leverage \$</b>	<b>Wetlands</b>	<b>Prairies</b>	<b>Forests</b>	<b>Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife</b>
<b>Restore</b>				
<b>Protect</b>	\$ 125,000			
<b>Enhance</b>	\$ 765,000			

<b>Table 5 Acquisition Data</b>	<b>Wetlands</b>	<b>Prairies</b>	<b>Forests</b>	<b>Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife</b>
<b>Acquired in Fee with State PILT Liability</b>				
<b>Acquired in Fee without State PILT Liability</b>				
<b>Permanent Easement</b>	Protect 180 acres, including 2,324 feet of shallow lake shoreline, for \$213,000			

### **Accomplishment Time Table:**

<b>Milestone</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Measure</b>
Close conservation easement on shallow lake shoreland	August 31, 2009	180 acres protected
Prepare construction bid packages for shallow lake structure projects	August 31, 2009	8 projects
Award construction contracts for shallow lake structure projects	September 31, 2009	8 projects
Survey and begin engineering design of new shallow lake projects	October 31, 2009	2 new projects
Manage construction on 8 shallow lake projects	November 31, 2009	8 projects
Complete construction on 6 of 8 shallow lake projects	June 30, 2010	2,000 acres enhanced
Complete engineering plans for 2 of 3 new shallow lake projects	June 30, 2010	2 new designs finished
Complete construction on remaining 2 of 8 shallow lake projects	September 31, 2010	4,000 acres enhanced
Complete engineering plans for 1 of 3 new shallow lake projects	September 31, 2010	1 new design finished

### **Relationship to Your Current Budget**

This grant represents a significant increase in funding for shallow lake enhancement projects that Ducks Unlimited delivers for state and federal conservation agencies in Minnesota. DU relies on the combination of private funding and both state and federal grants to implement our projects. In the recent past, DU has received grants in the \$200,000 to \$450,000 range from the Minnesota Environment & Natural Resources Trust Fund, so this \$2.528 million grant is a significant increase and greatly supplements but does not supplant our current funding or budget.

### **How Will the Habitat Improvements Be Sustained?**

All water control structures, pumps, and fish barriers will be constructed for the Minnesota DNR or US Fish & Wildlife Service on land under their control, and they will be managed in perpetuity by these agencies and their field staff. Regular, periodic assessments of the shallow lake basins will be conducted by DNR Wildlife's shallow lakes program and assisted by DU field biologists to evaluate shallow lake condition and document improvements.

A financial contribution for perpetual easement stewardship endowment will be made by the private landowner. All DU conservation easements are monitored and visited annually, and management outreach to private landowners conducted routinely to ensure protected habitat is maintained.



## Lessard Outdoor Heritage Council

### 2009 Appropriation Accomplishment Plan

**Project or Program Title:** Shallow Lake Shoreland Acquisitions

**Date:** March 12, 2009

**Manager's Name:** Jon Schneider  
**Title:** Manager, Minnesota Conservation Programs  
**Mailing Address:** 311 East Lake Geneva Road NE, Alexandria, MN 56308  
**Telephone:** 320.762.9916  
**Fax:** 320.759.1567  
**E-Mail:** jschneider@ducks.org  
**Web Site:** www.ducks.org

	Funding	Out-Year Projections of Needs		
Funds Recommended (\$000s)	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013
Outdoor Heritage Fund	<b>\$450,000</b>	\$900,000	\$1,200,000	\$1,500,000

**Summary:** DU will acquire fee title land from willing sellers on unprotected shoreline adjacent to shallow lakes of critical importance to ducks and other migratory birds in Murray County, Minnesota. Each shallow lake identified is actively managed (via water control structures) or soon to be managed (planned DU structure) by the Minnesota DNR for waterfowl and other wetland dependent wildlife. Through fee acquisition, DU will permanently protect 100 acres of uplands and small wetlands adjacent to these basins. All parcels targeted lie adjacent to existing Wildlife Management Areas and contain cropland and or seeded pasture that will be restored to native tall-grass prairie species thereby increasing both water quality (i.e. reducing surface run off directly into shallow lake basins) and wildlife habitat benefits provided by existing WMA lands.

**Background:**

Prairie shallow lakes in Minnesota suffer from degraded water quality caused by excess run off, over abundant fish populations, and nutrient loading. Turbid water conditions over prolonged periods reduces aquatic plant and invertebrate populations on which waterfowl and other wetland wildlife depend. Using water control structures, resource managers can improve water quality and habitat conditions for wildlife through temporary drawdowns, but restoring and protecting adjacent shorelands is an important component in the long-term management of these lakes. Securing shoreland protection and restoration via acquisition or easements permanently increases wildlife benefits (for both upland/wetland wildlife) and also helps managers maintain optimum habitat shallow lake conditions for longer periods of time.

Permanent protection of shorelands on managed shallow lakes helps assure that these lakes will provide excellent waterfowl and wildlife habitat into the future. Permanent shoreland protection also eliminates future subdivision and development, thereby reducing disturbance to wildlife and the real possibility that lake-use expectations of new shoreline owners will conflict with water level management strategies for wildlife. The acquisitions targeted by DU using funds from this grant will increase critical shoreland protection, improve wildlife habitat, and help assure management of these lakes for waterfowl and other wildlife into the future.

Acquisitions of all identified parcels will be finalized within a year. DU will only work with willing sellers. Each acquisition will be appraised by a state certified appraiser following state guidelines. DU will provide a copy of the appraisal to each seller and will work closely with the Minnesota DNR in each step of the process to make sure the acquisition and subsequent transfer process meet the guidelines set forth by the DNR. DU will legally survey each parcel to be acquired.

The \$450,000 grant will fund fee-title purchase and due diligence related to working with private landowners, conducting initial property inspections, performing due diligence and grant administration.

Restoration of acquired parcels (50 acres of upland restoration) will take place over a two year window based on the crop rotation at the time of acquisition. Upon completion of restoration and items necessary to meet the minimum state standards, DU will transfer each parcel to the Minnesota DNR to be managed as a Wildlife Management Area. DU will work with the Minnesota DNR to secure county board approval for permission to transfer acquired lands to the state government. At this time, DU is not aware of any county or local opposition to any of the proposed acquisitions, but should opposition arise, DU will work with local landowners to listen to and address their concerns.

**Relationship to the Minnesota Conservation and Preservation Plan and Other Published Resource Management Plans:** This work supports the shallow lake and wetland priority conservation goals outlined in the *Minnesota Conservation and Preservation Plan*, and the shallow lake priorities in Minnesota's *Long-term Duck Recovery Plan* that calls for the improvement of 1,800 shallow lakes throughout Minnesota.

**Budget:**

Budget Item	Fiscal Year 10	Fiscal Year 11	Fiscal Year 12
Personnel	\$ 15,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 8,000
Contracts	\$ 14,000		\$ 25,000
<b>Equipment/Tools/Supplies</b>			
Fee Acquisition	\$ 378,000		
<b>Easement Acquisition</b>			
<b>Easement Stewardship</b>			
Travel	\$ 3,000	\$ 500	\$ 1,500
<b>Additional Budget Items</b>			
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 410,000</b>	<b>\$ 5,500</b>	<b>\$ 34,500</b>

**Personnel Details:**

Title	Name	Amount.
Conservation Program Mgr.	Jon Schneider	\$ 5,000
Shallow Lakes Biologist	Josh Kavanagh	\$ 2,000
Regional Biologist	Robert Usgaard	\$ 16,000
Chief Surveyor	Greg Johnson	\$ 5,000

**Leverage:**

Source of Leverage	Fiscal Year 10	Fiscal Year 11	Fiscal Year 12
<b>TOTAL</b>			

**Accomplishments:**

Table 1 Accomplish- ments	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife		
	Wetlands	Prairies	Forests
<b>Restore</b>		Restore 50 Acres of native grass and forb species	
<b>Protect</b>	Protect 10 acres of wetland adjacent to a critical shallow lake basin	Protect 90 acres of upland adjacent to a critical shallow lake basin	
<b>Enhance</b>			

<b>Table 2 Recommend Fund Allocation</b>	<b>Wetlands</b>	<b>Prairies</b>	<b>Forests</b>	<b>Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife</b>
<b>Restore</b>		\$ 31,500		
<b>Protect</b>	\$ 41,600	\$ 374,400		
<b>Enhance</b>				

<b>Table 3 Counties Impacted</b>	<b>Wetlands</b>	<b>Prairies</b>	<b>Forests</b>	<b>Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife</b>
<b>Restore</b>		Murray		
<b>Protect</b>	Murray	Murray		
<b>Enhance</b>				

<b>Table 4 Non-State Leverage \$</b>	<b>Wetlands</b>	<b>Prairies</b>	<b>Forests</b>	<b>Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife</b>
<b>Restore</b>				
<b>Protect</b>				
<b>Enhance</b>				

<b>Table 5 Acquisition Data</b>	<b>Wetlands</b>	<b>Prairies</b>	<b>Forests</b>	<b>Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife</b>
<b>Acquired in Fee with State PILT Liability</b>	10 acres for \$20,000	90 acres for \$359,000		
<b>Acquired in Fee without State PILT Liability</b>				
<b>Permanent Easement</b>				

### Accomplishment Time Table:

<b>Milestone</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Measure</b>
Complete landowner/DNR discussions	July 31, 2009	
Order state certified appraisals	August 31, 2009	
Complete Purchase Negotiations	September 30, 2009	
Complete Title Work	October 31, 2009	
Complete Legal Boundary Survey	November 30, 2009	
Close on fee acquisition	December 31, 2009	100 acres
Complete restoration plan	February 28, 2010	
Complete upland restoration seeding	July 31, 2011	50 acres
Transfer to MN DNR	August 31, 2011	100 acres

