

**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund
2011-2012 Request for Proposals (RFP)**

LCCMR ID: 106-D

Project Title: HCP 7 - Overall Habitat Conservation Partnership Summary

Category: D. Land Acquisition for Habitat and Recreation

Total Project Budget: \$ \$7,592,000

Proposed Project Time Period for the Funding Requested: 2 yrs, July 2011 - June 2013

Other Non-State Funds: \$ 8,065,000

Summary:

Nine partners within the Habitat Conservation Partnership will restore, enhance, and protect 2,332 acres of priority habitat within delineated focus areas of the state.

Name: Joe Pavelko

Sponsoring Organization: Pheasants Forever, Inc.

Address: 1783 Buerkle Cir
Saint Paul MN 55110

Telephone Number: 612-532-3800

Email jpavelko@pheasantsforever.org

Web Address www.mnhabitatcorridors.org

Location

Region: Statewide

Ecological Section: No. Minnesota Drift and Lake Plains (212N), Minnesota and NE Iowa Morainal (222M), Red River Valley (251A), North Central Glaciated Plains (251B)

County Name: Statewide

City / Township:

_____ Funding Priorities	_____ Multiple Benefits	_____ Outcomes	_____ Knowledge Base
_____ Extent of Impact	_____ Innovation	_____ Scientific/Tech Basis	_____ Urgency
_____ Capacity Readiness	_____ Leverage	_____ Employment	_____ TOTAL _____%

2011-2012 MAIN PROPOSAL

PROJECT TITLE: Habitat Conservation Partnership – Phase 7

I. PROJECT STATEMENT

The Habitat Conservation Partnership restores, enhances and conserves habitat for the purpose of sustaining fish, wildlife and plant communities for all generations. Minnesota's Habitat Conservation Partnership (HCP or Partnership), was formed in 2000 to provide a framework for landscape scale 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 investments in habitat. 2) **Focus:** working within scientifically-selected priority project areas where resource conservation priorities and opportunity overlap. 3) **Leverage:** bringing other, non-state resources to bear on Minnesota's conservation need to accelerate habitat conservation, thereby maximizing the results of funding through the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund.

For the Phase 7 proposal, all conservation efforts will be focused into three HCP project areas: Mississippi Headwaters, Transition, and Southern Lakes. The pressures on the land and water resources in these priority areas continue to increase, and the need for habitat restoration and protection is more important than ever. The HCP is strategically focusing within these areas in this phase to maximize and accelerate habitat benefits.

II. DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT ACTIVITIES

Activity 1: Project Coordination, Mapping and Data Management **Budget:** \$ 72,000

Project coordinator will coordinate all aspects of the partnership, including mapping, data management and reporting to LCCMR.

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Project Coordination, Mapping and Data Management	June 30, 2013

Activity 2: Habitat Restoration and Management **Budget:** \$ 355,000

Partners will restore, enhance, and manage 632 acres of priority wetland, shoreland, prairie, grassland, lakeshore, shallow lake, forest, bluff land, stream and river habitat (an additional 47 acres will be protected with \$147,000 of non-state funds). Please see Table 1 and the individual partner proposals for further detail.

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Restore, enhance, and manage 632 acres	June 30, 2013

Activity 3: Easement Acquisition **Budget:** \$ 3,880,000

Partners will acquire the perpetual rights from willing sellers to permanently protect 1100 acres of priority wetland, shoreland, prairie, grassland, lakeshore, shallow lake, forest, bluff land,

stream and river habitat (an additional 5040 acres will be protected with \$8,660,000 of non-state funds). Please see Table 1 and the individual partner proposals for further detail.

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Acquire easements 1100 acres	June 30, 2013

Activity 4: Fee-Title Acquisition

Budget: \$ 3,285,000

From willing sellers, partners will acquire in fee-title to permanently protect 600 acres of priority wetland, shoreline, prairie, grassland, lakeshore, shallow lake, forest, bluff land, stream and river habitat (an additional 350 acres will be acquired with \$2,000,000 of non-state funds). Please see Table 1 and the individual partner proposals for further detail.

