



**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF)  
M.L. 2011 Work Plan**

**Date of Status Update:**

**Date of Next Status Update:** 5/1/2012

**Date of Work Plan Approval:** 8/11/2011

**Project Completion Date:** 6/30/2014

**Is this an amendment request?** \_\_\_\_\_

**Project Title: HCP VII - Shallow Lake Conservation Easements (3c)**

**Project Manager:** Jon Schneider

**Affiliation:** Ducks Unlimited Inc

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**City:** Alexandria **State:** MN **Zipcode:** 56308

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**Location:**

**Counties Impacted:** Statewide

**Ecological Section Impacted:** Lake Agassiz Aspen Parklands (223N), Minnesota and Northeast Iowa Morainal (222M), North Central Glaciated Plains (251B), Northern Minnesota and Ontario Peatlands (212M), Northern Minnesota Drift and Lake Plains (212N), Northern Superior Uplands (212L), Paleozoic Plateau (222L), Red River Valley (251A), Southern Superior Uplands (212J), Western Superior Uplands (212K)

<b>Total ENRTF Project Budget:</b>	<b>ENRTF Appropriation \$:</b>	500,000
	<b>Amount Spent \$:</b>	0
	<b>Balance \$:</b>	500,000

**Legal Citation:** M.L. 2011, First Special Session, Chp. 2, Art.3, Sec. 2, Subd. 04j3c

**Appropriation Language:**

\$1,737,000 the first year and \$1,738,000 the second year are from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for the acceleration of agency programs and cooperative agreements. Of this appropriation, \$125,000 the first year and \$125,000 the second year are to the commissioner of natural resources for agency programs and \$3,225,000 is for agreements as follows: \$637,000 the first year and \$638,000 the second year with Ducks Unlimited, Inc.; \$38,000 the first year and \$37,000 the second year with Friends of Detroit Lakes Wetland Management District; \$25,000 the first year and \$25,000 the second year with Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe; \$225,000 the first year and \$225,000 the second year with Minnesota Land Trust; \$200,000 the first year and \$200,000 the second year with Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc.; \$242,000 the first year and \$243,000 the second year with Pheasants Forever, Inc.; and \$245,000 the first year and \$245,000 the second year with The Trust for Public Land to plan, restore, and acquire fragmented landscape corridors that connect areas of quality habitat to sustain fish, wildlife, and plants. The United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, is an authorized cooperating partner in the appropriation. Expenditures are limited to the project corridor areas as defined in the work program. Land acquired with this appropriation must be sufficiently improved to meet at least minimum habitat and facility management standards, as determined by the commissioner of natural resources. This appropriation may not be used for the purchase of habitable residential structures, unless expressly approved in the work program. All conservation easements must be perpetual and have a natural resource management plan. Any land acquired in fee title by the commissioner of natural resources with money from this appropriation must be designated as an outdoor recreation unit under Minnesota Statutes, section 86A.07. The commissioner may similarly designate any lands acquired in less than fee title. A list of proposed restorations and fee title and easement acquisitions must be provided as part of the required work program. An entity who acquires a conservation easement with appropriations from the trust fund must have a long-term stewardship plan for the easement and a fund established for monitoring and enforcing the agreement. Money appropriated from the trust fund for easement acquisition may be used to establish a monitoring, management, and enforcement fund as approved in the work program. An annual financial report is required for any monitoring, management, and enforcement fund established, including expenditures from the fund. This appropriation is available until June 30, 2014, by which time the project must be completed and final products delivered.

**I. PROJECT TITLE:** Shallow Lake Conservation Easements

**II. PROJECT SUMMARY:** Shallow lakes represent the core of Minnesota's remaining waterfowl habitat. Shallow lakes are defined by the Minnesota DNR as wetland and lake basins 50 acres or larger in size but with maximum depths of 15 feet or less. Many of these lakes are degraded and currently in a turbid state due to altered landscape hydrology and abundant invasive fish that no longer winterkill due to altered lake hydrology. To improve them, Minnesota DNR has legally designated 45 shallow lakes for active wildlife management, and periodically assesses and manages these and many other shallow lakes to improve their aquatic ecology for migrating and brood-rearing waterfowl and other wildlife. To help protect the shoreland of these and other shallow lakes of importance to waterfowl, DU works with private landowners to limit future subdivision and development by securing permanent DU conservation easements. DU conservation easements on shallow lakes are designed to protect sensitive shoreland and shorelines by limiting future subdivision and development activities that will further degrade the existing condition of habitats within easement bounds, especially sensitive shoreline habitat. DU easements may also restore cropland back to wildlife habitat when and where possible and necessary with landowner approval, although some cropland may be allowed to persist.

Through this grant, DU will conduct landowner outreach to promote the concept of conservation easements to landowners on shallow lakes, and offer to purchase or accept donated permanent conservation easements from the private landowners on shallow lakes DU has prioritized for shoreland protection. These include several designated by Minnesota DNR for wildlife management purposes, such as Lake Christina in Douglas County and Geneva Lake in Freeborn County. This work addresses the goal of protecting lands adjacent to aquatic habitats such as shallow lakes as outlined in LCCMR's "Six-Year Strategic Plan for the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund".

The conservation easements DU secures protect significant wildlife habitat and undeveloped shoreland on shallow lakes of high value to migrating and brood-rearing waterfowl. Specifically, the easements ensure that undeveloped land on the shore of shallow lakes and wild rice lakes that face significant development pressure remain in a natural state and are not subdivided and developed. These shallow lakes provide important wetland food and habitat resources for migratory bird as described in the North American Waterfowl Management Plan and the Minnesota Duck Recovery Plan.

