

**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund
2011-2012 Request for Proposals (RFP)**

Subd: 04j

Project Title: Habitat Conservation Partnership (HCP) - Phase VII

Category: D. Land Acquisition for Habitat and Recreation

Total Project Budget: \$ \$3,475,000

Proposed Project Time Period for the Funding Requested: 3 yrs, July 2011 - June 2014

Other Non-State Funds (secured): \$ 4,400,000

Summary:

Nine partners within the Habitat Conservation Partnership will utilize ENRTF funds to restore, enhance, and protect 1,391 acres of priority habitat within delineated focus areas of the state.

Name: Joe Pavelko

Sponsoring Organization: Pheasants Forever, Inc.

Address: 1783 Buerkle Cir

Saint Paul MN 55110

Telephone Number: 612-532-3800

Email jpavelko@pheasantsforever.org

Web Ad www.mnhabitatcorridors.org

Location:

Region: Statewide

Ecological Section: No. Minnesota Drift and Lake Plains (212N), Minnesota and NE Iowa Morainal (222M), Red River Valley (251A), North Central Glaciated Plains (251B)

County Name: Statewide

City / Township:

Table 1 - Overall Project Breakdown (Budget and Accomplishments)
2011 - 2012 - Habitat Conservation Partnership Project Budget Summary (Phase 7)
ENRTF Funds Requested - \$3,475,000
Date: 11/7/2010

| LCCMR Recommendation - \$3,475,000 | | Overall Proposed Budget | | | |
|---|--|-------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|--|
| | | ENRTF Funding Requested | Non-State Funds Proposed | State Funds Proposed | Total Funding (ENRTF, Non-State, State Funds Combined) |
| 1. Project Coordination, Mapping, Data Management | | | | | |
| a) Coord., Mapping & Data Management | Pheasants Forever | \$ 55,000 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 55,000 |
| SUBTOTAL | | \$ 55,000 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 55,000 |
| 2. Restoration & Management | | | | | |
| e) Wild Rice/Waterfowl Habitat | Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe | \$ 50,000 | \$ 65,000 | \$ - | \$ 115,000 |
| g) Restoration & Management – WMAs* | Department of Natural Resources - Wildlife | \$ 30,000 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 30,000 |
| h) Fisheries Resoration & Enhancement | Department of Natural Resources - Fisheries | \$ 200,000 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 200,000 |
| o) Prairie Pothole Restoration on WPAs | Friends of Detroit Lake Wetland Management District | \$ 75,000 | \$ 82,000 | \$ - | \$ 157,000 |
| SUBTOTAL | | \$ 355,000 | \$ 147,000 | \$ - | \$ 502,000 |
| 3. Conservation Easement Programs | | | | | |
| a) Shoreland Protection Program | Minnesota Land Trust | \$ 450,000 | \$ 500,000 | \$ - | \$ 950,000 |
| c) Shallow Lake Conservation Easements | Ducks Unlimited | \$ 500,000 | \$ 50,000 | \$ - | \$ 550,000 |
| | | | | | |
| d) Wetlands Reserve Program | Natural Resources Conservation Service / Ducks Unlimited | \$ 775,000 | \$ 4,000,000 | \$ - | \$ 4,775,000 |
| SUBTOTAL | | \$ 1,725,000 | \$ 4,550,000 | \$ - | \$ 6,275,000 |
| 4. Habitat Acquisition Programs | | | | | |
| a) WMA/WPA Acquisition beyond Boundaries** | Pheasants Forever | \$ 430,000 | \$ 255,000 | \$ - | \$ 685,000 |
| c) Critical Lands Protection Program** | Trust for Public Land | \$ 490,000 | \$ 150,000 | \$ 410,000 | \$ 640,000 |
| h) Acquisition for MN Valley WMD | Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc. | \$ 400,000 | \$ 400,000 | \$ - | \$ 800,000 |
| i) Professional Services*** | Department of Natural Resources - Wildlife | \$ 20,000 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 20,000 |
| SUBTOTAL | | \$ 1,340,000 | \$ 805,000 | \$ 410,000 | \$ 2,145,000 |
| TOTAL | | \$ 3,475,000 | \$ 5,502,000 | \$ 410,000 | \$ 8,977,000 |

* All initial development costs of state lands acquired by partners within this proposal will be funded under proposal 2g.
** Within this budget, 10% of funding will be used for restoration of these newly acquired tracts.
*** Ensures newly acquired state lands can be entered into the appropriate land system, and that restoration and development of newly acquired lands can begin on a timely basis.

Note: There may be unique project identifiers (the letters that follow the activity number) missing within the project budget summary table. Each organization uses the same identifier for each phase of funding to simplify reporting and tracking. Some partners are not participating in this round of funding, which is why some letters under each activity program heading are missing.

| Proposed Accomplishments | | | Areas of Focus |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|--|
| ENRTF Funds Acres Proposed | Other Funds Acres Proposed | Total Project Acres Completed | |
| Acres | Acres | Acres | NA |
| | | | |
| 550 | 0 | 550.0 | Cass County, Itasca County, Leech Lake Reservation |
| 0 | 0 | 0.0 | State lands (SNA, WMA) acquired by partners |
| 0 | 0 | 0.0 | Crrek and Lake work in Faribault, Kandiyohi, Otter Tail, Stevens Counties |
| 47 | 47 | 94.0 | Restoration work on Federal WPAs in Becker and Clay Counties |
| 597 | 47 | 644.0 | |
| | | | |
| 400 | 0 | 400 | Easement Acquisition in Douglas, Beltrami, Itasca, Becker, Blue Earth, Lac Qui Parle, Wabasha Counties |
| 150 | 50 | 200 | Easement Acquisition in Douglas, Beltrami, Grant, Swift, and Pope Counties |
| 0 | 2,500 | 2,500 | WRP Easement Acquisition in Becker, Big Stone, Douglas, Freeborn, Kandiyohi, Lincoln, Lyon, Meeker, Murray, Steele, Swift, and Waseca Counties |
| 550 | 2,550 | 3,100 | |
| | | | |
| 85 | 55 | 140 | Fee Acquisition of WMA in Lac Qui Parle County, WPAs in Rice and LeSueur Counties |
| 44 | 15 | 59 | Fee Acquisition of WMA/AMA/SNA in Rice, LeSueur, Hubbard, and Kandiyohi Counties |
| 80 | 40 | 120 | Fee Acquisition of WPAs in Blue Earth and LeSueur Counties |
| 0 | 0 | 0 | Professional Services for conveying state lands acquired by HCP partners within project. |
| 209 | 110 | 319 | |
| | | | |
| 1,356 | 2,707 | 4,063 | |

Table 3 - Summary of Partner Proposed Funding and Accomplishments
2011 - 2012 - Habitat Conservation Partnership Project Budget Summary (Phase 7)
ENRTF Funds Requested - \$3,475,000
Date: 11/7/2010

| Partner | Activity | Proposed Project Funding | | | | | | | | Proposed Accomplishments | | |
|--|--|--|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|--|--------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------|
| | | Project Coordination, Mapping, Data Management | Restoration and Management | Conservation Easement Acquisition | Fee Title Acquisition | Total ENRTF Funding Requested | Non-State Funds Proposed | State Funds Proposed | Total Funding (ENRTF, Non-State, State Funds Combined) | ENRTF Acres Proposed | Other Funds Acres | Total Project Acres Completed |
| Pheasants Forever | 1a - Project Coordination, Mapping, Data Management / 4a - WMA/WPA Acquisition beyond Boundaries | \$ 55,000 | | | \$ 430,000 | \$ 485,000 | \$ 255,000 | | \$ 740,000 | 85 | 55 | 140 |
| Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe | 2e - Wild Rice / Waterfowl Habitat | | \$ 50,000 | | | \$ 50,000 | \$ 65,000 | | \$ 115,000 | 550 | | 550 |
| Department of Natural Resources | 2g - WMA restoration and management / 2h - Fisheries restoration and management / 4i - Professional Services | | \$ 230,000 | | \$ 20,000 | \$ 250,000 | | | \$ 250,000 | 35 | 0 | 35 |
| Friends of Detroit Lakes Wetland Management District | 2o - Prairie Pothole Restoration on WPAs | | \$ 75,000 | | | \$ 75,000 | \$ 82,000 | | \$ 157,000 | 47 | 47 | 94 |
| Minnesota Land Trust | 3a - Shoreland Protection Program | | | \$ 450,000 | | \$ 450,000 | \$ 500,000 | | \$ 950,000 | 400 | 0 | 400 |
| Ducks Unlimited (NRCS) | 3c - Shallow Lake Conservation Easements | | | \$ 1,275,000 | | \$ 1,275,000 | \$ 4,050,000 | \$ - | \$ 5,325,000 | 150 | 2,550 | 2,700 |
| Trust for Public Land | 4c - Critical Lands Protection Program | | | | \$ 490,000 | \$ 490,000 | \$ 150,000 | \$ 410,000 | \$ 1,050,000 | 44 | 15 | 59 |
| Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust | 4h - Acquisition for MN Valley WMD | | | | \$ 400,000 | \$ 400,000 | \$ 400,000 | \$ - | \$ 800,000 | 80 | 40 | 120 |
| | | \$ 55,000 | \$ 355,000 | \$ 1,725,000 | \$ 1,340,000 | \$ 3,475,000 | \$ 5,502,000 | \$ 410,000 | \$ 7,175,000 | 1,391 | 2,707 | 4,098 |

2011-2012 MAIN PROPOSAL

PROJECT TITLE: Habitat Conservation Partnership – Phase 7

I. PROJECT STATEMENT

The Habitat Conservation Partnership restores, enhances and conserves habitat for the purpose of sustaining fish, wildlife and plant communities for all generations. The Partnership provides for a statewide coordination of existing federal, state and private land and water conservation programs. The project focuses these programs and resources on identified project focus areas that have high potential for restoring and enhancing functional habitats benefiting Minnesota. Minnesota's Habitat Conservation Partnership (HCP or Partnership), was formed in 2000 to provide a framework for landscape scale conservation in partnership with the Environmental Trust Fund.

The work of the Partnership has three main objectives:

- 1) **Partnership:** working together to accelerate existing programs and identify new opportunities that build upon our investments in habitat.
- 2) **Focus:** working within scientifically-selected priority project areas where resource conservation priorities and opportunity overlap.
- 3) **Leverage:** bringing other, non-state resources to bear on Minnesota's conservation need to accelerate habitat conservation, thereby maximizing the results of funding through the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund.

The increasing pressures on land and water resources within these priority areas coupled with the possible devastating effects of the gulf oil spill on Minnesota's migratory bird populations is evidence that the need for habitat restoration and protection is more important than ever. The HCP is strategically focusing on water resources and wildlife habitat to maximize and accelerate benefits not only for migratory birds, but also to improve water quality, build habitat complexes, increase ecosystem function, and increase public recreation opportunities. For the Phase 7 proposal, partner conservation efforts will be focused within the defined eleven HCP project areas to restore, enhance, or protect a total of 4,098 acres.

II. DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT ACTIVITIES

Activity 1: Project Coordination, Mapping and Data Management **Budget:** \$ 55,000

Project coordinator will coordinate all aspects of the partnership, including mapping, data management and reporting to LCCMR.

| Outcome | Completion Date |
|--|-----------------|
| 1. Project Coordination, Mapping and Data Management | June 30, 2013 |

Activity 2: Habitat Restoration and Management **Budget:** \$ 354,000

Partners will use ENRTF funds to restore, enhance, and manage 632 acres of priority wetland, shoreland, prairie, grassland, lakeshore, shallow lake, forest, bluff land, stream and river habitat

(an additional 47 acres will be protected with \$147,000 of non-state funds). Please see Table 1 and the individual partner proposals for further detail.

| Outcome | Completion Date |
|---|-----------------|
| 1. Restore, enhance, and manage 632 acres | June 30, 2013 |

Activity 3: Conservation Easement Acquisition

Budget: \$ 1,725,000

Partners will use ENRTF funds to acquire the perpetual rights from willing sellers to permanently protect 550 acres of priority wetland, shoreland, prairie, grassland, lakeshore, shallow lake, forest, bluff land, stream and river habitat (an additional 2,500 acres will be protected with \$4,550,000 of non-state funds). Depending on the specific partner easement program, public access may or may not be granted. Please see Table 1 and the individual partner proposals for further detail.

| Outcome | Completion Date |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Acquire easements 550 acres | June 30, 2013 |

Activity 4: Fee-Title Acquisition

Budget: \$ 1,341,000

From willing sellers, partners will use ENRTF funds to acquire in fee-title 209 acres to permanently protect priority wetland, shoreline, prairie, grassland, lakeshore, shallow lake, forest, bluff land, stream and river habitat (an additional 110 acres will be acquired with \$805,000 of non-state funds). Initial development of the newly acquired parcels will be funded with this proposal's grant funds. In addition, all restoration costs are included within each acquisition partner budgets and will be funded with this proposal's grant funds. All acquisitions will be open for public use. Please see Table 1 and the individual partner proposals for further detail.

| Outcome | Completion Date |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Acquire fee-title 209 acres | June 30, 2013 |

III. PROJECT STRATEGY

A. Project Team/Partners

There are nine active HCP partners in this proposal phase -- Ducks Unlimited, Friends of the Detroit Lakes Wetland Management District, Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (Wildlife, Fisheries), Minnesota Land Trust, Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc., Pheasants Forever, Trust For Public Land, and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. Our work includes dozens and perhaps hundreds of partners coming into contact with the LCCMR and Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund including private landowners, local conservation interests, corporations, local government, civic groups, and donors. It also engages thousands of individual members and volunteers of NGO partners. Please see the Table 1 attachment for a summary of partners proposed work.

B. Timeline Requirements

We propose a two year grant beginning July 1, 2011 and ending on June 30, 2013.

C. Long-Term Strategy and Future Funding Needs

If funded, this proposal will fund the tenth year of a proposed 10-biennia partnership. Over the life of the Partnership, partners have leveraged the ETF grants threefold with other non-state funds from local, federal and private sources. This unique Partnership exists as a result of the desire of LCCMR to encourage conservation partners to work together as a statewide collaboration to focus resources and bring additional funds to Minnesota's wildlife habitat resources. We are 18 formal partner agencies and organizations recognized for an ability to achieve the mission of restoring, enhancing and conserving habitat for the purpose of sustaining fish, wildlife and native plant communities for all generations.

After nine years and the restoration, enhancement, and protection of over 150,000 acres of wildlife habitat, the Partnership is in the process of undertaking a programmatic evaluation. The evaluation will be used to better measure the effectiveness and work of the Partnership and will help to shape the future of the Habitat Conservation Partnership.

2011-2012 Detailed Project Budget

Habitat Conservation Partnership - Overall Budget - Phase 7

IV. TOTAL TRUST FUND REQUEST BUDGET 2 years

| BUDGET ITEM | AMOUNT |
|---|---------------------|
| Personnel: All personnel expenditures are detailed within individual proposals. | \$ 473,543 |
| Contracts: All contract expenditures are detailed within individual proposals. | \$ 964,000 |
| Equipment/Tools/Supplies: All equipment expenditures are detailed within individual proposals. | \$ 40,588 |
| Professional/Technical Services: All professional/technical services expenditures are detailed within individual proposals. | \$ 20,000 |
| Acquisition (Fee Title or Permanent Easements): 1,100 acres of Easements (Held by DU and MLT). 600 acres of Fee Title acquisition (Held by MNDNR and USFWS). | \$ 1,808,869 |
| Travel: All travel expenditures are detailed within individual proposals. | \$ 28,000 |
| Easement Stewardship Fund: Stewardship for long-term monitoring and management on approximately 10 conservation easements (Held by MLT and DU). | \$ 140,000 |
| TOTAL ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND \$ REQUEST | \$ 3,475,000 |

V. OTHER FUNDS

| SOURCE OF FUNDS | AMOUNT | Status |
|---|---------------|--|
| Other Non-State \$ Being Applied to Project During Project Period: Sources of these funds are non-state (such as federal funds and private funds) and will not leverage any other state funds. Expenditures are detailed within individual proposals. | \$ 5,502,000 | <i>Secured and/or Pending</i> |
| Other State \$ Being Applied to Project During Project Period: Other state funds may come from bonding or other state conservation grants. Expenditures are detailed within individual proposals. | \$ 410,000 | <i>Secured and/or Pending</i> |
| In-kind Services During Project Period: Detailed in individual proposals. | \$ 30,498 | |
| Remaining \$ from Current ENRTF Appropriation (if applicable): Phase VI (2009) - \$3,235,397 ETF Supplement (2010) - \$1,400,000 ETF Phase VI | \$ 5,871,351 | <i>Unspent, Committed and/or Legally Obligated</i> |
| Funding History: Phase II (2003) - \$4,850,000 ETF and \$19,550,504 other non-state funds - complete Phase III (2005) - \$4,062,000 ETF and \$12,321,671 other non-state funds - complete Phase IV (2007) - \$4,200,000 ETF and \$11,881,964 other non-state funds - complete Phase V (2008) - \$3,150,000 ETF and \$6,732,580 other non-state funds - Complete Phase VI (2009) - \$3,375,000 ETF and at least \$3,725,513 other non-state funds - Grant period ending June 30, 2011 Supplement (2010) - \$1,400,000 ETF and at least \$2,470,000 other non-state funds - Grant period ending June 30, 2012 Phase VI ** Total \$21,037,000 ETF and \$56,682,232 other non-state funds** | \$21,037,000 | |

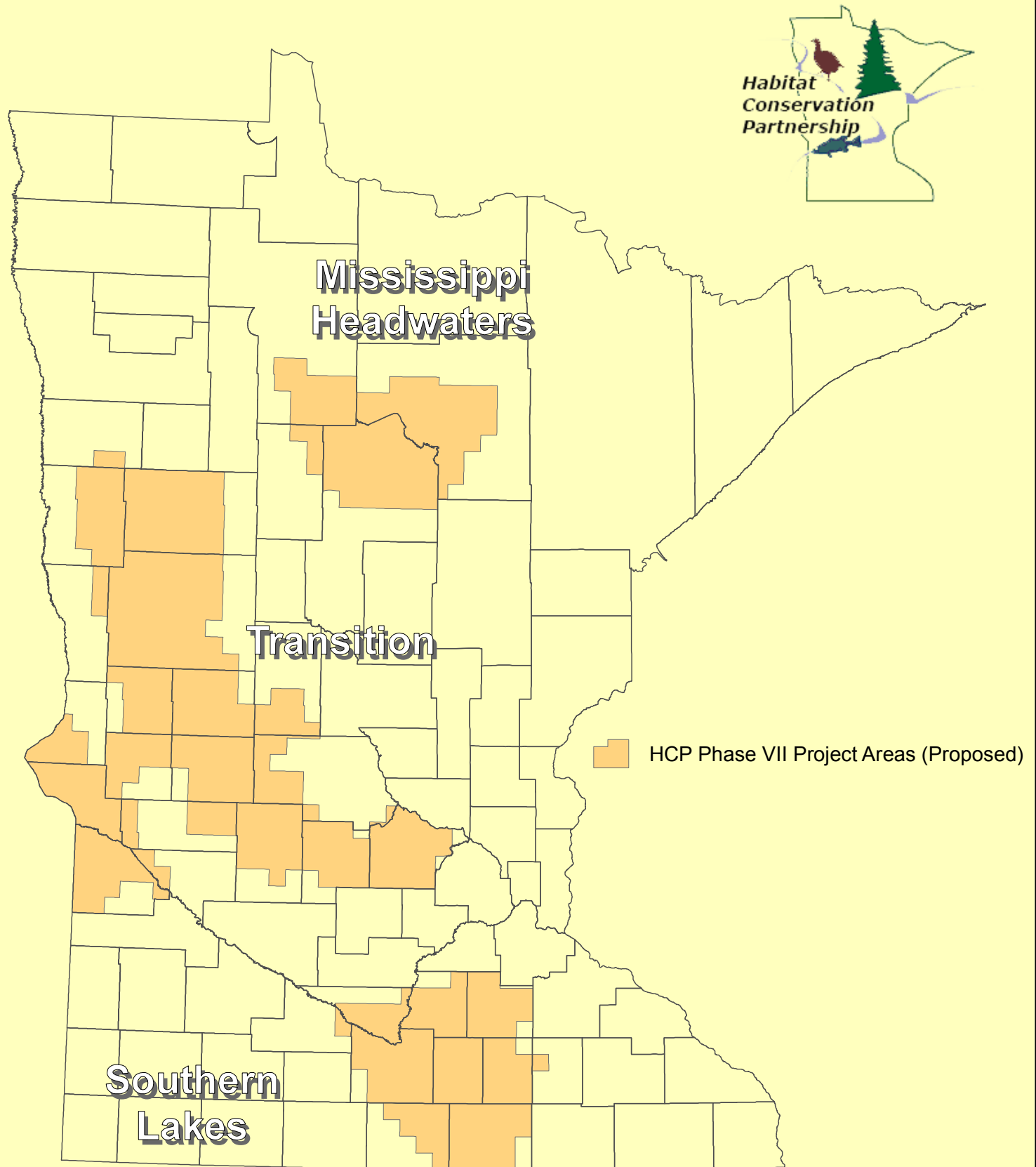
Table 2 - ENRTF Funding Request Budget Breakdown
2011 - 2012 - Habitat Conservation Partnership Project Budget Summary (Phase 7)
ENRTF Funds Requested - \$3,475,000
Date: 11/7/2010

| LCCMR Recommendation - \$3,475,000 | | Personnel | Contracts | Acquisition | Travel | Stewardship | Professional / Technical | Supplies | Total ENRTF Funds | Budget Explanation |
|---|--|------------|------------|--------------|-----------|-------------|--------------------------|-----------|-------------------|---|
| 1. Project Coordination, Mapping, Data Management | | | | | | | | | | |
| a) Coord., Mapping & Data Management | Pheasants Forever | \$ 25,000 | \$ 30,000 | | | | | | \$ 55,000 | Personnel - Staff to manage and coordinate the program for two years / Contracts - manage the mapping and database for two years |
| SUBTOTAL | | \$ 25,000 | \$ 30,000 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 55,000 | |
| 2. Restoration & Management | | | | | | | | | | |
| e) Wild Rice/Waterfowl Habitat | Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe | \$ 39,000 | \$ 4,000 | | \$ 1,000 | | | \$ 6,000 | \$ 50,000 | Personnel - Plant Ecologist (.15 FTE, 2yrs), GIS Specialist (.10 FTE, 2yrs), 2 Field Technicians (.04 FTE x 2 techs, 2 yrs), 2 Field Technicians (.02 FTE x 2 techs, 2 yrs) / Contracts - High resolution aerial imagery / Supplies - Clemson leveler kits, water control parts and hardware, seed / Travel - In state |
| g) Restoration & Management – WMAs* | Department of Natural Resources - Wildlife | \$ 5,000 | \$ 5,000 | | \$ 5,000 | | | \$ 15,000 | \$ 30,000 | Personnel - Temporary or intermittent staff for initial site facility development and habitat restoration work / Contracts - DNR Management Resources, Land Surveys, Historical/cutral review contracts. / Equipment/Tools/Supplies: For initial facility development and restoration, Supplies include gravel for parking lots, posts, signs and seed. / Travel - Fleet costs for vehicles and equipment. |
| h) Fisheries Resoration & Enhancement | Department of Natural Resources - Fisheries | \$ 20,000 | \$ 150,000 | | \$ 10,000 | | | \$ 20,000 | \$ 200,000 | Personnel - Two temporary staff or interns working full time for the summer on habitat work for two years / Contracts - professional services work Ex: Enginerring designs, Land Surveys, Historical/cultral review . Also low bid contracts for implementation of projects. / Equipment/Tools/Supplies - Two lake aeration systems and the electrical cords / Travel - Fleet costs for vehicles and heavy equipment. |
| o) Prairie Pothole Restoration on WPAs | Friends of Detroit Lake Wetland Management District | | \$ 75,000 | | | | | | \$ 75,000 | Contracts - hire contractors for wetland restoration work |
| SUBTOTAL | | \$ 64,000 | \$ 234,000 | \$ - | \$ 16,000 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 41,000 | \$ 355,000 | |
| 3. Conservation Easement Programs | | | | | | | | | | |
| a) Shoreland Protection Program | Minnesota Land Trust | \$ 140,000 | | \$ 215,000 | \$ 5,000 | \$ 90,000 | | | \$ 450,000 | Personnel - 1 FTE over two years / Acquisition pf Permanent Easements - Includes purchase price of conservation easement(s); title work, insurance, etc.; maps, GIS (including project mapping by Community GIS); film; other (including appraisals, surveys, recording fees, etc.) / Travel In State / Stewardship - Conservation Easement Monitoring, Management, and Enforcement Fund |
| c) Shallow Lake Conservation Easements | Ducks Unlimited | \$ 120,000 | \$ 25,000 | \$ 300,000 | \$ 5,000 | \$ 50,000 | | | \$ 500,000 | Personnel - .8 FTE/year over two years, 60% salary 40% benefits / Contracts - Restoration work of upland and wetlands, Appraisals, Professional services for easement acquisition / Permanent Easement Acquisition / Stewardship - long term monitoring and maintenance of acquired easements / Travel in state |
| d) Wetlands Reserve Program | Natural Resources Conservation Service / Ducks Unlimited | \$ 100,000 | \$ 675,000 | | | | | | \$ 775,000 | Personnel - wages and benefits for DU biologist (30% FTE) and manager (10% FTE) DU engineer (30% FTE) and engineering technician (20% FTE) (60% salary, 40% benefits) / Contracts: professional services contracts for six (6) WRP wetland restoration field technicians to promote and help NRCS secure WRP easements and contract engineering work. |
| SUBTOTAL | | \$ 360,000 | \$ 700,000 | \$ 515,000 | \$ 10,000 | \$ 140,000 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 1,725,000 | |
| 4. Habitat Acquisition Programs | | | | | | | | | | |
| a) WMA/WPA Acquisition beyond Boundaries** | Pheasants Forever | \$ 25,000 | | \$ 403,000 | \$ 2,000 | | | | \$ 430,000 | Staff expenses including salaries and benefits (.35 FTE Total - 72% sarary, 28% benefits) / Acquisition (Fee Title): Includes purchase price, title work, survyers, appraisals, etc. / Travel in state / Restoration costs included for all acquired lands |
| c) Critical Lands Protection Program** | Trust for Public Land | | | \$ 490,000 | | | | | \$ 490,000 | Fee Title Acquisition and restoration costs of acquired lands. |
| h) Acquisition for MN Valley WMD | Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc. | | | \$ 400,000 | | | | | \$ 400,000 | Fee Title Acquisition |
| i) Professional Services*** | Department of Natural Resources - Wildlife | | | | | | \$ 20,000 | | \$ 20,000 | Professional - Legal Fees, survey costs, negotiations, closings, etc. for conveying partner state acquired lands to DNR. |
| SUBTOTAL | | \$ 25,000 | \$ - | \$ 1,293,000 | \$ 2,000 | \$ - | \$ 20,000 | \$ - | \$ 1,340,000 | |
| TOTAL | | \$ 474,000 | \$ 964,000 | \$ 1,808,000 | \$ 28,000 | \$ 140,000 | \$ 20,000 | \$ 41,000 | \$ 3,475,000 | |

* All initial development costs of state lands acquired by partners within this proposal will be funded under proposal 2g.
** Within this budget, 10% of funding will be used for restoration of these newly acquired tracts.
*** Ensures newly acquired state lands can be entered into the appropriate land system, and that restoration and development of newly acquired lands can begin on a timely basis.

