

WMA and AMA Programs

Implementation of Public Land Development Programs



Lessard Outdoor
Heritage Council

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Management Chief

January 26, 2009

Minnesota's WMA/AMA Land Acquisition Program



DOMESTICATED
DAUGHTER
DREN, ELMO
ND TOM &
CQUIRED
ELA RANCH
DEDICATED
ATION ←

WMA/AMA Acquisition Process



Buying land for fish & wildlife

- Habitat
- Willing Seller
- Funding
- County Board Approval-
 - for WMA and RIM
MATCH purchases



WMA/AMA Land Acquisition Process

Start

M.S. 84.0274

Willing Seller

Bill of Rights Letter

Fact Sheet

Region

Division

Appraisal/Review

Negotiate

Option

County Board
Approval

Title Opinion

Deed recorded
Landowner paid

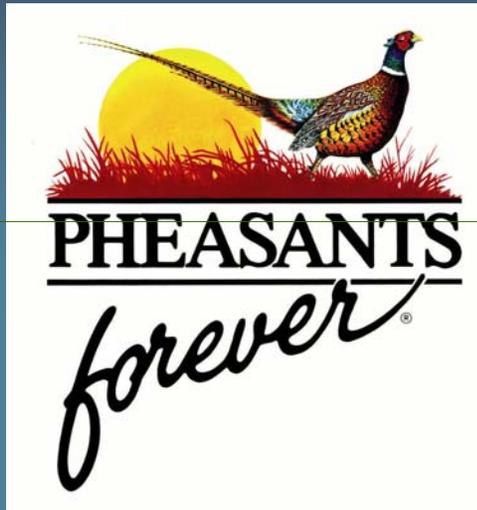
Finish

9-12 months
(no survey)

M.S. 97A.145



PRIVATE – STATE PARTNERSHIPS



The Nature Conservancy



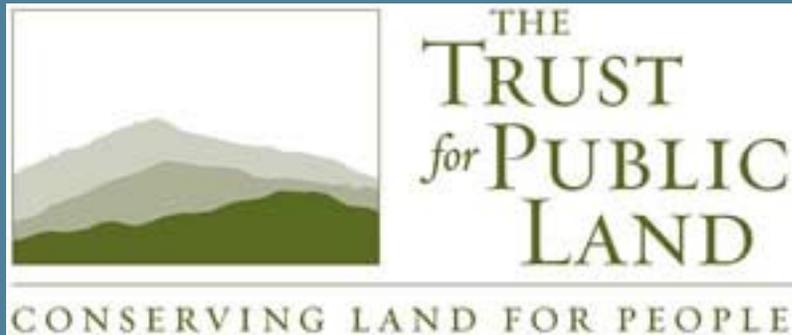
Protecting nature. Preserving life.™



Leach Lake Area Watershed Foundation

Protecting Water, Woods, and Wildlife for Future Generations to Enjoy

—Home—



Ducks Unlimited

- ✓ Donations
- ✓ RIM Match
- ✓ Habitat Corridor Project
- ✓ North American Wetland Conservation Act

Third Party Acquisitions

- ✓ **Shared expertise and resources**
- ✓ **Common goals**
- ✓ **Increased efficiency**
- ✓ **Shared appraisal**
- ✓ **Opportunity for initial development assistance**



Acquisition Capacity

Division of Fish & Wildlife

2 Land Acquisition Coordinator

1 Land Acquisition Specialist

WMA Activity:

- 80-90 active WMA fee and easement acquisitions
- \$12-13 million/year spent last 2 fiscal years

AMA Activity:

- 35 active AMA fee and easement acquisitions
- \$5-6 million /year spent last 2 fiscal years

Division of Lands & Minerals

Realty Specialists

Appraisal Unit

Private contract

appraisers and reviewers



Attorney General's Office

Acquisition Challenges and Opportunities

- Initial and long-term development costs
- Payment-in-lieu-of-taxes (PILT)
- Local units of government
- Financial help to landowners
- Land protection interests by landowners