**III. PROJECT STATUS UPDATES:**

**Project Status as of January 2012:**

**Project Status as of July 2012:**

**Project Status as of January 2013:**

**Project Status as of July 2013:**

**IV. PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES:**

**ACTIVITY 1:** Promote and Secure Conservation Easements

**Description:** Ducks Unlimited biologists will work with private landowners on shallow lakes to inform and educate them about permanent conservation easements to gain their interest and trust in beginning land protection negotiations. Successful outreach work will culminate with the appraisal and negotiation of donation, bargain sale, or full purchase of permanent conservation easement(s) on 150 acres on or near shallow lakes prioritized by Ducks Unlimited.

Through our Living Lakes Initiative, Ducks Unlimited has refined our conservation focus in Minnesota on improving and protecting key shallow lakes and large marshes (wetlands) managed by the Minnesota DNR and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for migrating and brood-rearing waterfowl. DU's goal is to help enhance and protect 400 shallow lakes and associated wetland complexes (a subset of DNR's 1,800 shallow lake goal). DU and our agency partners have identified that some of these managed wildlife lakes may also be threatened by future shoreland development due to their landscape location and proximity to urban areas and interstates, especially those in the "transition" area between prairie and forest where recreational lands are in demand and rolling hills combined with pockets of forest near I-94 and I-35 make future shoreland development more likely. DU has prioritized for shoreland protection several of these prairie-forest transition lakes and wild rice lakes that are managed for waterfowl based on their habitat importance to waterfowl, investments in management, receptiveness of landowners to conservation easements, and market values of lands that make conservation easements both viable and attractive to landowners.

To achieve our shallow lake shoreland protection goals, DU biologists work with shallow lake private landowners on select shallow lakes to educate them about conservation easements, and DU will secure donated or purchased permanent conservation easements from one or more willing landowner(s) on 150 acres in one or more easement on one or more select shallow lakes, especially those managed by DNR for waterfowl migration habitat. On those same acres, DU will attempt to restore approximately 60 acres of cropland back to native grasses and restore small drained wetlands if and as needed, based on the condition of lands protected within easements and landowner desires. If the landowner agrees to retire cropland back to habitat as a condition of the easement, restoration may be conducted, otherwise cultivated or otherwise prior converted lands within the bounds of the easement will remain. Specifically, restoration will be attempted on lands within the easement where cultivation is prohibited through the terms of the easement, but further restoration and management of intact habitat (including acres previously restored) will not be addressed through this grant or the terms of the conservation easement and will remain the responsibility of the landowner to manage as he/she determines appropriate. Detailed restoration plans will be developed in the process as appropriate, if needed. If no habitat restoration is required on lands protected via DU conservation easements funded by this grant (e.g., if lands are in the USDA's Conservation Reserve Program), then restoration funds originally budgeted will be amended into other expense categories in this grant.

DU elects to close on specific easements on shallow lakes prioritized for protection based on viability within the grant period and within grant budgets. Easements usually take years of landowner discussions and negotiations to mature, often being started in one grant and being completed in another several years later. The selection and number of viable easement deals on these relatively few priority shallow lakes that DU can accomplish is usually determined by funds available through Trust Fund grant along with other cost share (e.g., federal NAWCA grant funds). Usually, since easement deals are so difficult to negotiate and take so long to close, and because our priority lakes are so few that presents so few opportunities, easement deals on these priority shallow lakes are usually closed as they become available and are viable within a grant period.

Grant funds will be used for \$80,000 of DU professional staff time over two years to promote conservation easements to landowners and negotiate terms and conditions of individual easements (due diligence), appraisals, title clearance and other legal services, boundary surveys, baseline condition documentation reports, implement restorations if needed, and file necessary documentation with the LCCMR. Private funds secured by DU will be used to endow the cost of future annual stewardship monitoring and legal defense of permanent conservation easements secured. DU will also use up to \$20,000 over two years (4% of this \$500,000 grant) for personnel costs of grant administration, reporting, and coordination of grant activities, including providing direction to DU field staff performing landowner outreach, negotiating easements, and coordination with DU legal staff.

Conservation easements rights secured will not include the right of public access because public access does not result in increased conservation benefit, because it would reduce the funding available for other easements, because it would likely cost the same as buying the land in fee-title to secure, and

because landowners on the select shallow lakes we are trying to protect will not agree to sell that right. However, DU will suggest and encourage landowners to voluntarily enroll in the new Minnesota public access program once it is implemented and available. DU will address the issue of obtaining right-of-first refusal on a case-by-case basis, and may add a clause for such to future easements, if needed.

DU endow the cost of future annual stewardship and monitoring and enforcement of permanent conservation easements secured through this grant, and will annually inspect and report on the condition of the property. Conservation easements held by DU/WAT are monitored once a year by DU field staff who conduct annual site visits of all protected properties. These annual monitoring and stewardship inspections and associated reporting requirements are considered a perpetual responsibility by DU. Annual inspections include talking with landowners about their land and touring their property. Any natural or man-made changes to the property are noted in a monitoring report and documented with a photograph, and land management activities and any potential problems discussed with landowners and resolved. Reports by field staff are reviewed by the Director of Land Protection to ensure that no violations have occurred.

Long-term liabilities associated with monitoring and stewardship of the DU/WAT easement portfolio is determined through the use of the DU stewardship calculator that estimates annual staff and travel costs associated with landowner contact, site monitoring visit, office reporting tasks, and legal defense in the event that a violation occurs and can not be resolved without legal action. DU refined these costs in 2010 with the best available data from previous years of DU conservation easement monitoring and other external data. Currently, DU's stewardship endowment requirements for conservation easements of 480 acres or less in Minnesota has been calculated by DU at \$21,000. A 3% spend rate (as established by DU's Finance Committee) is used to determine the endowment necessary to offset future annual monitoring costs.

The conditions of the protected properties are identified in a baseline documentation report. This document assures that any changes that may adversely affect the conservation values will be identified during annual monitoring visits. Further, the terms of the conservation easement require that reserved rights may only be exercised with advance notice and approval of the Holder (DU/WAT). The exercise of such rights cannot harm or adversely affect the conservation values of the protected properties.