Habitat Conservation Partnership

Proposed Phase VII Project Areas



AGENDA ITEM: 08b

Pheasants Forever, Inc. – Organization Description and Project Manager Qualifications

Organization Description

Pheasants Forever is a non-profit 501(c)3 conservation organization dedicated to improving pheasant and other wildlife populations through habitat restoration and development, changes in land management policies and public awareness and education. Pheasants Forever was incorporated in 1982 here in Minnesota and was established out of concern for the decline in pheasant populations. Today, Pheasants Forever has over 115,000 members and 650 chapters nationwide doing grassroots conservation. In Minnesota, Pheasants Forever has 22,000 members and 76 chapters. Since inception, Pheasants Forever in Minnesota has spent over \$16,000,000 on conservation resulting in the development of over 40,000 acres of nesting cover, 62,000 acres of food plots, 9,000 acres of wetlands, and 17,000 acres of land acquisition. PF in Minnesota has also planted 3.2 million trees.

Project Manager Qualifications

Joe Pavelko, MN Director of Conservation Programs
Pheasants Forever, Inc.

7975 Acorn Circle, Victoria, MN 55386

B.A. Biology – St. Olaf College – Northfield, MN, 2004

B.A. Environmental Studies – St. Olaf College – Northfield, MN, 2004

Restoration Ecology Certificate – University of Idaho – Moscow, ID, 2009



Also, the project manager administered or is currently administering the following grants:
LSOHC Prairie Heritage Fund, LSOHC WPA Acceleration, Small NAWCA Grants, Standard NAWCA Grants, CPL Grants, HCP Phase V, VI, VI Supplement.

Previous Work Experience

Friends of the MN Valley – Conservation Projects Manager, 2007 – 2009

MN Valley NWR Trust, Inc. – Conservation Projects Manager, 2006 – 2009

**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund
2011-2012 Request for Proposals (RFP)**

Subd: 4j1a

Project Title: 1a - HCP 7 - Coordination, Mapping & Data Management

Category: D. Land Acquisition for Habitat and Recreation

Total Project Budget: \$ 55,000

Proposed Project Time Period for the Funding Requested: 3 yrs, July 2011 - June 2014

Other Non-State Funds (secured): \$ 0

Summary:

The coordination, mapping, and data management work provides for the timely, consistent, and accurate reporting of all Habitat Conservation Partnership accomplishments and expenditures during the project period.

Name: Joe Pavelko

Sponsoring Organization: Pheasants Forever, Inc.

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Victoria MN 55386

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Web Ad <http://www.pheasantsforever.org>

Location:

Region: Statewide

Ecological Section: No. Minnesota Drift and Lake Plains (212N), Minnesota and NE Iowa Morainal (222M), Red River Valley (251A), North Central Glaciated Plains (251B)

County Name: Statewide

City / Township:

2011-2012 MAIN PROPOSAL

PROJECT TITLE: HCP7-1a Coordination, Mapping & Data Management

I. PROJECT STATEMENT

The coordination, mapping, and data management work provides for the timely, consistent, and accurate reporting of all Habitat Conservation Partnership accomplishments and expenditures during the project period.

Duties assigned to the project coordinator under this work program and as outlined and approved by the Habitat Conservation Partnership are to:

1. Coordinate partners, projects and cultivate partnerships.
2. Manage project data and contract/coordinate mapping services
3. Solicit & compile partner information & provide reports to LCCMR and partners.
4. Schedule, coordinate, and chair meetings & provide meeting minutes.
5. Coordinate public relations outreach to media.
6. Serve as primary contact for LCCMR.
7. Facilitate executive & full committee meetings & coordinate subcommittee meetings.
8. Manage contract for administration and mapping components of the Partnership.

II. DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT ACTIVITIES

Activity 1: Project Coordination

Budget: \$ 30,000

Duties for the HCP project coordinator under this proposal include: coordination of partners, projects and cultivation of partnerships; managing project data and contracting/coordinating mapping services; soliciting, compiling partner information and providing periodic reports to LCCMR and partners using the online reporting system; scheduling, coordinating, assisting with and chairing meetings; providing meeting minutes; coordinating public relations outreach to media; serve as primary contact for LCCMR; facilitating executive committee and full committee meetings and coordinating subcommittee meetings, manage administration and contract mapping for the Habitat Conservation Partnership. Additional duties for the Phase 7 project would include working to improve the online project tracking/reporting system.

| Outcome | Completion Date |
|-------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Project Coordination | June 30, 2013 |

Activity 2: Project Mapping

Budget: \$ 25,000

PF staff will sub-contract mapping/data management services for the partnership as described above. We plan to contract the mapping/data management piece with Community GIS Services of Duluth, Minnesota. This company has been with the partnership since inception and has worked with the partnership to develop an online reporting system to produce accomplishment reports that include expenditures, accomplishments and mapping products that provide accurate and concise work plan reporting. For the Phase 7 projects, the partnership will be using the standard work program reports which will be supplemented with HCP's online project

AGENDA ITEM: 08b

reports. Community GIS's role and responsibility has been reduced by the Partnership now using the standard work program reports, but will still be heavily relied on for the data analysis, mapping, and reporting.

| Outcome | Completion Date |
|--|-----------------|
| 1. Manage and map HCP accomplishments utilizing HCP online reporting system. | June 30, 2013 |

III. PROJECT STRATEGY

A. Project Team/Partners

This proposal is part of the Habitat Conservation Partnership Phase 7 Proposal. Please see the main proposal for a complete list of partners involved. We plan to continue working/contracting with partner Community GIS Services of Duluth, Minnesota who have been with the project since inception. Community GIS Services delivers mapping and data management for the partnership.

B. Timeline Requirements

We propose a two year grant beginning July 1, 2011 and ending on June 30, 2013.

C. Long-Term Strategy and Future Funding Needs

This unique Partnership exists as a result of the desire of LCCMR to encourage conservation partners to work together as a statewide collaboration to focus resources and bring additional funds to Minnesota's wildlife habitat resources. We are 18 formal partner agencies and organizations recognized for an ability to achieve the mission of restoring, enhancing and conserving habitat for the purpose of sustaining fish, wildlife and native plant communities for all generations. The coordination, reporting and long term data management for this partnership documents the long term impact of a sustained effort to connect fragmented habitats, build upon existing investments in habitat, and demonstrate how the efforts of many can change habitat for the better on a landscape scale.

2011-2012 Detailed Project Budget

HCP7-1a Coordination, Mapping & Data Management - Pheasants Forever

IV. TOTAL TRUST FUND REQUEST BUDGET (2 years)

| BUDGET ITEM | AMOUNT |
|---|------------------|
| Personnel: 0.15 FTE for Project Coordinator for twoyears of direct costs for project coordination; 0.1 FTE for grant assistant at the Pheasants Forever National Office for direct costs related to the Partnership. (Salary 72%, Benefits 28%) | \$ 29,000 |
| Contracts: \$25,000 to contract with Community GIS Services of Duluth, Minnesota to provide mapping, online reporting, and data management for the partnership over the proposed 2-year time frame of this proposal. The partnership will be returning to using the LCCMR work program format that will be supplemented with HCP's project and data reports. | \$ 25,000 |
| Travel: In-state direct to project costs for travel of project coordinator (approximately 2000 miles @ .50/mile reimbursement) | \$ 1,000 |
| TOTAL ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND \$ REQUEST | \$ 55,000 |

V. OTHER FUNDS

| SOURCE OF FUNDS | AMOUNT | Status |
|---|---------------|---------------|
| Other Non-State \$ Being Applied to Project During Project Period: | \$ - | NA |
| Other State \$ Being Applied to Project During Project Period: | \$ - | NA |
| In-kind Services During Project Period: | \$ - | NA |
| Remaining \$ from Current ENRTF Appropriation (if applicable): 2009 = \$100,000. The 2009 funding will be spent during the 2009 grant period and will also fund the coordination and mapping for the 2010 project. | \$ 80,000 | |
| Funding History: Past ENRTF Appropriations to Pheasants Forever to do similar work as proposed under this request for the Minnesota Habitat Conservation Partnership (Formerly Minnesota Habitat Corrdiors Partnership) include: 2009 = \$100,000, 2008 = 70,000, 2007 = \$92,683, 2005= \$175,000 | \$ 437,683 | |

Pheasants Forever, Inc. – Organization Description and Project Manager Qualifications

Organization Description

Pheasants Forever is a non-profit 501(c)3 conservation organization dedicated to improving pheasant and other wildlife populations through habitat restoration and development, changes in land management policies and public awareness and education. Pheasants Forever was incorporated in 1982 here in Minnesota and was established out of concern for the decline in pheasant populations. Today, Pheasants Forever has over 115,000 members and 650 chapters nationwide doing grassroots conservation. In Minnesota, Pheasants Forever has 22,000 members and 76 chapters. Since inception, Pheasants Forever in Minnesota has spent over \$16,000,000 on conservation resulting in the development of over 40,000 acres of nesting cover, 62,000 acres of food plots, 9,000 acres of wetlands, and 17,000 acres of land acquisition. PF in Minnesota has also planted 3.2 million trees.

Project Manager Qualifications

Joe Pavelko, MN Director of Conservation Programs
Pheasants Forever, Inc.

7975 Acorn Circle, Victoria, MN 55386

B.A. Biology – St. Olaf College – Northfield, MN, 2004

B.A. Environmental Studies – St. Olaf College – Northfield, MN, 2004

Restoration Ecology Certificate – University of Idaho – Moscow, ID, 2009



Also, the project manager administered or is currently administering the following grants:
LSOHC Prairie Heritage Fund, LSOHC WPA Acceleration, Small NAWCA Grants, Standard NAWCA Grants, CPL Grants, HCP Phase V, VI, VI Supplement.

Previous Work Experience

Friends of the MN Valley – Conservation Projects Manager, 2007 – 2009

MN Valley NWR Trust, Inc. – Conservation Projects Manager, 2006 – 2009

**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund
2011-2012 Request for Proposals (RFP)**

Subd: 4j2e

Project Title: 2e - HCP 7 - Wild Rice/Waterfowl Habitat: Enhancement and Long-term Monitoring

Category: D. Land Acquisition for Habitat and Recreation

Total Project Budget: \$ 50,000

Proposed Project Time Period for the Funding Requested: 3 yrs, July 2011 - June 2014

Other Non-State Funds (secured): \$ 12,9980

Summary:

To enhance wild rice/waterfowl habitat on Leech Lake Reservation, we will monitor natural wild rice beds; regulate water levels; reseed restored habitat; and implement adaptive management based on long-term trends.

Name: Steve Mortensen

Sponsoring Organization: Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe

Address: 115 6th Street NW, Ste E

Cass Lake MN 56633

Telephone Number: 218-335-7421

Email smortensen@lldrm.org

Web Ad www.lldrm.org

Location:

Region: NW, NE, Central

Ecological Section: No. Minnesota Drift and Lake Plains (212N)

County Name: Beltrami, Cass, Hubbard, Itasca

City / Township:

2011-2012 MAIN PROPOSAL

PROJECT TITLE:

HCP7-2E Wild Rice/Waterfowl Habitat: Enhancement and Long-term Monitoring

I. PROJECT STATEMENT

This project addresses losses or degradation of aquatic habitat that has historically supported abundant wild rice (*Zizania* L.) and waterfowl across the Leech Lake Reservation (LLR) in north-central Minnesota. Approximately 13,000 acres of natural wild rice in shallow lakes, marshes, and forested impoundments on the LLR provide food, refuge, and nesting opportunities for numerous species of waterfowl, fish, and other animals. Natural wild rice is a key element of Ojibwe culture and is highly valued by Leech Lake Band members spiritually, culturally, and economically. The high value of wild rice habitat for fish and wildlife is well-documented and has been long recognized by diverse stakeholders of Minnesota resources.

Natural wild rice in northern Minnesota faces numerous threats (2008 MNDNR Report to Legislature: Natural Wild Rice in Minnesota). Waterfowl production in this region has been negatively impacted in recent decades because of degraded brood habitat; uncontrolled fluctuations in water levels; competition from invasive species; and changing weather patterns. Management activities to improve habitat for natural wild rice and waterfowl include regulation of water levels; reseeding of wild rice in restored habitat; and long-term monitoring of wild rice productivity to inform adaptive management.

The overall goal of this project is to conserve and enhance natural *Zizania* habitat on the LLR and the native species of waterfowl, fish, and other wildlife that rely on it. This project builds on recent and current projects conducted by LLR Division of Resource Management (LLDRM) through which we developed and are refining methodology and technical capacity to enhance and monitor wild rice habitat across the LLR. With 2011-2012 ENRTF support, we will continue to regulate water levels in existing impoundments and waterways (approx. 600 acres); reseed restored habitat with local wild rice (approx. 200 additional acres); and acquire, digitize, and analyze aerial imagery for 2011 and 2012 acreage of natural wild rice on LLR (approx. 13,000 acres/yr). The specific goals of this project directly extend a current LLDRM project supported by *2010 ENRTF funding. Here we propose to implement our *refined methodology for interpreting wild rice on aerial imagery; to implement adaptive management based on our *trend analyses of wild rice and waterfowl abundance; and to work with MNDNR-led Wild Rice Working Groups to standardize region-wide monitoring and enhancement of wild rice/waterfowl habitat.

II. DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT ACTIVITIES

Activity 1: Waterfowl Habitat Enhancement and Management

Budget: \$ 5759

Description 1: Controlling and managing water levels on a subset of existing forested impoundments and waterways of the LLR to improve habitat for reproducing waterfowl. Tasks include beaver management, beaver dam removal, and periodic drawdown of water. Cass County sites include Bag Lake (17 acres); Highland Creek (48 acres); Cuba (44 acres); Sucker Bay (51 acres); Brush Lake (13 acres); Ketchum (38 acres); Middle Sucker (7); Ojibwe I (3 acres); Ojibwe II (4 acres); West Banks I (42 Acres); West Banks II (17 acres); Snake Brook (33 acres); Bear Brook (18 acres); and Six Mile (8 Acres). Itasca County sites include Upper Third River (28 acres); Amik Lake (68 acres); Pigeon River (53); and Ball Club (82 acres).

Continued habitat maintenance will be provided through a cooperative agreement between the LLBO and the USFS. Existing structures will be maintained and parts replaced as needed.

| Outcome 1 | Completion Date |
|--|-----------------|
| 1. Water level control and management on existing forested impoundments and waterways. Includes control of beaver activity, periodic | June 30, 2013 |

| | |
|--|--|
| drawdown of waters, and parts replacement (approx. 600 acres). | |
|--|--|

Activity 2: Wild Rice Habitat Enhancement and Management

Budget: \$ 4333

Description 2: Reseeding 200 additional acres of restored habitat with local ecotypes of native wild rice (*Zizania* species) to improve wild rice production and to enhance cover and foraging opportunities for waterfowl on the LLR. Once established, and with continued management of water levels by LLBO and USFS, the wild rice should naturally reseed.

| Outcome 2 | Completion Date |
|--|------------------------|
| 1. Native wild rice reseeded on restored habitat (200 additional acres). | June 30, 2013 |

Activity 3: Long-term Monitoring and Analysis of Wild Rice Productivity

Budget: \$ 39908

Description 3: Digitizing and interpreting 2011 and 2012 aerial imagery of wild rice on LLR (approx. 13,000 acres/yr); then analyzing against our 18-year-long dataset of wild rice and waterfowl abundance (being interpreted and analyzed with 2010 ENRTF funding). Tasks include implementing methodology for interpreting wild rice on aerial imagery (being refined with 2010 ENRTF funding); implementing adaptive management based on trend analyses (being conducted with 2010 ENRTF funding); and working with the MNDNR-led Wild Rice Working Groups to standardize region-wide monitoring and enhancement of wild rice/waterfowl habitat. We will also continue partnering with the USFWS, BIA, USFS, and other stakeholders to implement adaptive management of wild rice/waterfowl habitat based on long-term trends.

| Outcome 3 | Completion Date |
|---|------------------------|
| 1. Unique 20-yr-long dataset of natural wild rice acreage interpreted and analyzed (1993-2012; approx. 13,000 acres on the LLR). Adaptive management implemented based on wild rice and waterfowl abundance trends on and near LLR between 1993 and 2012. | June 30, 2013 |

III. PROJECT STRATEGY

A. Project Team/Partners

1. LLDRM Fish, Wildlife, and Plant Resources Department: Project Lead on Activities 1 and 2 - Steve Mortensen, LLDRM Wildlife Biologist; Project Lead on Activity 3 - Rebecca Knowles, PhD, LLDRM Plant Ecologist (LLDRM to receive entire funds budgeted except for up to \$3965 paid to acquire aerial imagery for 2011; to contribute \$12998 in-kind).
2. USFS Chippewa National Forest: Impoundment management, including water level and beaver control (USFS to receive no funds from this proposal; to contribute up to \$40000 through Cooperative Agreement).
3. BIA Circle of Flight Program: Waterfowl and wild rice habitat enhancement (BIA to receive no funds from this proposal; to contribute up to \$25000 for habitat management).

B. Timeline Requirements

With ENRTF support, Activities 1, 2, and 3 will begin July 2011. Field activities will occur until approximately November 1 each year of the project. Activity 3 will continue year-round throughout the full period of the project (July 2011 – June 2013).

C. Long-Term Strategy and Future Funding Needs

With ENRTF support, this project will provide continuation of previous and current management activities aimed at enhancing natural wild rice productivity and waterfowl nesting and brood habitat on LLR. The LLDRM has a strong record of grant awards from tribal, federal, state, and non-profit entities. We also have a strong record of active participation in technical committees, regional and nation-wide strategic planning teams, and academic research. Our efforts to obtain funding to conserve the natural resources of the LLR are continuous and ongoing.

2011-2012 Detailed Project Budget

Leech Lake Reservation

HCP7-2E - Wild Rice/Waterfowl Habitat: Enhancement and Long-term Monitoring

IV. TOTAL TRUST FUND REQUEST BUDGET (2 years)

| BUDGET ITEM | AMOUNT |
|---|------------------|
| Personnel: | \$ - |
| Plant Ecologist (630 hrs, 15%FTE, 2yrs) @ \$23.25/hr + 30% fringe rate: Project oversight, staff supervision, analysis of data, ground-truthing (GPS, camera) | \$ 19,042 |
| GIS Specialist (425 hours, 10%FTE, 2yrs) @ \$18.34/hr + 30% fringe rate: Aerial imagery interpretation, project database management | \$ 10,132 |
| 2 Field Technicians (320 hours total, 4%FTE x 2 techs, 2 yrs) @ \$15.07/ hr + 30% fringe rate: Ground-truthing (GPS) of rice beds to aid photo interpretation | \$ 6,269 |
| 2 Field Technicians (200 hours total, 2%FTE x 2 techs, 2 yrs) @ 15.40/hr. + 30% fringe rate: Wild rice seeding, water management (including beaver control) | \$ 4,004 |
| Contract: High-resolution aerial imagery of LLR ripened wild rice stands, 1 yr, 13,000 acres (Pro-West, Inc., Applied Ecological Services, or comparable) | \$ 3,965 |
| Equipment/Tools/Supplies: \$ 5588, [Clemson leveler kits (3@\$549), water control parts, hardware (\$541), gasoline (\$400), rice seed (1500lbs@\$2/lb)] | \$ 5,588 |
| Travel: 2000 miles @ \$0.50/mi for travel to project sites | \$ 1,000 |
| TOTAL ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND \$ REQUEST | \$ 50,000 |

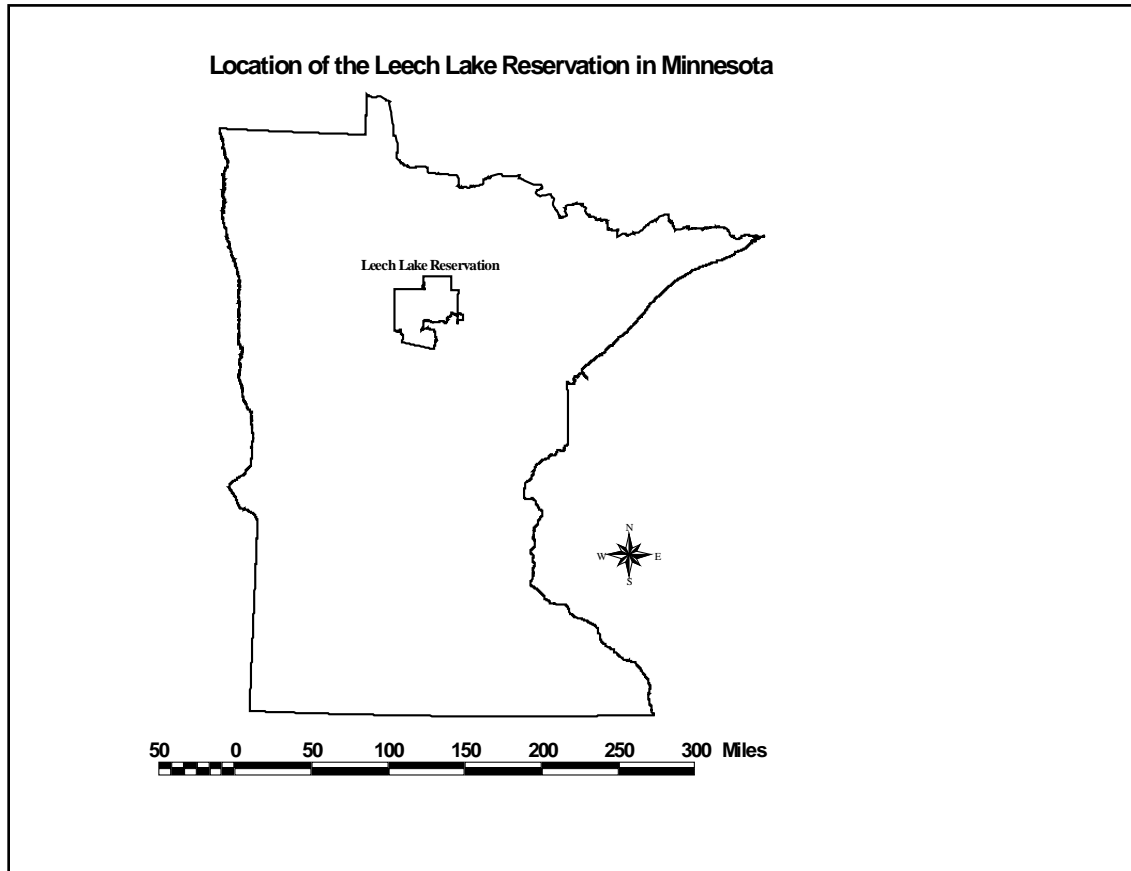
V. OTHER FUNDS

| SOURCE OF FUNDS | AMOUNT | Status |
|---|---------------|---------------|
| Other Non-State \$ Being Applied to Project During Project Period: Tribal funding from BIA Circle of Flight Program to assist in fieldwork and project administration. | \$ 25,000 | Pending |
| Other Non-State \$ Being Applied to Project During Project Period: USFS Cooperative Agreement funding to assist in water level management and rice restoration. | \$ 40,000 | Pending |
| In-kind Services During Project Period: LLDRM assistance with wild rice survey (vehicles, GPS and GIS equipment, indirect costs) and overall project management. | \$ 12,998 | Secured |
| | | |
| Funding History | | |
| ENRTF 2001 HCP Phase I | \$ 76,910 | |
| ENRTF 2003 HCP Phase II | \$ 34,700 | |
| ENRTF 2005 HCP Phase III | \$ 28,000 | |
| ENRTF 2007 HCP Phase IV | \$ 30,000 | |
| ENRTF 2008 HCP Phase V | \$ 30,000 | |
| ENRTF 2010 HCP Phase VI Supplemental | \$ 50,000 | |

2011-2012 MAIN PROPOSAL MAP

PROJECT TITLE:

HCP7-2E Wild Rice/Waterfowl Habitat: Enhancement and Long-term Monitoring



Project Manager Qualifications

The Project Manager for Phase VII of the Habitat Conservation Partnership project proposed by the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe is Steve A Mortensen. Steve received his BS in Biology from Bemidji State University in 1982. He was employed by the MN DNR for several years before accepting a position with the Leech Lake Reservation Division of Resources Management in 1984. He worked as a biologist for the Band until 2009, at which time; he was promoted to the Fish, Wildlife, and Plant Resources Program Director/Biologist. This program provides comprehensive fish, wildlife, and plant resources management aimed at species and habitats of importance to members of the Leech Lake Band. As such he has been involved in the development of programs for the reservation that protect, enhance, and manage human utilization of plant and animal resources on the reservation. Wildlife habitat and wild rice are both critical components of our management. He has also been involved in the oversight and implementation of numerous grants that work with wildlife and plants. Steve oversees a staff of 9 full time employees with an annual budget exceeding \$700,000.

