

# Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund 2009 Phase 1 Request for Proposals (RFP)

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**LCCMR ID: B14**

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**Project Title:** Minnesota's Habitat Conservation Partnership (HCP) - Overall Summary

**Total Project Budget:** \$ \$8,862,000

**Proposed Project Time Period for the Funding Requested:** July 2009 - June 2010 (1 yr)

**Other Non-State Funds:** \$ 9,206,000

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**First Name:** Matt

**Last Name:** Holland

**Sponsoring Organization:** Pheasants Forever, Inc.

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**Region:**

Statewide

**County Name:**

Statewide

**City / Township:**

**Summary:** A total of 11,313 acres in identified project areas are to be restored, enhanced or protected. \$9.2M in non-state funds are committed by fifteen partners in habitat conservation.

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**Main Proposal:** 0808-1-063-proposal-OVERALL main proposal.doc

**Project Budget:** 0808-1-063-budget-OVERALL project budget.xls

**Qualifications:** 0808-1-063-qualifications-Organization Description - Phase VI Proposal.doc

**Map:** 0808-1-063-maps-Phase 6 Project Area Map.pdf

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**Table 1. Phase VI - Habitat Conservation Partnership Proposed Project Budget and Accomplishments**

Activity (Results)	Partners	LCCMR Request	Other Funds	Total	Acres	
					Grant	Partner
<b>1. Project Coordination, Mapping, Data Management</b>						
a) Project Coordination and Mapping	Pheasants Forever	\$ 100,000	0	\$ 100,000	0	0
SUBTOTAL		\$ 100,000	\$ -	\$ 100,000	0	0
<b>2. Restoration &amp; Management</b>						
a) Hides for Habitat - Restoration	Minnesota Deer Hunter's Association	\$ 100,000	\$ 75,000	\$ 175,000	75	0
b) Partners for Wildlife	U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service	75,000	75,000	150,000	150	150
c) Shallow Lake Enhancement	Ducks Unlimited	400,000	100,000	500,000	300	100
d) Shallow Lake Assessment and Management	DNR Wildlife	390,000	0	390,000	600	0
g) Wildlife Areas Management	DNR Wildlife	70,000	0	70,000	0	0
h) Fisheries Habitat Restoration	DNR Fisheries	200,000	0	200,000	25	0
i) Set Out Seedlings/Bluffland Restoration	National Wild Turkey Federation	137,000	73,000	210,000	300	140
j) Lakescaping	DNR Ecological Services	85,000	8,000	93,000	8 sites	
k) Prairie Management	DNR Ecological Services	150,000	-	150,000	950	0
n) Campaign for Conservation - Rest	The Nature Conservancy	400,000	400,000	800,000	1362	1361
o) Working Lands Partnership	Friends of Detroit Lakes WMD	50,000	50,000	100,000	50	50
SUBTOTAL		2,057,000	781,000	2,838,000	3,812	1,801
<b>3. Conservation Easement Programs</b>						
a) Shoreland Protection Program	Minnesota Land Trust	\$ 400,000	1,000,000	\$ 1,400,000	240	360
c) Shallow Lake Easements	Ducks Unlimited	400,000	400,000	800,000	200	200
d) Wetlands Reserve Program	Ducks Unlimited/USDA NRCS	580,000	4,000,000	4,580,000	-	3,000
SUBTOTAL		\$ 1,380,000	\$5,400,000	\$ 6,780,000	440	3560
<b>4. Habitat Acquisition Programs</b>						
a) Critical Lands Conservation Initiative	Pheasants Forever	\$ 975,000	\$ 975,000	\$ 1,950,000	325	325
b) Fisheries Land Acquisition	DNR Fisheries	750,000	0	750,000	300	0
c) Critical Lands Protection Program	Trust for Public Land	950,000	950,000	1,900,000	60	60
f) Campaign for Conservation	The Nature Conservancy	400,000	400,000	800,000	200	235
h) MN Valley Refuge Expansion	MN Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust	200,000	200,000	400,000	40	40
i) Professional Services	DNR Wildlife	50,000	-	50,000	-	-
SUBTOTAL		\$ 3,325,000	\$2,525,000	\$ 5,850,000	925	660
<b>5. Acceleration of Threatened Habitat Protection</b>						
a) Pelican Lake Acquisition Acceleration	Ducks Unlimited	\$ 1,000,000	\$500,000	\$1,500,000	77	38
b) Driftless Trout Stream Easement Acceleration	DNR Fisheries	\$ 1,000,000	0	\$ 1,000,000	11 miles	1 mile
SUBTOTAL		\$ 2,000,000	\$ 500,000	\$ 2,500,000	77	38
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$ 8,862,000</b>	<b>\$9,206,000</b>	<b>\$ 18,068,000</b>	<b>5,254</b>	<b>6,059</b>