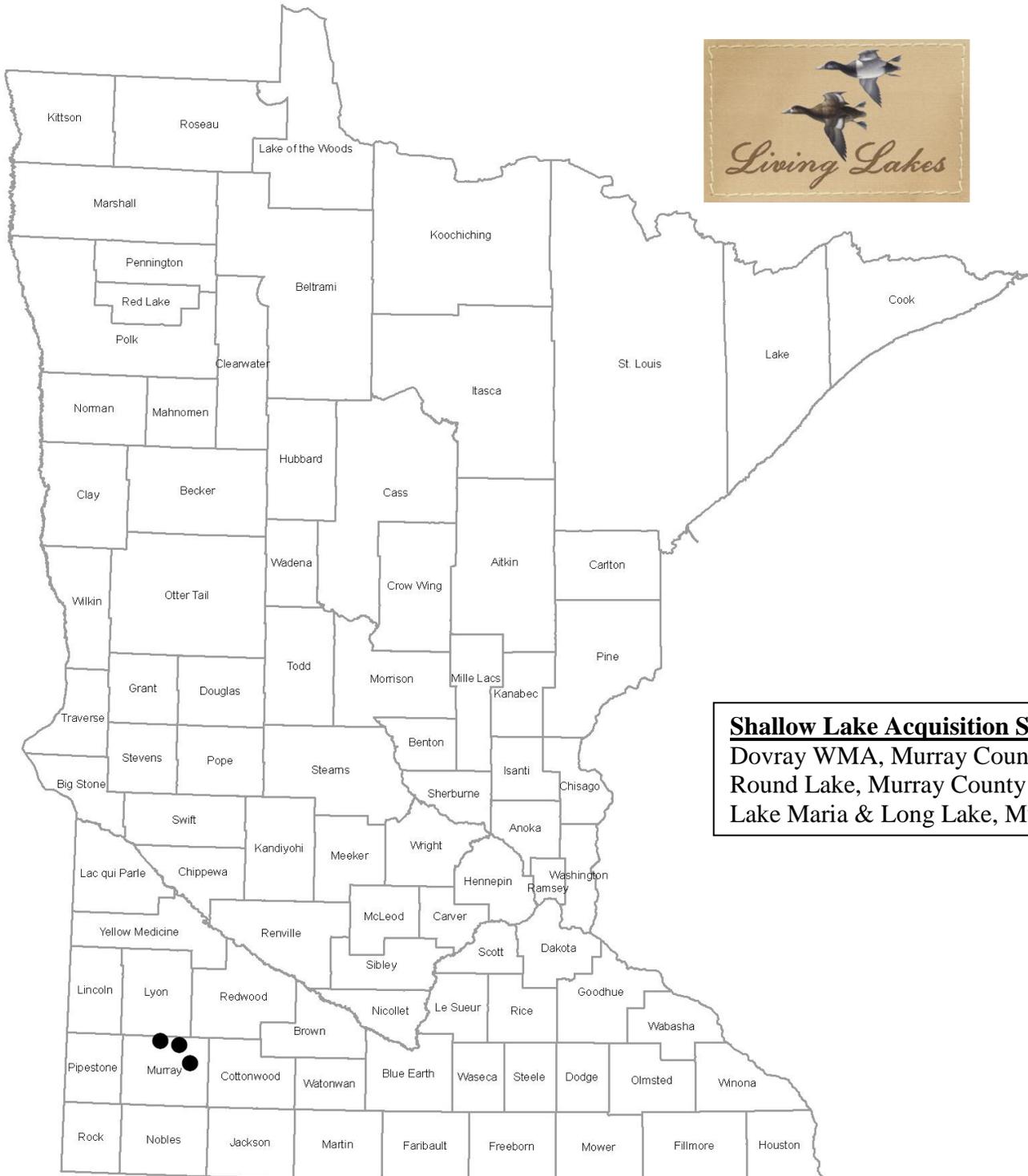
Seeding completion date will depend on timing of acquisition and crop rotation, lease agreements, etc.

**Relationship to Your Current Budget:**

Ducks Unlimited has not yet received public funding for land acquisition to date in Minnesota. However, DU has completed other land acquisitions here. Therefore, this \$450,000 grant is definitely an increase and does not supplant our funding.

**How Will the Habitat Improvements Be Sustained?**

Properties acquired by DU through use of these grant funds will be held for the time needed to restore converted lands and bring the property into compliance with minimum state fee transfer standards. During that time, the properties will be open to public access and DU will pay property taxes as assessed by the local assessor. Upon transfer to the DNR, these properties will be managed in perpetuity by the Minnesota DNR as Wildlife Management Areas. The DNR will carry out periodic management practices such as invasive species control and prescribed burning to maintain the restored grassland in a quality state. The state of MN will pay in lieu of tax payments once they receive the property from DU.



**Shallow Lake Acquisition Sites:**  
 Dovray WMA, Murray County  
 Round Lake, Murray County  
 Lake Maria & Long Lake, Murray

## Lessard Outdoor Heritage Council

### 2009 Appropriation Accomplishment Plan

**Project or Program Title:** Aquatic Management Area (AMA) Acquisition (FGW7)

**Date:** June 10, 2009

**Manager's Name:** Mike Halverson  
**Title:** Fisheries Land Acquisition Consultant  
**Mailing Address:** 500 Lafayette Road, Box 20  
**Telephone:** 651 259-5209  
**Fax:** 651 297-4916  
**E-Mail:** mike.halverson@dnr.state.mn.us  
**Web Site:** www.dnr.state.mn.us

Funds Recommended (\$000s)	Funding	Out-Year Projections of Needs		
	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013
Outdoor Heritage Fund	<b>5,748,000</b>	15,000,000	15,000,000	15,000,000

**Summary:** Our program will permanently protect approximately 1,246 acres (8.9-miles) of lake and warmwater stream shoreline through fee title and permanent easement acquisition. Our program will also secure 54 Acres (3.1-miles) of permanent habitat management easements that include angler access on designated trout streams.

### Background

Aquatic Management Areas were established to protect, develop, and manage lakes, rivers, streams, and adjacent wetlands and lands that are critical for fish and other aquatic life, for water quality, and for the intrinsic biological value, public fishing, or other compatible outdoor recreational uses. AMAs provide angler or management access; protect fish spawning, rearing, or other unique habitat; protect aquatic wildlife feeding and nesting areas; and protect critical shoreline habitat, among other purposes authorized by Minnesota Statutes 86A.05, Subdivision 14.

### Guiding Principles

- Conserve critical shoreline habitat for all fish and wildlife species
- Conserve vital fish spawning and rearing areas
- Provide angling and management access corridors on trout and warmwater streams
- Provide non-motorized angler access on lakes and streams
- Preserve examples of healthy shoreline habitats as maps for future restoration of disturbed sites.

Project dollars will secure fee title or permanent easements on approximately 921 acres (6.6 miles) of lake and warmwater stream shoreline, and leverage about 325 acres (2.3 miles) of similar acquisition through partner funds. Project dollars will also secure 54 acres (3.1 miles) of permanent habitat management easements that include angler access on designated trout streams, primarily in the Southeast and Northeast areas of the state. Overall priority will be given to acquiring regionally significant fish and wildlife habitat that will build on existing shoreline habitat and provide angler and hunter access. Projects may occur anywhere within the state, depending on priorities, risk of development, and potential partners. Project lists will change, as new parcels become available and as previously included projects become unavailable. Collaborative partnerships will be promoted in order to acquire key lands. Project money is expected to generate additional non-state funded acres and shoreline miles, for a grand total of 1,300 acres (12 miles) of critical shoreline habitat.

Department policy is to notify County and Township governments when acquiring AMA's. Local support for AMA acquisition is usually substantial, and local groups commonly offer to help raise funds.

**Relationship to the *Minnesota Conservation and Preservation Plan* and Other Published Resource Management Plans**

MNDNR Strategic Conservation Agenda Update:

Meets the criteria of conservation in the Mission Statement, 'work with citizens to conserve and manage the state's natural resources, and goals for: Conservation of natural lands, maintenance of open spaces, conservation of stable and healthy fish and wildlife habitats, reduce loss of stable and healthy fish and wildlife habitats, provide additional access to public land, stabilize land ownership trends along lakeshore, and conservation of natural lakeshore and parts of lake watersheds.

Minnesota Conservation and Preservation Plan

Habitat Recommendation 2 (p. 67) includes fee acquisition and conservation easements among tools needed for protection of critical shorelines of streams and lakes. Acquiring the highest-priority shorelines "is one essential component of a multi-strategy approach to preserving the clean water legacy that Minnesota's citizens and visitors are used to experiencing. (p.69)" Benefits include protection of critical shoreline habitats from degradation, public angler access, and providing areas for education and research.

Minnesota's AMA Acquisition Plan 2008-2033

The DNR's AMA Acquisition Plan calls for shoreline acquisition to ensure shoreline habitat protection, water quality maintenance, and angler access for present and future generations. This plan envisions acquisition of 3,428 miles of lake and stream habitat during the next 25 years. This funding proposal would further that goal.

**Generalized budget for AMA Acquisition:**

Budget Item	LOHC Fund \$\$	Other State Funds \$\$	Other Non-State Funds \$\$	Total Funds \$\$
Land (fee, easement)	\$5,431,600	\$359,100	\$1,500,000	\$7,290,700
Professional Services*	\$287,400	\$19,000		\$306,400
AMA Improvement**	29,000	\$1,900		\$30,900

<b>Total</b>	\$5,748,000	\$380,000	\$1,500,000	\$7,628,000
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\* Professional service costs include: staff time for the Division of Lands and Minerals and the Attorney General's Office, survey costs, appraisal and review costs, recording and abstracting fees, deed tax, and any property taxes due the subsequent year following conveyance to the DNR. The total cost to process and complete the estimated land conveyances to the DNR under this program is approximately 5% of the total value of these acquisitions.

\*\* AMA improvements include: conversion of tillable acres to fish and wildlife habitat.

**Budget**

Budget Item	Fiscal Year 10	Fiscal Year 11	Fiscal Year 12
Fee Acquisition	\$2,978,000	\$993,000	Fee Acquisition
Easement Acquisition	\$1,310,000	\$438,000	
AMA Improvement	\$22,000	\$7,000	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$4,310,000</b>	<b>\$1,438,000</b>	

**Personnel Details:** Dollars will not be used for additional personnel

**Leverage**

Source of Leverage	Fiscal Year 10	Fiscal Year 11	Fiscal Year 12
RIM-CHM	\$285,000	\$95,00	
Donations of cash and land value	\$1,125,000	\$375,000	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,410,000</b>	<b>\$470,000</b>	

**Accomplishments:**

Table 1 Accomplish- ments	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife			
	Wetlands	Prairies	Forests	
Restore				
Protect				Protect 12 miles of shorelines, including 1,300 acres of adjoining critical habitat.
Enhance				

Table 2 Recommend Fund Allocation	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife			
	Wetlands	Prairies	Forests	
Restore				
Protect				\$5,748,000
Enhance				

Table 3 Counties Impacted	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife			
	Wetlands	Prairies	Forests	
Restore				
Protect				All Ecological Sections of the State are included in plan: current projects are located in 6 of the 9 Ecological Sections (22 counties -see attached map)
Enhance				

Table 4 Non-State Leverage \$	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife			
	Wetlands	Prairies	Forests	
Restore				
Protect				\$1,500,000
Enhance				

Table 5 Acquisition Data	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife			
	Wetlands	Prairies	Forests	
Acquired in Fee with State PILT Liability				9 miles of shoreline with acquisition value of \$5,128,000
Acquired in Fee without State PILT Liability				
Permanent Easement				3 miles of shoreline with acquisition value of \$2,500,000

### Accomplishment Time Table

Milestone	Date	Measure
Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife	February 1, 2010	3 miles
Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife	October 30, 2010	6 miles
Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife	June 30, 2011	<u>3 miles</u>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>12 miles</b>

### Relationship to Your Current Budget

This allocation will about double the 8 year average of State dollars used for funding AMA acquisition. The DNR Section of Fisheries supports the AMA acquisition program with 1 permanent FTE program consultant funded by Game and Fish funds.

