

**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).

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Sponsoring Organization: DNR

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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

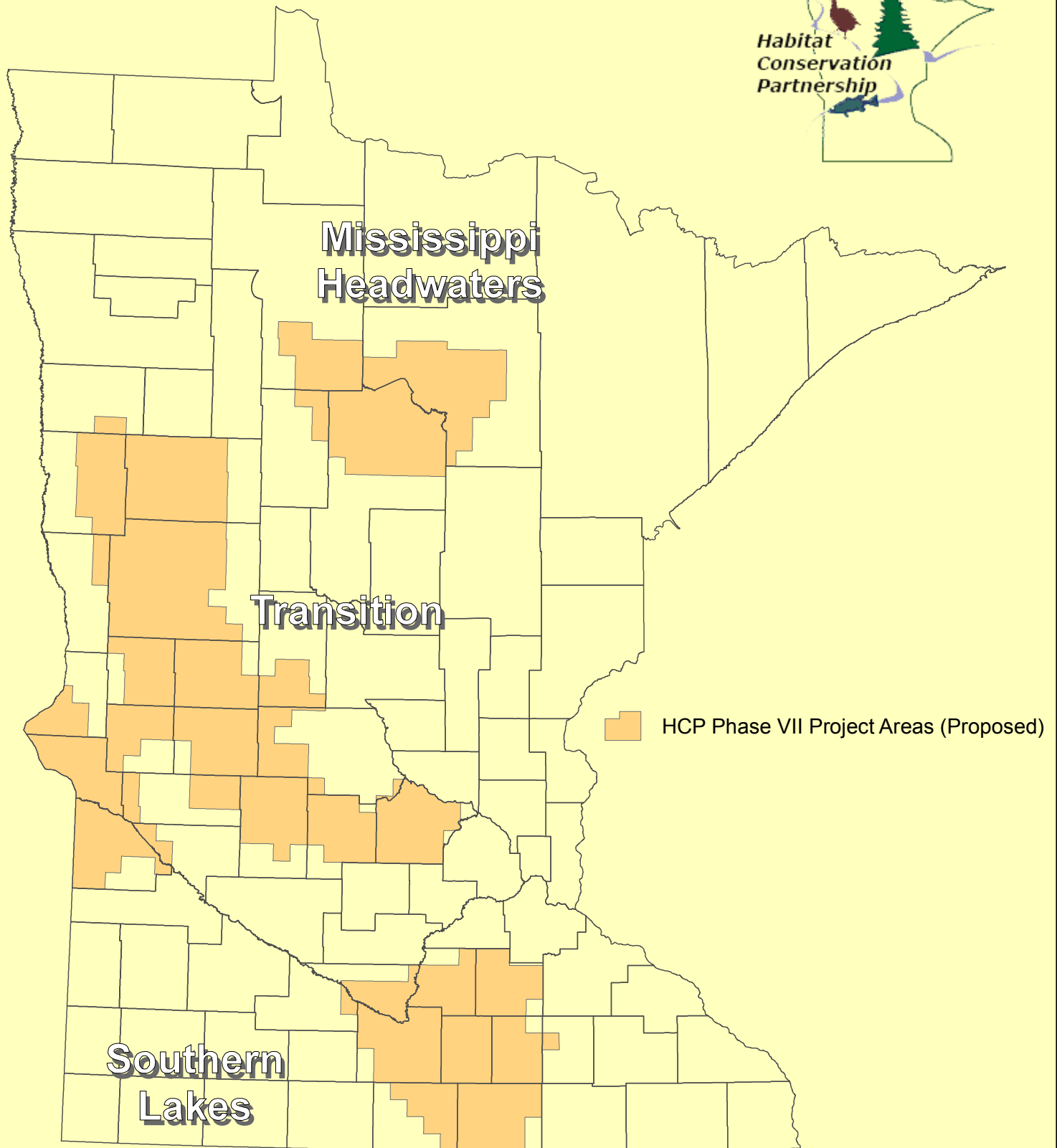
IV. TOTAL TRUST FUND REQUEST BUDGET: two (2) years

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



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

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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.