## MAIN PROPOSAL

### PROJECT TITLE: Minnesota's Habitat Conservation Partnership Phase VI

#### I. PROJECT STATEMENT:

A total of 11,313 acres will be restored, enhanced or protected through this proposal. Please see the attached Table 1 and individual partner proposals for detail. The mission of the Habitat Conservation Partnership is to restore, enhance and conserve habitat for the purpose of sustaining fish, wildlife and plant communities for all generations. Minnesota's Habitat Conservation Partnership (Partnership), formerly the Habitat Corridors Partnership, was formed in 2000 to provide a framework for statewide land conservation in partnership with the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund. The Partnership addresses many of the recommendations cited in the *Statewide Conservation and Preservation Plan Final Plan – Phase II, June 30, 2008* (SCPP) and it agrees wholeheartedly with the plan when it states "...**habitat issues are arguably the most important issues facing the conservation and preservation of natural resources throughout Minnesota.**" Our approach is designed to address habitat loss, habitat degradation and habitat fragmentation in a focused way towards improving the connectivity and the functionality of priority habitat while providing public benefits of wildlife, soil, water, access, and quality of life. We address habitat issues by doing habitat restoration, habitat enhancement, and permanent habitat protection (easement and fee-title). Below are SCPP recommendations that this proposal addresses:

#### SCPP Habitat Recommendations Addressed:

Recommendation #1: **Priority Land Protection** – We will protect 5,700-acres of priority habitats through easement and fee-title acquisition. Data considered includes but is not limited to – County Biological Survey, Thunderstorm Map, publicly available protected habitat maps (WMA's, SNA's, WPA's, WRP, RIM, USFWS easements, Prairie Bank, etc ). A majority of this work builds upon existing investments in habitat in an effort to enhance the function and connectivity of the habitat desired. Recommendation #2: **Protect Critical Shorelands of streams and lakes** – This proposal protects and restores shorelines of rivers, streams, lakes, and shallow lakes. Permanent protection in 3a, 3c, 4b, 5a, 5b and a priority consideration for 4a, 4c, 4f, and 4h. Restoration, enhancement and baseline data gathering for shoreline habitats in 2c, 2d, 2g, 2h, 2j and possibly others. Recommendation #3: **Improve connectivity and access to outdoor recreation**. Fee-title acquisition proposals provide public access to 1,585 acres of priority habitat. An additional 12 miles of trout streams will be open to public access (5b). Recommendation #4: **Restore and protect shallow lakes**. Enhancement and protection of shallow lakes is a priority as exhibited in proposals 2c, 2d, 3c, 5a. Partners also coordinate fee-title and easement acquisition opportunities as they arise due to landowner wishes. Recommendation #5: **Restore land, wetlands, and wetland associated watersheds**. A majority of the work described does this. Wetland and grassland protection and restoration are priorities for the following work plans: 2a, 2b, 2g, 2k, 2n, 2o, 3d, 4a, 4f, 4h, 5a. Recommendation #6: **Protect and restore critical in-water habitat of lakes and streams**. 5b, 4b, 3a, 2j, 2h address this recommendation. Proposed work includes restoration of degraded stream banks (2h, 4b, 5b), protection of in-stream habitat and stream buffers (5b, 4b), protection and restoration of shoreline (3a, 4b, 5b, 2j, 2h). Recommendation #7: **Keep water on the landscape**: Perennial vegetation (primarily in the agricultural zone) will be protected, enhanced or restored on both public and private lands. Wetland & grassland restoration (2a, 2b, 2g, 2i, 2j, 2k, 2n, 2o, 3d), shoreline protection and enhancement (2c, 2d, 2g, 2h, 2j, 3a, 3c, 3d, 4a-l, 5a-b), tree/shrub planting (2g, 2i, 2o), Recommendation #13: **Habitat and landscape conservation education and training programs for all citizens**. Lakescaping (2j) addresses this by completing 8 demonstration sites and workshops to education lakeshore owners of their impacts. Also, many of the work plans that include personnel or in-kind opportunities to educate landowners and land-use decision makers on the values that habitat conservation have to wildlife, water, and quality of life (1a, 2b, 2c, 2d, 2i, 2j, 2k, 2n, 3a, 3c, 3d, 5a, 5b.) The work outlined by this proposal directly achieves the partnerships strategic objectives of bringing resources and strategies together to work in focused areas while leveraging additional resources to connect and restore Minnesota's fragmented habitats. We are fifteen formal partners bringing a committed \$9.2 million (greater than 1:1 ratio) in other non-state resources to bear on our natural resources. The design