Requests for funding will continue to be made from all available sources, including Bonding, Environmental Trust Fund, Heritage, Trout Stamp, Grants and other sources when available.

### **How Will the Habitat Improvements Be Sustained?**

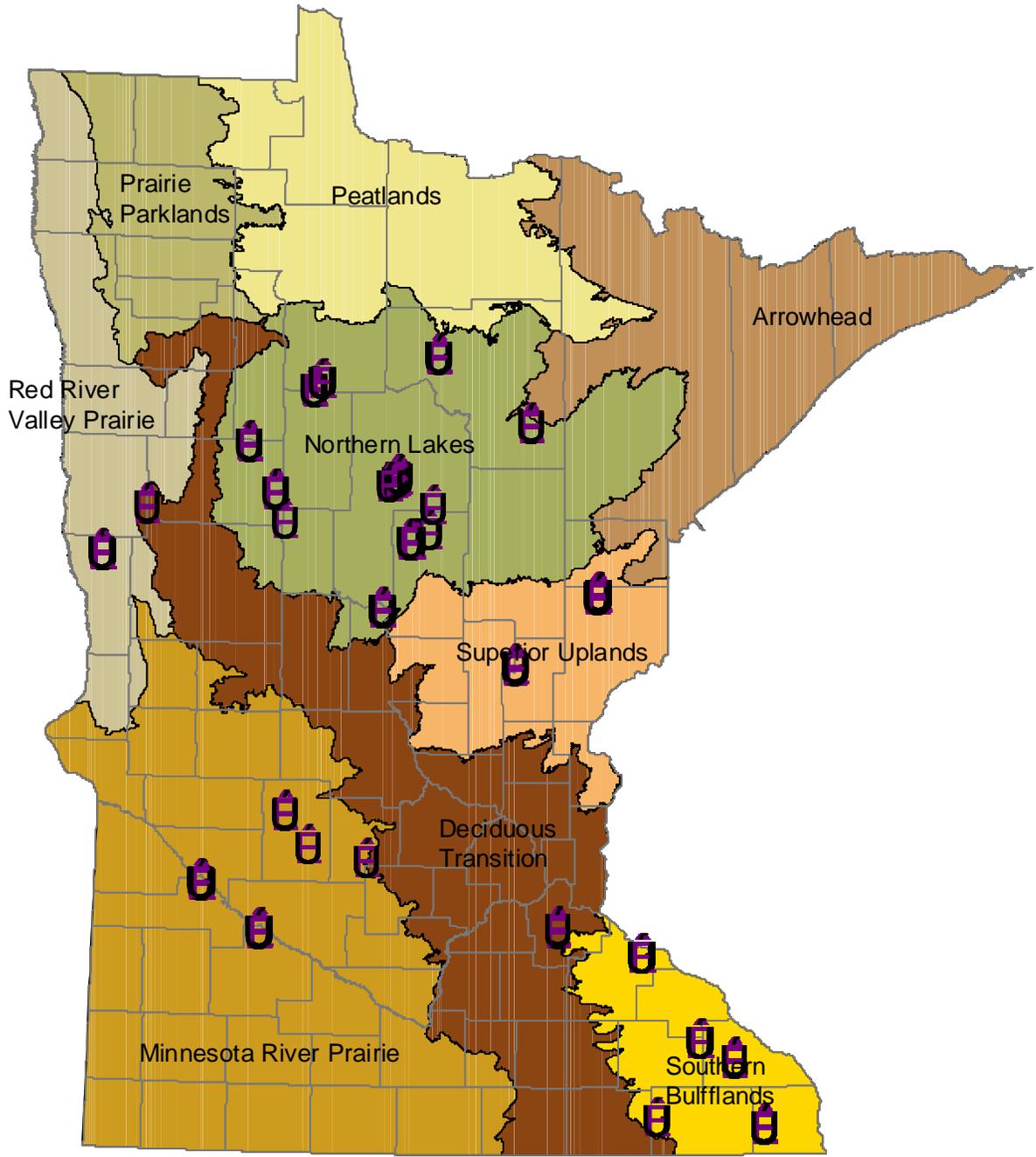
Acquired parcels will be designated as Aquatic Management Areas, a unit of DNR's Outdoor Recreation System. Management and monitoring will be done on a regular basis by local Area Fish and Wildlife Staff. Conservation Easements will be monitored according to established DNR monitoring protocol. Property taxes will be paid by the State via Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT).

## Proposed Projects for Aquatic Management Area Acquisition

Project Name	Lake/Stream	County	Shore Ft	Acres	Anticipated Value	Ant Part Funding	Crit Hab	Prox Hab	Don Pot	Part-ners	Pub Acc	Will Sell	Win Op	Proj Frui	Avail \$\$	Total	Partners
Woman Lake AMA, P7,8,9	Woman Lake	Cass	2,945	42	\$1,625,000	\$750,000	3	3	2	3	3	3	3	3	2	25	Landowner
Camp Miller AMA	Sturgeon Lake	Pine	5,910	338	\$1,200,000	\$500,000	3	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	2	25	Landowner
Star Lake AMA, P1	Star Lake	Crow Wing	5,900	280	\$1,000,000	\$250,000	3	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	2	25	Landowner
Camp Cuyuna AMA	Goodrich	Crow Wing	5,000	200	\$1,500,000	\$375,000	3	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	2	25	Landowner
Snowshoe Lake , P3	Snowshoe	Cass	440	3.4	\$350,000	\$50,000	3	3	2	2	3	3	3	3	2	24	Landowner
Little Knife AMA, P1	Little Knife	Kanabec	7,165	257	\$800,000	\$300,000	3	2	2	3	3	3	3	3	2	24	Landowner
Little Woman AMA, P1	Little Woman	Cass	1,150	11	\$435,000	\$0	3	3	1	2	3	3	3	3	2	23	LLAWF
Riverside AMA, P1	Minnesota R.	Redwood	8,400	225	\$560,000	\$140,000	3	3	1	2	3	3	3	3	2	23	Landowner
Florida Lake AMA, P1	Florida Lake	Kandiyohi	950	4.6	\$900,000	\$450,000	3	3	2	2	3	3	3	2	2	23	Landowner
Greenleaf AMA	Greenleaf	Meeker	5,415	51	\$200,000	\$100,000	3	3	2	2	3	3	3	2	2	23	Parks C.
Bemidji AMA	Bemidji	Beltrami	3,000	21	\$1,000,000	\$400,000	3	3	2	2	2	3	3	3	2	23	City, T&W
Lawndale Creek, P1	Lawndale Cr	Wilkin	600	1.9	\$5,662	\$0	3	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	23	TU
Lawndale Creek, P2	Lawndale Cr	Wilkin	2,200	6.7	\$20,346	\$0	3	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	23	TU
Straight River AMA 13A	Strait River	Becker	3,200	80	\$150,000	\$10,000	3	3	2	2	3	3	3	2	2	23	TU
Spring Valley Hatchery	Spring Valley	Fillmore	885	27	\$600,000	\$300,000	3	3	2	2	3	3	3	2	2	23	Landowner
Preece Point AMA	Marquette Lk	Beltrami	1,700	15	\$400,000	\$100,000	3	2	2	2	3	3	3	2	2	22	Landowner
Bad Medicine Lake AMA	Bad Medicine	Becker	5,700	9	\$850,000	\$400,000	3	2	2	2	3	3	3	2	2	22	Landowner
Whispering Ridge AMA	Minnesota R	Redwood	4,778	178	\$500,000	\$250,000	3	2	2	2	3	3	3	2	2	22	Green Corr
Kasota/Minnetoga AMA	Kasota	Kandiyohi	480	3.8	\$100,000	\$70,000	3	3	2	3	3	2	2	2	2	22	Trails
Little Sand AMA, P1	Little Sand	Itasca	330	77	\$400,000	\$250,000	3	2	3	2	3	3	2	2	2	22	Landowner
Bad Medicine Lk AMA, 13	Bad Medicine	Becker	775	7.6	\$500,000	\$200,000	3	3	2	2	3	2	2	2	2	21	Landowner
Up Cormorant Lk AMA, 7	Up Cormorant	Becker	1,800	19.7	\$200,000	\$0	3	3	1	1	3	3	3	2	2	21	Landowner
Wegdahl Bottoms AMA	Minnesota R	Chippewa	332	336	\$600,000	\$0	3	2	2	2	3	3	2	2	2	21	Fundraising
Vermillion River AMA, 7, 9	Vermillion R	Dakota	8,050	240	\$1,200,000	\$200,000	3	3	2	2	3	2	2	2	2	21	County
Bullard Creek AMA	Bullard Creek	Goodhue	3,150	9.6	\$57,700		3	3	1	1	2	3	3	3	2	21	
West Beaver Cr AMA	W Beaver Cr	Houston	3,725	8	\$39,400		3	3	1	1	2	3	3	3	2	21	
Garvin Brook AMA	Statewide	Winona	3,265	9.9	\$56,060	\$0	3	3	1	1	2	3	3	3	2	21	
North Br Whitewater AMA	N Br Whitewater	Winona	1,725	2.6	\$19,000	\$0	3	3	1	1	2	3	3	2	2	20	
Tailwater AMA, P1	Mississippi R	Crow Wing	4,200	240	\$1,200,000	\$800,000	3	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	20	ACUB
Bird's Eye Lake AMA	Bird's Eye	Itasca	5,300	163	\$200,000	\$100,000	3	3	2	2	3	3	1	1	2	20	LLAWF
Trout Stream Easements	Statewide	All	18,480	60	\$350,000	\$0	3	3	1	1	2	3	3	2	2	20	
Spirit Lake AMA	Spirit	Wadena	1,560	51	\$386,100	\$100,000	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	19	Fundraising
			<b>Feet</b>	<b>Acres</b>	<b>Value</b>	<b>Value</b>											
<b>Totals</b>			<b>118,510</b>	<b>2,979</b>	<b>\$17,404,268</b>	<b>\$6,195,000</b>											
			<b>Miles =</b>	<b>22.4</b>	<b>State \$\$</b>	<b>\$11,209,268</b>											

Project list is subject to change, with new parcels being added as they become available and projects being dropped as they become unavailable.

