

2008 Project Abstract

For the Period Ending June 30, 2010

PROJECT TITLE: Living Lakes Enhancements & Easements
Minnesota's Habitat Conservation Partnership (Parts 2c&3c)

PROJECT MANAGER: Jon Schneider, Manager – Minn. Conservation Programs

AFFILIATION: Ducks Unlimited, Inc.

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FUNDING SOURCE: Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

LEGAL CITATION: **Minnesota Law 2008, Chapter 367, Section 2, Subd. 3(c)**

APPROPRIATION AMOUNT: \$ 330,000

Overall Project Outcome and Results

The objective of this project was to accelerate Ducks Unlimited (DU) enhancement and protection of shallow lakes for waterfowl habitat through DU bio-engineering assistance and DU conservation easements as a part of the Habitat Conservation Partnership (HCP). In HCP part 2c, DU proposed to enhance at least one shallow lake totaling 100 acres by installing a new water control structure, engineering four new shallow lake structure projects, and providing technical assistance to the Minnesota DNR and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service to assess and develop new shallow lake enhancement projects. In HCP part 3c, DU proposed to secure at least one permanent conservation easement protecting 100 acres or more along a shallow lake.

In HCP part 2c, DU constructed water control structures on the outlets of shallow lakes on the Bah Lake Waterfowl Production Area (WPA) in Grant County and on the outlet of Buffalo Lake in Waseca County, thereby enhancing 1,017 shallow lake acres. DU also surveyed and designed five new water control structures for Perch Lake in Blue Earth County, Gislason Lake in Lincoln County, and three shallow lakes on three federal WPAs in Big Stone County. DU also provided ongoing technical assistance to MNDNR and USFWS in HCP Project Areas to help assess and develop 41 new shallow lake projects for future implementation.

In HCP part 3c, DU secured four new permanent conservation easements protecting 392 acres on Lake Christina, including 8,803 feet of shallow lake shoreline. In addition, DU began negotiating a conservation easement with another landowner there, and provided technical assistance to 21 other landowners on other shallow lakes in HCP Project Areas.

Environment & Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF) funds for annual easement monitoring and stewardship were calculated for each easement using the DU easement endowment worksheet table previously appended and approved for use by LCCMR staff in a 2005 appropriation to DU, which captures all anticipated expenditures for easement monitoring and stewardship. 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. Stewardship funds are managed in a separate WAT easement stewardship account according to the DU Board's investment policy. Trust funds for easement monitoring and stewardship are received by DU National Headquarters in Memphis, Tennessee, and are immediately transferred to the WAT endowment account. Stewardship

funds are held in a restricted endowment to be used for stewardship on easements acquired with the Trust Fund money. DU staff costs to annually 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. Copies of the most recent WAT audited financial statements are available for LCCMR staff review at any time upon request. Annual reports on monitoring and management of easements acquired with ENRTF funding will be provided to LCCMR staff.

DU's total cost was \$476,231 to enhance shallow lakes (part 2c) and \$669,886 to secure conservation easements (part 3c), of which \$180,000 for enhancements and \$150,000 for easements was reimbursed to DU from this Environment & Natural Resources Trust Fund appropriation. A total of \$816,117 in non-state Other Funds was contributed to these projects through donated private land value (\$180,000), federal North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) grants, and private funds from DU and the Bush Foundation.

Project Results Use and Dissemination

This grant helped accelerate DU Living Lakes assessment and enhancement of shallow lakes throughout southern, central, and western Minnesota. DU enhanced two shallow lakes and produced five detailed engineering design plans for state and federal agency use in future shallow lake enhancement projects, and helped inform the public of shallow lake functions and values through public meetings, news releases sent to the media, and in articles in DU publications. Shallow lake assessment data collected by DU biologists was provided to DNR's shallow lake program and area wildlife managers, and shared with MPCA to aid in their impaired waters assessment.

This grant also helped accelerate DU Living Lakes land protection and promotion of conservation easement concepts to many individual landowners on shallow lakes. Conservation easements with private landowners are sensitive land deals that don't lend themselves to widespread publicity; however, DU has recognized individual landowners and has publicized our work to protect Lake Christina shoreland locally through local conservation groups, including through the Christina-Ina-Anka Lake Association. DU also informed the foundations supporting our Living Lakes Initiative of our conservation accomplishments. The accomplishment of securing six new permanent conservation easements through this grant has helped encourage other private landowners around key shallow lakes (especially Christina) to consider working with DU to protect their shorelines, and news of our progress will be further disseminated through a DU news releases and articles DU publications in the future.