and makeup of our project areas reflect areas of great need and opportunity to make a difference for wildlife habitat. As you can see from the history, the map has changed over time and we aim to be flexible and nimble enough to respond to changing needs or anticipated opportunities that allow us to collectively achieve our mission. Please see the attached Phase VI project area map which delineates where all Phase VI Partnership activities described in this proposal will occur. There are two additions to the Phase VI project area map that are noted in the updated project area map history.

## II. DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT RESULTS

**Result 1: Project Coordination, Mapping, Data Management; Budget: \$ 100,000 ETF, \$0 Other Funds.** Provide for the overall coordination, data management and mapping needs of the Habitat Conservation Partnership during the grant period. We also expect to analyze how the existing mapping efforts integrate with those considered by the SCPP.

Deliverable	Completion Date
1. Project mapping	6/30/10
2. Project Coordination	6/30/10
3. Project Reporting	6/30/10

**Result 2: Habitat Restoration and Management Budget: \$2,057,000 ETF, 781,000 Other Funds.** Restore, enhance or manage 5,613 acres (3,812 ETF, 1,801 Other Funds) of wetland, prairie, oak savannah, lakeshore, shallow lake, forest, bluffland, stream and river habitat.

Deliverable	Completion Date
1. Restore/enhance/manage 5,613 acres	6/30/10

**Result 3: Habitat Protection – Easement Acquisition Budget: \$1,380,000 ETF, 5,400,000 Other Funds.** Acquire the perpetual rights to permanently protect 4,000 acres (440 ETF, 3,560 Other Funds) of wetland, shoreland, prairie, grassland, lakeshore, shallow lake, forest, bluffland, stream and river habitat.

Deliverable	Completion Date
1. Acquire 4,000 acres in easement	6/30/10

**Result 4: Habitat Protection – Fee-title Acquisition Budget: \$3,325,000 ETF, 2,525,000 Other Funds.** Acquire fee-title to permanently protect 1,585 acres (925 ETF, 660 Other Funds) of wetland, shoreline, prairie, grassland, lakeshore, shallow lake, forest, bluffland, stream and river habitat.