The LLBO Fish, Wildlife, and Plants Resources Program were an original member of the LCCMR Habitat Conservation Partnership in 2001 and have been an active partner over the first five phases. As a partner, the Leech Lake FW&P Department has successfully managed \$199,000 in previous HCP grant projects.

Organization Description

The Leech Lake Fish, Wildlife and Plant Resources Program is an integral program of the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe, Division of Resources Management (DRM). The Leech Lake DRM provides comprehensive natural resources management in many areas in addition to Fish, Wildlife and Plant Management including Conservation Enforcement with four Conservation Officers cross-deputized with the State of Minnesota, Forest Management, Land Management, Water Resources Management, and Wildland Firefighting, as well as a whole host of Environmental Service programs designed to protect and enhance the lands and natural resources within the boundaries of the Leech Lake Reservation. A detailed description of our programs and mission is available on our website at www.lldrm.org.

**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund
2011-2012 Request for Proposals (RFP)**

Subd: 4j2g

Project Title: 2g - HCP 7 - Restoration & Management - Wildlife Management Areas

Category: D. Land Acquisition for Habitat and Recreation

Total Project Budget: \$ 30,000

Proposed Project Time Period for the Funding Requested: 3 yrs, July 2011 - June 2014

Other Non-State Funds (secured): \$ 0

Summary:

Habitat restoration and infrastructure development of new Wildlife Management Areas (WMA) needs to be tied to the proposed 209 acre land acquisition efforts of the Habitat Conservation Partnership (HCP).

Name: Suzann Willhite

Sponsoring Organization: DNR

Address: 500 Lafayette Rd

Saint Paul MN 55155

Telephone Number: 651-259-5235

Email suzann.willhite@state.mn.us

Web Ad www.dnr.state.mn.us

Location:

Region: Statewide

Ecological Section: Statewide

County Name: Statewide

City / Township:

2011-2012 LCCMR MAIN PROPOSAL

PROJECT TITLE: HCP7-2g Restoration & Management – Wildlife Management Areas

I. PROJECT STATEMENT

Restoration and management of newly acquired Wildlife Management Areas (WMA) are directly tied to the land acquisition efforts of the Habitat Conservation Partnership (HCP). The mission of Minnesota's Habitat Conservation Partnership is to restore, enhance, and conserve habitat for the purpose of sustaining fish, wildlife and native plant communities for all generations. This project funding component (2g) ensures that the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) will have funding available to complete the necessary initial site development and habitat restoration for these newly acquired lands when they are transferred from the partner organizations to the DNR for long term management. Refer to the partner proposals for a list of potential acquisition projects or sites. Adequate funding ensures that newly acquired lands can be entered into the WMA system on a timely basis.

DNR, Wildlife management areas (WMAs) are part of Minnesota's outdoor recreation system and are established to protect those lands and waters that have a high potential for wildlife production, public hunting, trapping, fishing, and other compatible recreational uses. They are the backbone to DNR's wildlife management efforts in Minnesota and are key to: protecting wildlife habitat for future generations; providing citizens with opportunities for hunting, fishing and wildlife watching; and promoting important wildlife-based tourism in the state.

DNR, Section of Wildlife staff will administer and manage habitat restoration and development of infrastructure necessary for public access on lands acquired by partners for State Wildlife Management Areas (WMA). Infrastructure management may include but is not limited to boundary surveys, boundary signing, professional services, public access, parking lots, user facilities, and clean up of old buildings or wells. Habitat restoration for wildlife may include but is not limited to grassland development or improvement, wetland restoration or impoundment development, forest or woody cover development or improvement, brush land management, professional services, and food plot development. Temporary project staff or intermittent labor will be hired as needed to implement development on acquired lands. Cultural and environmental reviews in addition to necessary permits will be completed as required. Digital boundary, habitat inventory and facilities files will be developed as part of the management plans.

DNR cannot start work until the HCP Partners have completed acquisition on each parcel. HCP Partners have estimated that 209 acres will be acquired and turned over to DNR, but it is unknown how many final parcels will be acquired, or when the acquisitions will be completed. The work completed under this proposal is dependent on the acres, types, and condition of lands acquired by the partners. All work will be completed by June 30, 2013.

II. DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT ACTIVITIES

Activity 1: Restoration of habitat for wildlife on WMAs Budget: \$15,000

Habitat restoration for wildlife may include but is not limited to grassland development or improvement, wetland restoration or impoundment development, forest or woody cover development or improvement, brush land management, professional services, and food plot development. Temporary project staff or intermittent labor will be hired as needed to implement restoration on acquired lands. Cultural and environmental reviews in addition to necessary permits will be completed as required. Digital boundary, habitat inventory and facilities files will be developed as part of the management plans.

| Outcome | Completion Date |
|--|-----------------|
| 1. Professional services – historical/cultural review of sites. | June 30, 2013 |
| 2. Acres of habitat restored - estimate 200 acres of 209 acres acquired. | June 30, 2013 |

Activity 2: Development of infrastructure necessary for public access on WMAs Budget: \$15,000

Infrastructure management may include but is not limited to boundary surveys, boundary signing, professional services, public access, parking lots, user facilities, and clean up of old buildings or wells. Temporary project staff or intermittent labor will be hired as needed to implement development on acquired lands. Cultural and environmental reviews in addition to necessary permits will be completed as required. Digital boundary, habitat inventory and facilities files will be developed as part of the management plans.

| Outcome | Completion Date |
|--|-----------------|
| 1. Professional services – historical/cultural review of sites and facilities. | June 30, 2013 |
| 2. Estimate 2 facilities developed such as parking lots on 209 acres acquired. | June 30, 2013 |
| 3. Estimate 2 boundary surveys on 209 acres acquired. | June 30, 2013 |

III. PROJECT STRATEGY

A. Project Team/Partners

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Fish and Wildlife Division (FAW) is a partner in the nonprofit organization of Habitat Conservation Partnership. The mission of Minnesota's Habitat Conservation Partnership is to restore, enhance, and conserve habitat for the purpose of sustaining fish, wildlife and native plant communities for all generations. Member Organizations include: Ducks Unlimited * Fond du Lac Reservation * Friends of the Detroit Lakes Wetland Management District Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe * Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources * Minnesota Deer Hunters Association * Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Minnesota Land Trust * Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc. * National Wild Turkey Federation * Pheasants Forever * Red Lake Band of Chippewa * The Nature Conservancy * Trust for Public Land * U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service * U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Pheasants Forever (PF) is the main organization that has identified parcels for acquisition that would be transferred to DNR-FAW. Joe Pavelko, PF MN Director of Conservation Programs, is the lead contact for PF for land acquisitions and transfers.

B. Timeline Requirements

We propose a two year grant beginning July 1, 2011 and ending on June 30, 2013.

C. Long-Term Strategy and Future Funding Needs

This project is needed as long as the partnership exists and lands are being acquired by the partners that will be transferred to the DNR as part of the WMA system. The DNR is in the process of preparing a 10 year budget analysis of the departments Wildlife Management Areas land management needs which will be submitted to the legislature by November 15, 2010 (MN Session Laws 2010, Chap. 36, Art. 14 Sec. 74) . This report will provide us with the detailed information necessary to determine the amount necessary to manage, restore and maintain these units. Once this information is presented we will update this information in the work plan.

2011-2012 Detailed Project Budget

HCP7-2g Restoration & Management – Wildlife Management Areas

IV. TOTAL TRUST FUND REQUEST BUDGET: two (2) years

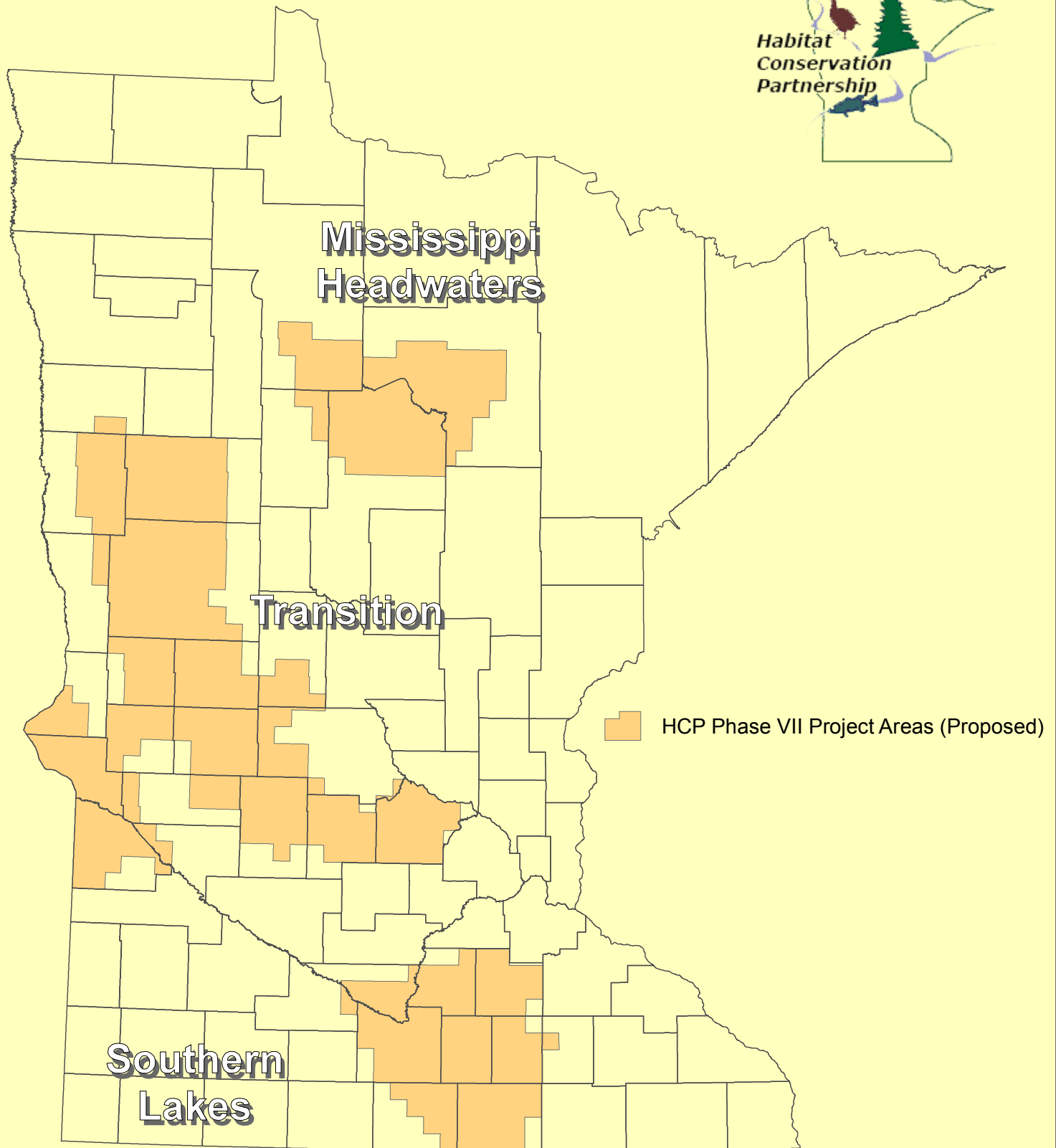
| BUDGET ITEM | AMOUNT |
|--|------------------|
| Personnel: Temporary or intermittent staff for initial site facility development and habitat restoration work. | \$ 5,000 |
| Contracts: Professional services: Ex: DNR Management Resources, Land Surveys, Historical/cutral review contracts. | \$ 5,000 |
| Equipment/Tools/Supplies: For initial facility development and restoration of 400 acres using DNR equipment such as drills, seeders, and hand tools. Supplies include gravel for parking lots, posts, signs and seed. | \$ 15,000 |
| Acquisition (Fee Title or Permanent Easements): 200 acres acquired by partner organizations. | \$ - |
| Travel: Fleet costs for vehicles and equipment. | \$ 5,000 |
| TOTAL ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND \$ REQUEST | \$ 30,000 |

V. OTHER FUNDS

| SOURCE OF FUNDS | AMOUNT | Status |
|--|---------------|---|
| Other Non-State \$ Being Applied to Project During Project Period: | \$ - | Pending |
| Other State \$ Being Applied to Project During Project Period: | \$ - | Pending |
| In-kind Services During Project Period: | \$ - | Pending |
| Remaining \$ from Current ENRTF Appropriation (if applicable): | | |
| 09 ENRTF and related to LCCMR-HCP projects. | \$ 50,000 | \$2,000 encumbered, \$48,000 remaining |
| Funding History: | | |
| 10 L-SOHF Accelerated Prairie and Grassland Mgmt. Amt for development of DNR acquisitions. | \$ 300,000 | \$48,300 allocated, \$251,700 remaining. |
| 08 ENRTF and related to LCCMR-HCP projects. | \$ 29,102 | 2008 Completed. |
| 08 RIM Bonding D10 -Wildlife Area Land Acquisition & Improvement. | \$ 5,000,000 | \$4,462,178 expended, \$32,673 encumbered, \$505,149 remaining. |
| 08 Bonding D09 - Water Control Structures | \$ 500,000 | \$357,095 expended, \$55,297 encumbered, \$87,608 remaining. |
| 07 ENRTF and related to LCCMR-HCP projects. | \$ 47,185 | 2007 Completed |
| 06 Bonding D08 - Water Control Structures | \$ 1,000,000 | \$689,886 expended, \$310,114 encumbered. |
| 06 RIM Bonding D07 -Wildlife Area Land Acquisition & Improvement. | \$ 14,000,000 | \$13,823,128 expended, \$176,872 encumbered. |
| 05 RIM Bonding D06 -Wildlife Mgmt Area Development | \$ 600,000 | \$592,260 expended, \$7,740 encumbered. |
| 05 ENRTF and related to LCCMR-HCP projects. | \$ 28,751 | 2005 Completed |

Habitat Conservation Partnership

Proposed Phase VII Project Areas



AGENDA ITEM: 08b

2011-2012 LCCMR PROJECT MANAGER QUALIFICATIONS AND ORGANIZATION FORM

PROJECT TITLE: HCP7-2g Restoration & Management – Wildlife Management Areas

Project Manager: First Name: Suzann Last Name: Willhite

Sponsoring Organization: Minnesota Dept. of Natural Resources (DNR), Division of Fish and Wildlife, Section of Wildlife

Mailing Address: Street Address: 500 Lafayette Road,
City: St Paul, State: MN Zip: 55155

Telephone Number: 651 – 259-5235

Email: Suzann.Willhite@dnr.state.mn.us

Fax: 651-297-4961

Project Manager Qualifications

DNR Wildlife Section Operations & Development Consultant position administers the work plans and LCCMR grants to the DNR, Section of Wildlife for initial development of State Wildlife Management Areas (WMA).so that program goals and legal requirements are met.

**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund
2011-2012 Request for Proposals (RFP)**

Subd: 4j2h

Project Title: 2h - HCP 7 - Restoration & Management - DNR Fisheries

Category: D. Land Acquisition for Habitat and Recreation

Total Project Budget: \$ 200,000

Proposed Project Time Period for the Funding Requested: 3 yrs, July 2011 - June 2014

Other Non-State Funds (secured): \$ 0

Summary:

To ensure quality fishing, improvements in water quality and aquatic communities will be addressed in SW through habitat work on shores and through technical assistance.

Name: Linda Erickson-Eastwood

Sponsoring Organization: DNR

Address: 500 Lafayette Rd, Box 20

Saint Paul MN 55155

Telephone Number: 651-259-5206

Email linda.erickson-eastwood@state.mn.us

Web Ad

Location:

Region: SW

Ecological Section: No. Minnesota Drift and Lake Plains (212N)

County Name: Statewide

City / Township:

2011-2012 LCCMR MAIN PROPOSAL

PROJECT TITLE: HCP7-2h Restoration & Management–DNR Fisheries

I. PROJECT STATEMENT

Currently 2/3 of Minnesota,(primarily non-forested areas of the state) have disturbed aquatic systems with resulting poor water quality and limited habitat to sustain “quality” fish and wildlife communities. Minnesota’s multimillion dollar fishing industry is in jeopardy due to this disturbance. We can help improve fish populations, fishing opportunities and water quality, by doing projects that maintain or upgrade existing habitat projects, isolate unwanted or exotic fish species from those water bodies, restore fish and wildlife habitat, and conserve high quality shorelines.

Minnesota has numerous fish habitat improvement needs on the 3,000 lakes actively managed by the Department. This project will address less than 1% of the anticipated needs. There is currently a limited budget to support these types of projects and an increasing need to provide quality fishing and fishing opportunities around the state. For example, aerating basins in Southern Minnesota to support game fish populations increases the amount of angling opportunities in areas of the state where they are limited due to lake availability, lake depth, and winter kill. Along with habitat improvement projects, it is also important to maintain existing habitat sites and improve degraded ones to allow for continued benefits these areas provide to fish, wildlife and water quality.

This project will include administering and managing aquatic restoration and habitat improvement work that will be done on public areas and provide technical advice for private land work. Lake management plans and project proposals are drafted for each water body that direct the work that is needed to be done at that site. Existing sites will be assessed by area fisheries staff. The results of this review will be prioritized by regional and central office staff and will be looked at in reference to the work that is being done by others in the HCP Partnership. Once this prioritized list of projects is completed, then area staff will implement the needed actions through contracts and use of temporary staff as needed. There will be up to 3.5 miles or 35 acres of rivers, streams, or lakes benefited from this proposal. Through these combined efforts we are improving and protecting habitat for aquatic species in our lakes, streams, and their surrounding sensitive shorelands more effectively and efficiently than would otherwise be possible.

II. DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT ACTIVITIES

Activity 1: Restoration Budget: \$200,000

Aquatic habitat work may include but is not limited to invasive control to restore or reestablish habitats impacted by them, stream channel restorations, installation of aeration systems, spawning area development, dam modifications, bank stabilization, plantings of native vegetation, fish barrier installation projects that occur adjacent to or in lakes and streams, and erosion control, and culvert improvements for fish passage. Also included will be monies to pay for surveys, engineering design, and legal assistance. Temporary project staff or intermittent labor will be hired as needed to implement

aquatic habitat improvements. Cultural and environmental reviews in addition to necessary permits will be completed as required.

| Outcome | Completion Date |
|---|-----------------|
| 3.5 miles or 35 acres of waterbodies benefited from habitat work such as the following projects 1. Crocker Creek near Faribault Shoreland Habitat 2. Swenson Lake Aeration Kandiyohi County 3. Diamond/Hubbard Lake Fish Barrier Kandiyohi County 4. Wakanda Lake Shoreland Habitat Kandiyohi County 5. Eagle Lake Shoreland Habitat Otter Tail County 6. Hattie Lake Aeration – Stevens County 7. Technical Assistance on aquatic habitat work 8. Other projects as work is identified | June 30, 2013 |

III. PROJECT STRATEGY

A. Project Team/Partners

Minnesota DNR Division of Fisheries and Wildlife staff – Site identification and evaluation, project prioritization, project design and oversight and some project implementation.

HCP Partners working in the same area to coordinate efforts

Local lake associations, lake improvement districts and sportsman's groups – Design assistance, labor and equipment, electricity costs, and leases.

Outside contractors – Project design and implementation

B. Timeline Requirements

We propose a two year grant beginning July 1, 2011 and ending on June 30, 2013.

C. Long-Term Strategy and Future Funding Needs

This project will help protect and upgrade habitat improvement on disturbed water bodies and will look at ways to partner with others local units of government to address watershed issues that are beyond the scope of the Department. It will also provide increased fishing opportunities and improved water quality to support game fish populations and other wildlife. It is important to the economy and way of life in Minnesota to ensure that the Department can continue to provide quality fishing and fishing opportunities around the state. In the future additional funds will be needed to continue to maintain and upgrade these important habitat resources. Sources of funding beyond LCCMR will be looked at including license fees, stamp fees, Midwest Glacial lakes Partnership, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, LCCMR, and LSOHC funds.

2011-2012 Detailed Project Budget

HCP 2g Restoration & Management – Wildlife Management Areas

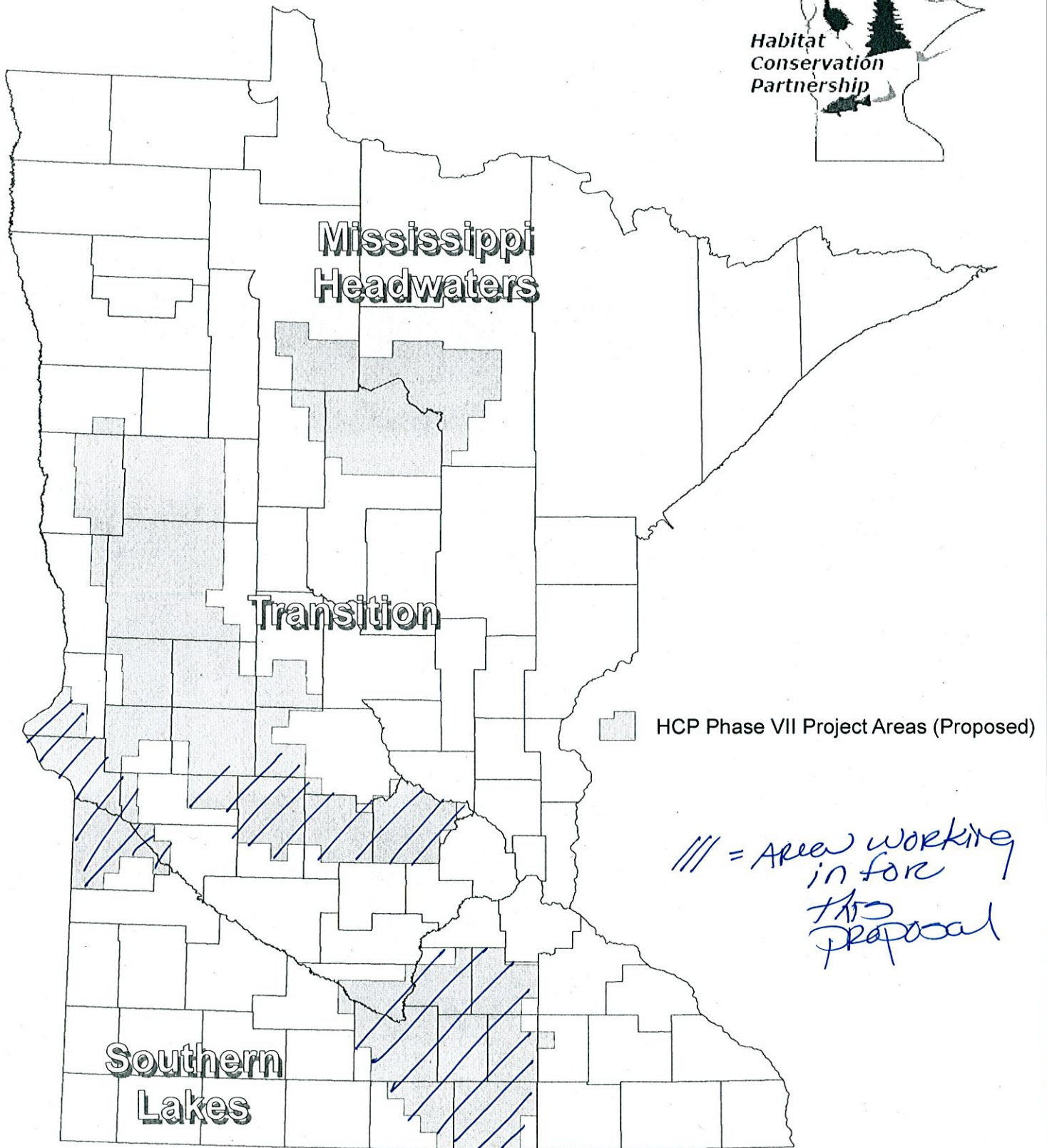
IV. TOTAL TRUST FUND REQUEST BUDGET: two (2) years

| BUDGET ITEM | AMOUNT |
|--|-------------------|
| Personnel: Two temporary staff or interns working full time for the summer on habitat work each year. 90% salary 10% benefit package | \$ 30,000 |
| Contracts: Professional services: Ex: Engineering designs, Land Surveys, Historical/cultural review . Also low bid contracts for implementation of projects | \$ 140,000 |
| Equipment/Tools/Supplies: Two lake aeration systems and the electrical cords | \$ 20,000 |
| Travel: Fleet costs for vehicles and heavy equipment. | \$ 10,000 |
| TOTAL ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND \$ REQUEST | \$ 200,000 |

V. OTHER FUNDS

| SOURCE OF FUNDS | AMOUNT | Status |
|---|---------------|---------------|
| Other Non-State \$ Being Applied to Project During Project Period: | | Pending |
| Other State \$ Being Applied to Project During Project Period: | | Pending |
| Inkind: From Game and Fish Fund and will cover the shared services and Division Support. | \$ 10,000 | Pending |
| ETF 2008 | \$10,000 and | Secured |
| 2009 | \$15,000 | Secured |
| 2010 | \$100,000 | Pending |
| Funding History: | | |
| ETF 2007 | \$280,000 | |
| 2008 | \$200,000 | |
| 2009 | \$100,000 | |
| Trout Stamp annual approximation | \$200,000 | |
| Game and Fish annual approximation | \$400,000 | |

Habitat Conservation Partnership Proposed Phase VII Project Areas



AGENDA ITEM: 08b

Program Manager Qualifications

Project Manager: Linda Erickson-Eastwood, Fisheries Program Manager
Affiliation: Department of Natural Resources, Fish and Wildlife Division
Mailing Address: 500 Lafayette Rd Box 20, Saint Paul, MN 55155
Telephone No.: 651-259-5206 Fax: 651-297-4916
E-mail: linda.erickson-eastwood@state.mn.us

Linda Erickson-Eastwood is the Fisheries Program Manager. Ms. Erickson-Eastwood is responsible for coordinating and administering all fisheries programs designed to meet section goals both on public and private lands. She provides programmatic direction and management to staff and is responsible for working with the Fisheries Management Section Chief on the oversight of the sections budget. She has been involved with the implementation of several previous bonding and LCMR projects and oversees the Section's \$35 million dollar budget.

