

2008 Project Abstract

For the Period Ending June 30, 2010

PROJECT TITLE: Wetlands Reserve Program
Minnesota's Habitat Conservation Partnership (Part 3d)
PROJECT MANAGER: Jon Schneider, Manager – Minn. Conservation Programs
AFFILIATION: Ducks Unlimited, Inc.
MAILING ADDRESS: 311 East Lake Geneva Road NE
CITY/STATE/ZIP: Alexandria, Minnesota 56308
PHONE: 320-762-9916
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PROJECT CO-MANAGER: Tim Koehler – Assistant State Conservationist
AFFILIATION: USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
MAILING ADDRESS: USDA-NRCS Jackson Street, Suite 600, St. Paul, MN 55101
PHONE: (651) 602-7857
E-MAIL: Tim.Koehler@mn.usda.gov
FAX: (651) 602-7914

FUNDING SOURCE: Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund
LEGAL CITATION: Minnesota Law 2008, Chapter 367, Section 2, Subd. 3(c)

APPROPRIATION AMOUNT: \$ 267,500

Overall Project Outcome and Results

In partnership with the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Ducks Unlimited (DU) hired contracted Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) technicians that began HCP Phase 5 work on November 11, 2008 with combined funding support from Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund and NRCS grants. The delivery goal for these technicians was to provide technical assistance to help NRCS to secure permanent WRP conservation easements on 1,300 acres. Upon completion of this grant on September 9, 2009, DU WRP contract technicians had:

- Contacted 309 landowners while promoting WRP;
- Completed 119 signed WRP applications;
- Developed 21 new conservation plans;
- Modified 30 conservation plans to adjust for actual restoration practices, costs, and acres; and
- Oversaw the restoration of 12 wetland basins on WRP easements within HCP Project Areas.

This technical assistance helped NRCS secure 6 new easements for a combined total of 5,438 new WRP acres. These included:

- 4 new WRP easements in HCP Project Area 3-7-8 totaling 485 acres
- 1 new WRP easement in HCP Project Area 10 totaling 77 acres
- 1 new easement in HCP Project Area 1 totaling 4,876 acres.

In addition to spending \$267,500 from this Environment & Natural Resources Trust Fund grant, DU and NRCS also spent \$4,014,810 in Other Funds comprised of federal NRCS and non-state DU expense to complete this project.

Project Results Use and Dissemination

Information on the WRP signups has been publicized through news releases from the USDA's NRCS and local Soil and Water Conservation Districts, and through hundreds of individual landowner contacts made by DU wetland restoration specialists. Additional announcements and landowner contacts continue to be made and publicized by DU and USDA's NRCS. Additionally, the WRP partnership received a 2009 Minnesota Environmental Institute (MEI) award, and this news was widely distributed and covered.

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

3D: Wetlands Reserve Program - Ducks Unlimited (DU) & Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS)

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|---|---|
| Project Manager: Jon Schneider Affiliation: Ducks Unlimited Address: 311 East Lake Geneva Road Alexandria, MN 56308 Phone: (320)762-9916 Fax: (320)759-1567 E-mail: jschneider@ducks.org Fund: Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund | Project Manager: Tim Koehler Affiliation: USDA - Natural Resources Conservation Service Address: 375 Jackson Street, Suite 600 St. Paul, MN 55101 Phone: (651) 602-7857 Fax: (651) 602-7926 E-mail: tim.koehler@mn.usda.gov |
|---|---|

Legal Citation: ML 2008 First Special Section, Ch. 367, Sec. 2 Subd. 3(c).

Total Biennial Project Budget

| Result | ENTF Balance | ENTF Funds Spent | ENTF Balance | Other Funds * Proposed | Other Funds * Spent |
|-----------------|--------------|------------------|--------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Easement | \$267,500 | \$267,500 | \$0 | \$1,225,000 | \$4,014,810 |
| Total | \$267,500 | \$267,500 | \$0 | \$1,225,000 | \$4,014,810 |

* Please note that most other funds reported here are federal in origin but do include some Ducks Unlimited costs.

