

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

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**LCCMR ID: B14.03**

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**Project Title:** HCP - Partners for Fish and Wildlife (2b)

**Total Project Budget:** \$ \$75,000

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

**Other Non-State Funds:** \$ 75,000

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**First Name:** Sheldon

**Last Name:** Myerchin

**Sponsoring Organization:** US Fish and Wildlife Service

**Address:** 434 Great Oak Dr

Waite Park MN 56387

**Telephone Number:** 320-253-4682

**Email:** sheldon\_myerchin@fws.gov

**Fax:** 320-253-0710

**Web Address:** <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/>

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**Region:**

Statewide

**County Name:**

Statewide

**City / Township:**

**Summary:** The Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program will provide technical and financial assistance to Minnesota landowners to complete 150 acres of wetland and prairie restoration and/or enhancement projects.

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**Main Proposal:** 0808-1-024-proposal-Final 2008 WP.xls

**Project Budget:** 0808-1-024-budget-Final 2008 WP.xls

**Qualifications:** 0808-1-024-qualifications-Final 2008 WP.xls

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# MAIN PROPOSAL

**PROJECT TITLE:** Restoring Minnesota's Fish and Wildlife Habitat: Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program (2b), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

**Minnesota's Habitat Conservation Partnership Phase VI**  
[www.mnhabitatcorridors.org](http://www.mnhabitatcorridors.org)

## I. PROJECT STATEMENT:

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 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 existing investments in habitat. 2) **Focus**: The Phase V proposal will work in nine project areas encompassing 27,442 mi<sup>2</sup>. All work proposed will occur within the identified project areas. These areas were identified as focus areas where resource conservation priorities and opportunity overlap 3) **Leverage**: the objective of this partnership is to bring more resources to bear on Minnesota's conservation need by identifying non-state contributions to accelerate habitat conservation by maximizing the results from limited funding through the Environmental Trust Fund.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Partners for Fish and Wildlife (PFW) Program will provide technical and financial assistance for willing Minnesota landowners to complete agreed upon wetland and upland restoration or enhancement projects. The PFW Program provides the opportunity to work with individual private landowners and other entities to complete habitat restoration projects on lands that often are not eligible for other conservation programs such as those offered by USDA. It also provides the opportunity to work with other members of the Habitat Conservation Partnership or other partners that have acquired easements or fee title property where USFWS personnel provide the technical and financial assistance to complete habitat restoration projects on those tracts acquired and protected in perpetuity. Priority for funding will be given to those project sites purchased in fee title by partnering agencies and organizations and properties protected by perpetual or long-term easements. All habitats restored or enhanced will be protected for no less than 10 years through agreements between the USFWS and the respective landowners. Restored wetland sites will provide increased wildlife habitat, flood attenuation, ground water recharge, pollutant trapping, and scenic and recreational benefits. Restored native prairie sites will provide increased grassland nesting cover for birds, winter cover for resident wildlife, and improve water quality by reducing soil erosion. Native prairie remnants will be enhanced by removing invasive species. Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ETF) funding in the amount of \$75,000 will be used to accelerate the USFWS existing PFW Program which will match the \$75,000, through voluntary restoration of an estimated total of 100 acres of wetland habitat on private lands within the nine Project Areas. An estimated total of 200 acres of upland/native prairie restoration or enhancement projects within the nine Project Areas will also be funded. ETF funds will be expended by transfer to a dedicated USFWS grant fund account for payment of expenditures on completed projects as they occur.

## II. DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT RESULTS

**Result 1: Partners for Fish and Wildlife - Restoration      Budget: \$ 75,000.00**

USFWS staff will provide technical and financial assistance to Habitat Conservation Partnership (HCP) members, other partners and /or private landowners to restore or enhance 50 acres of wetland and 100 acres of upland prairie habitat in the HCP Project Areas. Wetlands are restored or enhanced through the:

construction of drainage ditch plugs; embankment or berm construction; disrupting sub-surface drain-tile systems; removal of excess sediment; and installation of water control structures and fish barriers. Upland prairie habitat is restored by: reseeding native prairie onto former tilled cropland; inter-seeding into degraded pastures or other grasslands; and removal of invasive species on prairie remnants and seeded prairie grasslands. ETF Grant and Other funds will be used to hire contractors and purchase needed supplies and materials to complete the restoration projects. The “other funds” provided by the USFWS at a minimum 1:1 match on this proposal are dollars devoted to on-the-ground accomplishments of wetland and grassland restoration or enhancement projects. With the USFWS “other funds” contribution an addition 50 acres of wetland and 100 acres of upland will be restored. The USFWS does not account for the salary and infrastructure of its field staff performing the work to complete these projects which would be at least equal to the amount of grant funds and other funds expended. Several projects may also bring in contributions of additional “other” funds from landowners or other non-HCP partners to complete quality wildlife habitat as project plans are finalized

<b>Deliverable</b>	<b>Completion Date</b>
<b>1. Wetland Restoration/Enhancement- 100 acres</b>	<b>June 30, 2010</b>
<b>2. Upland Restoration/Enhancement – 200 acres</b>	<b>June 30, 2010</b>

### **III. PROJECT STRATEGY AND TIMELINE**

#### **A. Project Partners**

This proposal is part of the Habitat Conservation Partnership Phase VI Proposal. Please see the main proposal for a complete list of partners involved.

#### **B. Project Impact**

Restored or enhanced wetland sites will provide increased wildlife habitat, flood attenuation, ground water recharge, pollutant trapping, and scenic and recreational benefits. Restored prairie grassland sites will provide increased nesting cover for several species of grassland dependant birds whose populations are in steep decline; winter cover for resident wildlife; and improve water quality by reducing soil erosion. Native prairie remnants will be enhanced by removing invasive plant species.

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

#### **D. Long-Term Strategy**

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.

## Project Budget

### IV. TOTAL PROJECT REQUEST BUDGET - Partners for Fish and Wildlife (2b)

<u>BUDGET ITEM</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
<b>Personnel:</b>	N/A
<b>Contracts:</b>	N/A
<b>Equipment/Tools:</b>	N/A
<b>Acquisition (including Easements)</b>	N/A
<b>Restoration:</b> 50 acres of wetlands will be restored and 100 acres of prairie grassland will be restored or enhanced	\$ 75,000
<b>Other:</b> <i>List by item and explain.</i>	N/A
<b>TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET REQUEST TO LCCMR</b>	\$ 75,000

### V. OTHER FUNDS

<u>SOURCE OF FUNDS</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
<b>Remaining \$ From Previous Trust Fund Appropriation (if applicable):</b> Funding cited is from: Minnesota Laws 2008, Chapter 367, Section 2, Subdivision 3(c)2b	\$ 30,000
<b>Other Non-State \$ Being Leveraged During Project Period:</b> Funds cited are from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service program budget and are pending based on approval of this proposal.	\$ 75,000
<b>Other State \$ Being Spent During Project Period:</b>	\$ -
<b>In-kind Services During Project Period:</b>	\$ -
<b>Past Spending:</b> <i>List money spent or to be spent on this specific project, cash and/or in-kind, for 2-year timeframe prior to July 1, 2009</i>	\$ 64,867

The Project Manager is the Minnesota State Coordinator of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Partners for Fish and Wildlife private lands habitat restoration program and has served in that capacity for the past 5 years. The Partners for Fish and Wildlife program has been actively restoring wetlands and grasslands in Minnesota for over 20 years. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is a federal agency within the Department of Interior and is responsible for the management of the National Wildlife Refuge System; migratory birds and anadromous fish; and federally listed threatened and endangered species.