As with all DU/WAT held easements, any Trust Fund supported easement projects will be monitored annually. DU/WAT will comply with all reporting requirements established in any agreements or statutes pertaining to these funds. All DU/WAT conservation easements clearly indicate that the easement is perpetual. Further, the easements contain language that limits the extinguishment of the easements to condemnation or court order only. This language is standard for all easements used by land trusts and essentially comes directly from the IRS Code and Regulations regarding the perpetual nature of easements. DU/WAT maintains a separate endowment dedicated to easement stewardship. Earnings of the Stewardship Endowment are available for monitoring, stewardship, and enforcement of conservation easements in the portfolio.

For easements secured through this 2011 grant, the amount required to endow future stewardship, annual monitoring/reporting, and legal defense has been determined by DU to be \$21,000 per easement, and will be private funds secured by, or donated to, DU. Stewardship funds will be managed in a separate WAT easement stewardship account according to the DU Board's investment policy. Trust funds for easement monitoring and stewardship will be received by DU National Headquarters in Memphis, Tennessee.

Furthermore, the restricted endowment will be invested according to the policies set forth in DU and WAT's Investment Policy. DU considers the enforcement and defense of the terms and conditions of the conservation easement as an operational cost, and DU understands that this obligation may require the additional expenditure of DU funds to enforce the terms of the easement. WAT adopted the *Land Trust Standards and Practices* published by the Land Trust Alliance in 2004 on April 23, 2005 as

technical guidelines for the organization’s operation, and has recently received full certification from the Land Trust Alliance. DU has further outlined conservation easement stewardship management and enforcement procedures for DU staff in a land protection handbook. To accommodate the need to record a notice of ENRTF funding restrictions on the deed to lands encumbered by ENRTF-funded conservation easements, DU will include the following language in all conservation easement documents secured with full or partial reimbursement through this LCCMR grant:

“WHEREAS, Wetlands America Trust, Inc. acquired this Easement with funding from the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (“Trust Fund”) pursuant to a grant agreement between the Trust Fund and Ducks Unlimited, Inc. dated \_\_\_\_\_. Wetlands America Trust, Inc. is placing this notice on record as confirmation of its obligation as set forth in the grant agreement and in accordance with Minnesota Statutes Section 116P.15, states the following: “This interest in real property shall be administered in accordance with the terms, conditions, and purposes of the grant agreement or work program controlling the acquisition of the property. The interest in real property, or any portion of the interest in real property, shall not be sold, transferred, pledged, or otherwise disposed of or further encumbered without obtaining the prior written approval of the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources or its successor. If the holder of the interest in real property fails to comply with the terms and conditions of the grant agreement or work program, ownership of the interest in real property shall transfer to this state.”

The primary goal of DU conservation easements in Minnesota is to preserve the general condition of existing habitat on the protected property in its current state and protect against future subdivision, development, and shallow lake shoreline alteration. DU conservation easements are permanent, but are working easements that often allow for ongoing use of the property and may include farming activities on some portions of the protected property. In some cases, restoration of shoreland habitat is permitted through the easement, and DU works closely with landowners to encourage restoration of habitats whenever possible. DU meets these goals through the negotiation of conservation easement terms, and ensures they are maintained through annual easement monitoring site visits with the landowner. A restoration and management plan will be developed as part of our baseline documentation report (BDR), and the BDR and stewardship plan for each conservation easement secured through this grant will be provided to LCCMR staff with copies of the recorded easement.

Annual reports on monitoring and management of easements acquired with ENRTF funding will be made to LCCMR, as required. This activity also includes grant administration tasks up to \$20,000.

**Summary Budget Information for Activity 1:**

**ENRTF Budget: \$ 460,000**  
**Amount Spent: \$ 0**  
**Balance: \$ 460,000**

**Activity Completion Date:**

<b>Outcome</b>	<b>Completion Date</b>	<b>Budget</b>
1. Approximately 150 acres protected via DU donated, bargain sale or fully-purchased conservation easement, and grant admin.	June 30, 2013	\$ 460,000

**Activity Status as of January 2012:**

**Activity Status as of July 2012:**

**Activity Status as of January 2013:**

**Activity Status as of July 2013:**

**Final Report Summary:**

**ACTIVITY 2:** Restore Habitat, Where Needed, and if Appropriate and Approved by Landowners

**Description:** DU biologists may help private conservation easement landowners restore converted uplands or wetlands back to wildlife habitat through native plantings and wetland restoration in cases where restoration is needed and landowners agree to restore eased lands. This work may involve the seeding of native grasses and forbs, and small wetland restorations, if/as needed and requested by landowner(s). Some areas may be restored independently through USDA’s Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), or by consultants hired by DU with DU biologist oversight. Restoration plans will be developed in cases where landowners agree to restoration concepts. While all conservation easements secured by DU are important as they include the protection and prevention of further degradation of shoreland along key shallow lakes, and it is primarily the protection of the actual shallow lake shoreline that is most important. Easements secured on shoreland may include some areas of cropland and other converted lands in obvious need of restoration, but landowners decide the fate of these areas. Restoration of these sites will be conducted only when and where landowners agree. In many cases, landowners may not elect to restore those sites or allow restoration of some portions of easements, in which case they will be allowed to exist in their current state, including cropland. Restorations will be performed through contracts that include labor, supplies, and plant materials.

**Summary Budget Information for Activity 2:**

**ENRTF Budget:** \$ 40,000  
**Amount Spent:** \$ 0  
**Balance:** \$ 40,000

**Activity Completion Date:**

<b>Outcome</b>	<b>Completion Date</b>	<b>Budget</b>
1. Up to 60 acres of uplands & wetlands may be restored if and as needed on easements secured through this grant.	June 30, 2013	\$ 40,000

**Activity Status as of January 2012:**

**Activity Status as of July 2012:**

**Activity Status as of January 2013:**

**Activity Status as of July 2013:**

**Final Report Summary:**

**V. DISSEMINATION:**

**Description:** Conservation easement land protection deals involve private landowners, and publicity of those legal arrangements is a sensitive issue. DU will report accomplishments as they happen through the HCP website and in DU publications such as our annual Living Lakes progress report.