Ms. Erickson-Eastwood has served as the Fisheries Program Manager since 1998. Other related experiences include: Fisheries Ed Coordinator, Fisheries Information Specialist, Fisheries Management Supervisor, Research Assistant, and Waterfowl Technician.

Education: Graduated from the Iowa State University in 1981 with a bachelor's degree in Wildlife and Fisheries Management. Graduated from University of WI – LaCrosse in 1986 with a Master's degree in Fisheries and Wildlife Management with computer programming minor.

Ms. Erickson-Eastwood will provide overall management to this proposed LCCMR project. She has effectively demonstrated her capacity to manage programs and budgets, maintain accurate records, and direct staff. Ms. Erickson-Eastwood has experience and demonstrated an ability to collaborate with a wide range of internal and external stakeholders in addressing complicated and contentious management issues. She knows how to get work done on the ground.

Organizational Description

The MN DNR – Section of Fisheries' mission is to "to conserve and manage Minnesota's aquatic resources and associated fish communities for their intrinsic values and long-term ecological, economic, and recreational benefits to the people of Minnesota." **Broad Goals:**

1. To make recreational fishing as good as it can be in the state of Minnesota for the present and future.
2. To conserve, maintain, enhance, or rehabilitate Minnesota's aquatic resources to serve environmental, social, and commercial purposes.
3. To foster an ethic of natural resource stewardship among all Minnesotans.

**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund
2011-2012 Request for Proposals (RFP)**

Subd: 4j2o

Project Title: 2o - HCP 7 - Prairie Pothole Restoration on Waterfowl Areas

Category: D. Land Acquisition for Habitat and Recreation

Total Project Budget: \$ 75,000

Proposed Project Time Period for the Funding Requested: 3 yrs, July 2011 - June 2014

Other Non-State Funds (secured): \$ 0

Summary:

This project restores wetlands in Clay and Becker Counties for the benefit of migratory and endangered species. Restorations will also benefit flood water storage and carbon sequestration.

Name: Greg Hoch

Sponsoring Organization: Friends of the Detroit Lakes Wetland Management Division

Address: 26624 N Tower Rd

Detroit Lakes MN 56501

Telephone Number: 218-443-0476

Email gahoch@umn.edu

Web Ad

Location:

Region: NW

Ecological Section: Red River Valley (251A)

County Name: Becker

City / Township:

2011-2012 MAIN PROPOSAL

PROJECT TITLE: Prairie Pothole Restoration on Waterfowl Production Areas

I. PROJECT STATEMENT

The primary mission of the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) is to provide habitat for migratory wildlife species and Federally threatened and endangered species. The purpose of this grant is to restore wetlands that many of these species are dependent on.

This project is part of the Habitat Corridors Partnership. The restoration activities will utilize private/public partnerships to fund critical habitat restorations on public lands, directly complementing existing investments in habitat for wildlife, fish and native plant communities. While the preliminary work will be done by FWS staff, the majority of the work will be done by locally owned private contractors. This effort both stimulates local economies as well as conducts needed habitat restoration work on public lands.

Many Waterfowl Production Areas (WPA) located in the Detroit Lakes Wetland Management District (WMD) have been purchased and the upland habitats have been seeded to local ecotype native grasses and a diverse mix of wildflower species. The next step is to use the Restorable Wetlands Inventory (RWI) to identify drained wetlands on these sites. All of these sites are within the Working Lands Initiative (WLI) priority areas developed by the USFWS's Habitat And Population Evaluation Team (HAPET) office in Fergus Falls MN. By using a combination of datasets and wildlife modeling efforts, we hope to target restoration dollars on the landscape where they will do the most good for all species of grassland and wetland dependent wildlife.

In addition to the primary goal of wildlife habitat, there will be numerous other benefits to these activities. Flooding in the Red River Valley is becoming an annual event. Snowmelt and rainwater stored on these WPAs will be kept out of the ditch and river system during flood events. The water will percolate into the ground, recharging groundwater and aquifers. Since the water will move slowly through this system, natural processes will clean the water of pollutants and filter suspended sediment. Wetlands will also sequester carbon, helping to mitigate climate change.

II. DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT ACTIVITIES

The land affected in this grant has already been purchased and the uplands restored. All restorations in the Detroit Lakes WMD follow specified restoration plans that incorporate strategies from both the state of Minnesota as well as Federal guidelines. USFWS staff will use the RWI in combination with historic aerial photos to identify and delineate wetlands on each site. They will then visit the site to take soil cores at several wetlands at the site. This will allow them to determine how much silt and soil have washed into the wetlands from years of row-cropping and erosion on surrounding areas. Staff will then stake the boundaries of each wetland and inform the contractor how much fill needs to be removed to get to the original soils in the wetland basin. Staff will visit while the contractor is on-site to check their depth estimates.

Contractors that have worked with this office will apply through a competitive bid process. The contractors will do the actual removal of the fill in each wetland. Most wetlands will be connected to a ditch that was originally used to drain them. We will not use a ditch plug. The fill removed from the wetland will be used to completely fill in the length of the ditch. The edges of the ditches will be 'feathered' out to restore as much of the original topography to the site as possible.

Once these activities are completed, the exposed soil will be reseeded by USFWS staff using local ecotype seed harvested from native prairie sites in Becker and Clay County.

Activity 1: Wetland Restoration (Approx 47 acres) Budget: \$ 75,000

| Outcome | Completion Date |
|---|------------------------|
| 1. Survey and delineate wetlands (FWS staff) | Dec 2011 |
| 2. Remove fill from wetland basins with heavy equipment (contractors) | Nov 2012 |
| 3. Fill ditches and restore topography adjacent to former ditches (contractors) | Nov 2012 |
| 4. Reseed site using local ecotype seed (FWS staff) | Mar 2013 |

III. PROJECT STRATEGY

A. Project Team/Partners

The project will be coordinated through the Friends of the Detroit Lakes Wetland Management District. The work will be done through private contractors and USFWS personnel. This project is part of the Habitat Corridors Partnership.

B. Timeline Requirements

We plan to complete this project within the funding cycle of this grant. We have selected multiple sites along a N-S gradient. If conditions are poor (too wet) at one site, we will still be able to work at another site. The number of wetlands and wetland acres at all these sites exceed the capacity of this grant. These dollars will simply continue and be part of an on-going process of wetland restoration in the Detroit Lakes Wetland Management District.

C. Long-Term Strategy and Future Funding Needs

This project is part of long-term ongoing efforts to restore and enhance wildlife habitat in the Wetland Management District. This project continues funding from the previous ENRTF funding cycle on different areas within the District. Previous ENRTF funds have been matched through Federal NAWCA (North American Wetland Conservation Act) grants. If funded, this grant will be matched for its full value with another NAWCA grant this coming October.

2011-2012 Detailed Project Budget

IV. TOTAL TRUST FUND REQUEST BUDGET 2 years

| BUDGET ITEM | AMOUNT |
|--|------------------|
| Contracts: Contractors not determined for wetland restoration work. Will use contractors listed under IDIQ (Indefinite Delivery, Indefinite Quantity) Contractors will use heavy equipment to remove fill/silt from wetlands that FWS staff have delineated, fill in ditches with this fill, and restore as much of the original microtopography to the site as possible. Seeding on exposed dirt will be done by FWS staff | \$ 75,000 |
| TOTAL ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND \$ REQUEST | \$ 75,000 |

V. OTHER FUNDS

| SOURCE OF FUNDS | AMOUNT | Status |
|---|---------------|-------------------------------------|
| Other Non-State \$ Being Applied to Project During Project Period: Administrative costs to the Detroit Lakes Wetland Management District Office, as well as delineation and flagging of wetlands and grassland restorations for contractors | \$ 7,000 | Secured |
| Other Non-State \$ Being Applied to Project During Project Period: NAWCA grant this spring will fund identical projects on nearby sites matching previous ENRTF dollars. We will submit another NAWCA grant this coming fall to match the dollars requested in this grant. | \$ 75,000 | Secured / Submit Fall 2010 |
| Other State \$ Being Applied to Project During Project Period: The Friends group was funded through the OHC for additional restorations on nearby sites. | \$ 45,000 | Secured |
| In-kind Services During Project Period: | \$ - | |
| Remaining \$ from Current ENRTF Appropriation (if applicable): | \$ 10,000 | Unspent |
| Funding History, State: ENRTF ML 2008 -\$20,000, ML 2009 - \$50,000, ML 2010 - \$45,000 (recommended) / OHC 2010 - 45,000 | \$ 160,000 | Secured / Recommended Secured |
| Funding History, Federal: NAWCA 2009 - \$45,000 / NAWCA 2010 - \$75,000 / NAWCA 2011 - \$75,000 (will apply in Oct) | \$ 120,000 | |

Clay County

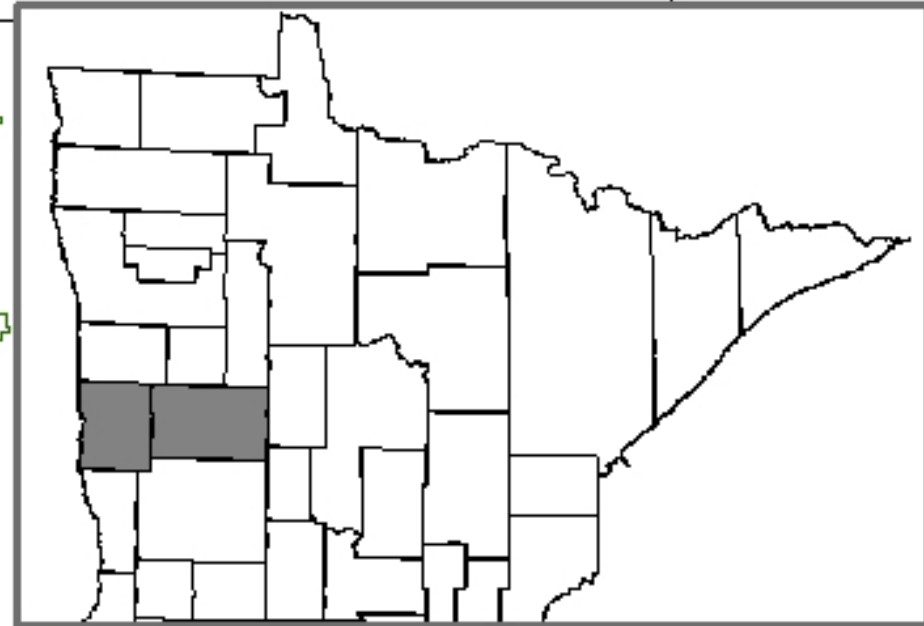
Seter-Davis WPA

Lake Park WPA

Whiskey Lake WPA

Becker County

Clay and Becker Counties. Map shows distribution of Waterfowl Production Areas (WPA) in the two counties. The WPAs restored in this project are highlighted and labeled.



Project Manager Qualifications and Organization Description

Project Manager

Greg Hoch is member of the Friends of the Detroit Lakes Wetland Management District (DLWMD). He has a number of on-going research projects with both the DNR and USFWS in Minnesota studying both birds and grassland plant communities. Greg is a member of several state boards/committees including the MN Prairie Chicken Society, Bird Conservation Minnesota, technical cmte for the MN Breeding Bird Atlas, the prairie/ farmland cmte chair for the MN Chapter of The Wildlife Society, and Friends of the DLWMD. He is President of the MN Chapter of The Wildlife Society. He is managing the current LCCMR grant for the Friends group as well as three Heritage Enhancement Grants through the MN Prairie Chicken Society. He has received two DNR Conservation Partnership Grants. He was recently funded for a NAWCA grant through the DLWMD office. This fall he was funded for four grants through the LSOHC small grants program.

Organization Description

The Friends of the Detroit Lakes Wetland Management District is a private non-profit organization. The Friends group is part of a larger network of Friends groups across Minnesota and the United States. The mission of the Friends of the Detroit Lakes WMD is to support the operations and mission of the Detroit Lakes WMD.

**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund
2011-2012 Request for Proposals (RFP)**

Subd: 4j3a

Project Title: 3a - HCP 7 - Shoreland Protection Program

Category: D. Land Acquisition for Habitat and Recreation

Total Project Budget: \$ 450,000

Proposed Project Time Period for the Funding Requested: 3 yrs, July 2011 - June 2014

Other Non-State Funds (secured): \$ 0

Summary:

Protect 400-600 acres of critical riparian habitats in specific regions of Minnesota by securing permanent conservation easements along lakes, rivers, and streams and dedicating funds to support those easements.

Name: Sarah Strommen

Sponsoring Organization: Minnesota Land Trust

Address: 2356 University Ave W, Ste 240

Saint Paul MN 55114

Telephone Number: 651-647-9590

Email sstrommen@mnland.org

Web Ad www.mnland.org

Location:

Region: Statewide

Ecological Section: No. Minnesota Drift and Lake Plains (212N), Minnesota and NE Iowa Morainial (222M), North Central Glaciated Plains (251B)

County Name: Becker, Beltrami, Big Stone, Blue Earth, Cass, Clay, Douglas, Faribault, Freeborn, Grant, Hubbard, Itasca, Kandiyohi, Lac qui Parle, Le Sueur, Meeker, Otter Tail, Pope, Rice, Stearns, Steele, Stevens, Todd, Waseca, Wright

City / Township:

2011-2012 MAIN PROPOSAL

PROJECT TITLE: HCP 7–3A Shoreland Protection Program

I. PROJECT STATEMENT

The Minnesota Land Trust's Shoreland Protection Program is a focused and cost effective component of the Habitat Conservation Partnership. The focus of the Land Trust's activities under this project is on shorelands—fragile and ecologically important areas that have been recognized in the Statewide Conservation and Preservation Plan as among the most threatened natural systems in the State and in need of protection, conservation, and restoration. Working in the delineated project areas, our land protection efforts are directed only to protecting critical riparian shorelands along Minnesota's legendary network of lakes, wetlands, rivers and streams—some of the most valuable and vulnerable habitats in the State.

This program reflects the goals of the Statewide Conservation and Preservation Plan and Minnesota's Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy. It prioritizes protecting high-quality fish habitat, maintaining wooded shoreline key to waterfowl, and protecting habitat for a variety of migratory birds and species in greatest conservation need, including yellow rail, black tern, and red-shouldered hawk.

The Land Trust will carefully select, design and implement individual real estate projects to make sure that conservation goals and objectives can be met and that the conservation values are protected in perpetuity. Although we work with willing landowners, we prioritize projects and coordinate with other partners to the extent possible in order to maximize efficiency and effectiveness. The Land Trust will work in any of the mapped project areas, but particular focus will be on Areas 2, 3-7-8, 4, 5, 10, and 11.

The Land Trust works only with perpetual conservation easements. These easements prohibit land uses or development that negatively affect important habitat and other conservation values, direct the management of vegetation, and require plans for enhanced management and restoration as appropriate. The Land Trust also will explore the potential for public access with landowners on a case-by-case basis. These easements are monitored annually and enforced as necessary under the Land Trust's comprehensive conservation easement monitoring, management, and enforcement program funded in part through our Stewardship and Enforcement Fund. Funds are requested for our dedicated Stewardship and Enforcement Fund on a project-by-project basis in accordance with our LCCMR-approved policies and procedures. The Land Trust will report to LCCMR annually on the status of the Stewardship and Enforcement Fund and the easements acquired with funds from this grant.

Proposed activities under this grant include: 1) contacting and negotiating with interested landowners in identified areas and in other strategic locations; 2) drafting and completing conservation easements; 3) documenting property conditions; and 4) dedicating funds for the perpetual monitoring, management and enforcement of those easements.

II. DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT ACTIVITIES

Activity 1: Protect Critical Shorelands through Conservation Easements Budget: \$450,000

The Land Trust will protect critical riparian habitat within the mapped project areas by: 1) contacting landowners; 2) negotiating and completing 4-6 permanent conservation easements on 400-600 acres of land (including documenting property conditions and creating management plans as appropriate); and 3) dedicating funds for the perpetual monitoring, management and enforcement of the easements.

The Land Trust will work primarily with donated easements, purchasing easements when necessary and then at below market value whenever possible. Criteria for determining when a purchase is necessary include landowner ability to donate, connectivity of parcel to other protected lands, and quality of natural resources on the site. Current potential projects are identified on the attached list. New projects will be added as landowners are identified. We will continually evaluate potential projects and pursue those that protect the highest quality habitat and maximize public benefit.

| Outcome | Completion Date |
|--|-----------------|
| 1. Protect 400-600 acres by completing 4-6 conservation easements by identifying and contacting landowners, completing all components of conservation easement projects, and dedicating funds for long-term management, monitoring, and enforcement. | June 30, 2013 |

III. PROJECT STRATEGY

A. Project Team/Partners

The Land Trust is the only entity receiving funds through this request, however, the Land Trust coordinates its work with other Habitat Conservation Partnership partners (please see overall proposal for list of project partners) as appropriate. Additionally, our partners include private landowners, as well as various units of state and local government that help in identifying and completing potential projects.

B. Timeline Requirements

We anticipate completing the 4-6 conservation easements by June 30, 2013.

C. Long-Term Strategy and Future Funding Needs

This project is part of the Land Trust's long-term, strategic conservation agenda. The conservation agenda sets out the specific conservation focus of the Land Trust which includes, among other things, the preservation of lakeshores, rivers and streams for their importance as habitat, for their relationship to water quality, and for the scenic values that have long been associated with Minnesota's beauty. The conservation agenda also identifies a suite of critical landscapes throughout the State that embody the natural and cultural features that make Minnesota unique. All of the HCP project areas selected for this phase of the grant overlap with Land Trust critical landscapes.

The Minnesota Land Trust has a comprehensive easement monitoring and enforcement program directed at preserving the conservation values of protected lands. With each easement accepted, the Minnesota Land Trust will secure the funds necessary to meet our long-term obligations, setting aside funds for each project as necessary to meet future needs.

2011-2012 Detailed Project Budget

HCP 7-3A: Shoreland Protection Program

IV. TOTAL TRUST FUND REQUEST BUDGET 2 years

| BUDGET ITEM | AMOUNT |
|--|-------------------|
| Personnel: Staff expenses including salaries, benefits (FICA, FUTA, SUI, worker's comp health insurance, 401 (k), etc.) and related costs for approximately 1 FTE for 2 years as follows: Conservation directors or other land protection staff (approximately .75 FTE) and Staff attorney and other support staff (approximately .25 FTE). | \$ 140,000 |
| Acquisition (Permanent Easements): Includes purchase price of conservation easement(s); title work, insurance, etc.; maps, GIS (including project mapping by Community GIS); film; other (including appraisals, surveys, recording fees, etc.) to protect 400-600 acres of land. | \$ 215,000 |
| Travel: Mileage and related travel expenses in Minnesota. \$4,000 for mileage reimbursement estimated at \$0.50/mile and \$1,000 for food/lodging. | \$ 5,000 |
| Conservation Easement Monitoring, Management, and Enforcement Fund: Funds dedicated to perpetually monitoring, managing, and enforcing 4-6 easements (400-600 acres) acquired and held by the Land Trust as needed. Estimated at \$15,000 per easement. | \$ 90,000 |
| TOTAL ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND \$ REQUEST | \$ 450,000 |

V. OTHER FUNDS

| SOURCE OF FUNDS | AMOUNT | Status |
|--|---------------|---|
| Other Non-State \$ Being Applied to Project During Project Period: \$500,000 - These other funds represent an estimate of the potential value of easements donated to the Land Trust under this project. The value of donated easements is difficult to predict, but we believe we can achieve at least \$500,000 in leverage. | \$ 500,000 | Pending, dependent upon actual projects completed |
| Other State \$ Being Applied to Project During Project Period: Unknown at this time. | Unknown | |
| In-kind Services During Project Period: While the Land Trust does not itemize the specific value of in-kind services, substantial amounts of unreimbursable staff time and overhead are required to complete land protection projects with ENRTF funding. | Unknown | |
| Remaining \$ from Current ENRTF Appropriation: HCP 2009: \$155,000; HCP 2010 appropriation of \$102,000. | \$ 257,000 | Remaining funds are committed to projects |
| Funding History: HCP 2005: \$230,000; 2007: \$300,000; 2008: \$210,000; 2009: \$210,000. These values represent past Trust Fund appropriations to prior phases of this project. They do not include donated value of easements or funds from other sources spent on projects completed or expected to be completed under these grants. Outdoor Heritage Funds 2009: \$500,000; 2010: \$816,000. Outdoor Heritage Funds are allocated for geographies and projects that do not overlap with this HCP proposal. | \$ 950,000 | Total includes HCP funding only |

2011-2012 Acquisition List for Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund Proposal

Project Title: HCP7-3A: Shoreland Protection Program

Project Manager Name: Sarah Strommen

Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund \$ Request: \$900,000

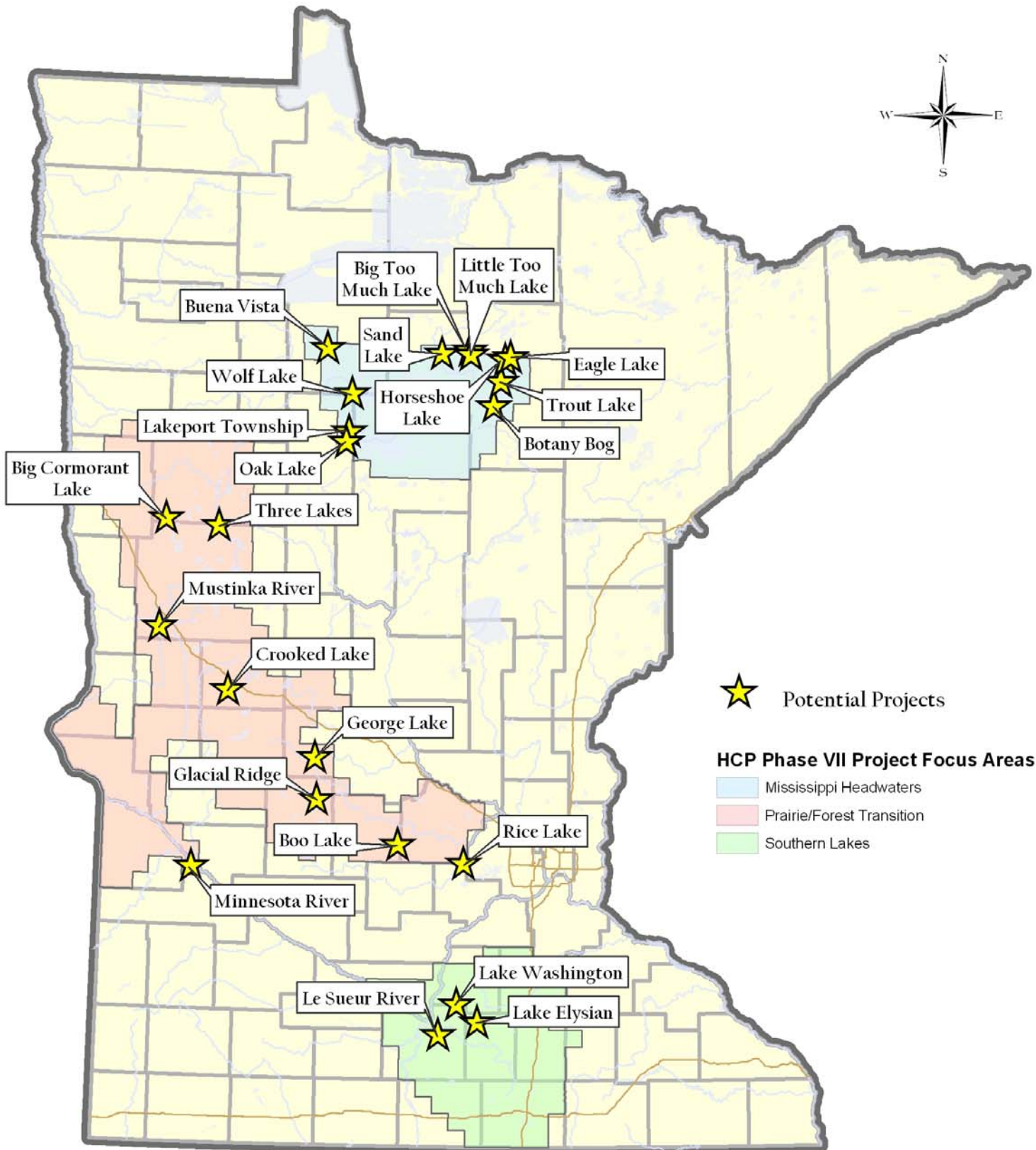
Final Easement Holder(s): Minnesota Land Trust

| # | Parcel Name | Acquisition Type (Fee-Title OR Conservation Easement) | County | Estimated # of Acres | Geographical Coordinates (Provide Latitude/Longitude OR UTM-X/UTM-Y) | | | |
|----|----------------------|--|---------------|-------------------------|---|-----------|--------|---------|
| | | | | | Latitude | Longitude | UTM-X | UTM-Y |
| 1 | Buena Vista | Conservation Easement | Beltrami | 500 | | | 359100 | 5279597 |
| 2 | Wolf Lake | Conservation Easement | Beltrami | 184 | | | 373187 | 5253147 |
| 3 | Lakeport Township | Conservation Easement | Hubbard | 80 | | | 371239 | 5231101 |
| 4 | Oak Lake | Conservation Easement | Hubbard | 72 | | | 369610 | 5225080 |
| 5 | Big Too Much Lake | Conservation Easement | Itasca | 5 | | | 441235 | 5277999 |
| 6 | Botany Bog | Conservation Easement | Itasca | 232 | | | 454946 | 5245535 |
| 7 | Eagle Lake | Conservation Easement | Itasca | 34 | | | 464861 | 5273928 |
| 8 | Little Too Much Lake | Conservation Easement | Itasca | 57 | | | 441649 | 5275254 |
| 9 | Horseshoe Lake | Conservation Easement | Itasca | 26 | | | 461655 | 5272370 |
| 10 | Sand Lake | Conservation Easement | Itasca | 7 | | | 425004 | 5276041 |
| 11 | Trout Lake | Conservation Easement | Itasca | 14 | | | 459145 | 5259813 |
| 12 | Big Cormorant Lake | Conservation Easement | Becker | 35 | | | 265537 | 5181279 |
| 13 | Three Lakes | Conservation Easement | Becker | 790 | | | 296106 | 5177095 |
| 14 | Crooked Lake | Conservation Easement | Douglas | 13 | | | 301053 | 5081918 |
| 15 | Glacial Ridge | Conservation Easement | Kandiyohi | 20 | | | 352577 | 5018612 |
| 16 | Minnesota River | Conservation Easement | Lac Qui Parle | 140 | | | 279724 | 4979940 |
| 17 | Boo Lake | Conservation Easement | Meeker | 66 | | | 399196 | 4991906 |
| 18 | Mustinka River | Conservation Easement | Otter Tail | 150 | | | 261512 | 5118799 |
| 19 | George Lake | Conservation Easement | Stearns | 120 | | | 351602 | 5042725 |
| 20 | Rice Lake | Conservation Easement | Wright | 128 | | | 437466 | 4980986 |
| 21 | Le Sueur River | Conservation Easement | Blue Earth | 140 | | | 422462 | 4881904 |
| 22 | Lake Washington | Conservation Easement | Le Sueur | 122 | | | 433126 | 4899725 |
| 23 | Lake Elysian | Conservation Easement | Waseca | 48 | | | 445082 | 4889261 |

NOTES: This is a list of projects the Minnesota Land Trust currently is considering. Other projects may be added to the list as new landowners are contacted. Some projects on the list will not be completed, while other projects may be completed under prior phases of this program.

