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

LCCMR ID: B14.04

Project Title: HCP - Shallow Lake Enhancement (2c)

Total Project Budget: $ $400,000

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

Other Non-State Funds: $ 100,000

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Region:	County Name:	City / Township:
Statewide	Statewide	

Summary: DU will provide bio-engineering technical assistance to DNR and USF&WS to survey, design and install water control structures and fish barriers to improve 400 acres of degraded shallow lake habitat.

Main Proposal: 0808-1-049-proposal-DU HCP Phase VI Part 2C Proposal.doc

Project Budget: 0808-1-049-budget-DU HCP Phase VI Part 2C Project Budget.xls

Qualifications: 0808-1-049-qualifications-DU Manager Qulalifications & Organization Description.doc

Map: 0808-1-049-maps-Map DU 2009 HCP 2C.jpg

Letter of Resolution: 0808-1-049-resolution-DU Board Authorization Letter LCCMR 2008.pdf

MAIN PROPOSAL

PROJECT TITLE: Shallow Lake Enhancement, Ducks Unlimited Living Lakes

Minnesota's Habitat Conservation Partnership Phase VI, 2c
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 VI proposal will work in nine project areas encompassing 27,442 mi^2. 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.

Ducks Unlimited (DU) works in a focused, strategic approach to assess, improve and protect the aquatic ecology and water quality of shallow lakes for waterfowl and other wildlife in partnership with Minnesota DNR's shallow lakes program (HCP part 2d) under our "Living Lakes" initiative. DU uses the combination of private and state expense to leverage federal funds to further accelerate our shallow lake improvement and protection work far beyond what could accomplished by working independently. DU provides the bio-engineering expertise and capacity to improve the structural management capacity of key shallow lakes, while DNR provides the technical assessment expertise for monitoring and evaluation, and long-term lake management field staff capacity. All structures designed and constructed by DU are used by DNR or FWS agency field staff for shallow lake management purposes. This involves temporary, two-year water level draw-downs to rejuvenate aquatic ecology and restore water quality that promotes the germination and growth of aquatic plants. These aquatic plants support aquatic invertebrates and help sustain water quality improvements for years to come before additional managed draw-downs are required in the future. Through these combined efforts and by working with other HCP partners that include Pheasants Forever, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS), and the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service, DU and DNR are now improving and protecting shallow lakes and their surrounding prairie wetland complexes more effectively and efficiently than would otherwise be possible.

II. DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT RESULTS

Result 1: Shallow Lake Enhancement through Management Structures **Budget: $**400,000

Description: DU will provide bio-engineering technical assistance to DNR and FWS to assess degraded shallow lake condition and upland impacts, survey and engineer design reports for new water control structures and fish barriers that include assessments of lakeshed drainage impacts, manage construction of new water control and fish barrier structures, and provide technical assistance to agencies and landowners regarding both improvement and management of shallow lakes and their surrounding shoreland. Lake assessments, including both pre and post project shallow lake surveys, will be performed in partnership with DNR's shallow lakes program to meet LCCMR monitoring and evaluation requirements. DNR, through HCP part 2d, will coordinate the collection and analysis of shallow lake assessment survey data and provide to DU for reporting. At least one shallow lake totaling 400 wetland acres will be structurally enhanced through this grant.

Deliverables **Completion Date**

1. Engineer (survey + design) 2 water control structures to enhancement lakes. June 2010
2. Implement (construct) previously designed lake structure project on 400 acres. June 2010
3. Provide technical assistance to DNR/FWS to assess and improve 5 new lakes. June 2010

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. In addition to the partners listed therein, DU works very closely with Minnesota DNR Shallow Lakes Program and Wildlife field staff, Pheasants Forever, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS), and USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). DU works in close partnership with and assists the DNR Shallow Lakes Program, which coordinates both pre and post enhancement project assessments to monitor and evaluate shallow lake condition and management results, impacts of upland land use and invasive fish, and develops management plans to guide agency use of lake management water control structures and fish barriers. Meanwhile, DU also works with USDA's NRCS to enroll willing shallow lake shoreline landowners in the Wetlands Reserve Program to help restore degraded lake sheds.

B. Project Impact

DU will help DNR assess multiple shallow lakes, design new structures and management plans for shallow lakes, and implement other previously engineered shallow lake structures that will be used to restore shallow lake aquatic ecology and water quality. The combination of this work will occur throughout the prairie and forest-prairie transition zone ecoregions of Minnesota in several different HCP project areas, and will benefit a wide variety of waterfowl and wetland wildlife species and several different human communities. These projects will improve water quality in both shallow lakes and the downstream water resources into which they flow, and will provide both consumptive (e.g., hunting and fishing) and non-consumptive (bird watching, swimming) human use benefits.

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.