LCCMR Work Program Final Report
Restoring Minnesota's Fish and Wildlife Habitat Corridors Phase 5
Habitat Conservation Partnership

2C: Living Lakes Enhancement - Ducks Unlimited

Project Manager:	Jon Schneider	Fund:	Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund
Affiliation:	Ducks Unlimited		
Address:	311 East Lake Geneva Road Alexandria, MN 56308		
Phone:	(320)762-9916	Legal Citation:	ML 2008 First Special Section, Ch. 367, Sec. 2 Subd. 3(c).
Fax:	(320)759-1567		
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Total Biennial Project Budget

Result	ENTF Allocation	ENTF Funds Spent	ENTF Balance	Other Funds Proposed	Other Funds Spent
Restoration	\$180,000	\$180,000	\$0	\$90,000	\$296,231
Total	\$180,000	\$180,000	\$0	\$90,000	\$296,231

Work Program Summary

Overall Project Outcome and Results

The objective of this project was to accelerate Ducks Unlimited (DU) bio-engineering assistance to help agencies enhance shallow lakes for waterfowl through our Living Lakes Initiative. DU biologists and engineers provided technical assistance to Minnesota DNR, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, and private landowners around shallow lakes with a goal of enhancing at least one shallow lake totaling 100 wetland acres with a new water control structure and/or fish barrier, engineering at least four new shallow lake enhancement structure projects, and providing technical assistance to agency field staff on other shallow lake projects.

Through this grant project, DU biologists and engineers surveyed and designed 5 new water control structures and fish barriers for the Minnesota DNR and US Fish & Wildlife Service, including Perch Lake in Blue Earth County, Gislason Lake in Lincoln County, and Wiley, Kufrin, Barry WPAs in Big Stone County. These projects will be implemented in the future as permits and easements are secured. In addition, DU constructed previously designed water control structures on the outlets of the Bah WPA in Grant County and Buffalo Lake in Waseca County, thereby enhancing 1,017 shallow lake acres. Finally, DU shallow lakes field biologist provided ongoing technical assistance to MNDNR and USFWS on 41 shallow lake projects in HCP Project Areas to help assess and develop new projects for future implementation.

DU's total cost to provide these bio-engineering services to enhance shallow lakes was \$476,231, and included reimbursement of \$180,000 from the Environment & Natural Resources Trust Fund, and the expenditure of \$296,231 in Other Funds (DU and federal funds) that far exceeds the Other Funds we proposed to spend.

Project Results Use and Dissemination

This grant helped DU, DNR, and the Service accelerate the assessment and enhancement of shallow lakes throughout southern, central and western Minnesota. DU provided 5 detailed engineering design plans to state and federal agency staff, and informed the public of shallow lake improvement projects through public meetings, news releases sent to the media, and in articles in DU publications. Shallow lake assessment data collected by DU biologists was provided to DNR's shallow lake program and area wildlife managers, and shared with MPCA to aid in their impaired waters assessment.

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2C:Living Lakes Enhancement - Ducks Unlimited