Habitat Conservation Partnership Phase VII

MINNESOTA LAND TRUST POTENTIAL PROJECTS





Minnesota Land Trust

*Our land. Our water. Our future.
Some things should be forever.*

Minnesota Land Trust Organizational Overview

The Minnesota Land Trust preserves Minnesota's natural and scenic heritage through public and private partnerships. A 501(c)(3) public charity, the Minnesota Land Trust has been working with landowners and local communities since 1991 through the following three strategies:

- **PROTECT:** Directly protecting land through conservation easements, land acquisition and effective land management.
- **ASSIST:** Providing agencies, communities and organizations with assistance in planning and delivering on-the-ground conservation in order to expand the State's overall capacity.
- **ENGAGE:** Helping to foster a culture of conservation, to support enhanced conservation legislation and funding, and to ensure the state has highly-skilled, trained professionals.

As a statewide land trust, the Minnesota Land Trust has created a regional structure to deliver its programs effectively at a local level, with offices in Duluth, Ely, Red Wing and St. Paul. The Land Trust was one of first land trusts in the country to be accredited by the Land Trust Accreditation Commission and has also been recognized by the Charities Review Council as meeting all of its standards.

With a conservation focus on protecting Minnesota's natural and scenic lands—particularly its renowned lakes, rivers and streams—the Land Trust has completed 398 land protection projects, permanently protecting more than 35,000 acres and more than 700,000 feet of shoreline and aquatic resources.

Project Manager Qualifications

The Minnesota Land Trust employs 10 staff, relies on the skills of nearly 100 dedicated volunteers, and is governed by an active 17-member Board of Directors.

Sarah Strommen serves as the Conservation Director for the Land Trust's central region. Prior to joining the Land Trust in 2005, Sarah served as the Policy Director for the Friends of the Boundary Waters Wilderness. She also recently served on the State's Clean Water Council and on the City Council in the City of Ramsey, where her duties included being the Council's liaison to the City's Environmental Policy Board and the Lower Rum River WMO. Sarah has a bachelor's degree in Biology from Grinnell College and a master's degree in Environmental Management from Duke University.

Other Project Staff

Nancy Kafka joined the Land Trust in 2008 and serves as the Conservation Director for the southern region. She returned to Minnesota after nearly 30 years living and working in New England, most recently as the senior program director in the Parks for People program at the Trust for Public Land's Boston office. Nancy graduated from the University of Minnesota with a bachelor's degree in Housing.

Francis "Fitz" Fitzgerald joined the Land Trust staff in 2003 and serves as the Conservation Director for the northern region. Fitz previously worked for The Nature Conservancy in Mosca, Colorado where he was the project director of the San Luis Valley project and general manager of the Conservancy's Zapata Ranch. Fitz graduated from the University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point with a bachelor's degree in Wildlife and Natural Resources after serving in the U.S. Marine Corps.

**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund
2011-2012 Request for Proposals (RFP)**

Subd: 4j3c

Project Title: 3c - HCP 7 - Shallow Lake Conservation Easements

Category: D. Land Acquisition for Habitat and Recreation

Total Project Budget: \$ 500,000

Proposed Project Time Period for the Funding Requested: 3 yrs, July 2011 - June 2014

Other Non-State Funds (secured): \$ 0

Summary:

Ducks Unlimited will secure purchased and donated permanent conservation easements to protect 150 acres along key shallow lakes for waterfowl, and provide annual monitoring and enforcement stewardship.

Name: Jon Schneider

Sponsoring Organization: Ducks Unlimited

Address: 311 E Lake Geneva Rd

Alexandria MN 56308

Telephone Number: 320-762-9916

Email jschneider@ducks.org

Web Ad www.ducks.org

Location:

Region: Statewide

Ecological Section: Statewide

County Name: Statewide

City / Township:

2011-2012 MAIN PROPOSAL

PROJECT TITLE: HCP7-3c Shallow Lake Conservation Easements

I. PROJECT STATEMENT

Shallow lakes represent the core of Minnesota's remaining waterfowl habitat. Shallow lakes are defined by the Minnesota DNR as basins 50 acres or larger in size that are 15 feet deep or less, on average. These are large wetlands that were not easily drained and farmed, but which now receive drainage from converted landscapes and which are subject to development since they are large bodies of water and often called "lakes". DNR estimates Minnesota has lost 90% of our prairie wetlands and 99% of our native prairie grassland, and many shallow lakes are located in this highly-altered and degraded landscape. To improve them, Minnesota DNR's Section of Wildlife has legally designated 44 shallow lakes for active wildlife management, and Ducks Unlimited (DU) assists those efforts. To protect these remaining large wetlands and limit further degradation, DU helps promote the Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) in their watersheds. However, many shoreland properties do not qualify or rank high for the WRP.

Therefore, to protect shoreland and limit future subdivision and development, DU also offers to purchase or accept donated permanent conservation easements from the private landowners on select shallow lakes, especially those designated by Minnesota DNR for wildlife management purposes such as Lake Christina. This addresses the goal of protecting lands adjacent to aquatic habitats such as shallow lakes as outlined in LCCMR's "Six-Year Strategic Plan for the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund". Appendix A of the Plan contains the "Statewide Conservation & Preservation Plan" and two recommendations directly relevant to shallow lakes and this proposal. Habitat recommendation #1 "Protect Critical Shoreland of Streams and Lakes" mentions the need to protect and restore shallow lake shoreland with conservation easements. Habitat recommendation #4 "Restore and Protect Shallow Lakes" specifically lists funding as being "needed to purchase conservation easements around shallow lakes to restore their lakesheds (small wetlands and grass buffers) and prevent development."

DU permanent conservation easements on shallow lakes will protect sensitive shoreland and shorelines by limiting development. DU easements will restore shoreland habitat when possible and necessary, which will directly provide and protect habitat for species using shallow lakes, and will indirectly improve water quality of shallow lakes and DNR in-basin management efforts.

To achieve these goals, DU biologists will work with shallow lake private landowners on select shallow lakes to educate them about conservation easements, and DU will secure donated or purchased permanent conservation easements from willing landowners on 150 acres along or near those select shallow lakes, especially those managed by DNR. On these same acres, DU will attempt to restore approximately 60 acres of uplands and small drained wetland areas if and as needed, based on the condition of lands protected with easements. Specifically, restoration will be attempted on lands to be removed from cultivation through the terms of the easement or on other previously tilled acres that require restoration of habitat, but further restoration and management of intact habitat (including acres previously restored) will not be addressed through this grant and will remain the responsibility of the landowner to manage. Detailed restoration plans will be developed in the process as appropriate, if needed. If no habitat restoration is required on lands protected via DU conservation easements funded by this grant (e.g., if lands are enrolled and restored through the USDA's Conservation Reserve Program), then restoration funds budgeted will be amended into other expense categories in this grant.

DU requests a total of \$500,000 in this proposal for our conservation easement program from the Environment & Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF) through the LCCMR. Grant funds will be used to pay for DU professional staff time to promote conservation easements to landowners and negotiate terms and conditions of individual easements (due diligence), appraisals, title clearance and other legal services, boundary surveys, baseline condition documentation reports, for DU staff time and in-state travel to deliver and administer this grant, and for the cost of future annual stewardship and monitoring of permanent conservation easements secured. DU will use up to \$20,000 (4% of this \$500,000 grant) personnel costs of grant administration and coordination. Conservation easements rights secured will not include the right of public access because public access does not result in increased conservation benefit, because it would reduce the funding available for other easements, because it would likely cost the same as buying the land in fee-title to secure, and because landowners on the select shallow lakes we are trying to protect will not agree to sell that right. However, DU will encourage landowners to voluntarily enroll in the new Minnesota public access program once it is implemented and available.

The use of ENRTF grant funds by DU for future stewardship of permanent conservation easements was approved in DU's 2005 ENRTF grant work program by LCCMR, which included significant detail on how these funds will be managed and spent over time by DU and DU's affiliate Wetlands America Trust (WAT). Estimated easement stewardship costs vary due to variation in size and location of easements, complexity in land configuration, condition, and habitat types, and the terms and conditions outlined in the easement. ENRTF grant funds required for annual easement monitoring and stewardship will be calculated for each easement using an easement stewardship liability calculator. Previously, examples of low and high Minnesota easement stewardship calculations were reviewed and approved by LCCMR staff for use in past grants. These amounts ranged from about \$15,150 to \$27,613 depending on size and travel distance from existing DU staff. However, DU revised and standardized our Minnesota easement stewardship calculator in 2010, which now establishes a standardized stewardship cost for all Minnesota easements 480 acres or less at \$17,736, and captures all anticipated future expenditures for easement monitoring and stewardship. Nonetheless, the lower amount of \$15,150 is used here now to budget for stewardship in this proposal as per LCCMR staff request since the new calculator has not yet been approved. DU's new stewardship calculator will be reviewed and approved by LCCMR staff after proposal approval.

LCCMR previously approved a DU/WAT stewardship calculator based on the understanding that legal defense would not be included in stewardship calculations, but rather handled as an operational cost. We will continue to honor that negotiated principle and will not request reimbursement from this ENRTF grant for the legal defense portion of the easement stewardship. Instead, DU/WAT will secure the \$3,200 legal defense portion of the stewardship from landowners or other private sources. Thus, the total stewardship amounts to be requested from ENRTF grant funds will for easements 1 to 480 acres will be \$17,736 and does not include legal defense. All easements to be secured through this grant are anticipated to be less than 480 acres, so this is the calculated stewardship amount we anticipate requesting for each easement. In the event a larger easement is secured, stewardship cost will be calculated at \$20,379 for easements 481 to 960 acres and \$23,026 for easements greater than 960 acres.

Stewardship funds will be managed in a separate WAT easement stewardship account according to the DU Board's investment policy. Trust funds for easement monitoring and stewardship will be received by DU National Headquarters in Memphis, Tennessee, and will be immediately transferred to the WAT endowment account. Trust Fund money and earnings are annually applied to stewardship costs on specific easements pro rata. Furthermore, the

restricted endowment will be invested according to the policies set forth in DU and WAT's Investment Policy as described in the May 31, 2005 letter from DU Controller Bob Mims to LCCMR Director John Velin. DU staff costs to monitor easements and provide easement stewardship will be billed to specific easement project account codes on an annual basis, and funds to cover this expense will be made available from the WAT easement endowment to the DU regional office budget to cover these annual costs. DU will provide annual reports on monitoring and enforcement activities with an accounting of the associated expenses, and an annual audit of the WAT endowment account specific to funds granted from the ENRTF.

II. DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT ACTIVITIES

Activity 1: Conservation Easement Outreach, Promotion, & Acquisition Budget: \$404,550

DU biologists will work with private landowners on shallow lakes to inform and educate them about permanent conservation easements to gain their interest and trust in beginning land protection negotiations. Successful outreach work will culminate with the appraisal and negotiation of permanent conservation easements on 150 acres on or near shallow lakes.

| Outcome | Completion Date |
|---|-----------------|
| Secure permanent conservation easements on 150 acres on shallow lakes | June 30, 2013 |

Activity 2: Help Landowners Restore Lands Protected, if/where Needed Budget: \$ 30,000

DU biologists may help private conservation easement landowners restore converted uplands or wetlands back to wildlife habitat through native plantings and wetland restoration in cases where landowners agree to restore eased lands. This work may involve the seeding of native grasses and forbs, and small wetland restorations, if/as needed and requested by landowner(s). Some areas may be restored independently through USDA's Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), or by consultants hired by DU with DU biologist oversight. Restoration plans will be developed.

| Outcome | Completion Date |
|--|-----------------|
| Restore up to 60 acres of uplands & wetlands if/as needed on easements | June 30, 2013 |

Activity 3: Conservation Easement Stewardship & Annual Monitoring Budget: \$45,450

DU calculates future conservation easement stewardship and annual monitoring costs and endow those expenses to ensure all easements protected through this grant are monitored annually in perpetuity and conservation easement terms are followed. This budget is based on a previous low estimate of \$15,150 per easement for 3 easements using DU's old stewardship calculator, but DU will request review and approval of our new stewardship calculator that estimates \$17,736 per easement of 480 acres or less from LCCMR staff if grant is approved.

| Outcome | Completion Date |
|---|-----------------|
| Provide for Stewardship & Annual Monitoring of Conservation Easements | June 30, 2013 |

Activity 4: Grant Administration and Coordination of Grant Activities Budget: \$20,000

DU program manager will oversee staff biologist work with private landowners on shallow lakes to secure permanent conservation easements, and will administer the grant, coordinate and guide all field activities related to this grant, and provide status update reports to LCCMR staff.

| Outcome | Completion Date |
|--|-----------------|
| Administer grant, coordinate field activities, and provide reports to LCCMR. | June 30, 2013 |

III. PROJECT STRATEGY

A. Project Team/Partners

DU works closely with Minnesota DNR on shallow lake projects, but directly with private landowners regarding conservation easements. DU holds and enforces the terms of these easements, and annually monitors their condition and stewards their private landowners.

B. Timeline Requirements

This project will take a full two years to complete, given the sensitive nature of private land protection negotiations that involve appraisals, abstract and title updates, financial transactions, and recording. Restorations will be done in conjunction or after easements are closed.

C. Long-Term Strategy and Future Funding Needs

DU has been securing permanent conservation easements in Minnesota since 2004, and now holds 15 permanent conservation easements around the state. DU (WAT) have endowed the stewardship and annual monitoring for each of these. This project is a continuation of the effort to permanently protect all private land adjacent to key shallow lakes managed for waterfowl.

2011-2012 Detailed Project Budget

Ducks Unlimited
Shallow Lake Conservation Easements
HCP Phase 7, Part 3C

IV. TOTAL TRUST FUND REQUEST BUDGET (2 years)

| BUDGET ITEM | AMOUNT |
|--|-------------------|
| Personnel: DU land protection biologist to conduct landowner outreach and negotiate conservation easements with private landowners. 0.6 FTE/year over two years, 60% salary 40% benefits. | \$ 80,000 |
| Personnel: DU conservation program manager to administer this grant and coordinate grant activities. 0.2 FTE/year over two years, 60% salary 40% benefits. | \$ 20,000 |
| Contracts: Appraisals, baseline documentation reports, and other professional services for new easements. Estimated at \$7,500 per easement for three easements. | \$ 22,500 |
| Contracts: Restoration contracts with private vendors to seed cropland to native plants and restore small wetlands, etc. Estimated at \$500/acre on 60 acres. | \$ 30,000 |
| Acquisition (Permanent Easements): An estimated 150 acres will be protected via purchased permanent conservation easement at an estimated \$2,000/acre in two or three conservation easements. DU and its affiliate, Wetlands America Trust (WAT), will hold, monitor, and enforce the easements while the fee-title will remain in private ownership. | \$ 296,050 |
| Travel: In-state travel to visit landowners and negotiate conservation easements on selected shallow lakes managed by the Minnesota DNR throughout the state. | \$ 6,000 |
| Conservation Easement Monitoring and Management Fund: Support for landowner stewardship and long-term annual monitoring and management estimated at DU's previous low end estimate of \$15,150/easement for 3 easements. A new DU stewardship calculator that generates \$17,736/easement will be reviewed and approved for use later if this proposal is approved. | \$ 45,450 |
| TOTAL ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND \$ REQUEST | \$ 500,000 |

V. OTHER FUNDS

| SOURCE OF FUNDS | AMOUNT | Status |
|---|---------------|----------------------------|
| Other Non-State \$ Being Applied to Project During Project Period: Private land value donation as part of bargain sale or donated conservation easements. | \$ 50,000 | Pending |
| Other State \$ Being Applied to Project During Project Period: | \$ - | N/A |
| In-kind Services During Project Period: In-kind DU personnel expense associated with spending these grant funds. | \$ 10,000 | Pending |
| Remaining \$ from Current ENRTF Appropriation (if applicable): DU is currently working with landowners to obligate \$250,000 of 2009 ENRTF grant funds and \$75,000 from our 2010 ENRTF supplemental grant. Several land deals are pending, and funds should be obligated by the end of 2010 and will be by July 2011 when this grant would become available, if recommended and approved. | \$ 325,000 | Not Yet Legally Obligated |
| Funding History: DU has received and spent \$600,000 in ENRTF grants for conservation easements totaling since 2005, not including our 2009 grant and 2010 recommendation that have yet to be spent. DU also received and spent \$128,000 in other state DNR funds on conservation easements in the past. DU plans to use \$300,000 of our 2009 Outdoor Heritage Fund grant on conservation easements. Finally, DU has also received several federal NAWCA grants totaling \$512,000 in Minnesota since 2005 for conservation easements. | \$ 1,540,000 | Spent or Legally Obligated |

2011-2012 Acquisition List for Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund Proposal

Project Title: HCP7-3C Shallow Lake Conservation Easements

Project Manager Name: Jon Schneider, Ducks Unlimited

Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund \$ Request: \$1,650,000

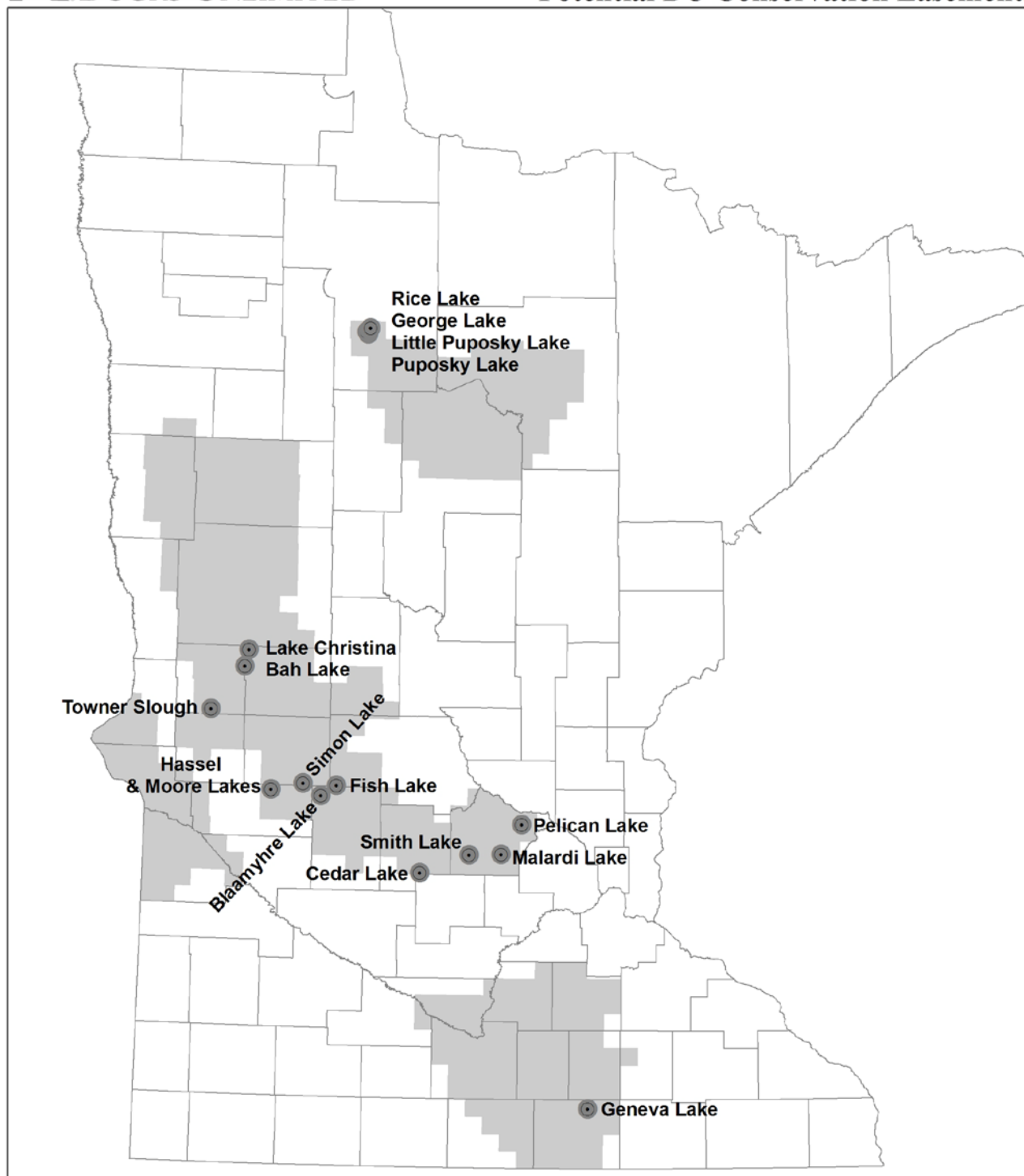
Final Title Holder(s): Wetlands America Trust, Inc., a supporting organization (affiliate) of Ducks Unlimited, Inc.

| # | Parcel Name | Acquisition Type (Fee-Title OR Conservation Easement) | County | Estimated # of Acres | Geographical Coordinates (Provide Latitude/Longitude OR UTM-X/UTM-Y) | | | |
|--|---------------------|--|----------|-------------------------|---|-----------|--------|---------|
| | | | | | Latitude | Longitude | UTM-X | UTM-Y |
| 1 | Rice Lake | Easement | Beltrami | n/a | 47.7260 | 94.9150 | 356368 | 5287699 |
| 2 | George Lake | Easement | Beltrami | n/a | 47.7180 | 94.9300 | 355422 | 5286823 |
| 3 | Little Puposky Lake | Easement | Beltrami | n/a | 47.7090 | 94.9420 | 354362 | 5285809 |
| 4 | Puposky Lake | Easement | Beltrami | n/a | 47.6950 | 94.9340 | 355100 | 5284322 |
| 5 | Lake Christina | Easement | Douglas | n/a | 46.0940 | 95.7420 | 297928 | 5107756 |
| 6 | Bah Lake | Easement | Douglas | n/a | 46.0030 | 95.7650 | 285811 | 5098655 |
| 7 | Towner Slough | Easement | Grant | n/a | 45.7650 | 96.0800 | 261188 | 5072571 |
| 8 | Hassel Lake | Easement | Swift | n/a | 45.3910 | 95.5640 | 299212 | 5029539 |
| 9 | Moore Lake | Easement | Swift | n/a | 45.3820 | 85.5410 | 301089 | 5028540 |
| 10 | Simon Lake | Easement | Pope | n/a | 45.4200 | 95.3250 | 318203 | 5032416 |
| NOTES: DU is working with landowners on each of these lakes, but conservation easement details to be closed in 2011-12 are not known at this time, and the number of acres to be protected on each lake is subject to negotiations yet to be initiated. | | | | | | | | |

2010 LCCMR Habitat Conservation Partnership Phase 7 Grant



Project Lake Locations for Potential DU Conservation Easements



- Ducks Unlimited Project Lake Location
- LCCMR HCP Phase 7 Project Areas

As Conservation Program Manager for Ducks Unlimited in Minnesota since 1999, Jon Schneider is responsible for all public grant management, partner coordination, and conservation program implementation to support Ducks Unlimited's Living Lakes Initiative. This involves significant project and program level coordination with agency partners and field staff, DU field biologists and engineers, DU land protection staff, and both DU support staff and administrators. Jon has been responsible for the development and management of DU's Minnesota conservation budgets totaling over \$2 million annually, and has administered four LCCMR grants, six North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) grant, and multiple smaller DNR grants for individual projects since 1999. Jon is a Certified Wildlife Biologist (The Wildlife Society) and Professional Wetlands Scientist (Society of Wetland Scientists), and holds a B.S. degree in Business Administration & Biology from the State University of New York College at Oswego and an M.S. degree in Range & Wildlife Management from Texas A&M University.