**Status as of January 2012:**

**Status as of July 2012:**

**Status as of January 2013:**

**Status as of July 2013:**

**Final Report Summary:**

**VI. PROJECT BUDGET SUMMARY:**

**A. ENRTF Budget:**

<b>Budget Category</b>	<b>\$ Amount</b>	<b>Explanation</b>
Personnel:	\$ 100,000	Staff to negotiate easements and administer grant. DU land protection biologist Ben Van Gundy to conduct landowner outreach and negotiate conservation easements with private landowners (0.35 FTE/year, or 0.7 FTE over two years, 60% salary 40% benefits). DU conservation program manager Jon Schneider to administer grant and manage and coordinate all grant activities including grant reporting (0.1 FTE/year, or 0.2 FTE over two years, 60% salary 40% benefits).
Service Contracts	\$ 30,000	Upland and small wetland restoration contracts, using competitive selection process.
Easement Acquisition:	\$ 340,000	Conservation easement purchase.
Professional Services for Acq:	\$ 24,000	Appraisals, baseline reports, surveys, etc.
Travel Expenses in MN:	\$ 6,000	In-state mileage and lodging.
<b>TOTAL ENRTF BUDGET:</b>	<b>\$ 500,000</b>	

**Explanation of Use of Classified Staff:** NA

**Explanation of Capital Expenditures Greater Than \$3,500:** NA

**Number of Full-time Equivalent (FTE) funded with this ENRTF appropriation:** Approximately 0.9 FTE over two years, or 0.45 per year for two years.

**B. Other Funds:**

<b>Source of Funds</b>	<b>\$ Amount Proposed</b>	<b>\$ Amount Spent</b>	<b>Use of Other Funds</b>
<b>Non-state</b>			
Ducks Unlimited	\$ 71,000	\$	DU private funds for staff, travel, indirect expense (\$50,000), and easement monitoring/enforcement stewardship endowment (\$21,000).
<b>State</b>			
	\$ 0	\$	
<b>TOTAL OTHER FUNDS:</b>	<b>\$ 71,000</b>	<b>\$</b>	

**VII. PROJECT STRATEGY:**

**A. Project Partners:** DU is a member of the Habitat Conservation Partnership. DU is not closely working with other partners to secure DU conservation easements, but DU routinely refers easement inquires on other lakes to the MLT.

**B. Project Impact and Long-term Strategy:** The Minnesota DNR has a goal of managing 1,800 shallow lakes throughout the state. DU’s goal is to improve 400 managed shallow lakes, and has further prioritized 15 shallow lakes for conservation easements to protect shoreland and shorelines. DU strives to work with all landowners on these selected lakes over the years to come to protect all the private land around them, and will hold and annually monitor conservation easements in perpetuity.

**C. Spending History:** For DU conservation easements on shallow lakes.

<b>Funding Source</b>	<b>M.L. 2005 or FY 2006-07</b>	<b>M.L. 2007 or FY 2008</b>	<b>M.L. 2008 or FY 2009</b>	<b>M.L. 2009 or FY 2010</b>	<b>M.L. 2010 or FY 2011</b>
ENRTF	\$250,000, ML 2005, 1 <sup>st</sup> Special Session, Chapter 1, Article 2, Section 11, Subd. 5(a).	\$200,000, ML 2007, Chapter 30, Sec. 2, Subd. 4b.	\$150,000, ML 2008, Chap. 367, Sec. 2, Subd. 3(c)	\$250,000, ML 2009, Chap. 143, Sec. 2, Subd. 4e2c3c	\$75,000, M.L. 2010, Chap. 362, Sec. 2, Subd. 4f3c
OHF				\$135,873, ML 2009, Article I, Sec. 2, Subd. 4(b)	

**VIII. ACQUISITION/RESTORATION LIST:** A preliminary list of 11 potential conservation easements that will be investigated and possibly closed on four priority shallow lakes has been developed and provided, however, additional easements will be pursued as well through easement outreach and promotion, and locations will be provided via amendment request if negotiations mature to the point where easement deals become viable to close. A revised list with specific locations of additional easements for closure will be provided via work plan amendment request before closing.

**IX. MAP(S):** Locations and boundaries of specific easements to be acquired have not yet been determined, as investigations and negotiations funded through this grant have yet to begin. Maps showing locations of easement projects to be secured through this grant will be provided as they become known during future updates of this work plan.

**X. RESEARCH ADDENDUM:** NA

**XI. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:**

Periodic work plan status update reports will be submitted not later than February 1, 2012, August 1, 2012, and February 1, 2013. A final report and associated products will be submitted by August 1, 2013 as requested by the LCCMR.



Attachment A: Budget Detail for M.L. 2011 (FY 2012-13) Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund Projects								
<b>Project Title:</b> Shallow Lake Conservation Easements								
<b>Legal Citation:</b> M.L. 2011, 1st Special Session, Chapter 2, Article 3, Subdivision 04j3c								
<b>Project Manager:</b> Jon Schneider								
<b>M.L. 2011 (FY 2012-13) ENRTF Appropriation:</b> \$500,000								
<b>Project Length and Completion Date:</b> Two Years, June 30, 2013								
<b>Date of Update:</b> August 5, 2011								
ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND BUDGET	Activity 1 Budget	Amount Spent	Balance	Activity 2 Budget	Amount Spent	Balance	TOTAL BUDGET	TOTAL BALANCE
BUDGET ITEM	Acquire Conservation Easements			Restore Protected Land, if/where needed				
<b>Personnel (Wages and Benefits)</b>							0	
DU land protection biologist Ben Van Gundy to conduct landowner outreach and negotiate conservation easements with private landowners (0.35 FTE/year, or 0.7 FTE over two years, 60% salary 40% benefits).	71,000	0	71,000	9,000	0	9,000	80,000	80,000
DU conservation program manager Jon Schneider to administer grant and manage and coordinate all grant activities including grant reporting (0.1 FTE/year, or 0.2 FTE over two years, 60% salary 40% benefits).	20,000	0	20,000				20,000	20,000
<b>Service Contracts</b> Competitively selected restoration contracts with private vendors to seed cropland to native plants and restore small wetlands where necessary, etc. Estimated at \$500/acre on approximately 60 acres, as necessary.				30,000	0	30,000	30,000	30,000
<b>Easement Acquisition</b>	340,000	0	340,000				340,000	340,000
<b>Professional Services for Acquisition</b> Appraisals, baseline documentation reports, and other professional services for new easements. Estimated at \$8,000 per easement for approximately three easements.	24,000	0	24,000				24,000	24,000
<b>Travel expenses in Minnesota</b> In-state mileage and lodging for conservation easement outreach and negotiation over two years.	5,000	0	5,000	1,000	0	1,000	6,000	6,000
<b>COLUMN TOTAL</b>	<b>\$460,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$460,000</b>	<b>\$40,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$40,000</b>	<b>\$500,000</b>	<b>\$500,000</b>

