

Statewide Resource and Species Plans

*Guide for Restoring, Protecting, and Enhancing
Wetlands, Prairies, Forests,
and Game, Fish, and Wildlife Habitat*

- Part 1 -



Lessard Outdoor
Heritage Council

Dave Schad, DNR Director of
Fish and Wildlife

January 26, 2009

WMA Plan/Program

Minnesota's Wildlife Management Area Acquisition -The Next 50 Years-

Habitat is the Key

**Report to the Department of Natural Resources,
the Wildlife Roundtable, Legislature, and
the Citizens of Minnesota**

**by
The Citizens' Advisory Committee
December 2002**

Lance Ness (Chairman) – Fish & Wildlife Legislative Alliance
Kevin Auslund – Game and Fish Coalition
Corey Class - Minnesota Deer Hunters Association
Matt Holland - Pheasants Forever
Gabe Horner - The Nature Conservancy
Mike LaFleur – Izaak Walton League
Kevin Lines - Board of Soil & Water Resources
Mike McGinty - Minnesota Waterfowl Association
Gordon Meyer - Minnesota Conservation Federation
Jane Prohaska - Minnesota Land Trust
Susan Schmidt - Trust for Public Land

(Revised 12-30-02)

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Gabe Horner, The Nature Conservancy

Mike LaFleur, Izaak Walton League

Kevin Lines, Board of Water and Soil Resources

Mike McGinty, MN Waterfowl Association

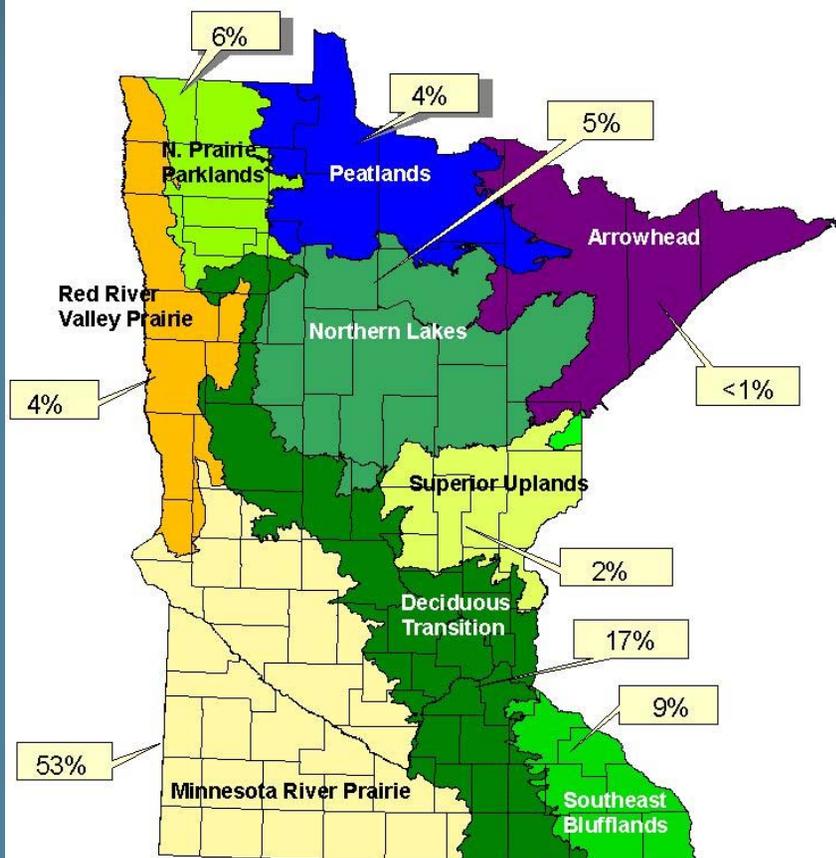
Gordon Meyer, MN Conservation Federation

Jane Prohaska, MN Land Trust

Susan Schmidt, Trust for Public Land

WMA Plan/Program

WMA Acquisition by Ecological Section *



*Based on WMA acquisition goal recommendations by ecological section in the Citizen's Advisory Committee Report entitled "Minnesota's Wildlife Management Area Acquisition - The Next 50 Years" dated December 2002