DU will work with the Minnesota DNR's shallow lakes program and agency field staff from both DNR and FWS to manage and assess shallow lake condition into the future on all our shallow lake projects, included those funded through this LCCMR grant. These shallow lake assessments constitute a long-term monitoring and evaluation program that DNR coordinates in partnership with DU and FWS. Shallow lakes are assessed prior to management to document baseline degraded conditions, and are then subjected to management actions that include the use of water control structures to induce a 2-year temporary draw-down of water levels to rejuvenate their aquatic ecology. These managed draw-downs simulate drought conditions, consolidate sediments and nutrients, aerate wetland soils, and promote the germination and growth of aquatic plants. Upon reflooding, these revegetated basins support long-term improvements in water quality and habitat value for waterfowl and other wetland wildlife. Once water levels return following draw-downs, the DNR shallow lakes program coordinates future post-project lake assessments to fulfill monitoring and evaluation requirement of LCCMR and to provide information to agency managers for their use in planning future management actions to maintain or restore improvements. Meanwhile, DU works with agency partners and landowners to restore and protect shorelines and surrounding shoreland.

Project Budget

Habitat Conservation Partnership, Phase 6 Part 2C
Shallow Lake Enhancements, Ducks Unlimited Living Lakes Initiative

IV. TOTAL PROJECT REQUEST BUDGET

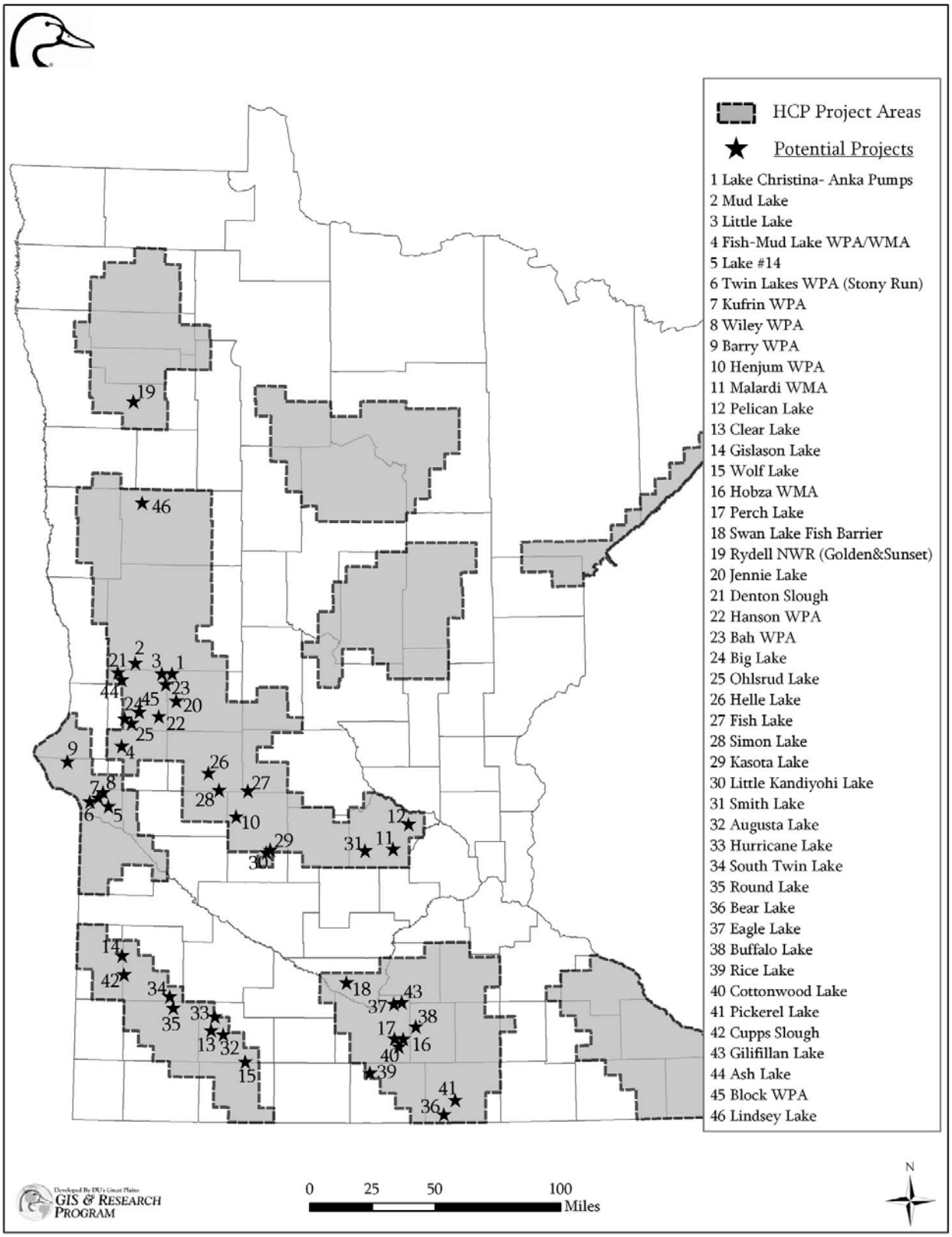
BUDGET ITEM	AMOUNT	% FTE
Personnel: DU Regional Engineer (multiple staff)	$ 44,000	50%
Personnel: Engineering Technicians (multiple staff)	$ 36,000	50%
Personnel: Field Biologist	$ 40,000	60%
Personnel: Conservation Program Manager	$ 30,000	30%
Contracts: Two contracts for water control structures & fish barriers	$ 250,000	
Equipment/Tools:	$ -	
Acquisition (Including Easements):	$ -	
Restoration:	$ -	
Other:	$ -	
TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET REQUEST TO LCCMR	$ 400,000	