The mission of Ducks Unlimited is to conserve, restore, and manage wetlands and associated habitats for North American's waterfowl. These habitats also benefit other wildlife and people. The continental vision of Ducks Unlimited is wetlands sufficient to fill the skies with waterfowl today, tomorrow, and forever. In Minnesota and Iowa, Ducks Unlimited is strategically focused on the conservation of shallow lakes through our "Living Lakes" conservation initiative. The vision of DU's Living Lakes Initiative is to establish stepping stones of perpetually protected and managed shallow lake complexes from southern Iowa through northern Minnesota to provide high quality wetland food and habitat resources for waterfowl. The initiative will help preserve this region's rich waterfowling heritage and support conservation of the primary source of its birds, the prairie breeding grounds. Since its founding in 1937, DU has raised more than \$1.6 billion, which has contributed to the conservation of more than 11 million acres of prime wildlife habitat in all 50 states, each of the Canadian provinces, and in key areas of Mexico. In the U.S. Alone, DU has helped to conserve more than 2 million acres of waterfowl habitat. Some 900 species of wildlife live and flourish on DU projects, including many threatened or endangered species. DU conservation staff based in Minnesota work from home offices, and are supported by the Great Plains Regional Office staff in Bismarck, ND, and by DU National Office staff in Memphis, TN.

**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund
2011-2012 Request for Proposals (RFP)**

Subd: 4j3d

Project Title: 3d - HCP 7 - Wetlands Reserve Program

Category: D. Land Acquisition for Habitat and Recreation

Total Project Budget: \$ 775,000

Proposed Project Time Period for the Funding Requested: 3 yrs, July 2011 - June 2014

Other Non-State Funds (secured): \$ 4,000,000

Summary:

Ducks Unlimited will provide engineering assistance and contract with six (6) wetland restoration specialists to provide technical assistance to help the USDA-NRCS promote, secure, and restore federal Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) easements.

Name: Jon Schneider

Sponsoring Organization: Ducks Unlimited

Address: 311 E Lake Geneva Rd

Alexandria MN 56308

Telephone Number: 320-762-9916

Email jschneider@ducks.org

Web Ad www.ducks.org

Location:

Region: Statewide

Ecological Section: Statewide

County Name: Statewide

City / Township:

2011-2012 MAIN PROPOSAL

PROJECT TITLE: HCP7-3d Wetlands Reserve Program

I. PROJECT STATEMENT: Minnesota has lost over 90% of our prairie wetlands and 99% of our native prairie grasslands. Restoring and protecting restored native prairie and wetland complexes is a priority among conservation agencies and organizations in the state and is often recognized as a primary objective in strategic conservation plans. The federal Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) administered by the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is a key part of this effort by restoring and protecting prairie wetland complexes on land that remains in private ownership and on which local, county and state taxes are paid.

To accelerate the WRP in Minnesota, Ducks Unlimited (DU) will provide technical assistance by contracting with 10 grant-funded wetland restoration specialists to help NRCS promote and secure new WRP easements and plan and implement restorations on WRP easements secured in previous years. In addition, DU will also provide staff engineering services to assist NRCS with survey, design, and construction management tasks on larger restorations that require complex water control structures. The objective of WRP is to restore and permanently protect wetland and associated upland habitats to benefit migratory birds and other wildlife, and improve water quality. To meet this objective, NRCS purchases easements that gives NRCS the right to restore and protect wetland and associated upland habitats.

Securing a WRP easement with a willing seller typically takes a year or more from the time a landowner expresses interest, and the application and easement process involves many steps. Once an easement is closed, NRCS begins and funds the restoration of wetland and upland habitats within the easement, a process that takes 2-3 years to fully complete. Often, WRP easements are combined with RIM easements to leverage state and federal resources. All restoration details are documented in an NRCS restoration plan for each easement. This complicated federal WRP easement application and restoration process relies heavily on the assistance and expertise of DU specialists, which have been supported by Trust Fund grants. The DU contracted wetland specialists funded through this grant will make it possible for USDA-NRCS to secure WRP easements on approximately **2,500 acres** in prairie areas of Minnesota at an estimated cost of **\$4 million** to NRCS. Once secured under a WRP easement, NRCS will restore wetlands and grasslands in future years. Restoring these wetlands and native prairie grasslands is critical to maintaining continued federal funding for the WRP in Minnesota into the future, and will significantly improve and expand existing blocks of habitat and help improve downstream water quality. Grant funds will be used by DU for six (6) contracted wetland restoration specialists (\$675,000), for DU staff engineering services to USDA-NRCS (\$50,000), and for DU grant administration and partnership coordination that includes managing contractors and coordinating with USDA-NRCS field, area, and state office personnel (\$50,000). NRCS alone does not have enough technical assistance to implement the WRP at the accelerated levels described in this proposal without the DU contracted technical assistance. According to "Assessing the Economic Impact of WRP and RIM on the Minnesota Economy – January 2010", by David Buland (Central Regional Economist, NRCS, Ft. Worth, TX), NRCS estimates that the \$4 million of WRP expense will create or maintain over 37 jobs and stimulate increased economic activity estimated at approximately \$5 million. For each \$107,246 of WRP expense, one job is estimated to be created or maintained so \$4 million in WRP expense equals 37 jobs. Multiplies for economic activity are \$1 of WRP expense equals \$1.28 of increased economic activity, so \$4 million of WRP expense equals \$5.12 of additional activity. This project

directly addresses Item D “Land Acquisition for Habitat & Restoration” and Item C “Methods to Protect, Restore, Enhance Land and Habitat” in the 2011- 2012 LCCMR Request For Proposals, and also directly addresses the “Statewide Conservation & Preservation Plan”.

II. DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT ACTIVITIES:

Activity 1: Technical Assistance to Help NRCS Secure WRP Easements **Budget:** \$775,000

Description: DU will use grant funds to contract with six (6) wetland restoration specialists to provide technical assistance to the USDA-NRCS and private landowners to help protect 5,000 acres of private land through new Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) easements. DU staff will also provide engineering services to assist NRCS with survey, design, and construction management on larger restorations that require complex water control structures. DU will administer this grant and coordinate WRP partnership activities. The USDA-NRCS will fund the associated easement and restoration costs. The contract specialists will implement all aspects of the WRP program that will result in lands being enrolled and wetlands and uplands restored under the WRP. This project will be delivered throughout the prairie portion of Minnesota.

| Outcome | Completion Date |
|--|------------------------|
| 1. Technical and engineering assistance provided by six (6) contracted specialists and DU engineering to help USDA-NRCS secure WRP easements. Ongoing technical assistance will include landowner contacts, WRP applications submitted, easement restoration plans submitted, wetland restoration designs, and restoration project oversight/management. | June 30, 2013 |
| 2. Secure 2,500 acres of new WRP Easements by USDA-NRCS | June 30, 2013 |

III. PROJECT STRATEGY

A. Project Team/Partners: This project is part of the Habitat Conservation Partnership Phase 7 proposal. Jon Schneider from Ducks Unlimited and Tim Koehler from USDA NRCS will be the Co-Project Managers. WRP easements will be secured as stand alone and in conjunction with Reinvest In Minnesota Reserve program easements administered by The Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) and funded through State Capital Investment (Bonding) funding. Local Soil and Water Conservation Districts and other partners assist the implementation of the WRP.

B. Timeline Requirements: This is a two-year project. WRP funds are allocated annually to Minnesota NRCS. Application periods are conducted followed by ranking of applications and funding decisions. For each of the last five years, over \$50 million of applications have been received and it is anticipated that this trend will continue. During this two-year grant period, all easement processing will occur and restoration planning activities will begin.

C. Long-Term Strategy and Future Funding Needs: The USDA’s Wetland Reserve Program is the most effective wetland restoration program in Minnesota and restores more acres of wetlands and associated native prairie uplands than any other effort. Continued federal funding for new easements is contingent upon previously enrolled lands being restored in a timely manner. Thus, DU contracted wetland specialists are key to helping restore previously enrolled easements and to maintaining the federal funds for new WRP easements in Minnesota. The USDA-NRCS funds the restoration work, and subsequently routinely monitors and enforces the terms of its easements and works with landowners to manage these restored wetlands and prairie uplands into perpetuity. The USDA-NRCS will fund all future monitoring and management of these WRP easements.

2011-2012 Detailed Project Budget
Ducks Unlimited (DU) & Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP)
HCP Phase 7, Part 3D

IV. TOTAL TRUST FUND REQUEST BUDGET for 2 years

| <u>BUDGET ITEM</u> | <u>AMOUNT</u> |
|---|----------------------|
| Personnel: wages and benefits for DU biologist (30% FTE) and manager (10% FTE) project administration and coordination, contract tech hiring and supervision (60% salary, 40% benefits). | \$ 50,000 |
| Personnel: wages and benefits for DU engineer (30% FTE) and engineering technician (20% FTE) to survey, design, and manage construction on one or more large wetland restorations involving large water control structures (60% salary, 40% benefits). | \$ 50,000 |
| Contracts: professional services contracts for six (6) WRP wetland restoration field technicians to promote and help NRCS secure WRP easements and contract engineering work. | \$ 675,000 |
| TOTAL ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND \$ REQUEST | \$ 775,000 |

V. OTHER FUNDS

| <u>SOURCE OF FUNDS</u> | <u>AMOUNT</u> | <u>Status</u> |
|---|----------------------|--|
| Other Non-State \$ Being Applied to Project During Project Period: USDA NRCS funding for WRP easement purchase during the grant period. | \$ 4,000,000 | Secured for 2,500 acres of WRP easements |
| Other State \$ Being Applied to Project During Project Period: | \$ - | |
| In-kind Services During Project Period: NRCS and DU will contribute in-kind services to deliver the WRP in Minnesota, but the value is difficult to estimate. | \$ - | |
| Remaining \$ from Current ENRTF Appropriation (if applicable): DU anticipates receiving \$350,000 from the 2010 appropriation to be spent in FY11, but these funds have yet to be granted. In addition, DU is currently spending 2009 grant funds that total \$420,000, but those are fully obligated through six existing contracts with wetland restoration specialists. | \$ 770,000 | All existing ENRTF funds are legally Obligated |
| Funding History: DU and NRCS have received the following ENRTF appropriations for the WRP in Minnesota since 2005: \$450,000 in 2005, \$350,000 in 2007, \$267,500 in 2008, \$420,000 in 2009, and \$350,000 in 2010 (recommend). | \$1,837,500 | ENRTF Appropriations since 2005 |

2011-2012 Acquisition List for Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund Proposal

Project Title: HCP7-3d Wetlands Reserve Program

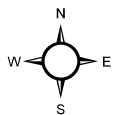
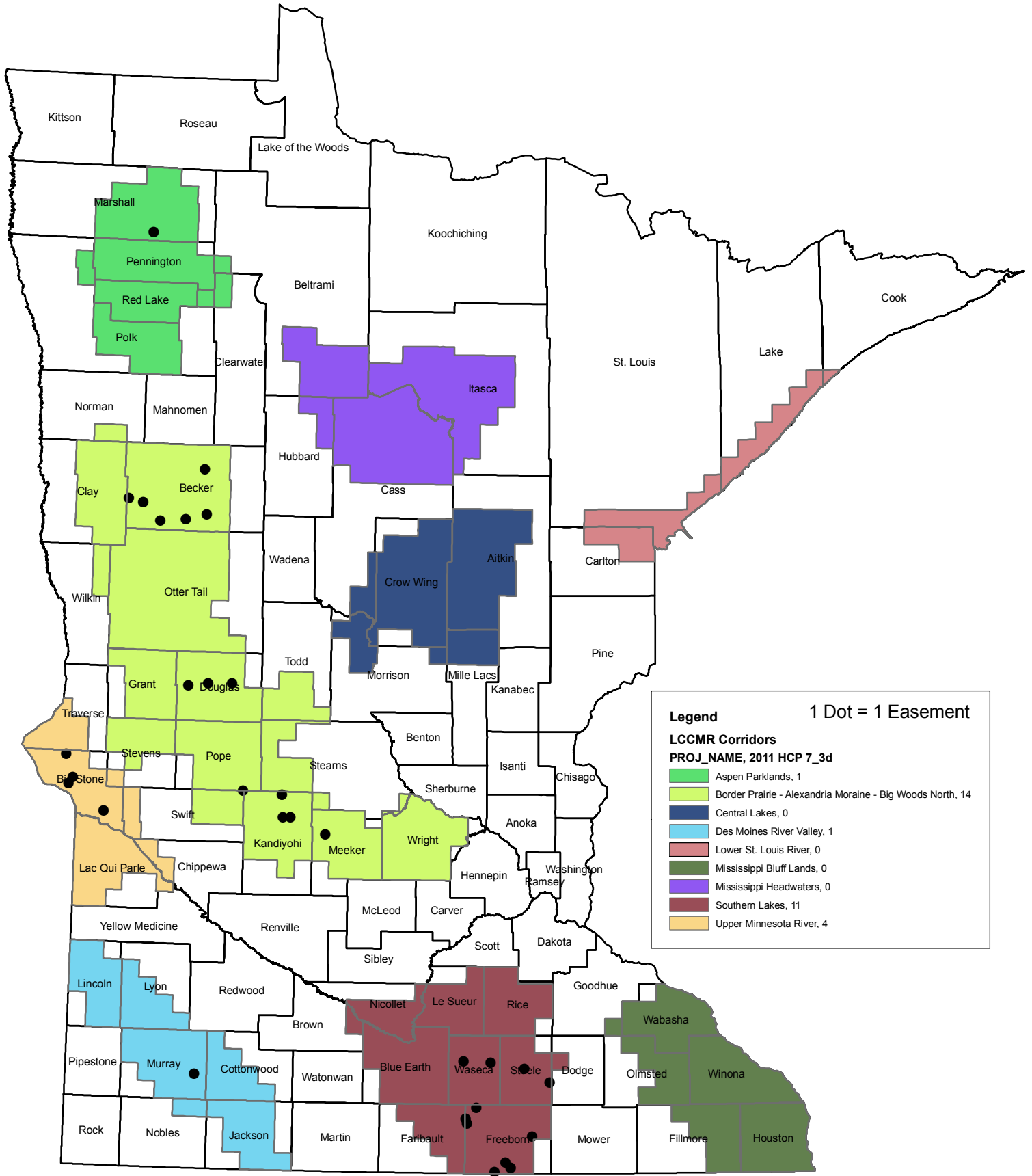
Project Manager Name: Jon Schneider (Ducks Unlimited) & Tim Koehler (USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service)

Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund \$ Request: \$1,330,000

Final Title Holder(s): USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

| # | Parcel Name | Acquisition Type (Fee-Title OR Conservation Easement) | County | Estimated # of Acres | Geographical Coordinates (Provide Latitude/Longitude OR UTM-X/UTM-Y) | | | |
|--|--------------------------------|--|----------------|-------------------------|---|-----------|-------|-------|
| | | | | | Latitude | Longitude | UTM-X | UTM-Y |
| 1 | Becker County Easements (6) | Conservation Easement | Becker | 412.7 | Easement specific locations are not available due to data privacy act restrictions. | | | |
| 2 | Big Stone County Easements (4) | Conservation Easement | Big Stone | 301.6 | | | | |
| 3 | Douglas County Easements (3) | Conservation Easement | Douglas | 152.1 | | | | |
| 4 | Freeborn County Easements (7) | Conservation Easement | Freeborn | 463.3 | | | | |
| 5 | Kandiyohi County Easements (3) | Conservation Easement | Kandiyohi | 237.3 | | | | |
| 6 | Marshall Area Easements (1) | Conservation Easement | Lincoln & Lyon | 737.1 | | | | |
| 7 | Meeker County Easements (1) | Conservation Easement | Meeker | 118.4 | | | | |
| 8 | Murray County Easements (1) | Conservation Easement | Murray | 190.8 | | | | |
| 9 | Steele County Easements (2) | Conservation Easement | Steele | 912.8 | | | | |
| 10 | Swift County Easements (1) | Conservation Easement | Swift | 78.9 | | | | |
| 11 | Waseca County Easements (2) | Conservation Easement | Waseca | 31.1 | | | | |
| NOTES: Easement specific locations are not available due to data privacy act restrictions. | | | | | | | | |

2011-2012 LCCMR WRP Easements in LCCMR Corridors



0 15 30 60 90 120 Miles

As Conservation Program Manager for Ducks Unlimited in Minnesota since 1999, Jon Schneider is responsible for all public grant management, partner coordination, and conservation program implementation to support Ducks Unlimited's Living Lakes Initiative. This involves significant project and program level coordination with agency partners and field staff, DU field biologists and engineers, DU land protection staff, and both DU support staff and administrators. Jon has been responsible for the development and management of DU's Minnesota conservation budgets totaling over \$2 million annually, and has administered four LCCMR grants, six North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) grant, and multiple smaller DNR grants for individual projects since 1999. Jon is a Certified Wildlife Biologist (The Wildlife Society) and Professional Wetlands Scientist (Society of Wetland Scientists), and holds a B.S. degree in Business Administration & Biology from the State University of New York College at Oswego and an M.S. degree in Range & Wildlife Management from Texas A&M University.

The mission of Ducks Unlimited is to conserve, restore, and manage wetlands and associated habitats for North American's waterfowl. These habitats also benefit other wildlife and people. The continental vision of Ducks Unlimited is wetlands sufficient to fill the skies with waterfowl today, tomorrow, and forever. In Minnesota and Iowa, Ducks Unlimited is strategically focused on the conservation of shallow lakes through our "Living Lakes" conservation initiative. The vision of DU's Living Lakes Initiative is to establish stepping stones of perpetually protected and managed shallow lake complexes from southern Iowa through northern Minnesota to provide high quality wetland food and habitat resources for waterfowl. The initiative will help preserve this region's rich waterfowling heritage and support conservation of the primary source of its birds, the prairie breeding grounds. Since its founding in 1937, DU has raised more than \$1.6 billion, which has contributed to the conservation of more than 11 million acres of prime wildlife habitat in all 50 states, each of the Canadian provinces, and in key areas of Mexico. In the U.S. Alone, DU has helped to conserve more than 2 million acres of waterfowl habitat. Some 900 species of wildlife live and flourish on DU projects, including many threatened or endangered species. DU conservation staff based in Minnesota work from home offices, and are supported by the Great Plains Regional Office staff in Bismarck, ND, and by DU National Office staff in Memphis, TN.

**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund
2011-2012 Request for Proposals (RFP)**

Subd: 4j4a

Project Title: 4a - HCP 7 - WMA/WPA Acquisition beyond Boundaries

Category: D. Land Acquisition for Habitat and Recreation

Total Project Budget: \$ 430,000

Proposed Project Time Period for the Funding Requested: 3 yrs, July 2011 - June 2014

Other Non-State Funds (secured): \$ 0

Summary:

Pheasants Forever will acquire in fee-title and restore 85 acres of priority wildlife habitat from willing landowners for inclusion into the State WMA / Federal WPA system utilizing the acquisition beyond boundaries concept.

Name: Joe Pavelko

Sponsoring Organization: Pheasants Forever, Inc.

Address: 7975 Acorn Circle

Victoria MN 55386

Telephone Number: 612-532-3800

Email jpavelko@pheasantsforever.org

Web Ad www.pheasantsforever.org

Location:

Region: Central, SW, SE

Ecological Section: Minnesota and NE Iowa Morainal (222M), North Central Glaciated Plains (251B)

County Name: Big Stone, Lac qui Parle, Le Sueur, Rice, Swift, Todd, Waseca

City / Township:

2011-2012 MAIN PROPOSAL

PROJECT TITLE: HCP7-4a – WMA/WPA Acquisition beyond Boundaries

I. PROJECT STATEMENT

The pressures from development, industry, and agriculture continue to mount on wildlife habitat within the farmland regions of Minnesota. Last year, 70,000 acres of Conservation Reserve Program expired. In fact, despite all of the investments in conservation, many of the agricultural counties are continuing to experience a net loss of habitat. Now, more than ever, is the time to accelerate our investments in permanently protected, high quality habitat complexes that will protect and maintain Minnesota's wildlife populations. In addition, as people spend more time indoors, it is fundamental to provide quality outdoor experiences to ensure Minnesota's outdoor heritage and appreciation of the outdoors is passed on.

Acknowledging the fact that current conservation funding levels won't fully address our habitat conservation needs, it is imperative that our limited funding resources be invested as strategic as possible to maximize a wide array of benefits for not only wildlife, but for other benefits such as water quality, native species protection, and outdoor recreational opportunities. State Wildlife Management Areas and Federal Waterfowl Production Areas not only provide quality wildlife habitat, improve water quality, and provide a myriad of other environmental benefits, but they provide quality public recreation opportunities so important to the citizens of our state.

One way to prioritize and to maximize benefits is to acquire parcels where the footprint of the strategic acquisition is larger than the acquisition boundary itself. For example, the acquisition of a 40 acre WMA adjacent to the original WMA shares an 80 acre drained wetland. Acquiring the property would not only provide 40 acres of additional habitat, but would also enable an 80 acre wetland restoration. The footprint of the 40 acre acquisition is 80 acres. In another example, 100 acres of cropland drains into a large wetland within a 160 acre WPA acquisition. Not only does the acquisition provide 160 acres of additional habitat, but 100 acres of additional watershed is being treated and improving water quality. The overall footprint of the 160 acre acquisition is 260 acres.

A total of 140 acres of priority wildlife habitat (85 acres with ENRTF funds and 55 acres with non-state matching funds) will be acquired utilizing this method. Once acquired, these lands will be restored to the highest quality and comprehensive as practicable utilizing ENRTF grant funds and matching funds respectively.

II. DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT ACTIVITIES

Activity 1: Fee-Title Acquisition

Budget: \$ 430,000

Within the designated HCP work areas, Pheasants Forever will acquire 85 acres in fee title and restore using ENRTF funds (an additional 55 acres will be acquired and restored with \$275,000 in non-state funds) with the footprint of each parcel larger than the legal property boundaries of the acquisitions. Acquired tracts will be transferred to the DNR as part of the Wildlife Management Area system or to the US Fish and Wildlife Service for enrollment into the National Wildlife Refuge System as Waterfowl Production Areas.

In addition to the footprint requirement, all acquisitions will provide public access and will meet one or more of the following criteria:

- Protect native remnant prairie.
- Protect wetland/prairie complexes.
- Adjacent to permanently protected lands and will provide connectivity.
- Will enable the restoration of croplands to wetland/prairie complexes.
- Will enable the restoration of adjacent permanently protected lands.

PF will work with DNR and/or USFWS land managers to develop and implement restoration and management plans that will meet all ENRTF requirements. Restoration of the acquired tracts will be funded with ENRTF grant dollars in this proposal. County board approval will be obtained for all acquisitions before closing.

| Outcome | Completion Date |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Acquire 85 acres fee-title | June 30, 2013 |
| 2. Restore 85 acres | June 30, 2013 |

III. PROJECT STRATEGY

A. Project Team/Partners

Pheasants Forever will receive ENRTF dollars for 85 acres of fee-title acquisition, related acquisition expenses such as appraisals, and restoration work. PF will work with other Habitat Conservation Partners to the extent practical. Pheasants Forever will continue to work closely with the MN DNR and the USFWS to ensure all land acquisition obligations are met. All aspects of the acquisition process will be managed and completed by Pheasants Forever. Additional funding partners include private land owners, local PF chapters, conservation groups, and various units of state and local government.

B. Timeline Requirements

We anticipate completing 3 appraisals by June 30, 2012 and closing on all acquisitions by June 30, 2013. Soon after acquisition, initial development work will be completed by the DNR (HCP partner 2g) to bring the lands to minimum required standards and ecological restoration work will be completed by PF.

C. Long-Term Strategy and Future Funding Needs

This project is part of Pheasants Forever's sustained effort of strategically acquiring WMAs and WPAs that provide high quality wildlife and habitat with multiple benefits that are open to the public for wildlife dependant recreation. All lands acquired will be donated to the State of Minnesota for enrollment into the WMA system or will be donated to the USFWS for enrollment into the National Wildlife Refuge System as Federal Waterfowl Production Areas. For each parcel, an IDP will be developed and implemented in collaboration with the appropriate land management agency and all ecological restoration will be completed through this grant.