WMA Plan Objectives:

- Long-term: 702,200 acres between 2002 – 2052
- Short-term: 21,000 acres/year between 2002 – 2012 (\cong \$56,700,000/year using 2008 average costs)

WMA Plan/Program

Priority Directives – Biennial WMA Acquisition Plan

- 1. Increase the number of high quality prairie wetland/grassland complexes.*
- 2. Acquisitions that protect and improve shallow lakes, seasonally flooded wetlands, restorable wetland basins, and other key waterfowl habitat.*
- 3. Public/private collaborative acquisition opportunities.*
- 4. Acquisitions that expand existing state and other public lands and protect critical corridors and larger blocks of habitat.*
- 5. Critical wildlife habitat threatened with development or other uses.*
- 6. Tracts within or adjacent to approved WMA projects where acquisition has already occurred.*
- 7. Protect critical habitat for endangered, threatened, and rare species and high quality plant communities.*



WMA Plan/Program

Expenditure History

Fiscal Year	Acres Acquired	Acres Purchased	Cost	Average Cost/Acre	Acres Donated
2003	3,273	1,210	\$1,518,075	\$1,254	2,063
2004	4,116	2,390	\$2,946,873	\$1,233	1,726
2005	4,061	1,635	\$2,647,359	\$1,619	2,426
2006	4,744	3,693	\$7,093,103	\$1,921	1,051
2007	6,403	4,730	\$13,010,916	\$2,751	1,673
2008	6,482	4,440	\$12,094,090	\$2,724	2,042
Totals	29,079	18,098	\$39,310,416		10,981