# Proposed Projects for Aquatic Management Area Acquisition



## Lessard – Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

### FY 2010 Appropriation Accomplishment Plan

**Project or Program Title:** Trout Unlimited Coldwater Fish Habitat Restoration And Enhancement Program

**Date:** June 10, 2009

**Manager's Name:** John Lenczewski  
**Title:** Chairman, Minnesota Council of Trout Unlimited  
**Mailing Address:** 18776 Twilight Trail, Eden Prairie, MN 55346  
**Telephone:** 612- 670-1629  
**Fax:** NA  
**E-Mail:** jlenczewski@comcast.net  
**Web Site:** www.mntu.org

	Funding	Out-Year Projections of Needs		
<b>Funds Recommended (\$000s)</b>	<b>FY 2010</b>	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013
Outdoor Heritage Fund	<b>\$2,050,000</b>	0	0	0

### Summary

Our program will restore and enhance in-stream and riparian fish and wildlife habitat in 11 watersheds across the state of Minnesota. The proposed projects will improve habitat for both game and non-game fish and wildlife species uniquely associated with coldwater trout streams and provide expanded recreational opportunities for Minnesota anglers.

### Background

As part of our ongoing program of trout and salmon habitat restoration and enhancement, the Minnesota Council of Trout Unlimited ("MNTU") has identified the priority conservation projects listed below. MNTU proposes to restore or enhance in-stream and riparian fish and wildlife habitat in and along the following Minnesota waters (counties) between July 2009 and June 2011, with most projects completed by October 2010:

1. Hay Creek (Goodhue);
2. Kabekona Creek (Hubbard);
3. Lawndale Creek (Wilkin);
4. Little Rock Creek (Benton);
5. Middle Branch of Whitewater River (Olmsted);
6. Mill Creek (Fillmore);
7. Pickwick Creek (Winona);

8. Trout Run Creek (Fillmore);
9. Straight River (Becker & Hubbard);
10. Sucker River (St. Louis);
11. Vermillion River (Dakota).

Degraded coldwater habitat is an important statewide conservation issue that requires immediate investment through habitat restoration and enhancement projects. The distinct natural resource characteristics of each ecologically distinct region of Minnesota, together with the variation in the type and magnitude of poor land uses practices in different watersheds, require that fish habitat restoration methods vary around the state. MNTU understands this and tailors our projects accordingly. In the Lake Superior basin, this may mean restoring in-stream cover which was removed decades ago to facilitate log drives. In Southeast Minnesota this may mean restoring overhead bank cover, while drastically sloping soil back to remove thick sediment deposited from the uplands and restore streams' access to their floodplains.

The projects to be undertaken by MNTU as part of this program will be designed to accomplish a number of the following purposes: a) reduce stream bank erosion and associated sedimentation, b) reconnect streams to their flood plains to reduce negative impacts from severe flooding, c) increase natural reproduction of trout and other aquatic organisms, d) maintain or increase adult trout abundance, e) increase biodiversity for both in-stream and non-game species, f) be long lasting with minimal maintenance required, and g) improve angler access.

The results of the projects will be evaluated not only in measures of habitat restored and/or enhanced, but also through trout population assessments.

### **Relationship to the *Minnesota Conservation and Preservation Plan* and Other Published Resource Management Plans:**

#### **Minnesota Statewide Conservation and Preservation Plan – Land & Aquatic Preservation Plan.**

Habitat 2. Protect critical shorelands of streams & lakes...pp. 67-74

- Target shallow wildlife lakes, natural environment lakes, shallow bays of deep lakes, cold-water/designated trout streams...

Habitat 3: Improve connectivity and access to outdoor recreation. pp. 74-77

- Also provide benefits to wildlife, SGCN, etc.

Habitat 6: Protect and restore critical in-water habitat of lakes and streams. pp 81-84

- Expand efforts to restore critical habitats for aquatic communities in near-shore areas of lakes, in-stream areas of rivers and streams, and deep-water lakes with exceptional water quality
- Reverse negative effects of stream channelization on in-stream habitats

Habitat 7: Keep water on the landscape – pp.84-87

- Habitat benefits include improved water quality, maintaining habitat for wildlife and game species, and enhancing biological diversity
- Increase riparian buffers along shorelines of rivers, lakes, and sinkholes

- Maintain and restore headwater wetlands, riparian areas, and floodplains
- Enhance and expand the use of perennial vegetation.

## **Minnesota's Nonpoint Source Management Program Plan 2008**

### **Goal 1: Promote a Healthy Hydrological Regime for Minnesota's Streams and Rivers. – pp. 4.3 – 176**

- Promote stream restoration projects that restore connectivity between rivers and their flood plains.
- Develop an interagency program to assess/control streambank erosion...

## **Tomorrow's Habitat for the Wild & Rare – an action plan for Minnesota Wildlife.**

### **Goal I: Stabilize and increase Species in Greatest Conservation Need; 8. Stream habitats, actions include: – pp. 80**

- Maintain good water quality, hydrology, geomorphology, and connectivity in priority stream reaches.
- Maintain and enhance riparian areas along priority stream reaches.

## **Strategic Plan for Coldwater Resources Management in Southeast Minnesota 2004-2015**

- Theme 1: Provide for the protection, improvement, and restoration of coldwater aquatic habitat and fish communities so that this unique resource is available for future generations. pp 9.
- Theme 2: Provide diverse angling opportunities so that a broad range of experiences are available to anglers. pp 12.

## **Minnesota's 2008-2012 State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreational Plan**

- **Strategy 1:** Acquire, protect and restore Minnesota's natural resource base on which outdoor recreation depends. pp12.
- **Strategy 2:** Develop and maintain a sustainable and resilient outdoor recreation infrastructure. pp 17.

## **DNR, Division of Fish and Wildlife Long Range Plan for Fisheries Management Covering Fiscal Years 2004-2010**

- Core Function 2. Conserve, Improve, and Rehabilitate Fish Populations and Aquatic Habitat. pp8.
  - Shoreline habitat restoration program – rehabilitate riparian and aquatic vegetation to improve fish habitat, wildlife habitat and water quality;
  - Metro trout stream initiative – conserve and rehabilitate threatened trout stream resources in the Twin Cities metropolitan area;
- Core Function 4. Provide Opportunities for Partnerships, Public Information, and Aquatic Education. pp8.
  - Increased public involvement with fisheries projects.

## **Trout Unlimited Driftless Area Restoration Effort – strategic plan**

**Goals: Through DARE, TU is partnering with local, state and federal agencies, nongovernmental organizations and private landowners to strategically link upland conservation and stream corridor restoration to achieve the following goals: - pp 15.**

- Protect and restore habitat for fish and other species of interest to increase angling and other recreational opportunities. – pp 15.

**Budget:**

Budget Item	Fiscal Year 10	Fiscal Year 11	Fiscal Year 12
Personnel	\$ 95,000		
Contracts	\$ 867,000		
Equipment/Tools/Supplies	\$1,088,000*		
Fee Acquisition	0		
Easement Acquisition	0		
Easement Stewardship	0		
Travel	0		
Additional Budget Items	0		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,050,000</b>		

\*This amount includes \$584,450 in material costs and \$503,550 in equipment usage costs.

**Personnel:**

Title	Name	Amount.
Project administrator (.425 FTE), Project manager (.125 FTE), Comptroller (.125 FTE).		\$95,000 (combined)

**Leverage:**

Source of Leverage	Fiscal Year 10	Fiscal Year 11	Fiscal Year 12
Trout Unlimited	\$322,000		
Nat. Fish Habitat Action Plan	\$160,000		
LCCMR	\$173,650		
MNDNR	\$ 207,370		

<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$863,020</b>
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Note: Leverage amounts are estimates.

**Accomplishments:**

<b>Table 1 Accomplish- ments</b>	<b>Wetlands</b>	<b>Prairies</b>	<b>Forests</b>	<b>Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife</b>
<b>Restore</b>				Restore fish habitat in 14.3 miles of trout stream*
<b>Protect</b>				
<b>Enhance</b>				1. Enhance fish habitat in 0.5 to 1.0 mile of trout stream.  2. Enhance 90 acres (along 6.25 miles of trout stream)

\* Leveraging additional funding may enable us to restore trout habitat on an additional 2.25 to 2.5 miles of stream by October 2011.

<b>Table 2 Recommend Fund Allocation</b>	<b>Wetlands</b>	<b>Prairies</b>	<b>Forests</b>	<b>Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife</b>
<b>Restore</b>				\$1,730,000
<b>Protect</b>				
<b>Enhance</b>				\$320,000

<b>Table 3 Counties Impacted</b>	<b>Wetlands</b>	<b>Prairies</b>	<b>Forests</b>	<b>Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife</b>
<b>Restore</b>				Becker Benton Dakota Fillmore Goodhue Hubbard Olmsted St. Louis Wilkin Winona
<b>Protect</b>				
<b>Enhance</b>				1. Becker Hubbard  2. Fillmore Goodhue Olmsted Winona

<b>Table 4 Non-State Leverage \$</b>	<b>Wetlands</b>	<b>Prairies</b>	<b>Forests</b>	<b>Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife</b>
<b>Restore</b>				\$457,500
<b>Protect</b>				
<b>Enhance</b>				\$ 24,500

<b>Table 5 Acquisition Data</b>	<b>Wetlands</b>	<b>Prairies</b>	<b>Forests</b>	<b>Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife</b>
<b>Acquired in Fee with State PILT Liability</b>				
<b>Acquired in Fee without State PILT Liability</b>				
<b>Permanent Easement</b>				

## **Types and Locations of Individual Restoration and Enhancement Projects:**

The individual projects below are more fully described in MNTU's proposal to the LOHC dated February 23, 2009. The precise stream reach of a few projects have not been finalized, but soon will be in coordination with the Minnesota DNR. The general reaches of those Southeast Minnesota streams where restoration work will be done (projects 5 – 8) are depicted on four attached maps. Descriptions of specific reaches and updated timetables will be provided for all streams in conjunction with the drafting, review and approval of separate ecological restoration and management plans for each project. All projects will be on land permanently protected by conservation easement or public ownership. Throughout this document the terms restoration and enhancement are used interchangeably for ease of description, since oftentimes the dividing line between them is blurred.

**1. Hay Creek (Goodhue):** The project site is located off 325th Street in T.112N., R.15W.,S.27 and continues downstream 8,200 feet. To mitigate the effects of agricultural run-off and sedimentation into the watershed we will restore 8,200 feet of degraded stream. This will include sloping degraded banks, stabilizing them and planting native grasses. The stream channel will be narrowed and cover structures installed to provide better fish habitat. The project will reduce sediment loads and chemicals in the creek, and provide a stable environment for trout and other aquatic species that depend upon the watershed.

**2. Kabekona Creek (Hubbard):** The project site is on the Pierce property near LaPorte. Protective fencing will be installed, a cattle crossing created and degraded banks re-vegetated along approximately one half mile of stream in order to reverse and prevent future damage from grazing. Grazing damage being corrected includes hillside erosion, loss of vegetative cover, loss of vegetative shading, widening of the stream channel, animal waste entering the stream, and increased water temperatures.