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Acquire fee-title 600 acres	June 30, 2013

III. PROJECT STRATEGY

A. Project Team/Partners

There are nine active HCP partners in this proposal phase -- Ducks Unlimited, Friends of the Detroit Lakes Wetland Management District, Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (Wildlife, Fisheries), Minnesota Land Trust, Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc., Pheasants Forever, Trust For Public Land, and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. 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 thousands of individual members and volunteers of NGO partners. Please see the Table 1 attachment for a summary of partners proposed work.

B. Timeline Requirements

We propose a two year grant beginning July 1, 2011 and ending on June 30, 2013.

C. Long-Term Strategy and Future Funding Needs

If funded, this proposal will fund the tenth year of a proposed 10-biennia partnership. Over the life of the Partnership, partners have leveraged the ETF grants threefold with other non-state funds from local, federal and private sources. 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.

After nine years and the restoration, enhancement, and protection of over 150,000 acres of wildlife habitat, the Partnership is in the process of undertaking a programmatic evaluation. The evaluation will be used to better measure the effectiveness and work of the Partnership and will help to shape the future of the Habitat Conservation Partnership.

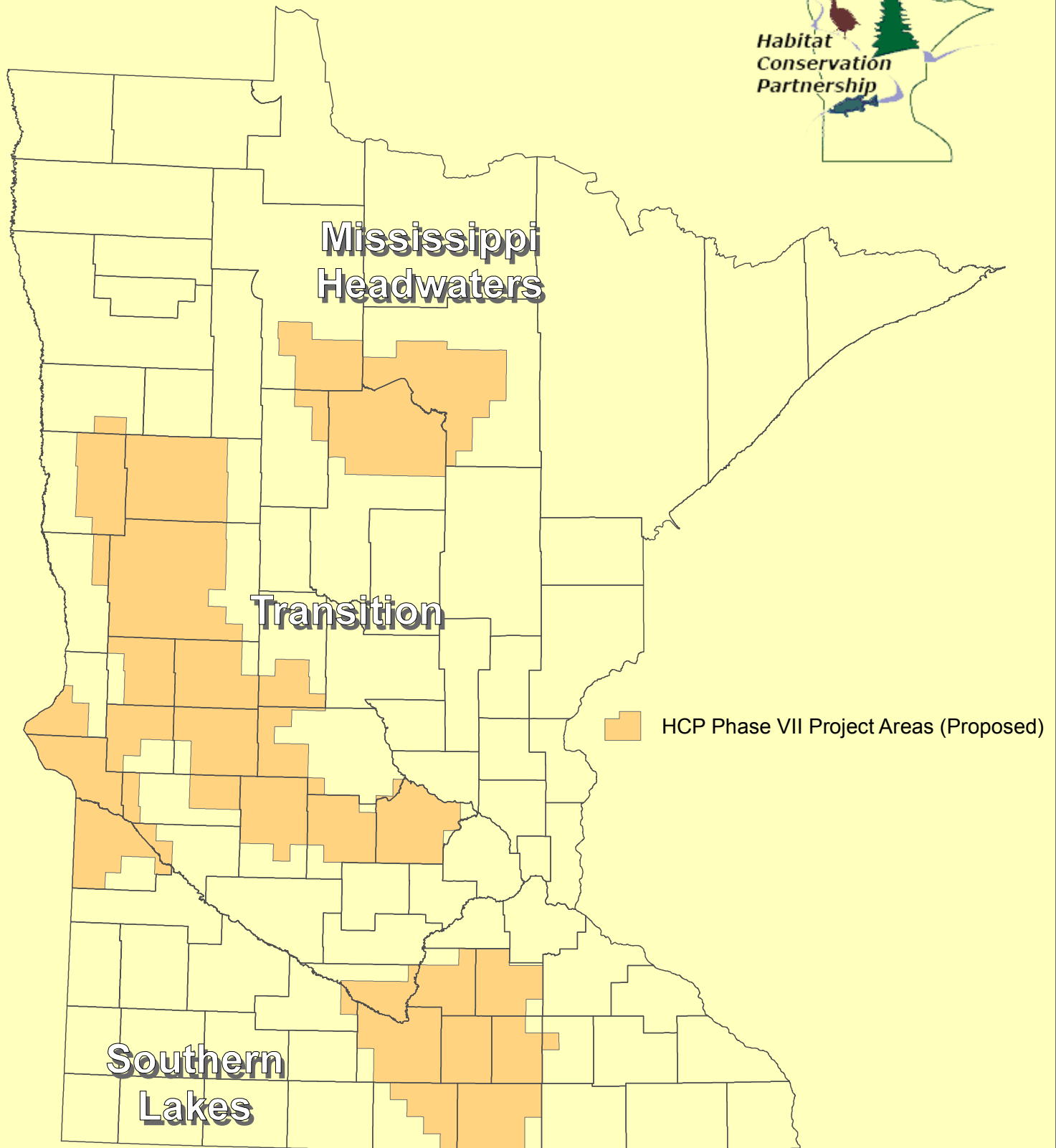
Table 1. 2011 - Habitat Conservation Partnership Project Budget Summary (Phase 7)

