

NGO Land Acquisition Delivery

Presentation to the Lessard Outdoor Heritage Council - January 26, 2009

### **NGO's bring added value & partnership benefits**

*The Mission* of NGO's involved is to improve wildlife habitat, and land acquisition is one of the tools necessary to achieve goals. Many constituent groups recognize the benefits of public hunting, angling and outdoor recreation consistent with wildlife to be a significant benefit of this habitat protection and restoration activity.

*Effectiveness* – NGO's often move quicker than agencies to acquire critical parcels of wildlife habitat. In addition, sellers may have an affinity for a species group or landscape focus of a particular NGO, or some sellers simply would rather not be directly involved with government.

*Community support* – NGO's can bring advocacy and local community support for land acquisition

Fee-title land acquisition is a strategy cited by most plans (duck recovery, pheasant plan, etc.) to sustain and increase wildlife populations. Access is also cited as one of the main barriers to participation in hunting and fishing.

### **Partnership – No one can do it alone**

NGO's bring additional resources to bear on acquiring key habitats in fee-title

- Staff & volunteer resources (capacity)
- Leverage
  - Organization dollars (local chapters, Build a Wildlife Area, donors, etc.)
  - Matching other sources of non-state funds
    - North American Wetlands Conservation Act
  - Seller Donations of land value

LOHC Role – Encourage collaboration and partnership among DNR, USFWS, and NGO's.

### **Capacity**

NGO's like The Nature Conservancy, Pheasant s Forever, Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc., The Trust for Public Land currently acquire land. Dozens of other NGO partners participate in land acquisitions (e.g. MN Deer Hunters Association, Ducks Unlimited, National Wild Turkey Federation, MN Waterfowl Association, many local groups.)

**Primary limiting factors** for fee-title land acquisition include:

1. Funding
2. Agency capacity
  - a. Bureaucracy in process
  - b. Staff limitations
  - c. Long-term management
3. Local government/community support
4. Long-term management