

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

Subd: 04j

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

Category: D. Land Acquisition for Habitat and Recreation

Total Project Budget: \$ 3,475,000

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

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

Summary:

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

Name: Joe Pavelko

Sponsoring Organization: Pheasants Forever, Inc.

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Web Ad www.mnhabitatcorridors.org

Location:

Region: Statewide

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

County Name: Statewide

City / Township:

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

LCCMR Recommendation - \$3,475,000		Overall Proposed Budget				Proposed Accomplishments			Areas of Focus
		ENRTF Funding Requested	Non-State Funds Proposed	State Funds Proposed	Total Funding (ENRTF, Non-State, State Funds Combined)	ENRTF Funds Acres Proposed	Other Funds Acres Proposed	Total Project Acres Completed	
1. Project Coordination, Mapping, Data Management						Acres	Acres	Acres	
a) Coord., Mapping & Data Management	Pheasants Forever	\$ 55,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 55,000				NA
SUBTOTAL		\$ 55,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 55,000				
2. Restoration & Management									
e) Wild Rice/Waterfowl Habitat	Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe	\$ 50,000	\$ 65,000	\$ -	\$ 115,000	550	0	550.0	Cass County, Itasca County, Leech Lake Reservation
g) Restoration & Management – WMAs*	Department of Natural Resources - Wildlife	\$ 30,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 30,000	0	0	0.0	State lands (SNA, WMA) acquired by partners
h) Fisheries Resoration & Enhancement	Department of Natural Resources - Fisheries	\$ 200,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 200,000	0	0	0.0	Crrek and Lake work in Faribault, Kandiyohi, Otter Tail, Stevens Counties
o) Prairie Pothole Restoration on WPAs	Friends of Detroit Lake Wetland Management District	\$ 75,000	\$ 82,000	\$ -	\$ 157,000	47	47	94.0	Restoration work on Federal WPAs in Becker and Clay Counties
SUBTOTAL		\$ 355,000	\$ 147,000	\$ -	\$ 502,000	597	47	644.0	
3. Conservation Easement Programs									
a) Shoreland Protection Program	Minnesota Land Trust	\$ 450,000	\$ 500,000	\$ -	\$ 950,000	400	0	400	Easement Acquisition in Douglas, Beltrami, Itasca, Becker, Blue Earth, Lac Qui Parle, Wabasha Counties
c) Shallow Lake Conservation Easements	Ducks Unlimited	\$ 500,000	\$ 50,000	\$ -	\$ 550,000	150	50	200	Easement Acquisition in Douglas, Beltrami, Grant, Swift, and Pope Counties
d) Wetlands Reserve Program	Natural Resources Conservation Service / Ducks Unlimited	\$ 775,000	\$ 4,000,000	\$ -	\$ 4,775,000	0	2,500	2,500	WRP Easement Acquisition in Becker, Big Stone, Douglas, Freeborn, Kandiyohi, Lincoln, Lyon, Meeker, Murray, Steele, Swift, and Waseca Counties
SUBTOTAL		\$ 1,725,000	\$ 4,550,000	\$ -	\$ 6,275,000	550	2,550	3,100	
4. Habitat Acquisition Programs									
a) WMA/WPA Acquisition beyond Boundaries**	Pheasants Forever	\$ 430,000	\$ 255,000	\$ -	\$ 685,000	85	55	140	Fee Acquisition of WMA in Lac Qui Parle County, WPAs in Rice and LeSueur Counties
c) Critical Lands Protection Program**	Trust for Public Land	\$ 490,000	\$ 150,000	\$ 410,000	\$ 640,000	44	15	59	Fee Acquisition of WMA/AMA/SNA in Rice, LeSueur, Hubbard, and Kandiyohi Counties
h) Acquisition for MN Valley WMD	Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc.	\$ 400,000	\$ 400,000	\$ -	\$ 800,000	80	40	120	Fee Acquisition of WPAs in Blue Earth and LeSueur Counties
i) Professional Services***	Department of Natural Resources - Wildlife	\$ 20,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 20,000	0	0	0	Professional Services for conveying state lands acquired by HCP partners within project.
SUBTOTAL		\$ 1,340,000	\$ 805,000	\$ 410,000	\$ 2,145,000	209	110	319	
TOTAL		\$ 3,475,000	\$ 5,502,000	\$ 410,000	\$ 8,977,000	1,356	2,707	4,063	

* All initial development costs of state lands acquired by partners within this proposal will be funded under proposal 2g.

** Within this budget, 10% of funding will be used for restoration of these newly acquired tracts.

*** Ensures newly acquired state lands can be entered into the appropriate land system, and that restoration and development of newly acquired lands can begin on a timely basis.