WMA Plan/Program

Priority Parcels - Current Willing Sellers, Process Started

FY2010: 6 units

1,042 acres

≅ \$6,000,000

Priority Parcels - Current Willing Sellers

FY2010: 75 units,

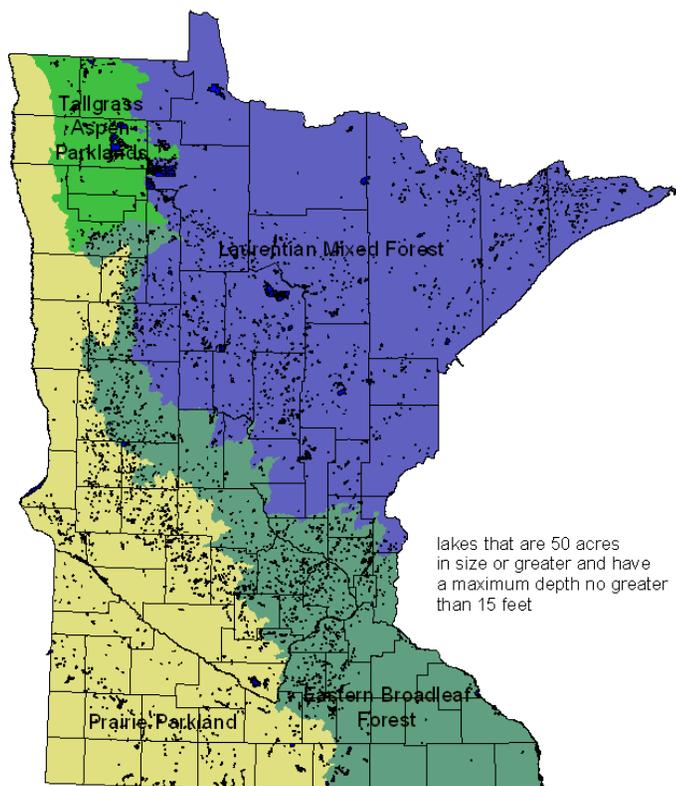
12,200 acres

≅ \$38,000,000



Shallow Lakes Program

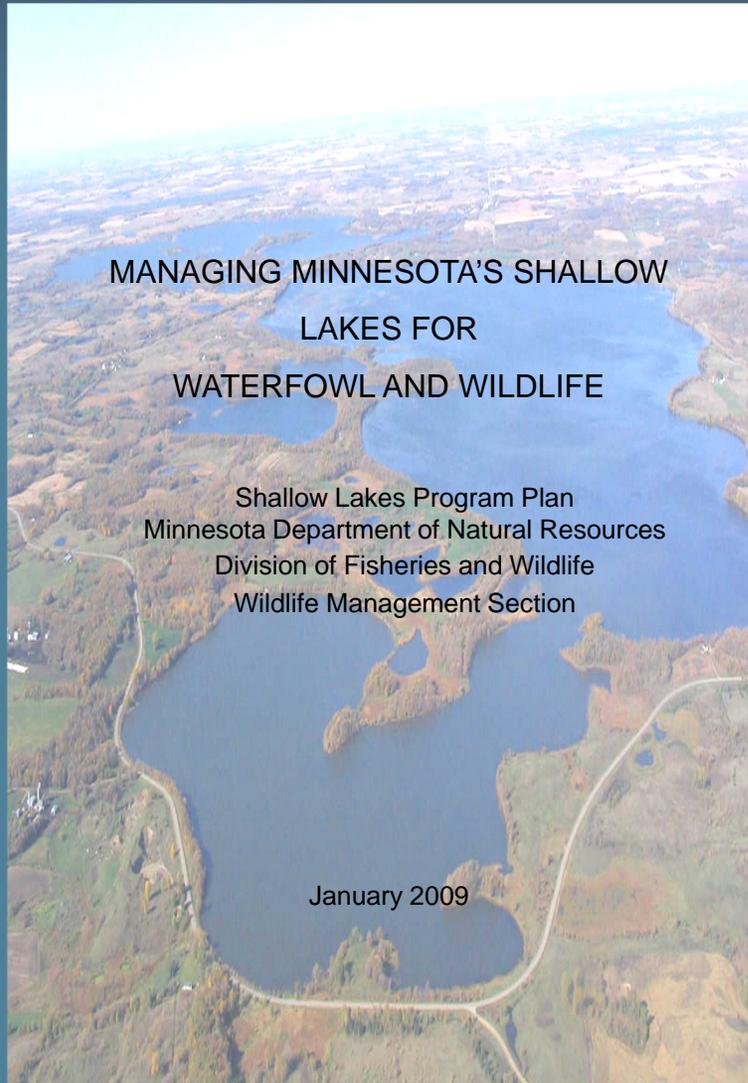
Shallow Lakes in Minnesota



Shallow Lake Characteristics

- Maximum depth 15 feet
- 50 acres or greater in size
- 4,000 shallow lakes statewide
- Provide valuable wildlife habitat as well as other values such as wild rice, waterfowl hunting opportunities

Shallow Lakes Program



SHALLOW LAKES PROGRAM PLAN

- Planning initiated in 2006 following approval of Duck Recovery Plan
- Public review scheduled for February 2009
- Completion expected in 2009
- Stakeholders invited for plan development:
 - Ducks Unlimited
 - Minnesota Waterfowl Association
 - US Fish and Wildlife Service

Shallow Lakes Program

Duck Plan & Shallow Lakes Program Objectives

- 1. Assess habitat conditions of Minnesota's shallow lakes***
- 2. Maximize management of all 147 shallow lakes within WMAs, WPAs, and NWRs and DWLs***
- 3. Maximize management of the 1,715 shallow lakes with a portion of their shorelines under public ownership***
- 4. Increase wildlife management of the 244 shallow lakes with public access, but no other large tracts of public land, especially Migratory Waterfowl Feeding and Resting Areas, and***
- 5. Increase awareness of the historic, cultural and habitat importance of wild rice and protect lakes containing natural stands of wild rice.***