Payment in Lieu of Taxes on WMA Lands

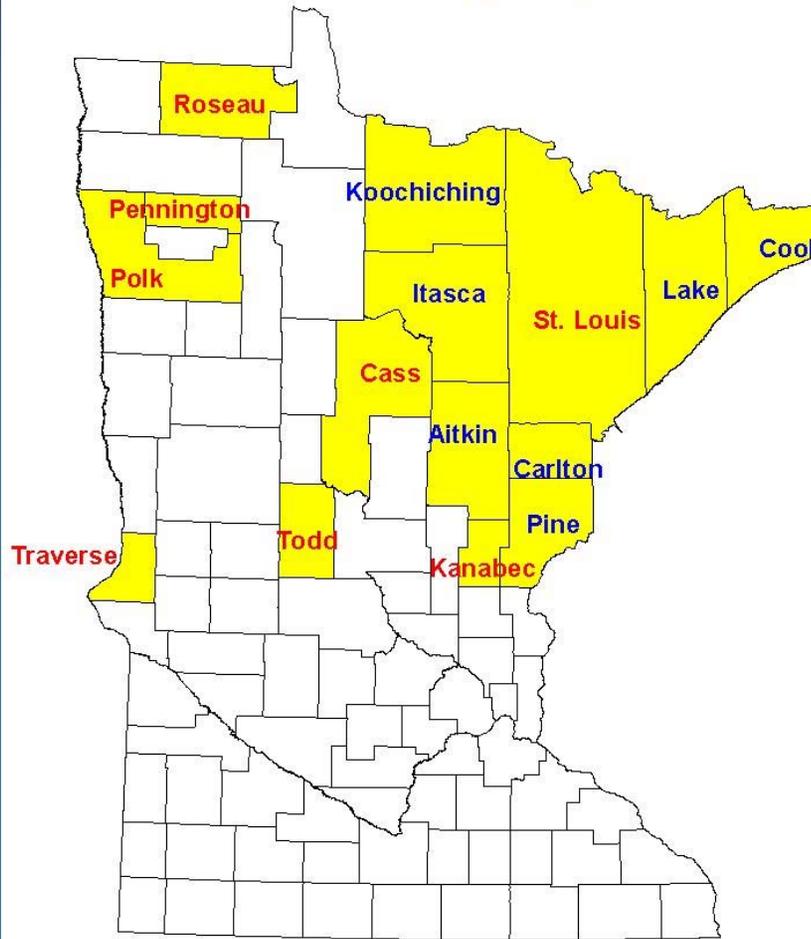
- ✓ Payment based on $\frac{3}{4}$ of 1% of estimated market value (EMV).
- ✓ EMV is the purchase price until the county updates the EMV every 5 years.
 1. Next update will be 2010.
 2. For donated lands, EMV is the appraisal or the county EMV if no appraisal done.
 3. For bargain sales, EMV is the full appraisal value.
- ✓ For portion of PILT attributable to WMA lands - county treasurer shall allocate the payment among the county, towns, and school districts on the same basis as if the payments were private taxes.
- ✓ July 2008 PILT Payments