Deliverable	Completion Date
1. Acquire 1,585 acres in fee-title	6/30/10

**Result 5: Acceleration of Threatened Habitat Protection Budget: \$2,000,000 ETF, 500,000 Other Funds.** Acquire fee-title to permanently protect 115 acres (77 ETF, 38 Other Funds) in and adjacent to Pelican Lake in Wright County. Acquire habitat and access easements on 12 miles (11 miles ETF, 1 mile other funds) of designated trout streams in the Mississippi Headwaters project area in Southeast Minnesota.

Deliverable	Completion Date
1. Acquire 115 acres in fee-title Pelican Lake	6/30/10
2. Acquire 12 miles of trout stream easement	6/30/10

## III. PROJECT STRATEGY AND TIMELINE

### A. Project Partners

There are fifteen active partners in this proposal phase. They include: Ducks Unlimited, Friends of the Detroit Lakes Wetland Management District, Minnesota Deer Hunter's Association, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (Wildlife, Fisheries, Ecological Services), Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund, Minnesota Land Trust, Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc., National Wild Turkey Federation, Pheasants Forever, The Nature Conservancy, Trust For Public Land, U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. The nature of 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 over 100,000 individual members and volunteers of NGO partners (MDHA, DU, NWTF, TNC, PF). Three partners voluntarily opted out of participating in the Phase VI proposal due to work load, and continue to be active in the partnership. They are: Minnesota

Board of Water and Soil Resources, Fond du Lac Reservation, Leech Lake Reservation. Please see the Table 1 attachment for a summary of partners proposed work.

**B. Project Impact**

The work outlined in this proposal moves to address several goals outlined in existing habitat/resource plans including: Aquatic Management Area Plan, Wildlife Management Area Plan, Statewide Duck Recovery Plan, Minnesota Pheasant Plan, Statewide Conservation and Preservation Plan, and several others. The impact of our work can be seen on the landscape through this partnership effort, several examples have been presented to the LCMR and LCCMR showing how the focused, partnership approach that leverages additional funds to build upon existing habitats to increase function and connection is working. Species impacts are varied, but we are protecting and restoring habitats that provide for hundreds of species of concern and import to Minnesotans.

**C. Time** The Partnership voted to propose a twelve month grant beginning July 1, 2009 and ending on June 30, 2010.

**D. Long-Term Strategy:** At proposal, we are in year seven of a proposed 10-biennia partnership. The pressure on the land continues to increase, and the need for habitat restoration and protection is more important than ever. We hope to continue to work with LCCMR to be a catalyst for the long term restoration and protection of our diverse habitat and natural resources.

## Project Budget

### OVERALL HABITAT CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP PHASE VI PROPOSAL

#### IV. TOTAL PROJECT REQUEST BUDGET

<u>BUDGET ITEM</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>% FTE</u>
Personnel: All personnel expenditures are detailed within individual proposals	\$ 869,874	%
Contracts: All contract expenditures are detailed within individual proposals	\$ 1,339,626	
Equipment/Tools: All equipment expenditures are detailed within individual proposals	\$ 41,500	
Acquisition (Including Easements): 440 acres of easement with 12 miles of trout streams (DNR-AMA, USDA-WRP, MLT). 1,002 acres fee title acquisition (WMA, SNA, WPA, TNC, AMA)	\$ 5,740,000	
Restoration: 3,812 acres of wetland, prairie, oak savannah, lakeshore, shallow lake, forest, bluffland, stream and river habitat.	\$ 530,000	
Other: All 'other' expenditures are detailed within individual proposals	\$ 341,000	
<b>TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET REQUEST TO LCCMR</b>	<b>\$ 8,862,000</b>	

