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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)**

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**Subd:** 4j4a

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

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**Category:** D. Land Acquisition for Habitat and Recreation

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**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

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**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.

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**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

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**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:**

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# 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.

**AGENDA ITEM: 08b**

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)

<b>BUDGET ITEM</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
<b>Personnel:</b> 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
<b>Acquisition (Fee Title):</b> Includes purchase price, title work, surveys, appraisals, etc.	\$ 363,000
<b>Restoration:</b> 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
<b>Travel:</b> Mileage of PF personnel for land acquisitions and restoration work (approximately 1000 miles @ .50/mile)	\$ 2,000
<b>TOTAL ENVIRONMENT &amp; NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND \$ REQUEST</b>	<b>\$ 430,000</b>

### V. OTHER FUNDS

<b>SOURCE OF FUNDS</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>	<b>Status</b>
<b>Other Non-State \$ Being Applied to Project During Project Period:</b> Funds from other grant sources such as NAWCA, private donations, local PF chapter contributions, and other conservation group contributions	\$ 275,000	<i>Pending</i>
<b>Other State \$ Being Applied to Project During Project Period:</b>	\$ -	<i>NA</i>
<b>In-kind Services During Project Period:</b>	\$ -	<i>NA</i>
<b>Remaining \$ from Current ENRTF Appropriation (if applicable):</b> 2009 - \$285,630	\$ 285,630	<i>Unspent and Committed</i>
<b>Funding History:</b> 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

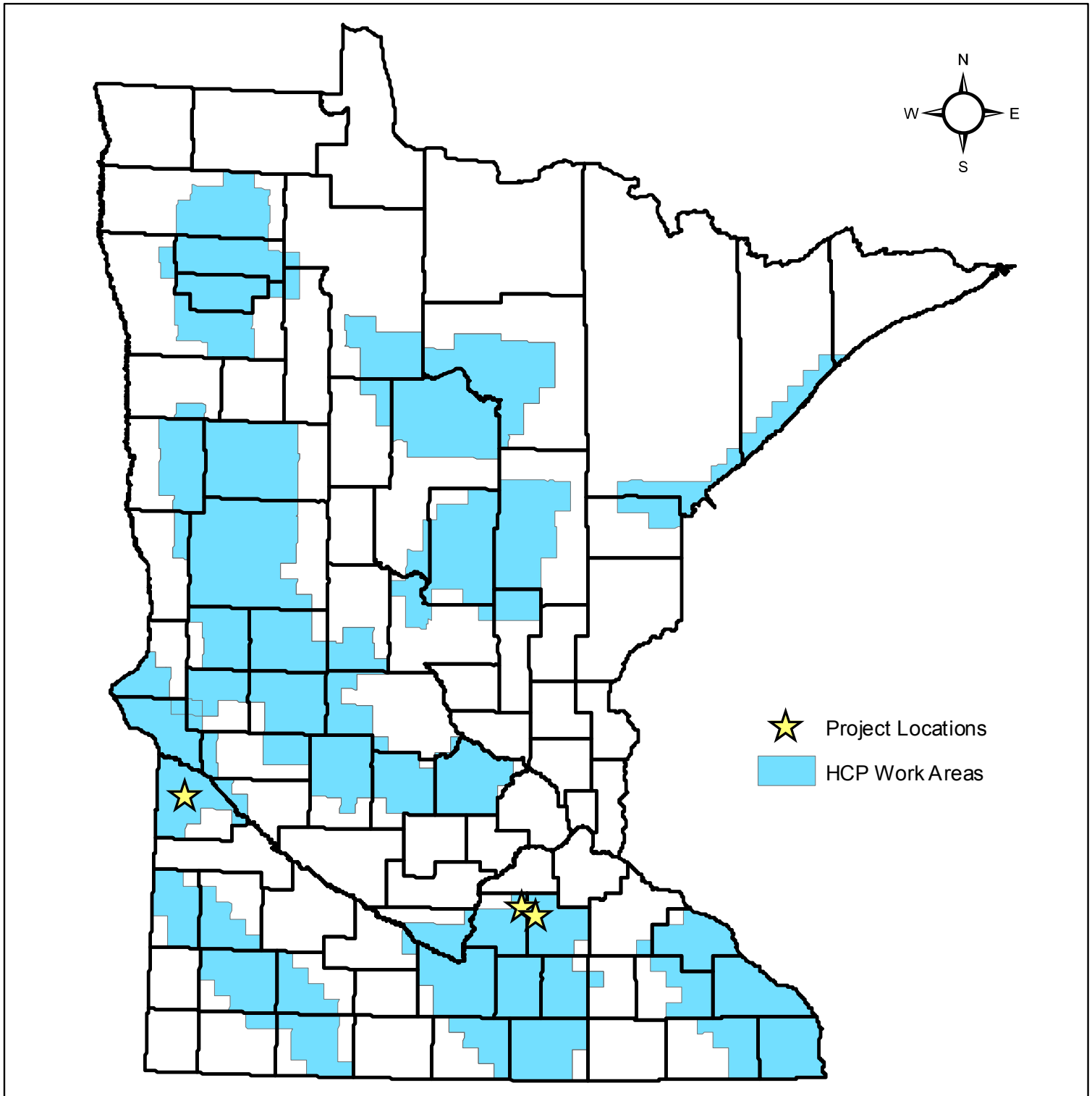
**Final Title Holder(s):** MN DNR / USFWS