Restoration Activities

Project Area - 6 - Upper Minnesota River

Project Name:	Wiley WPA Township: 122, Range: 45, Section: 12			
Activity:	Shallow Lake Survey / Design / Wetland Mapping			
Landtype:	Public - WPA			
Description:	DU engineered a water control structure for a shallow lake on the Wiley WPA in Big Stone County for the US Fish & Wildlife Service. The structure will be used to actively manage water levels and rejuvenate the aquatic ecology of the basin, once it is constructed. Funding for construction and related permits will be pursued in 2009.			
<i>Funding Type</i>	<i>Funds Use</i>	<i>Funding Amount</i>	<i>Prorated Acres</i>	<i>Prorated Shoreline</i>
ENTF	Personnel Expenditures	\$12,919.84	0.00	0.00
Other Funds	Personnel Expenditures	\$19,744.29	0.00	0.00
Wiley WPA Total		\$32,664.13	0.00	0.00
Project Name:	Kufrin WPA Township: 122, Range: 45, Section: 21			
Activity:	Shallow Lake Survey / Design / Wetland Mapping			
Landtype:	Public - WPA			
Description:	DU engineered a water control structure for a shallow lake on the Kufrin WPA in Big Stone County for the US Fish & Wildlife Service. The structure will be used to actively manage water levels and rejuvenate the aquatic ecology of the basin. The USFWS provided \$10,000 in federal funding through a Challenge Cost-Share grant to DU.			
<i>Funding Type</i>	<i>Funds Use</i>	<i>Funding Amount</i>	<i>Prorated Acres</i>	<i>Prorated Shoreline</i>
ENTF	Personnel Expenditures	\$10,000.00	0.00	0.00
Other Funds	Personnel Expenditures	\$13,448.64	0.00	0.00
Kufrin WPA Total		\$23,448.64	0.00	0.00
Project Name:	Barry WPA Township: 124, Range: 47, Section: 8			
Activity:	Shallow Lake Survey / Design / Wetland Mapping			
Landtype:	Public - WPA			
Description:	DU is engineering a water control structure for a shallow lake on the Barry WPA in Big Stone County for the US Fish & Wildlife Service. The structure will be used to actively manage water levels and rejuvenate the aquatic ecology of the basin. Funding for project construction and permits will be pursued in 2009 and 2010.			
<i>Funding Type</i>	<i>Funds Use</i>	<i>Funding Amount</i>	<i>Prorated Acres</i>	<i>Prorated Shoreline</i>
ENTF	Personnel Expenditures	\$10,000.00	0.00	0.00
Other Funds	Personnel Expenditures	\$12,521.54	0.00	0.00
Barry WPA Total		\$22,521.54	0.00	0.00

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Project Area - 9 - Des Moines River Valley

Project Name:	Gislason Lake Township: 111, Range: 44, Section: 1			
Activity:	Wetland Enhancement			
Landtype:	Public - NWR			
Description:	DU is engineering a water control structure for 120-acre Gislason Lake, a shallow lake on the Northern Tallgrass Prairie NWR in Lincoln County owned and managed by the US Fish & Wildlife Service. The structure will be constructed in 2009 or 2010 once new grant funds are secured from LCCMR or LSOHC, and it will be used to actively manage water levels and rejuvenate the aquatic ecology of the basin. The USFWS provided \$15,000 in cost-share for the engineering of this project.			
<i>Funding Type</i>	<i>Funds Use</i>	<i>Funding Amount</i>	<i>Prorated Acres</i>	<i>Prorated Shoreline</i>
ENTF	Personnel Expenditures	\$11,025.44	0.00	0.00
Other Funds	Personnel Expenditures	\$10,486.69	0.00	0.00
Gislason Lake Total		\$21,512.13	0.00	0.00

Project Area - 10 - Southern Lakes

Project Name:	Buffalo Lake Township: 107, Range: 24, Section: 16			
Activity:	Wetland Enhancement			
Landtype:	Public - Lake			
Description:	DU engineered a new outlet water control and fish barrier structure for Buffalo Lake in Waseca County under DU's 2006 LCCMR HCP Phase 3 grant, and purchased the Britton conservation easement on the outlet site to protect the lake and allow for construction, management, and maintenance of the structure under DU's 2007 LCCMR HCP Phase 4 grant. Then, under this 2008 LCCMR HCP Phase 5 grant, DU constructed the structure during fall 2008 and spring 2009 using a combination of Trust Funds, DU funds, and a \$10,000 challenge cost share grant from the US Fish & Wildlife Service. DU awarded the construction contract in September 2008, and the project was completed in May 2009. The lake is now in a 2 year draw-down to rejuvenate its aquatic ecology.			
<i>Funding Type</i>	<i>Funds Use</i>	<i>Funding Amount</i>	<i>Prorated Acres</i>	<i>Prorated Shoreline</i>
ENTF	Personnel Expenditures	\$2,479.17	0.00	0.00
ENTF	Restoration	\$49,715.55	503.77	0.00
Other Funds	Personnel Expenditures	\$88,462.17	0.00	0.00
Other Funds	Restoration	\$38,609.80	391.23	0.00
Buffalo Lake Total		\$179,266.69	895.00	0.00