**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund  
M.L. 2011 Acquisition-Restoration (Easement) List**

**Project Title:** Shallow Lake Conservation Easements

**Legal Citation:** M.L. 2011, 1st Special Session, Chapter 2, Article 3, Subdivision 04j3c

**Project Manager Name:** Jon Schneider

**M.L. 2011 ENRTF Appropriation:** \$500,000

**Date of Update:** August 5, 2011

#	Acquisition or Restoration Parcel Name	Geographical Coordinates		County	Ecosystem Description	Ecological Significance	Activity Description	Approximate # of Acres	# of Shoreline Miles (if applicable)	Proposed Fee Title or Easement Holder (if applicable)	Landowner Type	Status
		Latitude or UTM-X	Longitude or UTM-Y									
1	Lake Christina - Strohmair	46.073	-95.746	Douglas	Shallow lake shoreland, wetland, grassland, woodland, agriculture land	Shallow lake shoreland	Permanent protection via conservation easement purchase	36	0.25	Ducks Unlimited / WAT	Private Landowner	Purchase, initial contact complete, appraisal pending
2	Lake Christina - Papenheim	46.105	-95.719	Douglas	Shallow lake shoreland, wetland, grassland, woodland, agriculture land	Shallow lake shoreland	Permanent protection via conservation easement purchase	175	1	Ducks Unlimited / WAT	Private Landowner	Purchase, negotiating, new appraisal pending
3	Lake Christina - DCLC	46.089	-95.697	Douglas	Shallow lake shoreland, wetland, grassland, woodland, agriculture land	Shallow lake shoreland	Permanent protection via conservation easement purchase	475	3	Ducks Unlimited / WAT	Private Landowner Incorporated Club	Purchase, appraisal underway, negotiations pending
4	Lake Christina - Rossing	46.087	-95.731	Douglas	Shallow lake shoreland, wetland, grassland, woodland, agriculture land	Shallow lake shoreland	Permanent protection via conservation easement purchase	36	0.3	Ducks Unlimited / WAT	Private Landowner	Purchase, initial contact complete, appraisal pending
5	Lake Christina - Palmquist	46.07	-95.757	Douglas	Shallow lake shoreland, wetland, grassland, woodland, agriculture land	Shallow lake shoreland	Permanent protection via conservation easement purchase	144	0.75	Ducks Unlimited / WAT	Private Landowner	Purchase, initial contact complete, appraisal pending
6	Fish Lake - Kauler #3	45.401	-95.079	Stearns	Shallow lake shoreland, wetland, grassland, woodland, agriculture land	Shallow lake shoreland	Permanent protection via conservation easement purchase	75	0.25	Ducks Unlimited / WAT	Private Landowner	Purchase, initial contact complete, appraisal pending
7	Cedar Lake - Radunz	44.98	-94.444	Meeker	Shallow lake shoreland, wetland, grassland, woodland, agriculture land	Shallow lake shoreland	Permanent protection via conservation easement purchase	31	0.3	Ducks Unlimited / WAT	Private Landowner	Purchase, negotiating, new appraisal pending
8	Geneva Lake - Cook Family Trust	43.818	-93.251	Freeborn	Shallow lake shoreland, wetland, grassland, brush land, agriculture land	Shallow lake shoreland	Permanent protection via conservation easement purchase	66	0.5	Ducks Unlimited / WAT	Private Landowners in a Family Trust	Purchase, initial contact complete, appraisal pending
9	Geneva Lake - Geneva Lake, Inc.	43.786	-93.277	Freeborn	Shallow lake shoreland, wetland, grassland, woodland	Shallow lake shoreland	Permanent protection via conservation easement purchase	5	0.25	Ducks Unlimited / WAT	Private Landowner Incorporated Club	Likely purchase, initial contact pending
10	Geneva Lake - Waseca GC	43.786	-93.272	Freeborn	Shallow lake shoreland, wetland, grassland, woodland	Shallow lake shoreland	Permanent protection via conservation easement purchase	10	0.3	Ducks Unlimited / WAT	Private Landowner Incorporated Club	Likely purchase, initial contact pending
11	Geneva Lake - Geneva Point Club	43.81	-93.259	Freeborn	Shallow lake shoreland, wetland, grassland, woodland	Shallow lake shoreland	Permanent protection via conservation easement purchase	20	0.3	Ducks Unlimited / WAT	Private Landowner Incorporated Club	Likely purchase, initial contact pending

NOTE: This preliminary list contains 11 possible easements on four priority shallow lakes on which potential DU conservation easements may be secured from private landowners (not from institutions or non-profit orgs) in an effort to eventually protect all shoreland around each lake given the level of agency management of the lake, its importance to waterfowl, and threat of future shoreland subdivision and development. Locations of additional easements to be acquired on these and other key shallow lakes have not yet been identified as investigations and negotiations funded through this grant have yet to begin, whereas these specific easement possibilities have been identified via previous grant-funded easement technical assistance outreach efforts. In addition to working to develop the conservation easements listed above, DU land protection staff will also work with new private landowners on these and other priority shallow lakes to develop new conservation easement for future protection. Specific locations of additional easement projects on these and other priority shallow lakes managed for waterfowl will be provided via grant work plan amendment request as they become known once viable easement deals develop but before they are closed.