#	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. Acquisiton 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
<p><b>NOTES:</b> 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.</p>										



# 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)**

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**Subd: 4j4c**

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

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**Category:** D. Land Acquisition for Habitat and Recreation

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**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

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**Summary:**

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

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**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

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**Location:**

**Region:** Statewide

**Ecological Section:** Statewide

**County Name:** Statewide

**City / Township:**

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**AGENDA ITEM: 08b**

# 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;

**AGENDA ITEM: 08b**

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.

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

### V. OTHER FUNDS

<u>SOURCE OF FUNDS</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>Status</u>
<b>Other Non-State \$ Being Applied to Project During Project Period:</b> Land value donations, private contributions, federal funds.	\$ 150,000	<i>Pending</i>
<b>Other State \$ Being Applied to Project During Project Period:</b> Bonding, LSOHC, RIM.	\$ 410,000	<i>Pending</i>
<b>In-kind Services During Project Period:</b>	\$ -	
<b>Remaining \$ from Current Trust Fund Appropriation(s):</b> HCP Phase 6 2009: \$350,000; HCP Phase 6 Supp. 2010 recommended: \$200,000 .	\$ 550,000	<i>Committed</i>
<b>Funding History:</b> <b>ENRTF:</b> 2001: \$900,000; 2003: \$328,030; 2005: \$425,000; 2007: \$480,000; 2008: \$350,000; 2009: \$350,000; 2010 recommended: \$200,000. <b>Other Funds:</b> 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