#### V. OTHER FUNDS

<u>SOURCE OF FUNDS</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>Status</u>
Remaining \$ From Previous Trust Fund Appropriation: The Partnership recently embarked on its Phase V allocation of \$ 3,150,000. As of May 2008, the Partnership had \$2,828,740 remaining unspent in Phase IV. Expenditures for both of these phases are ongoing and are to be fully expended by the time (7/1/09) this proposal funds could be available. An updated report on Phase IV and V is to be completed on 12/01/08.	\$ 5,978,740	ETF funds appropriated in Habitat Conservation Partnership Phases IV (2007) & V (2008) will be spent prior to July 1, 2009
Other Non-State \$ Being Leveraged During Project Period: One of the Partnership objectives is to bring federal and private non-state funds to bear on Minnesota's natural resource and habitat. Sources of these funds are non-state and will not leverage any other state funds.	\$ 9,206,000	The Partnership has collectively committed \$9,206,000 to this proposal
Other State \$ Being Spent During Project Period: Detailed in individual proposals	\$ 2,965,000	
In-kind Services During Project Period: Detailed in individual proposals	\$ 14,000	
Past Spending: The Partnership expended \$4,032,739 of ETF dollars during Phase III (2005) and \$12,321,671 in other funds	\$ 4,032,739	

## 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 73 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

Matt Holland, Senior Field Coordinator  
Pheasants Forever, Inc.

679 West River Drive, New London, MN 56273

B.A. Biology - Gustavus Adolphus College, St. Peter Minnesota, 1993

M.S. Wildlife Science - South Dakota State University, Brookings, SD, 1997



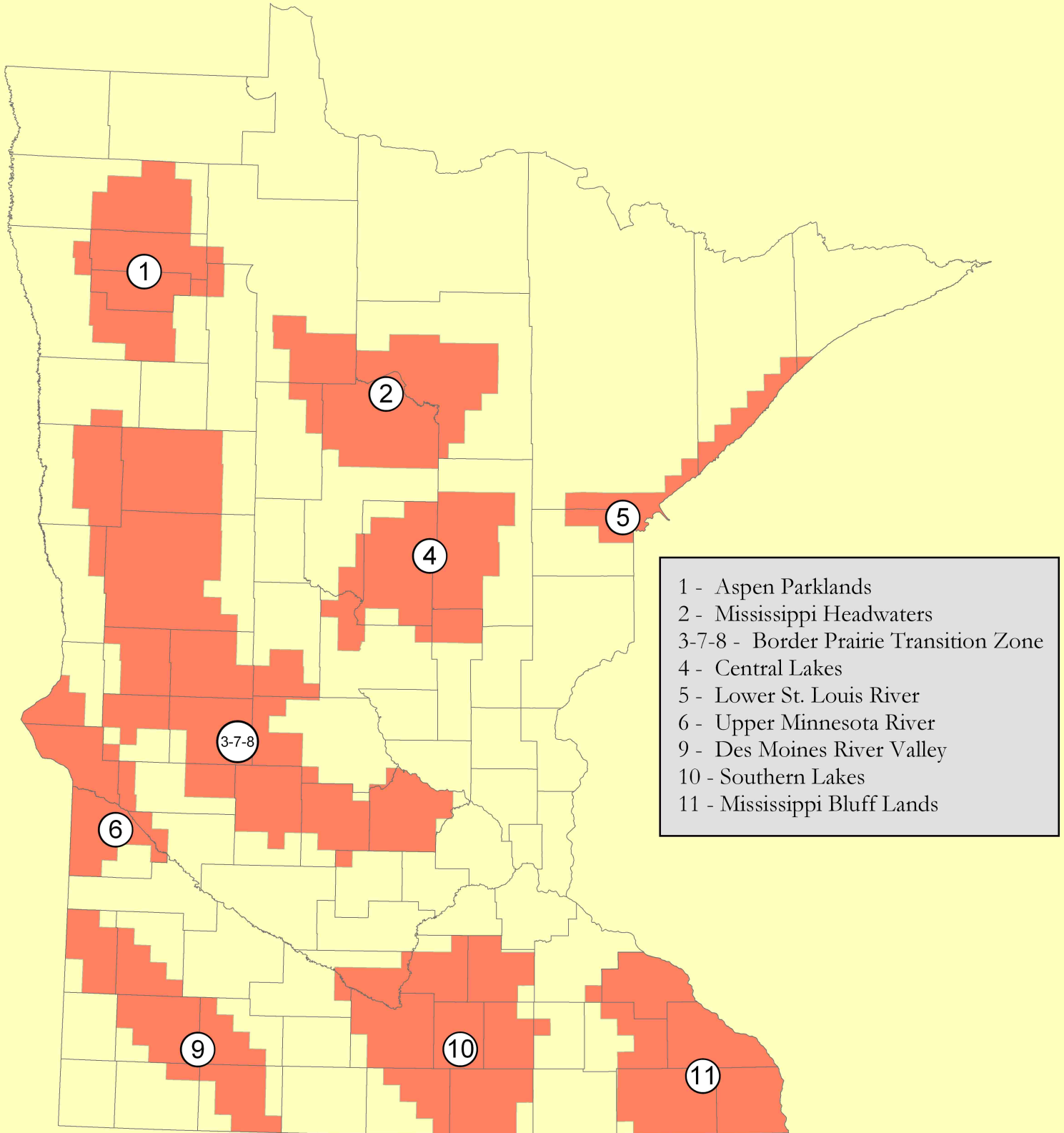
The project manager experience includes coordinating the 18-partner Habitat Conservation (formerly corridors) Partnership since 2002. Also, the project manager administered or is currently administering the following grants:

1. LCMR Prairie Heritage Fund -Phase 1 \$500,000
2. LCMR Prairie Heritage Fund - Phase 2 \$500,000
3. LCMR Prairie Heritage Fund - Phase 3 \$800,000 (Habitat Corridors Partnership)
4. LCMR Critical Lands Conservation Initiative - \$430,000 (Habitat Corridors Partnership)
5. NAWCA Prairie Wetlands Conservation Initiative - Phase I \$ 785,500
6. NAWCA Prairie Wetlands Conservation Initiative - Phase II \$1,000,000
7. NAWCA Centennial Pothole Venture - Phase I \$1,000,000
8. NAWCA Northern Tallgrass Prairie Wetland Conservation Initiative Phase III \$1,000,000
9. NAWCA Border Prairie Wetlands - \$1,000,000
10. NAWCA Shell Rock River Watershed Project - \$50,000
11. NAWCA Mud Lake WMA Project - \$50,000
12. DNR WMA Enhancement Grants - \$115,000
13. NFWF Minnesota Buffer Enrollment Program - \$50,000
14. NFWF CP23a and CREP Incentive Program - \$150,000

The project manager also has participated in the Prairie Pothole Joint Venture Management Board, MN Wetland Restoration Strategy Committee, WMA Citizen Advisory Committee, Pheasant Stamp Oversight Committee, Budget Oversight Committee (DNR), Farmland Wildlife Committee, Farm Bill Assistance Partnership, Non-toxic Shot Advisory Committee, State Technical Committee (USDA).

# Habitat Conservation Partnership Proposed Phase VI Project Areas

-Restoring Minnesota's Fish and Wildlife Habitat Corridors-





# Restoring Minnesota's Fish and Wildlife Habitat Corridors

## *A Brief History*

The general concept of focusing conservation efforts in geographic areas with the greatest need and opportunity is intuitively attractive. Applying this approach to the problem of habitat fragmentation makes sense to most conservationists. It was this approach that formed the basis for the project proposal Restoring Minnesota's Fish and Wildlife Habitat Corridors submitted to LCMR in 2000. It was heralded as a fresh approach to bringing together conservation partners, differing restoration and protection strategies, and consolidated funding to a new level of coordination. Even before the project was officially approved, members of LCMR wanted to know more about where the corridors would be and what kinds of activities would be funded.

