

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

LCCMR ID: B14.16

Project Title: HCP - Critical Lands Conservation Initiative - Acquisition (4a)

Total Project Budget: \$

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

Other Non-State Funds: \$ 975,000

First Name: Matt

Last Name: Holland

Sponsoring Organization: Pheasants Forever, Inc.

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Region:

County Name:

City / Township:

Statewide

Statewide

Summary: This project will provide habitat and public access to all Minnesotans on 650 acres of land that provides enhanced benefits due to its proximity to other habitats and/or value.

Main Proposal: 0808-1-046-proposal-4a main proposal.doc

Project Budget: 0808-1-046-budget-4a project budget.xls

Qualifications: 0808-1-046-qualifications-Organization Description - Phase VI Proposal.doc

Map:

Letter of Resolution: 0808-1-046-resolution-4a resolution letter.pdf

MAIN PROPOSAL

**PROJECT TITLE: Critical Lands Conservation Initiative – 4a
Pheasants Forever, Inc.**

Minnesota’s Habitat Conservation Partnership Phase VI
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. 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 CLCI meets the Strategic Objectives (Focus, Leverage, Partnership) of the Habitat Conservation Partnership (HCP) by building larger and complementing existing habitat complexes, focusing and leveraging local and federal funding (1:1 other funds), and building partnerships with both HCP and non-HCP partners. Often, we bring local government and conservation interests to bear on projects that the funding provided in this proposal catalyzes. Our work may occur in any of the proposed project areas, but we focus in areas 3 and 6-10.

II. DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT RESULTS

The Critical Lands Conservation Initiative (CLCI) will acquire 650 acres using ETF (325 acres) and partner (325 acres) funding. The focus will be on projects which adjoin or otherwise connect important wildlife habitat or projects which protect remnant prairie and or prairie wetland complexes. By protecting critical habitats (prairies, wetlands) and building larger complexes, the CLCI provides increased benefits to wildlife.

Result 1: Acquisition

Budget: \$950,000

Description:

PF will acquire 650 acres (325 ETF; 325 Other Funds) consistent with the priorities of building upon existing investments (e.g. additions to existing public trust habitats), enhance landscape function (e.g. provide for significant habitat improvement (i.e. wetland/grassland restoration) on the local or regional scale) or provide significant public access benefits. Marginal croplands and associated acreage that will be converted to a mix of restored prairie and associated wetlands, but some may already be habitat (remnant prairie, CRP, wetlands) and require no restoration. Activities may include fee-title, restoration and other costs associated with acquiring tracts. Projects will be similar to the over 3,000 acres PF has completed using ETF and partner funding in previous phases of the HCP. Acquired tracts will be transferred to the state as part of the Wildlife

Management Area System or to the federal government (as a Waterfowl Production Area) or some other mutually agreeable entity.

Result 2: Personnel

Budget: \$25,000

Description: Staff time necessary to complete the acquisition, including identification, preparation, negotiation, closing, and transfer to agency. Time will be tracked and reported on time sheets and only direct costs will be reported.

Deliverable	Completion Date
1. Acquire 650 Acres	6/30/10
2. Personnel	6/30/10

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. Pheasants Forever works in close proximity with federal, statewide, and local partners interested in habitat conservation and public access. We have worked with as many as 25 individual partners on Habitat Conservation Partnership projects in the past and will continue to encourage and foster as much partnership as possible.

B. Project Impact

This project will provide habitat and public access to all Minnesotans on 650 acres of land that provides enhanced benefits due to its proximity to other habitats and/or its value for restoration. Grassland/wetland habitat complexes will be the focus for this proposal and will benefit the suite of birds and other wildlife that are cited as being in significant decline. Grassland and wetland restoration also provide (variable due to location) tremendous soil and water 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. The Partnership is in year seven of what was proposed as a 10-biennia effort to restore fragmented habitats.

Project Budget

Critical Lands Conservation Initiative - 4a - Pheasants Forever, Inc

IV. TOTAL PROJECT REQUEST BUDGET

BUDGET ITEM (See list of Eligible & Non-Eligible Costs, p. 17)	AMOUNT	% FTE
Personnel: Who is getting paid to do what and what is the % of full-time employment for each position? List out by position.	\$ -	%
0.25 FTE - Regional Biologist/Representative	\$ 25,000	25%
	\$ -	%
Acquisition (Including Easements): List # of acres and who will hold title (e.g., DNR, Non-profit)	\$ -	
Fee Title Acquisition (650 acres - 325 ETF, 325 Other Funds)	\$ 950,000	
TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET REQUEST TO LCCMR	\$ 975,000	

V. OTHER FUNDS

SOURCE OF FUNDS	AMOUNT	Status
Remaining \$ From Previous Trust Fund Appropriation (if applicable): Phase IV (2006) & V (2008)	\$ 650,000	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: What additional non-state cash \$ will be spent on the project during the funding period? For each individual sum, list out the source of the funds, the amount, and indicate whether the funds are secured or pending approval.	\$ 975,000	PF has committed \$975,000 to be expended during the project period
Other State \$ Being Spent During Project Period: What additional state cash \$ (e.g. bonding, other grants) will be spent on the project during the funding period? For each individual sum, list out the source of the funds, the amount, and indicate whether the funds are secured or pending approval.	\$0	Unknown
In-kind Services During Project Period: What in-kind services will be provided during the funding period? List type of service(s) and estimated value. In-kind services listed should be specific to the project.	\$ -	Not Tracked
Past Spending: 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	\$ 450,000	Phase III

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).