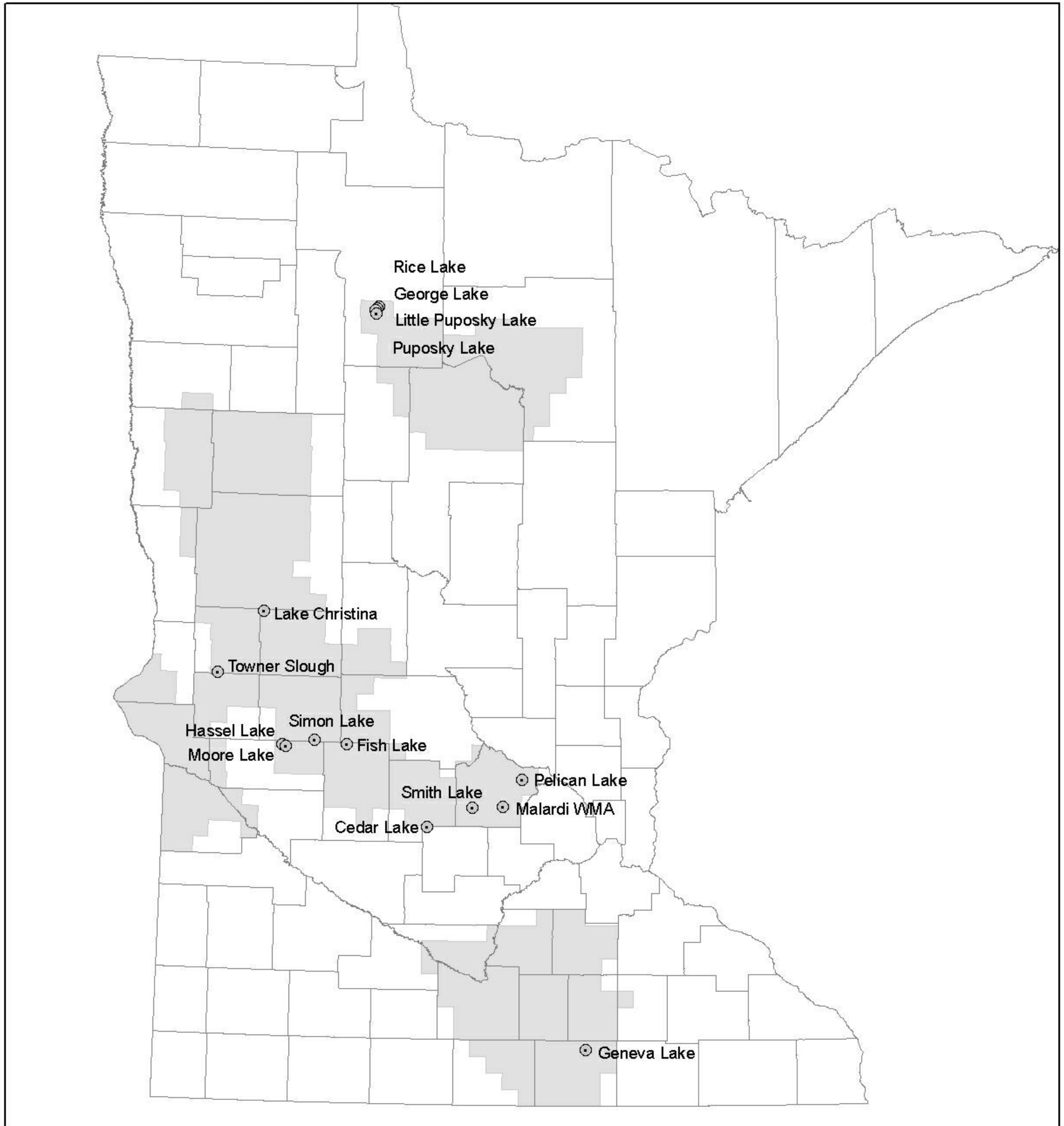
The following is a list of 15 DU priority shallow lakes shown on the accompanying map on which DU may add parcels for conservation easements via future work program amendment request:												
1	Lake Christina - unidentified	46.103	-95.765	Douglas & Grant	shallow lake shoreland	shallow lake shoreland	Permanent protection via conservation easement purchase or donation	unknown	unknown	Ducks Unlimited / WAT	Private Landowner	Landowner visits pending, viable parcels may be added via amendment request
2	Fish Lake - unidentified	45.401	-95.079	Stearns	shallow lake shoreland	Shallow lake shoreland	Permanent protection via conservation easement purchase or donation	unknown	unknown	Ducks Unlimited / WAT	Private Landowner	Landowner visits pending, viable parcels may be added via amendment request
3	Towner Lake - unidentified	45.764	-96.071	Grant	shallow lake	shallow lake shoreland	Permanent protection via conservation easement purchase or donation	unknown	unknown	Ducks Unlimited / WAT	Private Landowner	Landowner visits pending, viable parcels may be added via amendment request
4	Hassel Lake - unidentified	45.39	-95.569	Swift	shallow lake	shallow lake shoreland	Permanent protection via conservation easement purchase or donation	unknown	unknown	Ducks Unlimited / WAT	Private Landowner	Landowner visits pending, viable parcels may be added via amendment request
5	Moore Lake - unidentified	45.382	-95.541	Swift	shallow lake	shallow lake shoreland	Permanent protection via conservation easement purchase or donation	unknown	unknown	Ducks Unlimited / WAT	Private Landowner	Landowner visits pending, viable parcels may be added via amendment request
6	Simon Lake - unidentified	45.419	-95.325	Pope & Swift	shallow lake	shallow lake shoreland	Permanent protection via conservation easement purchase or donation	unknown	unknown	Ducks Unlimited / WAT	Private Landowner	Landowner visits pending, viable parcels may be added via amendment request
7	Cedar Lake - unidentified	44.98	-94.444	Meeker	shallow lake shoreland	Shallow lake shoreland	Permanent protection via conservation easement purchase or donation	unknown	unknown	Ducks Unlimited / WAT	Private Landowner	Landowner visits pending, viable parcels may be added via amendment request
8	Smith Lake - unidentified	45.076	-94.126	Wright	shallow lake	shallow lake shoreland	Permanent protection via conservation easement purchase or donation	unknown	unknown	Ducks Unlimited / WAT	Private Landowner	Landowner visits pending, viable parcels may be added via amendment request
9	Malardi Lake - unidentified	45.081	-93.891	Wright	shallow lake	shallow lake shoreland	Permanent protection via conservation easement purchase or donation	unknown	unknown	Ducks Unlimited / WAT	Private Landowner	Landowner visits pending, viable parcels may be added via amendment request
10	Pelican Lake - unidentified	45.228	-93.76	Wright	shallow lake	shallow lake shoreland	Permanent protection via conservation easement purchase or donation	unknown	unknown	Ducks Unlimited / WAT	Private Landowner	Landowner visits pending, viable parcels may be added via amendment request
11	Geneva Lake - unidentified.	43.786	-93.277	Freeborn	shallow lake	shallow lake shoreland	Permanent protection via conservation easement purchase or donation	unknown	unknown	Ducks Unlimited / WAT	Private Landowner	Landowner visits pending, viable parcels may be added via amendment request
12	Rice Lake - unidentified	47.726	-94.915	Beltrami	shallow lake	shallow lake shoreland	Permanent protection via conservation easement purchase or donation	unknown	unknown	Ducks Unlimited / WAT	Private Landowner	Landowner visits pending, viable parcels may be added via amendment request
13	George Lake - unidentified	47.718	-94.929	Beltrami	shallow lake	shallow lake shoreland	Permanent protection via conservation easement purchase or donation	unknown	unknown	Ducks Unlimited / WAT	Private Landowner	Landowner visits pending, viable parcels may be added via amendment request
14	Little Puposky Lake - unid.	47.709	-94.942	Beltrami	shallow lake	shallow lake shoreland	Permanent protection via conservation easement purchase or donation	unknown	unknown	Ducks Unlimited / WAT	Private Landowner	Landowner visits pending, viable parcels may be added via amendment request
15	Puposky Lake - unidentified	47.692	-94.939	Beltrami	shallow lake	shallow lake shoreland	Permanent protection via conservation easement purchase or donation	unknown	unknown	Ducks Unlimited / WAT	Private Landowner	Landowner visits pending, viable parcels may be added via amendment request