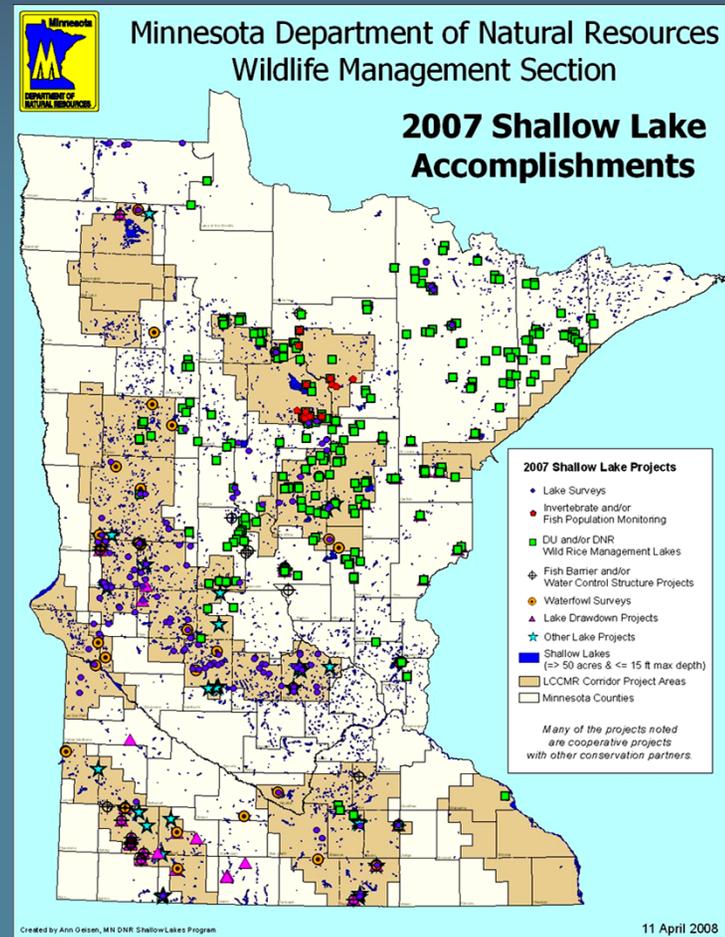
Shallow Lakes Program

Current Implementation

- >100 habitat surveys
- 40 Designated Wildlife Lakes
- 237 wild rice lakes managed
- Construction or repair of >30 water control structure/fish barriers

Partners

- Ducks Unlimited
- Minnesota Waterfowl Assn.
- Lakes associations
- Watershed districts



Shallow Lakes Program

Ready for Implementation

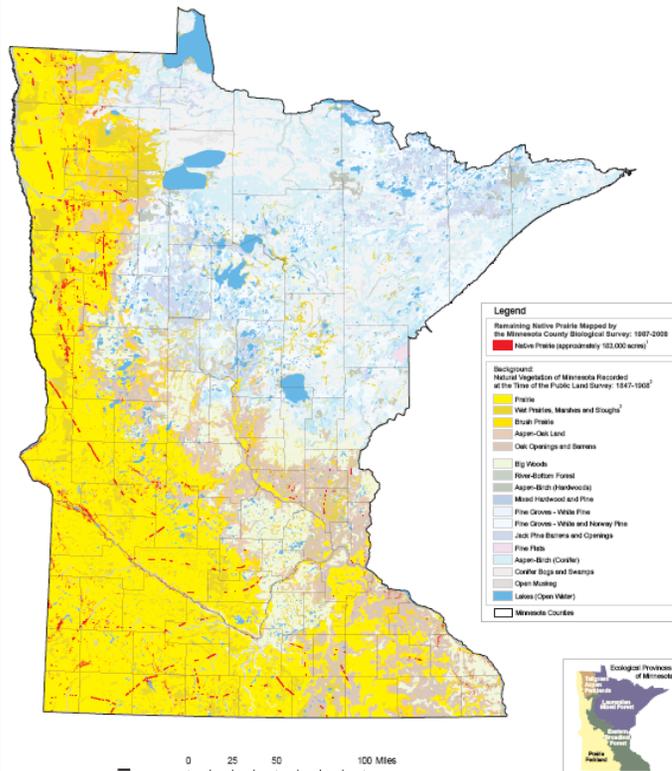
- Assessment of current conditions on 100 lakes
- Completion of 15 lake management plans
- Designate 3 additional lakes
- Complete lakeshed mapping of WMA / WPA lakes
- 10 new water control structures / fish barriers



Native Prairie Bank Conservation Easement Program

Minnesota's Remaining Native Prairie 100 Years After the Public Land Survey

Native Prairie Recorded 1847-1908 (Shown in Yellows and Tans)
Remaining Native Prairie Mapped 1987-2008 (Shown in Red)



¹ Prairies mapped by the Minnesota County Biological Survey (MCBS) as of December, 2008. Some of the prairies represented on this map may have been destroyed since the time of their documentation by MCBS. Mapping of native prairies by MCBS is in progress in the following counties and will be completed by 2010: Dodge, Faribault, Freeborn, Mower, Nobles, Roseau, Steele, Wadena, and Wabasha.