**3. Lawndale (Wilkin):** The project site is in and adjacent to the Atherton State Wildlife Management Area. The project will restore 3.5 miles of stream channel of a rare, spring fed, prairie brook trout stream located in the Red River Valley. It involves reconstruction of the historic channel, currently a ditch, to restore trout habitat, historic hydrologic patterns and the water table in the WMA. A permitted withdrawal of the entire base flow of Lawndale Creek, currently held by a farmer, will be obtained by furnishing a replacement source of irrigation water via a well pump upgrade and piping. This will restore and protect the base flow in the trout stream and permit restoration of 3.5 miles of stream channel.

**4. Little Rock Creek (Benton):** Improvement of 2,000 feet of stream will be accomplished using brush cutting and bundling. The project includes removal of brush that is causing erosion and widening of the stream and placing tree bundles along the edge of the stream so that they trap sediment during high flows and narrow the stream channel. The resulting increases in stream velocity will, in turn, reduce the amount of sand deposition. The project will permit growth of native prairie grasses, reduce erosion, narrow and deepen the stream channel, and lower water temperatures to benefit brook trout and other fish and micro-invertebrates.

**5. Middle Branch of Whitewater (Olmsted);**

**6. Mill Creek (Fillmore);**

**7. Pickwick (Winona);**

**8. Trout Run Creek (Fillmore):** Habitat will be restored on at least one section of each of these four streams. Specific project sites are being selected in coordination with the MNDNR and will be within the eased sections delineated on the four attached maps. At least 5 miles of in-stream habitat and stream banks will be restored or enhanced between July 2009 and May 2011. These projects will be very similar to the cooperative projects done by Hiawatha Chapter TU and the MNDNR in the past several years. They will consist of sloping and stabilizing stream banks using rip-rapping and/or vegetation, installing overhead cover for trout and installing soil erosion blankets. Mulching and seeding of exposed stream banks with the native plant species (whenever appropriate) will be done. Improving and maintaining stream access road(s) and stream crossing(s) will be necessary to complete these projects. Removal of undesirable woody vegetation (box elder, buckthorn, etc.) from riparian corridors of these streams, as well as Hay Creek, will reduce competition with desirable plant and grass species and allow beneficial sunlight to reach the stream corridors.

**9. Straight River (Becker & Hubbard):** A project site between “7 mile bridge” and “5 mile bridge” will be selected after a MNDNR stream survey is completed (by July 2009). This project will continue MNTU’s program of placing large trees in strategic locations in the stream channel to narrow and deepen the channel, provide fish cover and trap sediments.

**10. Sucker River (St. Louis):** The project site is located immediately downstream of the northernmost County Rd 40 bridge and offers easy access to the angling public. Restoration work along 1,300 feet of the Sucker River will provide year-round brook trout habitat. The project entails placement of woody cover and rock veining, stabilization of eroding stream banks, removal of invasive plant species, seeding of disturbed areas with native riparian vegetation, tree planting and fencing in the riparian corridor.

**11A. Vermillion River (Dakota)-Project 1:** The first of two projects on this rare metro area stream will restore habitat for trout and other coldwater aquatic species along a 4,750 foot segment of the Vermillion River and improve angling opportunities on property owned by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. Eroding streambanks will be stabilized through multiple techniques: grading and sloping of banks; installation of woody material along the toe of streambanks to increase stability and cover for fish; and planting of native grasses, forbs, shrubs, and trees to provide long-term stability for streambanks. Annual surveys will assess the success of the project in increasing the numbers of brown trout found in the project area, and in reducing streambank erosion.

**11B. Vermillion River (Dakota)-Project 2:** This project will restore habitat for trout and other coldwater aquatic species by constructing a new stream 6,140 feet in length to replace a 3,920 foot channelized reach of the Vermillion River in Dakota County. This project will greatly improve fish habitat by increasing variation in stream width, depth and velocity, creating cover, and improved streambank stability. Project success will be assessed by annual monitoring of the fish population and stream channel stability.

**Accomplishment Time Table**

**1. Hay Creek (Goodhue):**

<b>Milestone</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Measure</b>
Begin fish habitat restoration	July 2009	
Complete initial section of in -stream restoration	October 2009	2,200 feet

Begin preparation for 2010 in-stream work	October 2009	along 6,000 feet
Complete second section of in-stream work	October 2010	6,000 feet

**2. Kabekona Creek (Hubbard):**

<b>Milestone</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Measure</b>
Complete fencing	September 2009	2,845 feet
Complete cattle crossing	September 2009	50 feet
Complete re-vegetation	September 2009	500 feet

**3. Lawndale Creek (Wilkin):**

<b>Milestone</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Measure</b>
Conduct Environmental Review (EAW) process (by DNR) submitted	summer 2009	Draft EAW
Complete Environmental Review process	fall 2009	EAW approved
Protect base flow of stream (alternative irrigation supply)	October 2009	
Begin Phase I of stream channel modifications	October 2009	< 3.5 miles
Complete Phase I, begin Phase III of stream channel modifications	October 2010	3.5 miles

**4. Little Rock Creek (Benton):**

<b>Milestone</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Measure</b>
Identify Cedar trees for removal.	September 2009	40 acres
Identify section of stream for improvement.	September 2009	2000 feet
Remove impinging alders from stream channel.	May 2010	2000 feet
Install Cedar tree brush bundles.	May 2010	200 feet
Remove fallen Oak trees from stream channel.	June 2010	100 feet

**5. Middle Branch of Whitewater (Olmsted);**

**6. Mill Creek (Fillmore);**

**7. Pickwick (Winona);**

**8. Trout Run Creek (Fillmore):**

<b>Milestone</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Measure</b>
In-Stream Habitat Restoration	July - October 2009	2.0 Miles
Stream Bank Restoration (tree removal)	October 2009 – March 2010	3.0 Miles
In-Stream Habitat Restoration	April – June 2010	1.0 Miles
In-Stream Habitat Restoration	July – October 2010	2.0 Miles
Stream Bank Restoration (tree removal)	October 2010 – March 2011	3.25 Acres

**9. Straight River (Becker & Hubbard):**

<b>Milestone</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Measure</b>
Complete final assessment of HI methods and sites	July 2009	
Complete initial section of in-stream enhancement	October 2009	0.5 to 1.0 miles
Complete second section of in-stream work	June-October 2010	0.5 to 1.0 miles

#### **10. Sucker River (St. Louis):**

<b>Milestone</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Measure</b>
Begin comprehensive site plan assessments	July 2009	
Begin work on in-stream habitat restoration	August 2009	
Finish in-stream habitat work	September 2010	1,300 feet
Plant and cage trees in riparian corridor	May 2011	1,000 trees

#### **11A. Vermillion River (Dakota)-Project 1:**

<b>Milestone</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Measure</b>
Complete in-stream habitat enhancement	October 2009	4750 feet
Plant tree and shrub seedlings	May 2010	500 seedlings

#### **11B. Vermillion River (Dakota)-Project 2:**

<b>Milestone</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Measure</b>
Begin Environmental Review (EAW) process submitted	April 2009	Draft EAW
Complete Environmental Review process	May 2010	EAW approved
Complete construction of new channel, install habitat elements stream	September 2010	6140 ft of
Connect new channel to flow	June 2011	
Fill old ditched channel stream	September 2011	3920 ft of

#### **Relationship to Your Current Budget**

Funds appropriated for this program will supplement the cash and in-kind resources typically raised by Minnesota TU and its chapters to support similar projects. This program represents a significant increase in the amount of local effort to be invested in similar habitat projects, but it is within the range of habitat restoration and enhancement projects managed by Trout Unlimited as an organization.

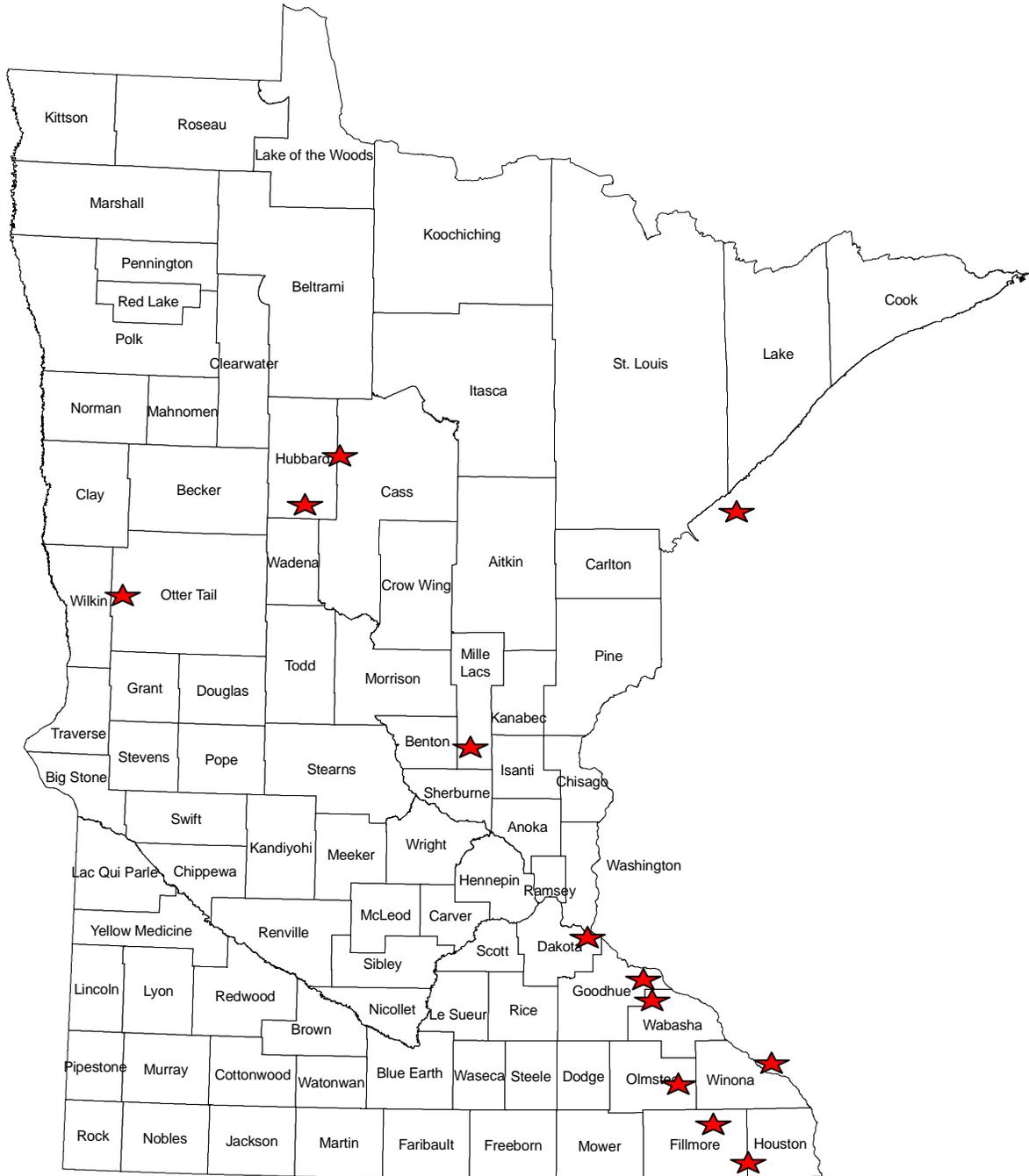
#### **How Will the Habitat Improvements Be Sustained?**

MNTU habitat restoration and enhancement projects are designed for long-term ecological and hydraulic stability. Following completion of the projects included in this program, it is anticipated that long-term monitoring of the integrity of the improvements will be done in conjunction with routine inspections and biological monitoring conducted by local DNR staff, MNTU members, or landowners as appropriate. This monitoring will not require separate OHF funding.