\$21.017 million total payment

\$4.675 million for WMA lands

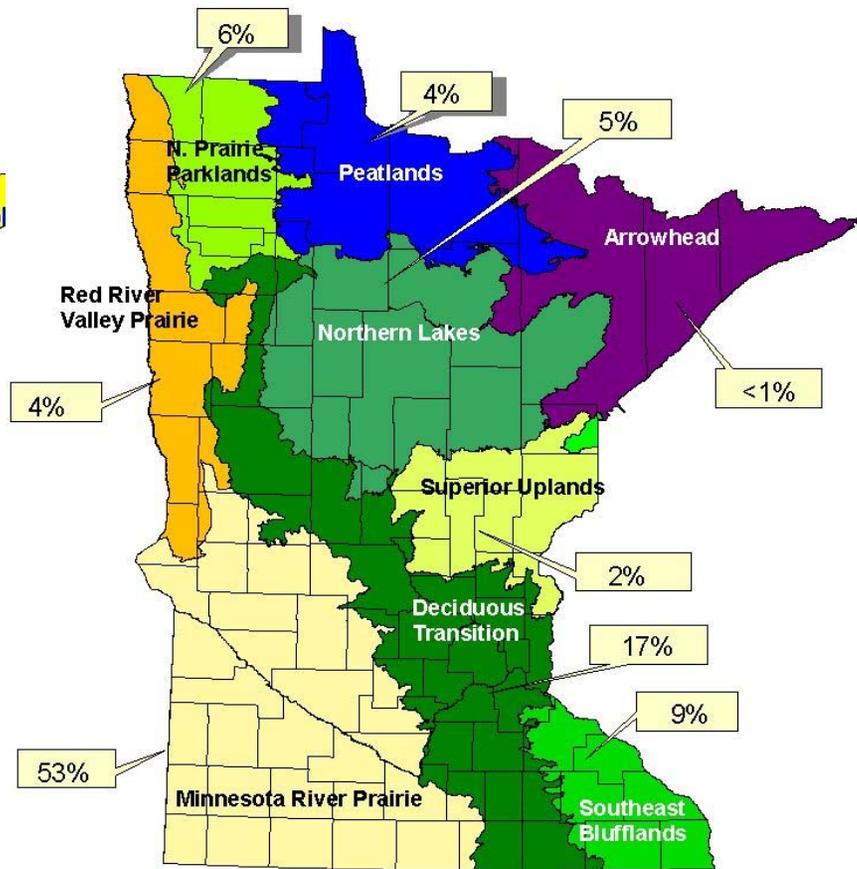
Counties with "no net gain" policies



Counties with resolutions

Arrowhead Counties Association policy

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/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



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



Habitat Protection & Management

Existing Public Lands Delivery Systems



New Sites – Initial Development

Each new acquisition entails site development work.

Needs within the first 2 years of acquisition include:

- Boundary survey and posting
- Interior and perimeter signage
- Parking lots, fencing, gates
- Roads, trails, water access
- Site clean up (debris, buildings, wells, etc)
- Cover bare ground

Initial development during this period costs an estimated \$150 per acquired acre.

In other words, for every 1,000 acres acquired, there are approximately \$150,000 of initial development needs.

* Estimates based on sites purchased with 2005 – 2006 Capital/Bonding appropriations.



Prairie Grassland Habitat Program

Existing Units (Annual Average FY07 & FY08)

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Accomplishments (Acres)</i>	<i>Expenditures</i>	<i>Hours</i>
Grassland Management	6,702	\$920,052	13,835
Woody Cover Development	102	\$55,894	1,069
Prescribed Burning	15,883	\$685,950	15,077
Noxious Weed Control	4,750	\$297,259	6,484
Cooperative Farming Agreements	33,996	\$66,381	1,866
Food Plots	2,173	\$309,898	5,686
TOTAL	63,606	\$2,335,432	44,015

Note: 63,600 acres \cong 99 square miles

44,000 hours \cong 21 full time positions



Forest Habitat Program

Existing Units (Annual Average FY07 & FY08)

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Accomplishments (Acres)</i>	<i>Expenditures</i>	<i>Hours</i>
Openland & Brushland Management	5,460	\$438,235	5,496
Prescribed Burns – Openland & Brushland	20,926	\$403,048	8,982
Forest Stand Management	2,858	\$246,752	4,302
Prescribed Burns – Forest Stands	569	\$29,224	655
Forest Opening Maintenance	1,776	\$274,360	4,795
TOTAL	31,589	\$1,391,619	24,229

Note: 31,600 acres \cong 49 square miles

24,200 hours \cong 11.6 full time positions



Wetland Habitat Program

Existing Units (Annual Average FY07 & FY08)

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Accomplishments (Acres)</i>	<i>Expenditures</i>	<i>Hours</i>
Water Control Structures	16,383	\$983,233	2,933
Wetland Restoration	130	\$77,238	1,079
Wetland Impoundment Development	9	\$13,616	170
Wetland Habitat Maintenance	168,526	\$500,245	10,960
Wetlands Enhancement	15,901	\$415,251	4,737
Waterfowl Nest Structures	1,956 Structures	\$159,040	1,874
TOTAL	200,949	\$2,238,622	21,752

Note: 201,000 acres \cong 314 square miles

21,800 hours \cong 10.5 full time positions



Habitat Evaluation and Monitoring

Existing Efforts (Annual Average FY07 & FY08)

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Units</i>	<i>Accomplishments</i>	<i>Expenditures</i>	<i>Hours</i>
Resource Assessments	Hours	9.839	\$394,888	9,839
Wildlife Lake Assessments	Acres	183,174	\$256,359	8,708
TOTAL			\$651,247	18,547

Note: 183,200 acres \cong 286 square miles

18,500 hours \cong 9 full-time positions



Facilities & Access

Existing Units (Annual Average FY07 & FY08)