# 2010 LCCMR Habitat Conservation Partnership Phase 7 Grant



DUCKS UNLIMITED

Project Lake Locations for  
Potential DU Conservation Easements



⊙ Ducks Unlimited Project Lake Location

■ LCCMR HCP Phase 7 Project Areas

## **ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND**

### **M.L. 2011 Potential Project Summaries - Ducks Unlimited**

**Project Title:** HCP Phase 7 – Shallow Lake Conservation Easements

**Project Manager Name:** Jon Schneider

**M.L. 2011 ENRTF Appropriation:** \$500,000

#### **PROJECT: Lake Christina – Strohmeier Property**

- **Conservation Values/Public Benefit:** This 36-acre parcel in Douglas County contains a diverse mix of wetlands, woodland, grassland, and agriculture fields. Importantly, this project will buffer and protect approximately one-quarter mile of undeveloped shoreline on 4,000-acre Lake Christina, one of only 45 shallow lakes legally-designated for wildlife management purposes by the Minnesota DNR and a critical waterfowl migration lake that has accommodated up to 20% of the world's canvasback duck population in past years according to DNR. Unfortunately, Lake Christina is classified and zoned as a "general development/recreation lake" and thus all surrounding shoreland is taxed as such and subject to subdivision and development pressures. Once protected by a DU conservation easement, this property will compliment the protection value of several other Trust Funded conservation easements DU now holds on Lake Christina, including one adjacent, and further Ducks Unlimited's goal of protecting all the undeveloped shoreline on the lake.
- **Landowner Information:** The property is owned by a private landowner.
- **Easement Summary:** The terms of this purchased conservation easement are being negotiated.

#### **PROJECT: Lake Christina – Papenheim Property**

- **Conservation Values/Public Benefit:** This 175-acre parcel in Douglas County contains a diverse mix of wildlife habitats including wetland, woodland, grassland, and agricultural land, some of which may be restored to native prairie grassland in conjunction with the completion of this conservation easement. Most importantly, this project will buffer and protect over one mile of undeveloped shoreline on 4,000-acre Lake Christina, one of only 45 shallow lakes legally-designated for wildlife management purposes by the Minnesota DNR and a critical waterfowl migration lake that has hosted up to 20% of the world's canvasback duck population. Unfortunately, Lake Christina is classified and zoned as a "general development/recreation lake" and thus all surrounding shoreland is taxed as such and subject to subdivision and development pressures. Once protected by a DU conservation easement, this property will compliment the protection value of several other conservation easements DU now holds on Lake Christina, including the adjacent Lillemon easement, and further Ducks Unlimited's goal of protecting all the undeveloped shoreline on the lake. This property is also located half way between the state's Nycklemoe Slough WMA and The Nature Conservancy's Seven Sisters Hills preserve, and will therefore improve the connectivity of these protected areas.
- **Landowner Information:** The property is owned by a private landowner.
- **Easement Summary:** The terms of this purchased conservation easement are being negotiated.