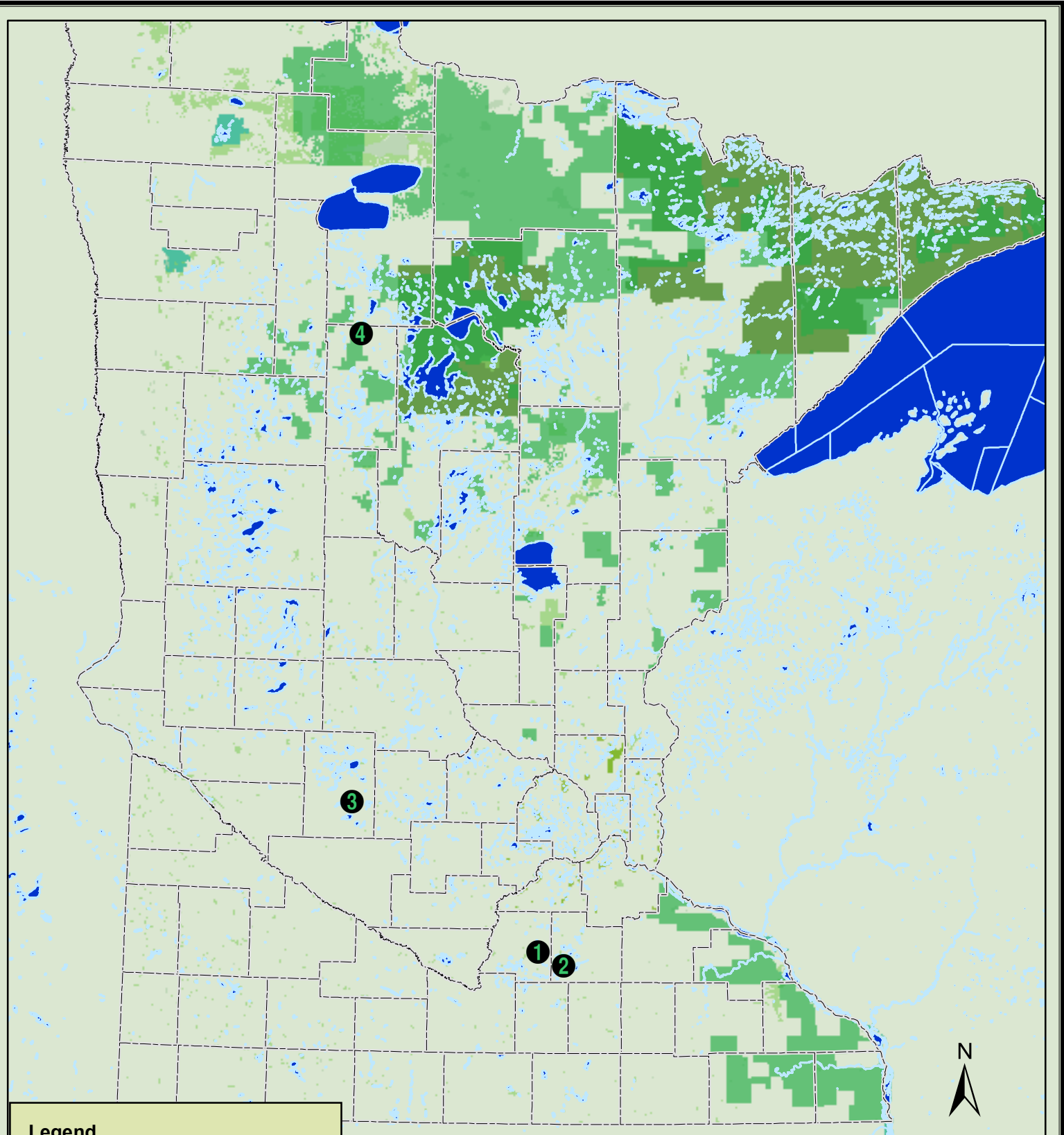
**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund \$ Request:** \$490,000

**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.

**AGENDA ITEM: 08b**

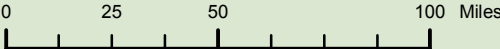


**Legend**

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



### **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)**

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**Subd:** 4j4h

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

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**Category:** D. Land Acquisition for Habitat and Recreation

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**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

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**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.

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**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

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**Location:**

**Region:** SE

**Ecological Section:** North Central Glaciated Plains (251B)

**County Name:** Blue Earth

**City / Township:**

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# 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:

**AGENDA ITEM: 08b**

- 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/mi<sup>2</sup> 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**

**Completion Date**

1. Acquire 80 acres of priority wetland and grassland habitat

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

<u>BUDGET ITEM</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
<b>Acquisition (Fee Title or Permanent Easements):</b> 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
<b>TOTAL ENVIRONMENT &amp; NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND \$ REQUEST</b>	<b>\$ 400,000</b>

### V. OTHER FUNDS

<u>SOURCE OF FUNDS</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>Status</u>
<b>Other Non-State \$ Being Applied to Project During Project Period:</b> Source of funds is the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc. and/or federal funds.	\$ 400,000	<i>Secured</i>
<b>Other State \$ Being Applied to Project During Project Period:</b> <i>None</i>	\$ -	<i>NA</i>
<b>In-kind Services During Project Period:</b> 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>
<b>Remaining \$ from Current ENRTF Appropriation (if applicable):</b> Funds are remaining from the 2009 appropriation.	\$ 100,000	<i>Unspent</i>
<b>Funding History:</b> 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