V. OTHER FUNDS

SOURCE OF FUNDS	AMOUNT	Status
Remaining $ From Previous Trust Fund Appropriation (if applicable): Only $180,000, DU's 2008 LCCMR grant for HCP Phase 5 Part 2C, remains unobligated as of 8/25/2008, however, competitive construction bids for 3 projects are pending and contracts awarded in September 2008 to legally obligate these funds - therefore, this amount is effectively $0 as of 10/1/2008.	$ 180,000	ETF funds appropriated in Habitat Conservation Partneship (HCP) Phase V (2008) to be spent prior to July 1, 2009
Other Non-State $ Being Leveraged During Project Period: At least $100,000 of other non-state, federal grant funds from the US Fish & Wildlife Service will be spent during the 2009 LCCMR grant funding period, including $25,000 leveraged from the Service's Challenge Cost-share program and $75,000 from the North American Wetlands Conservatin Act grant program.	$ 100,000	DU has committed $100,000 to be expended through HCP Phase VI.
Other State $ Being Spent During Project Period: We anticipate that DNR will grant approximately $10,000 to DU for some of the same projects DU will fund with LCCMR grant funds during the grant funding period.	$ 10,000	DNR cost-share funding for shallow lake projects.
In-kind Services During Project Period:	$ -	HCP does not encourage this
Past Spending:	$ 480,000	HCP Phases IV & V

As Conservation Program Manager for Ducks Unlimited in Minnesota since 1999, Jon Schneider is responsible for all public grant management, partner coordination, and conservation program implementation to support Ducks Unlimited's Living Lakes Initiative. This involves significant project and program level coordination with agency partners and field staff, DU field biologists and engineers, DU land protection staff, and both DU support staff and administrators. Jon has been responsible for the development and management of DU's Minnesota conservation budgets totaling over $2 million annually, and has administered four LCCMR grants, six North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) grant, and multiple smaller DNR grants for individual projects since 1999. Jon is a Certified Wildlife Biologist and Professional Wetlands Scientist, and holds a B.S. degree in Business Administration & Biology from the State University of New York College at Oswego and an M.S. degree in Range & Wildlife Management from Texas A&M University.

The mission of Ducks Unlimited is to conserve, restore, and manage wetlands and associated habitats for North American's waterfowl. These habitats also benefit other wildlife and people. The continental vision of Ducks Unlimited is wetlands sufficient to fill the skies with waterfowl today, tomorrow, and forever. In Minnesota and Iowa, Ducks Unlimited is strategically focused on the conservation of shallow lakes through our "Living Lakes" conservation initiative. The vision of DU's Living Lakes Initiative is to establish stepping stones of perpetually protected and managed shallow lake complexes from southern Iowa through northern Minnesota to provide high quality wetland food and habitat resources for waterfowl. The initiative will help preserve this region's rich waterfowling heritage and support conservation of the primary source of its birds, the prairie breeding grounds. Since its founding in 1937, DU has raised more than $1.6 billion, which has contributed to the conservation of more than 11 million acres of prime wildlife habitat in all 50 states, each of the Canadian provinces, and in key areas of Mexico. In the U.S. Alone, DU has helped to conserve more than 2 million acres of waterfowl habitat. Some 900 species of wildlife live and flourish on DU projects, including many threatened or endangered species. DU conservation staff based in Minnesota work from home offices, and are supported by the Great Plains Regional Office staff in Bismarck, ND, and by DU National Office staff in Memphis, TN.


HCP Project Areas
Potential Projects
1 Lake Christina- Anka Pumps
2 Mud Lake
3 Little Lake
4 Fish-Mud Lake WPA/WMA
5 Lake #14
6 Twin Lakes WPA (Stony Run)
7 Kufrin WPA
8 Wiley WPA
9 Barry WPA
10 Henjum WPA
11 Malardi WMA
12 Pelican Lake
13 Clear Lake
14 Gislason Lake
15 Wolf Lake
16 Hobza WMA
17 Perch Lake
18 Swan Lake Fish Barrier
19 Rydell NWR (Golden&Sunset)
20 Jennie Lake
21 Denton Slough
22 Hanson WPA
23 Bah WPA
24 Big Lake
25 Ohlsrud Lake
26 Helle Lake
27 Fish Lake
28 Simon Lake
29 Kasota Lake
30 Little Kandiyohi Lake
31 Smith Lake
32 Augusta Lake
33 Hurricane Lake
34 South Twin Lake
35 Round Lake
36 Bear Lake
37 Eagle Lake
38 Buffalo Lake
39 Rice Lake
40 Cottonwood Lake
41 Pickerel Lake
42 Cupps Slough
43 Gilifillan Lake
44 Ash Lake
45 Block WPA
46 Lindsey Lake
Developed By DU's Great Plains GIS & Research Program
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