		ENRTF Funding	Non-State Funds	Total Funding	Grant Acres	Partner Acres
1. Project Coordination, Mapping, Data Management						
a) Project Coordination, Mapping & Data Management	Pheasants Forever	72,000	-	-		
SUBTOTAL		\$ 72,000	\$ -	\$ -		
2. Restoration & Management						
e) Wild Rice/Waterfowl Habitat: Enhancement and Long-term Monitoring	Leech Lake Reservation	50,000	65,000	115,000	550	0
g) Restoration & Management – Wildlife Management Areas ¹	DNR Wildlife	30,000	-	30,000	0	0
h) Fisheries Resoration & Enhancement	DNR Fisheries	200,000	-	200,000	35	0
o) Prairie Pothole Restoration on WPAs	Friends of Detroit Lakes WMD	75,000	82,000	157,000	47	47
SUBTOTAL		\$355,000	\$147,000	\$502,000	632	47
3. Conservation Easement Programs						
a) Shoreland Protection Program	Minnesota Land Trust	900,000	1,000,000	1,900,000	700	0
c) Shallow Lake Conservation Easements	Ducks Unlimited	1,650,000	160,000	1,810,000	400	40
d) Wetlands Reserve Program	USDA NRCS / Ducks Unlimited	1,330,000	7,500,000	8,830,000	0	5000
SUBTOTAL		\$ 3,880,000	\$ 8,660,000	\$ 12,540,000	1100	5040
4. Habitat Acquisition Programs						
a) WMA/WPA Acquisition beyond Boundaries	Pheasants Forever	1,750,000	1,000,000	2,750,000	400	250
c) Critical Lands Protection Program	Trust for Public Land	1,000,000	500,000	1,500,000	100	0
h) Acquisition for MN Valley WMD	MN Valley NWR Trust	500,000	500,000	1,000,000	100	100
i) Professional Services	DNR Wildlife	35,000	-	35,000	0	0
SUBTOTAL		\$ 3,285,000	\$ 2,000,000	\$ 5,285,000	600	350
TOTAL		\$ 7,592,000	\$ 10,807,000	\$ 18,327,000	2332	5437

¹ - Any partners purchasing WMA's would be responsible for the initial site development of new parcels

Note: There may be unique project identifiers (the letters that follow the activity number) missing within the project budget summary table. Each organization uses the same identifier for each phase of funding to simplify reporting

Habitat Conservation Partnership Proposed Phase VII Project Areas



Pheasants Forever, Inc. – Organization Description and Project Manager Qualifications

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 76 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

Joe Pavelko, MN Director of Conservation Programs
Pheasants Forever, Inc.

7975 Acorn Circle, Victoria, MN 55386

B.A. Biology – St. Olaf College – Northfield, MN, 2004

B.A. Environmental Studies – St. Olaf College – Northfield, MN, 2004

Restoration Ecology Certificate – University of Idaho – Moscow, ID, 2009



Also, the project manager administered or is currently administering the following grants:
LSOHC Prairie Heritage Fund, LSOHC WPA Acceleration, Small NAWCA Grants, Standard NAWCA Grants, CPL Grants, HCP Phase V, VI, VI Supplement.

Previous Work Experience

Friends of the MN Valley – Conservation Projects Manager, 2007 – 2009

MN Valley NWR Trust, Inc. – Conservation Projects Manager, 2006 – 2009