- **PROJECT: Lake Christina – Douglas County Land Company Property**

**Conservation Values/Public Benefit:** This 475-acre property in Douglas County contains a diverse mix of wildlife habitats including wetland, grassland, woodland, and agricultural land, some of which may be restored to native prairie grassland in conjunction with the completion of this conservation easement. Most importantly, this project will buffer and protect approximately three miles of undeveloped shoreline on 4,000-acre Lake Christina, one of only 45 shallow lakes legally-designated for wildlife management purposes by the Minnesota DNR and a critical waterfowl migration lake that has accommodated up to 20% of the world's canvasback duck population in past years (according to DNR). Unfortunately, Lake Christina is classified and zoned as a "general development/recreational lake" and thus all surrounding shoreland is taxed as such and subject to subdivision and development pressures. Once protected by a DU conservation easement, this property will compliment the protection value of several other conservation easements DU now holds on Lake Christina, including the adjacent Lindquist easement immediately to the west, and further Ducks Unlimited's goal of protecting all the undeveloped shoreline on the lake.

- **Landowner Information:** This property is owned by a group of private individuals incorporated in the state of Minnesota.
- **Easement Summary:** The terms of this purchased conservation easement are being negotiated.

**PROJECT: Fish Lake – Kauller #3**

- **Conservation Values/Public Benefit:** This 75-acre parcel in Stearns County contains a mix of wildlife habitats including wetland, brush land, grassland, agriculture land, and about one-quarter mile of undeveloped shoreline on the west end of Fish Lake, a locally important shallow waterfowl migration lake used by a variety of game and non-game birds including trumpeter swans. The Minnesota DNR owns small state Wildlife Management Area on the east end of the lake where public access is provided. This conservation easement will add protective value to two other DU conservation easements on Fish Lake, one of which was secured with 2009 grant from the Trust Fund.
- **Landowner Information:** The property is owned by a private landowner.
- **Easement Summary:** The terms of this purchased conservation easement are being negotiated.

**PROJECT: Cedar Lake – Radunz Property**

- **Conservation Values/Public Benefit:** This 31-acre parcel in Meeker County contains a mix of habitats including wetland, woodland, grassland, agriculture land, and about one-third mile of undeveloped shoreline on Cedar Lake, a locally important shallow waterfowl migration lake with several islands and bulrush bays located seven miles north of Hutchinson, Minn. Given its close proximity to Hutchinson and growing development demand for shoreline, Cedar Lake is subject to shoreland development pressures. This conservation easement will add protective value to other DU conservation easements on Cedar Lake. The parcel is only one mile south of the new Greenleaf State Park.
- **Landowner Information:** The property is owned by a private landowner.
- **Easement Summary:** The terms of this purchased conservation easement are being negotiated.

## **PROJECT: Geneva Lake – Cook Family Trust Property**

**Conservation Values/Public Benefit:** This 66-acre parcel in Freeborn County contains a mix of wetlands, brush land, agriculture land, and about one-half mile of undeveloped shoreline on Geneva Lake, one of only 45 shallow lakes legally-designated for wildlife management purposes by the Minnesota DNR. Once protected by a DU conservation easement, this property will compliment the protection value of several other conservation easements DU now holds on Geneva Lake, a Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) easement to the east, and the state's Geneva Lake WMA to the west.

- **Landowner Information:** The property is owned by a private family trust.
- **Easement Summary:** The terms of this purchased conservation easement are being negotiated.

## **PROJECT: Geneva Lake – Geneva Lake, Inc.**

**Conservation Values/Public Benefit:** This five-acre parcel in Freeborn County contains a mix of wetlands and woodlands in a triangle-shaped point that extends into the middle of Geneva Lake from the west, and includes approximately one-quarter mile of shoreline. Because this forested parcel extends into the lake with water on two of three sides, it might be attractive for housing and could be developed someday to the detriment of this 1,875-acre shallow lake legally-designated for wildlife management purposes by the Minnesota DNR, one of only 45 in the state. Once protected by a DU conservation easement, this property will compliment the protection value of several other conservation easements DU now holds on Geneva Lake, several Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) easements, and the state's Geneva Lake WMA.

- **Landowner Information:** This property is owned by a group of private individuals incorporated in the state of Minnesota.
- **Easement Summary:** The terms of this purchased conservation easement will be negotiated.

## **PROJECT: Geneva Lake – Waseca Gun Club**

**Conservation Values/Public Benefit:** This 10-acre parcel in Freeborn County contains a mix of wetlands and woodlands in a triangle-shaped point that extends into the middle of Geneva Lake from the east, and includes approximately one-third mile of shoreline. Because this forested parcel extends into the lake with water on two of three sides, it might be attractive for housing and could be developed someday to the detriment of this 1,875-acre shallow lake legally-designated for wildlife management purposes by the Minnesota DNR, one of only 45 in the state. Once protected by a DU conservation easement, this property will compliment the protection value of several other conservation easements DU now holds on Geneva Lake, several Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) easements, and the state's Geneva Lake WMA.

- **Landowner Information:** This property is owned by a group of private individuals incorporated in the state of Minnesota.
- **Easement Summary:** The terms of this purchased conservation easement will be negotiated.

## **PROJECT: Geneva Lake – Geneva Point Club**

**Conservation Values/Public Benefit:** This 20-acre parcel in Freeborn County contains a mix of wetlands and woodlands in a rounded point that extends into the northern bay of Geneva Lake from the east side, and includes approximately one-third mile of shoreline. Because this forested parcel extends into the lake with significant shoreline, it might be attractive for housing and could be developed someday to the detriment of this 1,875-acre shallow lake legally-designated for wildlife management purposes by the Minnesota DNR, one of only 45 in the state. Once protected by a DU conservation easement, this property will compliment the protection value of several other conservation easements DU now holds on Geneva Lake, several Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) easements, and the state's Geneva Lake WMA.

- **Landowner Information:** This property is owned by a group of private individuals incorporated in the state of Minnesota.
- **Easement Summary:** The terms of this purchased conservation easement will be negotiated.