² Adapted from Marchetti, F.J. 1974. The original vegetation of Minnesota, compiled from U.S. General Land Office Survey notes (map) 1:500,000. Redrafted from the 1930 original by P.J. Burwell and S.J. Hays under the direction of M.L. Haselmeier, St. Paul North Central Forest Experiment Station, United States Department of Agriculture.

³ The Laurentian Mixed Forest Province, this category mainly comprises marshes and sloughs. If wet prairies were present in the province, they were uncommon and likely restricted to western and southern regions bordering the Tallgrass Aspen Parklands and Eastern Broadleaf Forest provinces.

GIS data for many of the native prairies depicted on this map are available in shapefile format as "MCBS Native Plant Communities" and "MCBS Railroad Rights-of-Way Prairies" on the DNR's data site at <http://data.dnr.state.mn.us/vegetation/>. Information on MCBS procedures for mapping Minnesota's prairies and other native plant communities is available at <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/vegetation/index.html>.



180,000 acres of native prairie remain

95,000 acres remain unprotected

35,000 acres are highest quality (potential SNA sites)

Opportunities for protection as WMA, Prairie Bank, Park, or WPA units

Statewide Resource and Species Plans

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- Part 2 -



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Heritage Council

Dave Schad, DNR Director of
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January 26, 2009

AMA Plan/Program

**Minnesota's Aquatic Management Area
Acquisition Plan
2008–2033**

**Shoreline Habitat, Angling, and Clean Water
For Our Future**

Report to
Department of Natural Resources
Division of Fish and Wildlife



by
The Aquatic Management Area Acquisition Planning Committee
October 2007

Kristen Blann, The Nature Conservancy
(Co-Chairperson)