**Attach:**

**10)A list of your projects showing their county location and**

**11)On the attached eight and a half by eleven map of Minnesota show counties each project as a dot.**



## Attachment to L-SOHC FY2010 Appropriation Accomplishment Plan



Minnesota Council of Trout Unlimited



### Minnesota Coldwater Fish Habitat Restoration and Enhancement Priorities (June 2009)

As part of our ongoing program of trout and salmon habitat restoration and enhancement, the Minnesota Council of Trout Unlimited (“MNTU”) has identified the priority conservation projects listed below. MNTU proposes to undertake fish habitat restoration and enhancement projects on these Minnesota streams between July 2009 and June 2011:

1. Hay Creek (Goodhue);
2. Kabekona Creek (Hubbard);
3. Lawndale Creek (Wilkin);
4. Little Rock Creek (Benton);
5. Middle Branch of Whitewater (Olmsted);
6. Mill Creek (Fillmore);
7. Pickwick (Winona);
8. Trout Run Creek (Fillmore);
9. Straight River (Becker & Hubbard);
10. Sucker River (St. Louis);
11. Vermillion River (Dakota).

## Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

### 2009 Accomplishment Plan

**Project or Program Title:** Dakota County Habitat Protection

**Date:** June 10, 2009

**Manager's Name:** Alan Singer  
**Title:** Dakota County Land Conservation Manager  
**Mailing Address:** 14955 Galaxie Avenue, Apple Valley, MN 55124-8579  
**Telephone:** 952-891-7001  
**Fax:** 952-891-7031  
**E-Mail:** al.singer@co.dakota.mn.us  
**Web Site:** www.co.dakota.mn.us

	Funding	Out-Year Projections of Needs		
<b>Funds Recommended (\$000s)</b>	<b>FY 2010</b>	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013
Outdoor Heritage Fund	<b>1,000,000</b>	0	0	0

**Summary** Summarize your project or program in 2-3 sentences.

The Dakota County Farmland and Natural Areas Program will protect over 350 acres of high quality wildlife habitat including 1.7 miles of Cannon River shoreline, 2.0 miles of Chub Creek and .70 miles of shoreline along Marcott Lake in Dakota County. Permanent conservation easements from willing landowners will be acquired and landowners will be required to complete natural resource management plans.

#### Background

Provide additional explanation of the recommended project or program. This information should be completed for all change items.

Dakota County has experienced significant residential growth over the last two decades and the most highly desirable location in suburban and rural areas are near rivers, lakes and relatively few remaining natural areas. In addition, the price of agricultural crops is placing intense pressure to reduce vegetated buffers, CRP land, etc. Though there may be a lull due to the economic downturn, there will be increased stresses placed on these areas in the future.

Dakota County, through the Farmland and Natural Areas Program (FNAP), has been protecting natural areas for wildlife habitat and water quality improvements outside of the regional park system since 2004. The County anticipates completing each of the easement acquisition projects, totaling a minimum of 350 acres, by June 30, 2011. As a condition of funding, a detailed natural resource management plan will be completed with County funds used to begin implementation. Activities will

be prioritized based upon respective sites, with some habitat improvement such as the removal of invasive species or the planting of native grasses taking place as early as 2010.

- ⇒ FNAP has had a very successful track record of working with landowners, multiple agencies and non-profit
- ⇒ Organizations and all levels of government in completing 50 projects since the program's inception. Townships
- ⇒ are involved in the initial support of rural land protection projects with formal resolutions and The City of Inver
- ⇒ Grove Heights is supportive of both projects located there. All funding decisions are reviewed by a Citizen
- ⇒ Advisory Committee and approved by the Dakota County Board of Commissioners.

**Relationship to the *Minnesota Conservation and Preservation Plan* and Other Published Resource Management Plans**

These projects are located in Dakota County where five different ecological subsections converge. The Statewide Conservation and Preservation Plan use several criteria for determining priority areas for habitat protection. Each of the proposed projects is located in zones from medium to high in importance for several of these criteria. These areas were originally identified in the Metro Greenprint. The projects are included in the respective Focus Areas of the adopted Metro Conservation Corridor Plan that has been used to direct millions of state and other funds for land protection, restoration and enhancement. Finally, these projects were included in the Dakota County Farmland and Natural Area Protection Plan adopted by the County Board and used as the basis for requesting citizens supporting a \$20 million referendum which was eventually approved in 2003.

**Budget** *Please describe how you intend to spend the recommended funds in the table below.*

Budget Item	Fiscal Year 10	Fiscal Year 11	Fiscal Year 12
Personnel	\$0	\$0	\$0
Contracts	\$0	\$0	\$0
Equipment/Tools/Supplies	\$0	\$0	\$0
Fee Acquisition	\$0	\$0	\$0
Easement Acquisition	\$1,000,000	\$0	\$0
Easement Stewardship	\$0	\$0	\$0
Travel	\$0	\$0	\$0
Additional Budget Items	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,000,000</b>		

**Personnel Details**

Title	Name	Amount.
None		

**Leverage**

Source of Leverage	Fiscal Year 10	Fiscal Year 11	Fiscal Year 12
Landowner donation	\$3,000,000		

<b>Dakota County</b>	\$1,150,000
<b>Natural Resources Conservation Service</b>	\$85,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	\$4,200,000

**Accomplishments:**

<b>Table 1 Accomplishments</b>	<b>Wetlands</b>	<b>Prairies</b>	<b>Forests</b>	<b>Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife</b>
<b>Restore</b>				<i>Protect over 350 acres of high quality oak woodlands, grasslands, wetlands and riparian habitat along nearly 4.5 miles of shoreline</i>
<b>Protect</b>				
<b>Enhance</b>				

<b>Table 2 Recommend Fund Allocation</b>	<b>Wetlands</b>	<b>Prairies</b>	<b>Forests</b>	<b>Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife</b>
<b>Restore</b>	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Protect</b>	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,000,000
<b>Enhance</b>	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

<b>Table 3 Counties Impacted</b>	<b>Wetlands</b>	<b>Prairies</b>	<b>Forests</b>	<b>Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife</b>
<b>Restore</b>				<i>Dakota</i>
<b>Protect</b>				
<b>Enhance</b>				

Table 4 Non-State Leveraged \$				Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
	Wetlands	Prairies	Forests	
Restore	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$3,200,000
Enhance	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

Table 5 Acquisition Data				Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
	Wetlands	Prairies	Forests	
Acquired in Fee with State PILT Liability	None	None	None	None
Acquired in Fee without State PILT Liability	None	None	None	None
Permanent Easement	None	None	None	350+ acres

**Accomplishment Time Table** Using the headings below, include a clear statement of how much of what is being accomplished and when. Attach a map showing where accomplishments are anticipated. Accomplishments should clearly restore, enhance or protect forests, wetlands, prairies and habitat for fish, game and wildlife.

Milestone	Date	Measure
<i>Protection along Chub Creek and adjacent to Chub Lake WMA</i>	<i>June 30, 2011</i>	<i>195 acres</i>
<i>Protection of 1.7 miles of Cannon River shoreline</i>	<i>June 30, 2011</i>	<i>35 acres</i>
<i>Protection of restored prairie and wetlands in headwaters of the South Branch of the Vermillion River</i>	<i>June 30, 2011</i>	<i>50 acres</i>
<i>Protection of upland habitat and Marcott Lake shoreline</i>	<i>June 30, 2011</i>	<i>110 acres</i>

**Relationship to Your Current Budget**

To date, Dakota County has committed or expended nearly \$14.5 million of the \$20 million in bond funds to permanently protect nearly 6,000 acres of land with a total value of over \$70 million. This proposed funding is a significant addition to the program budget. With the current land protection applications, there is not enough funding to complete all of the highest quality projects. This funding will augment but not replace currently available funding but allows us to expand land protection efforts and provide additional examples of the importance of having locally committed funds for land conservation projects. At the same time, these eight projects are easily within the capacity of the current staff to complete by the anticipated deadline.

**How Will the Habitat Improvements Be Sustained?**

Your use of Outdoor Heritage Funds needs to create lasting habitat improvement. Please describe how you plan to ensure lasting improvement and how you will finance that plan. If you are proposing easement acquisition explain how you will pay for perpetual easement stewardship.

Each of these easement projects will require a natural resource management plan with a prioritized work plan prior to acquisition with provisions to revise every five years. Each of the easements meets or exceeds the standards set by the Land Trust Alliance and includes an executed, baseline documentation Property Report to ensure compliance. The County already contracts with the Soils and Water Conservation to conduct annual monitoring reports signed by the landowner. All Easements are included in a recently developed and sophisticated Land Management Data Base. The County Attorney's Office is responsible for enforcing any significant easement violations. We are currently working on establishing a Stewardship Fund to provide additional incentives for landowner management activities.