Project Name:	Perch Lake Township: 106, Range: 26, Section: 13			
Activity:	Shallow Lake Survey / Design / Wetland Mapping			
Landtype:	Public - Lake			
Description:	DU engineered a new water control structure for the outlet of Perch Lake in Waseca County for the Minnesota DNR and Minnesota Valley Trust (owns the outlet, will transfer to USFWS). Perch Lake is one of DNR's 40 designated wildlife lake. The water control structure will be used by DNR to actively manage water levels in this shallow lake to rejuvenate its aquatic ecology. The structure will be constructed in 2009 using federal NAWCA grant funds and DU's 2009 LCCMR grant (HCP#6).			
<i>Funding Type</i>	<i>Funds Use</i>	<i>Funding Amount</i>	<i>Prorated Acres</i>	<i>Prorated Shoreline</i>
ENTF	Personnel Expenditures	\$15,704.00	0.00	0.00
Other Funds	Personnel Expenditures	\$28,916.04	0.00	0.00
Perch Lake Total		\$44,620.04	0.00	0.00

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2C: Living Lakes Enhancement - Ducks Unlimited

Project Area - 3-7-8 - Border Prairie Transition Zone

Project Name:	Bah Lakes WPA Township: 130, Range: 41, Section: 36
Activity:	Wetland Enhancement
Landtype:	Public - WPA
Description:	DU engineered and installed a combination draw-down and fish barrier water control structure on the outlet of two small shallow lakes on Bah Lakes WPA in Grant County to allow the US Fish & Wildlife Service to improve water quality and aquatic ecology of these basins and prevent the re-infestation of the basins by fish. This project was started in fall 2008 and was completed in June 2009. The USFWS provided \$25,000 in project funding through a Challenge Cost-Share grant.

<i>Funding Type</i>	<i>Funds Use</i>	<i>Funding Amount</i>	<i>Prorated Acres</i>	<i>Prorated Shoreline</i>
ENTF	Restoration	\$60,000.00	86.43	0.00
Other Funds	Personnel Expenditures	\$37,506.21	0.00	0.00
Other Funds	Restoration	\$24,693.03	35.57	0.00
Bah Lakes WPA Total		\$122,199.24	122.00	0.00

Restoration Project Totals (By Funding Type)

Funding Type	Funding Amount	Acres	Shoreline Feet
ENTF:	\$171,844.00	590.20	0.00
Other Funds:	\$274,388.41	426.80	0.00
Total:	\$446,232.41	1,017.00	0.00

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Work Program Expenditures - Not Attributable to Specific Projects

<i>FundingType</i>	<i>Category</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>Description</i>
ENTF	Personnel Expenditures	\$464.00	DU shallow lakes biologist Josh Kavanagh provides technical assistance to DNR and USFWS in HCP Project Area 6 Upper Minnesota River to assess shallow lakes and develop shallow lake enhancement projects, including wildlife lake designation, water level management, invasive fish control projects, water quality sampling, and outreach to landowners and local stakeholders.
ENTF	Personnel Expenditures	\$3,192.00	DU shallow lakes biologist Josh Kavanagh provides technical assistance to DNR and USFWS in HCP Project Area 12 Border Prairie Transition Zone to assess shallow lakes and develop shallow lake enhancement projects, including wildlife lake designation, water level management, invasive fish control projects, water quality sampling, and outreach to landowners and local stakeholders.
ENTF	Personnel Expenditures	\$1,806.72	DU shallow lakes biologist Josh Kavanagh provides technical assistance to DNR and USFWS in HCP Project Area 10 Southern Lakes to assess shallow lakes and develop shallow lake enhancement projects, including wildlife lake designation, water level management, invasive fish control projects, water quality sampling, and outreach to landowners and local stakeholders.
ENTF	Personnel Expenditures	\$1,693.28	DU shallow lakes biologist Josh Kavanagh provides technical assistance to DNR and USFWS in HCP Project Area 9 Prairie Coteau to assess shallow lakes and develop shallow lake enhancement projects, including wildlife lake designation, water level management, invasive fish control projects, water quality sampling, and outreach to landowners and local stakeholders.
ENTF	Personnel Expenditures	\$1,000.00	DU grant administration and coordination of DU shallow lakes biologist and partnership work funded by this grant with Minnesota DNR and USFWS partners.
Other Funds	Personnel Expenditures	\$479.89	DU shallow lakes biologist Josh Kavanagh provides technical assistance to DNR and USFWS in HCP Project Area 6 Upper Minnesota River to assess shallow lakes and develop shallow lake enhancement projects, including wildlife lake designation, water level management, invasive fish control projects, water quality sampling, and outreach to landowners and local stakeholders.
Other Funds	Personnel Expenditures	\$9,721.96	DU shallow lakes biologist Josh Kavanagh provides technical assistance to DNR and USFWS in HCP Project Area 12 Border Prairie Transition Zone to assess shallow lakes and develop shallow lake enhancement projects, including wildlife lake designation, water level management, invasive fish control projects, water quality sampling, and outreach to landowners and local stakeholders.