Potential Project List

| <i>Project Name</i> | <i>Type of Work</i> | <i>County</i> | <i>Project Area</i> | <i>Status</i> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------|---------------------|---------------|
| 66632270033 | Easement | Douglas | 3 | pending |
| 66632270037 | Easement | Becker | 3 | pending |
| 66632270052 | Easement | Douglas | 3 | pending |
| 66632270064 | Easement | Polk | 3 | pending |
| 66632270075 | Easement | Clay | 3 | pending |
| 66632270077 | Easement | Becker | 3 | pending |
| 66632270015 | Easement | Pope | 7 | pending |
| 66632270016 | Easement | Pope | 7 | pending |
| 66632270042 | Easement | Douglas | 7 | pending |
| 66632270011 | Easement | Freeborn | 10 | pending |
| 66632270050 | Easement | Steele | 10 | pending |
| 66632270055 | Easement | Freeborn | 10 | pending |
| 66632270076 | Easement | Rice | 10 | pending |
| 66632270078 | Easement | Waseca | 10 | pending |
| 6608006 | Easement | Pope | 3-7-8 | Complete |

Work Program Summary

Project Summary and Results

DU will use ETF funding to contract with approximately eight (6-10) wetland restoration technicians in Crookston, Detroit Lakes, 11/17/2009

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Fergus Falls, Morris, Glenwood, St. Peter, and Albert Lea to provide technical assistance (TA) to the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and private landowners to help NRCS secure 1,300 acres of Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) easements in HCP habitat corridor areas. WRP promotion will target restorable wetlands and drained shallow lakes, especially those within priority shallow lake watersheds comprising emphasis areas of DU's Living Lakes Initiative. The contract technicians will help landowners apply for the WRP, and help guide the planning and restoration of lands accepted into the WRP. TA activities will include landowner contacts, WRP applications submitted, restoration plans submitted, wetland restoration designs, and restoration project oversight, all of which are critical steps to securing easements. The USDA's NRCS will fund the associated easement and restoration costs. The contract technicians will implement all aspects of the WRP program that will result in lands being enrolled and wetlands and uplands restored under the federal WRP in HCP Project Areas #1 (Aspen Parklands), 3/6/7 (Prairie Forest Transition), 9 (Des Moines River Valley), 10 (Southern Lakes), and 11 (Prairie Coteau). DU will coordinate the partnership and administer wetland restoration tech contracts, including payments of salary, travel, and field expenses with grant funds and grant administration and coordination. NRCS will pay for all WRP easements with federal funds.

Summary of Progress as of November 2008

Work on this 2008 grant for HCP Phase 5 part 3d is set to begin in early November 2008 and be completed in late spring or summer 2009. As of this update, work has yet to start.

Summary of Progress as of May 1st, 2009

Work to help the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) promote and deliver the Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) under DU's 2008 LCCMR grant for HCP Phase 5 part 3d began on November 11, 2008. DU continued the contracted employment of wetland restoration specialists previously hired by DU under HCP Phase 4 part 3d to help NRCS promote and deliver the WRP and assist landowners and NRCS with restoring wetlands and native prairie grasslands enrolled into this conservation easement program within HCP Project Areas. Since November 2008, these contractors have made 338 landowner contacts, processed 72 WRP applications, helped sign 71 WRP contracts, drafted 2 restoration designs, and conducted 0 construction management projects (construction work will start later in spring). This effort helped NRCS close one new WRP easement on 151 acres in Pope County using USDA federal funds, and several more WRP easements are scheduled to close before October. Work will continue through summer 2009 via this 2008 grant and more WRP deliverables and easement accomplishments will be reported in the final report later this year.