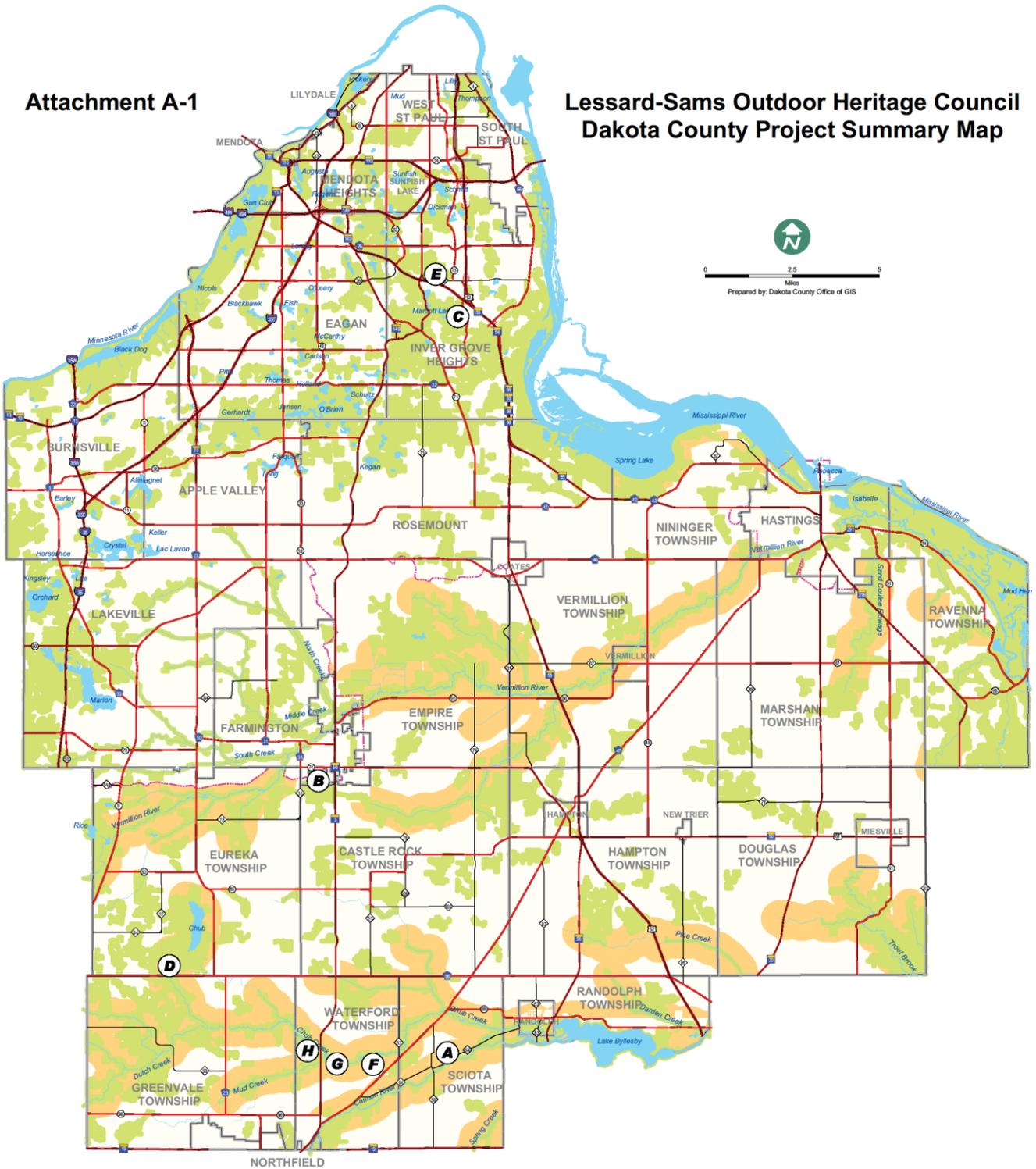
**Attachment A:**

***Dakota County Habitat Protection Projects***

<b><u>Name</u></b>	<b><u>Project Description</u></b>	<b><u>Location</u></b>
<b>A. Bakken</b>	<b><i>~35 acres and 1.7 miles of shoreline along the Cannon River</i></b>	<b><i>Sciota Township</i></b>
<b>B. Dakota County Fair Board</b>	<b><i>~50 acres of grasslands and wetlands adjacent to the headwaters of the South Branch of the Vermillion River</i></b>	<b><i>Castle Rock Township</i></b>
<b>C. Grannis/Lindberg</b>	<b><i>~70 acres of upland forest, grasslands, wetlands and .7 miles of Marcott Lake shoreline</i></b>	<b><i>Inver Grove Heights</i></b>
<b>D. Jennings</b>	<b><i>~105 acres along Chub Creek and adjacent to the Chub Lake Wildlife Management Area</i></b>	<b><i>Eureka Township</i></b>
<b>E. Malensek</b>	<b><i>~40 acres of forested upland, grasslands and wetlands</i></b>	<b><i>Inver Grove Heights</i></b>
<b>F. M/J Otte</b>	<b><i>~40 acres of grasslands and wetlands along .9 mile of Chub Creek</i></b>	<b><i>Waterford Township</i></b>
<b>G. Ozmun</b>	<b><i>~30 acres of grasslands and wetlands along</i></b>	<b><i>Waterford Township</i></b>
<b>H.</b>	<b><i>.75 miles of Chub Creek</i></b>	
<b>I. Wicklund</b>	<b><i>~20 acres of floodplain forest, grasslands and wetlands along .4 miles of Chub Creek</i></b>	<b><i>Waterford Township</i></b>

Attachment A-1

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council  
Dakota County Project Summary Map



**Lessard Outdoor Heritage Council**

**2009 Appropriation  
Accomplishment Plan**

**Project or Program Title: Lake Rebecca Water Quality Improvement Project**

**Date: March 11, 2009**

**Manager's Name: John M. Barten**

**Title: Director of Natural Resources Management**

**Mailing Address: 12615 County Road 9, Plymouth, MN 55441**

**Telephone: 763-694-7841**

**Fax: 763-557-4943**

**E-Mail: jbarten@threeriversparkdistrict.org**

**Web Site: www.threeriversparkdistrict.org**

Funds Recommended (\$000s)	Funding	Out-Year Projections of Needs		
	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013
Outdoor Heritage Fund	<b>450,000</b>	0	0	0

Summary : Our project will improve the water quality of Lake Rebecca in Lake Rebecca Park Reserve, and improve the fish habitat in the premier muskellunge brood stock lake in Minnesota. Water quality improvements will be achieved through a combination of management activities in the watershed to reduce phosphorus inflow to Lake Rebecca, control of the invasive species curly-leaf pondweed, stabilization of eroding shorelines, and application of alum (aluminum sulfate) to reduce internal phosphorus loading. The main objective is to reduce the in-lake phosphorus concentration to less than 40 ppb and thus improve lake water clarity and quality, and to enhance the growth of native plants both in the lake and along the shoreline

**Background**

Lake Rebecca is a 256-acre degraded lake located in Lake Rebecca Park Reserve, Hennepin County. Three Rivers Park District maintains a swimming beach, picnic areas, hike/bike trails, a boat launch, a boat rental facility, and two fishing piers in or adjacent to the lake. In addition, Lake Rebecca is utilized by the DNR as a muskellunge brood stock lake for egg collection. The lake is heavily used for pan fishing by minority populations, and for trophy muskellunge fishing. In 2008, Lake Rebecca was listed as an impaired waterbody by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency because of excessive phosphorus levels and poor water clarity. Seasonal algae blooms cause “pea-soup” green conditions in the lake, periodically resulting in fish mortality (Over 30 and six bass died in 2007 from low dissolved oxygen levels) as dissolved oxygen levels decline when algae populations

die back. Algae blooms are so severe that Three Rivers Park District must isolate the swimming facility from the main lake with a beach curtain in order to provide swimming to park guests.

Three Rivers Park District proposes to implement the water quality improvement program beginning in 2009. The Park District plans to initiate the Curly-leaf pondweed control program in 2009. The alum treatment will occur after Curly-leaf pondweed control in order to ensure successful application. Shoreline stabilization practices will be implemented in 2010. These activities will reduce phosphorus inflow to the lake and reduce internal recycling of phosphorus. Reducing the in-lake phosphorus concentration will improve water clarity which, along with control of invasive plant species in the lake, will enhance the growth of native plant communities. Improved water clarity, reduced algae growth, and increase native plant growth will provide improved habitat for fish. In particular, sight feeders such as muskies and bass will benefit from improved water clarity. In addition, the fish will experience reduced mortality because of improved dissolved oxygen conditions in the lake.

If this item is funded, the lake will experience improved clarity and replacement of invasive plants with native plant populations. Because the Park District owns the entire lake shoreline, we can eliminate herbicide applications along the majority of shoreline and protect native plant populations. In addition, the Park District can protect and enhance shoreline buffer areas along the lake shoreline. The Park District has been collecting water quality data on Lake Rebecca for over 10 years. Based on that data, water quality improvements are anticipated to occur within a year of initiation of the curly-leaf pondweed control program. Growth response by native plants is expected to occur within two years. Ultimate water quality goals will be achieved following the alum treatment. The proposed management practices are proven technologies and have been used in other programs. Therefore the project has a very high likelihood of success.

Three Rivers Park District works very closely with the local landowners, municipalities and watershed management organization to plan and implement water quality management programs. The decisions of these organizations can affect positively or negatively the expected impact of the proposed improvement program. The Park District believes that the cooperative relationships it has developed with these organizations will lead to decisions that support the Park District efforts. The Pioneer-Sarah Creek WMO has adopted a “non-degradation” policy to ensure long term protection of water resources.

### **Relationship to the *Minnesota Conservation and Preservation Plan* and Other Published Resource Management Plans**

Pioneer-Sarah Creek Watershed Management Commission Watershed Management Plan – List Lake Rebecca water quality improvement as a High Priority.

Three Rivers Park District Water Resources Management Plan – Lists Lake Rebecca improvement plan as a High Priority.

This proposal helps to implement Habitat Recommendation #6, “Protect and restore critical in-water habitat of lakes and streams” of the MN Conservation and Preservation Plan. As indicated above, Lake Rebecca serves as a critical muskie rearing lake for Minnesota, and implementation of this project will enhance the fish habitat in the lake.



<b>Table 2 Recommend Fund Allocation</b>	<b>Wetlands</b>	<b>Prairies</b>	<b>Forests</b>	<b>Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife</b>
<b>Restore</b>				<i>\$450,000</i>
<b>Protect</b>				
<b>Enhance</b>				

<b>Table 3 Counties Impacted</b>	<b>Wetlands</b>	<b>Prairies</b>	<b>Forests</b>	<b>Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife</b>
<b>Restore</b>				<i>Hennepin</i>
<b>Protect</b>				
<b>Enhance</b>				

<b>Table 4 Non-State Leverage \$</b>	<b>Wetlands</b>	<b>Prairies</b>	<b>Forests</b>	<b>Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife</b>
<b>Restore</b>				<i>\$40,000</i>
<b>Protect</b>				<i>\$20,000</i>
<b>Enhance</b>				

<b>Table 5 Acquisition Data</b>	<b>Wetlands</b>	<b>Prairies</b>	<b>Forests</b>	<b>Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife</b>
<b>Acquired in Fee with State PILT Liability</b>				
<b>Acquired in Fee without State PILT Liability</b>				
<b>Permanent Easement</b>				

**Accomplishment Time Table** Using the headings below, include a clear statement of how much of what is being accomplished and when. Attach a map showing where accomplishments are anticipated. Accomplishments should clearly restore, enhance or protect forests, wetlands, prairies and habitat for fish, game and wildlife.