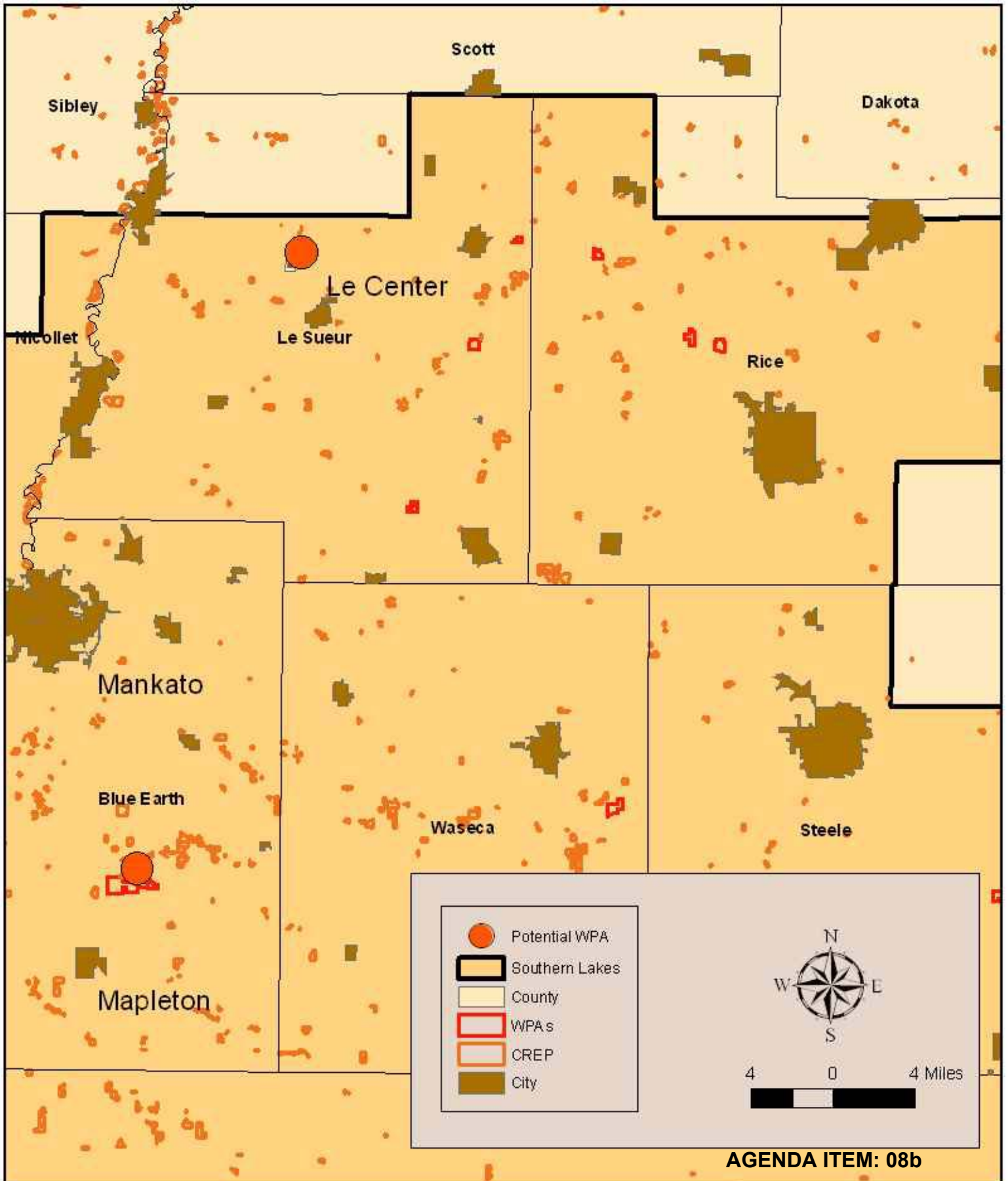
**Project Manager Name:** Deborah Loon

**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.











## 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.