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Other Funds	Personnel Expenditures	\$1,986.84	DU shallow lakes biologist Josh Kavanagh provides technical assistance to DNR and USFWS in HCP Project Area 10 Southern Lakes to assess shallow lakes and develop shallow lake enhancement projects, including wildlife lake designation, water level management, invasive fish control projects, water quality sampling, and outreach to landowners and local stakeholders.
Other Funds	Personnel Expenditures	\$5,756.59	DU shallow lakes biologist Josh Kavanagh provides technical assistance to DNR and USFWS in HCP Project Area 9 Prairie Coteau to assess shallow lakes and develop shallow lake enhancement projects, including wildlife lake designation, water level management, invasive fish control projects, water quality sampling, and outreach to landowners and local stakeholders.
Other Funds	Personnel Expenditures	\$3,897.73	DU grant administration and coordination of DU shallow lakes biologist and partnership work funded by this grant with Minnesota DNR and USFWS partners.
Total:		\$29,999.01	

Work Program Expenditures (Not Attributable to Specific Projects) By Funding Type

Funding Type	Amount
ENTF	\$8,156.00
Other Funds	\$21,843.01
Total	\$29,999.01

Work Program Expenditures Breakdown

Funding Type:	Restoration Projects	Not Attributable to Specific Projects	Total
ENTF	\$171,844.00	\$8,156.00	\$180,000.00
Other Funds	\$274,388.41	\$21,843.01	\$296,231.42
State Funds	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total	\$446,232.41	\$29,999.01	\$476,231.42

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2C:Living Lakes Enhancement - Ducks Unlimited

Funding Type Definitions

ENTF:	Grant dollars provided through the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund
Other Funds:	Non-state, non-state leveraged dollars (if partner funds are leveraging State Funds (e.g. RIM) they are not eligible to be considered Other Funds)
State Funds:	State Funds expended on HCP projects (not eligible for use as Other Funds commitment)
Partner's State Leveraged Funds:	Non State Funds that have leveraged State Funds as part of an HCP project (not eligible for use as Other Funds commitment)
Other:	Any other expenditures (e.g. grant income funds)

Attachment A: Budget Detail for 2008 Projects - Summary and a Budget page for each partner

Project Title: Living Lakes Enhancements (2c) & Easements (3c)

Minnesota's Habitat Conservation Partnership (V)