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Units</i>	<i>Accomplishments</i>	<i>Expenditures</i>	<i>Hours</i>
Facility Management (parking lots, blinds, etc)	Facilities	1,590	\$291,800	7,490
Road and trail management	Miles	676	\$423,845	8,738
Boundary Management	Miles	882	\$581,195	9,868
Site Clean Up	Sites	129	\$137,028	2,834
TOTAL			\$1,433,868	28,929

Note: 29,000 hours \cong 14 full time positions



Habitat Protection & Management

Existing Public Lands Delivery Systems

Wildlife area staff

Fisheries habitat crews – in stream and lakes

Contracts with private vendors

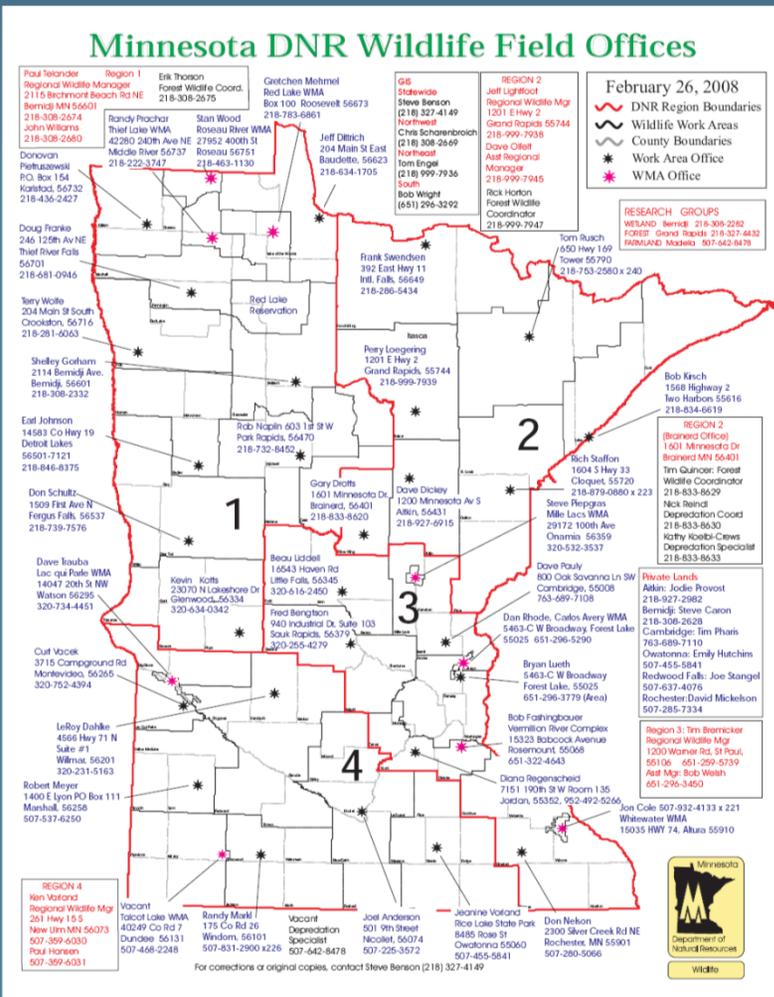
Cooperative agreements and grants with partners



Habitat Management Implementation

Delivery Mechanisms – FAW Staff

Minnesota DNR Wildlife Field Offices



Staff at field offices throughout state with extensive training in:

- Prescribed burning
- Commercial pesticide application
- Power and hand tool safety
- Heavy equipment operation
- OHV training
- Geographic information system training for habitat management planning

Habitat Management Implementation

Delivery Mechanisms – Specialized Equipment

FAW fleet includes:

- Trucks and tractors
- Heavy equipment
- Native grass seeding drills and harvest equipment
- Tree planters
- Spraying equipment
- Prescribed burning equipment



Current Funding for Habitat Protection & Management

- Game and Fish Fund (GFF) - O&M
- GFF Dedicated Accounts
 - Deer Management
 - Deer Bear
 - Waterfowl
 - Wild Rice
 - Pheasant
 - Turkey
 - Surcharge
- Heritage Enhancement (in lieu of lottery taxes)
- General funds
- Gifts and donations
- RIM Match



Habitat Protection & Management

Case Study – Water Control Replacement

1. Need assessment – database and GIS inventory
2. Phase 1 preliminary design and cost estimate
3. Secure funding
4. Phase 2 final engineering and design
5. Bid specifications
6. Secure contracts
7. Secure permits
8. Construction phase and inspections
9. Site rehabilitation
10. Final payment



Thank you.