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

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

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

2011-2012 MAIN PROPOSAL

PROJECT TITLE: Habitat Conservation Partnership – Phase 7

I. PROJECT STATEMENT

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

The work of the Partnership has three main objectives:

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

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

II. DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT ACTIVITIES

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Activity 3: Conservation Easement Acquisition

Budget: \$ 1,725,000

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

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

Activity 4: Fee-Title Acquisition

Budget: \$ 1,341,000

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

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

III. PROJECT STRATEGY

A. Project Team/Partners

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

B. Timeline Requirements

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

C. Long-Term Strategy and Future Funding Needs

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

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

2011-2012 Detailed Project Budget

Habitat Conservation Partnership - Overall Budget - Phase 7

IV. TOTAL TRUST FUND REQUEST BUDGET 2 years

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

V. OTHER FUNDS

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

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

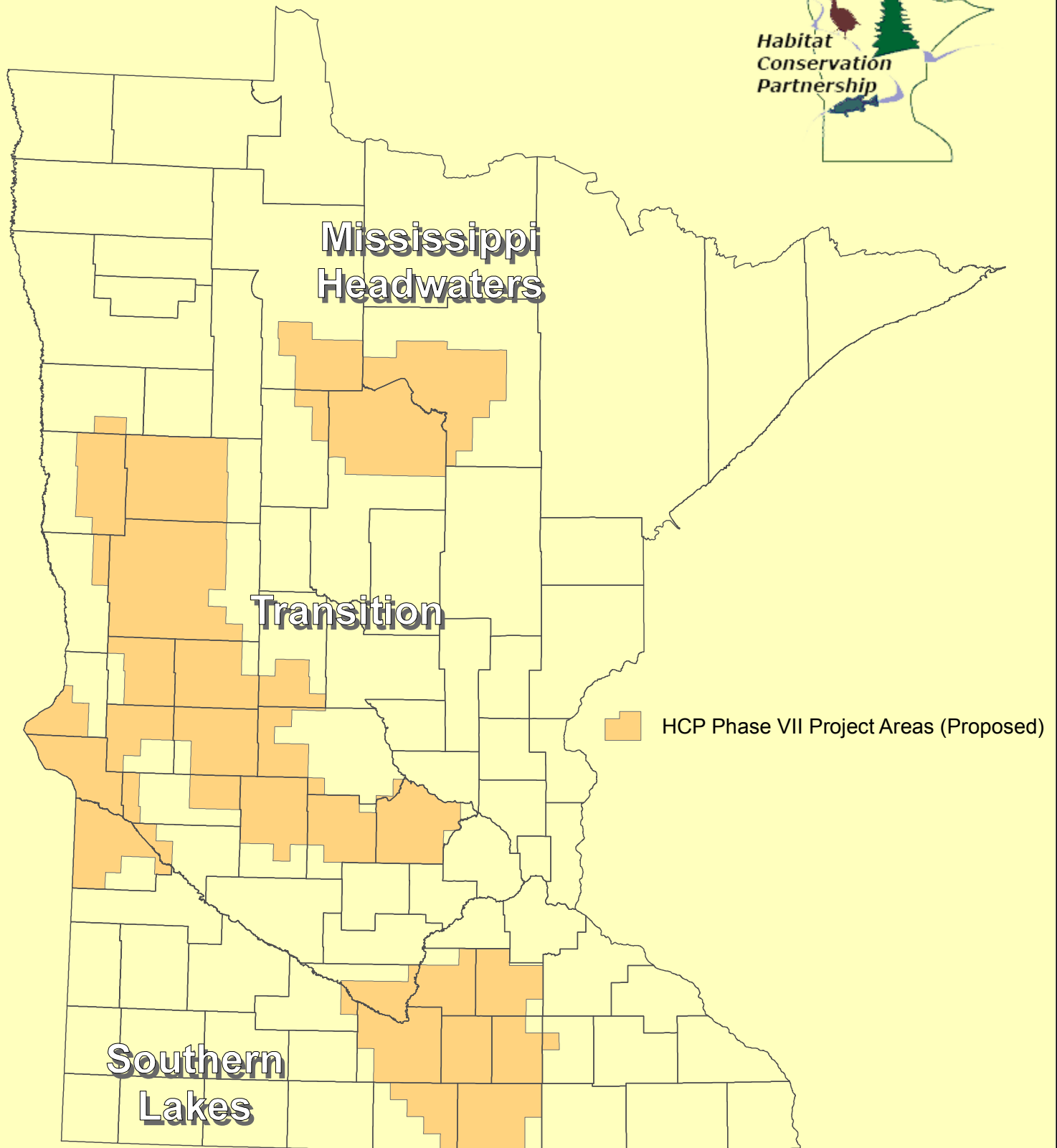
LCCMR Recommendation - \$3,475,000		Personnel	Contracts	Acquisition	Travel	Stewardship	Professional / Technical	Supplies	Total ENRTF Funds	Budget Explanation
1. Project Coordination, Mapping, Data Management										
a) Coord., Mapping & Data Management	Pheasants Forever	\$ 25,000	\$ 30,000						\$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

* All initial development costs of state lands acquired by partners within this proposal will be funded under proposal 2g.

** Within this budget, 10% of funding will be used for restoration of these newly acquired tracts.

*** Ensures newly acquired state lands can be entered into the appropriate land system, and that restoration and development of newly acquired lands can begin on a timely basis.

Habitat Conservation Partnership Proposed Phase VII Project Areas



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