Gary Botzek, Minnesota Conservation Federation

Kevin Brennan, USFWS, Fergus Falls Wetland District

Roger Goeschel, Minnesota Outdoors Heritage Alliance

Todd Holman, The Nature Conservancy

Steve Klotz, Lanesboro Area Fisheries Supervisor

Robert McGillivray, Minnesota Waters and Trust for Public Land

Doug Payne, Leech Lake Watershed Area Foundation

Jane Prohaska, Minnesota Land Trust

Mark Reisetter, Trout Unlimited, Win-Cres Chapter

Susan Schmidt, Trust for Public Land

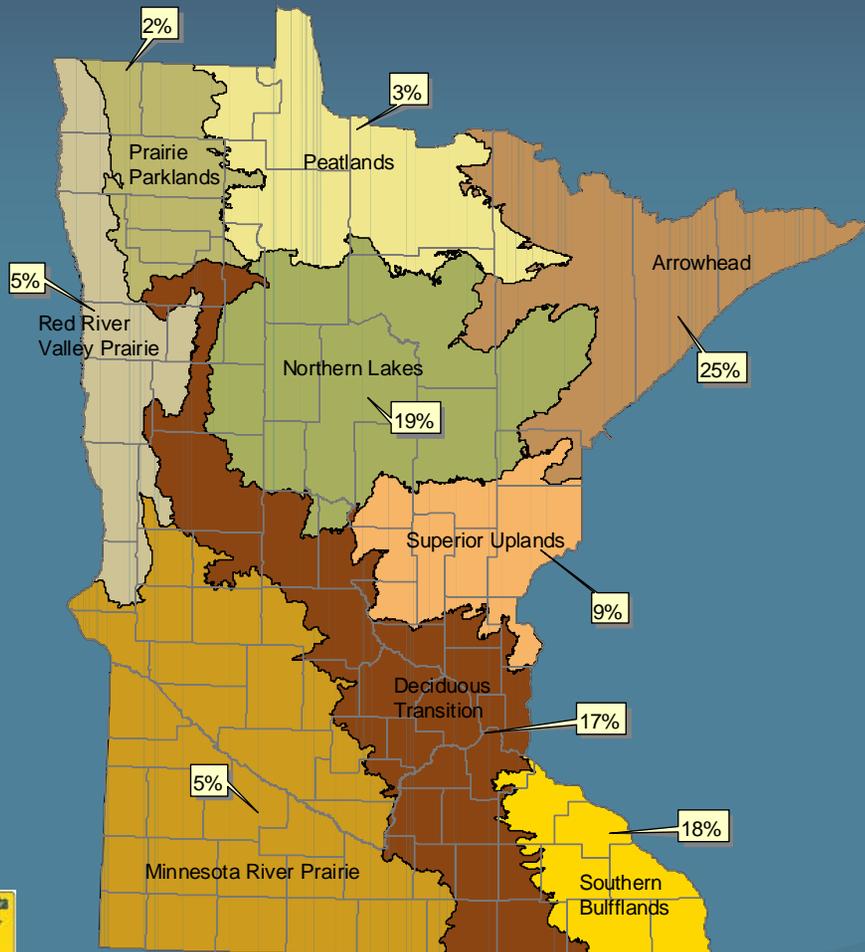
Burt Scripture, Northerns Inc

Dan Steward, Board of Water and Soil Resources

Dave Thompson, Resort Owner (Co-Chairperson)

AMA Plan/Program

AMA Acquisition by Ecological Section*



* Based on AMA acquisition goal recommendations by ecological section in the Aquatic Management Area Acquisition Planning Committee Report entitled "Minnesota's Aquatic Management Area Acquisition Plan 2008 - 2033"

Short-term cold water:

1,000 miles between 2008 – 2017
(\cong \$100,000,000)

Long-term cold water:

1,500 miles between 2018 – 2032
(\cong \$49,500,000)

Short-term lake & warm water:

750 miles between 2008 – 2017
(\cong \$250,000,000)

Long-term lake & warm water:

1,100 miles between 2008 – 2033
(\cong \$115,500,000)

AMA Plan/Program

Principles for AMA Acquisition Recommendations

- 1. Protect riparian habitat and prevent habitat degradation from inappropriate or excessive development*
- 2. Provide access for angling and nonmotorized recreation*
- 3. Efficient and effective acquisition processes and education for potential sellers*
- 4. Partnerships with nonprofit organizations, government agencies, and stakeholder groups*



AMA Plan/Program History

Expenditure History

Fiscal Year	Miles Acquired	Miles Purchased	DNR Cost/Mile	Miles Donated	Total Value/Mile
2003	21.41	16.89	\$166,615	4.52	\$211,231
2004	11.81	6.89	\$172,597	4.92	\$295,796
2005	10.46	4.84	\$180,733	5.62	\$390,495
2006	11.62	7.21	\$164,937	4.40	\$265,630
2007	8.00	6.27	\$593,709	1.73	\$757,407
2008	8.42	4.81	\$185,231	3.60	\$323,875
2009	12.40	4.91	\$174,386	7.49	\$440,536
Totals	84.12	51.83		32.29	



AMA Plan/Program

Priority Parcels - Current Willing Sellers, Process Started

FY2010: 10 units

8.5 miles or 1,235 acres

≅ \$6,000,000

Priority Parcels - Current Willing Sellers

FY2010: 60 units

90 miles or 5,250 acres

≅ \$15,000,000



Pheasant Plan

Long Range Plan For The Ring-necked Pheasant In Minnesota



**Approved
March 8th, 2005**

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

Finalized in 2005 in cooperation
with Pheasants Forever

Pheasant Plan

Plan Goals – Sufficient Habitat by 2025 to Support:

Fall population: 3,000,000 birds

Fall harvest: 750,000 roosters

Expand reproductive habitat by 330,000 acres

Hunters: 175,000

Hunter days: 1,000,000

Average annual retail purchases: \$45,000,000



Pheasant Plan

Plan Goals – Sufficient Habitat by 2008 to Support:

Fall population: 2,000,000 birds

Fall harvest: 450,000 roosters (2007 = slightly less than 700,000 according to Small Game Hunter survey)

Expand reproductive habitat by 330,000 acres (pre-expiring CRP goal)