Project Manager Name: Jon Schneider, DU

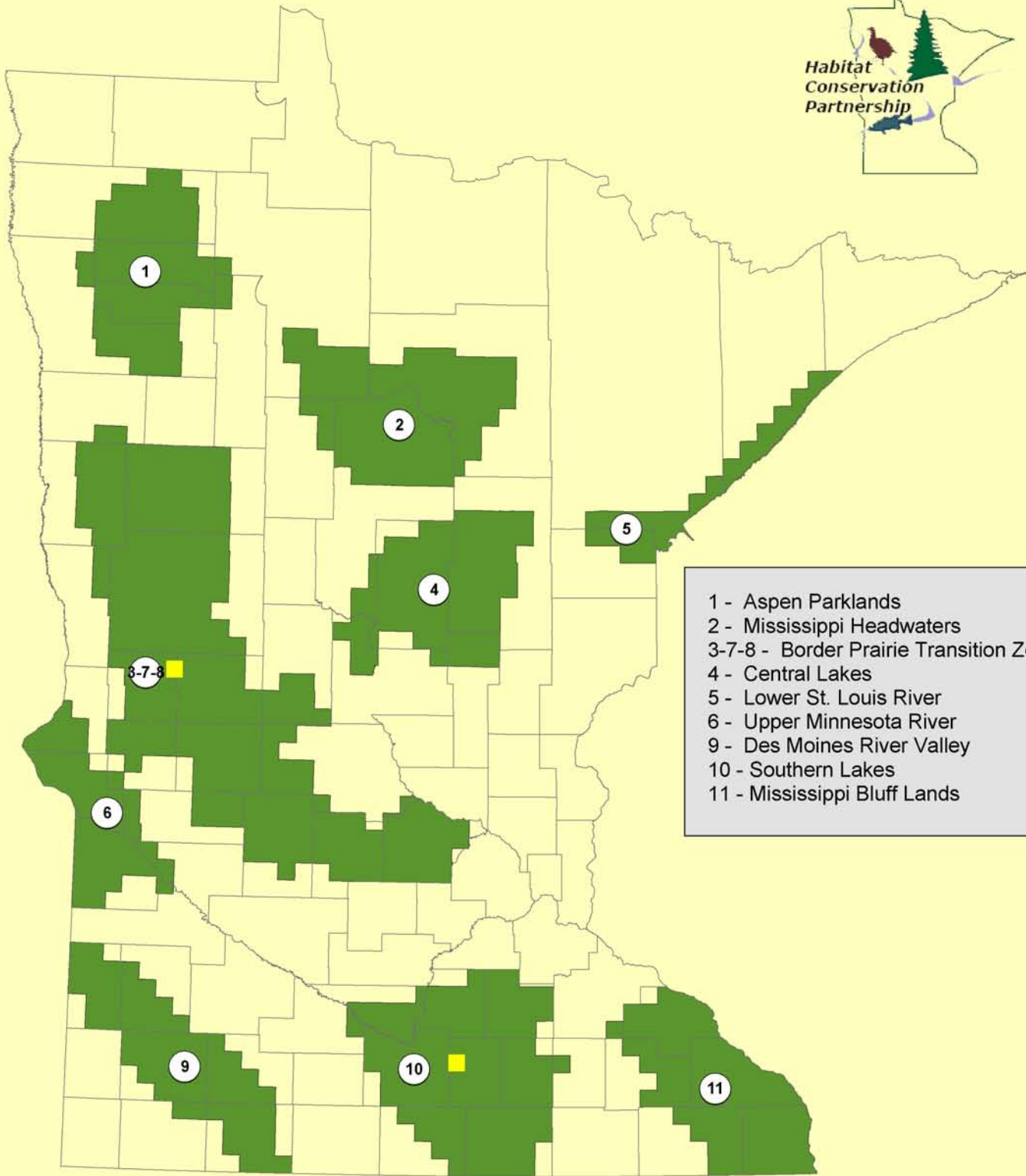
Trust Fund Appropriation: \$ 330,000

DATE: FINAL REPORT JULY 2009

2008 Trust Fund Budget	<u>Result 1</u> <u>Budget:</u>	Amount Spent	Balance	<u>Result 2</u> <u>Budget:</u>	Amount Spent	Balance	TOTAL BUDGET	TOTAL SPENT	TOTAL BALANCE
	Living Lakes Enhancements			Living Lakes Easements					
BUDGET ITEM									
PERSONNEL: wages and benefits for DU biologist (1 FTE), engineers (1 FTE), and land protection (1 FTE) field staff	\$70,284	\$70,284	\$0	\$12,469	\$12,469	\$0	\$82,753	\$82,753	\$0
CONTRACTS: construction of water structures, purchase of easements, contracted professional services such as soils investigation, title clearance, appraisal, legal work, and baseline documentation	\$109,716		\$0	\$84,071		\$0	\$193,787	\$0	\$0
Professional/technical (consultant engineering and environmental services)		\$0	\$0		\$3,083		\$0	\$3,083	
Land rights acquisition (easements)		\$0	\$0		\$80,989		\$0	\$80,989	
Professional Services for Acquisition		\$0	\$0		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Construction (water control structures)		\$109,716			\$0	\$0	\$0	\$109,716	
OTHER (easement monitoring stewardship)		\$0	\$0	\$53,460	\$53,460	\$0	\$53,460	\$53,460	\$0
COLUMN TOTAL	\$180,000	\$180,000	\$0	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$0	\$330,000	330,000	0

Habitat Conservation Partnership Phase 5 - Accomplishments

2C - Living Lakes Enhancement - Ducks Unlimited



- 1 - Aspen Parklands
- 2 - Mississippi Headwaters
- 3-7-8 - Border Prairie Transition Zone
- 4 - Central Lakes
- 5 - Lower St. Louis River
- 6 - Upper Minnesota River
- 9 - Des Moines River Valley
- 10 - Southern Lakes
- 11 - Mississippi Bluff Lands

Restorations Easements Acquisitions