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Easement Activities

| Project Name: 660900NBK Project Area: 1 - Aspen Parklands Township: 150, Range: 44, Section: 36 Description: WRP Easement in Polk county. Easement Recorded in LCCMR office: No | | | | | | | | |
|--|----------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| <i>Funding Type</i> | <i>Funds Use</i> | <i>Funding Amount</i> | <i>Prorated Acres</i> | <i>Grassland Acres</i> | <i>Woodland Acres</i> | <i>Wetland Acres</i> | <i>Shoreline Feet</i> | <i>Riparian Feet</i> |
| Other Funds | Easement Acquisition Costs | \$2,910,770.52 | 4,876.00 | 2,613.50 | 0.00 | 2,262.50 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Project Name: 66080121 Project Area: 7 - Alexandria Moraine Township: 128, Range: 37, Section: 25 Description: WRP-RIM easement in Douglas County. Easement Recorded in LCCMR office: No | | | | | | | | |
| <i>Funding Type</i> | <i>Funds Use</i> | <i>Funding Amount</i> | <i>Prorated Acres</i> | <i>Grassland Acres</i> | <i>Woodland Acres</i> | <i>Wetland Acres</i> | <i>Shoreline Feet</i> | <i>Riparian Feet</i> |
| Other Funds | Easement Acquisition Costs | \$180,157.28 | 96.50 | 76.50 | 0.00 | 20.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Project Name: 66080130 Project Area: 7 - Alexandria Moraine Township: 125, Range: 44, Section: 5 Description: WRP-RIM Easement in Stevens County. Easement Recorded in LCCMR office: No | | | | | | | | |
| <i>Funding Type</i> | <i>Funds Use</i> | <i>Funding Amount</i> | <i>Prorated Acres</i> | <i>Grassland Acres</i> | <i>Woodland Acres</i> | <i>Wetland Acres</i> | <i>Shoreline Feet</i> | <i>Riparian Feet</i> |
| Other Funds | Easement Acquisition Costs | \$166,512.15 | 100.60 | 81.70 | 0.00 | 18.90 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Project Name: 66080131 Project Area: 7 - Alexandria Moraine Township: 125, Range: 44, Section: 5 Description: WRP-RIM easement in Stevens county. Easement Recorded in LCCMR office: No | | | | | | | | |
| <i>Funding Type</i> | <i>Funds Use</i> | <i>Funding Amount</i> | <i>Prorated Acres</i> | <i>Grassland Acres</i> | <i>Woodland Acres</i> | <i>Wetland Acres</i> | <i>Shoreline Feet</i> | <i>Riparian Feet</i> |
| Other Funds | Easement Acquisition Costs | \$225,402.63 | 136.90 | 106.90 | 0.00 | 30.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |

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|---|---|
| Project Name: | 66080047 |
| Project Area: | 10 - Southern Lakes Township: 106, Range: 22, Section: 1 |
| Description: | WRP-RIM easement in Waseca County. |
| Easement Recorded in LCCMR office: | No |

| Funding Type | Funds Use | Funding Amount | Prorated Acres | Grassland Acres | Woodland Acres | Wetland Acres | Shoreline Feet | Riparian Feet |
|--------------|----------------------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|
| Other Funds | Easement Acquisition Costs | \$165,315.04 | 77.00 | 59.00 | 0.00 | 18.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |

| | |
|---|---|
| Project Name: | 6608006 |
| Project Area: | 3-7-8 - Border Prairie Transition Zone Township: 124, Range: 38, Section: 27 |
| Description: | NRCS secured a 151-acre WRP easement in Pope County protecting 102 acres of upland and 49 acres wetlands. |
| Easement Recorded in LCCMR office: | No |

| Funding Type | Funds Use | Funding Amount | Prorated Acres | Grassland Acres | Woodland Acres | Wetland Acres | Shoreline Feet | Riparian Feet |
|--------------|----------------------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|
| Other Funds | Easement Acquisition Costs | \$203,670.00 | 150.20 | 101.60 | 0.00 | 48.60 | 0.00 | 0.00 |

Easement Totals (By Funding Type)

| Funding Type: | Funding Amount | Prorated Acres | Grassland Acres | Woodland Acres | Wetland Acres | Shoreline Feet | Riparian Feet |
|---------------|-----------------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|---------------|
| Other Funds | \$3,851,827.62 | 5,437.20 | 3,039.20 | 0.00 | 2,398.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Total | \$3,851,827.62 | 5,437.20 | 3,039.20 | 0.00 | 2,398.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |

Work Program Expenditures (Not Attributable to Specific Projects)

| FundingType | Category | Amount | Description |
|-------------|------------------------|--------------|--|
| ENTF | Professional Services | \$253,067.00 | Contract expense for wetland restoration specialists that DU contracted to help NRCS promote and deliver the USDA's Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) and assist landowners and NRCS with restoring wetlands and native prairie grasslands enrolled into this conservation easement program within HCP Project Areas. |
| ENTF | Personnel Expenditures | \$14,433.00 | DU staff expense to manage the WRP partnership program with NRCS, hire and manage the activities of contracted wetland management specialists to meet the goals of this grant, report their accomplishments within HCP Project Areas, and administer this LCCMR grant. |

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3D: Wetlands Reserve Program - Ducks Unlimited (DU) & Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS)

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|---------------|------------------------|---------------------|---|
| Other Funds | Professional Services | \$114,768.25 | Contract expense for wetland restoration specialists that DU contracted to help NRCS promote and deliver the USDA's Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) and assist landowners and NRCS with restoring wetlands and native prairie grasslands enrolled into this conservation easement program within HCP Project Areas. This expense was a combination of USDA NRCS funds granted to DU via contribution agreement and DU in-kind expense. |
| Other Funds | Personnel Expenditures | \$48,214.41 | DU staff expense to manage the WRP partnership program with NRCS, hire and manage the activities of contracted wetland management specialists to meet the goals of this grant, report their accomplishments within HCP Project Areas, and administer this LCCMR grant. |
| Total: | | \$430,482.66 | |

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

| Funding Type | Amount |
|---------------|---------------------|
| ENTF: | \$267,500.00 |
| Other Funds: | \$162,982.66 |
| Total: | \$430,482.66 |

Work Program Expenditures Breakdown

| Funding Type: | Easement Projects | Not Attributable to Specific Projects | Total |
|---------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| ENTF | \$0.00 | \$267,500.00 | \$267,500.00 |
| Other Funds | \$3,851,827.62 | \$162,982.66 | \$4,014,810.28 |
| Total | \$3,851,827.62 | \$430,482.66 | \$4,282,310.28 |