Hunters: 125,000 (2007 = 118,000 hunters) according to Small Game Hunter survey)

Support conservation provisions of Federal Farm Bill



Pheasant Plan

Plan Goals – Current and Impending Challenges

1.77 million acres of CRP as of 8/30/2008

- 390,160 acres expire 9/30/2008
- 260,886 acres expire 9/30/2009
- 75,587 acres expire 9/30/2010



Duck Recovery Plan



Long Range Duck
Recovery Plan 2006



Stakeholders involved in
developing plan (2006)

- USFWS
- BWSR
- PCA
- Ducks Unlimited
- Delta Waterfowl
- MN Waterfowl Association
- MN Conservation Federation
- Izaak Walton League
- Pheasants Forever
- The Nature Conservancy

Duck Recovery Plan

Plan Objectives for 2056

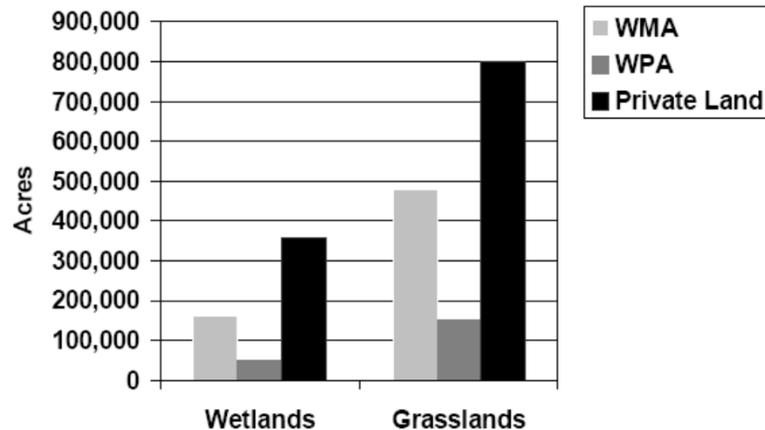


Figure 12. Projected ownership of additional habitat needed to support a productive breeding population of 1 million ducks. WMA signifies state owned wildlife management areas, WPA is federally owned waterfowl production areas, and Private Land is privately owned land under long-term habitat protection agreements.



Breeding duck population - 1,000,000 birds (2008 = 740,000 excluding scaup)

Fall population – 1,400,000 birds

Waterfowl hunters - 140,000 (2007 = 87,000 according to Small Game Hunter survey)

Waterfowl watchers - 600,000

Protect, enhance and manage 1,800 shallow lakes

Protection and restoration - 2 million additional acres in wetland/grassland habitat complexes

Duck Recovery Plan

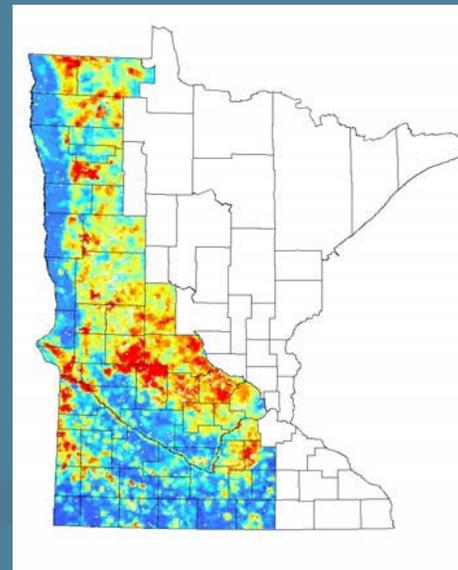
What is a habitat complex?