These strategic acquisitions also move to address several goals outlined in existing habitat/resource plans including: Aquatic Management Area Plan, Wildlife Management Area Plan, Statewide Duck Recovery Plan, Minnesota Pheasant Plan, Statewide Conservation and Preservation Plan, and several others.

2011-2012 Detailed Project Budget

HCP7-4a WMA/WPA Acquisition beyond Boundaries - Pheasants Forever

IV. TOTAL TRUST FUND REQUEST BUDGET (2 years)

| BUDGET ITEM | AMOUNT |
|--|-------------------|
| Personnel: Staff expenses including salaries and benefits (.35 FTE Total - 72% salary, 28% benefits) Director of Conservation/Field Coordinator: Joe Pavelko/Matt Holland (\$10,000) .1 FTE Regional Biologists: Eran Sandquist/Scott Roemhildt (\$10,000) .15 FTE Grant Department Staff National Office Grant Department (\$5,000) .1 FTE | \$ 25,000 |
| Acquisition (Fee Title): Includes purchase price, title work, surveys, appraisals, etc. | \$ 363,000 |
| Restoration: Restoration work for all acquired lands which may include prairie seeding, wetland restoration, tree removal, exotic species control, etc. This is 10% of the acquisition budget and is only used to budget. Depending on the acquisition tract, the restoration funds needed to complete the restoration may be higher or lower. | \$ 40,000 |
| Travel: Mileage of PF personnel for land acquisitions and restoration work (approximately 1000 miles @ .50/mile) | \$ 2,000 |
| TOTAL ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND \$ REQUEST | \$ 430,000 |

V. OTHER FUNDS

| SOURCE OF FUNDS | AMOUNT | Status |
|---|---------------|-----------------------|
| Other Non-State \$ Being Applied to Project During Project Period: Funds from other grant sources such as NAWCA, private donations, local PF chapter contributions, and other conservation group contributions | \$ 275,000 | Pending |
| Other State \$ Being Applied to Project During Project Period: | \$ - | NA |
| In-kind Services During Project Period: | \$ - | NA |
| Remaining \$ from Current ENRTF Appropriation (if applicable): 2009 - \$285,630 | \$ 285,630 | Unspent and Committed |
| Funding History: 2001 - \$1,230,000; 2003 - \$549,300; 2005 - \$404,300; 2007 - \$450,000; 2008 - \$350,000; 2009 - \$350,000 | \$ 3,333,600 | |

2011-2012 Acquisition List for Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund Proposal

Project Title: : HCP7-4a WMA/WPA Acquisition beyond Boundaries

Project Manager Name: Joe Pavelko

Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund \$ Request: \$ 450,869

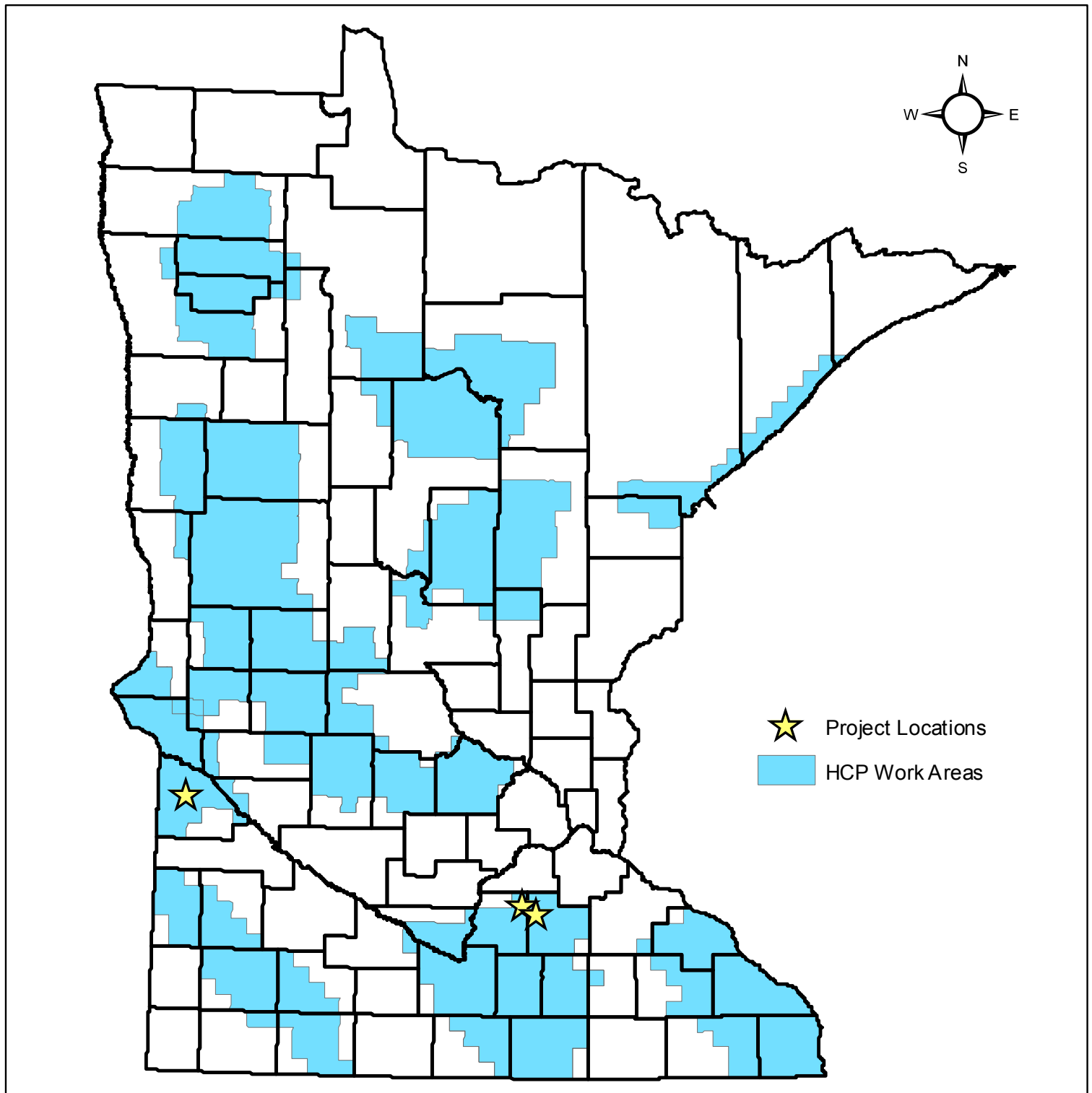
Final Title Holder(s): MN DNR / USFWS

| # | Parcel Name | Acquisition Type (Fee-Title OR Conservation Easement) | County | Estimated # of Acres | Geographical Coordinates (Provide Latitude/Longitude OR UTM-X/UTM-Y) | | | | Description | Status |
|--|---------------------------|--|---------------|-------------------------|---|-----------|--------|---------|---|-----------------|
| | | | | | Latitude | Longitude | UTM-X | UTM-Y | | |
| 1 | Erin Prairie WPA Addition | Fee-Title | Rice | 80 | | | 463567 | 4919334 | Approximately 80 acres directly adjacent to an existing WPA/WMA complex in Rice County. Acquisition will allow the restoration of shared wetland, will greatly improve water quality of large wetland within the habitat complex, and will provide additional upland nesting habitat. | In negotiations |
| 2 | Lake Sanborn WMA | Fee-Title | LeSueur | 160 | | | 455411 | 4924534 | Approximately 160 acres on the west end of Lake Sanborn, a DNR designated wildlife lake. Purchasing the property will allow for wetland and upland restoration and will give DNR legal access to the outlet of the lake to install a water control structure so it can be managed. Engineering work is underway. | In negotiations |
| 3 | Madrena WMA Addition | Fee-Title | Lac Qui Parle | 173 | | | 245473 | 4993419 | This is considered a very important addition to a wetland complex. The main basin is partially drained. This is part of the HCP project focus area. Approx 51 acres in 2 wetland basins. Upland acres would be seeded to grass to promote waterfowl nesting habitat. Not part of the original project area. Adjacent to existing WMA. | In negotiations |
| NOTES: This is Pheasants Forever's potential project list. Projects may be removed from the list and new projects may be added depending on landowner interest, ecological value of new parcels, etc. | | | | | | | | | | |



HCP7-4a WMA/WPA Acquisition beyond Boundaries Project Map

Habitat Conservation Partnership - Phase 7



AGENDA ITEM: 08b

Pheasants Forever, Inc. – Organization Description and Project Manager Qualifications

Organization Description

Pheasants Forever is a non-profit 501(c)3 conservation organization dedicated to improving pheasant and other wildlife populations through habitat restoration and development, changes in land management policies and public awareness and education. Pheasants Forever was incorporated in 1982 here in Minnesota and was established out of concern for the decline in pheasant populations. Today, Pheasants Forever has over 115,000 members and 650 chapters nationwide doing grassroots conservation. In Minnesota, Pheasants Forever has 22,000 members and 76 chapters. Since inception, Pheasants Forever in Minnesota has spent over \$16,000,000 on conservation resulting in the development of over 40,000 acres of nesting cover, 62,000 acres of food plots, 9,000 acres of wetlands, and 17,000 acres of land acquisition. PF in Minnesota has also planted 3.2 million trees.

Project Manager Qualifications

Joe Pavelko, MN Director of Conservation Programs
Pheasants Forever, Inc.

7975 Acorn Circle, Victoria, MN 55386

B.A. Biology – St. Olaf College – Northfield, MN, 2004

B.A. Environmental Studies – St. Olaf College – Northfield, MN, 2004

Restoration Ecology Certificate – University of Idaho – Moscow, ID, 2009



Also, the project manager administered or is currently administering the following grants:
LSOHC Prairie Heritage Fund, LSOHC WPA Acceleration, Small NAWCA Grants, Standard NAWCA Grants, CPL Grants, HCP Phase V, VI, VI Supplement.

Previous Work Experience

Friends of the MN Valley – Conservation Projects Manager, 2007 – 2009

MN Valley NWR Trust, Inc. – Conservation Projects Manager, 2006 – 2009

**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund
2011-2012 Request for Proposals (RFP)**

Subd: 4j4c

Project Title: 4c - HCP 7 - TPLs Critical Lands Protection Program

Category: D. Land Acquisition for Habitat and Recreation

Total Project Budget: \$ 490,000

Proposed Project Time Period for the Funding Requested: 3 yrs, July 2011 - June 2014

Other Non-State Funds (secured): \$ 0

Summary:

The Trust for Public Land (TPL) will acquire approximately 44 acres, protecting and linking valuable, high quality habitat in Minnesota.

Name: Robert McGillivray

Sponsoring Organization: The Trust for Public Land

Address: 2610 University Ave W, Ste 300

Saint Paul MN 55114

Telephone Number: 651-999-5307

Email rjm@tpl.org

Web Ad www.tpl.org

Location:

Region: Statewide

Ecological Section: Statewide

County Name: Statewide

City / Township:

2011-2012 MAIN PROPOSAL

PROJECT TITLE: HCP7-4c, TPL's Critical Lands Protection Program

I. PROJECT STATEMENT

Much of our prairie, wetlands, shorelines, and watersheds have been developed or degraded over a roughly 150-year period, and we cannot restore the "remarkable place known as Minnesota," without a long-term view, ongoing funding, and focus from conservationists towards that goal. As noted in the Statewide Conservation and Preservation Plan, "habitat issues are arguably the most important issues facing the conservation and preservation of natural resources throughout Minnesota." Minnesota's Habitat Conservation Partnership is a sustained effort to protect and restore these landscapes through a long-term effort. Working within this Partnership, The Trust for Public Land (TPL) will acquire approximately 100 acres, protecting and linking valuable, high quality habitat in Minnesota. TPL will use \$440,000 of Trust Fund dollars and \$560,000 in other public and private sources as capital for this acquisition work. No TPL transaction or personnel costs are included in this request. Acquired land will be conveyed or donated to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) or other partner agency for long-term stewardship. The DNR (or other appropriate permanent steward) will develop and implement management (and any necessary restoration or enhancement) plans for these sites using various funding sources depending on the site. This request contains \$50,000 that has been budgeted to provide to DNR (or other appropriate permanent steward) for restoration funding that may be needed. Funding for DNR land acquisition costs and initial site development is contained in DNR's proposals as part of the HCP proposal (see HCP proposals 2(g) and 4(i)). Potential land protection projects will be identified by TPL and/or identified and referred to TPL as part of the overall HCP focus area outreach. Priority will be given to lands that compliment and conserve existing critical habitat to facilitate plant/animal population sustainability and provide multiple benefits to multiple resources. TPL will leverage funds and catalyze others' conservation efforts. TPL will continue to further the overall HCP partnership goals as demonstrated by contributions here-to-date in outreach, government and public relations, collaboration, planning, communications, coordination and executive committee participation.

The economic recession has provided some once-in-a-lifetime unique opportunities: landowners previously not interested in selling are now motivated and land prices have fallen so that properties are now available at a fraction of the price in other times. This effort aims to focus on those unique opportunities as well as to continue building on past work accomplished through previous years ENRTF funding. Land acquisitions also contribute to the state and region's economic vitality by injecting cash into the marketplace, by triggering deed tax revenues to the state, by attracting additional funds from non-state sources, and by providing jobs to the professionals involved in the process including environmental consultants, closers and title insurers, surveyors, appraisers, etc.

II. DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT ACTIVITIES

Activity 1: Acquisition

Budget: \$490,000

Description: TPL may work in any of the designated HCP project focus areas. Currently projects are underway in Cass, Hubbard, Kandiyohi, Le Sueur, and Rice Counties involving protection of shoreline, wetlands, grasslands and woodlands. TPL will focus on habitat linkage projects that have the following characteristics: large, difficult and/or complex; multiple owners;

a need for multiple funding sources; proximity to regional growth centers; and/or, high risk of development. Priority will be given to lands with high quality natural resources, especially shoreland and other lands that provide natural buffers to water resources. The Statewide Conservation and Preservation Plan, the Aquatic Management Area Acquisition Plan, the Wildlife Strategic Plan, the SNA Program Long Range Plan, and other natural resource plans will be used to help identify such lands. Final acreage protection will ultimately be affected by landowner willingness to sell key parcels. Because TPL is focusing on lands buffering water resources, the per acre cost is higher than that of non-riparian land.

Examples of projects that TPL may work on include the following:

- Plantagenet Lake AMA. Approximately 100 acres on a deep lake in Hubbard County containing wetlands and a designated trout stream connecting existing public land to the lake.
- Two Points AMA. Approximately 50 acres on Leech Lake in Cass County containing significant forested shoreline habitat for fish and wildlife.
- Reid Woods SNA. Approximately 650 acres of wetlands, prairie and forest on the shores of a chain of shallow lakes in Kandiyohi County containing many SNA quality features.
- Cannon River I WMA/AMA. Approximately 510 acres on the headwaters of the Cannon River in Le Sueur County with MCBS mapped areas.
- Cannon River II WMA/AMA. Approximately 785 acres on the headwaters of the Cannon River in Rice County with MCBS mapped areas.

| Outcome | Completion Date |
|---|------------------------|
| 1. Acquire/protect 44 acres of high quality habitat | 6-30-2013 |

III. PROJECT STRATEGY

A. Project Team/Partners

This proposal is part of the Habitat Conservation Partnership Phase VII Proposal. Please see the main proposal for a complete list of partners involved.

B. Timeline Requirements

We propose a twenty-four month grant beginning July 1, 2011 and ending on June 30, 2013. Land acquisition procedures are time consuming. It is difficult to get landowners to commit to selling their property without knowing that money is available for the purchase. After a landowner has expressed willingness to sell, the appraisal/review process and DNR land acquisition procedures take a considerable amount of time. Completing a funding package also takes time. Various other issues such as environmental, title and surveys may also cause delay.

C. Long-Term Strategy and Future Funding Needs

TPL believes that the success of conservation in Minnesota will depend on effective partnerships amongst nonprofit organizations and with public agencies. Through these public/private partnerships, greater conservation can be achieved with each partner bringing their own particular strengths to bear on the critical issues of protection, restoration, and long term stewardship and management. We believe that working within the Habitat Conservation Partnership allows us to better conserve, restore, enhance and manage habitat for the purpose of sustaining fish, wildlife and native plant communities for all generations. We seek to do this

with an emphasis on high quality natural resource lands buffering water resources that will provide outstanding access to nature for the public.

2011-2012 Detailed Project Budget

HCP7-4c, TPL'S CRITICAL LANDS PROTECTION PROGRAM

IV. TOTAL PROJECT REQUEST BUDGET (2 years)

| <u>BUDGET ITEM</u> | <u>AMOUNT</u> |
|---|-------------------|
| Acquisition (Fee Title or Permanent Easements): Approximately 44 acres. All lands would be permanently owned by the DNR. See project list. | \$ 440,000 |
| Additional Budget Items: Funds to be provided to DNR if needed for restoration. | \$ 50,000 |
| TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET REQUEST TO LCCMR | \$ 490,000 |

V. OTHER FUNDS

| <u>SOURCE OF FUNDS</u> | <u>AMOUNT</u> | <u>Status</u> |
|---|---------------|------------------|
| Other Non-State \$ Being Applied to Project During Project Period: Land value donations, private contributions, federal funds. | \$ 150,000 | <i>Pending</i> |
| Other State \$ Being Applied to Project During Project Period: Bonding, LSOHC, RIM. | \$ 410,000 | <i>Pending</i> |
| In-kind Services During Project Period: | \$ - | |
| Remaining \$ from Current Trust Fund Appropriation(s): HCP Phase 6 2009: \$350,000; HCP Phase 6 Supp. 2010 recommended: \$200,000 . | \$ 550,000 | <i>Committed</i> |
| Funding History: ENRTF: 2001: \$900,000; 2003: \$328,030; 2005: \$425,000; 2007: \$480,000; 2008: \$350,000; 2009: \$350,000; 2010 recommended: \$200,000. Other Funds: 2001: \$371,000; 2003: \$202,000; 2005: \$677,270; 2007: \$0 "Other Funds," (but \$355,000 in other state funds, \$190,000 in partner ENRTF funds and \$175,000 in RIM leveraged land value donations); 2008 \$0 "Other Funds," (but \$1,090,000 in other state funds, and \$60,000 in private funds leveraging state funds); 2009: pending; 2010: pending. | \$ - | |

2011-2012 Acquisition List for Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund Proposal

Project Title: HCP7-4c, TPL's Critical Lands Protection Program, The Trust for Public Land

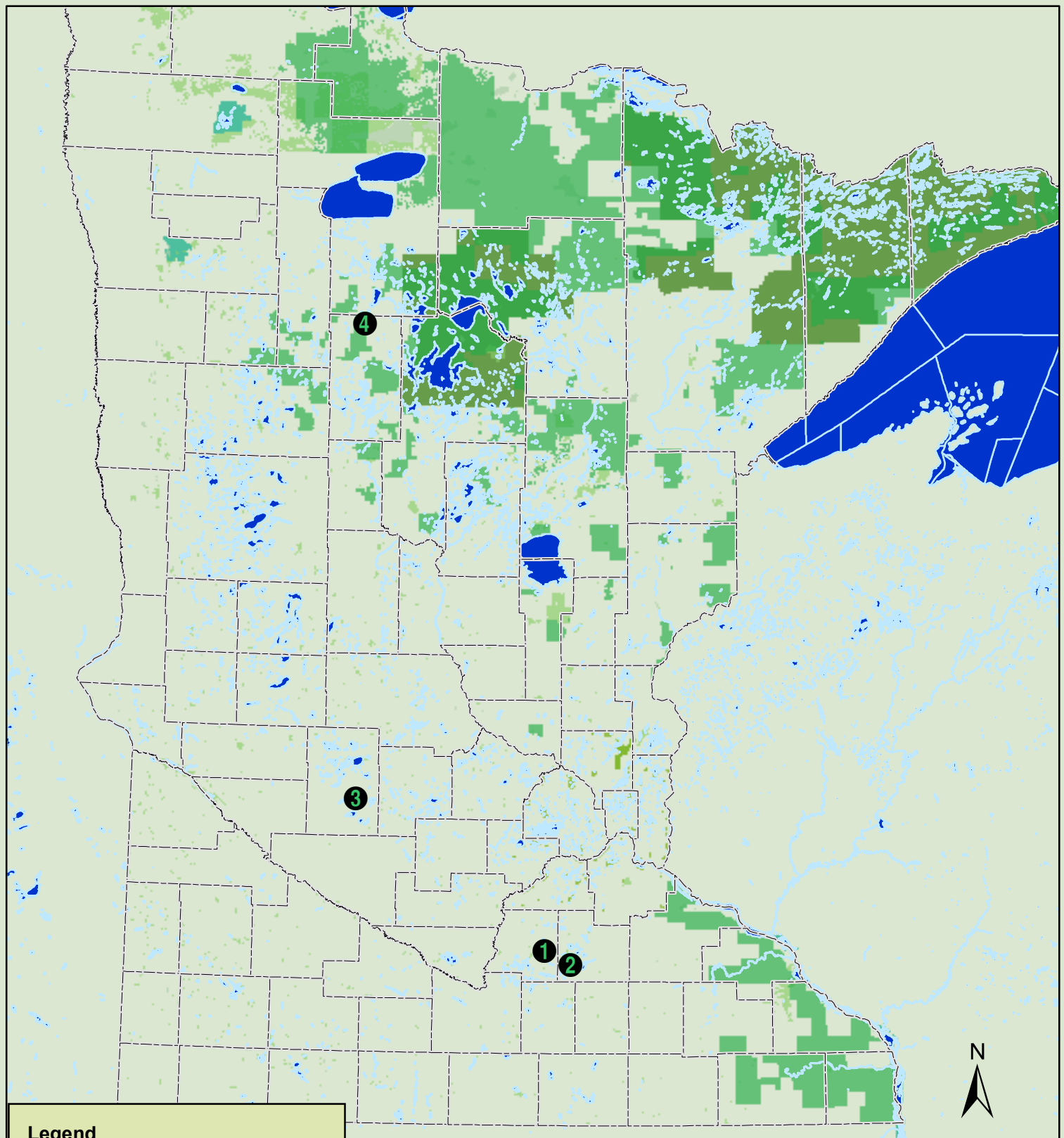
Project Manager Name: Robert McGillivray

Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund \$ Request: \$490,000

Final Title Holder(s): DNR.

| # | Parcel Name | Acquisition Type (Fee-Title OR Conservation Easement) | County | Estimated # of Acres | Geographical Coordinates (Provide Latitude/Longitude OR UTM-X/UTM-Y) | | | | Summary Description | Status |
|---|-------------------------|--|-----------|-------------------------|---|------------|-------|-------|---|---------------------------------------|
| | | | | | Latitude | Longitude | UTM-X | UTM-Y | | |
| 1 | Cannon River I WMA/AMA | Fee Title | LeSueur | 510 | 93°33'31"W | 44°20'49N | | | Approximately 510 acres on the headwaters of the Cannon River in Le Sueur County with MCBS mapped areas. | Under option. |
| 2 | Cannon River II WMA/AMA | Fee Title | Rice | 100-785 | 93°28'53"W | 44°17'23"N | | | Between 100 and 785 acres on the headwaters of the Cannon River in Rice County with MCBS mapped areas. | Under option. |
| 3 | Reid Woods SNA | Fee Title | Kandiyohi | 650 | 94°54'42"W | 45°4'19"N | | | Approximately 650 acres of wetlands, prairie and forest on the shores of a chain of shallow lakes in Kandiyohi County containing many SNA quality features. | Negotiations with landowner underway. |
| 4 | Plantagenet Lake AMA | Fee Title | Hubbard | 100 | 94°55'25"W | 47°22'9"N | | | Approximately 100 acres on a deep lake in Hubbard County containing wetlands and a designated trout stream connecting existing public land to the lake. | Negotiations with landowner underway. |

NOTES: Projects are listed in priority order. It is anticipated that this funding will be used on the first two projects.



Legend

- HCP Phase 7 2011 now obsolete Boundaries
- Metro_Parks
- State Forests
- Wildlife Management Areas
- Scientific and Natural Areas
- NWR_NFWS
- National Forests

TPL's HCP Phase 7 Potential Projects

1. Cannon River Ph 1
2. Cannon River Ph 2
3. Reid Woods
4. Lake Plantagenet

Map created by The Trust for Public Land
on 4/8/ 2010

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www.tpl.org

Information on this map is for informational purposes
of discussion and visualization only.



0 25 50 100 Miles

Project Manager Qualifications

Bob McGillivray is a Senior Project Manager in the Minnesota State Office of The Trust for Public Land and has been with TPL for seven years. He works directly with landowners, public agency partners, and community members to protect land throughout the state of Minnesota for public use and enjoyment. He manages all aspects of real estate transactions including conducting property research; negotiating contracts; advocating for and securing funding; and coordinating due diligence activities. Prior to joining TPL, Bob was a partner at the law firm of Oppenheimer Wolff & Donnelly with a broad commercial practice. He also served as a law clerk for the Honorable Edward J. Devitt, United States District Court Judge; a Special Assistant Attorney General with the Minnesota Attorney General's Office; and a legal intern with the United Nations and the United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York. Bob graduated summa cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa from the University of Minnesota and received his law degree from New York University. He also studied at Stirling University in Scotland and the University of Copenhagen, Denmark. Bob's volunteer activities have included serving on the Board of the Legal Aid Society of Minneapolis and on the Board of Minnesota Waters, a nonprofit conservation organization that promotes responsible stewardship of water resources.