In response, a group of partners led by the Minnesota Waterfowl Association and in consult with the Citizens Advisory Committee to the LCMR was convened to identify target areas, or "corridors", to form the backbone of the proposal. The complexity of the issue became immediately apparent. The state of Minnesota is highly variable in terms of natural resources, threats to these resources, loss of the resources, potential for protection and restoration, and the agencies and nongovernmental organizations committed to sound resource management.

The first step was to apply a geographic information system to map important aspects of the existing resource base. The basic elements were forests, grasslands, water, and land use. Data layers included mapped information from state and federal agencies. Examples included: Wildlife Management Areas, RIM easements, the Minnesota Natural Heritage Database, rivers, and shallow lakes.

More information about important resources areas was gathered through regional meetings with Department of Natural Resources and U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service field staff throughout the state. The information was further refined through meetings with individual partners. The meetings with partners also served to identify information related to partner specific priorities and restrictions.

The three basic geographic concepts created through these meetings were: Spatial Corridors, Linear Corridors and Project Areas.

**Project Areas:** These areas were the actual areas identified for focusing projects within the LCMR proposal and work plans. Project areas included spatial and linear corridors but were modified by political, cultural, and practical considerations. While the two types of corridors were driven primarily by natural resource considerations, the project areas were driven by organization resource considerations. There were spirited discussions concerning the appropriate size and configuration of the project areas as they were identified on maps. Some partners wanted to limit the size of the areas in order to concentrate project dollars in specific areas of high priority to their organization. Others favored larger areas to allow flexibility in identification of projects for funding and completion. Meetings were held with the 14 Restoring Minnesota's Fish and Wildlife Corridors Project Partners to determine which spatial or linear corridors in the State projects will be performed for the LCMR grant. Each Project Partner selected a combination of 3 linear and/or 3 spatial corridors throughout the State where they will perform restoration & management programs, conservation easement programs, or habitat acquisition programs for the grant. Those corridors that were selected became the boundaries for the Corridor Project Areas theme. Community GIS Services then on-screen digitized the polygons.

In the end, eleven project areas were identified that sought to balance opportunities for all the partners while focusing the habitat protection and restoration efforts on key areas of Minnesota. Phase I of the Minnesota Habitat Corridors Partnership completed work within the eleven identified project areas. In Phase II & III, only minor changes were made to the some project areas. Future Phases may change the project area boundaries when justified, but it has been agreed that the total project area acreage would not increase.

With the sole intent of improving opportunities for Minnesota's natural resources via the Habitat Corridors Partnership, the Partnership has revised the project area map for Phase IV in the following ways:

- 1) Reduced Project Areas 2, 4, and 5 due to inactivity (see attached project accomplishment map) and/or opportunity.
- 2) Extended Project Area 5 up the north shore of Lake Superior

- 3) Connected project areas 3, 7, & 8 to better reflect the connectivity of the glacial ridge landscape. Also, this will reduce confusion of Project Areas being separated by short distances.
- 4) Expanded Project Area 1 to encompass the Red Lake Nation as a Partner
- 5) All project areas are now based on township bounds so that project eligibility questions are clear. It is understood that if part of the project lies within the project area, that the entire project is eligible (e.g. township line bisecting a lake, land ownership, restoration or enhancement project)
- 6) Added the area that includes ACUB (Camp Ripley Army Compatible Use Buffer) due to the opportunity to leverage significant resources for Minnesota's natural resources. The area includes 18 miles of undeveloped Mississippi River shoreline, the relatively undisturbed 53,000 acres of Camp Ripley, important segments of the Crow Wing River and other tributaries, and intact examples of hardwoods forests. Federal funding for ACUB could help leverage another \$2 million per year, and the area is included in a recently funded NAWCA project.
- 7) Added the Prairie Coteau in Southwestern Minnesota due to the importance to waterfowl, prairie conservation, and significant opportunities to work with private landowners on wildlife water, and habitat conservation. This area also is the focus of a \$1 million North American Waterfowl Conservation Act proposal and includes focus areas of the Working Lands Initiative. This landscape was also identified as a spatial corridor in the original Habitat Corridors Partnership planning process.