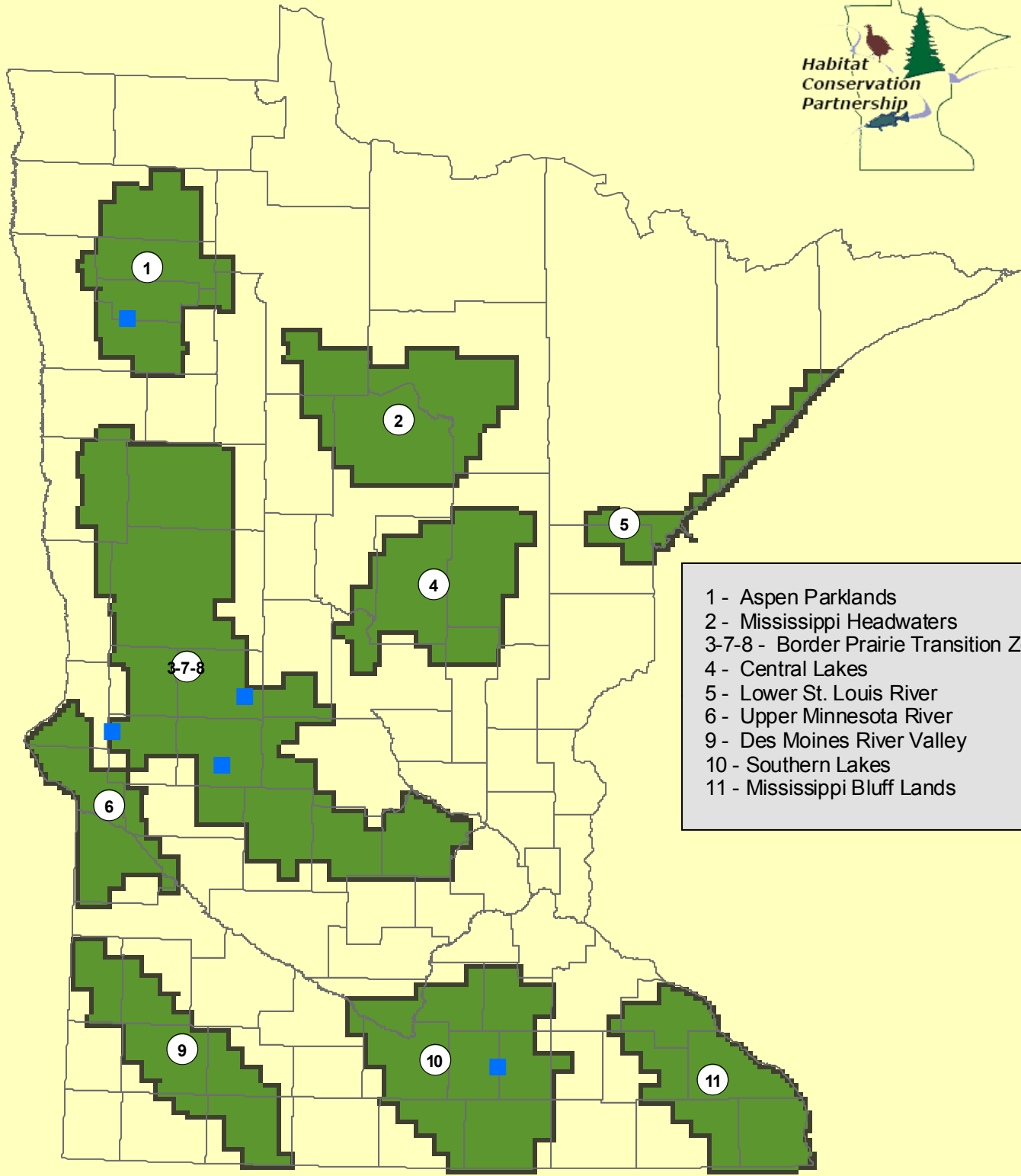
Funding Type Definitions

| | |
|---|--|
| 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 | | | | | | |
| ML 2008, Chapter [367], Section [2], Subdivision 3[c]3d. Minnesota's Habitat Conservation Partnership - Phase IV | | | | | | |
| Wetlands Reserve Program -- Minnesota's Habitat Conservation Partnership - Phase V | | | | | | |
| Project Manager Name: Jon Schneider, DU | | | | | | |
| Project Co-Manager: Tim Koehler, NRCS | | | | | | |
| Trust Fund Appropriation: \$267,500 | | | | | | |
| November 11, 2008 thru September 9, 2009 | | | | | | |
| FINAL REPORT | | | | | | |
| 2008 Trust Fund Budget | | | | | | |
| | Result 1 Budget: | Amount Spent | Balance | TOTAL BUDGET | TOTAL SPENT | TOTAL BALANCE |
| | <i>TA for WRP Easements</i> | | | | | |
| BUDGET ITEM | | | | | | |
| PERSONNEL: wages and benefits (DU staff for project administration) | 22,500 | 14,193 | 8,307 | 22,500 | 14,193 | 8,307 |
| Contracts | | | | | | |
| Professional/technical (contract biotechnicians to deliver WRP) | 242,500 | 253,067 | -10,567 | 242,500 | 253,067 | -10,567 |
| Other contracts. | | | | | | |
| Travel expenses in Minnesota | 2,500 | 240 | 2,260 | 2,500 | 240 | 2,260 |
| COLUMN TOTAL | \$267,500 | \$267,500 | \$0 | \$ 267,500 | \$ 267,500 | \$ - |

Habitat Conservation Partnership Phase 5 Accomplishments

3D - Wetlands Reserve Program



- 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