Organization Description

The Trust for Public Land (TPL) is a national non profit organization dedicated to conserving land for people to enjoy as parks, gardens, and other natural areas, ensuring livable communities for generations to come. The primary way TPL accomplishes this vision is through conservation real estate, conservation finance, and conservation vision.

**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund
2011-2012 Request for Proposals (RFP)**

Subd: 4j4h

Project Title: 4h - HCP 7 - Priority Acquisition, MN Valley Wetland Management District

Category: D. Land Acquisition for Habitat and Recreation

Total Project Budget: \$ 400,000

Proposed Project Time Period for the Funding Requested: 3 yrs, July 2011 - June 2014

Other Non-State Funds (secured): \$ 400,000

Summary:

Acquire in fee 80 acres of priority habitat in Southern Lakes Region for Waterfowl Production Area, MN Valley Wetland Management District. Acquire another 40 acres with other, nonstate funds.

Name: Deborah Loon

Sponsoring Organization: MN Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc.

Address: 2312 Seabury Ave

Minneapolis MN 55406

Telephone Number: 612-801-1935

Email DebLoon@comcast.net

Web Ad www.mnvalleytrust.org

Location:

Region: SE

Ecological Section: North Central Glaciated Plains (251B)

County Name: Blue Earth

City / Township:

MAIN PROPOSAL

PROJECT TITLE: Priority Acquisition, MN Valley Wetland Management District HCP7-4e

I. PROJECT STATEMENT

This project will protect, through fee title acquisition, at least 80 acres of priority lands with high quality natural resources and habitat for wildlife and human benefit for the Minnesota Valley Wetland Management District in the Southern Lakes Region. It will expand an existing USFWS (federal) Waterfowl Production Area (WPA) or create a new WPA, retire heavily-drained, marginal farmland and restore wetlands and grasslands.

This project will meet the following recommendations in the Statewide Conservation Plan -- Recommendation 1 (Protect priority land habitats), 3 (Improve connectivity and access to outdoor recreation), 5 (Restore land, wetlands and wetland-associated watersheds) and 7 (Keep water on the landscape). It also meets the objectives in the LCCMR Strategic Plan, MN DNR Long Range Duck Recovery Plan, Prairie Pothole Joint Venture, NAWCA, the North American Waterfowl Management Plan, and the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge and Wetland Management District Comprehensive Conservation Plan.

This project will restore the breeding population and migration objectives for waterfowl in the Mississippi Flyway, benefitting a host of species, including mallard, blue-winged teal, lesser scaup, northern pintail, tundra and trumpeter swans, redhead, wood duck and canvasback.

The project also will improve water quality in sub-watersheds of the Middle Minnesota River. The Cobb River, Watonwan River, and the Le Sueur Creek watersheds will gain in water quality by retiring marginal cropland and restoring the wetland and grassland habitat.

After restoration of wetlands and grasslands, the land will be donated to the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to be managed as a WPA. The land will be open to the public for wildlife-dependent recreational activities.

II. DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT RESULTS

Result 1: Acquire 80 acres of wetland and grassland habitat for MN Valley Wetland Management District of USFWS **Budget:** \$ 400,000

The Minnesota Valley Trust (MVT) will acquire in fee title at least 80 acres of priority habitat to expand an existing USFWS (federal) Waterfowl Production Area (WPA) or create a new WPA in Blue Earth and/or Le Sueur County in the Southern Lakes Region. Using other, non-state funds, MVT will acquire at least 40 additional acres. All lands will then be restored and enhanced using MVT and other non-state funds, which are secure and included in the leveraged funds in this proposal.

Potential projects are identified by the Minnesota Valley Wetland Management District of the USFWS, as called for in the Comprehensive Conservation Plan for the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge and Wetland Management District (see Objective 5.3, page 73 of CCP). Lands are acquired under the authority of the Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp Act, Public Law 85-585 and Wetlands Loan Act of 1961 (see page 8 of CCP).

Potential projects include:

- Acquisition of land to expand the Perch Lake WPA in Beauford Township of Blue Earth County. Perch Lake is an important migratory waterfowl resting lake and a DNR designated shallow lake. The Trust earlier acquired other parcels to establish the Perch Lake WPA, in part with ENRTF funds through HCP Phases 3 and 4, and has completed substantial wetland restoration work. Ducks Unlimited has installed a new water control structure to Perch Lake. A tremendous response by many wildlife species has been observed on the newly restored lands. This project is in the Minnesota River Prairie Ecological Subsection, noted as 251Ba in the Statewide Conservation Plan.
- Acquisition of priority land to create a new WPA parcel in Blue Earth County. The new WPA location will include significant prairie pothole habitat suitable for a host of grassland and wetland birds. The location will be strategically selected by USFWS through a prioritization process that uses the best scientific data available. The WPA will be located in an area with potential to build a 4-square mile habitat complex of public and private restored lands. This project will be in the Minnesota River Prairie Ecological Subsection, noted as 251Ba in the Statewide Conservation Plan.
- Acquisition of an 80 acre parcel to expand the Fickling WPA in Le Sueur County. The area once hosted >40 wetlands/mi² and many large shallow lake basins that provided critical habitat for migratory and nesting birds. The addition of this tract will provide the opportunity to restore and manage a 40+ acre semi-permanent wetland needed to fulfill waterfowl production objectives on this WPA. This project is in the Oak Savannah Ecological Subsection, noted as 222Me in the Statewide Conservation Plan.

After acquisition, the Minnesota Valley Trust, working with the USFWS and other conservation partners, will develop the restoration and management plan, and then restore wetland and grassland habitat. Funding will be provided by the Trust and other sources, including local and federal partners. After restoration, the lands will be donated to the USFWS for management as part of the Minnesota Valley Wetland Management District.

Deliverable

1. Acquire 80 acres of priority wetland and grassland habitat

Completion Date

6/30/2013

III. PROJECT STRATEGY

A. Project Team/Partners

This proposal is part of the Habitat Conservation Partnership Phase 7 Proposal. The Minnesota Valley Trust works in close partnership with the USFWS to (1) identify properties for the MN Valley Wetland Management District, then (2) plan and (3) manage the restoration of the lands. Other partners include DNR, the local watershed management organizations (e.g., Cobb River Watershed Organization), Blue Earth and Le Sueur County Soil and Water Conservation Districts, state conservation organizations and local conservation clubs (e.g., MN Pheasants, Inc – Blue Earth County).

B. Timeline Requirements

Proposed project timeline is July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2013.

C. Long-Term Strategy

This project is anticipated by the Comprehensive Conservation Plan for the Minnesota Valley Wetland Management District of the USFWS. It also is part of a larger strategy involving many other established projects and efforts -- NAWCA grants of more than \$25 million and more than 50 partners, USFWS Challenge Grants and Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program, EPA Clean

Water grants, CREP, Wetland Reserve Program, Reinvest in Minnesota, local grant programs and more than 20 local sportsman clubs active in the area. Partners have acquired and restored > 10,000 acres of habitat in this part of the Southern Lakes Area through various conservation programs.

2011-2012 Detailed Project Budget

IV. TOTAL TRUST FUND REQUEST BUDGET 2 years

| BUDGET ITEM | AMOUNT |
|--|-------------------|
| Acquisition (Fee Title or Permanent Easements): Fee title acquisition of at least 80 acres of priority habitat in the Southern Lakes Region. Following restoration of the wetlands and grasslands, the property will be donated to the USFWS / MN Valley Wetland Management District for management as a Waterfowl Production Area. | \$ 400,000 |
| TOTAL ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND \$ REQUEST | \$ 400,000 |

V. OTHER FUNDS

| SOURCE OF FUNDS | AMOUNT | Status |
|---|---------------|----------------|
| Other Non-State \$ Being Applied to Project During Project Period: Source of funds is the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc. and/or federal funds. | \$ 400,000 | <i>Secured</i> |
| Other State \$ Being Applied to Project During Project Period: <i>None</i> | \$ - | <i>NA</i> |
| In-kind Services During Project Period: In-kind services will include professional staff services to complete the acquisitions and subsequent restoration by MN Valley Trust and USFWS, but are not estimated here. | \$ - | <i>NA</i> |
| Remaining \$ from Current ENRTF Appropriation (if applicable): Funds are remaining from the 2009 appropriation. | \$ 100,000 | <i>Unspent</i> |
| Funding History: Phase II (2003) - \$98,000 ETF and \$741,700 other non-state funds - complete Phase III (2005) - \$126,878 ETF and \$1,688,649 other non-state funds - complete Phase IV (2007) - \$100,000 ETF and \$232,976 other non-state funds - complete Phase V (2008) - \$50,000 ETF and \$81,200 other non-state funds - complete Phase VI (2009) - \$100,000 ETF and at least \$100,000 other non-state funds ** TOTAL \$474,878 ETF and \$2,813,325 other non-state funds | \$ 474,878 | |

2011-2012 Acquisition List for Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund Proposal

Project Title: Priority Acquisition, MN Valley Wetland Management District HCP7-4e

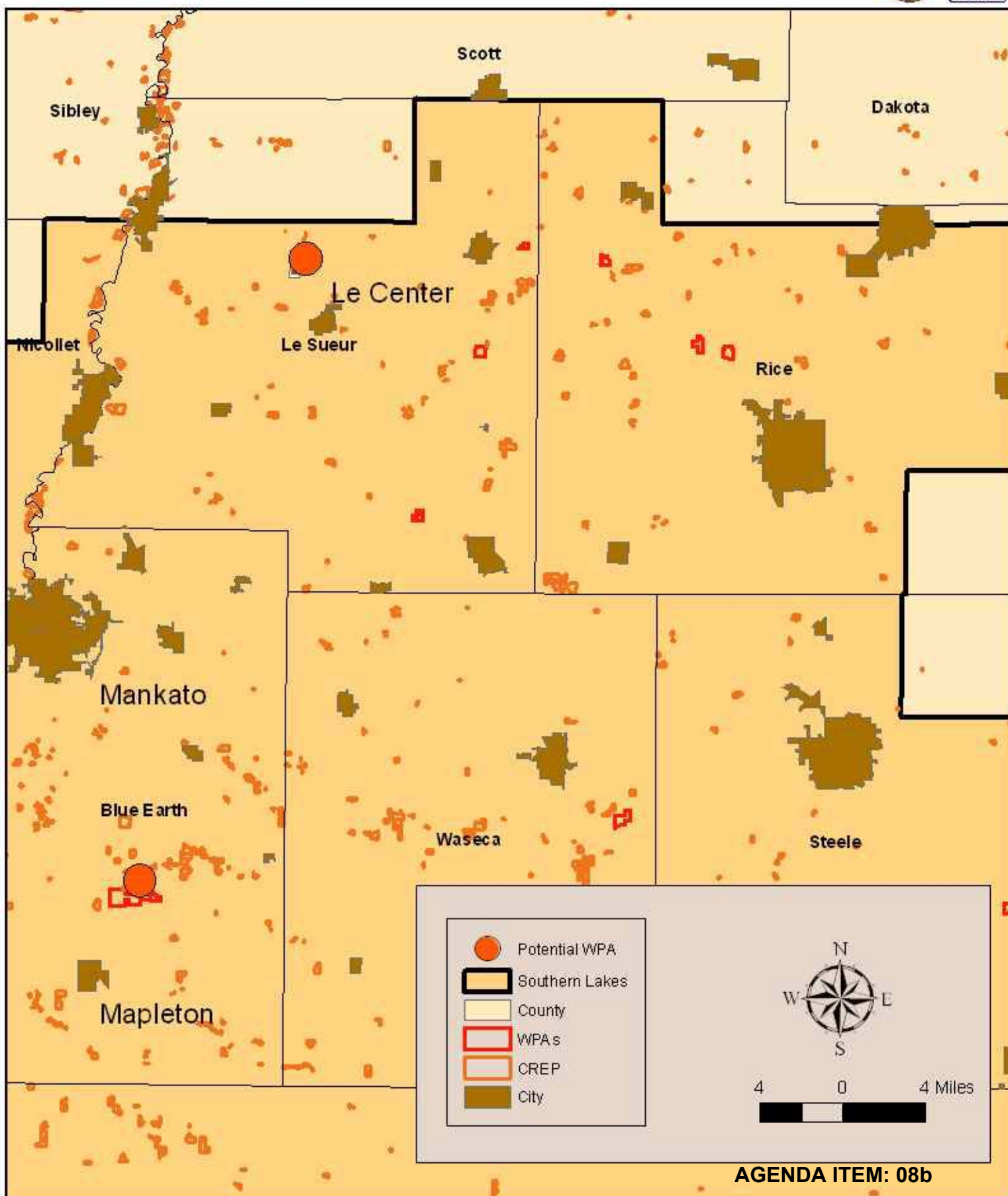
Project Manager Name: Deborah Loon

Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund \$ Request: \$400,000

Final Title Holder(s): US Fish and Wildlife Service

| # | Parcel Name | Acquisition Type (Fee-Title OR Conservation Easement) | County | Estimated # of Acres | Status | Geographical Coordinates (Provide Latitude/Longitude OR UTM-X/UTM-Y) | | | |
|----|---------------------------|--|------------|----------------------|-----------------------|---|-----------|---------|----------|
| | | | | | | Latitude | Longitude | UTM-X | UTM-Y |
| 1 | Perch Lake WPA Expansion | Fee Title | Blue Earth | 80 | Outreach underway | | | 427288E | 4870676N |
| 3 | Fickling WPA Expansion | Fee Title | LeSueur | 80 | Outreach underway | | | 439080E | 4919376N |
| 5 | New WPA, to be identified | Fee Title | Blue Earth | 80 | FWS planning underway | | | | |
| 6 | | | | | | | | | |
| 7 | | | | | | | | | |
| 8 | | | | | | | | | |
| 9 | | | | | | | | | |
| 10 | | | | | | | | | |

NOTES: The Minnesota Valley Trust is working with willing landowners to expand existing Waterfowl Production Areas (WPAs) and establish new WPAs, as prioritized by the US Fish & Wildlife Service. The 80 acres (grant) and 40 acres (non-state match) to be acquired will either expand one of the existing WPAs or create a new WPA in the areas noted above. After acquisition, the Trust and USFWS will develop a restoration and management plan. Restoration of wetlands and grassland complexes will be completed using MN Valley Trust funds that are part of the leveraged funds proposed for this project. The land will be donated to the USFWS for perpetual management as a WPA.



PROJECT MANAGER QUALIFICATIONS

Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc.

The mission and activities of the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust is to:

- Expand the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge and Wetland Management District (2,134 acres have been acquired to expand the Refuge and 1,543 acres have been acquired for Waterfowl Production Areas, as of March 31, 2010).
- Construct an environmental education and visitor center on the Minnesota Valley Refuge (completed in Fall 2007 on the Rapids Lake Unit near Carver and Jordan).
- Complete habitat restoration of lands acquired, following plans developed by the US Fish and Wildlife Service (work is ongoing).
- Construct new visitor access, education and interpretive facilities on the Minnesota Valley Refuge, including trails and parking lots (work is ongoing).

The Minnesota Valley Trust was established in 2001 to mitigate the impact of the thousands of flights sent over the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge from the new north-south runway at the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport.

A 501(c)3 tax-exempt nonprofit organization, the Minnesota Valley Trust works in cooperation with the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge and Wetland Management District. All properties acquired and constructed are donated by the Trust to the USFWS.

Deborah Loon, Project Manager

Deborah Loon has served as the executive director of the Minnesota Valley Trust almost since its inception in 2001. In that role, she is the liaison with the USFWS and is the primary contact with all landowners and local communities. She also provides support to the Trust Board of Directors.

Deb also serves as the executive director of Minnesota Valley Lands, Inc., the subsidiary to the Trust that holds title to the acquired lands and oversees all management and restoration of the lands.

Deb brings extensive experience in project management and organizational leadership for both nonprofit and for-profit organizations. She has a BA in political science from St. Olaf College.

**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund
2011-2012 Request for Proposals (RFP)**

Subd: 4j4i

Project Title: 4i - HCP 7 - Habitat Acquisition – DNR Professional Services

Category: D. Land Acquisition for Habitat and Recreation

Total Project Budget: \$20,000

Proposed Project Time Period for the Funding Requested: 3 yrs, July 2011 - June 2014

Other Non-State Funds (secured): \$ 0

Summary:

This proposal is directly tied to the land acquisition efforts of the Habitat Conservation Partners, and ensures that newly acquired lands can be transferred into the WMA system.

Name: Mike Halverson

Sponsoring Organization: DNR

Address: 500 Lafayette Rd

Saint Paul MN 55155

Telephone Number: 651-259-5209

Email mike.halverson@state.mn.us

Web Ad www.dnr.state.mn.us

Location:

Region: Statewide

Ecological Section: Statewide

County Name: Statewide

City / Township:

2011-2012 MAIN PROPOSAL

PROJECT TITLE: HCP7-4i Habitat Acquisition – DNR Professional Services

Project Manager: Mike Halverson
Affiliation: MN DNR – Fish and Wildlife
Contact Phone: 651-259-5209
Contact Email: Mike.Halverson@state.mn.us

I. PROJECT STATEMENT

This proposal is directly tied to the land acquisition efforts of the Habitat Conservation Corridor Partners, and ensures that newly acquired lands can be entered into the WMA system, and that restoration and development of newly acquired lands can begin on a timely basis. This proposal includes only professional services costs. Development costs will be covered under a separate proposal through HCP.

II. DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT ACTIVITIES

Activity 1: Habitat Acquisition – Professional Services Budget: \$20,000

The Minnesota DNR Division of Fish and Wildlife will provide professional services and pay the associated costs of conveying lands acquired by partners under this project to the Department. Professional services include the following: staff time for the Division of Lands and Minerals (\$80/hour) and the Attorney General's Office (\$110/hour), survey costs, recording and abstracting fees, and deed tax. The total cost to process and complete the estimated land conveyances to the DNR under this program is approximately 10% of the total value of these acquisitions.

DNR cannot start work until the Partners have completed acquisition on each parcel. DNR and Partners have estimated that **400 acres** will be acquired and turned over to DNR, but it is unknown how many final parcels will be acquired, or when the acquisitions will be completed. The work completed under this proposal is dependent on the acres, types, and condition of lands acquired by the partners. All work will be completed by June 30, 2013.

| | | |
|---|---------------------------|-----------------|
| Summary Budget Information for Activity 1: | Trust Fund Budget: | \$20,000 |
| | Amount Spent: | \$ 0 |
| | Balance: | \$20,000 |

| Outcome | Completion Date |
|---|-----------------|
| 1. Professional Services paid on 400 acres of critical wildlife habitat | 6/30/2013 |
| | |

III. PROJECT STRATEGY

A. Project Team/Partners

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Fish and Wildlife Division (FAW) is a partner in the nonprofit organization of Habitat Conservation Partnership. The mission of Minnesota's Habitat Conservation Partnership is to restore, enhance, and conserve habitat for the purpose

of sustaining fish, wildlife and native plant communities for all generations. Member Organizations include: Ducks Unlimited * Fond du Lac Reservation * Friends of the Detroit Lakes Wetland Management District Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe * Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources * Minnesota Deer Hunters Association * Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Minnesota Land Trust * Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc. * National Wild Turkey Federation * Pheasants Forever * Red Lake Band of Chippewa * The Nature Conservancy * Trust for Public Land * U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service * U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Pheasants Forever (PF) is the main organization that has identified parcels for acquisition that would be transferred to DNR-FAW. Joe Pavelko, PF MN Director of Conservation Programs, is the lead contact for PF for land acquisitions and transfers.

B. Timeline Requirements

We propose a two year grant beginning July 1, 2011 and ending on June 30, 2013.

C. Long-Term Strategy and Future Funding Needs

This project is needed as long as the partnership exists, and lands are being acquired to become part of the WMA system.

2011-2012 Detailed Project Budget

HCP7-4i Habitat Acquisition – DNR Professional Services

IV. TOTAL TRUST FUND REQUEST BUDGET - Two years

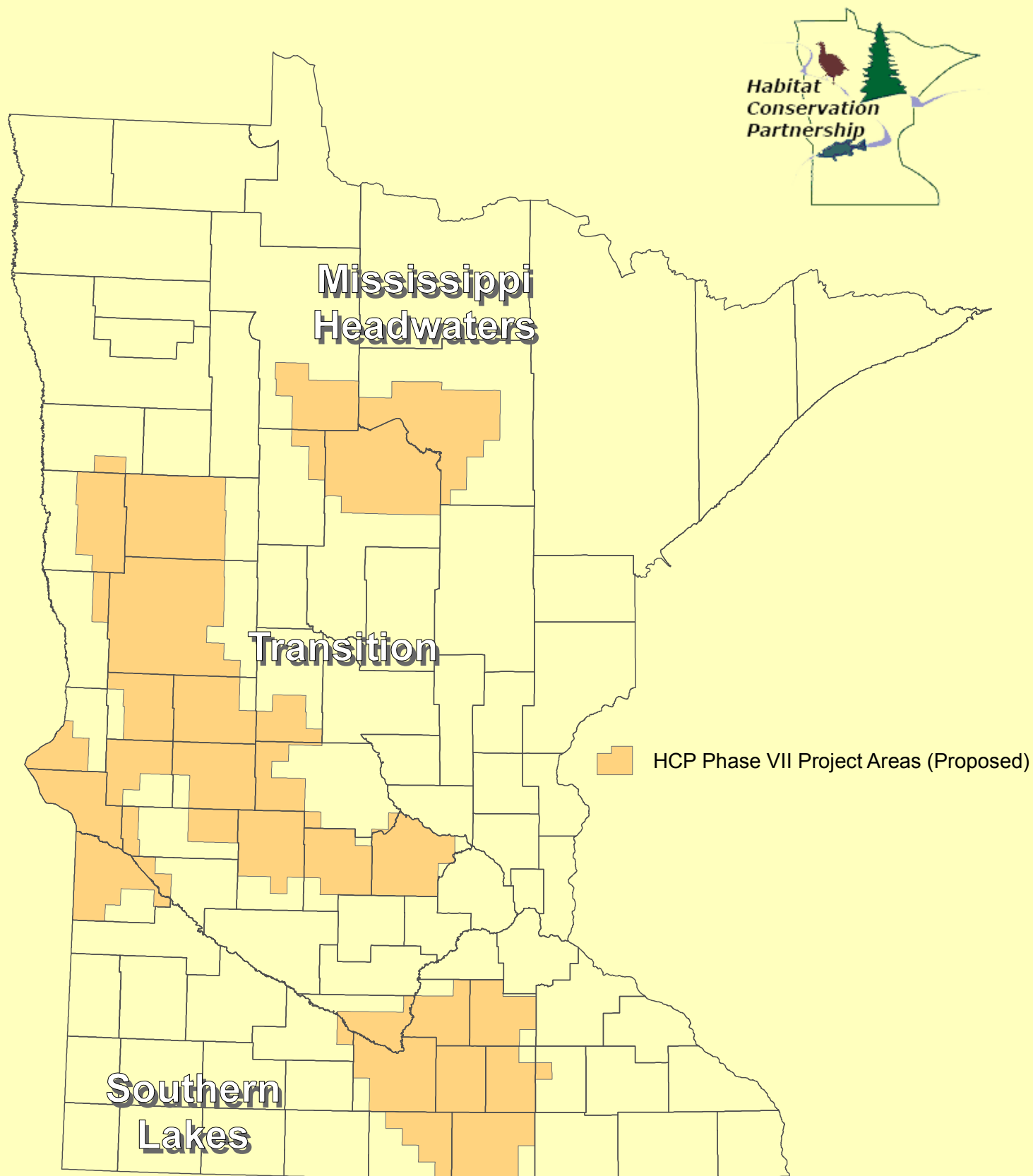
| <u>BUDGET ITEM</u> | <u>AMOUNT</u> |
|--|-----------------|
| Acquisition (Permanent Easements): | \$0 |
| Professional Services: Legal Fees, survey costs, negotiations, closings, etc. Anticipated to be approximately 5% of total acquisition. | \$20,000 |
| TOTAL ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND \$ REQUEST | \$20,000 |

V. OTHER FUNDS

| <u>SOURCE OF FUNDS</u> | <u>AMOUNT</u> | <u>Status</u> |
|---|--|--|
| Other Non-State \$ Being Applied to Project During Project Period: Partner funds will acquire approximately 400 acres of land for conveyance to DNR as WMAs. | \$0 | Pending |
| Funding History: All funds listed are ETF and related to HCP projects. | \$40,000 \$28,000 \$38,000 \$30,000 \$25,000 | 2004 Completed 2005 Completed 2007 Completed 2008 Completed 2009 \$23,000 rememain |

Habitat Conservation Partnership

Proposed Phase VII Project Areas



AGENDA ITEM: 08b

2011-2012 LCCMR PROJECT MANAGER QUALIFICATIONS AND ORGANIZATION FORM

PROJECT TITLE: HCP7-4i Habitat Acquisition – DNR Professional Services

Project Manager: First Name: Mike Last Name: Halverson

Sponsoring Organization: Minnesota Dept. of Natural Resources (DNR), Division of Fish and Wildlife (FAW)

Mailing Address: Street Address: 500 Lafayette Road,
City: St Paul, State: MN Zip: 55155

Telephone Number: 651 – 259-5209

Email: mike.halverson.state.mn.us

Fax: 651-297-4961

Project Manager Qualifications

DNR Fish and Wildlife Acquisition position administers the work plans and LCCMR grants to the DNR, for acquisition of State Wildlife Management Areas (WMA) and Aquatic Management Areas (AMA) so that program goals and legal requirements are met.