There are two changes to the Phase VI project area map that are noted in the map history. First, we added all of the coldwater resources of the Root River Watershed in Fillmore County and the remainder of Wabasha County to the Mississippi Blufflands Project Area (Southeast Minnesota). The ancient terrain of the Driftless Area is blessed with one of the highest concentrations of limestone spring creeks in the world. The resulting world-class trout angling draws anglers from all parts of the US and beyond. The steep terrain and vast hardwood forests also provide excellent hunting. The combination of trout angling, turkey hunting and deer hunting has proven irresistible to groups of sportsmen seeking to acquire their own private hunting and fishing areas. Opportunities to acquire additional public access are quickly disappearing. In addition, recent changes in the farm economy have resulted in marginal cropland being put back into production. The fragile terrain of the Driftless Area is particularly sensitive to erosion and recent rain events have had devastating results. Additional protection to bluffland areas is badly needed. Acquisition and restoration are not the only solutions to the challenges facing the Driftless Areas, but these are the specific tools offered by Habitat Conservation Partnership. Secondly, we add one township in Big Stone County back (it was inadvertently omitted due to the project not occurring in the Phase IV project area map change) into the Minnesota River Uplands project area. The potential for Moonshine Lake to be restored at some point in the future and knowing that a strong partnership approach using multiple tools and partners that includes funding and support of the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund and the Habitat Conservation Partnership to bring this project to reality. The restoration of this lake would provide significant habitat, water quality, flooding, and public benefits.

The Partnership realizes that whenever lines are drawn on a map and priorities set, that important resources are excluded. The map of project areas for the Phase IV Habitat Corridors Partnership reflects our collective best effort to focus investments in resource conservation and build upon existing investments to garner the most benefit for the resource dollar. The Partnership understands that by doing so, Minnesota's resources will be well served and that as resources, priorities and opportunities change, that the Partnership will be nimble and prescient enough to best bring resource conservation benefits to all Minnesotans through its partnership with the Environmental Trust Fund. **Spatial corridors:** Spatial corridors are broad areas that include resources of interest to the partners. An example is the headwaters of the Minnesota River valley. This area includes a relative abundance of wetlands and native prairie as well as major state and federal management areas. Meetings were held at Community GIS Services offices with resource managers from MN DNR wildlife and the Minnesota Waterfowl Association Staff. At these meetings, corridor delineations were on-screen digitized based upon the spatial corridor criteria including: 1) Clusters of shallow lakes that provide important production and migration benefits to waterfowl, 2) Concentrations of 500 acre of larger shallow lakes that provide greater security and resources, areas of historical significance to waterfowl, other migratory birds, and wetland wildlife, 3) Relationships to high density waterfowl production areas 4) Recommendations of resource managers and project partners. The associated data and spatial corridors were

printed on large format paper and brought to project partner meetings and resource manager meetings with USFWS and MN DNR wildlife staff where corrections and additions were made. The spatial corridors were then clipped to project areas.

**Linear Corridors:** Linear corridors are relatively narrow bands of resources that generally follow distinct geologic features or river corridors and often occurred within one or more spatial corridors. An example is the riparian area along the Cannon River in southeastern Minnesota. Meetings were held at each MN DNR Regional Office throughout the state where approximately 35-40 maps with mylar overlays containing the information listed below was presented to resource managers from MN DNR wildlife, forestry and fisheries staff. At these meetings corridor delineations were made on mylar overlays that contained important habitat and protected land linkages by the resource managers. The maps and mylar overlays were brought back to the Community GIS Services offices. There, with the oversight of Corridors Partners, linear corridors were delineated either based upon ArcView Shapefile buffers of rivers/streams or by selecting groups of sections from the MN DNR Section Level Public Land Survey and creating ArcView Shapefiles. These ArcView Shapefiles of linear corridors ere merged in ArcView and clipped to the 11 project area polygons.