<b>Milestone</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Measure</b>
<i>Restore eroding shoreline</i>	<i>Fall FY 2010</i>	<i>500 feet</i>
<i>Control curly-leaf pondweed in Lake Rebecca</i>	<i>Spring FY 2010</i>	<i>120 acres</i>
<i>Restore native plant community in Lake Rebecca</i>	<i>Fall FY 2011</i>	<i>120 acres</i>
<i>Complete alum treatment to restore water clarity</i>	<i>Fall FY 2011</i>	<i>250 acres</i>

**Relationship to Your Current Budget**

The Three Rivers Park District annual water resources management budget totals approximately \$214,000. The majority of these funds are allocated to monitoring and operational management functions. The funds would provide the capital dollars needed to effectively meet the goals of the water quality plan for this lake. This funding would supplement the existing budget and allow implementation of the water quality improvement plan.

**How Will the Habitat Improvements Be Sustained?**

As part of the Regional Park System, Lake Rebecca is within the operations of Three Rivers Park District. Long term protection of this resource will be included in the Park District operating and capital budgets.

**Lake Rebecca Water Quality Improvement Project,**

**Hennepin County**



## Lessard Outdoor Heritage Council

### 2009 Appropriation Accomplishment Plan

**Project or Program Title: Shell Rock River Watershed Fish Barriers and Habitat**

**Date: 6-10-2009**

**Manager's Name: Brett Behnke**

**Title: District Administrator**

**Mailing Address: 411 S. Broadway, Albert Lea, MN 56007**

**Telephone: 507-377-5785**

**Fax: 507-377-4494**

**E-Mail: [brett.behnke@co.freeborn.mn.us](mailto:brett.behnke@co.freeborn.mn.us)**

**Web Site: [www.shellrock.org](http://www.shellrock.org)**

Funds Recommended (\$000s)	Funding	Out-Year Projections of Needs		
	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013
Outdoor Heritage Fund	<b>\$655,000</b>	0	0	0

**Summary** Summarize your project or program in 2-3 sentences. Typically, the paragraph should start with "Our program will." and follow with the impact on forests, wetlands, prairies or habitat for fish, game and wildlife. Then continue with methods for achieving the promised impacts

Our program will install fish barriers at (3) three locations on in the Watershed District to exclude carp and other rough fish that destroy fish habits and aquatic vegetation and stir-up phosphorous rich sediments that cause algal blooms and cause water quality impairments. The project will allow for effective carp control in an effort to improve fish habitat, fish spawning and habitat for waterfowl and other wildlife. Improving the fish habitat has a clear and measurable residual value in improving water quality and aquatic vegetation. These projects are provide for in the District's Ten year plan and complement the work completed on the Edgewater Land-fill project and provide a crucial step in the overall lake management of Fountain Lake and Albert Lea Lake.

### Background

- The District's Chain of Lakes are highly visible, heavily used urban lake that forms the center of the City of Albert Lea. Albert Lea, population 18,356 (2000 Census) is the Freeborn County Seat. The Chain of Lakes in these projects forms the upper headwater area of the Shell Rock River Watershed. The District is the headwater for the impaired waters of the Shell Rock River, which eventually drains into the Mississippi River.
- The Shell Rock River Watershed District (SRRWD) Clean Water Initiative encompasses 246 square miles in Freeborn County and includes 11 lakes that drain to the Shell Rock River which flows into the Cedar River. Water Quality in many of the lakes and waterways is poor due to high turbidity largely caused by carp.

- Water quality in this Chain of Lakes has been assessed to be poor due to high turbidity, excessive nutrients and the lack of rooted aquatic vegetation resulting in algal blooms, oxygen depletion and water quality impairments... Studies conducted in similar shallow lakes and fish population assessments in these lakes have shown that high populations of Common Carp (*Cyprinus carpio*), other carp species and bottom feeding rough fish consume rooted aquatic vegetation, stir up phosphorous rich sediments and increase turbidity, reduce light penetration and cause algal blooms responsible for oxygen depletion. Assessments of these lake's carp population has determined that the large population of foraging rough fish is detrimental to the ecology of the lake having adverse affects on shoreline and littoral habitat for destroying hydrophytic vegetation, game fish spawning habitat, waterfowl nesting, breeding and feeding habitat and is adversely affecting fish, migratory bird and waterfowl, mammal and invertebrate populations in the entire area.
- The project proposes to control carp by preventing upstream and downstream migration of the fish by installing fish barriers. The SRRWD project would install
  - Electrical fish barriers at the two inlets for Fountain Lake located at the Wedge Creek inlet and White Lake inlet.
  - Install a mechanical fish barrier at the outlet of Fountain Lake in Downtown Albert Lea.
- Controlling the carp population will also enhance the fisheries of the lakes. The increase in nutrients and algal growth caused by the actions of carp can cause the bottom waters of lakes to lose oxygen during both the summer and winter months. This can cause stress in native fish species and even fish kills where entire populations are destroyed. Controlling the carp population can help reduce the stress on the native fish species.
- Upon installation of the barriers, a treatment will be applied and water clarity will increase from a few inches to meters. The lake will then be stocked with game fish.
- The Fountain Lake Fish Barriers will complement similar fish barriers installed in 2008 on Mud Lake, up-gradient of Fountain lake
- The anticipated outcomes will restore and enhance the water quality, rooted aquatic vegetation, fish and wildlife habitat and will increase and enhance the community use of this important recreational resource in the center of Albert Lea. The strategy of carp/rough fish control and exclusion is known to be effective and is a program endorsed and being conducted with technical assistance and in cooperation with the DNR Fishery and Wildlife Divisions and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.
  - The fish barriers will be installed in cooperation with the City of Albert Lea and Minnesota Department of Natural Resources efforts to eradicate the existing carp population and re-introduce game fish (sunfish, crappie, bass, and northerns).
  - Water quality improvements and habitat restoration and enhancements are anticipated as soon as the carp are eradicated and prevented from re-entering Fountain Lake. Visible and measurable effects are anticipated within two to three years.
- Fountain Lake has public access and is open to public fishing, hunting and trapping during the regular open seasons.
- The fish barrier project has been identified as a high priority in the SRRWD Management Plan, a plan developed with public participation and subject to public review and approval by the SRRWD Board. There are no known opponents or anticipated barriers to completion of the project. The project will be highly visible and is seen as a benefit to the entire community.

**Relationship to the *Minnesota Conservation and Preservation Plan* and Other Published Resource Management Plans**

There are several State plans that these projects fall under:

- The Minnesota Conservation and Preservation Plan provisions that address the control of invasive species, the restoration of shallow lakes, water quality improvements in impaired waters and the protection and enhancement of fish and waterfowl breeding habitat.
- The Shell Rock River Watershed Management Plan, approved by BWSR, addresses these projects as a top priority.
- The MNDNR Invasive Species Control Program
- These projects are within the stated goals of the Basin Alliance for the Lower Mississippi in Minnesota (BALMM).
- Endorsed by local Chamber of Commerce and Sportsmen's groups.

### Budget

Budget Item	Fiscal Year 10	Fiscal Year 11	Fiscal Year 12
Personnel	\$50,000		
Contracts	\$671,000		
Equipment/Tools/Supplies	\$145,000		
Fee Acquisition	\$ 25,000		
Easement Acquisition	\$ 75,000		
Easement Stewardship			
Travel			
Additional Budget Items			
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$966,000</b>		

### Personnel Details

Title	Name	Amount.
Conservation Technician		.8 FTE
Administration and Project Manager		.2 FTE
Temporary Construction Jobs		20

### Leverage

Source of Leverage	Fiscal Year 10	Fiscal Year 11	Fiscal Year 12
Local Option Sales Tax – available in 2009	\$311,000		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$311,000</b>		

**Accomplishments:**

<b>Table 1 Accomplish- ments</b>	<b>Wetlands</b>	<b>Prairies</b>	<b>Forests</b>	<b>Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife</b>
<b>Restore</b>				Restore 3 Shallow lakes and improve lake management for the entire Shell Rock River Watershed.
<b>Protect</b>				Protect 20 miles of habitat buffers along streams
<b>Enhance</b>				Enhance the fish habitat and vegetation by reducing the rough fish population and introducing game fish and favorable acquatics

<b>Table 2 Recommend Fund Allocation</b>	<b>Wetlands</b>	<b>Prairies</b>	<b>Forests</b>	<b>Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife</b>
<b>Restore</b>				\$300,000
<b>Protect</b>				\$155,000
<b>Enhance</b>				\$200,000

<b>Table 3 Counties Impacted</b>	<b>Wetlands</b>	<b>Prairies</b>	<b>Forests</b>	<b>Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife</b>
<b>Restore</b>				Freeborn
<b>Protect</b>				Freeborn
<b>Enhance</b>				Freeborn

<b>Table 4 Non-State Leverage \$</b>	<b>Wetlands</b>	<b>Prairies</b>	<b>Forests</b>	<b>Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife</b>
<b>Restore</b>				\$211,000
<b>Protect</b>				
<b>Enhance</b>				\$100,000

<b>Table 5 Acquisition Data</b>	<b>Wetlands</b>	<b>Prairies</b>	<b>Forests</b>	<b>Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife</b>
<b>Acquired in Fee with State PILT Liability</b>				
<b>Acquired in Fee without State PILT Liability</b>				\$75,000
<b>Permanent Easement</b>				\$25,000

### **Accomplishment Time Table .**

<b>Milestone</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Measure</b>
Project Design	Completed	
Landowner Negotiation	Completed	
Final Site Design	July 1, 2009	
Groundbreaking	August 1, 2009	
Fish Barrier and Habitat Construction	Fall 2009	
Lake Treatment and Restocking	Winter/Spring 2009-2010	

### **Relationship to Your Current Budget**

The District Currently operates under a \$2 million annual budget and has the matching funds available.

The District had budgeted funds for a small portion of the overall proposed project and wishes to leverage these limited funds to complete the entire Fish Barrier and Habitat Project that is being proposed.

#### **How Will the Habitat Improvements Be Sustained?**

The proposed projects are LONG-TERM. By controlling the fish habitat at the top of the watershed through complete eradication of the invasive species, these projects provide lasting improvements. The Watershed District is a permanent municipality, funded through property taxes that will allow for continued maintenance and management of these benefits.

The District is a permanent municipality, subject to annual independent audits, with a proven track record of successfully constructing and maintaining projects.

The District has a regular and permanent source of funding through local property taxes.

**Attach:**

**12) A list of your projects showing their county location and**

**13) On the attached eight and a half by eleven map of Minnesota show counties each project as a dot.**

**14)**

**Exhibit 1 = Fountain Lake Fish Barrier**

1. Resolution 2009-03 – Initiates project.
2. Feasibility Study

**Exhibit 2 = Wedge Creek Fish Barrier**

1. Resolution 2009-04 – Initiates project.
2. Feasibility Study

**Exhibit 3 = White Lake Fish Barrier**

1. Resolution 2009-02 - Initiates
2. Feasibility Study