- Minimum 4 sq. miles
- 20% wetland with half seasonal wetlands
- 40% grassland



Habitat Complex Objectives

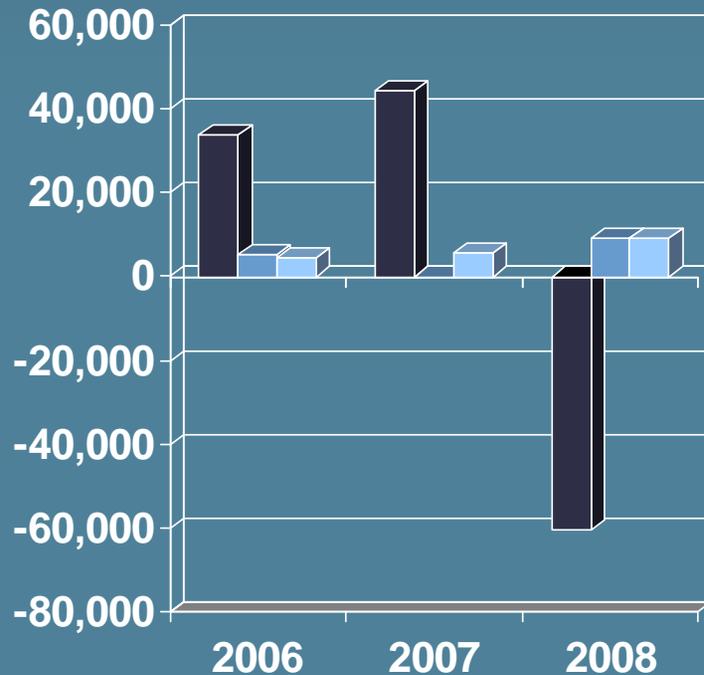
- Wetland/grassland complexes – 2 million additional acres
- 30% wetlands – 600,000 acres
- 70% grasslands – 1,400,000 acres



Priority Prairie Wetland
Habitat Areas
(USFWS)

Duck Recovery Plan

Habitat Accomplishments



Habitat Change (acres)	2006	2007	2008
Farm Program	33,773	44,219	-60,379
USFWS	5,102	0	9,134
WMA	4,484	5,784	9,028
Total	43,359	50,003	-42,219

■ Farm Program
■ USFWS
■ WMA

Source: BWSR Conservation Summary



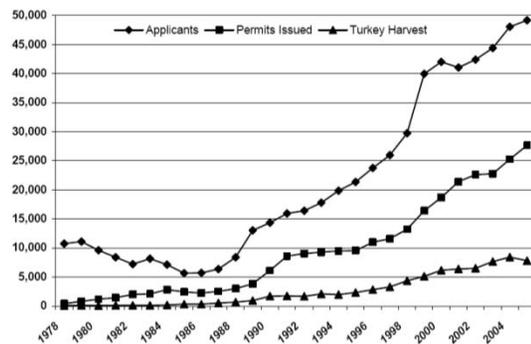
Turkey Plan

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

Long Range Plan For The Wild Turkey In Minnesota



Minnesota Spring Wild Turkey Information



Finalized in 2006 in cooperation with:

National Wild Turkey Federation

Fond du Lac Band

Mille Lacs Band

White Earth Reservation

Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife
Commission

Turkey Plan

Plan Goals for 2025

Spring hunting permits: 50,000 (2008 = 36,000 permits)

Hunting success rate: > 20% (2008 = 34%)

Hunter interference rate: < 40% (2008 = less than 10%)

Statewide turkey population: > 100,000 birds.

Habitat: Wooded and agricultural landscapes with adequate conservation of mature timber

Average hunter expenditures: > \$60,000,000 annually



Turkey Plan

Habitat Objectives

Native woody cover/shrub plantings with emphasis on winter fruit bearing species

Oak savannah management

Oak management

Streamside corridor development and maintenance (woody vegetation)

Food plot establishment (?)

Leverage other funds to acquire turkey habitat in fee title or perpetual easement



Species Plans in Progress

- Ruffed Grouse Management Plan (completion 2009)
- Moose Management and Research Plan (completion 2009)
- Elk Management Plan (completion 2009)



Local/Regional Plans

Red River of the North Fisheries Management Plan



Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
North Dakota Game and Fish Department
Manitoba Water Stewardship
South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks

April 2008 - 2012

- Strategic Plan for Coldwater Resources in Southeast Minnesota 2004 – 2015
- Red River of North Fisheries Management Plan
- Fisheries Management Plan for Minnesota Waters of Lake Superior
 - National Fish Habitat Planning
 - Midwest Glacial Lakes Partnership
- Driftless Area Restoration Area
- Watershed Plans
- Individual Lake Plans
- Individual WMA/AMA management plans